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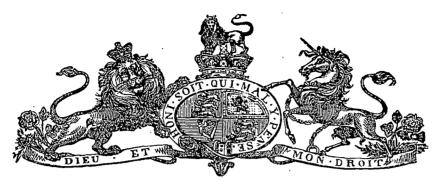
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

REAL AND PERSONAL ESTATES DUTIES
BILL, 1892, [No. 41] :

PETITION FOR AMENDMENT.

(Mr. Fysh, November 10, 1892.)

Ordered by the Legislative Council to be printed

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

The humble Petition of Charles MacCarthy Tenison,

SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioner is the Manager at Hobart of the Union Bank of Australia, Limited.

That a Bill, intituled " A Bill to further amend the ' Real and Personal Estates Duties Act, 1880,' " has been introduced into your Honorable House, by Clause 4 of which it is proposed to impose a tax of Nine Pence in the £ upon the profits assumed to be made in Tasmania by Banks carrying on business within Tasmania but not having their principal place of business in the Colony, and commonly styled " Foreign Banks."

That the said Union Bank of Australia, Limited, is one of the said Banks.

That it is provided by the said Bill that the amount of such profits shall be ascertained by assuming that the profits made in Tasmania by any such Bank bear to its total profits the same proportion as the deposits of money received by the said Bank from the public in Tasmania bear to the total of such deposits.

That this provision of the said Bill, therefore, is based upon the supposition that the profits of such Banks are derived solely from deposits of money received from the public; but that, on the contrary, the profits of every such Bank are derived from the whole of the resources employed in its business, that is to say, from the capital contributed by its shareholders in the first place, and from the additions made to that capital from time to time by the creation and maintenance of Reserve Funds and Reserves against bad and doubtful debts, and also from bills payable and other sources, and, lastly, from the deposits above referred to.

That all the above items composing the resources of such Banks appear in the published Balance-sheets of every such Bank, and the total amount thereof is equal to the total of the liabilities of the Bank as disclosed from time to time by such Balance-sheets, and may be readily ascertained by reference to such Balance-sheets.

That no accurate computation of the profits made in Tasmania by any such Bank can be arrived at except upon the basis above pointed out.

That if the provision of the said Bill above referred to becomes law the profits of such Banks made in Tasmania will be computed at an incorrect and excessive amount, and such Banks will consequently be taxed in a much heavier sum than would be payable if due provision were made for carrying into effect the principle of the said Bill of taxing only profits made in Tasmania.

That the name of " Foreign Bank " as applied to the Union Bank of Australia, Limited, is incorrect, since the shareholders of that Bank are equally with the people of Tasmania subjects of Her Majesty the Queen, and further, many of them are residents in Tasmania and other Australian Colonies. That the said Bank was established for meeting the necessities of business in and for the convenience of the inhabitants of the Australian Colonies generally, and not of foreign countries, fifty-five years ago, and has carried on business in Tasmania since the year 1838, and that its Directors, Managers, and Officers in England and Australia are all British subjects.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays that your Honorable House will be pleased to consider, and, if thought advisable, to make such amendments in the said Bill as will permit the profits made by the Union Bank of Australia, Limited, in the Colony of Tasmania to be computed upon a fair and accurate basis by comparison of the resources derived by the said Bank from this Colony with its total resources, and by assuming that the profits made by the said Bank in Tasmania bear the same proportion to its total profits as its resources derived from Tasmania bear to its total resources.

And your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

C. M. TENISON.