

Copy of Petition

IN SUPPORT OF THE

WEIGHTS & MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL

PRESENTED TO THE

HOUSE OF LORDS

On 23rd February, 1904,

(THE DATE OF THE SECOND READING)

AND ANALYSIS OF THE SIGNATURES APPENDED THERE TO.

The following is a Copy of a Petition, in favour of the adoption of the Metric Weights and Measures, which Lord Belhaven presented to the House of Peers on the Second Reading of his Metric Bill.

UNTO THE MOST NOBLE AND REVEREND THE PEERS OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND IRELAND IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Petition OF THE SIGNATORIES, BEING TOWN AND COUNTY COUNCILS, MERCHANTS, MEMBERS OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, SCHOOLMASTERS, TEACHERS, MINISTERS OF RELIGION, SHOPKEEPERS AND RETAILERS, MANUFACTURERS, ENGINEERS, TRADES UNIONS, MEMBERS OF TRADES UNIONS AND WORKMEN, AND OTHERS,

HUMBLY SHEWETH:—

THAT in the opinion of your Petitioners the adoption of the Metric Weights and Measures by this Country is highly necessary:—

(1st.) BECAUSE it has already been adopted by nearly all the civilised Countries.

(2nd.) BECAUSE it would materially assist Education by facilitating the teaching of Arithmetic, and setting free a considerable amount of time which could be devoted to more useful subjects than the learning and practising of our complicated and confused Tables of Weights and Measures.

(3rd.) BECAUSE, AS OUR CONSULS frequently reiterate, we lose Trade in consequence of our Weights and Measures not being understood in other Countries, and because the adoption of the Metric Weights and Measures would obviate the present necessity for manufacturing on one basis for export trade and on another for home trade.

(4th.) BECAUSE the Colonies desire the change, but feel that the lead must, on account of inter-colonial trade, be taken by the Mother Country.

(5th.) BECAUSE it would lead to the abolition of a large number of anomalous, customary, or local, but illegal, Weights and Measures, still largely used in various parts of the Country. These irregular Weights and Measures are chiefly objectionable because they give facilities to dishonest traders to take advantage of purchasers who are not acquainted with them.

THAT numerous demonstrations of the desire for the change have been made by resolutions and petitions of Public Bodies, Institutions, Chambers of Commerce, Trades Unions, Retail Trade Organisations, Manufacturers, Engineers, and Teachers.

THAT a Select Committee of the House of Commons in 1895 reported in favour of the compulsory adoption of the Metric Weights and Measures within two years.

THAT your Petitioners are much disappointed that, although eight years have elapsed since then, no steps have been taken to give effect to this recommendation of the Committee.

THAT by reason of the fierce competition for foreign trade, the need for the change is even more serious now than in 1895.

THAT there are indications that the Metric Weights and Measures will before long be adopted by the United States, one of the main arguments, likely to influence that result, being the facility it would give for successful competition with this country in trading with countries using the Metric System, especially in the Republics of South America.

THAT the Colonial Premiers at the Coronation Conference resolved:—

“ That it is advisable to adopt the Metric System of Weights and Measures for
“ use within the Empire, and the Prime Ministers urge the Governments
“ represented at this Conference to give consideration to its early adoption.”

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE PRAY—

That a Bill may be passed for the compulsory adoption of Metric Weights and Measures as recommended by the Select Committee of the House of Commons of 1895.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS, &c

TOWN, CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILS.

Name.	Population.	Name.	Population.
Batley	30,321	Denny and Duniface	—
Brighton	124,539	Dumbarton	22,000
Chatham	40,753	Dundee	160,878
Dudley	48,809	Dunfermline	25,250
Ealing	33,040	Forres	4,300
East Suffolk C.C.	189,152	Galashiels	13,595
Folkestone	30,694	Glasgow	775,601
Leamington Spa	26,888	Govan	—
Leicester	216,389	Haddington	3,796
Monmouth C.C.	230,800	Inverness	21,219
Sheffield	418,177	Kirkcaldy	37,063
Stafford	20,894	Ladybank	—
Stockport	78,871	Largs	—
Truro	11,562	Newport, Fife	—
Walsall	86,440	Oban	5,374
Aberdeen	153,114	Selkirk	—
Alva	—	Tayport	—
Branderburgh	—	Thurso	—

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

Aberdeen	Dover	Llanelli
Anglo-Belgian	Dundee	London
Ashford	Edinburgh	Morley
Batley	Exeter	Nottingham
Belfast	Falmouth	Pembroke Dock
Birstall	Goole	Poole
Bolton	Gt. Grimsby	Port of Plymouth
Bradford	Greenock	Redruth
Bury	Ipswich	Sheffield
Cardiff	Jersey	Stockton and Thornaby
Carmarthen	Kendal	Torquay
Cork	Kidderminster	Wakefield
Croydon	Leicester	Wolverhampton
Dewsbury	Lincoln	Worcester

RETAIL TRADERS' ORGANISATIONS.

