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SESS. II.—1879.

NEW ZEALAND.

## REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

(MR. T. KELLY, CHAIRMAN.)

No. 64, Session I.—Petition of A. LE G. CAMPBELL and other Settlers of Takaka.

THE petitioners pray for the erection of a cart bridge across the River Takaka, at the fordway known as Taine's Ford.

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

10th October, 1879.

No. 65, Session I.—Petition of H. E. CAMPBELL and P. K. DONNELLY.

THE petitioners allege that it is currently reported that William Fraser, Esq., Resident Magistrate of the Thames District, and Colonel of the Colonial Forces, has been proved to have been guilty of cheating at cards. They pray that the House will cause an inquiry to be made into the truth of such charge.

I am directed to report that the petition be referred to the Government, to be inquired into and dealt with.

10th October, 1879.

No. 74, Session I.—Petition of F. DALE and Others, of Kanieri Riding, Westland.

THE petitioners pray that the Kanieri Riding may not be constituted a new county.

I am directed to report that the petitioners appear to be under a misapprehension as to the procedure with respect to the mode of objecting to the constitution of a new county, the appeal being to the Governor and not to the House. The Committee has therefore no recommendation to make on the subject-matter of this petition.

10th October, 1879.

No. 97, Session I.—Petition of ANNIE CLERY.

THE petitioner prays for consideration in consequence of injuries received by her late husband while on military duty.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not see its way to recommend the petitioner's claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

10th October, 1879.

No. 70, Session I.—Petition of WILLIAM RATHBUN.

THE petitioner prays for an investigation into the circumstances of an alleged injustice done to his son while competing for a scholarship in the Nelson Educational District.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that it is undesirable to interfere with the decision of the Education Board.

10th October, 1879.

No. 6, Session II.—Petition of THOMAS EDWARD 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; and he therefore prays for redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee has already reported on this case, and made a recommendation, and again refers the petitioner's case to the Government to be dealt with.

10th October, 1879.

## No. 26, Session II.—Petition of JAMES THOMPSON.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for land taken as a public road.

I am directed to report that the Committee still adheres to its previous report on the petitioner's case.

10th October, 1879.

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## No. 99, Session I.—Petition of THOMAS ESCOTT.

THE petitioner claims for pay, to which he states that he is entitled as Drill-sergeant to the Riverton Rifle Volunteer Corps, having been so engaged by the officers of that corps.

I am directed to report that the Committee adheres to its previous report on the petitioner's case.

10th October, 1879.

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## No. 91, Session I.—Petition of C. BASSTIAN and Others, of Southland.

THE petitioners pray for a deviation in the line of railway extension from the Invercargill—Kingston line to Mararoa, proposed by the Public Works Department.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the subject-matter of this petition is one for the consideration of the Minister for Public Works, to whom the Committee recommends that the petition be referred.

10th October, 1879.

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## No. 94, Session I.—Petition of ALLEN and KINGSTREET.

THE petitioners pray for compensation for alleged loss in the construction of the Port Chalmers contract of the Dunedin and Moeraki Railway.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the Government to allow the case to be decided by a Court of law, if petitioners desire it, the Government waiving any technical forms that would prevent the matter in dispute being decided on its merits.

10th October, 1879.

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## No. 10, Session II.—Petition of ANGUS McMILLAN and Others, of Whangarei Heads.

THE petitioners pray that a wharf which has been washed away at Marsden Point, near Whangarei, in the Auckland Provincial District, may be reconstructed.

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

17th October, 1879.

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## No. 8, Session II.—Petition of WILLIAM GARRICK.

THE petitioner prays for some further relief in consequence of an injury sustained while on active service in the Colonial Forces.

I am directed to report that, having made a recommendation in petitioner's case, and the Government having made a payment of £75 on the strength of such recommendation, the Committee has no further recommendation to make to the House in the petitioner's case.

17th October, 1879.

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## No. 51, Session I., and No. 51, Session II.—Petition of J. R. MARTIN.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for alleged dismissal, without reason, from the Permanent Public Works Department, Railway Branch.

I am directed to report that the Committee has made inquiry into the case of the petitioner, and it appears from the evidence submitted by the Railway Department that the petitioner was not competent to perform the services on which he was employed. The Committee cannot, therefore, recommend his case to the favourable consideration of the House.

17th October, 1879.

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## No. 110, Session I.—Petition of JOSEPH WOBMS.

THE petitioner prays that the guardianship of his step-son, now in the Industrial School at Auckland, may be transferred to himself.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having made inquiry into the case of the petitioner, cannot recommend that his application be granted, as the action of the authorities with regard to the petitioner's children meets with the approval of the Committee.

17th October, 1879.

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Nos. 131, 132, 133, 135, and 150, Session I., and Nos. 18, 19, and 20, Session II.—Petitions of W. W. DAVISON and Others, of St. Kilda, South Dunedin; A. BOYD and Others, of Tapanui, Otago; R. TELFORD and Others, of Mount Benger, Otago; J. R. RUSSELL and Others, of Caversham, Otago; DONALD ROSS and Others, of Wakatipu; SCHOOL COMMITTEE of Bull's, Rangitikei; R. HARRIS and Others, of Rangitikei; and ADAM OLIVER and Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the reading of the Bible may be practised in the State schools established under the Education Act.

I am directed to report, that the subject-matter of these petitions being one of public policy, the Committee does not deem it necessary to offer any opinion to the House.

17th October, 1879.

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No. 147, Session I.—Petition of DANIEL HENDERSON LUSK.

THE petitioner prays for consideration for removal from the military service of the colony, without sufficient notice or compensation.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner appears to have lost his office owing to reductions made in the Militia and Volunteer Department by the Government in the ordinary course of administration, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

17th October, 1879.

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No. 17, Session I.—Petition of WILLIAM MORRIS.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for alleged loss incurred in carrying out certain contracts on the Reefton and Westport Road, County of Buller.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having made inquiry into the case of the petitioner, cannot recommend his claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

17th October, 1879.

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No. 103, Session I.—Petition of THOMAS GEE and other Coachbuilders of New Zealand.

THE petitioners pray for the imposition of a duty on carriages, to protect the industry in which they are engaged.

I am directed to report that the matter be referred to the prompt and serious consideration of the Government.

17th October, 1879.

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No. 105, Session I.—Petition of RICHARD J. FELTUS.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for loss alleged to have been sustained by him when acting as creditors' trustee in the estate of the late John George Petingale.

I am directed to report that the Committee adheres to its previous report upon this case.

17th October, 1879.

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No. 123, Session I.—Petition of JOHN HORNBY and Others, of Marlborough.

PETITIONERS pray for a re-imposition of the timber duty, to protect the timber trade generally.

I am directed to report that the matter be referred to the prompt and serious consideration of the Government.

17th October, 1879.

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No. 35, Session II.—Petition of JOHN SPEEDY.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for services performed during Native disturbances at the Hutt about the year 1843.

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

21st October, 1879.

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No. 60, Session I.—Petition of JAMES WRIGHT.

THE petitioner prays for Volunteer remission scrip of the value of £30, for services rendered in the Pukekohe Rifle Volunteers.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to his claim for issue to him and exercise of Volunteer remission scrip, as "The Crown Lands Act, 1877," extended the period for exercise of scrip to April, 1879.

21st October, 1879.

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No. 111, Session I.—Petition of MARGARET MASTERS.

THE petitioner prays for the maximum gratuity authorized under "The Civil Service Act, 1866," for special service of her late husband.

I am directed to report that, the provisions of the Civil Service Act applying to the petitioner's case having been complied with by the Government granting a gratuity of twelve months' pay, the Committee has no recommendation to make to the House.

21st October, 1879.

## No. 56, Session II.—Petition of THOMAS LE FEYER HARCOURT.

THE petitioner prays for a grant of land in consideration of passage-money paid on account of himself and family in England.

I am directed to report that, petitioner having neglected to secure the certificate of the Agent-General necessary to obtain a grant of land, the Committee cannot recommend his claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

21st October, 1879.

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## No. 149, Session I.—Petition of JOHN MACKAY.

THE petitioner prays for a grant of money on behalf of his children, in the event of his having to retire from the Government service.

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

21st October, 1879.

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## No. 13, Session II.—Petition of JOHN TREGGAR and Others, of Nelson.

THE petitioners pray that the publicans' license fees in Nelson may be reduced to the same rate as those in Otago.

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

21st October, 1879.

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## No. 2, Session II.—Petition of JOHN MANDER.

THE petitioner prays for consideration for services alleged to have been performed in carrying the mail between Papakura and Wairoa during the Maori war, in 1863.

I am directed to report that, as it appears the petitioner's case was inquired into by a Commission appointed by the Government, the Committee sees no sufficient reason to reopen the case.

21st October, 1879.

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## No. 44, Session II.—Petition of JAMES HICKEY.

THE petitioner prays for a grant of land, to which he alleges he is entitled for himself and on account of his brother who is dead.

I am directed to report that, as it appears from the report of the Under Secretary for Defence that the petitioner and his brother deserted from the force before their term of service expired, the Committee considers petitioner has no claim for consideration.

21st October, 1879.

