

(No. 25.)



1857.

T A S M A N I A.

P E T I T I O N.

P. A. DE ROOCK.

Presented by Mr. Nutt, and ordered by the House to be printed, 3 November,
1857.



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

The humble Petition of Peter Albertus De Roock, of the City of Hobart Town in Tasmania,
Licensed Victualler.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

THAT your Petitioner, in venturing to address your Honourable House, is desirous of doing so with the profoundest humility and respect.

That your Petitioner has been engaged in the business of a Licensed Victualler in the said City upwards of twelve years, during which long period he confidently, but respectfully, ventures to affirm that he has always studied to obey the law for the regulation of that business.

That your Petitioner now holds a Licence for the Public-house known by the sign of "The Custom House Tavern," situate at the corner of Murray and Morrison streets, Franklin Wharf, Hobart Town aforesaid, and which your Petitioner has kept as a Public-house for the last five years, without any complaint having been preferred against him by, or at the instance of, the constituted authorities.

That your Petitioner humbly begs to inform your Honourable House, that about four years since your Petitioner was induced to purchase an allotment of land from the Government situate at the corner of Brook and Morrison street, Franklin Wharf, Hobart Town, consisting of forty feet frontage, for which land your Petitioner paid the sum of Thirty-two Pounds per foot, the total cost of which amounted to One thousand two hundred and eighty Pounds.

That your Petitioner so purchased the said land with the full and fixed intention, when circumstances permitted, of erecting thereon a large substantial and commodious stone and brick structure, to be devoted to the purpose and object of an Hotel for the special accommodation of passengers arriving in, and departing from, the Port of Hobart Town.

That such parcel of land is immediately opposite the "Electric Telegraph Office," and also faces the Wharf at which the Steamers from the Colonies of New South Wales and Victoria always lie.

That on the removal of the old Government House the traffic from Elizabeth-street contiguous to the said building will be considerably augmented.

That in the month of June last your Petitioner publicly invited Tenders for the construction of the said building; and early in the month of July last the works were commenced; and the house and premises will be completed, and ready for habitation, in the month of December next, and which will be not only an improvement, but an architectural ornament to the locality.

That your Petitioner is now under an engagement to pay the sum of Two thousand four hundred Pounds to the Contractor for the erection of the building in question, exclusive of the before-mentioned sum of One thousand two hundred and eighty Pounds paid for the land, making together the sum of Three thousand six hundred and eighty Pounds, which your Petitioner has by unceasing industry, frugality, and economy been enabled to accumulate solely to become a freeholder in the land of his adoption.

That it is the intention of your Petitioner to apply at the next Annual Meeting of Justices of the Peace for a certificate of approval of a Public-house Licence in respect of the new building described by your Petitioner, he having made arrangements for relinquishing the Public-house now held by him.

That your Petitioner has read a Bill now before your Honourable House which provides that "no greater number of Public-house Licences, or of Justices' Certificates of Approval of Persons receiving such Licences, shall hereafter be granted in respect of houses situate within the City of Hobart Town and Town of Launceston respectively than the number of Public-houses situate in such City and Town respectively licensed at the time of the commencement of this Act;" and that such "Act shall continue in force until the end of the first Session of the Parliament of Tasmania held in the year One thousand eight hundred and sixty, and no longer."

That your Petitioner, whilst fully concurring in the desirability, and perhaps necessity, of the passing of such a law as is contemplated by the said Bill, yet, with sincere deference, craves leave to state, that had he had the remotest presentiment that such a law was about to be propounded to your Honourable House, he should never have embarked nearly the whole of his hard-earned capital in the purchase of the land before mentioned, and the erection of a building thereon for the carrying on of the Licensing trade.

That your Petitioner would most respectfully state to your Honourable House that, should the said Bill become law, it cannot fail of having the effect of blighting his prospects in life, and of inflicting upon himself and family an irreparable loss and injury, besides bitter disappointment and regret.

That, in view of the foregoing facts, your Petitioner, with all respect, would most earnestly beseech of your Honourable House to devise some provision calculated to meet the special and peculiar circumstances of the unforeseen and really hard case in which your Petitioner is involved.

Your Petitioner, therefore, most humbly prays, that your Honourable House will be so condescending as to listen to the prayer of your Petitioner by taking the premises of his Petition into its grave consideration, and to provide such a remedy for the case of your Petitioner as may avert from him the very serious consequences to himself and family which the deprivation of a Public-house Licence for the house in question will undoubtedly cause both to your Petitioner and family.

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

PETER ALBERTUS DE ROOCK, *Licensed Victualler, Hobart Town.*