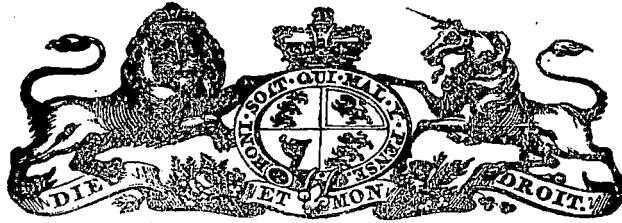


(No. 116.)



1885.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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BRIBERY, AND HOURS OF POLLING AT  
ELECTIONS :

PETITIONS.

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Presented by Mr. Braddon, and ordered by the House to be printed,  
18 September, 1885.



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

The Petition of the undersigned Electors for the House of Assembly,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

1. That enquiries held before the Committee of Elections and Qualifications of the Honorable the Legislative Council, and also evidence produced at several trials held before the Supreme Court in its criminal jurisdiction, incontestably prove that bribery has been extensively practised in connection with Parliamentary Elections in this Colony.

2. That the present Electoral Act of this Colony does not prohibit the remunerative employment of electors as agents or scrutineers, or as canvassers in Parliamentary Elections, or the hiring of cabs by candidates for the purpose of conveying electors to the poll.

3. That the employment for a pecuniary remuneration of a large number of electors in the several capacities above mentioned is largely practised in connection with Parliamentary Elections for the purpose of securing the votes of the electors so employed in favour of the candidate by whom they are engaged.

4. That it has been found necessary in Great Britain, for the better prevention of bribery and other corrupt practices in elections, to introduce a law by which electors who are employed in any capacity in connection with a Parliamentary Election are directly prohibited from voting at such election, and by the same law candidates at elections are prohibited from hiring cabs for the purpose of conveying voters to the poll.

5. That the hours of polling for Parliamentary Elections in Great Britain are from eight o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock at night.

6. That the hours of polling for Parliamentary Elections in this Colony are from nine o'clock in the morning until four o'clock in the afternoon, and many electors who are working for daily wages are unable to record their votes between those hours without the loss of a portion of their wages for the day on which the election is held; and a large amount of money is frequently expended by candidates at Parliamentary Elections in compensating such electors for such loss of wages in order to obtain their votes.

7. That the large expenditure of money which has taken place hitherto at Parliamentary Elections in this Colony in the various forms above mentioned has had a most corrupting influence on a large number of the electors, and has raised up a number of election agents, who will undertake to secure the return in certain constituencies of any candidate who will supply such agents with whatever amount of money they may find it necessary to expend in the methods above mentioned for the purpose of securing a sufficient number of votes to give such candidate a majority.

8. That while such a system of conducting elections as that above described is practised, representative Government is practically suspended, and Parliamentary institutions discredited by the exclusion from the Legislature, which such a system of corruption enforces, of many members of the community who are eminently fitted for the position, but who decline to offer themselves as candidates for the representation of any constituency while the present system of conducting elections is continued.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that your Honorable House will be pleased to give its assent to any Bill that may be introduced into Parliament to provide remedies for the evils above set forth.

Here follow 1172 signatures: presented by Mr. Braddon, 3rd September, 1885.

Similar Petition, 236 signatures, presented by Mr. Braddon, 15th September, 1885.

WILLIAM THOMAS STRUTT,  
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.