

(No. 151.)



1889.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

MARINE BOARD ACT :

PETITION FROM JOHN BANDERET FOR ENQUIRY INTO THE
WORKING.

Presented by Dr. Crowther, and ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed,
January 16, 1889.



To the Honorable the House of Assembly of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of John Banderet, Architect, of Hobart,

SHOWETH :

That the Petitioner is a native of London, England. That he served his time to an Architect and Builder, and has followed those occupations in Hobart. That he has been four years and seven months in the Colony, being induced to come here by reading a book published by the Government of Tasmania. That the hopes therein held out to him have been falsified, and instead of constant and remunerative employment, he has had a difficulty in earning enough to live. That he finds that nearly all the able natives, and many immigrants of great ability, leave for other Colonies, there being no scope for them here. That property is seriously depressed in value, and almost unsaleable, shopkeepers doing little business at a profit, and wages in the building trade reduced to two-thirds of what they were four years ago.

That, on enquiry into the matter to ascertain why a country possessing naturally all the requisites of prosperity should be going backward, and trade seriously depressed, he finds, among other causes, that the trade of the Port of Hobart (which is naturally the port of the Colony) is hindered and thwarted by the very persons who are deputed and paid to see to its prosperity.

The Marine Board of Hobart, acting under certain Acts of Parliament, has jurisdiction over about half the coast and navigable rivers, and is entrusted with great powers for good. The Marine Board Act is practically a dead letter in consequence of the state of masterly inactivity and apathy of the Wardens. Whether this is from self interest, perversity, or stupidity, Petitioner is not in a position to state.

The Petitioner therefore humbly prays that an enquiry be made into the working of the Marine Board Act, so far as it applies to the Hobart Marine Board, during the last three years ; and in justification of his prayer he desires to call attention to the following facts :—

That by Section 29, Act 1857, the Marine Board is required to provide for the accommodation of the shipping frequenting any port within its jurisdiction. That with the outports the Board has neglected to do this, and the accommodation, so far as it has been provided, has been done with funds directly voted by Parliament, and under the direction of the Lands and Works Department, contrary to the spirit and design of the Marine Board Act.

That the Marine Board, in exercising its power of jurisdiction, has allowed monopolies to be created, in some cases by actual Members of the Board, to the detriment of the public good.

That two years ago the Agents of the Shaw, Savill, and Albion S.S. Company applied for additional accommodation for their vessels, the existing not being considered suitable or safe. That this accommodation has not been provided, and the steamships have still to unload in the stream at great risk and disadvantage.

That applications have been made repeatedly to the Board by persons directly interested in the port, and others, to procure improved harbour accommodation. That such applications have been received with discourtesy, and the Board has shown a disposition to create delay, and has opposed in every way all reasonable propositions for improvement.

That the Marine Board, by its arbitrarily refusing proper accommodation, is giving the port a bad name, and restricting trade.

That the Marine Board has a large surplus deposited in the bank. That this is against the spirit of the Act, which defines that moneys shall be applied by the Board to and for the purposes of the Act.

That at the first meeting of the new Board for the year 1887, the Master Warden of the previous year refused to give up his position, and the Wardens weakly allowed him to continue. That his not being elected Master Warden, and his salary never being voted for the year, the legality of all acts by the Board during that year are questionable.

That a change in the constitution and election of the Members of the Marine Board is imperatively necessary, the present Board not really representing the interests of the port and jurisdiction.

That if the Marine Board Act was properly carried out, every Township and District having a water frontage would be provided with such wharfage as would enable produce to be freely and cheaply brought to market.

That if improved facilities and accommodation were provided for the large steamships now calling at Hobart, it would have a tendency to create direct trade with Home, and benefit the port and Colony.

That if a wholesale market was established in Hobart, and periodical fairs created, the land would get settled on by a large and prosperous community, and the Colony of Tasmania would come to the front.

Your Petitioner humbly prays that your Honorable House will consider and grant this his prayer, and he will, as in duty bound, for ever pray.

JOHN BANDERET, 29, *Brisbane-street, Hobart.*

January 16, 1889.