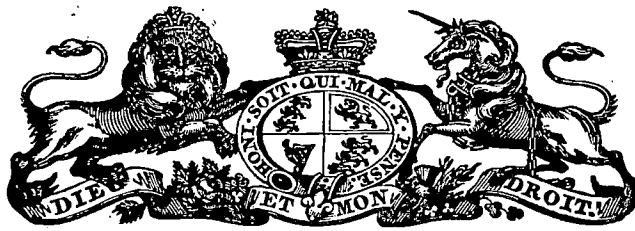


(No. 116.)



1889.

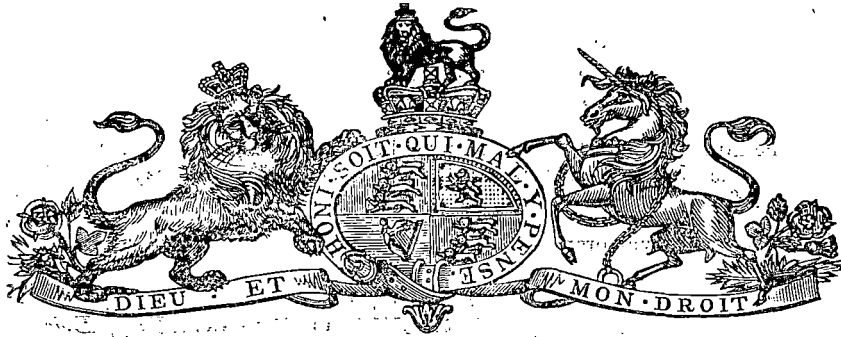
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

LICENSING BILL, AND BILLIARD TABLE
LICENSING BILL :

PETITION OF DELEGATES OF CLUBS.

(*Mr. Gellibrand, October 1, 1889.*)

Ordered by the Legislative Council to be printed.



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

The humble Petition of Delegates of Clubs in Hobart,

HUMBLY SHOWETH :

1. THAT your Petitioners are Members of the following Clubs:—The Tasmanian, the Launceston, the Hobart, the Athenæum, and the Hobart Tennis Club, established for the association of gentlemen resident in the Colony, and for promoting and continuing a common interest and fellowship between them.

2. That no stranger (other than honorary members admitted under the rules of our several Clubs) can be served with refreshment in the Club-houses at his own cost.

3. We have observed that "A Bill to consolidate and amend the Law regulating the Sale of Fermented Liquors," and "A Bill to provide for the licensing of Billiard and Bagatelle Boards," are now before the Legislature, and we humbly submit to your Honorable House our objections to portions of those Bills.

4. Our objection to the first-mentioned Bill arises from Section 123 and Schedule 4, under which a licence fee of £25 is made payable annually by each Club to the Treasury for the use of the Crown.

5. We have reason to believe that no licence fee of any such amount has been imposed on Clubs in any part of Australasia, and it appears to us that if levied it would tend to place Clubs in Tasmania on the same footing as licensed public-houses,—a position wholly foreign to the character of such institutions.

6. We raise the same objection to the proposal to license billiard tables used in Tasmanian Clubs, and believe we are right in stating that no such licence has been found necessary in any properly constituted Clubs in Australasia or in the United Kingdom.

7. We desire to call the attention of your Honorable House to Colonial laws affecting the matters under consideration.

8. A Bill (No. 16) "To amend the Licensed Victuallers Act, 1880," is (or was) before the Parliament of South Australia. Section 3 is worded thus: "The provisions of this Act relating to the sale of liquor shall not apply to the sale of liquor in any Club-house," and on proof of the conditions required for the constitution of the Club a registration fee of £5 is to be paid. The fee is not an annual one.

9. In Victoria, "The Licensing Act, 1885," enacts that *nothing in the said Act* shall apply to any person occupying any premises *bonâ fide* as a Club which the Licensing Court for the Licensing District has certified to be a Club within the provisions of the Act. *No licence fee or registration fee is payable by any such Club for any purpose.*

10. In New Zealand, "The Licensing Act, 1881," defines a Club, and declares *that nothing in that Act* shall apply to Clubs, except that on a charter being obtained from the Colonial Secretary a fee of £5 shall be paid in respect thereof.

11. We venture to point out that in places other than Clubs where licence fees are paid for the sale of liquors, or for the use of billiard tables, the licensee reaps the profits arising therefrom, whilst in the case of Clubs such as our own, and of the description we refer to, the Members derive no pecuniary benefit from such sources.

12. We submit that when registration or licence fees have been imposed on Clubs in other Colonies it has been done, not for fiscal reasons, but to enable the State to ascertain at any time if a particular Club is an institution within the definition of the local Acts.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray—

- (1.) That no annual licence fee in respect of the sale of liquor or the use of billiard tables may be imposed on the Members of Clubs in Tasmania.
- (2.) That the Bills imposing such fees, now before the Legislature, may be amended in your Honorable House so as to exempt *bonâ fide* Clubs from the payment of any such annual licence fees.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

GAM. H. BUTLER,
HERBERT C. HALLOWES,
D. MACMILLAN,
W. TARLETON,
W. G. BROWNE, } *Delegates specially appointed by the under-mentioned Clubs.*

Tasmanian Club	130 Members.
Launceston Club.....	84 Members.
Hobart Club	110 Members.
Athenæum Club	95 Members.
Hobart Tennis Club	30 Members.