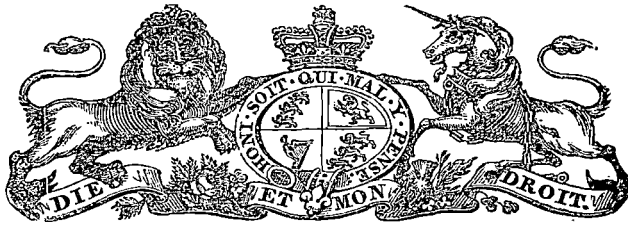


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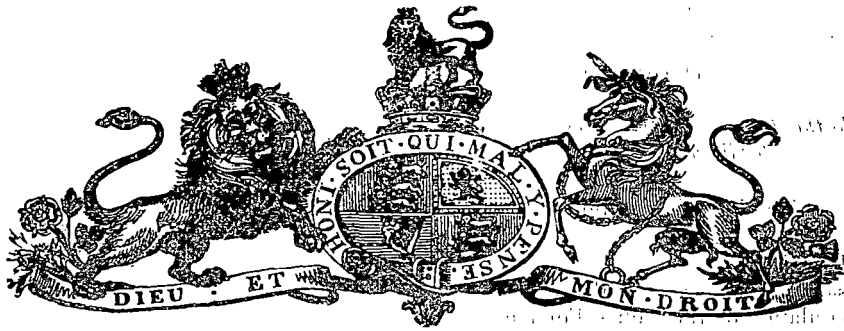
1891.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

POLICE REGULATION BILL, 1891, [No. 10] :

PETITIONS.

Ordered by the Legislative Council to be printed.



Against the Bill.

[Presented by Mr. Audley Cooté, October 16, 1891.]

To the Honorable the President and Members of the Legislative Council of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Municipal Councils of Deloraine, Westbury, Longford, Evandale, Launceston, Campbell Town, Fingal, Ross, Clarence;

SHOWETH :

1. That the said Councils view with feelings of alarm that "A Bill to make better provision for the Appointment and Regulation of the Police Force of Tasmania" has lately passed its second reading in the House of Assembly of this Colony, and is now in Committee.

2. That the said Bill, if carried through Parliament, will stand as a serious and unmerited reflection on those Municipal Bodies who have, ever since Parliament empowered them to undertake the appointment and regulation of their Police Force, exercised the privilege fairly, honestly, and with integrity.

3. That when the ratepayers of the several Municipalities throughout the Colony undertook Municipal government, it was upon the clear and distinct understanding that they were to have the control and management of the Police within their Municipalities.

4. That, having had the management and control of the Police for 28 years with satisfactory results for the interests of the ratepayers in the Municipalities and the Colony generally, it is not now desirable to make any change.

5. That the Police of the Municipalities can be more economically, efficiently, and satisfactorily managed for the interests of the ratepayers and all concerned by local supervision than by central authority at Hobart.

6. That to withdraw the control of the Police from the Municipal Councils would be a direct violation of the principle upon which Local Government was established, and calculated to weaken and destroy its influence and the self-reliance of the people.

7. That the Report of the Commissioner of Police for the year 1890 upon the Municipal Police shows that the provisions of "The Police Regulation Act" were duly observed and carried into effect, and that the several Municipal Councils have maintained a sufficient staff of constables to meet the requirements of the 17th Section of the Act in the maintenance of order and the prevention and detection of crime.

8. That the centralisation of the Police will impose an additional annual charge for their Police of £3330 upon the nine Municipalities that now pay the whole cost of maintenance of their Police.

9. That the Bill to centralise the Police is uncalled for and unnecessary.

And your Petitioners will pray that the Bill be not passed into law.

