

1877.

NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

Presented to the House of Representatives, Session 1877, and ordered to be printed.

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1877.

NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

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REPORT ON PETITION of OWNERS of LAND in the TOWN of INVERCARGILL.

THE petitioners state that the frontages to their allotments have been taken away by the construction of a line of railway in front of them, and they pray that redress be afforded.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make to the House on the petitioners' case.

7th August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of F. H. HEIGHWAY.

THE petitioner states he was an officer of the Provincial Government of Auckland, and was discharged by the Executive Officer, who informed him that he would be entitled to compensation; that he made a claim for compensation, but it was disallowed. He prays that his case be considered, and relief afforded him.

I am directed to report that the Committee consider that the petitioner is entitled to compensation.

7th August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of M. P. McDERMOTT.

THE petitioner states that he was wounded at a review by a portion of a cartridge discharged from an Armstrong gun by some Volunteer Artillery during the celebration of the Queen's Birthday, and he prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee adhere to their former report to the House on the petitioner's case.

7th August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of RESIDENTS NEW NORTH ROAD and CABBAGE-TREE SWAMP ROAD, AUCKLAND.

THE petitioners pray that a railway station be constructed on the line of railway in their vicinity.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the petitioners' request to the favourable consideration of the House.

7th August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of THOMAS McDONOGH.

THE petitioner states that he purchased an allotment of land at Gisborne and paid the deposit, but that, owing to the balance not being paid within one month, the deposit and land has been forfeited. He prays that a Crown grant be issued to him on the payment of the balance.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make to the House on the subject of this petition.

7th August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITIONS of the CHAIRMAN of the RANGIORA SCHOOL DISTRICT: RESIDENTS of RANGITIKEI (No. 1): and RESIDENTS of RANGITIKEI (No. 2).

THE petitioners pray that the Scriptures be read daily in schools.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

7th August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on the PETITION OF JAMES CARROLL.

THE petitioner was lately a member of the Police Force of Otago, and, having been suspected of having a knowledge of certain irregularities, was recommended to send in his resignation. Petitioner states that he had no knowledge of such irregularities which would implicate him therein, and prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the petitioner's case to the favourable consideration of the Government.

7th August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF CERTAIN SETTLERS in the TAIERI COUNTY and CITY of DUNEDIN.

THE petitioners pray that a right of road to part of an allotment of land owned by Thomas Kirk be provided by the Government.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make to the House on the petitioners' case.

7th August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of DENNIS KENNEDY.

THE petitioner states that he obtained his discharge from the 89th Regiment for the purpose of obtaining land in the Province of Auckland, but that, owing to not having made the application within twelve months of his arrival in the colony, he cannot obtain it, and he prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner has not complied with the condition on which land was granted to discharged soldiers, the Committee cannot recommend his case to the favourable consideration of the House.

7th August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of LANDOWNERS in the TAIERI COUNTY.

THE petitioners state that the action of the Taieri River Conservators in making an embankment on the west bank of the river has had the effect of raising the flood waters of the river beyond ordinary height, and materially damaging the petitioners' property on the east bank, and they pray that no subsidies be granted to the Taieri River Conservators as at present constituted.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the matter is a question for the consideration of the Government, as it involves a difficult engineering question, and should only be dealt with after careful inquiry and on a comprehensive plan, especially as a considerable sum of public money has been expended on river works, the utility of which appears to be doubtful.

7th August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of JAMES BOSWELL.

THE petitioner states that he was in the employ of the Provincial Government of Auckland for thirteen years as labourer and messenger, and that he has been discharged on the abolition of the provinces without compensation, and prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider that he has any claim for compensation, and cannot therefore recommend his case to the favourable consideration of the House.

7th August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of MAYOR and CORPORATION of OAMARU.

THE petitioners state that the Oamaru and Moeraki Railway encroaches on the two principal streets of the town to such an extent as to reduce the roadway to an insufficient width for the safety of traffic, and they pray that relief be afforded.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

7th August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of the INHABITANTS of BALCLUTHA.

THE petitioners state that, owing to the high charges for freight of coal made on the Kaitangata Railway, owned by a private company, they are placed at a disadvantage; and they pray that relief be given them.

I am directed to report that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

7th August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of RATEPAYERS and RESIDENTS in the KINGSTON RIDING of the LAKE COUNTY.

THE petitioners state that this Riding ought to be included in the Southland County, as their trade and interest are more identical with that county than with the Lake County; and pray that the boundaries be altered.

I am directed to report that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

7th August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of HENRY JOSEPH SYMS.

THE petitioner prays that a grant of land be given him for his services during the Native war.

I am directed to report that the Committee consider that the petitioner has no claim against the colony for land, and cannot therefore recommend his case to the favourable consideration of the House.

7th August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

INTERIM REPORT on PETITION of THOMAS BUTLER, late KEEPER of the LUNATIC ASYLUM, NELSON. THE petitioner makes serious charges against the Medical Officer and Matron of the Asylum, and prays for further inquiry.

The Committee, having taken evidence in this case, direct me to make an interim report as follows:—

The Committee consider that the petitioner should have an opportunity of producing fresh evidence, and recommend the Government to make further inquiry without any unnecessary delay.

14th August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of MAYOR and COUNCILLORS, SHIPMASTERS, MERCHANTS, and OTHERS, PORT CHALMERS.

THE petitioners pray that increased wharfage accommodation be afforded them at Port Chalmers.

I am directed to report that the petition be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

14th August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of PUBLICANS of AUCKLAND.

THE petitioners pray that they be allowed to open their houses for a limited time on Sundays, and that they be relieved from the tax of burning a light all night in front of their houses.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation to the House with respect to the opening of publichouses on Sunday. But with respect to the compulsory keeping of lights before publichouses at night, the Committee consider that it should be within the power of Municipal Councils to dispense with such a condition when they think desirable, and that the necessary provision be made in any amending Municipal Corporations Act.

14th August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITIONS of 14 RESIDENTS in PELORUS VALLEY; 78 Residents in the County of Waimea; 22 Residents in the County of Waimea; 92 Residents in Port Chalmers; 445 Residents in the Counties of Selwyn, Marlborough, Hutt, Waimea, and Wanganui; 59 Residents of Waimea, Nelson; 57 Residents in the County of Manawatu; 165 Residents in the City of Nelson; School Committee, Fernside, Canterbury; 17 Residents in the County of Waimea; 46 Residents in the County of Waimea; 10 Residents in the County of Waimea; 396 Residents in Selwyn and Christchurch.

THESE several petitioners pray that the Education Bill make provision for the daily reading of the Bible in schools.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

14th August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on the PETITIONS of BISHOP of WELLINGTON (Chairman of a Temperance Conference); 28 INHABITANTS of KAITUNA VALLEY; WORTHY PATRIARCH and RECORDING SCRIBE of the SONS OF TEMPERANCE, RANGIORA; INHABITANTS of GREY VALLEY; 58 INHABITANTS of PELORUS DISTRICT; Rev. PETER MASON, B.A.; 142 INHABITANTS of RANGIORA.

THESE several petitioners pray that the licensing laws be altered so that power be given to the adult inhabitants of small licensing districts to prohibit the issue of publicans' licenses within such districts.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

14th August, 1877.

REPORT on the PETITION of A. CRAWFORD.

THE petitioner states that the Licensing Court refused to renew his license, and prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make on this petition.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

14th August, 1877.

REPORT on the PETITION of NEILL FLEMING, Chairman of Oamaru School Committee.

THE petitioner prays that the County of Waitaki be constituted a separate Education District under the Education Bill.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject of this petition.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

14th August, 1877.

REPORT on the PETITION of the BISHOP, CLERGY, and LAITY of the CHURCH of ENGLAND.

THE petitioners pray that provision be made in the Education Bill to allow religious instruction to be given to children of their communion during school hours.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no opinion to offer to the House on the subject of this petition.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

14th August, 1877.

REPORT on the PETITIONS of INHABITANTS of NORTH ISLAND, THAMES DISTRICT: and INHABITANTS of NORTH ISLAND.

I AM directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject of these petitions.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

17th August, 1877.

REPORT on PETITION of KAUAERANGA HIGHWAY DISTRICT BOARD and RATEPAYERS.

THE petitioners pray that the Thames County Council be restrained from issuing an order dissolving the Highway Board unless the Counties Act be complied with.

I am directed to report that, upon the documentary evidence before them, the Committee are of opinion that the course pursued by the Thames County Council in attempting to merge the Kauaeranga Road Board, upon the strength of a petition legally objected to, is opposed to the provisions of the Counties Act; and that the prayer of the petitioners should be granted, and the inquiry desired by them should be made, before any further action is taken by the County Council.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

21st August, 1877.

REPORT on PETITION of CAPTAIN THOMAS ALDRIDGE.

THE petitioner, late a captain in the army, states that he was in the employ of the Provincial Government of Auckland as a messenger, but was discharged on the Abolition Act coming into force, and is now out of employment. He prays that his case be taken into consideration.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend petitioner's case to the favourable consideration of the Government, with the view of providing him with any suitable employment arising out of any vacancy in the public service.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

21st August, 1877.

REPORT on PETITION of 36 MEMBERS of the AUCKLAND VOLUNTEER FORCE.

THE petitioners state that "The Waste Lands Administration Act, 1876," deprived them of their claims to land on the completion of their service as Volunteers, and pray that their rights in that respect be restored to them.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioners to the favourable consideration of the House.

21st August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 29 INHABITANTS of the BOROUGH of CROMWELL.
THE petitioners pray for fuller powers of local self-government in dealing with the liquor traffic.

REPORT ON PETITION of 1,446 INHABITANTS of the THAMES DISTRICT.
THE petitioners pray that no license be granted for the sale of liquor unless in compliance with a memorial from a majority of the residents in the district.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

21st August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of about 2,000 INHABITANTS of the THAMES DISTRICT.
THE petitioners pray that no change be made in the existing law with respect to the sale of intoxicating liquor on Sunday, unless it is to make the prohibition more effective.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of this petition.

21st August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of SETTLERS of KAIKOURA.
THE petitioners pray that the Kaikoura be constituted a separate Educational District.
I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

21st August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITIONS of 46, 21, and 165 INHABITANTS of NELSON.
THE petitioners pray that the reading of the Scriptures in school be at the option of the local committee, and be without note or comment.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

21st August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITIONS of 58 INHABITANTS of the COUNTY of ASHLEY, and 1,125 INHABITANTS of AUCKLAND.
THE petitioners state that they approve of the reading of the Lord's Prayer and the Holy Scriptures in school.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

21st August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of SETTLERS in DOVEDALE and STANLEY BROOK.
THE petitioners pray that aid be afforded them in the construction of local roads.
I am directed to report that this Committee recommend that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

21st August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on the PETITIONS of Inhabitants of Auckland; Inhabitants of the City of Christchurch; Inhabitants of Lyttelton; Inhabitants of Otago; Inhabitants of Provincial District of Nelson; Inhabitants of Waikuku, Oxford, and other places; Inhabitants of Southland; Inhabitants of the Provincial District of Auckland; and Inhabitants of Dunedin, Caversham, and Port Chalmers.
I AM directed to report that the Committee have no opinion to offer to the House on the subject of these petitions.

21st August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of the CHAIRMAN of the WAIKATO COUNTY COUNCIL.

THE petitioner states that owing to want of funds, the county is unable to reconstruct certain bridges on the main line of road which are in a dangerous state, and prays that a vote be passed for this purpose.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

21st August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of ADAM JOHN MCCLUSKEY.

THE petitioner states that he was compelled to resign his position in the Otago Constabulary Force, and prays for inquiry.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make in the petitioner's case.

21st August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of JAMES MORKANE.

THE petitioner states that owing to ill health he applied to be sent before a medical board, but was instead discharged from the service without any compensation. He prays that compensation be awarded him.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make in the petitioner's case.

21st August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of the INHABITANTS of PALMERSTON NORTH.

THE petitioners pray that a bridge be constructed across the Manawatu River.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

21st August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of the INHABITANTS of PALMERSTON and FITZHERBERTON.

THE petitioners pray that a road be constructed on the south side of the Manawatu River, to connect the Napier, Wellington, and Wairarapa main lines of road with the bridge lately constructed across the said river.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

21st August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITIONS of ROBERT CALDWELL REID and of WILLIAM RYLEY, both of HOKITIKA.

THE petitioners state that they entered into a contract with the Government to print one hundred copies in each year, in 1875 and 1876, of the electoral roll of the Totara District. Payment was refused on the ground that the work had been given to two offices, and that the Government could only pay one of such offices. Petitioners pray for inquiry and relief.

I am directed to report that, as it appears that the contracts were duly entered into, the Committee recommend the prayer of petitioners to the favourable consideration of the House.

21st August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of VINCENT EDWARD RICE.

THE petitioner states that he was in the employ of the late Provincial Government of Auckland, and on being informed that his services were no longer required, he applied for and obtained compensation for loss of office, but on applying for countersignature to the cheque for £252 15s. 6d. allowed as compensation, it was refused on the ground of his appointment to the office of Secretary to the Education Board of Auckland. That by such refusal petitioner suffers serious injury, and prays that steps be taken to remedy the grievance complained of.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that as the petitioner is now in the service of the Education Board, at a salary not less than he received in his former situation, he has no claim for a retiring allowance.

21st August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of FREDERICK J. MOSS.

THE petitioner states that he was appointed in 1872 Secretary to the Auckland Education Board, and continued to hold that position up to the 13th November, 1876. That on the 15th of December the Board met, and, on the casting vote of the Chairman, Mr. Vincent Rice was appointed Secretary to the Board, and the petitioner to the office of Treasurer, which is inferior in importance and lower in salary. Petitioner prays for inquiry and redress for the injustice inflicted on him.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that Mr. Moss has been harshly dealt with in being removed from the office of Secretary to a lower one; but as it appears that the Education

Board has authority to appoint or remove its own officers, the Committee do not see how they can give practical redress to the grievance complained of.

21st August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF RICHARD THOMAS SHEILD.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for loss sustained by him in not being able to occupy land leased by him from Natives in the Okutuku Block.

From the evidence taken it appears that petitioner entered into an agreement with certain Natives to lease land, that they were not in a position to give a legal title, and the land which they agreed to lease to petitioner was subsequently awarded to other Natives.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make in petitioner's case.

21st August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF MERCHANTS, SHIPMASTERS, MILLOWNERS, and OTHERS, KAIPARA.

THE petitioners pray that greater facilities be given for the safe navigation of the Northern Wairoa River.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

21st August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF JAMES LANEY.

THE petitioner prays that the report on his petition by the Committee during the session of 1873 be acted on.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

21st August, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF FREDERICK NORTON.