	Representing		Representing
London Association for the Protection of Trade	5,000	Eastbourne Trade Protection Society	122
Bath Grocers and Provision Dealers' Association	110	Liverpool Incorporated Trade Protection Society	2,530
Blackburn and District Retail Grocers' Association	190	Manchester Guardian Society	6,000
Glasgow Licensed Grocers' Association	—	Weston-super-Mare & District Trade Protection Society	181
Wellingborough Grocers' Association	28	Mutual Communication Socy., London	1,104
Swansea and District Grocers' and Provision Dealers' Association	75	West Riding Trade Protection Assocn.	1,350
Hunstanton Tradesmen's Association	—	Dublin Mercantile Assocn.	1,300
Folkestone and Sandgate Trade Protection Association	—	Daventry Trade Protection Socy.	27
Leicestershire Trade Protection Socy.	1,850	Blackpool Tradesmen's Assocn.	310
Sleaford Tradesmen's Association	—	Bradford Guardian Socy., Ltd.	—
Blackburn Guardian Society	780	Halifax Trade Protection Society	455
Scottish Trade Protection Society	—	Wimbledon Commercial Union	116
		Liverpool Provision Trade Association, Ltd.	350

TRADE UNIONS.

	Representing Workers		Representing Workers
London Trades Council	59,050	Bath & District Trades Council	3,000
Manchester	22,193	Abertillery (Mon.) Trades Council	4,500
Sheffield	18,000	Norwich Trades Council	2,000
Gorseinon & District Council	390	Paisley United Trades Council	3,500
Yeovil Trades Council	500	Dundee & District United Trades & Labour Council	13,500
Aberdare Trades & Labour Council	8,500	S.W. District (London) United Trades & Labour Council	5,000
Newport (Mon.)	3,600	Newark & District Trades & Labour Council	500
Northampton Boot Operatives Union	2,201	Carlisle Trades Council	1,250
Weston-super-Mare Trades Council	208	Brighouse	500
Gloucester Trades & Labour Council	—	Bradford & District Trades & Labour Council	24,000
Hull	—	Darwen Trades Council	8,000
Reading	750	Northampton Trades Council	4,000
Coventry	1,500	Sunderland & District Trades Council	8,500
Chatham & District	—	Middleton	2,000
Amalgamated Union of Cabinet Makers	1,500	Batley Trades & Labour Council	3,800
Portsmouth Trades Council	—	Govan & District United Labour Council	5,520
Hosiery Trade Union	—	Bedford Branch of Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants	260
South-Western Counties Federation of Trades Councils	65,130		
Bristol Trades Council	11,450		
Edinburgh, Leith & District Trades Council	4,160		

Total Trade Union Representation, 289,150.

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

GREAT BRITAIN.

	No. of Members.		No. of Members.
Staffordshire Teachers' County Assocn.	494	Burton and District Teachers' Assocn.	138
Dudley and District Association	195	Ashbourn & District Teachers' Assocn.	23
Saltash-Callington Association	—	Malden Association	37
Rhondda Teachers' Association	369	Birkenhead Teachers' Association	213
Horsham, Henfield and District Teachers' Association	41	Greenwich District Association	607
Brighton, Hove and District Association	407	Moreton-in-Marsh Association	26
London (West) Suburban Teachers' Association	226	North Dorset Association	8
Torridge District Teachers' Association	46	Bradford Teachers' Association	570
Chatham, Rochester and District Assoc.	125	Teign and Dart Association	202
Braintree Teachers' Association	29	Worcester Association	122
North Pembroke Association	40	Bishops Stortford Association	41
Anglesea Association	68	Merthyr Tydfil Association	157
Keighley Association	96	Radstock and District Association	51
Milom & District Teachers' Association	25	Hornsey Teachers' Association	—
Mid-Devon Teachers' Association	25	Cardiff and District Teachers' Assocn.	508
Sheffield Association	980	Stockton-on-Tees Teachers' Association	84
		Festiniog Association	45
		Deeside Branch Educational Institute of Scotland	—

IRELAND.

