

Petition for reduction of Cab License Fee

27/12/1895

Prayer

To His Worship The Mayor & Councillors City of Bendigo
Gentn

We the undersigned Cab owners of the City of Bendigo respectfully make application to you to reduce the License Fee from thirty shillings to one pound, we make this application in consequence of the high price of feed, the number of cabs on the rank, also the opposition of the Trams. We earnestly beg that you will consider this favorably and beg to remain Gentn.

Yours respectfully

Notes

1. 27 December 1895- Cab Owners requesting a decrease in their License fee.

75 of the City's Cab Owners united to ask the Council to reduce their Cab License fee from 30 shillings to £1 (20 shillings), being a decrease of one-third. They argued that three local factors impacted upon their ability to pay the fee set- the cost of feed for their horses, the number of local cabs, and "the opposition of the Trams".

By the time of this Petition, Trams had been operating in Bendigo and Eaglehawk for five years; the Cab Owners certainly felt that their existence had an effect on their income. This argument is supported by the Bendigo Tramways Company's report for the first half of 1895, which said that in that six month period the trams had transported 315,958 passengers. **(Bendigo Tramways to Bendigo Council, 16/7/1895, Box 42, Sandhurst-Bendigo Inwards Correspondence, BRAC.)**

This issue of License fees was an ongoing bone of contention for the Cab Owners, who had become experienced Petition writers; this was the fourth one they presented since their first effort back in October 1892. In that first Petition, and their second one in November 1893, they had requested a reduction from £2 (forty shillings) to £1 (twenty shillings). The Cab Owners must have had some earlier success or they would not have had a starting point of 30 shillings in their 1895 Prayer.

Their third petition, perhaps the most ambitious and penned only four months before, had actually asked for no fee or a "nominal charge". The 1892 and 1893 Prayers were archetypal in referring to competition from the local Trams. **(Cab Proprietors to Bendigo Council, 18/10/1892, Box 35; 27/11/1893, Box 38; 17/8/1895, Box 42, Sandhurst-Bendigo Inwards Correspondence, BRAC.)**

It was also interesting what was NOT said in this fourth Prayer. There was no reference made to the effects of the 1893-1895 Depression in Victoria. The November 1893 Cab Owners' Petition was the only one of their four appeals that referred to "times being dull", therefore their need for a fee reduction. **(Cab Proprietors to Bendigo Council, 27/11/1893, Box 38. Sandhurst-Bendigo Inwards Correspondence, BRAC.)**

Other surviving correspondence certainly refers to this Depression's local impact. Early in 1895, the Town Clerk of Eaglehawk notified Bendigo Council that some Bendigo Cab drivers were working without having a license. **(Eaglehawk Town Clerk to Bendigo Council, 17/1/1895, Box 41, Sandhurst-Bendigo Inwards Correspondence, BRAC.)**

Page	Title	Surname	First name / Initial	Occupation
1		Head	Charles	Cab Owner
1		Templeton	John	Cab Owner
1		Meggs	A.	Cab Owner
1		Northwood	James	Cab Owner
1		Matthews	John	Cab Owner
1		Young	George	Cab Owner
1		Collard	James	Cab Owner
1		Colee	John	Cab Owner
1		Wilson	Alfred	Cab Owner
1		Bryans	W.	Cab Owner
1		Ferguson	R	Cab Owner
1		Challoner	W.	Cab Owner
1		D'arcy	Michael	Cab Owner
1		Boulter	Thomas	Cab Proprietor
1		Crake	R.	Cab Owner
1		Holman	E.	Cab Owner
1		Muldeary	W.	Cab Owner
1		Hall	T. G.	Cab Owner
2		Bamford	T.	Cab Owner
2		Finn	J	Cab Owner
2		Weatherby	C	Cab Owner
2		Budds	George L.	Cab Owner
2		Tozer	J.	Cab Owner
2		Scantlebury	T.	Cab Proprietor
2		Rutherford	G.	Cab Owner
2		Mc Intosh	R	Cab Owner
2		Davey	W. J.	Cab Owner
2		Matthews	W.	Cab Owner
2		Truscott	J.	Cab
2		Mc Cloy	John	Cab Owner
2		Fiedler	William	Cab Owner
2		Phillips	Samuel	Cab Owner
2		Hayes	Charles	Cab Owner
2		Albion	E.	Cab Owner
2		Rosewarne	E.	Cab Owner
2		Capel	S.	Cab Owner
2		Gooding	W.	Cab Owner
2		Heifner	F.	Cab Owner
2		Bannerman	W. D.	Cab Owner