W. H. D. ARCHER, *Warden, Longford.*

DANIEL BURKE, *Warden, Westbury.*

H. G. STIEGLITZ, *Warden, Fingal.*

E. DOWLING, *Warden, Campbell Town.*

A. YOUL, *Warden, Evandale.*

ROBERT GOULD, *Councillor, Longford.*

ROBERT HALL, *Deloraine.*

CALEB J. L. SMITH, *Deloraine.*

W. H. BENNETT, *Warden, Ross.*

JOHN HART, *Warden, Deloraine.*

SAMUEL J. SUTTON, *Mayor of Launceston.*

HENRY LAMB, *Warden.*

[Presented by Mr. Audley Coote, October 16, 1891.]

To the Honorable the President and Members of the Legislative Council of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Municipal Council of Westbury,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. THAT the said Council views with feelings of alarm that a Bill to make better provision for the appointment and regulation of the Police Force of Tasmania has passed the House of Assembly of this Colony, and is now under consideration by your Honorable House.
2. That the said Bill, if carried through Parliament, will stand as a serious and unmerited reflection on those Municipal Bodies who have, ever since Parliament empowered them to undertake the appointment and regulation of their Police, exercised the privilege fairly, honestly, and with integrity.
3. That when the ratepayers of the various Municipalities throughout the Colony undertook Municipal Government, it was upon the clear understanding that they were to have the control and management of the Police within their Municipalities.
4. That, having had the management and control of the Police for 28 years with satisfactory results for the interests of the ratepayers in the several Municipalities and the Colony generally, it is not now desirable to make any change.
5. That the Police of the Municipalities can be more economically, efficiently, and satisfactorily managed for the interests of the ratepayers and all concerned by local supervision than by central authority at Hobart.
6. That to withdraw the control of the Police from the Municipal Councils would be a direct violation of the principle upon which Local Government was established, and is calculated to weaken and destroy its influence and the self-reliance of the people.
7. That the Report of the Commissioner of Police for the year 1890 upon the Municipal Police shows that the provisions of "The Police Regulation Act" were duly observed and carried into effect, and that the several Municipal Councils had maintained a sufficient staff of constables to meet the requirements of the 17th Section of the Act, in the maintenance of order, and the prevention and detection of crime.
8. That the centralisation of the Police will impose an additional annual charge for their Police of £3330 upon the nine Municipalities that now pay the whole cost of maintenance of their Police.
9. That the Bill referred to is uncalled for and unnecessary.
10. That your Honorable House, in view of the foregoing, will not pass the Bill referred to.

And the said Municipal Council, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

DANIEL BURKE, *Warden,*
For and on behalf of the Municipal Council of Westbury.

[Presented by Mr. Grubb, October 27, 1891.]

To the Honorable the President and Members of the Legislative Council, assembled.

The humble Petition of the Ratepayers in the Municipality of Deloraine,

SHOWETH:

1. That the said ratepayers view with feelings of alarm that a Bill to make better provision for the appointment and regulation of the Police Force of Tasmania has lately passed in the House of Assembly.
2. That the said Bill, if carried through Parliament, will stand as a serious and unmerited reflection on those Municipal Bodies who have, ever since Parliament empowered them to undertake the appointment and regulation of their Police Force, exercised the privilege fairly, honestly, and with integrity.
3. That when the ratepayers of the several Municipalities throughout the Colony undertook Municipal government it was upon the clear understanding that they were to have the control and management of the Police within their Municipalities.

4. That, having had the management and control of the Police for 28 years with satisfactory results for the interests of the ratepayers in the Municipalities and the Colony generally, it is not now desirable to make any change.

5. That the Police of the Municipalities can be more economically, efficiently, and satisfactorily managed for the interests of the ratepayers and all concerned by local supervision than by central authority at Hobart.

6. That to withdraw the control of the Police from the Municipal Councils would be a direct violation of the principle upon which local government was established, and calculated to weaken and destroy its influence and the self-reliance of the people.

7. That the Report of the Commissioner of Police for the year 1890 upon the Municipal Police shows that the provisions of the Police Regulation Act were duly observed and carried into effect, and that the several Municipal Councils have maintained a sufficient staff of constables to meet the requirements of the 17th section of the Act in the maintenance of order and the prevention of crime.

