

(No. 128.)



1862.

TASMANIA.

P E T I T I O N No. 82.

AD VALOREM DUTIES.

Presented by Mr. Chapman, 14 October, 1862, and ordered by the House to be printed, 15 October, 1862.



To the Honourable the House of Assembly.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Master Boot and Shoemakers and others, &c.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT a Motion is about being submitted to your Honourable House to remove all Duties now made and levied upon certain goods and merchandise under a system called "*Ad Valorem*," or taxing goods at their real or ascertained value at this Port, and to revert to the old system of Duties.

Your Petitioners, without wishing at all to trench upon the functions of your Honourable House, most respectfully beg to lay the following facts before it:—

First.—Since the passing of the present Tariff, that the business of your Petitioners has been greatly improved; and that not only themselves, but a considerable number of persons, have been able to get employment, which, if this Duty is removed, would be again thrown out of work, more especially amongst the youth of the place, now so lamentably unemployed; and that since the passing of the present Tariff your Petitioners' business has increased fully twenty-five per cent., leading to the retention of a large amount of capital within the Country.

Second.—That the present Duties do not necessarily increase the price of Colonial made Goods; in fact, have not done so. On the contrary, by giving constant employment to a large number of now idle youths, a better article at a lower rate will be the result of the continuance of the present Tariff.

Third.—Your Petitioners respectfully beg to urge upon your Honourable House that it is the fluctuating demand for labour that has caused its high rate in our trade: but few hands could be employed, and no chance of more employment has driven a large number of men away, or to abandon their trade. As it must be patent to your Honourable House, if a man can only get three days' employment in a week his wages must correspond; in fact, three days' wages must be at such a rate as to keep him and his family for seven days, thus leading to high wages, dear goods, and drunkenness.

Fourth.—Your Petitioners respectfully beg to show to your Honourable House that the present Duties have greatly tended to put a stop to a system of over-trading, so injurious to all communities, and which, with a plethora of goods heaped upon the market, may and does create new wants, but tends only to beggar the community more, causing low prices certainly, but poverty and crime with plenty.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honourable House not to repeal the present Law, unless in your wisdom your Honourable House provides some adequate Law for the benefit and protection of trade.

Charles Gladhill.
John Macbeth.
William Gorney.
Edward Vimpany.
H. C. Vimpany.
P. Koeck.
James Meech.
F. J. Pike.
E. Scandrick.

F. S. Holmes.
S. Linton.
Samuel Sawyer.
Francis Fardell.
Titus Brown.
John M'Gregor.
Charles Groves.
Edward Teühe.
Thomas Hill.