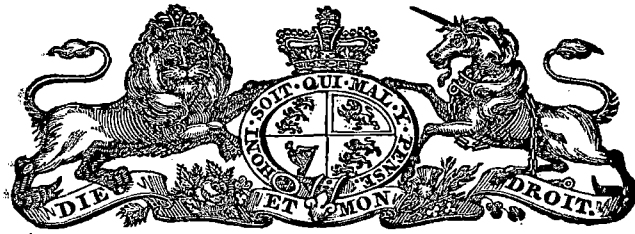


(No. 43.)



1877.

SESSION IV.

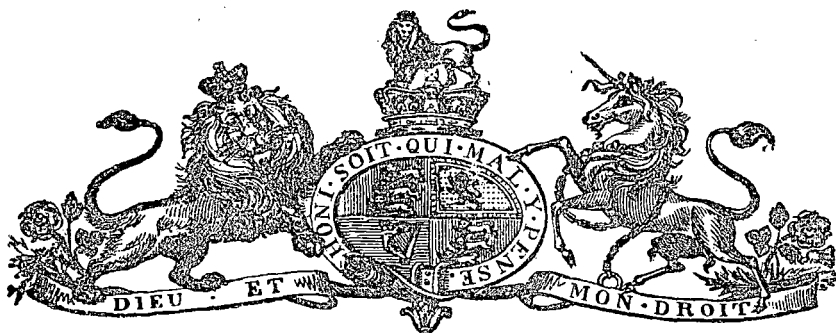
TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

HOBART TOWN GAS COMPANY.

PETITION.

Presented by Mr. Lewis, 13 November, 1877, and ordered by the House to be printed.



*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.

SHEWETH :

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 Gas Works in the said City.

That there are at present Gas Works 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 First 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. in 1859 to 1860, 8 per cent. to June, 1875, and 7 per cent. to June 1877, on paid up Capital.

That the Hobart Town Gas Company has from its first establishment supplied gas of a superior quality, averaging 20 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 little or 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 purpose of the proposed Bill.

That before the said Corporation proceeded to promote a Bill before your Honorable House, an opportunity should have been afforded your Petitioners to sell, if so disposed, to the said Corporation the works and plant of your Petitioners, in order to avoid the ruinous consequences of competition in so small a field which must ensue, but no application for such purpose has been made to your Petitioners.

Your Petitioners would further respectfully submit, that to permit the erection of other Gas Works in this City, and the consequent laying down of two sets of Gas Mains, would be a needless waste of capital.

That competition between the said Corporation and your Petitioners must lead to an entire dependence of the former upon rates to be levied upon the citizens, to enable it to pay expenses and interest on borrowed Capital; and to the latter an entire loss of the profit by which the shareholders should obtain a fair and reasonable dividend on the Capital of the Company.

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

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

THOS. GIBLIN.
C. M. MAXWELL.
GEO. CRISP.
JOHN MURDOCH.
JAMES WRIGHT.
GEO. WHITCOMB.