

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that a substantial grievance exists; but, as it involves a large question of policy, the Committee think it is not within their functions to make any recommendation on the subject, therefore prefer to leave the matter for the consideration of the Executive.

17th September, 1885.

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No. 340.—Petition of GEORGE WILLIAM PHILLIPS.

THE petitioner states that he arrived in the colony in 1865, with his parents, brothers, and sisters; that his father possessed land orders, which he gave in part payment for certain land at Waiparera. Petitioner, with his father and brothers, worked on the land till 1869, when his father suddenly left the colony. He prays that a grant may be issued to him for the land.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that a Crown grant should be issued to petitioner's father, and recommend the Government accordingly.

17th September, 1885.

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No. 426.—Petition of DAVID CURTIN and Others.

THE petitioners, inhabitants of Cook County, pray that the House will empower the Government to cause the waste lands of their district to be made available for special settlement upon the co-operative principle, by a company, and to assist the satisfactory settlement of people already in the colony, the immigration of skilled labour, and the investment of British capital.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that every facility should be afforded by the Government, under the existing land law, to co-operative associations; but they do not feel justified in making any recommendation to the Government to deal with such bodies in any exceptional manner.

17th September, 1885.

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By Authority: GEORGE DIDSBURY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1885.