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## No. 119, Session I.—Petition of Major MURRAY and Others, of Thames Scottish Volunteer Force.

THE petitioners pray for consideration for the case of Peter McGregor, a cadet of the Thames Scottish Volunteer Force on the Thames, who was accidentally shot in the wrist by one of his comrades, after prize-firing, on the 14th March, 1879.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the accident to the cadet, McGregor, was the result of carelessness on the part of the cadets after being engaged in rifle-practice. The Committee cannot, therefore, recommend any recompense or redress; but draw the attention of the Government to the fact that cadets are allowed to take part in rifle-practice at the butts before they are properly taught to load a rifle.

21st October, 1879.

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## No. 55, Session II.—Petition of MICHAEL MONAGHAN.

THE petitioner prays for compensation, he having retired from the police force of the colony.

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

21st October, 1879.

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## No. 58, Session II.—Petition of JAMES WILLIAMS.

THE petitioner prays for a grant of land for services in the colonial forces.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having made inquiry into the petitioner's case, cannot recommend his claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

21st October, 1879.

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## No. 14, Session II.—Petition of HOP-GROWERS of Nelson.

THE petitioners pray for the imposition of a duty on hops equal to the highest duty imposed in the other Australian Colonies.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of the petition being one of public policy, the Committee has no special recommendation to make, further than refer the matter to the serious consideration of the Government.

21st October, 1879.

## No. 50, Session II.—Petition of DANIEL P. BUCKLEY.

THE petitioner alleges that he has not received a grant of land equal to that which his military service entitled him to.

I am directed to report that, from the evidence of the Crown Lands Commissioner of Auckland, it appears the petitioner received all the land to which he was entitled. The Committee consider that he has no further claim to compensation.

23rd October, 1879.

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## No. 59, Session I.—Petition of THOMAS COLVILL.

THE petitioner prays for a grant of land, which he states he was promised, under the provisions of the Waste Lands Act of the Province of Auckland.

I am directed to report that there has been no evidence submitted to the Committee to show that the petitioner has any valid claim against the colony for land. The Committee cannot recommend his claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

23rd October, 1879.

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## No. 8, Session I.—Petition of ALEXANDER MCGREGOR and Other Shipowners.

THE petitioners pray for a change in the pilotage laws, light dues, and charges on coasting vessels in the colony, and foreign vessels on the coast, and notices of departure.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration, with the view of remedying any special and exceptional taxation or disabilities imposed on the petitioners.

23rd October, 1879.

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## No. 42, Session II.—Petition of JOHN MUNRO.

THE petitioner prays that he may be granted 180 acres of land in lieu of certain land orders which have reverted to the Crown.

I am directed to report that it appears from the petitioner's own statement that he has been allowed to select land and subsequently abandoned it to the Crown. The Committee cannot therefore recommend his claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

23rd October, 1879.

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## No. 46, Session II.—Petition of GEORGE DARROCH.

THE petitioner prays for a grant of land for himself and a large family, on the ground of being a long resident in the colony.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petitioner has no claim for a free grant of land, and cannot recommend his claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

23rd October, 1879.

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## No. 143, Session I., and No. 32, Session II.—Petitions of HENRY CORBETT.

THE petitioner complains of ill-treatment at the hands of the police at Napier, and of injustice done to him in the Police Court in Wellington.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having inquired into the case of the petitioner, has no recommendation to make to the House.

23rd October, 1879.

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## Nos. 68 and 69, Session II.—Petitions of THOMAS MACDONALD and Others of Invercargill, and of the SCHOOL COMMITTEE, Karere.

THE petitioners pray that the reading of the Bible may be practised in the State schools established under the Education Act.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of these petitions being one of public policy, the Committee does not deem it necessary to offer any opinion to the House.

23rd October, 1879.

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## No. 43, Session II.—Petition of PATRICK GORMAN and Others.

THE petitioners pray for a reduction in the scale of licensed victuallers' fees in the Province of Auckland.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition being now before the House, the Committee does not deem it necessary to make any recommendation.

23rd October, 1879.

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## No. 73, Session II.—WI PARATA KAKAKUEA and Others.

THE petitioners call attention to the unsatisfactory state of the business now before the House, and express a hope that the members will unite in disposing of public business.

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

23rd October, 1879.

## No. 65, Session II.—Petition of JOHN MARSH.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for loss caused through the narrowing of a street under the provisions of "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1876."

I am directed to report that the petition be referred to the Waste Lands Committee.  
17th October, 1879.

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## No. 55, Session I.—Petition of GILMER BROTHERS.

THE petitioners pray for compensation for losses alleged to have been incurred by them in carrying out a mail contract between Greymouth and Reefton.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having made inquiry into the petitioners' case, is of opinion that they have no claim against the colony.  
24th October, 1879.

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## No. 31, Session II.—Petition of EDWARD HENRY LYNNE.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for the loss of a box of valuables alleged to have been placed in the custody of the officer in charge of the luggage department of the railway station at Dunedin.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having examined into the petitioner's case, is of opinion that carelessness was shown both on the part of the petitioner and of the railway authorities in whose charge the luggage was for the time being; but the Committee is of opinion that the colony is not responsible for the alleged loss the petitioner has sustained.

24th October, 1879.

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## No. 112, Session II.—Petition of ALFRED GOUGH.

THE petitioner prays that encouragement may be given to the manufacture of grape wine within the colony.

I am directed to report that the petition be referred to the Tariff Committee.  
24th October, 1879.

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## No. 125, Session II.—Petition of A. G. HOWLAND and other Coach-builders and Wheelwrights, of Christchurch.

THE petitioners pray for the imposition of an increased duty on buggies, carriages, and all wheeled vehicles, or parts of the same.

I am directed to report that the petition be referred to the Tariff Committee.  
24th October, 1879.

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## No. 81, Session I.—Petition of HENRY NEWSON BREWER (No. 2).

THE petitioner prays for compensation for services performed during the Maori war of 1863.

I am directed to report that, having made inquiry into the petitioner's case, it appears that he has rendered some exceptional service to the colony; but, as no official application has been made to the Government for consideration on account of such services, the Committee is of opinion that it is not within its functions to make a special recommendation.

29th October, 1879.

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## No. 82, Session II.—Petition of ALFRED WILLIAM ROUSE.

THE petitioner prays for an increase of the pension to which he is entitled under "The Civil Service Act, 1866."

I am directed to report that the Committee, having made inquiry into the petitioner's case, cannot recommend any alteration of the Civil Service Act to meet his special requirements.

29th October, 1879.

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## No. 116, Session II.—Petition of GEORGE GRAHAM.

THE petitioner alleges that his land has been over-assessed under the Land-Tax Act, and prays for redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that it is not desirable to review the decisions of the Land-Tax Appeal Court.

29th October, 1879.

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## No. 34, Session II.—Petition of J. R. CLEMENT and Others.

THE petitioners pray that their land may be exempt from the operation of the Land-Tax Act, until surveyed.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having made inquiry into petitioner's case, find that the lands in question are partially surveyed, and tenders asked for the survey of the balance. The Committee cannot recommend exemption from payment of land-tax.

29th October, 1879.

No. 66, Session II.—Petition of W. J. BRAITHWAITE and Others, of Waikaia (No. 2).

The petitioners pray for the immediate survey and construction of the Waikaia Branch of the Waimea Plains Railway.

I am directed to report that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.  
29th October, 1879.

No. 63, Session II.—Petition of ALEXANDER SMITH.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for alleged loss incurred by him on the Helensville contract of the Kaipara-Puniu Railway, owing to the Government taking over the contract.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having again inquired into the petitioner's case, cannot recommend his claim to the favourable consideration of the Government.

29th October, 1879.

No. 67, Session II.—Petition of J. D. FRASER.

THE petitioner prays for the refund of a deposit of £200 made by him in tendering for the Marton contract of the Wanganui and Manawatu Railway.

I am directed to report that, having reconsidered the petitioner's case, the Committee adheres to the decision given in the session of 1876.

29th October, 1879.

No. 47, Session I.—Petition of JOSEPH CARTER.

THE petitioner prays for consideration for loss of employment as warder at the Whau Lunatic Asylum, in Auckland.

I am directed to report that, as it appears from the report of the Inspector of Lunatic Asylums, the petitioner left the service without notice, the Committee cannot recommend his claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

29th October, 1879.

No. 3, Session II.—Petition of WILLIAM HARRIS.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for loss of employment in the Wellington Police Force.

I am directed to report that, as it appears from the report of the Under Secretary for Defence, the petitioner has twice been discharged from the police force for drunkenness, the Committee cannot recommend his case to the favourable consideration of the House.

29th October, 1879.

No. 138, Session I.—Petition of Rev. J. C. ANDREW.

THE petitioner prays for a reduction of the assessment of certain lands made under "The Land-Tax Act 1878."

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that it not desirable to review the decision of the Court of Appeal constituted under "The Land-Tax Act, 1878."

29th October, 1879.

No. 118, Session II.—Petition of ROBERT CHARTERIS.

