

(No. 63.)



1870.

T A S M A N I A.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT AMENDMENT.

PETITION FROM MANCHESTER UNITY TRUSTEES.

Presented by Mr. Balfe, September 7, 1870, and ordered by the House to be printed.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Trustees of the Hobart Town District of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Odd Fellows Friendly Society.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT your Petitioners are desirous of submitting to the consideration of your Honorable House a few statements with reference to "A Bill to amend the Friendly Societies Act" now before your Honorable House.

Your Petitioners are the Trustees of the Hobart Town District of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in whom the property and funds of the said Society are vested.

Disputes having arisen between the said Society and several Lodges heretofore belonging to the said Hobart Town District, various attempts have been made by the disaffected Lodges to succeed against the said Society; and a case in equity (involving upwards of Fifteen hundred Pounds) is now pending in the Supreme Court of Tasmania, in which your Petitioners are Defendants, at the suit of persons representing Lodges which have for the last five years failed to contribute to the funds of the Society in which they now claim a share.

Your Petitioners respectfully submit that they have at all times complied with the Rules of the said Society, and with the laws governing the same, and that such laws are at present adequate to the requirements of the said Society and of Friendly Societies in general.

Your Honorable House will not fail to perceive that the retrospective operation of Section 8 of the said Bill is intended specially to embrace the matters before alluded to, and that your Petitioners may justly complain of any such operation.

While your Petitioners would thus respectfully claim special exemption from the effect of the Bill were the same (even in an amended form) to become law, your Petitioners would, in defence of the principles and well-being of Friendly Societies in general, respectfully submit that the compulsory arbitration proposed by the Bill would be entirely inimical to the best interests of such Societies, inasmuch as the permanency and unity thereof, which are their chief elements, would be greatly impaired, if not altogether destroyed.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honorable House to take into consideration the injurious effects which would certainly accrue to the interests of those whom your Petitioners represent, and the prejudicial consequences to Friendly Societies in general which would most probably occur by the said Bill becoming law.

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

[Here follow 5 Signatures.]