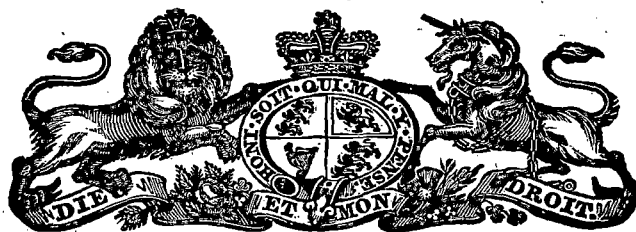


(No. 76.)



1876.

T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

H O B A R T T O W N G A S C O M P A N Y.

P E T I T I O N.

Presented by Mr. Giblin, and ordered by the House to be printed, October 3, 1876.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Directors of the Hobart Town Gas Company.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT a Bill has been introduced into your Honorable House for the purpose of giving authority to the Corporation of the City of Hobart Town to erect Gasworks in the said City.

That there are at present Gasworks erected within the said City, under the management of your Petitioners as Directors of the Hobart Town Gas Company, capable of supplying all the gas required by the inhabitants thereof, and for lighting such street lamps as the Municipal Council may require.

That the said Hobart Town Gas Company was established under the sanction and by authority of an Act of Council passed in the 18th year of Her Majesty's reign, under the title of "The Hobart Town Gas Company's Act," which Act provides that the dividends to be declared out of the profits of the said undertaking shall be limited to Twelve per cent. per annum on the paid-up Capital of the Company.

That immediately after the passing of the said Act on the 1st of November, 1854, the works were commenced, and the City was lighted with gas on the 9th March, 1857, but no dividend was paid to the Shareholders until September, 1858.

That the dividends paid to Shareholders were as follows:—

5 per cent. in 1858,
7 per cent. 1859 to 1860,
8 per cent. to June, 1875; and
7 per cent. to June, 1876,

on the paid-up Capital.

That the Hobart Town Gas Company has from its first establishment supplied gas of a superior quality, averaging twenty candles.

That the price charged for gas to private consumers has been on two occasions lowered,—making together a reduction from 20s. to 12s. 6d. per 1000 cubic feet,—and that the price charged the Corporation for lighting the Street Lamps has also been reduced from time to time to so low a rate as leaves no profit whatever to the Company.

That your Petitioners beg to represent to your Honorable House that it would be manifestly unfair to your Petitioners and to the Ratepayers that the Government guarantee should be given to the Corporation for any sums they might borrow for the purposes of the proposed Bill.

Your Petitioners would further respectfully submit that to permit the erection of other Gasworks in this City, and the consequent laying down of two sets of gas mains, would be a needless waste of Capital.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honorable House not to allow the said Bill to pass into law.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

THOS. GIBLIN.
GEO. WHITCOMB.
GEO. CRISP.
D. LEWIS.

C. M. MAXWELL.
ISAAC WRIGHT.
JOHN MURDOCH.