

1886.
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

(MR. R. TURNBULL, CHAIRMAN.)

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

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(MR. R. TURNBULL, CHAIRMAN.)

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No. 5.—Petition of THOMAS BUTLER. (No. 1).

THE petitioner states that he was Superintendent of the Nelson Lunatic Asylum; that in 1876 he was removed from office by the Provincial Executive; and that in 1877 a Royal Commission was appointed to consider his case, but did not fully do so. He prays for a further investigation.

I am directed to report that the Committee can see no reason to depart from the decision arrived at in 1882.

26th May, 1886.

No. 27.—Petition of JOHN TUCK.

THE petitioner states that when lately in England he purchased pedigree horses at great cost, intending to bring them with him to New Zealand, and only discovered that he was prohibited from landing them here, direct from England, when he went to take their passages; that he has the said horses now at keep in England, awaiting permission to land them here, which he prays may be granted.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, the Government should so amend the Order in Council of the 20th August, 1883, as to permit the importation of horses from Europe, and thus prevent the anomaly of first landing them in New South Wales and then forwarding them to New Zealand.

26th May, 1886.

No. 29.—Petition of JOHN GIBBONS.

THE petitioner states that he was injured by an accident on board the steamer "Gemini," owned by the Kaipara Steam Shipping Company; that he brought an action against the company, and was awarded £700 damages; but that the company threatened to go through the Insolvency Court, and deprive him of everything, unless he would accept £350, which he was compelled to do. In consequence of the accident he is now destitute, and prays for relief.

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

26th May, 1886.

No. 1.—Petition of JOHN MUIR.

THE petitioner states that in March, 1885, he became the purchaser of the old Harbour Board offices at Dunedin for the sum of £310. He prays for the return of a portion of the purchase-money on the following grounds: That the building was advertised for sale by the Public Works Department without reserve, but that a reserve of £300 had been placed upon it—a fact known to two other bidders, but not to him; also that, being on the street-line, it had to be pulled down, and was only worth what could be got for it as old material, which was very little, owing to cement-mortar having been used instead of lime-mortar, and the boards being full of nails—facts which he had no opportunity of ascertaining.

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

27th May, 1886.

No. 10.—Petition of WILLIAM A. GRAHAM and Others.

THE petitioners pray that a Commission may be appointed to inquire into and report upon the management of our working railways; that no Railway Boards or Commissioners may be appointed until this inquiry has been held; that the Commission should be specially instructed to inquire into the system of levying fares and charges proposed by Mr. Samuel Vaile, of Auckland; that, as the arrangement of the tariff is mainly a commercial and financial matter, they pray that the Commission may consist of the Minister for Public Works, the Under-Secretary for Public Works, the General Manager of the New Zealand Railways, and other Commissioners to be selected, —one by each of the Chambers of Commerce in New Zealand, but, in districts where there are agri-

cultural or pastoral associations, one of these to be joined with the Chambers of Commerce in the selection of the Commissioner for that district.

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

27th May, 1886.

No. 13.—Petition of MARY ANN CAVERLEY.

THE petitioner states that her husband was employed as engine-driver in charge of a steam-crane, by the Railway Department, for a period of ten years and nine months, and that while at his work he caught a severe cold, through which inflammation of the lungs set in, causing his death. She prays for relief.

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

27th May, 1886.

No. 14.—Petition of JOHN WOOD.

THE petitioner states that he was employed by the Provincial Government of Canterbury as a pilot, and also as master of the steam-barge "Sumner" from March, 1874, to January, 1877, a period of two years and ten months; that since then he has been employed by the Lyttelton Harbour Board, but has now been dismissed; that he applied to the Harbour Board for compensation for loss of office under "The Abolition of Provinces Act, 1875," and "The Financial Arrangements Act, 1876," but has been informed by the Chairman of the Board that his claims under the said Acts cannot be recognized, and that at the time the Board appointed its staff they did so without reference to any claims for past services under the Provincial Government.