THE petitioner prays that no Bill or clause of a Bill dealing with or affecting his land may be passed without petitioner being allowed a full opportunity of urging objections thereto.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of the petition is now before the House in a Bill proposing to give a right of road through petitioner's land, the Committee recommend that this petition be read to the House when the said Bill is being considered.

29th October, 1879.

Nos. 40, 41, 49, 60, 77, 78, 87, 101, 117, 129 of Session II., and Nos. 136, 137, 142, 144 of Session I.—CHARLES HASELDEN and Others; J. and J. MCLEOD and Others; A. D. ALLAN and Others; W. J. BRAITHWAITE and Others (No. 1); the MAYOR of KUMARA and Others of the West Coast of the Middle Island; S. ALISTER BROWN and Others, of Wangaloa; JOHN HUNTER and Others, of Dunedin; THOMAS BULLOCK and Others, of Ashburton; CHARLES MORGAN and Others, of Dunedin; PHILIP HERAPATH and Others, of Auckland; W. PERKINS and Others, of Seventy-Mile Beach; H. BAMFORD and Others, of Woolston and Opawa; WAIMEA COUNTY COUNCIL and MOTUEKA HIGHWAY BOARD; and JOHN ROBERTSON and Others, of Martin's Bay.

I AM directed to report that, as the subject-matter of these petitions are questions of policy as to the construction of public works by the colony in the several districts named by the petitioners, the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion further than to refer them to the Government for consideration.

29th October, 1879.

## No. 11, Session II.—Petition of UNITED FIRE BRIGADES.

THE petitioners pray for free passes on the railways, and such other consideration as may be deemed fit.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having considered the petitioners' application, has no special recommendation to make, as it is of opinion that it is a question for the Government to deal with.

29th October, 1879.

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## No. 95, Session II.—Petition of SAMUEL CRICKETT.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for improvements made on a certain section of land at Pokeno, to which he did not obtain a title.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the Government should pay the petitioner the value of the improvements made by him upon the land.

30th October 1879.

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## No. 25, Session II.—Petition of HAU-HAU TRAMWAY COMPANY.

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.

I am directed to report that the petitioners' claim having been inquired into and dealt with by former Committees, and no fresh evidence having been tendered, the Committee see no cause to reopen the case.

30th October, 1879.

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## No. 105, Session II.—Petition of JAMES LANEY.

THE petitioner prays that the report of the Public Petitions Committee of 1873 on petitioner's case may be acted on during the present session.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petition be referred to the Government, with the view of carrying out the former recommendation of the Committee on the case.

30th October, 1879.

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## No. 123, Session II.—Petition of JAMES NIGHTINGALE.

THE petitioner alleges that he has sustained injury while employed as overseer of works at Jackson's Bay Special Settlement, and that he is unable, in consequence of such injury, to perform hard manual labour. He asks for some light employment, or some other relief.

I am directed to report that, as it appears from the evidence taken that the petitioner has received injury in the public service, the Committee recommend the Government to give him some employment for which he may be found suitable when any vacancy occurs.

4th November, 1879.

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## No. 90, Session II.—Petition of ROBERT HALL and Others.

THE petitioners pray for an amendment in "The Slaughterhouses Act, 1877."

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

4th November, 1879.

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## No. 75, Session II.—Petition of J. D. R. HEWITT.

THE petitioner prays for a reduction of the assessment upon his property under "The Land-Tax Act, 1878."

I am directed to report that the Committee do not deem it desirable to review the decisions of the Land-Tax Appeal Courts.

4th November, 1879.

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## No. 135, Session II.—Petition of REGINALD BREE and Others, of Gore.

THE petitioners pray for the passing of a special Act to enable the District of Gore to be constituted a municipality under "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1876."

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend that the provision of section 17 of "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1876," which defines the condition under which a municipality can be constituted, be over-riden by a special Act to give effect to the request of the petitioners.

4th November, 1879.

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## No. 110, Session II.—Petition of THOMAS CARDON.

THE petitioner prays for the payment of a reward for procuring, by information, a conviction for cutting timber on Crown lands in the Provincial District of Auckland.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the Government should inquire into the facts of the case, and if it be found that the petitioner is entitled to the reward that it be paid him as a provincial liability.

4th November, 1879.

## No. 120, Session I.—Petition of SARAH CUNNINGHAM.

THE petitioner prays for some compensation, her husband having been accidentally killed by a locomotive engine while passing over a level crossing of the Dunedin and Ocean Beach Railway.

I am directed to report that, as it appears from the evidence that no blame is attached to the railway authorities, the Committee do not consider that the petitioner has any claim against the colony.

4th November, 1879.

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## No. 62, Session II.—Petition of ROBERT FARMER and Others, of Hawkes' Bay Jockey Club.

THE petitioners pray that the House will reject any proposals which may be made in any degree interfering with the rights of the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petition be read to the House when the Bill is under consideration.

7th November, 1879.

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## No. 37, Session II.—Petition of JOHN HARDING.

THE petitioner prays for the execution of a writ of ejection against certain Natives in the Hawke's Bay Provincial District.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having made inquiry into the petitioner's case, is of opinion that the Government would not be justified in using force to place the petitioner in possession of the land claimed by him, inasmuch as the Natives have an equitable claim to possession, although the petitioner is entitled legally under Crown grant. The Committee recommend the Government to endeavour to settle the matter by purchasing the petitioner's legal title to the land in dispute.

12th November, 1879.

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## No. 163, Session II.—Petition of C. N. MCMURDO.

THE petitioner prays for relief for injury alleged to have been received by him in consequence of unjust dismissal from the Government Insurance Department.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that, while the manner of the dismissal of the petitioner may have been unnecessarily harsh, there were, nevertheless, good and sufficient grounds for his being dismissed from the public service.

12th November, 1879.

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## No. 89, Session II.—Petition of WILLIAM WILLIAMS.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for alleged wrongful dismissal from the Constabulary force.

I am directed to report that the Committee see no sufficient reason to reverse the decision of the Constabulary Department in the petitioner's case.

12th November, 1879.

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## No. 52, Session II.—Petition of ARTHUR CASH.

THE petitioner prays for a refund of duty paid upon a Hansom cab imported into the colony.

I am directed to report that the case of the petitioner being a special one, the Committee recommend the Government to refund the duty charged, viz., £7 14s.

12th November, 1879.

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## No. 106, Session II.—Petition of L. A. TIFFEN and Others.

THE petitioners pray for an Act to be passed to alter the acreage rates in the Township of Taradale to rates on annual value.

I am directed to report that, as the petition relates to a Bill now before the House, the Committee deem it inexpedient to pronounce any opinion thereon.

12th November, 1879.

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## No. 29, Session II.—Petition of WILLIAM LISTER.

THE petitioner prays for a grant of land alleged to have been verbally willed to him.

I am directed to report that the Committee is unable to recognize any claim on the part of the petitioner.

12th November, 1879.

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## No. 114, Session II.—Petition of J. LOGAN CAMPBELL and Others, Governors of the Auckland College and Grammar School.

THE petitioners pray that the Bill now before the Legislature intituled "An Act to declare and explain the Trusts of the Auckland College and Grammar School Endowments, and for other purposes," may not pass into law.

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

12th November, 1879.

## No. 106, Session I.—Petition of W. J. DARK.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for loss alleged to have been sustained by him in carrying out a contract for the erection of certain buildings for the Telegraph Department.

I am directed to report that, from the evidence taken, the Committee is of opinion that the petitioner has received all the money he is entitled to under his contract, and cannot recommend any further payment.

18th November, 1879.

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Nos. 130, 148, 165, 164, 61, 146, 139, Session II.—Petitions of Sir CRACROFT WILSON and Others; JOHN MANCHESTER and Others, of Waimate; CHARLES LAIRD and Others; ALEXANDER HILL and Others; FREDERICK MAUNSELL and other Inhabitants of Castlepoint Highway District; GEORGE MAUNDER, Chairman of Mokau District Board; and JOHN CARTER and Others.

I AM directed to report that these petitions be referred to the Government for consideration.

18th November, 1879.

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## No. 124, Session II.—WIREMU PATENE and APERAHAMA PATENE.

THE petitioners complain of loss sustained in consequence of their dwellinghouse having been set fire to by the act of an incendiary, and pray for compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee, while sympathizing with the loss the petitioners have sustained, cannot recognize any claim on the colony for such loss.

18th November, 1879.

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## No. 83, Session II.—Petition of THOMAS LONERGAN.

THE petitioner prays for a military grant of land as a discharged soldier.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having inquired into the petitioner's claim, cannot recommend his case to the favourable consideration of the House.

18th November, 1879.

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## No. 107, Session I.—Petition of EDUCATION BOARD of District of Auckland.

THE petitioners pray that, in dealing with the Albert Barracks Reserve, no action may be taken which will be detrimental to the interests of education.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of the petition is now before the House, the Committee recommend that the petition be read when the Bill is under consideration.

18th November, 1879.

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## No. 1, Session II.—Petition of THOMAS BARTLEY and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the influx of Chinese into the colony may be restricted by legislation.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of the petition is one of public policy, the Committee do not deem it necessary to offer any opinion to the House.

18th November, 1879.

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## No. 131, Session II.—Petition of H. POHLEN.

