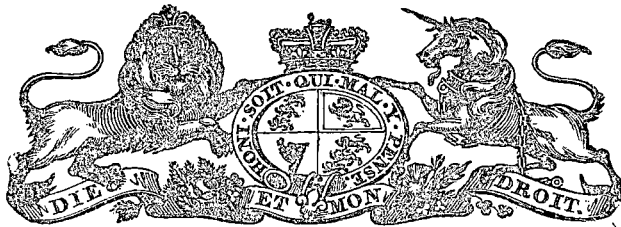


(No. 3.)



1859.

T A S M A N I A.

P E T I T I O N

FROM LICENSED VICTUALLERS OF THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF THE ISLAND
PRAYING FOR A REDUCTION OF THE LICENCE FEE.

Presented by Mr. Whyte, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
9 August, 1859.



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

The Memorial of the undersigned Holders of Public-house Licences on the Southern side of the Island of Tasmania.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT your Memorialists are authorised to sell Liquors in the houses occupied by them, and mentioned in the respective Licences issued to them, under the authority and on the terms, conditions, and restrictions imposed by an Act of Parliament of Tasmania, intituled "An Act to regulate the Sale of Liquors."

That, by the said Act of Council, your Memorialists were not only brought under more severe and stringent enactments, but also had the Annual Licence Fee raised from £25 to £50.

That, in the present depressed state of the Colony, the present enormous Fee of £50 is more than they can pay.

That your Memorialists would respectfully beg to bring under the notice of your Honourable House the great number of Insolvencies that have occurred amongst Licensed Victuallers throughout the Island, amounting to upwards of Fifty since September, 1858, to the present time, of which Twenty-eight have occurred in Hobart Town alone.

That your Memorialists would also respectfully call the attention of your Honourable House to the numerous cases of Sly Grog Selling and Adulteration of Liquors that have been prosecuted to conviction since the passing of the said Act, thus showing that the present heavy Fee of Fifty Pounds does not act as a preventative to vice and immorality, but, on the contrary, encourages drunkenness and a defrauding of the Revenue.

That as the population of the Colony is continually decreasing, by persons emigrating to the more prosperous neighbouring Colonies, the falling-off of trade, and depreciation of property (there being at the present time nearly 800 empty houses in Hobart Town alone), your Memorialists respectfully suggest it is unfair to continue the said heavy Licence Fee of £50.

That as it has been urged by the opponents of Licensed Victuallers the necessity of continuing the said heavy fee of £50, to enable the Government to meet the expenses of maintaining the Police, to keep down the vice, immorality, and drunkenness caused by the prosecuting of their trade, your Memorialists meet that argument by respectfully reminding your Honourable House that the whole of the expense of the Police of Hobart Town and Launceston is paid by the inhabitants thereof, and that the residents of the Rural districts contribute a great portion (if not all) of the expense of their Police; therefore the continuing the said heavy fee of £50 will be great hardship on your Memorialists.

That in the golden (and thickly populated) Colony of Victoria, as also in Sydney and adjacent Colonies, the Annual Licence Fee is only £25, and the duties on Spirits less than what your Memorialists pay; your Memorialists would therefore beg respectfully to impress upon your Honourable House the unfairness and injustice of continuing the present exorbitant Licence Fee of £50 in this impoverished Colony.

Your Memorialists, therefore, pray that your Honourable House will take the premises into consideration and repeal Clause No. 53 of the said Act of Council, fixing the Annual Licence Fee at £50, and in lieu thereof fix such Annual Licence Fee at £25 or such less sum as your Honourable House in its wisdom may deem within the altered circumstances of the Colony and of your Memorialists.

And your Memorialists will ever pray.

July, 1859.

[Here follow the Signatures of 241 holders of Public-house Licences.]

JAMES BARNARD,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.