

(No. 11.)



1866.

SESSION II.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

GRANTS TO MUNICIPALITIES.

PETITION OF RATEPAYERS AGAINST ENTIRE WITHDRAWAL.

Presented by Captain Langdon, January 25, and ordered by the Council to be printed, January 29, 1867.



To the Honorable the Legislative Council, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Ratepayers in the Municipality of Hamilton.

HUMBLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners are residents, and represent considerable property in this Municipality.

That your Petitioners view with regret the proposition now before your Honorable House to withdraw entirely the Contribution of Aid from several of the Municipalities.

That your Petitioners on the 1st of October, 1863, took upon themselves Municipal action on the faith that a Contribution of Aid to a certain amount, £750, be annually paid; and whereas during the last Session of Parliament in the year 1864 such Aid was reduced in this Municipality to £464 per annum, which sum your Honorable House guaranteed the payment of until the 1st day of January, 1873.

That your Petitioners have never paid less Police Rates than Sixpence in the Pound; and, should the Aid be withdrawn, there will be a necessity to put on an additional Tax to meet the deficiency of not less than Sixpence in the Pound, which they submit is a Tax on property alone.

That your Petitioners cannot but look upon the sudden and entire withdrawal of Aid without any equivalent advantages being given in any other light than as a gross breach of faith, impolitic, and calculated to prove highly injurious to the welfare of the Colony.

Your Petitioners beg to observe that in the Parent Country, where Municipalities have long existed, money from the Government is annually given towards the support of the Police.

That your Petitioners are sorry to see that it is deemed advisable to assist the Revenue by imposing a burthen upon one class alone, without resorting to other and more legitimately fiscal measures bearing upon all; at the same time they feel they could willingly submit to taxation, having an equal pressure, if the exigencies of the State require it.

That your Petitioners consider the measure now pending the decision of your Honorable House as having been arrived at on undue consideration, and evidently not bearing the appearance of strict impartiality, and beg of your Honorable House to defer the further deliberation of it for a time in order to prevent any injustice being done.

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

[Here follow 97 Signatures.]