THE petitioner states that he entered into an agreement with the late Sir Donald McLean to sell certain land to the Government, but that the agreement was not carried out. He prays for compensation in consequence.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner has offered no evidence to show that the Government promised to purchase his land, the Committee cannot recommend his claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

18th November, 1879.

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## No. 156, Session II.—Petition of THOMAS WILKINSON and Others, Pensioners, of Howick.

THE petitioners pray for compensation on account of the small comparative value of the lands on which they are settled.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recognize any claim for compensation on the part of the petitioners against the colony.

18th November, 1879.

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## No. 142, Session II.—Petition of HIRINI RAWIRI TAIWHANGA.

THE petitioner refers in his petition to the state of public business now before the House.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the terms of the petition are disrespectful to the House, and that it ought not to have been received.

18th November, 1879.

## No. 144, Session II.—Petition of ALEXANDER McMILLEN.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for alleged military service.

I am directed to report that, without doubting the military service, the Committee do not consider that any exceptional reward in the way of compensation should be given to the petitioner.

18th November, 1879.

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## No. 157, Session II.—Petition of C. R. CARTER and Others, of the Wellington Local Industries Association.

THE petitioners pray for the encouragement of the local industry of woollen manufacture.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petition be referred to the Tariff Committee.

18th November, 1879.

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## No. 162, Session II.—Petition of SARAH ANN COX.

THE petitioner prays for compensation in consequence of her late husband having been killed while employed upon the New Zealand railways as a stoker.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having considered the petitioner's case, recommend the Government to give an additional six months' pay as a gratuity.

18th November, 1879.

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## No. 158, Session II.—Petition of RICHARD DUIGNAN.

THE petitioner prays that the circumstances of the case of a contract for street formation on the reclaimed land in the City of Wellington may be inquired into and a settlement made.

I am directed to report that, in the existing position of the petitioner's case, the Committee decline to interfere between the petitioner and the Public Works Department.

18th November, 1879.

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## No. 49, Session I.—Petition of JOHN SHERER.

THE petitioner states that he was the master of the schooner "Boyd," of Auckland, and that he was obliged, in order to save life and property, to run the vessel ashore; that he sold some rum and beer belonging to the owners to the Natives; that he was arrested by the Opotiki Magistrates for this act, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment; that he has been illegally imprisoned, and discharged without money or clothes, and his professional prospects ruined. He prays for redress.

I am directed to report that, knowing already that the Committee has on several occasions made recommendations "that the Government make inquiry into the petitioner's case and afford such relief as the equity of the case demands," the Committee recommend that the sum of £50 be awarded to the petitioner as compensation for loss occasioned.

18th November, 1879.

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## No. 39, Session I.—Petition of CHARLES MACK.

THE petitioner prays for redress for injury sustained in consequence of an alleged unlawful conviction for smuggling.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not deem it expedient to reopen the petitioner's case.

18th November, 1879.

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## No. 28, Session II.—Petition of RICHARD THOMAS SHEILD.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for loss caused by the flooding of his land by the railway works.

I am directed to report that, the former recommendation of this Committee that the petitioner's grievance with respect to insufficient water-way for flood-water having been remedied by the department, the Committee has no further recommendation to make in the petitioner's case.

18th November, 1879.

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## No. 122, Session I.—Petition of CARL BAUR.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for injury sustained by a road having been taken through his land during his absence in Victoria.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the amount of compensation should be arranged with the petitioner; and, in the event of fair compensation being refused, that the matter be dealt with under the provisions of "The Public Works Act, 1876."

20th November, 1879.

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## No. 25, Session II.—Petition of the HAUHAU TRAMWAY COMPANY. (Further report.)

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.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having reconsidered the petition of the Hauhau Tramway Company as directed by the House, is of opinion that the petitioners have no claim whatever against the colony for compensation.

20th November, 1879.

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No. 9, Session II.—Petition of MESSRS. SUTHERLAND and SMITH.

THE petitioners, who were contractors for the construction of the Onehunga Wharf, allege that there is a balance due to them on account of the contract of £1,302 5s. 9d., for which the Treasury have forwarded a cheque for £993 15s. 8d., now lying in the Bank of New Zealand, which is only to be paid on petitioners giving a discharge in full of all claims; and that, having refused to do this, the petitioners are sustaining injury in their business in consequence; and pray for compensation.

I am directed to report that the petitioners refused the final payment under the misapprehension that the acceptance of the money would debar their claim for further consideration. As, however, the Public Works Department state that the acceptance of the payment will not have this effect, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

20th November, 1879.

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No. 57, Session I.—Petition of W. A. MOSLEY and other Settlers of Inch-Clutha.

THE petitioners pray for compensation for loss caused by floods at Inch-Clutha.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having examined the plan and section of the railway embankment showing the flood-level, and taken evidence, is of opinion that the question should be referred by the Government to a Commission, in order that evidence may be taken in the district, and the facts reported to the Government.

20th November, 1879.

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No. 48, Session II.—Petition of DAVID CONNOR.

THE petitioner prays for a grant of land as a Volunteer, his certificate having lapsed.

I am directed to report that, as it appears from the evidence before the Committee, that the petitioner's claim lapsed through his own neglect, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

20th November, 1879.

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No. 54, Session I.—Petition of SAMUEL PHILLIPS. (Further report.)

THE petitioner states that he was an assistant in the Photo-lithographic Department, and that he has been discharged from the public service without sufficient cause.

I am directed to report that, having taken further evidence in the case of the petition of Samuel Phillips, referred back to the Committee by the House, the Committee is of opinion that it would be injudicious to restore him to the office he formerly occupied; but recommend that he be employed in the public service in some other department.

20th November, 1879.

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No. 175, Session II.—Petition of GEORGE JERVIS.

THE petitioner, having received the sum of £100 as a reward for assisting in procuring evidence which led to the conviction of the perpetrators of the Maungatapu murders, prays for a further consideration for the same service.

I am directed to report that, having examined the petitioner and reconsidered his claim, the Committee see no sufficient cause to alter the decision already arrived at during the last session.

20th November, 1879.

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No. 99, Session II.—Petition of JOHN GWYNNETH.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for an alleged discovery of a practicable route for a line of railway between Porirua and the foot of the Paikakariki Hill.

I am directed to report that, having taken evidence in the case of the petitioner, the Committee is of opinion that he has not established any claim against the colony.

21st November, 1879.

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No. 100, Session II.—Petition of DANIEL CLIMIE.

THE petitioner claims to have been the discoverer of a practicable route for a line of railway between the City of Wellington and the West Coast of the North Island.

I am directed to report that it appears, from the evidence before the Committee, that Mr. Climie agreed with the promoters of a private company to make a preliminary survey of a line of railway from Wellington through Johnsonville to Porirua, which was proposed to be constructed under the District Railways Act, for which he was to receive, in the event of a practicable route being obtained within specified limits of expenditure, the sum of £2,000, or the appointment of engineer for the construction of the line. The Committee is of opinion that if any payment is due to Mr. Climie it is due to him by the promoters of the company, and he has no claim on the Government on the ground that the proposed line of railway has been undertaken by the colony.

21st November, 1879.

## No. 173, Session II.—Petition of ROBERT ATKINSON.

THE petitioner prays for redress for having been summarily dismissed from the public service without sufficient cause, and alleges that a previous recommendation made by the Public Petitions Committee has only been partly acted upon.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petitioner be offered some employment in the Government service when any suitable vacancy occurs.

21st November, 1879.

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## No. 170, Session II.—Petition of CHARLES HILL and Others, of Wellington.

THE petitioners pray for the introduction of an amendment into the Abolition of Imprisonment for Debt Bill, now before the House, enabling them as at present to recover from those of their debtors who possess sufficient means to pay their accounts and refuse to do so.

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

24th November, 1879.

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## No. 174, Session II.—Petition of CECIL AUGUSTUS CURTIS.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for damage alleged to have been sustained by him by reason of the passing of "The Education Act, 1877."

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

24th November, 1879.

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## No. 201, Session II.—Petition of RICHARD ALVIN ENGLAND.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for loss caused by the issue to him of an auctioneer's license which afterwards turned out to be valueless.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that, if the petitioner has any claim for compensation, it is against the authorities who issued the license, but that he has no claim against the colony.

24th November, 1879.

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## No. 254, Session II.—Petition of AHAURA CONVENT SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

THE petitioners allege that the convent and school at Ahaura have been rendered unfit for the purpose for which they were built, by reason of the construction of the approach to the bridge lately made over the Ahaura River, and they pray for redress.

I am directed to report that it appears from the evidence taken by the Committee that the petitioners have sustained such damage, but the amount of such damage is a matter to be inquired into, and dealt with by the Government in the usual way.

24th November, 1879.

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Nos. 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, Session II.—Petitions of J. B. HOLLIS and Others, of Clive; J. VAUTIER and Others; THOMAS POWDRELL and Others, of Taradale; GEORGE HISLOP and Others of Paketapu; J. RYMER and Others, of Meanee.

THE petitioners pray that the Meanee Recreation Reserves Bill may be passed by the House.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of the petitions is now before the House, the Committee is of opinion that the petitions be read when the Bill is under consideration.

24th November, 1879.

