

(No. 107.)



1869.

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T A S M A N I A.

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J O S E P H B R O W N.

P E T I T I O N.

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Laid on the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, September 29, 1869; and ordered by the House to be printed.



*To His Excellency the Governor in Council.*

The humble Petition of JOSEPH BROWN, late Letter Carrier and Mail Guard in the Postmaster-General's Department of the Civil Service of the Colony of Tasmania:

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

1. THAT your Petitioner entered the General Post Office Department as a Letter Carrier on the 1st of September, 1852, and was appointed a Mail Guard towards the latter end of the year 1861.
2. That your Petitioner whilst accompanying the Mail on duty as Guard on the night of the 8th May, 1868, and whilst in the discharge of his duty as such Guard attending to the hind Lamp of the Mail, met with an accident which has disabled him for life ; has incapacitated him for the performance of his duty as Guard ; and has compelled him to retire from the Public Service.
3. That your Petitioner was discharged from the public service in consequence of his injury and disabled state on the 9th March, 1869, when he was awarded a Pension under "The Superannuation Act" of £27 16s. (Twenty-seven Pounds Sixteen Shillings) a year.
4. That your Petitioner is given to understand and believes that such Pension is no more than your Petitioner was entitled to under the aforesaid Act, in consideration of his length of service ; and that a similar, perhaps a larger, Pension would have been awarded to him by Your Excellency in Council had he been deprived of his situation "on financial considerations," or otherwise for the benefit of the public service, or the convenience of the Government.
5. That your Petitioner served the Government as a Constable in the Territorial Police for a period of upwards of Seven years before he entered the Post Office Department, making a total service of more than Twenty-two years, during which period your Petitioner performed his duty to the satisfaction of his official superiors.
6. That your Petitioner respectfully and gratefully acknowledges the consideration that was shown to him by the Government in allowing him to draw his pay from the time of his accident to the day of his superannuation on a Pension ; but your Petitioner humbly submits that the fact that he has received an injury which has disabled him for life for active employment, whilst engaged in the ordinary and regular discharge of his duty as a public servant, constitutes a claim upon the Country for some pecuniary compensation beyond his Pension, for the serious loss and deprivation he has sustained, not only of his official employment and salary, but of the means of earning a livelihood for his wife and family,—nine souls in all.
7. That your Petitioner as Mail Guard was in the receipt of a salary of £102 6s. (One hundred and two Pounds Six Shillings) a year, and was permitted by the Government to receive from the Mail Contractor a further sum of £36 (Thirty-six Pounds) a year for attending to the Way Bill, and in this way enjoyed an income of £138 6s. (One hundred and thirty-eight Pounds Six Shillings) a year.
8. That your Petitioner respectfully submits that his present sole means of support is the aforesaid Pension ; and that although such a Pension under ordinary circumstances, and supposing your Petitioner were not crippled and disabled for life for active employment, would be a reasonable compensation for the loss of the income incident to his late situation,—yet that, being earned by long and faithful service, it cannot be held to constitute any sort of compensation for the bodily injury and permanent disablement under which your Petitioner now suffers, and must suffer while he lives.
9. That your Petitioner respectfully submits that there have been instances in which persons who have sustained injury in the public service have been held to be entitled to the consideration of the Governor in Council, and have received a gratuity by way of compensation by a vote of Parliament.

10. That your Petitioner respectfully submits that Parliament would not, he believes, be indisposed to vote some reasonable compensation by way of pecuniary gratuity to your Petitioner on account of his injury and disablement in the public service.

11. That your Petitioner humbly desires that the favourable consideration of Your Excellency in Council may be extended to your Petitioner's case, and that regard may be had to his long and faithful services ; to his unhappy crippled condition ; to the loss of a good income which he has sustained through no fault or negligence of his, but in the zealous discharge of his public duty ; and to his present inability (the result of his loss of office and of his severe disablement) to provide for himself, his wife, and eight children, dependent upon him for maintenance and support.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that Your Excellency in Council will be pleased to take the premises into Your Excellency's favourable consideration, and will cause to be proposed to Parliament a vote for such sum of money by way of gratuity to your Petitioner as to Your Excellency in Council shall seem meet and reasonable.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

JOSEPH BROWN, *late Mail Guard.*

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THE applicant, whom I have known for many years, is, in my opinion, a very respectable and deserving person. I have pleasure in recommending the prayer of this Petition for favourable consideration.

ARTHUR DAVENPORT.

*Trinity Parsonage, 18th August, 1869.*

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THIS applicant was under my charge about 16½ years, and as he discharged his duties faithfully and satisfactorily, I beg to recommend him to the favourable consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

S. T. HARDINGE, *late Postmaster and Secretary.*

*Campbell-street, 18th August, 1869.*

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HAVING known the applicant for very many years, I have pleasure in adding my testimony to the above recommendation, and solicit that his prayer may receive favourable consideration at the hands of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

T. J. CROUCH, *late Under-Sheriff.*

*Argyle-street, 18th August, 1869.*

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JOSEPH BROWN, the Petitioner, was one of the smartest and best Letter Carriers attached to this Office, and on account of his activity and general good conduct was appointed Mail Guard in the year 1861. I have known Brown upwards of Sixteen years, and his character in the positions he has occupied during that time was unexceptionable. I shall be very glad to hear of this Petition meeting with favourable consideration.

A. C. DOUGLAS, *Secretary to the Post Office Department.*

*General Post Office, 18th August, 1869.*

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FOR the last Ten years I have had frequent opportunities of judging of the manner Petitioner performed his duties. I believe him to have served the Government faithfully and zealously. His conduct, as far as it has come under my observation, has been marked by sobriety and civility.

J. FORSTER, *Inspector of Police.*