THE petitioner states that he has studied the theory of medicine, and has for years been engaged in the practice in various capacities as medical student and assistant at hospitals; that owing to ill-health he was obliged to leave England before he completed the term of study necessary to be qualified to practise. He prays that an opportunity be afforded him to be enrolled as a duly qualified medical practitioner.

I am directed to report that this Committee are of opinion that provision should be made in the Medical Practitioners Bill now before the House to enable the petitioner to be examined before a Medical Board as to his qualifications, and, if found competent, that he be duly enrolled as a medical practitioner.

22nd August, 1877.

THOMAS KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF GEORGE ELLIOTT BARTON, Barrister-at-Law.

THE petitioner, along with other allegations, charges James Prendergast and Christopher William Richmond, Judges of the Supreme Court of New Zealand, with being partial in their decisions, and exhibiting an habitual want of courtesy to him when practising his profession before them in the Court; and states that there is, he believes, a combination between the said Judges to drive petitioner from practice at the Bar.

Petitioner prays that full inquiry be made into the truth of the allegations set forth in his petition by a Committee of the whole House; and that, if on such inquiry it is found that justice has not been impartially administered, an address be presented by the House to the Governor, praying that the said Judges be removed from the Bench.

I am directed to report that, taking into consideration the large number of petitions now before the Committee, and the time that would necessarily be required to make an exhaustive inquiry into the serious charges made by the petitioner against the Judges of the Supreme Court, the Committee are of opinion that the inquiry into such charges ought to be made by a special Committee; and therefore recommend this course of procedure to the favourable consideration of the House.

22nd August, 1877.

THOMAS KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF the OFFICERS of the INVERCARGILL ARTILLERY and the OFFICERS of the INVERCARGILL RIFLES.

THE petitioners pray that the reserve on which they have built their drill-shed be permanently granted to the Volunteers for drill and training.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petition be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

28th August, 1877.

THOMAS KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF LICENSED VICTUALLERS, THAMES GOLD FIELD.

THE petitioners pray that the annual license for the sale of spirituous liquors be reduced.

I am directed to report that, as the subject of the licensing laws is now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

THOMAS KELLY,
Chairman.

28th August, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION OF RESIDENTS, CLYDE, WAIROA.

THE petitioners pray that a suburban section of land containing eight acres, set apart as a Government reserve, be vested in trustees as a public recreation-ground.

I am directed to report that, in the event of the reserve in question not having been dealt with for any specific purpose, the Committee recommend that it be vested in the Chairman of the Wairoa County Council, in trust for the inhabitants of Clyde, for a public recreation-ground.

THOMAS KELLY,
Chairman.

28th August, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION OF ANDREW THOMPSON.

THE petitioner complains of the action of the Provincial Government of Otago in reference to the Township of Hawkesbury, and prays that redress be afforded him.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioner to the favourable consideration of the House.

THOMAS KELLY,
Chairman.

28th August, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION OF CHRISTIAN NELSON.

THE petitioner states that he served as a boatman in Taranaki, and during the war was employed by General Cameron, in the Patea District, in charge of a surf-boat, and subsequently a ferryman at Waitara; that he is now out of employment, being unable to labour in consequence of heart disease. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the petitioner's case to the consideration of the Government, with the view of providing the petitioner with employment, in the event of any vacancy arising for which he is suitable.

THOMAS KELLY,
Chairman.

28th August, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION OF GEORGE ROBERTSON.

THE petitioner states that he served in the Hutt Militia in 1846 against the rebel Natives, but that, owing to his absence from the colony when land was awarded for such service to the militia, he did not obtain an award of land. He prays that his case be taken into consideration.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

THOMAS KELLY,
Chairman.

28th August, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION OF RATEPAYERS OF Te ARAI HIGHWAY DISTRICT.

THE petitioners pray that the power they formerly possessed of voting rates at a public meeting of the ratepayers be restored to them.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make to the House on the subject-matter of this petition.

THOMAS KELLY,
Chairman.

28th August, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION OF SETTLERS OF MATAURA.

THE petitioners pray that four acres of the northern portion of the police reserve in the Matura be set apart for the use of the Agricultural Association.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that this petition be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

THOMAS KELLY,
Chairman.

28th August, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION OF IHAKARA RANGIAHUA and OTHERS.

THE petitioners state that it is wrong for the Government to encourage and allow the sale of liquor for revenue purposes. So long as the Government permit this, their teachings are deceitful. The use of liquors causes much crime, and they are forbidden by the Scriptures; they therefore pray that their sale be prohibited, and all the publichouses in both Islands smashed.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no opinion to offer to the House on the subject-matter of this petition.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

3rd September, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of 870 MERCHANTS, MANUFACTURERS, and MECHANICS of AUCKLAND.

THE petitioners pray that the raw material and skilled labour within the colony be utilized in the production of railway plant, and thus provide more remunerative employment for artisans, and prevent them leaving the colony.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition involves a question of policy, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any specific recommendation, further than to state that the representations of the petitioners are entitled to the serious consideration of the House.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

3rd September, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of THOMAS TELFORD.

THE petitioner prays that additional remuneration be given him for the great responsibility and extra labour and expense involved in cleaning a flock of scabby sheep in the Wairarapa District, belonging to Natives.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petitioner be paid reasonable expenses incurred in the eradication of scab in sheep belonging to Natives in the Wairarapa District, such expenses to be a charge on the Sheep Rate Fund.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

3rd September, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of JANE BROWN.

THE petitioner states that her mother, who was an aboriginal native, held a piece of land in trust for her children, being a gift from the chief Tungia; that such land was subsequently included in a Government purchase and sold, the assurance being given that other land would be given in place of it; that no other land has been set aside by the Government; and she prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, from the evidence before the Committee, it appears that the petitioner has established some claim; the Committee therefore recommend that the petitioner's case be referred to the favourable consideration of the Government.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

3rd September, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of ROBERT MOWATT.

THE petitioner states that he was engaged in England to enter the service of the Government of New Zealand as an instructor in artillery, at the rate of pay of 6s. per day, believing that the usual allowances made in the army would be added; that such allowances have not been made; and he prays that relief be afforded him.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make on the subject-matter of this petition.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

3rd September, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of RESIDENTS of NASEBY, OTAGO, with respect to a COMMONAGE.

I AM directed to report that the petition is informal, inasmuch as it is addressed to the Minister for Lands, and that no signature is attached to the petition within the meaning of the Standing Orders.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

3rd September, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of INHABITANTS of KAIKOURA with respect to FERRETS, WEASELS, and STOATS.

I AM directed to report that this petition is informal, inasmuch that there is no signature to the petition within the meaning of the Standing Orders.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

3rd September, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of RICHARD T. SHEILD (No. 1).

THE petitioner prays that compensation be awarded to him for damage done to his property by a railway embankment, which occasions damage to his land by damming back and diverting flood water into his property.

I am directed to report that there is not sufficient evidence before the Committee to justify them in making any specific recommendation to the House on the petitioner's case.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

3rd September, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of HAUHAU TRAMWAY COMPANY (LIMITED).

THE petitioners pray that compensation be awarded them for loss sustained by the traffic on their tramway being injured by the construction of a road, while their conditions of contract with the County

Council entitled them to compensation in the event of a competing road being constructed.

From the evidence taken by the Committee in this case, it appears that the depreciation of traffic on the tramway was occasioned by other causes than the construction of a Government road.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioners to the favourable consideration of the House.

3rd September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on Petitions of Rev. Charles D. de Castro and Others; Parents and Others, County of Waimea; Residents, County of Waimea; Parents and Others, Wanganui and Rangitikei; Parents and Others, Bruce and Clutha; Parents and Others, County of Akaroa; Inhabitants of Wairarapa West.

THE petitioners pray that a provision be made in the Education Bill for the daily reading of the Bible in schools.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

3rd September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on Petitions of Inhabitants of Tokomairiro District; Inhabitants of Ashley District (2 Petitions); Inhabitants of Leeston and Springston Districts; Robert Pharazyn; Inhabitants of Greymouth and Grey Valley; Residents of Kumara; Members of the Church of England Temperance Association, Auckland; Inhabitants of the Provincial District of Wellington.

THE petitioners pray that more extended powers of local government be given with respect to the regulation of the liquor traffic.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no opinion to offer to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

3rd September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITIONS of SETTLERS of FOXHILL, and HOUSEHOLDERS of NELSON DISTRICT.

THE petitioners pray that the Education Bill give a discretionary power to School Committees with respect to the reading of the Bible in schools.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

3rd September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITIONS of INHABITANTS of WELLINGTON, and MEMBERS of the CHURCH of ENGLAND TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

THE petitioners pray that the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday be more strictly prohibited.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no opinion to offer on the subject-matter of these petitions.

3rd September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITIONS of 978 MEN of WANGANUI and RANGITIKEI.

THE petitioners state that the proposal to confer on a majority of the adult inhabitants of a district the power to prohibit the issue of all licenses for the sale of spirituous liquors is bad in principle, and would be vicious in practice; they therefore pray that the Local Option Bill be opposed and rejected by the House.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no opinion to offer on the subject-matter of this petition.

3rd September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of MAYOR and COUNCILLORS of PORT CHALMERS.

THE petitioners pray that a grant of 5,000 acres of land be awarded them as compensation for loss sustained by the Government taking the Dunedin and Moeraki Railway through the Town Belt, Cemetery, and Quarry.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the case of the petitioners be referred to the Government for favourable consideration, with the view of legislative action being taken this session to definitely settle the claim.

5th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 82 EMPLOYERS of SKILLED LABOUR in DUNEDIN.

THE petitioners state that they can manufacture the material for carrying out the Public Works scheme of equally good quality and at prices that will favourably compare with the imported article. The petitioners pray that the matter receive the serious consideration of the House.

Having taken evidence on the subject-matter of the petition, I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that an opportunity should be offered and reasonable encouragement given to local manufacturers to compete in the construction of rolling stock with the imported article, and that ample time be allowed for the completion of contracts.

10th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 1,065 ARTISANS and OTHERS of DUNEDIN.

THE petitioners pray that all material required by the Colonial Government for the construction of public works and ship-building be contracted for in the colony.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee preference should be given to the local producer or manufacturer of all material and plant required by the Colonial Government, provided the price does not exceed that for which it can be imported, adding the duty and other expenses, if any.

10th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of ALEXANDER STITT.

THE petitioner's case having been already inquired into last session, and a recommendation made, I am directed to report that the Committee adhere to the opinion expressed in their report of last session.

10th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of GEORGE GROOBY and OTHERS.

THE petitioners have been injured by the disastrous flood at Motueka, and pray that the offer made by the Government to relieve them by a grant of land on the condition of their surrendering their title to their present holdings, be modified in the direction of allowing them to retain their present holdings, and grant them half the value of their holdings in waste lands of the Crown.

I am directed to report that the petition be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

10th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of R. REID and J. GRAY, Dunedin.

THE petitioners pray that the privilege hitherto allowed them of importing free from Customs duties certain articles used in the manufacture of agricultural implements be continued.

I am directed to report that, finding that the grievance complained of by petitioners has been removed by the Government, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

10th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of S. BOWLER, MARLBOROUGH.

THE petitioner states that he has suffered considerable loss, owing to the Government taking a portion of his land, leased from the Natives at White's Bay for the site of a telegraph station, and prays for redress.

From inquiries made into the petitioner's case by the Committee, it appears that the petitioner parted with his interest in the land in question before the Government purchased the site from the Natives.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the Government for compensation.

10th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of JAMES MOORE, GEORGE HUTCHINSON, and ROBERT BRYANT PEARCE.

THE petitioners state that a certain Native named Moanaroa took possession of a portion of land belonging to them in the Patea District, to which they were entitled by law, but, in consequence of a Crown grant not having been issued, no proceedings in law to eject the Native could safely be taken, as, in the absence of the grant, there is no proper proof of the legal estate. The petitioners also complain of the action of the Civil Commissioner, Mr. Charles Brown, in encouraging the Native to retain possession of the land and impound petitioners' cattle. They pray that compensation be given them for the loss they have sustained by the act of a Government officer, that the Native be removed from the land, and the Crown grant issued.

The Committee, having made inquiry into the case, have directed me to report that they do not consider the petitioners are entitled to compensation in consequence of the Natives squatting on their land, but the Committee are of opinion that the action of the Civil Commissioner in encouraging the Natives to hold possession of the land is deserving of official censure.

The Committee further recommend that the Crown grant to the land be issued without any unnecessary delay.

10th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of MICHAEL MONAGHAN.

THE petitioner was lately a Sergeant of the Wellington Police Force, and on the disbandment of that Force was asked to enter the Armed Constabulary at a reduced rate of pay. That he was not disposed to submit to such reduction, and consequently did not join the Force. He prays that compensation to which he is entitled on leaving the service be granted to him.

I am directed to report, that as it appears the petitioner had an opportunity to join the Armed Constabulary Force at nearly the same rate of pay as he previously got, the Committee do not consider that he is entitled to compensation.

13th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 60 SETTLERS of MOTUEKA and MOUTERE.

THE petitioners pray that a sum of money be set aside to complete certain road works in their districts.

I am directed to report that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

13th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 2,034 INHABITANTS of the ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE of AUCKLAND.

THE petitioners state that they are averse to the religious education proposed to be given by the Education Bill, and pray that provisions similar to those in the Nelson Education Ordinance be provided to meet the requirements of the petitioners and others.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of the petition.

13th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of JOHN ORKNEY.

THE petitioner prays that relief be afforded him with respect to being dismissed from his office of Assistant Harbour Master by the Otago Harbour Board, on the ground of economy.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to compensation up to the period when his salary was paid by the Harbour Board out of its own funds.

18th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of GEORGE MCGAVIN.

THE petitioner states that he has been harshly and unfairly dealt with by the Government imposing a penalty of £500, in consequence of his contract not being complete within contract time. That the delay in completing the contract was occasioned by the unreasonable and arbitrary action of the District Government Engineer. He prays that the whole matter be inquired into.

I am directed to report that, having fully investigated the petitioner's claim, the Committee are of opinion that he is not entitled to compensation.

18th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of JAMES SINCLAIR.

THE petitioner is a schoolmaster lately employed by the Wellington Education Board, but was dismissed, as he alleges, in consequence of the wrongful representations made by the Inspector and Secretary of the Board. He prays for inquiry and redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider that it is desirable for the House to interfere in the matter, as it appears from evidence taken that the Wellington Education Board has dealt with the petitioner's case after full inquiry.

18th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of COLONEL McDONNELL.