Page	Title	Surname	First name / Initial	Occupation
2		Kemp	Thomas	Cab Owner
2		Turner	Hugh	Cab Owner
2		Pearce	T.	Cab Owner
2		Nielsen	C.	Cab Owner
2		Young	C.	Cab Owner
2		Atkinson	J.	Cab Owner
2		Hocking	J	Owner
2		Watson	Wm. A.	Owner
2		Andrews	James	Cab Proprietor
2		Potter	Issac	Cab Owner
2		Neate	H	Cab Owner
2		Martin	H.	
2		Petney	Wm.	Cab Owner
2		Rawle	J. A.	Cab Owner
3		Bryenton	George	Cab Owner
3		Buchanan	William	Cab Owner
3		Elser	Robert	Cab Owner
3		Roberts	Frederick	Cab Owner
3		Buchanan	Adam	Cab Owner
3		Dobrich	G.	Cab Owner
3		Holman	C.	Cab man
3		May	H.	Cab Owner
3	Mrs.	Brewer	J.	Cab Owner
3		Collins	J.	Cab Owner
3		Kerr	W.	Cab Owner
3		Foers	Jas.	Cab Owner
3		Ellis	John	Cab Owner
3		Marshall	John	Cab Owner
3		Walls	M.	Cab Owner
3		Mason	T.	Cab Owner
3		Holman	James C.	Cab Owner
3		Collins	M.	Cab Owner
3		Field	H.	Cab Owner
3		Collcutt	E.	Cab Owner
3		Collins	P.	Cab Owner
3		Anylesbury	J.	Cab Owner

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City of Bendigo

Gentn

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of the City of Bendigo respectfully ~~apply~~
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the License Fee from thirty shillings
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in consequence of the high price of feed,
the number of cabs on the Rank, also
the opposition of the Trams - We earnestly
beg that you will consider this favorably
and beg to remain Gentn

Yours respectfully

(75 names)

Charles Head	Cab owner
John Templeton	Cab owner
A. Meegs	Cab owner
James Northwood	Cab owner
John Matthews	Cab owner
George Young	Cab owner
James Gollard	Cab owner
John Colee	Cab owner
Alfred Wilson	Cab owner
W. Bryans	Cab owner
R. Ferguson	Cab owner
W. Chaloner	Cab owner
Michael D'Arcy	Cab owner
Thomas Bantler	Cab Driver
R. Cooke	Cab owner
E. Holman	Cab owner
W. Muldeary	Cab owner
J. Hall	Cab owner

T. Barnford
H. King
C. Weatherly
George L. Budds.

J. Tozer
J. Scantlebury
G. Rutherford
R. M^{rs} McIntosh

W. S. Navy
W. Matthews

J. Inscott
John M. Cloy
William Fiedler

Samuel Phillips
Charles Hayes
G. Olson

E. Roseman
S. Capel
W. Gooding

J. Heigner
W. D. Bannerman
Thornes Kemp
Hugh Turner
J. Pearce.

E. Nielsen
E. Young

J. Atkinson
J. Hocking
Wm. Watson

James Andrews
Issac Potter
H. Keate

H. Martin
M. Storey
A. A. Parble.

Cab Owner
Cab Owner

Cab ~~Driver~~
owner
Cab owner.

Cab owner.

Cab proprietor

Cab One

Cab owner

Cab owner

Cab Owner

Cab —

Cab owner

Cab owner

Cab owner

Cab owner

Cab owner

Cab owner

Cab owner

Cab owner

Cab owner

Cab owner

Cab owner

Cab owner

Cab owner

Cab owner

Cab owner

Cab owner

owner

owner

Cab Driver

Cab owner

Cab owner

Cab Owner

Cab owner

George Bryenton
 William Buchanan
 Robert West
 Frederick Roberts
 Adam Buchanan
 J. Dobrigh
 C. Holman
 H. May
 Mrs J. Brewer
 J. Collins
 W. Kerr
 Jas. Foers
 John Ellis
 John Marshall
 M. Wall
 J. Mason
 James C. Holman
 M. Collins
 H. Field
 E. Colbatt
 P. Collins
 J. Anglesbury

Cab owner
 Cab owner
 Cab owner
 Cab owner
 Cab owner -
 Cab owner
 Cab man
 Cab owner
 Cab owner
 Cab owner
 Cab owner
 do do
 Cab Owner
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 Cab owner
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27. 12. 90
 Pension
 For reduction of
 cab license fee

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