

(No. 23.)



1859.

T A S M A N I A.

B R E W E R ' S L I C E N C E .

P E T I T I O N .

Presented by Mr. Henty, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
7 September, 1859.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Brewers and Dealers in Malt Liquor of the Town of Launceston.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT by the 21 Victoria, No. 39, known as the "Tasmanian Licensing Act," it is provided that all persons selling Malt Liquor of their own manufacture, in or within five miles of the Towns of Hobart Town and Launceston, shall pay a Licence Fee of Fifty Pounds per annum, and that persons carrying on business at a greater distance than five miles from either of the above Towns shall pay a Licence of Twenty-five Pounds.

That the original draft of the said Act proposed to exact an uniform Fee of Fifty Pounds,—and the ground on which the distinction was ultimately made, was the alleged injustice of making a Country Brewer who produced only twelve or fourteen hogsheads per week pay as much as a Town Brewer who produced a hundred.

That, as the actual trade of the Hobart Town Brewers as compared with that of the Huon Brewers was taken as the basis of adjustment for the several amounts of the Licence Fees payable in the Towns and Country respectively, the actual trade of the Brewers in Launceston and the surrounding country should also be taken into consideration in fixing the amount of such Fees.

That Hobart Town, with a Population (according to the last Census) of Eighteen thousand two hundred and fifty-eight (18,258) souls, contains Six Brewers, or One to Three thousand and forty-three (3043) Inhabitants; whilst Launceston, with a Population of Seven thousand eight hundred and seventy-four (7874) souls, contains Five Brewers, or one to One thousand five hundred and seventy-five (1575) Inhabitants.

That the amount of business done by the Brewers of Launceston does not exceed One-fifth of that done by the Brewers of Hobart Town; and the Brewers of Launceston are, in this respect, on the same footing as those Country Brewers in whose favour the reduction of the Licence Fee was determined on.

That within a short distance of Launceston there are Six flourishing Townships—four of them only about twelve miles from Town—in which are Eight Brewers doing a good trade, with a well-peopled country in their neighbourhood, considerably exceeding in some cases the trade done by any of the Launceston Brewers, and such Brewers, paying a Licence Fee of Twenty-five Pounds, compete with the Launceston Brewers who pay Fifty Pounds.

That the amount of Licence Fee is not the only item in favour of the Country Brewers in such competition,—residents in Town having to pay Municipal, Police, and Water Rates to the amount of Two Shillings and Sixpence in the Pound upon much higher valuations than similar property in the Country.

That in cases where Licences to carry on other Trades or Occupations in the Country are issued on the payment of lower Fees than similar Licences in the Towns—as, for

example, to Auctioneers and Pawnbrokers—the ground of such distinction is the smaller amount of business done in the country, and persons paying such reduced Fees are prohibited from exercising their callings in Hobart Town and Launceston; but, as in the Licensing Act there is no such prohibitory Clause, the Brewers in the Townships around Launceston, whilst keeping within the letter of the Act, are daily infringing its spirit and intention to the manifest injury of your Petitioners.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honorable House will be pleased to take the foregoing matters into your consideration, and to grant your Petitioners such relief as in your wisdom you may see fit, either by equalising the Licence Fee, or by forbidding the holders of Twenty-five Pound Licences to trade in Launceston or within Five Miles thereof.

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

JOHN FAWNS.
BENJ. HYRONS.
EDWD. FRENCH.
JOHN SCOTT & CO.
DITCHAM, BUTTON, & CO.