THE petitioner states that, in consequence of the services rendered by him in Taupo, as Commander of the Field Force operating against Te Kooti, he was promised permanent employment in the colonial

service; that such permanent employment has not been given him; and he prays that the House will take his case into consideration.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the special service rendered to the colony during the war by Colonel McDonnell entitles him to the consideration of the Government.

18th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of HEBREW RESIDENTS in AUCKLAND.

THE petitioners pray that subsection 3 of clause 85, except the words "the teaching shall be of a secular character," be excised from the Education Bill.

REPORT ON PETITION of C. H. KIRK and 170 OTHER CATHOLICS of WANGANUI.

THE petitioners state that they are unjustly treated by the Education Bill, and pray that they be assisted by Government in supporting their schools in accordance with their principles.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

18th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of J. G. WARNER.

THE petitioner states that he was engaged in England to come out to New Zealand as railway engineer to the Provincial Government of Canterbury; that he continued to be employed by the said Government until the abolition of the province; that in February last he received three months' notice that his services would be dispensed with. He prays that, as he has been thrown out of employment by the Abolition Act coming into force, relief be afforded him.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner's case be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

18th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of T. E. FITZGERALD.

THE petitioner states that in June, 1873, he made an agreement with the Native owners for the purchase of a block of land containing about 100,000 acres, and during the course of the survey, action was taken by the Government to stop the survey. The petitioner prays for redress.

It appears from the evidence taken that the negotiation with the Natives was for a lease of the land and not for its purchase; and that the expenditure incurred by the petitioner amounted to £370, of which £250 was refunded by the Government.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to the balance of cost, if any, incurred by him in the survey of the block of land in question.

18th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of W. L. BULLER.

THE petitioner states that, in consequence of the extra and arduous duties he had to perform in negotiating the purchase and, subsequently, settling claims in respect to the Rangitikei-Manawatu Block, the late Dr. Featherston, then Superintendent of Wellington, promised him a bonus of £500, and recommended the Provincial Council to pass the same. The vote was submitted to the Council, but, in consequence of the action of the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Bunny), the consideration was postponed until the purchase was an accomplished fact; that owing to a variety of circumstances nothing was done by the late Provincial Government to give effect to the promised bonus. He therefore prays the House to take the matter into consideration and grant him relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner is not entitled to any extra payment for services rendered in the negotiation for the purchase of the Rangitikei-Manawatu Block, as they consider that any services which he rendered to the province or the colony have been amply remunerated.

18th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 124 MINING AGENTS, MERCHANTS, and OTHERS, of AUCKLAND.

THE petitioners pray that they may be relieved from the exceptional burdens imposed on them by "The Sharebrokers Act, 1871."

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that there is no special hardship in the case of the petitioners, but, as the question is now before the House, they do not consider it necessary to make any specific recommendation.

18th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of LEWIS LETTON and OTHERS.

THE petitioners state that they were employed by Messrs. McMinnimin and Co., railway contractors; that he failed, being indebted to the workmen some £1,200, of which they recovered only £40. That the Government promised that if they completed the work at scheduled prices, the Government would pay the balance. That the works have been so completed, but that the balance due has not been paid by the Government. The petitioners pray for favourable consideration, and an investigation of their claims.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the workmen employed by the Contractor McMinnimin, who did not receive their pay in consequence of his failure, are entitled to the consideration of the Government; and that the balance of the money for work done in the hands of the Government at the time of his failure should be divided among them in the proportion of their proved claims.

20th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of H. D. GARDINER.

THE petitioner states that the wheat grown on fifty-seven acres of his land was destroyed in consequence of being ignited by fire from the furnace of a passing railway-engine belonging to the Government, and prays that compensation be given him.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that it has not been satisfactorily proved that the wheat was fired by sparks from the passing railway-engine; the Committee have therefore no recommendation to make to the House on the petitioner's case.

25th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of SAW-MILL OWNERS, CATLIN'S RIVER.

THE petitioners pray that the Government improve the navigation of the river, by removing certain dangerous rocks in the centre of the fairway.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petition be referred to the favourable consideration of the Government.

25th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of JAMES HILL.

THE petitioner prays that a title be given him for land received from the Provincial Government in exchange for land taken from him for the construction of a public road.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that a Bill should be brought in by the Government to give the petitioner a title to the land received by him from the Provincial Government in exchange for land surrendered by him for road purposes.

25th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of JAMES BILLING.

THE petitioner prays that the fine imposed and the costs incurred by him in defending an action instituted by the Provincial Government of Taranaki, in the Resident Magistrate's Court, be refunded.

From the evidence taken, it appears that the Harbourmaster at New Plymouth took proceedings against the petitioner in the Resident Magistrate's Court to cause him to remove the wreck of the steamship "Patterson" from the Waitara River, the petitioner being the registered owner at the time the vessel went ashore. The case went against the petitioner, and he was fined £50 in default of removing the wreck. The Resident Magistrate allowed an appeal, provided that a sum of money was lodged in Court on a certain date. Such sum of money not having been lodged, the petitioner lost his chance of appeal in the case. The wreck not having been removed, the Harbourmaster again took proceedings. The case was heard before two Justices of the Peace, and decided against the petitioner. The petitioner appealed to the Supreme Court. The Court decided that, as the petitioner was not the actual owner when the Harbourmaster took proceedings, the verdict must be given in his favour. The petitioner's costs and fine in the first case amounted to £97 8s. 7d., and in the appeal case to £89 6s. 9d.

I am directed to report that, as the case has been dealt with by the Supreme Court, the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioner to the favourable consideration of the House.

25th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of A. J. WILLIS (No. 1).

THE petitioner prays that some consideration be shown him on account of his holding the office of Warden on the Otago Gold Fields, from 1863 without salary, during the time he held the office of Under Secretary of the province.

REPORT on PETITION of A. J. WILLIS (No. 2).

THE petitioner prays that compensation be given him because he did not receive leave of absence on full pay granted to him by the Superintendent of Otago.

I am directed to report with respect to these petitions that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner is not entitled to further compensation, but consider that if any suitable employment is available in the Civil Service the petitioner's case ought to be considered by the Government.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

25th September, 1877.

REPORT on PETITION of DAVID ANDERSON, Chairman of the New Zealand Titanic Steel and Iron Company (Limited).

THE petitioner prays that the House recommend the Government to issue a Crown grant for 5,000 acres of land to which the Company is entitled under the provisions of "The Taranaki Iron-sand Smelting Works Lands Act, 1874," on the conditions imposed by the said Act having been fulfilled.

From inquiry made by the Committee, it appears that "The Taranaki Iron-sand Smelting Works Lands Act, 1874," under which the Company claim the land, impose the following conditions, which were to be fulfilled by the Company before the Superintendent was authorized to issue a certificate to the Company declaring they were entitled to a Crown grant:—

1. That the Company make a selection of the land, and complete a blast furnace for smelting iron ore before the 31st December, 1875.
2. That the Company pay the sum of five shillings per acre for the said land to the Provincial Treasurer.
3. That the Company have a nominal capital of £50,000.
4. That the Company have an actual capital of £30,000.
5. That the Company expend £10,000 in erecting and completing a blast furnace, and in the purchase of plant and labour charges.

All the above conditions are admitted to have been fulfilled by the Company except the 4th, which is the question in dispute.

The Superintendent issued a certificate to the effect that he was satisfied that all the conditions imposed by the Act had been fulfilled by the Company. This certificate appears to have been based on a declaration made by the Chairman, Secretary, and Auditors of the Company that, among other things, the Company had an actual capital of £30,410. The Superintendent appears to have assumed that shares to this amount had been sold, and, being advised that the sale of shares constituted actual capital within terms of the Act, he was satisfied that this condition had been fulfilled. It subsequently transpired that the Company included in this £30,410 of actual capital £3,000 worth of paid-up shares agreed to be issued and given in payment for a patent to smelt the Taranaki iron-sand; but as the interest on these paid-up shares was subsequently bought by the Company, the shares were not issued.

The Superintendent and the General Government appear to differ as to what constitutes actual capital within terms of the Act, the Superintendent being advised that uncalled capital constitutes actual capital; the Government being advised that uncalled capital is not actual capital within the meaning of the Act.

With respect to the £3,000 worth of paid-up shares agreed to be paid for patent rights which the Company claim for the purposes of the Act to be actual capital, both Governments appear to consider that this amount cannot be considered actual capital within the meaning of the Act, and the Superintendent states that when he issued the certificate he understood that there was a sum of £30,000 available for expenditure.

Having taken all the circumstances of the case into consideration, I am directed now to report that the Committee are of opinion that the Company have not strictly complied with the terms of "The Taranaki Iron-sand Smelting Works Lands Act, 1874," in not having an actual capital of £30,000, this being one of the conditions to be fulfilled before the Company became entitled to a Crown grant for 5,000 acres of land. But, taking into consideration the fact that the Company have expended a large sum of money on plant, and paid £1,250 for the land in question, the Committee recommend that a grant be issued for the land to the Company when they have manufactured, to the satisfaction of the Government, one hundred tons of marketable cast iron from the Taranaki iron-sand.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

25th September, 1877.

REPORT on PETITION of JOHN JACKSON.

THE petitioner prays that compensation be given him for damage done to his allotment of land, in the Town of Port Chalmers, by the Public Works Department, in the reclamation of land in the said town.

I am directed to report that, if the allegations contained in the petition are true, the petitioner has a remedy at law for the damage sustained. The Committee have therefore no recommendation to make in the petitioner's case.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

25th September, 1877.

REPORT on PETITION of Dr. C. B. CHALMERS.

THE petitioner prays that the House will permit and enjoin William James Mudie Larnach to appear in his own proper person before the Supreme Court at Dunedin, to be examined *viva voce* upon oath, pursuant to the order made on the 4th day of May last.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition affects the privilege of a member of the House, the Committee do not consider that it comes within the order of reference of the Committee.

25th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of WILLIAM FOWLER.

THE petitioner states that the frontages to several allotments of land in the Town of Palmerston South have been cut off by the railway being constructed in front of him, and he prays for compensation.

I am directed to report that, without questioning the authority of the Government to take railways along roads without giving compensation to persons whose frontages are affected thereby, the Committee are of opinion that in the present case the Government ought to provide petitioner with access to his property from the main road.

25th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 205 RESIDENTS in RANGITIKEI.

REPORT ON PETITION of 82 RESIDENTS of MANAWATU.

REPORT ON PETITION of 89 RESIDENTS of SANDON.

THE above petitioners are in favour of the Local Option Bill and the closing of publichouses on Sunday, and pray that the House give effect to their requests.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject of these petitions.

25th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 91 RESIDENTS in the HUTT DISTRICT.

REPORT ON PETITION of the PRESBYTERY of DUNEDIN.

THE above petitioners are favourable to the so-called religious clauses in the Education Bill, and pray that they be retained.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject of these petitions.

25th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 95 ROMAN CATHOLICS of PICTON.

REPORT ON PETITION of 310 ROMAN CATHOLICS of WAIKATO and COROMANDEL.

REPORT ON PETITION of 259 ROMAN CATHOLICS of GERALDINE.

REPORT ON PETITION of 210 ROMAN CATHOLICS of HAWKE'S BAY.

THE above petitioners pray to be relieved from certain provisions contained in the Education Bill, which they allege will injuriously affect them.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

25th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of FRANCIS EDWARD HAMLIN.

THE petitioner enumerates the services he rendered the Government during the war in the East Coast, when in command of a Native contingent, and prays that the House will take into consideration the said services and the hardships and privations which he has undergone, and for which he has received no special remuneration.

I am directed to report that, as it appears that the petitioner has not made any claim for consideration to the Government, the Committee do not consider it desirable to make any recommendation to the House.

25th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of COLEMAN PHILLIPS.

THE petitioner prays for special consideration, to be exempted from the operation of "The Native Land Court Bill, 1877."

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make to the House on the subject-matter of this petition.

25th September, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 152 ELECTORS and RATEPAYERS in and around the BOROUGH of KAIAPOI.
 THE petitioners request that a sum of money be placed on the estimates to prevent damage to the Northern railway line by floods, and that the railway bridge be lengthened to prevent the damming up of the river.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petition be referred to the Government for their information.

2nd October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
 Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 115 INHABITANTS of the ELLESMERE DISTRICT.

THE petitioners pray that a bridge or proper ferry be provided for crossing the Rakaia River, near Dobbin's land.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that this is a matter for the consideration of the local governing body. The Committee have, therefore, no recommendation to make to the House.

2nd October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
 Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 5 MEMBERS of the TOWN BOARD, INGLEWOOD, TARANAKI.

REPORT ON PETITION of 38 SETTLERS of the MOA DISTRICT, TARANAKI.

REPORT ON PETITION of 44 SETTLERS of the PROVINCIAL DISTRICT of TARANAKI.

THE above petitioners pray that the House will restrict the borrowing power of the New Plymouth Harbour Board to £100,000, and abolish the rating power of the Board.

REPORT ON PETITION of 228 SETTLERS of the PROVINCIAL DISTRICT of TARANAKI.

THE petitioners pray that the rating power possessed by the New Plymouth Harbour Board be abolished.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of these petitions is now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion.

2nd October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
 Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 19 RESIDENTS of THAMES and WAIKATO DISTRICTS.

REPORT ON PETITION of 7 RESIDENTS of WAIKATO.

THE petitioners pray that the Government construct a line of railway from the Thames to Hamilton, Waikato, or give such a guarantee as will induce private individuals to construct it.

REPORT ON PETITION of 82 INHABITANTS of CAMBRIDGE.

REPORT ON PETITION of 134 RESIDENTS of WAIKATO.

THE petitioners pray that the Upper Waikato be connected by railway with the Thames.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioners will have an opportunity to carry into effect this work under the provisions of the Districts Railway Bill. The Committee have, therefore, no recommendation to make to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

2nd October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
 Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 52 SETTLERS of KAUKAPAKAPA.

THE petitioners pray that a road be constructed between Kaukapakapa and the Kaipara Railway terminus at Helensville.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that this is a matter for the County Council or other local governing body to deal with.

2nd October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
 Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 320 COUNCILLORS, MERCHANTS, RESIDENTS, and SETTLERS in RIVERTON DISTRICT.

THE petitioners pray that that portion of the Western Railway from Riverton to Otautau be completed.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that this is a question for the Government to consider and deal with.

2nd October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
 Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 8 MEMBERS of the THAMES BOROUGH COUNCIL.

THE petitioners object to the appointment of an officer of the Thames County Council as Mining Inspector, and pray that the Mining Inspector of the Thames Gold Field be appointed by the Colonial Government, and be entirely free from local control.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no opinion to offer to the House on the subject-matter of the petition; but consider, as a general rule, that all local bodies should have power to appoint, pay, and dismiss all officers necessary to carry on their respective duties.