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Nos. 222, 223, 188, Session II.—Petitions of the BISHOP of WAIAPU; JOHN WATERS and Others, of Warepa; J. J. HAY and Others, of Kaihiku.

THE petitioners pray that the reading of the Bible may be practised in the State schools established under the Education Act.

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

25th November, 1879.

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## No. 7, Session II.—Petition of WALTER EDWARD PAYNE.

THE petitioner alleges that he resigned his position in the public service on the understanding that a pension would be given him, which pension has since been refused, and he prays for redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to a retiring allowance under the Abolition of Provinces Act; or, in the event of the petitioner being again employed at a lower salary, that he is entitled to a similar allowance on the difference of salary.

25th November, 1879.

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Nos. 258, 266, 268, Session II.—Petitions of THOMAS BAILIE and Others, of Nelson; the BISHOP of AUCKLAND and Others; J. B. HUNT and Others, of Waipa and Waikato.

THE petitioners pray for the construction of various public works, &c., in the colony.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that these petitions be referred to the Government for consideration.  
25th November, 1879.

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No. 206, Session II.—Petition of WILLIAM STRACHAN.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for loss alleged to have been incurred by him in carrying out a contract for the supply of sleepers on the Wellington and Masterton Railway.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petitioner has no claim for compensation against the Government.  
26th November, 1879.

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Nos. 57, 171, 172, 176, 196, 197, 211, 212, 221, 228, 236, 245, 246, 247, Session II.—Petition of INHABITANTS of GREY VALLEY, BULLER, and INANGAHUA; JOHN D. ENYS and Others, of Malvern; F. JAGERHORN and Others, of Mauriceville; GEORGE M. SNELSON and Others, of Manawatu; PETER ATCHISON; W. STICK and Others, of Waikato, Waipa, and Piako; WALTER SWIFT and Others, of Kawakawa; GEORGE H. GODBER and Others, of Grey and Big River; ALFRED HOWITH and Others, of Clutha; JOHN KILLEN and Others, of Katikati; H. F. CHRISTIE and Others, of Patea; G. F. MACKAY and Others, of Mount Benger District, Otago; NOBLE McMILLEN, Mayor of Tapanui, and Others; J. T. HERBERT and Others, of Tapanui.

THE petitioners pray for the construction of various public works throughout the colony.

I am directed to report that this Committee is of opinion that the petitions be referred to the Government for consideration.  
26th November, 1879.

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No. 134, Session II.—Petition of DANIEL SPEEDY.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for the cost of removing a building which had been erected on the Coal Reserve at Brunnerion.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having considered the petitioner's case, is of opinion that he has no claim for compensation against the colony.  
26th November, 1879.

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No. 155, Session II.—Petition of MURDOCH MCKENZIE.

THE petitioner prays that access by road may be given to him to a block of 120 acres in the District of Waipa, purchased by him in the year 1858 under the "forty-acre system."

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to be furnished with access to his land, and recommends the Government to communicate with the Road Board with the view of that body taking the necessary action under the Public Works Act, the Government providing the compensation awarded by the proper Arbitrators.

26th November, 1879.

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No. 126, Session II.—Petition of CHARLES O'MALLEY.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for alleged dismissal from the public service without due notice.

I am directed to report that, having considered the case of the petitioner, the Committee cannot recommend his claim to the favourable consideration of the House.  
26th November, 1879.

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No. 167, Session II.—Petition of GEORGE J. MACKAY and Others, of Tuapeka.

THE petitioners allege that in the month of September, 1878, their district was visited by a very disastrous flood in the Molyneux River, which destroyed all the bridges and ferries on that river within the County of Tuapeka.

That, as soon as these disasters were made known, large sums of money were voted by the House to assist in restoring the Teviot and Beaumont Bridges: but that no effort has been made by the Council of the Tuapeka County to restore the Beaumont Bridge, and, instead, that the Council ignored the importance of the work by passing a resolution to the effect that "the bridge be not proceeded with until all works authorized by the Council are completed;" thus virtually shelving the matter.

They pray that an inquiry may be made into the facts of the case with the view of the Government taking the matter into their own hands, in accordance with section 185 of the Counties Act, and restoring the bridge or ordering the County Council to do so.

I am directed to report that, from the evidence taken by the Committee on the petitioners' case, it appears that the Tuapeka County Council has not applied the £3,000 voted by Parliament and paid by the Government to the county for the purchase of the Beaumont Bridge to such purchase. The Committee is therefore of opinion that the Government should, in the terms of the agreement on which the money was paid, take immediate steps to recover the money by deducting it from the subsidies or other moneys payable to the Tuapeka County Council, and apply it in accordance with the terms of the vote.

26th November, 1879.

## No. 263, Session II.—Petition of THOMAS BATEMAN.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for having received his discharge from the office of Warder of the Dunedin Gaol.

I am directed to report that, having made inquiry into the petitioner's case, the Committee has no recommendation to make to the House.

26th November, 1879.

## No. 192, Session II.—Petition of EDWARD HENRY POWER.

THE petitioner prays for relief in the matter of the forfeiture of a Crown grant in the petitioner's favour for an allotment of land at Clyde in Otago.

I am directed to report that, having examined the petitioner and the documents bearing on the case, the Committee is of opinion that he is entitled to no consideration whatever from the House.

26th November, 1879.

## No. 38, Session II.—Petition of EDWARD MCKENNA.

THE petitioner prays that the House will grant him the same amount of land, 400 acres, as given to all the officers of Her Majesty's army and colonial forces.

I am directed to report that it appears from the evidence that the petitioner has not exercised his right to select land in the Province of Auckland within the time limited by law. The Committee cannot recommend his claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

26th November, 1879.

## No. 177, Session II.—Petition of WILLIAM JONES and Others, of Lower Hutt.

THE petitioner prays that Parliament will give authority for the books of the Provincial Library of the late Province of Wellington to be used by the various public libraries throughout the Provincial District of Wellington.

I am directed to report that it appears, from the evidence submitted to the Committee, that the books of the late Provincial Library of the Province of Wellington are not being properly cared for, and there seems to be no person specially in charge of and responsible for the books. The Committee is of opinion that the books should be placed in the charge of the Geological Department in trust for a future free public library, and that in the meantime the public should have free access to them, subject to regulations.

28th November, 1879.

## No. 141, Session I.—Petition of WILLIAM BANNERMAN and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the House will refuse to pass into law any clause or provision that may alter, or limit, or interfere with the rights of the Presbyterian Church of Otago, belonging to the "purchased and acquired estate," administered in terms of "The Presbyterian Church Lands Act, 1866."

I am directed to report that as no such Bill as that referred to by the petitioners is now before the House, the Committee does not think it necessary to express any opinion.

28th November, 1879.

## No. 253, Session II.—Petition of J. N. CLIFFORD and Others, of the County of Grey.

I AM directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petition is informal, and cannot be taken into consideration.

28th November, 1879.

Nos. 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, Session II.—Petitions of JOHN B. MCKAY and Others, of Otago; F. M. COXHEAD and Others, of Otago; ISAAC ABRAHAMS and Others, of Dunedin; WILLIAM SCOTT and Others; E. H. LYNNE and Others, of Otago; and M. HAZLITT and Others, of Otago.

THE petitioners pray that the House will take into consideration the facts set forth, and will refuse to grant an increase upon the former duty on tobacco exceeding sixpence per pound.

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

28th November, 1879.

## No. 190, Session II.—Petition of JAMES W. MORTON and other Licensed Victuallers.

THE petitioners pray that a rebate of duty be allowed on under-proof of spirits.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is a question of public policy, the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House.

28th November, 1879.

## No. 204, Session II.—Petition of J. TURNBULL and Others.

THE petitioners pray that an amendment may be made in the Debtors and Creditors Act.

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

1st December, 1879.

No. 290, Session II.—Petition of ARTHUR THOMAS and Others, of the County of Wallace.

THE petitioners pray that the "The Counties Act, 1876," may be so amended that it may be competent for part of a Road district to merge in the county within which it is situated, in the same manner as an entire Road district may so merge.

I am directed to report that, as there is a Bill now before the House to amend the Counties Act, the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion on the subject-matter of the petition. 1st December, 1879.

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Nos. 220, 226, 269, Session II.—Petition of WILLIAM MCGILLIVRAY; JOHN LYTTLE and Others, of Fairfax; and THOMAS DOUGLAS and Others, of Waihola.

THE petitioners pray for buoys to be placed on the Brampton Reef and Whale Rock, on the Northern Coast of the North Island; for local self-government, in the way of public works, and for the establishment of Township Improvement Boards, respectively.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petitions be referred to the Government.

1st December, 1879.

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No. 289, Session II.—Petition of ALBERT TALBOT and other Telegraph Operators.

THE petitioners pray that the House will take into consideration the allegations of their petition, with a view to redressing or remedying the grievances alleged to exist in the Telegraph Department.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the grievance complained of by the petitioners is one for the Government to deal with.

1st December, 1879.

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No. 248, Session II.—Petition of CHARLES H. SWAINE and Others, of Tapanui.

THE petitioners pray for relief from the payment of the sheep-tax.

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

1st December, 1879.