	No. of Members.		No. of Members
Carndonagh N.T.A.	20	Ballyfarnon and Drumshanbo N.T.A.	32
Mountrath	20	Cookstown	66
Lurgan	60	Castleisland	22
Glenarm and Larne N.T.A.	25	Carrickfergus	20
Enniscorthy	31	North Tipperary	30
Maryborough	25	E. Cavan and S. Monaghan	40
Cashel	16	Newtownbrowne	19
Co. Tipperary	316	Derry District	38
Downpatrick	44	Rathfarnham	100
Ballineen and Enniskenne N.T.A.	12	Clonmel	75
Ballymitty	50	Navan	48
Ballymoney	50		

SUNDRY ORGANISATIONS.

Name.	No. of Members	Name.	No. of Members
Totnes Union Chamber of Agriculture	200	Yorkshire District Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors	151
Snaith Chamber of Agriculture	80	Liverpool Timber Trade Association	42
Whitchurch Dairy Farmers' Assocn.	—	Liverpool Cotton Association, Ltd.	561
Wadebridge Farmers' Club	—	Liverpool General Brokers' Assocn., Ltd.	127
National Assocn. of Flour Importers of Gt. Britain and Ireland	—		

INSPECTORS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY OF INSPECTORS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Membership 300.

Leamington	Walsall	Old Trafford
Grimsby	Crewe	West Sussex (County)
Carmarthen	East Riding of Yorkshire	Wolverhampton
Stafford	Oldham (3)	Retford
Darlington	Hexham (2)	St. Helens
Aberdeen	Chester	Widnes
Bournemouth	Forfarshire	Salford
Rutland (County)	Burnley	Kendal
Cambridge (County)	Whitehaven	Southport
Montgomery (County)	Cambridge	Kingston-upon-Hull
Hastings	Ipswich	Dundee
Durham (County)	Batley	Redruth
Hawick	Sowerby Bridge	Ossett
Pontypool	Luton	Nottingham
Truro	Gateshead-on-Tyne	Blackburn
Edinburgh (4)	Northamptonshire, South	Newport
Scarborough	Clitheroe	Dublin (4)
Merioneth (County)	Govan (2)	Northumberland (County)
Fife	Rochdale	Banffshire
Bedford (2)	Rochester	Stockport
Southampton	Sheffield (2)	Bristol (City and County)
Brighton	Croydon	Evesham
Wiltshire, South	Ryde	West Riding, Yorkshire
Gainsborough	Flintshire (2)	Chesterfield
Hanley	Maidstone	Ashton-under-Lyne
Dudley	Folkestone	Sandwich
Carlisle	Newcastle-on-Tyne (2)	Ashford

In addition to those represented by the foregoing Associations the following have signed individually:—

Workpeople	3,209	Engineers—Civil, Mining, Mechanical, Marine, etc.	298
Professors, Tutors and Teachers	2,827	Solicitors	77
Retail Traders	1,460	Accountants	125
Clerks	1,204	Commercial Travellers & Agents	169
Draughtsmen	186	Shipowners	10
Architects and Surveyors	64	Actuaries	21
Merchants	412	Magistrates	44
Ministers of Religion	57	Manufacturers	220
Bankers	33	Shipbuilders	4
Physicians and Surgeons	95	Miscellaneous	410
Barristers	14		

Among those who have signed the Petition the following may be noticed:—

Engineers.

Ruston, Proctor & Co., Ltd., Lincoln.
The Pirrie Transporter Co., London.
Fawcett, Preston & Co., Ltd., Liverpool.
Vickers, Sons & Maxim, Barrow-in-Furness.
Hans Renold, Ltd., Manchester.
Swan, Hunter & Wigham Richardson, Ltd., Wallsend.
Aveling & Porter, Ltd., Rochester.
Mather & Platt, Manchester.
Sir Douglas Fox, Sons & Partners, London.
Officials of Cairo Waterworks, Egypt.
Perfecta Seamless Steel Tube Co., Aston, Birmingham.
A. W. Wills & Son, Birmingham.
Gittings, Hills & Boothby, Ltd., Birmingham.
Aston Tube Works, Ltd., Aston, Birmingham.
James Booth & Co., Ltd., Birmingham.
The Jointless Rim, Ltd., Birmingham.
Veritya, Ltd., Aston, Birmingham.
Eagle Range and Gas Stove Co., Ltd., Aston.
Albion Iron Foundry Co., Ltd., Birmingham.
David Rollor & Sons, Fulton Engine Works, Liverpool.
Thomas Sumner & Sons, Victoria Ironworks, Liverpool.
North Eastern Marine Engineering Co., Ltd., Wallsend.