2nd October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of 800 SETTLERS in the PROVINCIAL DISTRICT of TARANAKI.

THE petitioners state that the immediate construction of a harbour at New Plymouth is of vital importance to the interest of the district; that they are satisfied with the rating powers of the New Plymouth Harbour Bill, and pray the House to pass the Bill.

REPORT on PETITION of 856 LANDOWNERS and RATEPAYERS in the PROVINCIAL DISTRICT of TARANAKI.

THE petitioners state that they regret to find that private opposition has arisen against the New Plymouth Harbour Bill; that they are desirous for the construction of harbour works, and are satisfied with the rating power as modified by the Bill. They pray the House to pass the Bill.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of these petitions is now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion.

2nd October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of 12 RATEPAYERS of the MALVERN DISTRICT.

THE petitioners pray that the water-race be not taken down the railway reserve, but that the former scheme be carried out.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no opinion to offer to the House on the subject-matter of this petition.

2nd October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of 106 RESIDENTS in the DISTRICT of EDEN.

THE petitioners pray that a permanent sewer be constructed to drain a lagoon of $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, which is offensive and deleterious, especially during the summer months; and state that the Eden Highway District will bear half the estimated cost.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the matter is one that ought to be dealt with by the local governing body of the district.

2nd October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of 91 RESIDENTS in the TOWNSHIP of NEWCASTLE and SURROUNDING DISTRICTS.

THE petitioners pray that a platform be made nearer to the township, where the train may stop for the convenience of passengers proceeding by river steamer.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that this is a matter for the Government to consider and deal with.

2nd October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of O. J. PARKER and 269 OTHERS, of MALVERN DISTRICT.

THE petitioners pray that the Malvern branch of the Great Southern Railway line be extended six miles.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that, as the petitioners will have an opportunity to carry out the work under the provisions of the Districts Railway Bill now before the House, they have no recommendation to make.

2nd October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of 120 RESIDENTS in the SOUTHLAND DISTRICT.

THE petitioners state that the land in the Waikaia watershed is well adapted for agricultural settlement, and that 9,000 acres have already been settled upon, but, owing to the impassable state of the road between Gore and Waikaia, a distance of thirty-four miles, it is impossible to get produce to market, and that consequently many who had settled on the land have had to part with their holdings.

The petitioners pray that a sum be placed on the estimates to open up by railway one of the most valuable though neglected districts in Otago.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that it is desirable the country be opened up for settlement as rapidly as possible, but, as this question is one of finance, it is a matter for the consideration of the Government.

2nd October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 32 RESIDENTS in the PROVINCIAL DISTRICT of OTAGO.

THE petitioners pray that a line of railway be constructed to open up the interior of Otago for agricultural settlement.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

2nd October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of 40 SETTLERS of ALFREDTOWN, RUNGITUMAU BLOCK, MASTERTON.

THE petitioners state that the settlement of the district is practically inaccessible for want of a main line of road, and pray that a sum be placed on the Estimates for the purpose of opening up the district.

I am directed to report that as the Settlements Work Advances Bill, now before the House, proposes to deal with questions of this kind, the Committee do not consider it desirable to make any recommendation to the House on the subject-matter of this petition.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

3rd October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of JOHN LOGAN.

THE petitioner prays that compensation be given him, inasmuch as he was deprived of twelve months' leave of absence, on full pay, by the General Government, which was granted him by the late Superintendent of Otago for long service.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make to the House on the petitioner's case.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

3rd October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of 16 MEMBERS of SCHOOL COMMITTEE, THAMES.

THE petitioners pray that a high school be established at the Thames.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petition be referred to the Minister in charge of the Education Bill for his consideration.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

8th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of MAYOR, COUNCILLORS, and RATEPAYERS of HOKITIKA.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the subject-matter of this petition is one for the Borough or County Council to deal with.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

8th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of 588 RESIDENTS of KANIERI.

THE petitioners pray that a bridge be constructed across the Hokitika River.

I am directed to report that the petition is informal, not being signed by any petitioner within the meaning of the Standing Orders.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

8th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of 12 MEMBERS of EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE, OTAGO.

THE petitioners state that they approve of the leading principles of the Education Bill, and sincerely trust that it will meet with the approval of the House.

I am directed to report that, as the Education Bill is now before the Legislature, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

8th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of 39 KARAMEA SETTLERS.

THE petitioners complain that certain promises made to them by the Provincial Government of Nelson, with respect to the supply of provisions, mail service, and employment, have not been fulfilled, and pray that an investigation take place.

REPORT ON PETITION of THOMAS JOHNSTONE JONES.

THE petitioner complains that certain promises made to him as a Karamea settler have not been fulfilled, and prays for inquiry.

I am directed to report that, as it appears that a Special Commission is now making inquiries into

the grievances of the Karamea settlers, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

8th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 400 PARENTS, HOUSEHOLDERS, and other RESIDENTS in the COUNTY of WANGANUI.

THE petitioners state that they are in favour of the main principles of the Local Option Bill, and pray that it may become law.

I am directed to report that, as the Bill is now under the consideration of the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion.

8th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 896 ROMAN CATHOLICS of CHRISTCHURCH.

I AM directed to report that this petition is informal, inasmuch as it has no signature to it within the meaning of the Standing Orders.

8th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 816 ROMAN CATHOLICS of OTAGO.

REPORT ON PETITION of 204 ROMAN CATHOLICS of TEMUKA.

REPORT ON PETITION of 320 ROMAN CATHOLICS of NELSON.

THE petitioners state that the Education Bill now before Parliament if enacted into law will inflict a grievous injustice on Roman Catholics. And they pray that a Bill be passed in which is embodied the principle of giving aid to all religious denominations from the public funds for promoting education in their own schools.

I am directed to report that, as the Education Bill is now under the consideration of the Legislature, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

8th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 78 SETTLERS KAITANGATA, WANGALOA, and MOLYNEUX.

THE petitioners state that the Government could work the Kaitangata line of railway in connection with the main line with greater economy and with more advantage to the community than can the private company now working it, and they pray that favourable consideration be given to their views.

I am directed to report that the subject matter of this petition is one for the consideration of the Government.

15th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of THOMAS BUTLER. [Final Report.]

I am directed to report that, as it appears from the report of the Royal Commission, consisting of the Resident Magistrate of Nelson and the Inspector of Lunatic Asylums, that the petitioner has entirely failed to establish his charges against the Medical Officer and the Matron of the Asylum, the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petition to the favourable consideration of the House.

15th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of ALEXANDER DOW.

THE petitioner states that he served in the Otago Police Force and as Warder in the Gaol at Dunedin for fourteen years, when he was obliged to resign on account of ill-health, and prays that consideration and relief be given him.

I am directed to report that the Committee recognize petitioner's case as one of misfortune, but, as it appears that compensation has been given to the amount of one month's pay for each year of service, the Committee have no further recommendation to make.

15th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of ALBERT CRACROFT FOOKES.

THE petitioner states that he purchased Volunteer scrip, issued by the Superintendent of Taranaki, which scrip purported to entitle the holder to purchase waste lands within the province. That, on presenting such scrip at the Crown Lands Office, he was informed that there was no land on which it could be exercised, although there was land open for sale. That he was compelled to accept an offer made by the Superintendent of 10s. for each £1 of scrip.

He prays that he may be allowed to return the 10s. in the pound which he received for the scrip, and be allowed to exercise the scrip, in the same way as others are now allowed, in the purchase of waste lands.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner has accepted the 10s. in the pound from the Government for his scrip, the Committee consider that he has no further claim for compensation.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

15th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of GEORGE BARTHOLOMEW PURDUE.

THE petitioner states that he was summarily dismissed from the Otago Police Force after twelve years' service.

He prays that an inquiry be instituted into his case, which he has hitherto failed to obtain.

I am directed to report that it appears from the evidence before the Committee the petitioner has been hardly dealt with in being summarily dismissed from the Police Force without an inquiry into the circumstances which led to his dismissal. The Committee, therefore, recommend that a full inquiry be made by some competent and impartial person who is not connected with the Police Force. The attention of the Government and the person making the inquiry is specially directed to the letter marked "Confidential," and signed "W. G. Fox," dated "7th February, 1876," and the indorsement thereon, signed "T. K. Weldon, 10th February, 1876."

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

15th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of 101 PARENTS, HOUSEHOLDERS, and RESIDENTS in Dunedin.

THE petitioners express an opinion in favour of giving religious instruction in the public schools of the colony.

I am directed to report that this petition is informal, as it is not signed by any petitioner within the meaning of the Standing Orders.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

15th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of JAMES POLYBLANK KING.

THE petitioner prays that, in consideration of the fact that he was debarred from continuing to practise as a medical man in Otahuhu by "The Medical Practitioners Act, 1869," the present Medical Practitioners Act be amended so as to afford him relief.

I am directed to report that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

15th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of JAMES NEIL.

THE petitioner states that, while in the employ of the Government at Taranaki, felling bush, a tree fell upon him, which so injured him as to make him a cripple for life. He prays that recompense be given him.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner received serious injury whilst in the employ of the Government, the Committee consider that he should be employed by the Government on some light work for which he is suitable, either in Taranaki or elsewhere.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

15th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of JOSEPH HARDING.

THE petitioner prays the House to investigate the circumstances which led to the refusal to him of a license for the refreshment-rooms of the Queen's Theatre, Dunedin, by the Licensing Bench.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make in the petitioner's case.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

15th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of DONALD CAMERON.

THE petitioner prays that he be relieved from a contract for carrying the mail between the towns of Hokitika and Greymouth by coach, on the ground that a tramway lately opened has diverted the passenger traffic.

I am directed to report that this question is one for the consideration of the Postmaster-General, and not for this Committee.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

15th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of INHABITANTS of GOLDEN BAY and OTHER PLACES.

THE petitioners state that there is a large and increasing trade carried on in the District of Golden Bay, that they are isolated from other settled districts, and have to depend upon a weekly postal communication by sea.

They state that telegraphic communication could be established at a comparatively small cost, and would be of great benefit to the district.

They pray that steps be at once taken to extend the telegraph line from Motueka to Collingwood.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petition be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

15th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of the COUNTY COUNCIL of TARANAKI.

THE petitioners state that the New Zealand Titanic Steel and Iron Company (Limited) have not fulfilled the conditions which entitled them to a grant of 5,000 acres of land in Taranaki. They pray that the land be granted to the Taranaki County Council, with power of sale, for making district roads.

I am directed to report that it appears from evidence taken by the Committee that the land referred to by the petitioners has not yet been forfeited, and the Committee, having made a recommendation with respect to the land, have at present no further recommendation to make.

15th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of the COUNTY COUNCIL of TARANAKI.

THE petitioners pray that certain reserves set apart for the No. 12 and 14 Road Districts be vested in the County Council for like purposes.

REPORT ON PETITION of COMMISSIONERS of No. 12 ROAD DISTRICT, TARANAKI COUNTY.

THE petitioners pray that certain reserves set apart for their road district may be vested in the County Council.

REPORT ON PETITION of COMMISSIONERS of No. 14, or MOA, ROAD DISTRICT.

THE petitioners pray that certain reserves set aside for their road district be vested in the County Council.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that a transfer of these reserves be made to the Taranaki County Council, with power to give long leases, but without power of sale, provided the original trust be maintained.

15th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of WILLIAM MCKEEVER.

THE petitioner prays that the land to which he is entitled as a military settler be granted to him.

When this case was under consideration last session, the Committee came to the conclusion, from the evidence before them, that the petitioner had deserted from the colonial force; but, having taken additional evidence this session, it appears that the petitioner was allowed to leave the service.

I am directed to report that the petitioner did not desert from the colonial force, but, as he did not serve his three years in accordance with the conditions of service, the Committee cannot recommend his claim.

15th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of GEORGE PAUL CLIFFORD.

THE petitioner prays that assistance be given him to procure photographic views of New Zealand, for the purpose of inducing persons from the rural districts in Great Britain to come to the colony, by exhibiting such views by the lime light, and delivering lectures.

I am directed to report that this petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

15th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of GEORGE MORLEY (No. 1).

THE petitioner prays that inquiry be made into his claims against the late Provincial Government of Taranaki on account of contract work done, the balance which he considers due not having been paid owing to the unjust decision of the engineer in charge of the work.

I am directed to report that, as it appears that the Provincial Government of Taranaki inquired into and finally decided on petitioner's claim, the Committee distinctly decline to reopen the case.

15th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of GEORGE MORLEY (No. 2).

THE petitioner prays that his claims against the General Government for balance due on account of contract for bridges built by him be inquired into, and relief given him.

I am directed to report that, as it appears that the Public Works Department has considered petitioner's case and made substantial allowance, the Committee decline to entertain his claim.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

15th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of JAMES RUSSELL.

THE petitioner complains of the action of the Licensing Bench of Dunedin in refusing to grant him a license for the sale of spirituous liquors in Cumberland Street, Dunedin, on the plea that a publichouse was not required. He prays that his case be taken into favourable consideration.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it is desirable to interfere with the decision of the Licensing Bench in the petitioner's case.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

15th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of E. THYNNE and 430 OTHER LANDOWNERS and SETTLERS in the COUNTY of MANAWATU.

THE petitioners pray that the House will prevent the dismemberment of the Manawatu County.

I am directed to report that this petition is informal, not being signed by any petitioner within the meaning of the Standing Orders.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

15th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of 11 OWNERS of LIGHTERS, DUNEDIN.

THE petitioners pray that section 12 of "The Otago Harbour Board Empowering Act, 1875," may be repealed, and that the rate chargeable on goods landed at the Railway Pier, Port Chalmers, and at any other dock, wharf, or pier in the Port of Dunedin, may be made uniform.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioners to the favourable consideration of the House.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

15th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of J. W. WILKINSON.

THE petitioner states that he is a holder of Volunteer scrip, and that, being ignorant of the Government advertisement, he did not present it within the prescribed time. He prays that relief be given him.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petitioner should receive the same consideration for his scrip as other holders of scrip in Taranaki whose claims have been dealt with.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

15th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of 5 PROPRIETORS of SAW-MILLS and TIMBER BUSHES at TAIRUA, MERCURY BAY, and WANGAPOUA.

THE petitioners pray that, in consequence of the interest of their district being distinct and separate from that of the other portions of the Counties of Thames and Coromandel, and their communication carried on chiefly by water, they be separated from the said counties.

I am directed to report that, as "The Counties Act, 1876," makes provision for the alteration of the boundaries of counties, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation to the House.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

15th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of 79 SETTLERS in HAMPDEN RIDING, COUNTY of INANGAHUA.

THE petitioners pray that they may not be attached to the Lyell to form a separate county, as they prefer to remain in the Inangahua County; but, if any separation be made, it would be more advantageous to them to be annexed to Wainaea County.