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No. 238, Session II.—Petition of T. B. HANNAFORD.

THE petitioner sets forth that he broke his leg whilst serving as a private in the 2nd Class Militia in Auckland in 1863, and prays for compensation.

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

1st December, 1879.

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No. 218, Session II.—Petition of HENRY OLDHAM and W. DE RENZIE TURNER.

THE petitioners allege that they suffered considerable loss in consequence of being called away to serve in the Waikato war in 1863, and pray for compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the colony is not liable for contingent losses occasioned by Native disturbances, and cannot therefore recommend petitioners' claim for consideration.

1st December, 1879.

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No. 264, Session II.—Petition of THOMAS MURRAY, JAMES HUNTER, and JOHN SUMMERVILLE.

THE petitioners pray for the issue of some Volunteer remission certificates for the purchase of land, to which they allege they are entitled.

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

1st December, 1879.

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No. 98, Session II.—Petition of NEIL BEATON.

THE petitioner alleges that he is incapacitated from performing heavy work by reason of harsh and unjust treatment while undergoing sentence in the Auckland Gaol, and he prays for consideration.

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

1st December, 1879.

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No. 283, Session II.—Petition of J. C. NICHOLSON, JAMES E. MCELVEY, CHARLES C. PROBERT, and HENRY JOHNSON.

THE petitioners allege that they were discharged from their employment as warders of the Dunedin Gaol without proper notice, and they pray for compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petitioners were liberally dealt with, and have no good cause of complaint.

1st December, 1879.

## No. 299, Session II.—Petition of JOSEPH WHITE and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the law be so altered or amended as to place hares without the pale of protection hitherto afforded them in the Province of Nelson by the Protection of Animals Act.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the prayer of the petitioners to the favourable consideration of the Government.

1st December, 1879.

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## No. 214, Session II.—Petition of E. GILLIES and Others, of Otago.

THE petitioners pray that it may be provided by legislation that the medical profession may be adequately represented on the Senate of the New Zealand University.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petition be referred to the Government for the information of the Commission now sitting.

1st December, 1879.

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## No. 292, Session II.—Petition of E. M. DICKEY and Others, of Waikato.

THE petitioners pray that the allotments in the Township of Whatawhata may be opened for sale, and that various public works may be constructed in the district.

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

1st December, 1879.

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## No. 312, Session II.—Petition of DUNCAN MCKENZIE and Others, of Waipu.

THE petitioners pray that the Government will employ an engineer to survey the Waipu River.

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

1st December, 1879.

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## No. 265, Session II.—Petition of JOHN CLEVELEY.

THE petitioner alleges that he has been dismissed from the position of Sub-Manager of the Naval Training School at Auckland without due notice, and prays for redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petitioner should have complained in the first instance to the Government through his superior officer, so that the complaint might have been accompanied by any explanation which the latter might see fit to make.

The Committee is further of opinion that the school ought to be placed under local inspection, similar to that which has all along existed in connection with the Otago Reformatory and Industrial School; and that the Government be recommended to take the necessary action in the matter, and also to institute a thorough investigation into the working of the school.

1st December, 1879.

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## Nos. 297, 300, Session II.—Petitions of ROBERT F. CUTHBERTSON and Others, of the County of Wallace; and R. T. WARREN and Others, of Patea.

THE petitioners pray for the construction of a branch railway in Otago; and for the construction of a road to open up the inland Patea District, respectively.

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

1st December, 1879.

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## No. 282, Session II.—Petition of C. G. TRIPP and Others, of the County of Geraldine.

THE petitioners pray that the proposed new County of Timaru may not be constituted.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petition be referred to the Government.

2nd December, 1879.

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## No. 58, Session II.—Petition of JOHN HOGAN.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for loss alleged to have been caused to him through a mistake made in the Immigration Department, between his own name and his brother's.

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

2nd December, 1879.

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No. 207, Session II.—Petition of WILLIAM CUMMING, Chairman of a Public Meeting at Beaumont. THE petitioner prays that the House will not assent to the severance of the Tapanui District from the County of Tuapeka.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petition be referred to the Government.

2nd December, 1879.

## No. 202, Session II.—Petition of WILLIAM DALE.

THE petitioner alleges that he, as Trustee of the estate of George Beamish, has suffered loss in consequence of the refusal of the Licensing Bench to grant a renewal of a license for an hotel at Oeo, in the Provincial District of Taranaki, and prays for redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee see no sufficient reason to interfere with the procedure of the Licensing Court in the petitioner's case.

2nd December, 1879.

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## Nos. 225, 302, 303, Session II.—Petition of HENRY SMITH and Others, of Ormondville; JOSEPH SOWRY and Others, of Woodville; P. S. GUILLARD and Others, of Victoria, in the Seventy-Mile Bush.

THE petitioners allege that at the time of the abolition of the provinces there was in the Provincial Treasury of the Province of Hawke's Bay a balance to the credit of the province, and that a promise had been made by the Provincial Government to expend certain sums in the construction of roads in the Seventy-Mile Bush to the various settlements occupied by the petitioners.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that these petitions be referred to the Public Accounts Committee.

3rd December, 1879.

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## No. 270, Session II.—Petition of JOHN BRAY and Others, of West Clive.

THE petitioners pray that a road may be made through the landing reserve at West Clive.

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

3rd December, 1879.

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## No. 277, Session II.—Petition of EDWARD HENRY POWER (No. 2).

THE petitioner prays for redress for losses alleged to have been sustained by him in consequence of circumstances arising out of the purchase of his own bankrupt estate.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

3rd December, 1879.

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## No. 281, Session II.—Petition of HENRY WARNER FARNALL.

THE petitioner prays for further consideration for services when employed as Emigration Agent for the colony in Great Britain.

I am directed to report that, as the case of the petitioner has been finally dealt with by the House during the session of 1878, the Committee is of opinion that the petitioner has no further claim against the colony.

3rd December, 1879.

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## Nos. 293, 294, Session II.—Petition of D. J. CAMERON and Others, of Southland; W. B. SCANBETT and Others, of Southland.

THE petitioners pray for the establishment of Township Improvement Boards in connection with County Councils.

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

3rd December, 1879.

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## Nos. 313, 314, 315, Session II.—Petition of F. A. MACEDO and Others, of Otago; JOHN MORRISON and Others, of Otago; and E. NATHAN and Others, of Otago.

THE petitioners pray that any increase of the duty on tobacco to be imposed by the House may not exceed the amount of sixpence per pound.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of the petition being one of public policy, the Committee does not deem it necessary to offer any opinion to the House.

3rd December, 1879.

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## No. 316, Session II.—Petition of ALLAN McCORKINDALE and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the duty on watches, jewellery, and plate may not be increased.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petition be referred to the Tariff Committee.

3rd December, 1879.

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## No. 319, Session II.—Petition of Archdeacon STOCK and Others, of Wellington.

THE petitioners pray that bottle licenses may be legalized throughout the colony.

I am directed to report that the petition is informal, as there is no signature to the petition as required by Standing Order No. 267.

3rd December, 1879.

## No. 217, Session II.—Petition of NATHANIEL MCCREERY.

THE petitioner complains of a decision of Dr. Ormond, R.M. of Wairoa, Hawke's Bay, for trespass against the petitioner, and he prays for redress.

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

5th December, 1879.

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## No. 219, Session II.—Petition of EDWARD CROKER.

THE petitioner prays for an inquiry into the circumstances of a conviction obtained against the petitioner's wife, Mary A. Croker, in the Supreme Court in Auckland.

I am directed to report that the Committee sees no reason to interfere with the decision of the ordinary Courts of law in the case of the petitioner.

5th December, 1879.

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## No. 287, Session II.—Petition of ROBERT MOWATT.

THE petitioner alleges that he has not received from the Government the amount of pay to which he is entitled for services as drill-instructor of artillery, and he prays for consideration.

I am directed to report that the Committee sees no reason to alter the decision arrived at in the session of 1877 with respect to the petitioner's claim.

5th December, 1879.

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## No. 233, Session II.—Petition of EDMUND O'MALLEY.

THE petitioner alleges that he has sustained loss in completing the contract for the Thorndon reclamation, caused by the action of the railway authorities.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having inquired into the case of the petitioner, is of opinion that he has no claim against the colony.

5th December, 1879.

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## No. 298, Session II.—Petition of J. C. FIRTH and other Citizens of Auckland.

THE petitioners pray that the House will not remove any barriers made for the protection of private citizens against wealthy corporations, by freeing such corporations from liabilities for forming streets according to levels fixed. The petitioners also call attention to the fact "that there is no protection to the owners of property at the time of fixing the levels, as the Council claim the despotic power of going into streets and fixing the levels irrespective of damage."

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petition be read to the House when the Municipal Corporations Act Amendment Bill is under consideration.

5th December, 1879.

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## No. 278, Session II.—Petition of THOMAS McMILLAN.

THE petitioner prays that a refund of passage-money from England to New Zealand may be made to him.

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

8th December, 1879.

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## No. 93, Session I.—Petition of Messrs. BAUCHOP and Co.

THE petitioners pray for consideration of injury to mill at Port Chalmers through railway works.

