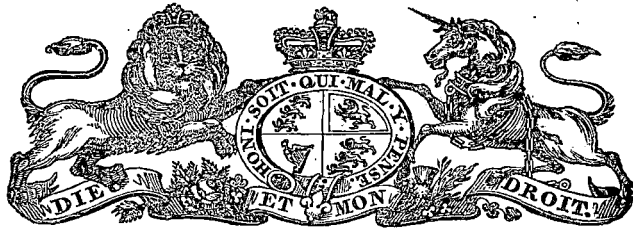


(No. 103.)



1883.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

LOCAL OPTION:

PETITIONS.

Ordered by the Council to be printed, September 20, 1883.



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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Residents of West Devon,

SHOWETH :

THAT, associated with the sale of intoxicating drink, are evils producing results which are detrimental to society, amongst which evils are social disorder, pauperism, insanity, and crime.

That it has been demonstrated in the clearest manner, in many places, that the absence of the public-house is attended by almost entire freedom from pauperism and crime, thereby reducing to a minimum public expenditure on paupers and police.

That the value of neighbouring property is very frequently depreciated by the licensing of houses for the sale of intoxicants.

That your Petitioners respectfully submit that, inasmuch as houses for the sale of strong drink are allowed by law to be licensed avowedly to meet a public want, it is but reasonable and just to assume that the inhabitants themselves are the best judges of their own wants in that respect, and that, therefore, in accordance with the principle now known as "Local Option," it should be left to them to decide whether such houses shall be licensed or not.

That in Canada, the most important of the British Colonies, a Local Option Law is in force, and has been adopted by many Districts in that Dominion, and that the principle of Local Option has been twice affirmed by the British House of Commons, and has also been partially embodied in legislation in the neighbouring Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, and New Zealand.

That your Petitioners are of opinion that the time has arrived when the principle of Local Option should be applied in this Colony in dealing with all applications for licences for new houses, for houses formerly licensed but which have been closed, and for all houses now licensed.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honorable House to take into favourable consideration any Bill which shall be brought before Parliament for the purpose of giving effect to the principle of Local Option in relation to the licensing of public-houses.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 126 signatures.]

THE following Petitions, in the same terms, or to the same effect, were also presented during the Session.

<i>From whom.</i>	<i>By whom presented.</i>	<i>When presented.</i>	<i>No. of Signatures.</i>
		1883.	
Residents West Devon	Mr. Moore	July 24th	241
Ditto, Tasmania	Mr. Lord	August 15th	47
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	59
Ditto, Leven	Ditto	Ditto	71
Ditto, Penguin and Ashwater	Ditto	Ditto	130
Ditto, Leven	Ditto	Ditto	111
Ditto, Ross	Ditto	August 21st	137
Ditto, Northern Tasmania.....	Mr. Grubb	Ditto	5922
Mr. R. J. Hart, Deloraine	Ditto	Ditto	1
Residents Franklin	Mr. Watchorn	Ditto	180
Ditto, Hastings	Ditto	Ditto	33
Ditto, Honeywood	Ditto	Ditto	184
Ditto, Tasmania	Mr. Hodgson	August 28th	26
Ditto, New Town	Mr. Moore, for Mr. Chapman	August 31st	301
Ditto, Tasmania	Mr. Crowther	September 14th	575
Ditto, Invermay.....	Mr. Grubb	September 18th	85
Ditto, Clarence	Mr. Lord	September 21st	39
Ditto, Bream Creek	Mr. Hodgson	Ditto	208
Ditto, Carnarvon	Ditto	Ditto	104
Ditto, Hobart.....	Mr. Smart	October 3rd	685
Ditto, Queenborough.....	Ditto	Ditto	256
Ditto, Glenorchy	Ditto	Ditto	39
Archdeacon and Clergy Church of England.	Mr. Crowther	October 11th	39
Residents Hobart.....	Ditto	Ditto	360
Ditto, Hamilton.....	Mr. Gellibrand	Ditto	69
			9902
			126
			Total Number of Petitioners.....
			10,028