I am directed to report that this petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

15th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of WILLIAM MOODY.

THE petitioner states that, relying on information obtained from the Government that there was no prohibition to import sheep from America into New Zealand, he sent an order for merino sheep and £400; that subsequently, in February and March, 1877, an Order in Council was issued prohibiting

the importation of sheep from America, and petitioner is therefore prevented importing the sheep bought by him in America.

That, as no disease exists in the district in which the sheep are, or in any district through which they will have to pass, he prays that his case be taken into consideration, and relief granted him.

I am directed to report that, as the purchase of the sheep was made before the Order in Council prohibiting the importation of sheep into New Zealand from America was issued, and taking into consideration all the special circumstances of the case, the Committee recommend that the sheep be allowed to be landed, subject to the usual quarantine restrictions.

15th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 95 FREEHOLDERS of WALLACE COUNTY.

THE petitioners pray that "The Counties Act, 1876," be amended by increasing the number of members constituting a County Council to 14 or 15, and that the Chairman be elected by the rate-payers.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is a question of policy, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

15th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 108 SETTLERS of the WESTERN DISTRICT of OTAGO.

THE petitioners pray that the Otautau and Riverton line of railway be continued to Nightcaps, as it could be constructed at less cost than by the Winton route, and would run through thousands of acres of the finest land in the province.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that this is a question for the consideration of the Government.

15th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of E. T. BRISSENDEN.

THE petitioner states that he was employed as land purchase agent by the Government, and that there is a large balance of money due to him from the Government which he cannot recover. He prays that an inquiry be made, and relief afforded him.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that, as this case is one of disputed account, it should be referred to the Select Committee on Public Accounts.

16th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of Mrs. M. A. KELLY, of AUCKLAND.

THE petitioner prays that consideration be given her on account of services rendered by her late husband in introducing and perfecting the numerical system of registration.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the case of the petitioner, together with the report of the Committee in 1875 and 1876, should be referred to the Government for consideration.

19th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of HENRY SMYTHIES.

THE petitioner states that all the material allegations contained in an affidavit made by James Ure Russell, and laid on the table of the House last session, have been proved to be false. He prays that the said affidavit be expunged from the proceedings of the House.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make in the petitioner's case.

19th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of the DUNEDIN, PENINSULA, and OCEAN BEACH RAILWAY COMPANY (Limited), and the KAITANGATA RAILWAY COMPANY.

THE petitioners state that they are anxious to increase the amount of their capital, but find it difficult to do so, owing to stringent and unfair provisions of the Acts under which they were formed, which enables the Government to purchase the railway at a valuation not exceeding cost price. They also wish to have the right of exercising running powers on the Government lines at rates somewhat under ordinary charges. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, as the District Railways Bill now before the Legislature will afford an opportunity to the petitioners to carry out their views, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

19th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of JOHN MCCARTNEY.

THE petitioner states that, in 1864, he bought land from the Provincial Government of Otago, which was surrounded by land sold during the early period of the settlement; that, in consequence of incorrect surveys, he has lost the value of improvements on four acres of land and 126 chains fencing. He prays for redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to the sum of £79 10s. as compensation for loss of improvements, such sum being a final settlement of all claims in connection with disputed boundaries of sections in Block V., Otago Peninsula District Survey, and charged against the Otago Land Fund.

19th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 20 MEMBERS of the LEGAL PROFESSION of CHRISTCHURCH.

REPORT ON PETITION of 15 MEMBERS of the LEGAL PROFESSION of NELSON.

THE petitioners pray that a Bill be passed conferring powers on local law societies similar to those conferred by "The New Zealand Law Society Act, 1869," on the parent society.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is before the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

19th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of W. H. WILLIAMS, MANAGER of the KAWAKAWA MINES, and 64 OTHERS.

THE petitioners state that a difficult piece of road, of about 60 chains, requires to be constructed to connect the Great North Road with the Kawakawa Railway, and they pray that the line be surveyed and made.

I am directed to report that the subject-matter of this petition is one for the County Council or other local governing body to deal with.

19th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 118 SETTLERS of GORE and SURROUNDING DISTRICTS.

THE petitioners state that a bridge is urgently required across the Mataura River, and that they are willing to contribute one-fourth of the cost, providing such cost does not exceed £2,000.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the subject-matter of this petition is one for the local governing body to deal with.

19th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 32 INHABITANTS of the BAYS DISTRICT, BANKS PENINSULA.

THE petitioners pray that a subsidy of £100 be granted for a steamer to run to Akaloa and Decanter Bays weekly.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make to the House on the subject-matter of this petition.

19th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of PATRICK GORMAN.

THE petitioner prays that land in Taranaki, to which he thinks he is entitled as a discharged soldier, be granted to him.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner has not fulfilled the conditions under which land was granted to discharged soldiers, the Committee cannot recommend his prayer to the favourable consideration of the House.

19th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of F. R. FOOKES.

THE petitioner prays that a remission certificate of £30, available in the purchase of waste lands, be given him in consideration of his services as a member of the Patea Rifle Volunteers.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend any alteration in the existing law with respect to the issue of remission certificates for the purchase of land for Volunteer services.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

19th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of 79 COAL MINERS in the COUNTY of SELWYN.

THE petitioners pray that a heavy duty be imposed on all imported coal, and that the Government use the native coal in all Government establishments.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that encouragement should be given to the production of New Zealand coal by the Government using it, where practicable, on Government works and railways.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

19th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of ROBERT McLAURIN.

THE petitioner states that, owing to his not obtaining a certificate from the Agent-General before he left England, his claim for land to the value of the passage-money paid by him for taking his family to the colony—namely, £131, has been disallowed. He prays that the House give him redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner's case should be referred to the Government for consideration.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

19th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of 31 INHABITANTS of MATAURA.

THE petitioners pray that a reserve of fifty acres, made in the township of Mataura for ferry purposes, be laid off in town allotments and sold, with the exception of five acres for recreation grounds and five acres for the Agricultural and Pastoral Association.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

19th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of 72 RESIDENTS of RANGITIKEI.

THE petitioners pray that the Railway Station at Marton may not be removed from its present position.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that this petition should be referred to the Minister for Public Works for his consideration.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

19th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of the MAYOR of KAIAPOI, and a MINISTER of the PRESBYTERIAN and WESLEYAN CHURCHES respectively.

THE petitioners pray that a reserve of sixty acres, set apart but not used as a racecourse, be made over by the House for a public cemetery.

I am directed to report that, as it appears that the Provincial Council of Canterbury voted £500 for the purchase of a public cemetery, the Committee are of opinion that such sum should be expended in the purchase of land for a public and undenominational cemetery, and charged to the Canterbury Land Fund.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

19th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of 116 INHABITANTS of UPPER WAIRARAPA.

THE petitioners pray that an adequate sum be placed on the Estimates for the purpose of completing the road between Masterton and Woodville, and constructing a bridge across the Ruamahunga River.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the subject is one for the consideration of the Government.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

19th October, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of the CHAIRMAN and RATEPAYERS of the WAIRAU DISTRICT.

THE petitioners pray that "The Rating Act, 1876," be amended by empowering the ratepayers in public meeting to fix the amount of rate.

REPORT ON PETITION of the CHAIRMAN of a PUBLIC MEETING of RATEPAYERS of the NORTH ALBERTLAND HIGHWAY DISTRICT.

THE petitioners complain that "The Rating Act, 1876," has deprived them of the power of fixing the amount of rate by public meeting, and pray for redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that these petitions should be referred to the Government for consideration.

19th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of the PATEA COUNTY COUNCIL.

THE petitioners, for reasons set forth, pray that "The New Plymouth Harbour Board Ordinance, 1875," be repealed.

I am directed to report that, as the question is now under the consideration of the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion.

19th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of JAMES MCINTOSH and SONS.

THE petitioners complain of the action of the Southland Waste Lands Board in cancelling their license to occupy land on deferred payments, on the ground of not having complied with the conditions. They pray for inquiry and redress.

The Committee have examined James McIntosh, one of the petitioners, and also two members of the Waste Lands Board, and it appears that the license in question was cancelled because the Board considered that the petitioners were evading the condition of personal residence. The petitioners ask for independent inquiry, and state that they would pay the cost if the result of such inquiry were adverse to their interest.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that a Commission of impartial persons be appointed to inquire into petitioners' case, with power to take evidence on oath, whose decision shall be final; and in the event of the petitioners failing to prove to the satisfaction of the Commissioners that they complied with the conditions of personal occupation within the meaning of subsection 4 of section 54 of "The Otago Waste Lands Act, 1872," the cost of such inquiry be paid by petitioners.

26th October, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of JOHN SCOTT CAVERHILL

THE petitioner states that, owing to the conflicting provisions of "The Nelson Scab Act, 1868," he was compelled to take out a license and pay a fine of 2d. per head for 15,000 sheep, notwithstanding they were clean. He prays that the fine of £125 be, under the circumstances, remitted.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the fine be refunded to the petitioner, and charged against the revenue of the Provincial District of Nelson.

1st November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of F. H. GEISOW.

THE petitioner states that he rendered services to the Provincial Government of Otago to the value of £697 16s. 6d., of which he received on account only £500, and that the balance remains unpaid. He prays that redress be afforded him.

I am directed to report that it appears from the evidence taken that the Provincial Government offered petitioner £2 2s. per diem for 164 days, exclusive of travelling expenses, leaving a balance of £44 16s. then due, which the petitioner declined to accept. The Committee consider this offer was an ample one, and recommend the payment of the balance, and no more, to the petitioner.

1st November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of SAMUEL FALLOON.

THE petitioner states that he was deprived of a cottage and acre of land to which he was entitled as an enrolled pensioner, in consequence of being absent from church parade, and prays that relief be given him.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having made inquiry into this case, and being unable to obtain any answer to the question, "Whether he was entitled to the same consideration as the pensioners named in 'The Compensation Act, 1858,' of the Province of Auckland," are unable to come to any decision; but recommend the Government to make inquiry, and, if it is found that he is entitled to the same consideration, that a similar award be made to him.

1st November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 73 of the INHABITANTS of SOUTH CANTERBURY.

THE petitioners pray that the branch railway connecting Timaru and Opawa be extended to Fairlie Creek or Three Springs.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the District Railway Bill now before the House will give an opportunity to petitioners to carry out their wishes.

1st November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of JAMES McMASTERS.

THE petitioner states that he has sustained loss in being deprived of a lease of Native land, through the action of the Civil Commissioner, Major Brown, in refusing permission to a licensed Native Interpreter to interpret the lease.

From inquiry made it appears that the land in question is confiscated land abandoned to the Natives by the Crown, and it is very doubtful whether the Natives or the Government could give a valid lease.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make to the House on the petitioner's case.

1st November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of J. C. JOHNSTONE.

THE petitioner prays that effect be given to a former recommendation of the Public Petitions Committee, that 400 acres land be granted to him to which he was equitably entitled on retiring from Her Majesty's service to settle in Auckland.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner was equitably entitled to select 400 acres of land in 1853 as a military settler. The Committee therefore recommend that scrip to the value of £200, the estimated value of the land at that period, be issued to petitioner; such scrip to be exercised in the purchase of land in the Provincial District of Auckland.

5th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of R. W. MEADOWS.

THE petitioner states that a dangerous precipice, upwards of 20 feet deep, was formed owing to the construction of a road and railway from Greymouth to Brunnerton, and left unfenced. That one dark night, owing to there being no protection to the side of the road, he walked over the same, and was precipitated on to the railway below, and received serious injury from the fall, which will last his lifetime. He prays for relief.

REPORT ON PETITION of RESIDENTS of GREYMOOUTH.

THE petitioners state that they are acquainted with the case of R. W. Meadows, who has been rendered a cripple for life by falling over an unprotected place on the road between Greymouth and Brunnerton.

They pray that the circumstances of the case may be inquired into, and relief afforded to the said R. W. Meadows.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that this case is one for the Government to consider and deal with; the Committee have, therefore, no recommendation to make.

5th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of B. S. O'DONNELL.

THE petitioner states that he was a Warder in the Mount Eden Stockade; that on the 14th April three marines were placed in his charge to hand over to the custody of the police; that while on the way they called and had refreshment at a publichouse; that for this he was dismissed, after an interval of eight days.

He prays for an inquiry into his case, and that relief be afforded him.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner's case is one for the Minister of Justice to deal with, after having made such local inquiry as he may consider necessary.

5th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of W. HENWOOD of TARANAKI.

THE petitioner states that during the Native war in Taranaki, in 1863, he lost cattle and horses to the value of £300, which said cattle and horses were taken by Natives then in rebellion; that a Compensation Court sat in 1868, and Judge Beckham made an award to petitioner; that awards made for loss at the same period have been paid. He prays that his claim be paid, as the amount voted by the House as compensation to Taranaki settlers has not yet been exhausted.

I am directed to report that this petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

5th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of GEORGE HOBY, jun., JOHN BERRIDGE, EDWARD DORSET, GEORGE TATE, and J. K. SKINNER.

THE petitioners state that during the Native war in Taranaki, in 1863, they lost sheep to the value of £430 5s., the said sheep being taken by Natives then in rebellion; that a Compensation Court sat in 1868, and Judge Beckham made an award to petitioners; that awards made for loss at the same period have been paid. They pray that their claims be paid, as the amount voted by the House as compensation to Taranaki settlers has not yet been exhausted.

I am directed to report that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

5th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of WILLIAM McLAUGHLIN.

THE petitioner prays that land be granted to him, to which he states he is entitled as a discharged soldier, in the Province of Wellington.

I am directed to report that, as it appears that the petitioner did not exercise his military land order within twelve months from the issue of it, according to the conditions under which such land order was granted, the Committee cannot recommend the petitioner's claim.

5th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of CHARLES WILLIAM and EDMUND FRANCIS SYMES of PATEA DISTRICT.

THE petitioners complain of neglect on the part of the Sheep Inspector of the district in not reporting the existence of scab, and state that in consequence of such neglect they have suffered loss; and they pray that inquiry be made, so that they may receive compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider that the petitioners are entitled to compensation on account of any alleged neglect of the Inspector of Sheep; but are of opinion that inquiry should be made by the Government with respect to the charge of partiality and neglect made against the Inspector by the petitioners.

5th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of L. D. DURRIEN.

THE petitioner states that he has not received compensation for loss of office as a provincial officer, to which he is entitled, and prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, as it appears the petitioner was an officer of the Provincial Government of Auckland on the coming into force of the Abolition of Provinces Act, the petitioner is entitled to compensation for loss of office for the period during which he held such office as a permanent appointment.

5th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of JOSHUA JONES.

