

(No. 68.)



1861,

T A S M A N I A.

P E T I T I O N No. 74.

C O R P O R A T I O N A C T A M E N D M E N T B I L L, [No. 31.]

Presented by Mr. Davies, and ordered by the House to be printed,
18 September, 1861.



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

The humble Petition of the Municipal Council of Hobart Town, in Tasmania, in Council assembled.

SHOWETH :

THAT the carrying into effect of the provisions of the Corporation Act is, by law, confided to your Petitioners.

That, by the said Act, provision is made for raising the necessary Funds, by means of Rates, to enable them to perform that duty.

That one of such provisions is an authority to rate the Owners of property of the annual value of Twenty Pounds and under, or where it is let monthly, weekly, or in separate apartments, instead of the Occupiers.

That your Petitioners have hitherto exercised this authority without complaint or remonstrance.

That a Bill has been, without the sanction of your Petitioners, and without previous notice to them, brought into your Honorable House for altering the said Act, by reducing the said annual value to Ten Pounds; and by repealing that portion of it which applies to properties let monthly.

That, by the said Bill, it is proposed to authorize the rating of the Owners of property from the time it is let, where it is unoccupied when the Rate is fixed; such proposition being, as your Petitioners are advised, fully provided for by the Act 22 Vict. 24, Sect. 99.

That it appears to your Petitioners that the object of the promoters of the Bill is to benefit the Owners of property liable to be assessed.

That such Owners have always the power to repay themselves the Rates contributed by them, by charging it to the Occupiers as Rent, and thus providing themselves with an efficient remedy.

That the difficulties and expenses of collecting the Rates, and the annual losses by the continual removal of Tenants, are now very considerable, and this difficulty will be increased to a very large extent by adopting the propositions suggested by the Bill, and removing the obligation to pay these Rates from the Owners to the Occupiers.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the said Bill may not pass into a Law.

HENRY COOK, *Mayor.*

16 *September*, 1861.