8. That the centralisation of the Police will impose an additional annual charge for their Police of £3300 upon the nine Municipalities who now pay the whole cost of maintenance of their Police.

9. That the Bill now to centralise the Police is uncalled for and unnecessary.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

[Here follow 67 signatures.]

For exclusion of the City of Launceston.

[Presented by Mr. Adye Douglas, November 3, 1891.]

To the Honorable the President and the Honorable the Members of the Legislative Council, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Municipal Council of the City of Launceston,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Honorable House has under consideration a Bill for the Centralisation of the Police of this Colony.

That, previously to the year 1857, the Police of Launceston were under central control.

That, by "The Municipal Police Act" passed in that year, the management of the Launceston Police was vested in the Municipal Council.

That the careful management of the Police by the Council has met with the approval of the citizens of Launceston, and resulted in its now being the best disciplined and most effective Force in the Colony.

That the existence of a local Police Force under the control of the Council is no bar to the establishment of an effective Police for the rest of the Colony.

That experience has shown that two such Forces can work together harmoniously and effectively, and no friction has arisen, except where it was caused by outside interference, which resulted in proving the injudiciousness of the same.

That the Municipal Council of Launceston most emphatically protest against being deprived of the management of the Local Police, in the total absence of any proof being adduced of their ever having failed to carry out the same to the satisfaction of the citizens.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will be pleased not to include the Police of the City of Launceston in the Bill for the Centralisation of the Police.

And your humble Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

SAMUEL J. SUTTON, *Mayor of Launceston, (for Petitioners).*

Town Hall, Launceston, 12th October, 1891.

In favour of the Bill.

[Presented by Mr. Audley Coote, October 28, 1891.]

To the Honorable the President and Members of the Legislative Council of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the undersigned Ratepayers and Residents of the Rural Municipality of Westbury,

SHEWETH:

1. THAT your Petitioners have watched with great interest, through the medium of the daily journals and from information supplied to them by friends, the progress of the Bill "to make better provision for the appointment and regulation of the Police Force of Tasmania," introduced into the House of Assembly by the Honorable the Attorney-General, and which, to their great satisfaction, passed that Honorable House by a large majority. And your Petitioners most strongly approve of the action taken by the Honorable the Member for Westbury in supporting the Bill.

2. That your Petitioners are most forcibly impressed with the fact that a radical change in the control and supervision of the Police is, and has long been, most necessary in the interests of the residents of this Municipality and of the country generally.

3. That the said Bill, if passed into law, will not be any reflection on the Police as a body, but will, in the opinion of your Petitioners, place them on a better footing and greatly strengthen their influence.

4. Your Petitioners respectfully point out that the head of the Police in Rural Municipalities is the Warden for the time being, and it can hardly be expected that a Councillor (the majority of whom follow the occupation of farming) can, when a change in the position of Warden takes place, intuitively carry out efficiently the responsible and complicated duties, which can alone be done by an experienced Commissioner of Police, who devotes his whole time and energy to the work and makes the thorough efficiency of the Police a study.

5. That the Petition presented to your Honorable House by the Wardens of this and other Municipalities expresses their own opinions only, and not of the general body of the Ratepayers and Residents; while the Report (referred to in the said Petition) of the Commissioner of Police for the year 1890 points strongly to the fact that a change in the control of the Police is urgently required.

6. Your Petitioners cannot accept the figures referred to in the said Petition of the Wardens as correct with regard to the probable increased expenditure that may be caused by the centralisation of the Police, nor as fairly bearing on the question, inasmuch as your Petitioners consider that any improvement in the control and efficiency of the Police must be beneficial to the Colony at large.

7. That in the interests of the members of the Police Force themselves direct control from the Government is required.

For the foregoing reasons your Petitioners humbly pray that your Honorable House will be pleased to pass the said Bill that the same may become law.

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

[Here follow 67 Signatures.]