THE petitioner makes general and specific charges against the officers of the Constabulary and Resident Magistrate's Department at Taranaki, and prays that inquiry be made and redress afforded.

I am directed to report that the Committee have not sufficient evidence before them to come to a decision, but are of opinion that, if the allegations contained in the petition are true, inquiry should be made into matters contained in the petition by the Government.

5th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of WILLIAM R. WELCH.

THE petitioner states that certain persons are evading tolls by passing through private lands each side of the toll-gate, and, as he is advised that he has no remedy at law, he prays the House to grant him relief.

I am directed to report that it appears from the evidence before the Committee that the remedy for the alleged evasion of the tolls rests with the governing body in charge of the road. The Committee have therefore no recommendation to make.

5th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of PATRICK W. WALSH.

THE petitioner states that he received injuries in the execution of his duty while arresting a drunken man, and prays that as he received such injuries while in the public service some light employment be found him.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that, as it appears the petitioner received injury whilst in the public service, he ought, when an opportunity occurs, to be provided by the Government with light employment, for which he is suitable.

5th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of RESIDENTS in the WHANGAREI COUNTY.

THE petitioners ask for assistance to construct a railway between Kamo and Whangarei Rivers, with the object of opening up the coal and other minerals in the district.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the District Railways Bill will enable the petitioners to promote this special work; the Committee do not therefore consider it necessary to make any special recommendation.

5th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF ATTENDANTS, SEA VIEW LUNATIC ASYLUM, HOKITIKA.

THE petitioners state that their rate of pay has been reduced from 9s. 6d. per diem to 8s. 6d. per diem, and that the proposed estimates for the year 1877-78 point to a further reduction. They state that the proposed rate of pay—namely, 8s. a day—is inadequate, and pray for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that, if the petitioners considered that they were aggrieved with respect to insufficient pay, they should have referred the matter to the Government, not to the House.

5th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF GEORGE STOCKMAN.

THE petitioner is a half-caste, and states that he is entitled to land through his mother, who was a member of the Ngatihine and Ngatirahiri tribes, on the west bank of the Waitara River, and that he received no award of land from the Compensation Court, which sat at New Plymouth in 1866. The petitioner also complains that he was deprived of his office of Interpreter to the Government without notice and without compensation. He prays for redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that a local Commission be appointed to inquire into the claims of the petitioner, to consist of competent persons not being connected with the Government departments.

5th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF M. R. MILLER OF NAPIER.

THE petitioner states that he bought 7,300 acres of land from the Crown for a client in Dunedin, and finds that the only practical line of road to it is through private land, over which the right of the Crown to take a road has lapsed.

The petitioner prays that a right of road be given to his client.

I am directed to report that the Committee consider that a purchaser of Crown lands is entitled to a right-of-way to it; the Committee therefore recommend the Government to take action to give effect to the prayer of the petitioner.

5th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF CHARLES SAMPSON.

THE petitioner prays that the balance of the land in allotment 103—namely, 35 acres 1 rood 8 perches—Waitara West, Taranaki, of which he is in possession, and acquired from the Natives by lease with a first right to purchase, but subsequently purchased from the Natives by the Government, and which is not required for railway purposes, be sold to him by the Government at the same price paid by the Government to the Natives.

From inquiry made by the Committee, it appears that the petitioner has an equitable claim to the land that is not required for the actual purposes of the railway. I am therefore directed to report that the Committee recommend the prayer of the petitioner to the favourable consideration of the Government.

9th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF F. E. HAMLIN (No. 3.)

THE petitioner prays that his case be reheard, and that he be afforded an opportunity of submitting the decision of the Government on his case to the Committee. The Committee, having made further inquiry in the case of the petitioner, direct me to report as follows:—

That, from the evidence taken by the Committee, it appears the petitioner rendered valuable service to the colony while conducting military operations against the rebel Natives in the Waikaremoana country. The Committee therefore consider that he is entitled to receive for such services 400 acres of land of fair quality.

9th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF JOHN HILL.

THE petitioner states that in the year 1863, and three years subsequently, he was in the employ of the Provincial Government of Wellington, in the bonded store at Wellington, and has since been employed by the General Government in the Customs Department as boatman and in other capacities; that in March, 1877, he was summarily dismissed from his situation on the charge of using strong language. He prays for consideration on the ground of his length of service.

I am directed to report that, as it appears that the petitioner was dismissed for misconduct, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

15th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of JOHN MAGUIRE.

THE Petitioner states that he has been for twenty years employed in Her Majesty's service in the Police Force and in the Armed Constabulary of New Zealand, and has acquitted himself to the satisfaction of his superior officers; that in 1866 he was the means of saving Government property at the Oxford Railway Station, to the value of about £6,000, from destruction by fire; that, owing to his exertions in the heat and subsequent unavoidable exposure to a heavy rain, he was attacked by paralysis and permanently disabled from doing any work requiring bodily exertion; that on his discharge he received the sum of £100. He prays for consideration and some further relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the Government should make inquiry into this case, and, if it is found that the petitioner received permanent injury in consequence of his exertions to save Government property from being destroyed by fire, a small annual allowance should be given him.

15th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of CHARLES MACK.

THE petitioner states that in 1869 he and Thomas Davis purchased in Auckland 249 lbs. of sheepwash tobacco and paid the customary duty. They took the tobacco to Dunedin packed in boot trunks and shipped as luggage. At Port Chalmers the tobacco was seized by the Customs authorities, and petitioner and his partner charged before the Magistrates with smuggling. They were convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of £100, or, in default, be imprisoned for six months. Being unable to pay the fine, they had to undergo the term of imprisonment. They obtained from Auckland the bonded certificates and submitted them to the Justices of the Peace who committed them, but failed to get a reversal of their decision or to obtain their release. Petitioner hopes his case may meet with favourable consideration, and prays for redress.

I am directed to report that, from the evidence before the Committee, it appears that the petitioner was convicted for smuggling without a full inquiry into the circumstances of the case, and that it is very doubtful whether such conviction was in accordance with the law, although the petitioner evidently thought that he was acting illegally. The Committee therefore recommend the Government to make further inquiry, and deal with the matter as the justice of the case may demand.

15th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of F. KEATING and OTHERS, of ORMOND, POVERTY BAY.

THE petitioners pray that the Motu Block be opened up for selection on the deferred-payment system.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the case of the petitioners is one for the consideration of the Government.

15th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of MARIA ANDREWARTHA.

THE petitioner prays that the House will take her destitute condition into consideration, and grant her a small pension.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider that the petitioner has any claim for a pension, and cannot therefore recommend her case to the favourable consideration of the House.

15th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of ALFRED HENRY WHITE.

THE petitioner states that he served in the Armed Constabulary, with a good character, for upwards of eight years, and was removed from the service in January, 1877, owing to reductions being made, receiving one month's pay as compensation. He prays for compensation under "The Civil Service Act, 1866"—viz., a month's pay for each year of service.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim for further consideration.

15th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of ALFRED EDGECOMBE.

PETITIONER states that he is an inmate of the Hospital at New Plymouth suffering from disease of the lungs, having spent the best years of his life in the military service of the Colony. He prays for a pension.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioner.

November 22nd, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of DAVID WILLIAMSON.

PETITIONER states that he was discharged, with two months gratuity, from the Armed Constabulary Force in consequence of being rendered unfit for service by an accident to his right hand received in the bush whilst assisting the Government surveyors. He prays for compensation for the injury he has sustained, or for some light employment.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner received injury while in the service of the Government, some light employment should be found him for which he is suited when opportunity offers.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

22nd November, 1877.

INHABITANTS of MOTUEKA and NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

PETITIONERS pray for the construction of a line of railway from Motueka through the Moutere and intermediate places to join the Nelson and Foxhill line at the most accessible point, and they state the advantage to be derived from it.

I am directed to report that the subject-matter of this petition is one for the Government to consider and deal with.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

November 22nd, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of THOMAS THOMSON.

PETITIONER states that in 1862 he was employed by the Provincial Government of Southland as Assistant Harbourmaster. Since 1863 he has been employed by the Otago and Southland Governments as Harbourmaster until the coming into force of the Abolition of Provinces Act of 1875, when his services were continued under the General Government till 1877, when they were accepted by the Bluff Harbour Board. That the General Government terminated the engagement without alleging any fault or misconduct against petitioner. That his present employment under the Bluff Harbour Board is of a less advantageous nature as regards the prospect of a pension or cumulative compensation; and he prays for redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner is not entitled to compensation in consequence of being transferred from the service of the province to that of the Harbour Board; but, in the event of his services being permanently dispensed with by the Board, through no fault of his own, that he will then be entitled to compensation on the usual scale computed up to the time when he was taken over by the Board.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

22nd November, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of T. S. WOOLF.

PETITIONER states that, owing to a wound received in the Taranaki war, he has been incapacitated from manual labour. He received a pension of 2s. a day, which he mortgaged as security for a loan, and is now in very reduced circumstances. He prays for assistance, or for some light employment.

I am directed to report that the Committee consider that the petitioner has no claim whatever against the Government.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

22nd November, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of WILLIAM GARRARD.

PETITIONER states that he did some work for the Provincial Government of Nelson in his capacity of Armourer, for which he has not received payment. He prays that his account, amounting to £4 12s. 6d., be settled, and that his testimonials from the English Government, which he values, be returned to him.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner's claim has already been ordered for payment, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

22nd November, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of NEIL BEATON.

PETITIONER states that in 1873 he was owner of the schooner "Florence," and was arrested when in Auckland Harbour for larceny as a bailee of the various consignments on board, and was sentenced by the Supreme Court to three years' penal servitude. He complains that he was put in irons, and subjected to very harsh treatment whilst in gaol, which has permanently injured his health, owing to which he is unable to work for the support of himself and family. He prays for consideration.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make to the House on the subject-matter of this petition, as the petitioner has his remedy at law if he has received illegal punishment while in gaol.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

24th November, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of WILLIAM MAXWELL.

PETITIONER states that in 1844 he and his mother imported from England machinery and skilled labour for the erection of a sawmill, at a cost of over £5,000. That when the Natives attacked the settlement of Kororarika they carried off all portable parts of the machinery, and the petitioner lost almost the whole of the above sum of money. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make to the House on the subject-matter of this petition.

24th November, 1876.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of R. P. GIFFARD.

PETITIONER states that in 1873 the Government took a piece of his land, under the Immigration and Public Works Act, for the construction of part of the Napier and Pakipaki Railway, and that his property has been injuriously affected owing to the loss of frontage which has been cut off from the main road. He prays that inquiry be made into the circumstances of the case, and adequate compensation granted him.

I am directed to report that, as the Committee reported on the case last session, they have no further recommendation to make.

24th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of MARTIN McMAHON.

THE petitioner served in the Armed Constabulary for eight years, and was present at three engagements with the Natives. He prays for some consideration.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim, and cannot, therefore, recommend his prayer to the favourable consideration of the House.

24th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of G. BEELEY and OTHERS, WORKING JEWELLERS, and CITIZENS of DUNEDIN. The petitioners state that their trade suffers owing to the importation of jewellery cheaper than they can produce it. They pray that their interests may be protected by the imposition of a sufficient duty, and that they may be placed in the same favourable position as the workmen of Victoria.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition being a question of public policy, the Committee are of opinion that it is one for the serious consideration of the Government.

24th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of A. BIDDLE and OTHERS EMPLOYED in the MOSGIEL WOOLLEN FACTORY. THE petitioners pray that the hours of work as set forth in the Employment of Females Act may not be enforced in their case, as it would entail considerable hardship, their work being piece-work.

I am directed to report that the Committee consider that effect should be given to the prayer of the petitioners by a Bill.

27th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of ELLEN COLLINS.

PETITIONER, who is a widow in reduced circumstances, prays for relief, as her late husband lost his health whilst in Government employment.

I am directed to report that the Committee consider that this case is one for the local authorities to deal with.

28th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of H. N. WARNER.

PETITIONER states that he has served in various capacities since the year 1844, but is not entitled to claim the benefit of the Civil Service Acts. He prays for consideration on account of his long public services.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim on the colony for a pension.

28th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of H. A. CHAPMAN.

PETITIONER states that unjust charges of incompetency and neglect of duty have been made against him, and that he has been hardly dealt with by being dismissed from his situation as engine-driver in the employment of the Government. He prays for consideration.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not think it desirable to interfere with the action of the Public Works Department in dismissing any of its officers for alleged incompetency, and have therefore no recommendation to make in the petitioner's case.

28th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF WILLIAM EVANS.

PETITIONER states that he purchased sections 50 and 51, Wakefield Street, Westport, with the understanding that the Nelson Provincial Government had guaranteed to give a fourteen years lease. He paid ground rent and rates on the said sections. That Mr. Thomas Mackay has taken possession of the said sections on behalf of the General Government, and he has received no compensation. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, as it appears that the land in question has been taken for railway purposes, the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner's interest, if any, in the land should be dealt with in the ordinary way in which lands taken under the Immigration and Public Works Act are dealt with when required for railway purposes.

28th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF F. E. HAMLIN (No. 2).

PETITIONER states that, whilst acting in the capacity of Resident Magistrate at Maketu, he had temporary charge of certain lands belonging to the Government, and spent over £400 of his own money in effecting necessary improvements to the property, for which he has received no consideration. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has expended money on Government land occupied by him, which has added to the permanent value of the property, but there is not sufficient evidence to show the amount to which he is entitled. The Committee therefore recommend that local inquiry be made, and that petitioner receive the present value of the improvements, taking into consideration the benefit he has already received from such improvements.

28th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF W. WIDDOP.

PETITIONER states that he served as messenger and attended at Government House from 1865 till 1874, when, owing to failing health and increasing work, he was compelled to resign, not having completed the term which would have entitled him to a retiring allowance. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, taking all the circumstances of the case into consideration, the Committee are of opinion that he should be paid one month's salary for each year of service.

28th November, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF EMILE J. BOREL.

PETITIONER states that in 1863 he was a storekeeper at Rangiawhia in the Waikato, and sustained losses during the Native disturbance, for which he has never received any compensation. He prays that his case may be considered, and relief afforded him.

I am directed to report that this petition should be referred to the Government for consideration.

5th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF CHARLES BARON DE THIERRY.

PETITIONER states that he has been for many years a Native Interpreter, employed at various times by the Government, and was made a licensed Interpreter in 1868. That in 1873 his license as Native Interpreter was cancelled, and he was thus deprived of his means of gaining a livelihood. He prays for inquiry and relief.

I have the honor to report that the Committee are not in a position, for want of direct evidence, to decide whether the petitioner is entitled to consideration or not; but recommend the Government to make local inquiry, to ascertain whether he is entitled to any compensation for work done by him which was of subsequent value to the Government in acquiring land.