Professors, Lecturers, Tutors, &c.

Sir Wm. Ramsay, K.C.B., F.R.S., University College, W.C.
The Professors and Lecturers, Liverpool University.
Rector & Masters, Aberdeen Grammar School.
Head Master and Masters, Dulwich College, S.E.
Rector and Lecturers, United Free Church Training College, Edinburgh.
Prof. J. Wertheimer, B.Sc., B.A., Principal, Merchant Venturers' Technical College, Bristol.
Prof. S. J. Chapman, Professor of Economics, University, Manchester.
J. Bolam, Esq., Principal, Leith Technical College.
J. B. Henderson, Esq., Lecturer on Electrical Engineering, Glasgow University.
H. Bamford, Esq., Lecturer on Engineering, Glasgow University.
Wm. Alexander, Esq., Lecturer on Engineering, Glasgow University.
J. S. Nicholson, Esq., Demonstrator in Engineering, Glasgow University.
Prof. Magnus Maclean, Demonstrator in Engineering, Glasgow University.
J. Graham Kerr, Esq., Professor of Zoology, Glasgow University.
The Bedfordshire Education Committee.
Prof. Wm. A. Tilden, D.Sc., F.R.S., President of the Chemical Society, London.

PROFESSORS, LECTURERS, TUTORS, &c.—*contd.*
Principal and Lecturers, Heriot Watt College, Edinburgh.
Directors and Lecturers, Technical College, Glasgow.

General.

Harrod's Stores, Ltd., Directors & Employees, Brompton Road, S.W.
Clarke, Nickolls & Coombs, Ltd., Directors and Employees, Hackney Wick, N.E.
Sir Samuel Montagu, Bart., 60, Old Broad Street, E.C., Banker.
J. Innes Rogers, Esq., 119, Cannon Street, E.C., Wholesale Provision Merchant.
Lewis R. S. Tomalin, Esq., 95, Milton Street, E.C., Woollen Merchant.
W. McDermott, Esq., 3, London Wall Buildings, E.C., Mining Machinery Manufacturer.
Sir J. Ewen Cameron, 31, Lombard Street, E.C., Banker.
A. M. Townsend, Esq., 31, Lombard Street, E.C., Banker.
G. W. Butt, Esq., 31, Lombard Street, E.C., Bank Sub-Manager.
Wm. Nicholls, Esq., 31, Lombard Street, E.C., Bank Accountant.
Oscar Moenich, Esq., Billiter House, E.C., Metal Merchant.
A. Chapman, Esq., 8, Duke Street, E.C., Consulting Chemist.
J. Emerson Dowson, Esq., 39, Victoria Street, S.W., M.Inst.C.E.
Bovril, Ltd., 160, Old Street, E.C., Merchants.
Johnson, Matthey & Co., Ltd., 74, Hatton Garden, Refiners.
Babcock & Wilcox, Ltd., Farringdon Street, E.C., Water Tube Boiler Makers.
Debenham & Co., St Paul's Churchyard, E.C., Textile Warehousemen.
Geo. Partridge & Co., Ltd., Bishopsgate Street Without, E.C., Provision Merchants.
Teetgen & Co., Ltd., 29, Bishopsgate Street, E.C., Tea Merchants.
Priest, Mariani & Co., Ltd., 56, St. Mary Axe, E.C., Merchants.
Wm. H. Muller & Co. (London), Ltd., 30, Bury Street, E.C., Merchants.
Poulides & Co., 19, Creechurch Lane, E.C., Manufacturers.
John Tullis & Son, Ltd., 4, Duke Street, Aldgate, E.C., Leather Manufacturers.
Ridgways, Ltd., 89, Aldgate, E., Tea Merch'ts.
Baiss Bros. & Stevenson, 4, Jewry Street, E.C., Manufacturing Chemists.
Charles Walker & Thomas, Ltd., 6, Jewry Street, E.C., Tea Merchants.
Hy. Metzler & Co., 98, Minories, E.C., Chemists and Druggists.
Johnson Pearson, Esq., J.P., Vice-Chairman Derbyshire Education Committee.

SUMMARY.

The total population of Cities, Towns and Counties whose Councils have signed Petitions	2,809,519
Total number represented by Retail Traders' Organisations	24,500
Total number represented by Trade Unions	289,150
Total number represented by Teachers' Associations—	
Great Britain	6,000
Ireland	1,159
	7,159
Total number represented by Sundry Organisations	2,000
Total Individual Signatures	10,948
GRAND TOTAL	333,757

