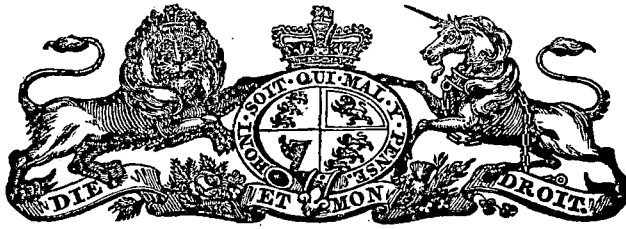


(No. 81.)



1875.

T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

L I C E N S I N G B I L L.

P E T I T I O N F R O M L I C E N S E D V I C T U A L L E R S A N D O T H E R S
A G A I N S T.

Presented by Mr. Lewis, and ordered by the House to be printed, September 1, 1875.



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

The humble Petition of the Licensed Victuallers and others residing within the District of Hobart.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT *A Bill to further amend the Licensing Act* has been brought forward in your Honorable House, with a stated intention to make better provision for the granting of Justices' Certificates for the issue of Public House Licences in the City of Hobart Town and the Town of Launceston.

That by the provisions of the said Bill it is proposed to take the power out of the hands of the Magistrates generally, and to restrict the said power to five of their number to be chosen annually, who, with the Police Magistrate of the City and Mayor thereof, are to form and to be constituted the Licensing Bench, with no appeal against their decisions except in points of law.

That your Memorialists feel, though the decisions heretofore given by the Bench of Magistrates at the Annual and Quarterly Meetings may not always have given universal satisfaction (a consummation not to be expected), yet their administration of *The Licensing Act* has been so generally satisfactory that your Memorialists are of opinion that, by reducing the Licensing Bench to five of their number, with the liability of their selection being influenced by the caprices or proclivities of parties, the Licensing Bench is not likely to be improved nor the confidence in its integrity and impartiality increased.

That your Memorialists respectfully aver the proposal, as contained in the said Bill, to do away with the power of appeal, except in points of law from a Bench so constituted, at once deprives the Licensed Victuallers of all remedy against an unmerited adverse or an unfair decision, which at once strikes at the root of that which they have hitherto cherished as a Constitutional right to which no other class or calling is subjected.

That your Memorialists respectfully beg to state their belief that the best amendment which can reasonably be made to the existing exceptionable *Licensing Act* is to totally repeal it, and to substitute one of a comprehensive character suitable to the present social condition of the Colony and requirements of the community.

Your Memorialists therefore humbly pray that the *Bill to further amend the Licensing Act*, now before your Honorable House, may not become law.

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

[Here follow 655 Signatures.]