5th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION OF JOHN MARSH.

PETITIONER complains that people are allowed to squat on the streets and reserves of the Township of Cromwell, Provincial District of Otago, to the detriment of those who have bought sections in the township. He also protests against the alienation of Block IX., Cromwell, and prays that it may not be diverted from the purposes for which it was originally intended.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that this petition should be referred to the Government, in order that such action may be taken as may be considered necessary to remove the grievance complained of.

5th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of JAMES DELANEY.

PETITIONER prays for a Crown grant of sixty acres of land, to which he considers himself entitled as a discharged soldier.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner was not entitled by law to land when he took his discharge, the Committee cannot recommend his claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

5th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 111 RESIDENTS of the MUNICIPALITY of ROXBURGH.

THE petitioners pray that "The Roxburgh Reserves Act, 1876," be amended so as to exclude the property of Daniel L. Dalton from its operation.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now under the consideration of the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

5th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of H. H. H. HANSON.

PETITIONER states that he was engaged by the Agent-General as Surgeon-Superintendent of the ship "Duke of Edinburgh," to sail from London to Lyttelton, and was to receive as payment for his services a sum of £50, and a further sum of 10s. a head for each statute adult landed alive. That he has not received the full remuneration agreed to be paid. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not think it necessary to reverse the decision twice arrived at by the Immigration Commissioners at Lyttelton in the case of the petitioner, and cannot, therefore, recommend his prayer to the favourable consideration of the House.

5th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 100 INHABITANTS of the TOWN of NAPIER.

REPORT ON PETITION of 144 RESIDENTS of HAWKE'S BAY.

REPORT ON PETITION of J. W. HUMPHREY and 59 other RESIDENTS of the PROVINCIAL DISTRICT of HAWKE'S BAY.

REPORT ON PETITION of C. U. ROBINSON and 59 other RESIDENTS in the PROVINCIAL DISTRICT of HAWKE'S BAY.

THE petitioners state that a block of land at Te Aute containing 2,383 acres was granted for the benefit of the aboriginal inhabitants of New Zealand, and a second block adjoining, containing 4,626 acres, was granted for the education of the children of Her Majesty's subjects of both races. That the land is held by the Rev. S. Williams under lease, which will expire in February, 1878, at a rental of £500. That the estate will yield a much greater rental if let by tender, or cut up into smaller lots and let on long leases. That they are informed that it is the intention of the trustees to grant a fresh lease of the land to the Rev. S. Williams at an inadequate rental. They represent that the management of the school supported by the endowment has not been satisfactory, and they pray for inquiry into the matter.

The Committee, having made inquiry into the case of the petitioners, have directed me to report that the Committee are satisfied that the management of the Te Aute Estate has been hitherto such as to improve its value; they recommend that, in the interest of education, it should be so dealt with for the future as to produce the largest immediate revenue without detriment to the ultimate value of the property, and that every letting should be by public auction or by public tender.

5th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of C. D. PELL and OTHERS.

THE petitioners object to the removal of the East Coast Native Land Court from their district, and to having the business of the Court conducted by means of visiting Courts, for reasons stated.

I am directed to report that, as the Government are responsible for the efficiency of the department in question, the Committee have no recommendation to make to the House.

5th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of ROBERT STUART and 919 OTHER INHABITANTS of HAWKE'S BAY.

REPORT ON PETITION of A. KENNEDY and 132 OTHER INHABITANTS of HAWKE'S BAY.

THE petitioners pray that a bridge be constructed across the Ahuriri Harbour to connect the Town of Napier and the southern portion of the district with the northern portion and with the Provincial District of Auckland.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that this work is one that ought to be constructed by the local authorities, and, if necessary, that special borrowing power should be given for the purpose; also power to levy tolls.

5th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of INHABITANTS of WAIROA COUNTY, HAWKE'S BAY.

THE petitioners pray for a bi-weekly mail service between Napier and Wairoa, as the present postal communication is so uncertain owing to the bar at the entrance of the Wairoa River, the state of which often necessitates the mail being taken back to Napier.

I am directed to report that the subject-matter of this petition is one for the consideration of the Postmaster-General.

5th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of A. REID, of LYTTTELTON.

THE petitioner prays that compensation may be given him for loss of office under the Provincial Government as Harbour Pilot.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that, as the petitioner is employed by the Lyttelton Harbour Board, he is not entitled to compensation for loss of office under the Provincial Government of Canterbury.

5th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of W. R. RUSSELL and J. D. ORMOND, of HAWKE'S BAY.

THE petitioners pray that the Standing Orders with reference to private Bills may be suspended, with the view of dealing with a matter of urgency in connection with a dangerous swamp in Napier by legislative enactment this session.

I am directed to report that, as the House has already dealt with this matter, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

5th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 20 FREEHOLDERS and LEASEHOLDERS of the WAIKARI, HURUNUI, and AMURI DISTRICTS.

THE petitioners pray that the northern line of railway may be extended through their district by the Weka Pass, as the most direct route to the West Coast.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the subject-matter of this petition is a question for the consideration of the Government.

5th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 10 RESIDENTS of the THAMES.

THE petitioners pray that the Te Taupiri Block of 2,142 acres may be given them as a special settlement on deferred payment.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that this petition should be referred to the Government for consideration.

5th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of W. KNIGHT.

THE petitioner states that he was called on to work two additional hours per day as Clerk in the Railway Engineer's Office, Christchurch, and that he left his employment, and received no compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make in the petitioner's case.

5th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of THOMAS JOHNSTON JONES.

THIS is the second petition from the petitioner this session, complaining of breach of agreement by the Agent of the Provincial Government of Nelson, relating to the Karamea Settlement.

I am directed to report that the Committee are unable, from want of time, to make inquiry into the cases to enable a decision to be arrived at; and, as it appears that the petitioner was not examined before the Commission appointed to inquire into the management of the Karamea Settlement, the Committee are of opinion the case is one for the Government to deal with.

5th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of the PRESIDENT and MEMBERS of the NORTH CANTERBURY RACING COMMITTEE.

THE petitioners pray that greater power be conferred on the Race Committee over the Recreation Reserve No. R 1563, used as a racecourse, so that permanent improvements can be made, and entrance fees charged on racing days.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petition should be referred to the Government, with the view of giving effect to the wishes of the petitioners.

5th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of W. RATTRAY, AUCKLAND.

THE petitioner prays that his claim of £33 16s. 8d. against the Government, for forty-two days' rent of premises leased by him to the Government, be paid.

It appears that the Government, on the 26th November, 1872, agreed to rent premises in Shortland Street from petitioner from date of occupation at a rental of £250 per annum, the lease to be terminated by the Government giving three months' notice in writing. On 3rd December, 1872, the Government agreed that the petitioner should appoint a qualified person to act in conjunction with Mr. E. Beasley in estimating the value of the fittings in the building, for the purpose of leaving them in the same condition in which they were found by the Government. On August 31st, 1874, the Government gave three months' notice that the premises would not be required after the 30th November. It was subsequently arranged that the premises should be given up on the 31st December, 1874. It appears that the arbitrators did not make an award till 11th February, and the question is whether the Government ought to pay rent for the forty-two days between the 31st December and the 11th February. The agreement was that the premises were to be left in the same condition as when taken over by the Government. This agreement was not carried out.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that, as the petitioner had not beneficial occupation of the premises, owing to the action of the Government, till 11th February, 1875, he is entitled to the rent claimed.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 195 SETTLERS of WAIKATO DISTRICT.

THE petitioners pray that the case of Dr. Carey's dismissal from the Constabulary be taken into consideration on ground of former services.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioners to the favourable consideration of the House, as the colony has already remunerated Dr. Carey for his services.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 29 MEMBERS of the ANCIENT ORDER of FORESTERS, PALMERSTON NORTH

THE petitioners pray that the trusts of an allotment of land, which was sold to the Society by the Government at a nominal price for the benefit of the society, be altered, so as to allow of the sale of the land without paying the price of £200 named in the deed.

I am directed to report that the Committee consider that it is not desirable to comply with the request of the petitioners, as it would practically be altering the original trust under which the land is held.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of J. S. CROSS.

THE petitioner states that he holds the office of Chief Harbourmaster of the Port of Nelson, and has been so engaged under various Governments since 1841; that some years ago he applied for a pension under "The Civil Service Superannuation Act, 1861," but was informed that his case did not come within the provisions of that Act. He prays that his case may be taken into consideration.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make on the subject-matter of this petition.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of J. D. FRASER.

THE petitioner prays that a deposit of £200 made by him in the Public Works Department on tendering for the Marton Railway be refunded to him.

I am directed to report that the Committee see no reason to alter the decision come to during the last session on the case of the petitioner.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of the CHILDREN of RORU HAURAKI and JAMES W. ROBINSON.

THE petitioners state that they are entitled through their mother, who was an aboriginal native, to a block of land in the Waikato, which has been included in the confiscated boundary, and, as they were in no way connected with the rebellion, they pray that compensation be given them for the land taken.

I am directed to report that, having made inquiry into the petitioners' case, the Committee find that there is not sufficient evidence to enable them to come to a decision. The Committee therefore recommend the Government to make full inquiry into the petitioners' case, in order to ascertain whether they are entitled to any land, and, if so, that such compensation as they are found to be entitled to may be awarded them.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of W. L. BULLER, referred back to the PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

IN obedience to the direction of the House, the Committee has taken further evidence in this case, and find that a promise was made by the late Dr. Featherston that he would ask the Council to vote the petitioner an honorarium; but no specific sum was mentioned. This promise was fulfilled by the Government placing a sum of £500 on the Estimates in 1866; but as it met with opposition in the Council it was withdrawn. In 1871 a private member moved that £500 be placed on the Estimates for Mr. Buller in the form of land scrip. The question was dealt with by a motion by the Provincial Treasurer, that the Chairman leave the chair, which was carried by a majority of one. It therefore appears that the statement made by Mr. Pearce, and quoted by petitioner, that it was "not a gratuity that was asked for, but the fulfilment of a promise made by the Superintendent, and sanctioned by the Council," is not substantially correct, as the promise made by the Superintendent was carried out, but the Council on two occasions declined to give effect to it.

I am directed to report that the Committee see no reason to alter the decision already come to the petitioner's case.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of THOMAS OSBORNE.

THE petitioner prays that compensation may be given him for loss of employment in the Government service.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioner to the favourable consideration of the House.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 116 RESIDENTS of EAST OXFORD.

THE petitioners pray for increased accommodation at the East Oxford Railway Station.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that this petition is a matter for the consideration of the Government.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 36 SETTLERS in the DISTRICT of WAIPU, COUNTY of WHANGAREI.

THE petitioners pray for the construction of a wharf at Marsden Point, Whangarei Harbour.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that this is a matter for the County Council to deal with, but that the Government should give every facility for the construction of the wharf by granting the foreshore.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 371 INHABITANTS of SOUTH CANTERBURY.

THE petitioners pray that the provision of "The Timaru Harbour Board Act, 1875," which gives the country districts representation in the Harbour Board, be not repealed or altered.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the prayer of the petitioners is a reasonable one; but, as the question is one for the House to deal with, the Committee have no special recommendation to make.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 46 SETTLERS of TOI TOI DISTRICT.

PETITIONERS pray that a sum of £1,500 be placed on the Estimates for the construction of a jetty, or that an endowment be made in land for that purpose.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that this is a matter for the County Council to deal with, but that the Government should give every facility to the construction of the wharf by granting the foreshore.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of HENRY PAGE, Kairori.

THE petitioner prays for redress in the matter of deficient area of land purchased by him from Robert Cockburn, being portion of section 43, originally sold to Cornelius Haynes Butler by the New Zealand Company.

It appears from the evidence that this section was sold originally as 100 acres, but, as measured by scale on the original plan, its area is $105\frac{1}{2}$ acres. From a subsequent survey by J. Ray, under the New Zealand Company, the plan shows an area of $101\frac{1}{2}$ acres. In 1876, when re-surveyed by the Provincial Government Surveyor, the area is shown as 99a. 3r. 3p. In the original plan the linkage is shown by scale to be, on the south-western boundary, 25.50; on the subsequent survey by J. Ray 26; and on the Provincial Government survey, 1876, 25.43 links. The section was subdivided into twenty allotments after the survey by J. Ray, and a 50-link road was run through it longitudinally in a south-easterly and north-westerly direction. The allotments were laid off on each side of this road—namely, two allotments 865 links each, road 50 links, allotment 820 links; total 2,600 links. Page's purchase consisted of single allotments south-east of the road; and, a Crown grant having been issued for allotments on the north-west side of the road to the first linkage namely, 1,730, and no Crown grant having been issued for the allotments purchased by Page, this threw the roadway of 50 links on to Page's land, causing him a loss of 3 acres, as the actual linkage across the section was found to be 25.43. The petitioner's loss arises from a subdivision of the original section, without the precaution being taken of making an actual survey of such subdivision; but, as this subdivision was not the act of the Government,

I am directed to report that the claim of the petitioner, if any, is against the person who sold him the land, and not against the colony. The Committee cannot, therefore, recommend the prayer of the petition to the favourable consideration of the House.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of 406 INHABITANTS of INVERCARGILL and SURROUNDING DISTRICTS.

THE petitioners represent certain grievances alleged to have been suffered by Messrs. J. and N. Campbell in connection with a tender for the construction of railways in the Western District of Otago in 1874. The petitioners pray that the House will do justice to Messrs. Campbell.

I am directed to report that, however eligible the petitioners may be as witnesses in the case of the alleged grievance of Messrs. Campbell, having no *locus standi* in the matter, the Committee decline to make any inquiry or deal with the case.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of ARCHIBALD COCHRANE.

THE petitioner prays that he may be allowed to exercise his Militia Remission Scrip in the purchase of waste land.

I am directed to report that, as it appears that the petitioner can exercise his scrip in the purchase of waste lands in the Province of Auckland, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of the CHAIRMAN of the KAUAERANGA DISTRICT.

THE petitioner prays that before the Kauaeranga Highway District is merged into the County of Thames, a Commission be appointed and inquiries be made by such Commission into the case.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that this petition should be referred to the Government for consideration.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of GEORGE HOLMES AND CO.

THE petitioners were contractors for the Lyttelton and Christchurch Railway under the Provincial Government of Canterbury, and they state that deviations were made by the contracting parties from the original contract which involved the straightening of the tunnel and various alterations in the vicinity of the tunnel mouth, for which deviation and alteration a sum of £5,000 was agreed to be paid. This alteration of the original plan necessitated the original lines of reclamation to be extended seaward, and the petitioners claim payment for this extended reclamation, which they state was not included in the sum of £5,000 agreed to be paid for the alterations in the tunnel and tunnel mouth.