I am directed to report that, from the evidence before the Committee, it appears the petitioners have a claim for consideration on account of loss they have sustained by flood-waters being diverted on to their land by a railway cutting. The Committee recommends the Government to make inquiry into the petitioners' claim, and award such compensation as they may be found to be entitled to; and, in the event of the petitioners declining to accept the decision of the Government, the Committee recommends that they be allowed to sue the Crown, the Government waiving any technical forms that would prevent the matter in dispute being decided on its merits.

8th December, 1879.

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## No. 94, Session I.—Petition of MESSRS. ALLEN AND KINGSTREET. (Further Report.)

THE petitioners pray for compensation on account of loss they have sustained by flood-waters being diverted on to their land by a railway cutting.

I am directed to report that the Committee sees no reason to alter its former report on this case.

8th December, 1879.

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## No. 324, Session II.—Petition of THOMAS KIRK.

THE petitioner prays that a road may be granted to his land, purchased in 1876—viz., part of Section 10, Block VIII., Taieri District—to which there is no means of access at present.

I am directed to report that the Committee inquired into the petitioner's case during the session of 1878, and recommended the Government to use its influence with the Road Board of the district to

take a road through Mr. Charteris's land, under "The Public Works Act, 1876," at the cost of the petitioner. It appears that, although the Road Board collect road rates from the petitioner, it declines to take any action to enable him to acquire any access to the land in respect of which it levies rates. It appears also that the Road Board has treated the application of the Government with contempt, and declines to be, what it terms, dictated to in the matter. In the opinion of the Committee it is a question how far, under such circumstances, the Government would be warranted in withholding any subsidies that may accrue to this road district, pending the Board doing its duty in the matter. The Committee is of opinion that the petitioner's case is one of much hardship, and that the Government should take the necessary action in order to give him a right-of-way to his land.

8th December, 1879.

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No. 326, Session II.—Petition of NATHANIEL FLOWERS.

THE petitioner prays for payment of wages as signalman at Wanganui.

I am directed to report that it appears, from the evidence before the Committee, that the petitioner did not apply in the first instance to the Government for consideration. The Committee does not therefore consider it desirable to make any recommendation to the House in the petitioner's case.

9th December, 1879.

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No. 351, Session II.—Petition of JOSEPH COLESBY.

THE petitioner prays for reconsideration of his petition relating to alleged loss of land consequent upon the White Cliff massacre.

I am directed to report that the petitioner's loss is one contingent on Native disturbance, for which, in the opinion of the Committee, the colony is not liable.

9th December, 1879.

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No. 145, Session II.—Petition of SAMUEL FERGUSON.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for loss sustained by the Maori war of 1863.

I am directed to report that, from evidence before the Committee, it appears that no award has been made by the late Mr. Beckham in favour of the petitioner. The Committee has therefore no recommendation to make to the House in the case of the petitioner.

9th December, 1879.

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No. 346, Session II.—Petition of J. TREADWELL and Others.

THE petitioners bring forward articles of impeachment against certain members of the House of Representatives.

I am directed to report that the Committee considers this petition refers to subjects it is not called upon to inquire into, and returns the petition to the House to deal with as it may deem fit.

9th December, 1879.

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Nos. 335, 342, 349, 359, Session II.—Petitions of L. D. NATHAN and Co.; DAVID LEVI and Others; WILLIAM HEYWOOD and Others; JOHN GOLDER and Others.

THE prayer of the petition relates to the duty on tobacco and on spirits.

I am directed to report that the subject-matter of these petitions being one of public policy, the Committee does not deem it necessary to offer any opinion to the House.

9th December, 1879.

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No. 276, Session II.—Petition of FLORENCE MCCARTHY.

THE petitioner alleges that he has suffered loss in his business in consequence of an arrangement for the use of a special wire, made by the Government with the Press (Telegraph) Association.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having considered the petitioner's case, is of opinion that he has no claim for compensation against the colony.

9th December, 1879.

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No. 191A, Session II.—Petition of MOSES CREWDSON.

THE petitioner alleges that he has suffered loss in consequence of the crossing of his tramway, between the Town of Nelson and the Port, by the Nelson and Port Railway.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petition be referred to the Government, with the view of giving redress to the grievance complained of at the crossing.

9th December, 1879.

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Nos. 86, 71, Session II.—Petition of E. ff. WARD and Others; and RICHARD KELLY and Others.

THE petitioners complain of the manner of the administration of justice in the Resident Magistrate's Court in the District of Poverty Bay, and pray that a fit and proper person may be appointed for the district.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that there is *prima facie* evidence to show that there ought to be an inquiry as to the fitness of Mr. Gudgeon to occupy the position of Resident Magistrate, and that the Government be recommended to make such inquiry accordingly.

9th December, 1879.

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Nos. 356, 357, 348, 358, Session II.—JAMES BEIGHTON and Others, of Roxburgh; JAMES RIVERS and Others, of Alexandra, Otago; BENJAMIN NAYLOR and Others, of Clyde; WILLIAM GREENBANK and Others, of Vincent County.

THE petitioners pray for the formation of a district road from the Waikaia Bush to the main road between Roxburgh and Alexandra.

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

9th December, 1879.

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No. 232, Session II.—Petition of W. B. YALDWYN.

THE petitioner prays for relief in consequence of his services having been dispensed with in the Government Insurance Department.

I am directed to report that it appears, from the evidence taken by the Committee, that petitioner lost his appointment because the Commissioner considered that other arrangements could be made more advantageous to the general working of the department. The Committee does not think that petitioner's reputation as an accountant is in any way injured by such loss of appointment, as it was mainly on grounds not involving competency as an accountant that his services were dispensed with. The Committee, therefore, sees no reason why he should not be again employed by the Government if a suitable opportunity offers.

10th December, 1879.

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No. 340, Session II.—Petition of P. AUSTEN and Others, of Ohinemuri.

THE petitioners pray for the arrest of the parties guilty in the Ohinemuri outrage.

I am directed to report that the subject-matter of this petition being one of public policy, the Committee is of opinion that it is one for the Government to deal with, and refers it to the Government for its serious consideration.

10th December, 1879.

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No. 322, Session II.—Petition of DAVID LYALL.

THE petitioner prays for relief in consequence of loss caused by the cancellation of the lease of Section 695, Mid-Wakatipu.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that this petition be referred to the Government with the view of bringing it under the consideration of the Waste Land Board of Otago.

11th December, 1879.

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No. 113, Session II.—Petition of R. L. F. J. DE THIERRY.

THE petitioner alleges that he entered into negotiations with the aboriginal natives in the North Island for the purchase of certain blocks of land, and thus paved the way for their acquirement by the Government. He further alleges that he not only lost his time, trouble, and money actually expended, but his prospective commission also, in consequence of his operations being suspended by Proclamation issued under Statute law. He prays for consideration.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petition be referred to the Government for inquiry, and, if it is found that the Government has been benefited by the petitioner's work, that a fair payment be made for such work.

11th December, 1879.

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No. 330, Session II.—Petition of JAMES DEMPSEY.

THE petitioner alleges that injustice has been done to him as contractor for reclamation works at Auckland, and prays for investigation.

I am directed to report that the Committee does not consider it advisable to interfere in disputes between contractors and the Public Works Department before the contract has been completed, especially as in the present case there is an absence of evidence that would enable the Committee to come to any decision; but recommends the Government to make immediate local inquiry into the matter, with a view of a prompt settlement of the dispute, as any delay will seriously interfere with the harbour.

11th December, 1879.

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No. 184, Session II.—Petition of JOSEPH PENNINGTON and JOHN GIBSON.

THE petitioners pray for the refund of money expended by them in fencing their land along the line of railway near the Waiwakaiho River.

I am directed to report that, having made inquiry into the case of the petitioners, the Committee

finds that the Government has strictly fulfilled the agreement entered into. The Committee cannot therefore recommend the claim of the petitioners to the favourable consideration of the House.  
11th December, 1879.

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No. 205, Session II.—Petition of AMOS BURR.

THE petitioner prays for assistance from the Government, he being crippled by the loss of both hands. I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make to the House on the petitioner's case.  
11th December, 1879.

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No. 244, Session II.—Petition of JAMES MACKAY.

THE petitioner prays for the refund of £500, being balance of deposit lodged with a tender to construct works for Public Works Department. I am directed to report that, having made inquiry into the case of the petitioner, the Committee cannot recommend the Government to refund the deposit.  
11th December, 1879.

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No. 341, Session II.—Petition of G. F. MASKEW.

THE petitioner alleges that he was unavoidably absent from duty, through illness, and that he lost his employment in consequence, and he prays for consideration. I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petitioner has received more by way of gratuity than the law allows, and, viewing the case of the petitioner in its general application to the Civil Service, the Committee cannot recommend a further payment.  
11th December, 1879.

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No. 39, Session II.—Petition of PATRICK BARREY.

THE petitioner prays for the issue of land scrip to which he alleges himself, his brother, and sister, to be entitled. I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that there is no evidence before it to show that the petitioner has any claim against the colony.  
11th December, 1879.

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No. 336, Session II.—Petition of R. PIARAZYN and Others.

