

(No. 67.)



1888.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

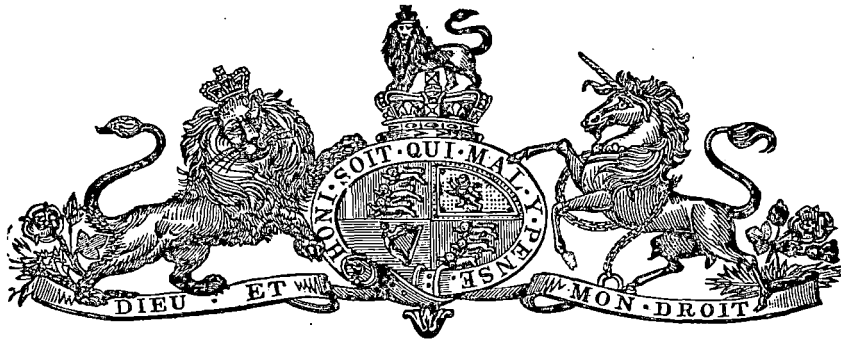
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MR. WILLIAM REID BELL:

P E T I T I O N.

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Presented by Mr. Mackenzie, May 30, 1888; and ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed, June 13, 1888.



*To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.*

The Petition of William Reid Bell, of Hobart, in Tasmania, Civil Engineer,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

1. THAT your Petitioner is a Civil Engineer, and was, on the 6th day of March, 1885, engaged from Sydney, at a salary of £350 per annum, to superintend the works being constructed by the Government of Tasmania at Emu Bay.

2. That on the 18th day of June, 1886, your Petitioner was appointed by the Honorable the Minister of Lands and Works to superintend generally, as Engineer, the works undertaken by the Public Works Department, but for the time being limited to the districts under the jurisdiction of the Mersey and Table Cape Marine Boards.

3. That on the 16th day of June, 1887, the Honorable the Minister of Public Works increased the salary of your Petitioner to £500 per annum, in consideration of his undertaking additional professional duties in carrying out works sanctioned or to be sanctioned by Parliament on the Rivers North Esk and Tamar, and the erection of lighthouses and marine works generally.

4. That your Petitioner was never informed or led to believe that he was only employed temporarily, but at all times understood that he was employed permanently, subject to determination of such service for a good and sufficient reason and at a reasonable notice.

5. That on the 27th day of March, 1888, the Honorable the Minister of Lands and Works requested your Petitioner to tender his resignation, which he declined to do, there being no sufficient reason for such a request.

6. That on the 10th day of April last the Engineer-in-Chief forwarded to your Petitioner a Memo. of the Honorable the Minister of Lands and Works, dismissing your Petitioner in 20 days after,—namely, from 30th April last.

7. That the said Engineer-in-Chief, in forwarding such dismissal, also stated in his letter that in his opinion the Honorable the Minister "had taken the step intimated in his Memo. through a misconception of your Petitioner's zealous efforts in the Public Service, or of his general conduct in the works placed under his charge."

8. That your Petitioner refused to accept the notice of dismissal given, and a further notice, dismissing him in a month from the 10th day of April last, was forwarded to him on the 18th day of April last.

9. That on the 9th day of May instant your Petitioner addressed to the Honorable the Minister the following letter :—

*Formby, 9th May, 1888.*

SIR,

IN reference to the memorandum of 9th and letter of 18th April, I respectfully submit that the position I hold under your appointment, and the nature of the work under my charge, entitles me to a full enquiry into my conduct of the work, with a thorough opportunity of bringing evidence in my defence, as I consider the charges brought forward are based on mistaken grounds.

Failing this, I am advised that, my appointment being a yearly one, I am entitled to at least three months' notice from the beginning of a month, and if you desire me to give up my office on 10th instant I respectfully request that I be allowed two months' compensation in lieu of notice.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. REID BELL,

*Supt. Engineer for Harbours.*

*The Honorable the Minister of Works, Hobart.*

10. That your Petitioner has up to the present time received no reply to his letter of 9th May as above set forth.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that an enquiry may be made into the circumstances of his dismissal, and that he may have an opportunity of refuting the charges made against him, and that he may have such redress as to this Honorable House shall seem meet.

And your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

WM. REID BELL.

*Hobart, 30th May, 1888.*