

(No. 76.)



1868.

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T A S M A N I A.

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C U S T O M S ' D U T I E S.

P E T I T I O N F R O M H O B A R T T O W N.

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Presented by Mr. Cansdell, August 28, and ordered by the House to be printed,  
September 1, 1868.



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

The humble Petition of the Citizens at Hobart Town and Colonists of Tasmania, in Public Meeting assembled.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have observed with surprise and regret that Her Majesty's Ministers have submitted a Bill to your Honorable House to augment the present Duties of Customs, and propose in other ways to increase the fiscal burdens of the people.

That your Petitioners are of opinion that the financial proposals of Her Majesty's Ministers are not such as are suited to the present state of the Colony ; and that the system of continually resorting to the Customs to supplement a failing Revenue is wrong in principle, and presses unduly on the Trading and Industrial classes of the community.

That your Petitioners consider that Her Majesty's Ministers are pledged to the Country and took office on the distinct understanding, that they would not increase the fiscal burdens of the people or resort to additional taxation ; and your Petitioners are firmly of opinion that the necessary and ordinary expenditure might be fully met without resorting to additional taxation if the machinery for raising public funds from existing sources of Revenue were properly set in motion, and if Her Majesty's Ministers would only continue to carry out still further their pledges and promises of judicious economy and financial retrenchment.

Your Petitioners therefore pray your Honorable House not to pass the Bill, entitled "The Customs Duties Bill," No. 25, and to withhold your assent from any other financial proposals for augmenting the existing burdens of the people.

And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

On behalf of the Meeting,

JAMES MILNE WILSON, (*Mayor*), *Chairman*.

*Town Hall, August 25, 1868.*