The Committee, having examined the documents bearing on the case, and taken the evidence of W. S. Moorhouse, W. Rolleston, and W. Montgomery, who were connected with the Government of Canterbury during the progress of the contract, and also examined Mr. Dobson, C.E., who was engineer of the works, direct me to report that the Committee are unable, at this period of the session, to give that careful consideration to the mass of evidence before them that the importance of the case demands, but are of opinion that the petition and evidence should be referred to the Government for consideration during the recess, with a view to instituting an inquiry into the matter if necessary.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of DAVID ROSS, ARCHITECT, DUNEDIN.

THE petitioner states that he has a claim against the Provincial Government of Otago for service rendered as Architect, which claim the Government declined to pay. He prays that his case be taken into consideration, and relief afforded him.

I am directed to report that, as it appears from the evidence before the Committee that the petitioner's claim has been entered into and dealt with by the Provincial Government of Otago, the Committee do not consider that he is entitled to a greater sum than that offered him, namely, £42 19s., and recommend that the balance (if any) be paid him.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of E. H. POWER.

THE petitioner states that he was entitled to a Crown grant for an allotment of land in Clyde, but that a certificate of title was issued by the Land Transfer Department for the allotment to one James Hazlett without petitioner having signed a deed of transfer. He prays for redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the Government to make inquiry into this case, the petitioner having failed to produce evidence to enable the Committee to arrive at a decision.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of 104 OWNERS and OCCUPIERS of LAND in the CITY and NEIGHBOURHOOD of AUCKLAND.

PETITIONERS pray that they may have direct access to the Wynyard Pier by means of a foot-bridge over the railway.

I am directed to report that the Committee see no reason to alter the decision they came to last session on this case.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of JOHN BUCHANAN and JOSEPH RHODES.

THE petitioners are members of the Oero Road Board in the District of Hawke's Bay, and they complain that the boundaries of the road district was altered by Order in Council without their knowledge or sanction. They pray that the matter be investigated, and the former boundary restored.

I am directed to report that, as the alteration of the boundaries of the Oero Road District was made without the knowledge or consent of the Board, the Committee are of opinion that the original boundary may be restored, and, if an alteration of such boundary is deemed necessary, it be made after the objections of the persons interested have been heard and considered. That the rates paid (if any) by the owners of the Mangakuri Block to the Tamumu Road Board be paid over to the Oero Road Board.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of 322 INHABITANTS of OXFORD and MALVERN.

THE petitioners pray that the railway be extended from Oxford to Malvern.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the District Railways Bill makes provision for the construction of lines of this character. The Committee have therefore no recommendation to make.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of 74 INHABITANTS of UPPER and LOWER MOUTERE.

THE petitioners pray that the House will vote a sufficient sum of money to aid in draining the Moutere Valley.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that this is a question to be dealt with by the local governing body.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT on PETITION of 364 RATEPAYERS of WAIMEA, NELSON.

THE petitioners state that the Wairoa Bridge is in a state of decay in a highly dangerous condition. They pray that the House make provision for a new bridge.

I am directed to report that, as this bridge is in such a condition as seriously to endanger the safety of the Government Railway Bridge, the Committee recommend the prayer of the petitioners to the consideration of the Government.

7th December, 1877.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

REPORT ON PETITION of M. L. B. NELLY, HOKITIKA.

PETITIONER states that he has been deprived of the use of one eye by the splash from a bullet while engaged as a marker during the Colonial Prize Firing at Hokitika last year; and he prays that his case be taken into consideration.

I am directed to report that, from the evidence taken by the Committee, and from examining a certified plan of the target, butt, and general arrangements connected with the prize firing at Hokitika, the Committee are of opinion that, though the petitioner was further out of the butt than was absolutely necessary when he was wounded by a splash from the target to the right, yet the Committee consider that even if the petitioner had been in the right position, owing to the construction and position of the butt, he would have been liable to injury in the same manner. The Committee are therefore of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to some compensation for the injury he has sustained.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

7th December, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of 81 INHABITANTS of PALMERSTON NORTH.

THE petitioners pray that the Wellington and Masterton Railway be connected with the West Coast Railway by way of Waikanae.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition has been fully considered and reported on by a Select Committee of the House, this Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

7th December, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of the MEMBERS of the ASHLEY, MANDEVILLE, and RANGIORA ROAD BOARDS.—THE petitioners pray that the Ashley Railway Bridge be made available for dray traffic.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that this petition should be referred to the Minister for Public Works for his consideration.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

7th December, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of 381 BURGESSES of the BOROUGH of SYDENHAM.

THE petitioners pray that a grant from the consolidated revenue be given to the borough, although rates will not become due during the current year.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make to the House on the subject-matter of this petition.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

7th December, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of J. C. R. ISHERWOOD.

THE petitioner states that he was entitled to select land in the Province of Auckland as a retired officer from the Imperial Service, but has not yet received the land; that he subsequently served in the Volunteer Force, and commanded the Wellington Veteran Corps while on active service in the Patea District, for which service he received no land. He prays that his case be taken into consideration.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make on the petitioner's case.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

7th December, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of the PRESIDENT and VICE-PRESIDENT of the AUCKLAND MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

THE petitioners state that they received a sum of £200 per annum from the Provincial Government in aid of the institute, but since the abolition of provinces this aid has not been received. They pray that the House will take such steps as may be deemed necessary to give them relief.

I am directed to report that, as a vote of £5,000 has passed the House to aid public libraries, the Committee are of opinion that the prayer of the petitioners may be given effect to by a contribution from that vote.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

7th December, 1877.

REPORT ON PETITION of the COMMITTEE of MANAGEMENT of ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, NELSON.

THE petitioners state that, in consequence of the passing of the Education Act this session, they are deprived of the assistance which they formerly received from the Education Board of Nelson, and they pray that the principle affirmed by the House in the case of the Local Option Bill, of giving compensation where the effect of legislation is either to deprive any person of lawfully acquired property, or reducing that property in value, be applied to their case.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that this petition should be referred to the Government for their information.

T. KELLY,
Chairman.

7th December, 1877.

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE ON THE PETITION OF ALEXANDER STITT (PRESENTED IN 1876).

11TH SEPTEMBER, 1876.

Mr. CARRUTHERS, C.E., Engineer-in-Chief, being in attendance, was examined.

1. *The Chairman.*] The petitioner complains that he has suffered loss on account of land-slips occurring on his contract—a road contract. The Committee wish to ascertain whether on any occasion consideration has been shown to a contractor in such a case, either in roadworks or on railways?—It depends very much on the nature of the specifications whether the contractor is paid extra on account of slips or not.

2. In this case there was to be a certain batter?—In most railway specifications it is specified that there shall be a certain batter, and that anything beyond that shall be paid for extra.

3. In case of the batter being altered by the Resident Engineer, a contractor would be paid for the extra work?—Yes.

4. In this case was there any alteration of the batter?—No; the slopes were specified.

5. What were the specifications as to slope?— $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1, and $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1—3 inches to the foot, and 6 inches to the foot. I do not remember the slopes with absolute certainty, though.

6. Was the ground in a condition to stand at that?—Generally throughout that road it would. I did not have my attention particularly drawn to the ground, but I rode along the road, and my memory is that the banks would stand at that.

7. At Taranaki 1 to 1 is the steepest?—The result showed that in places on this road it would not stand—in fact, whatever slopes were put there, there were sure to be slips.

8. What was the nature of the country?—Very precipitous and rocky.

9. No clay?—There was clay alongside, but the road went principally through volcanic rock.

10. What was the amount of extra work this man had to do in consequence of the slips?—I asked Mr. Dobson, the Resident Engineer, to report upon it, and after examining it he said about £800 worth of work had been done.

11. Do you know of any cases in which there was a similar slope?—The roads generally are made under similar specifications, and there have been similar claims to this, but I do not know of any compensation having been given. Certainly I do not know much of the details in respect to roads: Mr. Blackett generally sees to roadwork.

12. Do you know of any railway on which there have been slips, and an addition to the lump sum asked for?—No.

13. It has been mentioned to the Committee that money was paid on account of slips on the Oamaru-Moeraki Railway. Is that so?—In that case there was a distinct specification. It was specified that if the slopes did not stand at the batter specified the contractor was to be paid for everything outside the specified slopes. Generally speaking the contractor takes the work with the risk as to slopes standing.

14. Do you think, taking all things into account, this is a fair case for compensation?—I do not know enough about the work to give an opinion. I do not see anything special in the case. He should have gone on to the ground and taken out his quantities.

15. *Hon. Mr. Reynolds.*] He undertook to construct the road for a certain sum, irrespective of what the slopes were to be?—No; he undertook to do it at certain specified slopes.

16. Did he carry out the work to those slopes?—No; there were slips which he had to remove.

17. In the event of his finding out that the specified slopes were not sufficient, was he bound to give a larger slope?—I think so, under the contract.

18. When the slips took place, do you know whether the slopes were in accordance with specifications?—It was probably never sloped at all. When country is going to slip and once begins, it goes altogether before you come to the specified slope.

19. You have read this petition. It says, "Your petitioner brought his case before the Chief Engineer when he was in Westport; and, after consulting with Mr. Dobson, the Chief Engineer said the clearing of the slips from off and the maintenance of the completed portion of the road after they were ready to be taken over ought to fall on the Government. He said, further, that he would instruct Mr. Dobson to estimate the value of what he had done and he should be paid for it." Is that allegation correct?—No; very far from correct. Mr. Stitt, seeing me down there, put the case before me, and I talked the matter over with him; but I had not a sufficient knowledge of the case to make any promise. I said I would get Mr. Dobson to report and say what he was entitled to, if entitled to anything. Certainly I made no such promise—in fact I could not have done so.

20. You did not say any portion of the expense should fall upon the Government?—No; it would have been improper for me to do so, because I had no knowledge of the case beyond his own statement.

21. Did you see the work?—I rode along the road, but did not visit it with reference to this claim.

22. He did not point out the work?—No; he was not with me.

23. Here is another allegation: "Mr. Dobson did estimate the value of clearing and maintaining the road, and recommended that your petitioner should be paid £800." Is that the case?—Mr. Dobson estimated the extra work beyond what the contractor might have expected at £800, but I do not think he made any recommendation. However, the papers can be got from the office.

24. He also says Mr. Evans, the then District Engineer for the Government at Westport, after examining the work thought £3,000 should be paid for work done outside the contract?—I never heard of any such recommendation being made. If made, it was made after Mr. Evans left the Government service. He never had anything to do with the roads. It was not under his charge at all.

25. *Mr. Shrimski.*] When the slip took place, did he make any report to the Government?—I think not.

26. Supposing the slip had come down after the certificate was given and the work taken over by the Government?—Then the Government would have been responsible for repairs, because the contract would have been at an end.

27. Was not the contract for the Oamaru and Moeraki Harbour Railway similar to this?—No; it was specified in that contract that any slopes more than 1 in 1 should be paid for extra.

28. *Mr. Dignan.*] Is there any sum set aside, when a contract is let, to meet such a contingency as this?—No.

29. Is there any discretion left to the Resident Engineer to certify for such extra work as this?—The Resident Engineer sees that the contract is carried out, and has no power beyond the contract. In fact, the Minister for Public Works only has power to certify for anything not actually included in the contract. The Resident Engineer or I may recommend, but the Minister has to approve.

30. The material brought down by slips could be used in another part of the road?—No doubt, if it was required; but he may have made his banks.

31. *The Chairman.*] I understand this was a side-cutting principally?—Yes.

32. *Mr. Shrimski.*] Do you think the matter ought to be recommended to the Government for favourable consideration? Do you think he is entitled to consideration?—I do not see anything peculiar in the case.

33. *Mr. Tole.*] Do you think it a legitimate risk which the contractor should take into account in making his tender?—I think it is. For years the roads all through the colony have been so tendered for. The custom has always been for the contractor to include the risk of slips and then abide the consequences of his contract.

34. You do not think this a special case for consideration?—No; because there are hundreds of similar cases.

35. *Mr. Richmond.*] Do you know of any case where a contractor has received compensation on account of an extraordinary number of slips?—No, I cannot remember any case. I have telegraphed to various District Engineers to find out if any such cases are on record. The District Engineers at Westport and Taranaki have replied in the negative; and the District Engineer of Wanganui, who was in Wellington, has told me he knows of no cases where extra payment was made on account of slips. The other Engineers have not had time to reply.

36. No application?—There may have been applications; but nothing has been given.

37. *Mr. Murray.*] Were there plans and specifications for this work?—Yes.

38. Could the contractor, from them, satisfy himself of the practicability of carrying the work out?—No; it would be necessary for him to go and look at the ground.

39. From your knowledge, can you say that the specifications were such that a contractor could carry them out on ground of the character this ground appears to have been?—It was a question of calculation for the contractor.

40. Do you not think the slips were due to an error in the plans?—No.

41. Do you not think it the fault of the department in specifying a batter which would not stand?—The specified slopes generally stand. The same slopes are given for most roads. If we prepared specifications with slopes so flat that slips could not occur, we should have a batter of 5 to 1 in some cases.

42. There is a difference in the standing quality of ground?—Yes.

43. Is it possible to give the same batter for all ground?—No; in this particular case there were two batters.

44. Are you aware whether the contractor in this case informed the department of the slips, and inquired how he should proceed?—I am not aware of it. If he did he would have been referred to the local engineer.

45. If the engineer contracts to do what is impossible, is he supposed to be compelled to do the work he has contracted to do?—Legally he is liable to be held to his contract. A case was recently tried in England in which the engineer had prepared specifications impossible to fulfil, and the Court held the contractor must keep to his contract.

46. Do you remember the details of the case?—No.

DEAR SIR,—

Public Works Office, Wellington, 25th September, 1877.

Please hand this to the Chairman of Public Petitions Committee, the subject being the claim of Alexander Stitt, Westport, for certain slips on his road contract in Buller Valley.

Below are the replies from various District Engineers to my question as to whether in any case "slips had been paid for as extra." These replies will show that my impression stated to the Committee that in one or two cases they had been so paid for was incorrect.

B. T. Chaytor, Clerk, Public Petitions Committee.

I have, &c.,

JOHN BLACKETT.

(Telegrams.)

1. I do not know of any case in which contractors have been paid for slips during construction.

A. C. TURNER, Tauranga.

2. *Re Government Road Contracts.*—In no case where slips have occurred during construction has contractor been paid anything extra.

O. CARRINGTON, New Plymouth.

3. Do not know of any case in which slips were paid for.

A. D. DOBSON, Westport.

(Verbal.)

4. In no case have contractors been paid for slips on any work under my charge on West Coast roads.

W. H. HALES, Wanganui.