THE petitioners pray for an inquiry into the conduct of the Judge of the Assessment Court at Wanganui. I am directed to report that the Committee does not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of this petition.  
11th December, 1879.

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No. 191, Session II.—Petition of HENRY JACKSON.

THE petitioner prays for redress of his grievances, he alleging that he was summarily and unjustly dismissed from his appointment as Chief Surveyor of the Province of Wellington.

I am directed to report that the Committee has not examined witnesses in this case, but the result of the examination of the Commissioners appointed under "The Civil Service Act Amendment Act, 1871," and of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council, and other official documents have been submitted to the Committee. In consequence of the late period of the session, the Committee is unable to make such an examination into the case of the petitioner as would warrant it in making a final recommendation to the House.

The Committee is, however, sufficiently informed to state that in its opinion the case of the petitioner has not been dealt with in such a manner as to satisfy the ends of justice, and to insure the proper discipline of the Civil Service.

Considering the position previously held by the petitioner in the Civil Service of the Wellington Province as Chief Surveyor, and recognizing his acknowledged ability and devotion to his profession, the Committee thinks that greater consideration should have been shown him than appears to have been by the Surveyor-General.

The charges made against the petitioner by that officer are practically resolved into disobedience of orders alleged to have been issued in the early part of the year 1877. The Committee considers that such disobedience, if it actually occurred, should have been inquired into and dealt with at the time, and should not have been allowed to sleep for nearly two years.

The charges were first officially made to the Government on the 15th November, 1878, but the Government did not appear to consider them to be of a very grave character, as another appointment was proposed to be given to petitioner if a suitable one could be found.

Subsequently, however, the charges made were referred to a Commission appointed under "The Civil Service Amendment Act, 1871," the members of the Commission being nominated by the officer making the charges.

The Committee considers that a Commission so appointed was not a fair tribunal to inquire into and decide on charges which to some extent involved professional rivalry.

It does not appear to the Committee that the main charges have been satisfactorily proved.

The Committee desires to avoid doing anything that would tend to disorganize the Civil Service, but it is of opinion that official tyranny, of the existence of which the Committee have had ample evidence in this and other cases that have come before it, is equally destructive of good discipline as is the insubordination of inferior officers, and that both, in the opinion of the Committee, should be suppressed.

The Committee therefore considers that the petitioner's case should be referred to a Royal Commission, provided such Commission is composed of men of sufficient independence and high standing outside the Civil Service.

13th December, 1879.

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No. 287, Session II.—Petition of ROBERT MOWATT. (Further Report.)

THE petitioner alleges that he has not received from the Government the amount of pay to which he is entitled for services as drill-instructor of artillery, and prays for consideration.

I am directed to report that the Committee sees no reason to alter the decision already arrived at in the case of the petitioner.

15th December, 1879.

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No. 350, Session II.—Petition of JOHN COLLIE and Others.

THE petitioners pray that they may be reimbursed by Government for losses incurred in carrying out the summit contract of the Wellington—Masterton Railway.

I am directed to report that the Committee dealt with the petition of the contractors in this contract during the session of 1878, and decided that they had no claim against the colony. The Committee is of opinion that the opinion arrived at with respect to the contractors equally applies to their sureties. The Committee cannot therefore recommend their claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

15th December, 1879.

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No. 373, Session II.—Petition of ABRAHAM KERCEL.

THE petitioner prays for relief in consequence of loss to his business as a dairyman through the disease pleuro-pneumonia.

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

15th December, 1879.

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No. 136, Session II.—Petition of NANCARROW and Co. and Others.

THE petitioners pray that a telegraph station may be established at Totara-nui, in Blind Bay.

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

15th December, 1879.

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No. 365, Session II.—Petition of JOHN STANLEY and Others.

THE petitioners pray for telegraphic communication between the main line to the Buller and the junction of Motueka and Motupiko Rivers.

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

15th December, 1879.

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No. 363, Session II.—Petition of DALDY McWILLIAMS.

THE petitioner prays for compensation, he having been wounded by Maoris whilst in the discharge of his duty on a Government survey.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the claim of the petitioner be referred to the Government with the view of such action being taken as the circumstances of the case appear to demand.

15th December, 1879.

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No. 364, Session II.—Petition of WILLIAM STRACHAN (No. 2).

THE petitioner prays for further inquiry into his petition regarding sleepers supplied to Government.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make in the case of the petitioner, having already come to a decision on his claim.

15th December, 1879.

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No. 18, Session I.—Petition of JOHN DOUGHERTY.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for loss in consequence of slaughter of diseased cattle.

I am directed to report that, as no fresh evidence has been submitted in this case, the Committee do not consider it necessary to re-open the question.

15th December, 1879.

## No. 361, Session II.—Petition of HARRISON GIBSON.

THE petitioner prays for consideration in consequence of losses sustained through the action of the Government.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that this claim for compensation is one arising only from contingent circumstances consequent on Native disturbances, for which the colony is not liable. The Committee has therefore no recommendation to make in the petitioner's case.

15th December, 1879.

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## No. 367, Session II.—Petition of H. K. TAIAROA.

THE petitioner prays that his salary of £100 a year as Assessor may be continued, notwithstanding his being a member of the Legislative Council.

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

15th December, 1879.

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## No. 370, Session II.—Petition of PATRICK GORMAN and Others (No. 2).

THE petitioners pray that the duty on spirits may not be increased by more than 1s. per gallon.

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

15th December, 1879.

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## No. 366, Session II.—Petition of STEPHEN DOBBYN.

THE petitioner submits a claim for £32 11s. for loss of time and expenses incurred in consequence of obstruction of the Natives of the Tepuna District.

I am directed to report that, as no evidence has been submitted to the Committee showing that the colony is in any way liable, the Committee has no recommendation to make to the House.

15th December, 1879.

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## No. 369, Session II.—Petition of WILLIAM PAINTON and Others.

THE petitioners pray for alteration in legislation regarding debtors.

I am directed to report that the Committee considers that the subject-matter of this petition is one for the House to deal with. The Committee has therefore no special recommendation to make.

15th December, 1879.

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## No. 318, Session II.—Petition of JOHN FIRTH HEATLEY.

THE petitioner alleges that he has been dismissed from his appointment in the Department of Justice without reason, and prays for other employment.

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

15th December, 1879.

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## No. 389, Session II.—Petition of HERMAN W. TINNEY and Others.

THE petitioners pray for remission of toll on the bridge over the Waikato River at Hamilton.

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

15th December, 1879.

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## No. 386, Session II.—Petition of JOHN McLEOD.

THE petitioner prays for consideration in consequence of losses sustained by having to move his ferry from the site first fixed, as he alleges, in error by the Provincial Engineer of the Province of Nelson.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that this petition be referred to the Government for the purpose of making inquiry.

15th December, 1879.

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## No. 381, Session II.—Petition of JOHN KENTLEY and Others.

THE petitioners pray that Kawakawa, Bay of Islands, may be incorporated as a borough.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition has been dealt with by the House, the Committee do not deem it necessary to offer any opinion.

15th December, 1879.

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## No. 388, Session II.—Petition of ANDERSON and Co. and Others.

THE petitioners pray that buildings for the use of Post and Telegraph Departments be erected adjoining the present railway station at Waikouaiti.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.  
15th December, 1879.

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No. 392, Session II.—Petition of ANTONIO JOSEPH.

THE petitioner prays for a free grant of land in consideration of services rendered to the early settlers in Otago.

I am directed to report that there is no evidence before the Committee to show that the petitioner is entitled to a free grant of land for services said to be rendered to the public of Otago.  
15th December, 1879.

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No. 121 (1878).—Petition of DAVID WEIR.

THE petitioner prays for consideration in consequence of losses said to be sustained through the miscarriage of and non-delivery of a letter by the Postal Department.

I am directed to report that, from the evidence before the Committee, it appears that gross carelessness was shown by the Postmaster at Port Chalmers in not forwarding the letter to its destination. It is also probable that the petitioner suffered some loss owing to the non-delivery of the letter, but the Committee doubt the expediency of the colony acknowledging liability on account of any neglect on the part of Post Office officials to forward letters to their addresses within a reasonable time. The Committee cannot, therefore, recommend the House to grant compensation in the case of the petitioner, as the proper remedy is for the Government to punish officers guilty of such neglect.  
15th December, 1879.

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No. 128, Session II.—Petition of JAMES DIVINE.

THE petitioner prays for consideration in consequence of having been accidentally wounded when on active service in the field.

I am directed to report that the Committee has been unable to obtain any evidence to substantiate the statements of the petitioner, and recommend the Government to make inquiry into the case, and, if the petitioner's statements are found to be correct, that a sum of £20 be awarded him in full of all claims against the colony.  
15th December, 1879.

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No. 390, Session II.—Petition of H. BARTON and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the duty on spirits may not be increased.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition has been dealt with by the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.  
15th December, 1879.

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No. 391, Session II.—Petition of H. N. WARNER.

THE petitioner prays for consideration in consequence of length of service under Government.

I am directed to report that the Committee see no reason to alter the decision arrived at during the session of 1877 in petitioner's case.  
15th December, 1879.

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By Authority: GEORGE DIDSBUY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1879.

