

(No. 117.)



1889.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

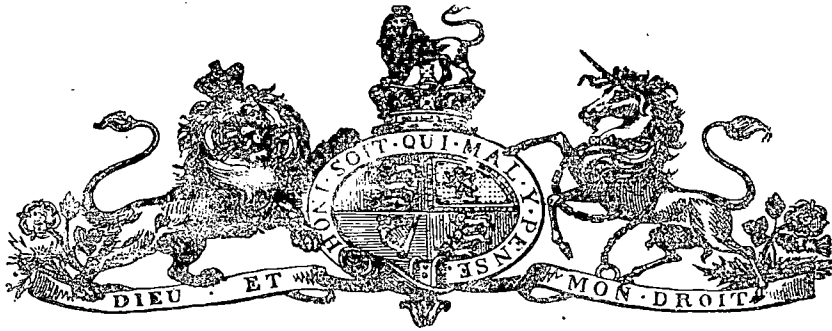
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LICENSING BILL, 1889:

PETITIONS FROM TASMANIAN LOCAL OPTION LEAGUE  
AND OTHERS. (*Mr. Hart, October 1, 1889.*)

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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 the President, Vice-President, Officers, and Members of the Tasmanian Local Option League and others, being above the age of eighteen years,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners are deeply impressed with the fact that the existing laws for the regulation of the Retail Trade in Alcoholic Drinks are not fully carried out; that the said laws are openly and systematically evaded, to the serious demoralisation of the community generally, and to the detriment of those publicans who endeavour to conduct their trade in accordance with law.

That your Petitioners are convinced that a very great improvement would ensue in the trade generally, and particularly in elevating the standard of licensed hotels, had the Ratepayers and Electors more control over the granting of Licenses; and that the laws relating to the traffic would thereby be much more faithfully enforced.

That, in the opinion of your Petitioners, the present system of granting licenses is both arbitrary and inconsistent with the spirit of the Constitution under which we live, which recognises the right of the people to manage their own affairs, both legislative and municipal.

That your Petitioners deem that the people of Tasmania are fully competent to determine the extent to which the Liquor Traffic shall be carried on amongst themselves, equally as they are to have the franchise for the election of Members of Parliament to make their State Laws, and the choice of local representatives to deal with Municipal and other matters.

Your Petitioners, therefore, respectfully pray—

That your Honorable House will take into favourable consideration such a measure as shall give to the people themselves, "residing in any town, township, village, or country district, the right to determine by a majority of votes"—

1. That *an increase* in the present number of Licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors may be granted, and if so, to what extent.
2. That *no increase* in the present number of Licenses shall be granted.
3. That there shall be a *decrease* in the present number of Licenses, and if so, to what extent.

Also, that such measure shall provide more efficient means for the carrying out of such laws as shall be from time to time in existence for the regulation of the traffic.

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

[Here follow 5416 Signatures.]

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Officers of the Local Option League in Tasmania,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners deem that the amending Licensing Bill, as at present before the House of Assembly, utterly fails to meet the requirements of the organisation which your Petitioners represent, inasmuch as the right of the people in each district or neighbourhood to determine for themselves, by direct vote by ballot, as to the question of increase or diminution in the number of Licenses for the sale of intoxicating drinks, is in no sense recognised by the said Bill.

Your Petitioners further consider that the Bill, in its present form, tends to increase rather than to diminish the facilities for intemperance.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Honorable House will so amend the said Bill as that it shall embrace the principle of Local Option in the sense hereinbefore expressed.

Otherwise, and failing the adoption of such Local Option Clause, your Petitioners further pray that your Honorable House will disallow the said Bill *in toto*.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signed on behalf of the Local Option League, and in conformity with a Resolution passed at a meeting of the Executive of the same League held 16th September instant.

ROBERT KERMODE, *President.*

F. STANFIELD,

F. L. FYSH,

R. H. DOUGLAS,

JOSEPH E. CLARKE, *Secretary.*

} *Vice-Presidents.*

*Launceston, 24th September, 1889.*