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

27th May, 1886.

No. 16.—Petition of ELIZABETH BLAIR and Others.

THE petitioner states that on the 24th November, 1885, while changing carriages at Mosgiel Station, she was knocked down by a passing train, and so severely injured as to be unable now to perform the simplest offices of life for herself. She, together with 190 residents of North Taieri, prays that compensation may be given her.

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

27th May, 1886.

No. 24.—Petition of JOHN HEWITT and Others.

THE petitioners regret to find that the industrial and destitute children's homes are excluded from the control of the Boards who have the management of "The Hospital and Charitable Institutions Act, 1885." They urge that these homes should be immediately placed under the supervision and control of the said Boards, so that those who have to contribute to the support of these institutions may have some voice in the annual expenditure required for their maintenance; they also think inquiry should be made as to the reason why the children of so many Roman Catholic citizens are placed in these homes. The petitioners pray that a very special inquiry may be made into all these matters, and that the Government will place all such institutions under local control.

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

27th May, 1886.

No. 25.—Petition of JAMES YOUNG.

THE petitioner, late a warder in the Auckland Gaol, states that he was discharged through ill-health, and received compensation. He prays for further consideration.

I am directed to report that the Committee can see no reason to alter the decisions arrived at in the last two sessions.

27th May, 1886.

No. 3.—Petition of WILLIAM FRANCE.

THE petitioner states that he has been employed as Clerk to the Public Petitions Committee for nine years; that at the end of the session of 1884 he had a severe attack of diabetes, brought on through the worry and anxiety of overwork; that in 1885 he got through his work with much difficulty, but this year his health is so broken that he has had to resign his position as Clerk to the Committee. He prays for consideration.

I am directed to report that the Committee regret they cannot see their way to recommend the prayer of the petitioner.

1st June, 1886.

No. 9.—Petition of MARY ANN THOMPSON TANDY.

THE petitioner states that last session twelve acres of land in Canterbury were granted to her by the Government, and that she and her family wish to go and live on this land, but have no means to do so, as it is far from firewood and timber for house-building. She prays that Government will grant her a small sum of money to enable her to settle on the land.

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

1st June, 1886.

No. 30.—Petition of THOMAS B. HANNAFORD (No. 1).

THE petitioner states that in February, 1886, he wrote to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, asking for permission to carry out an indefinite number of matrimonial lotteries, but was informed that, in the present state of the Gaming and Lotteries Act, the Minister was powerless to aid him. He therefore prays that such alterations or additions may be made to the said Act as will enable him to carry out an unlimited number of matrimonial lotteries.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioner.
1st June, 1886.

No. 8.—Petition of MARIA W. WILSON.

THE petitioner states that her husband (Robert Old), a Taranaki settler, was employed against the rebel Maoris in the wars of 1860-64, and was recommended to the Government for his bravery at Waitara. That, while on duty in October, 1864, he was rushed by a mad bullock, and gored; from the effects of this wound he died in the following June. Petitioner prays for consideration on account of her husband's services.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioner.
1st June, 1886.

No. 28.—Petition of DENIS HOGAN.

THE petitioner states that he met with a permanent injury while working in a quarry belonging to the Corporation of Wellington, owing to the negligence of the officers of the Corporation. That he brought an action against the Corporation under "The Employers' Liability Act, 1882," for compensation, and, in bar of said action, the Corporation pleaded want of notice of injury, as provided by the said Act; that he was confined to bed for many months, and in ignorance of the provisions of the Act omitted to give the statutory notice of injury within the time limited, and is thereby deprived of the remedy he would have had against his employers; that the Corporation knew of the injury, but insist on maintaining the technical plea; that the compensation he is entitled to under the Act amounts to more than £300. The petitioner prays that the Act may be so amended as to allow his action to be tried, or that he may have other redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioner, but are of opinion that the petition should be referred to the Government for consideration in the event of any amendment being contemplated in "The Employers' Liability Act, 1882."

1st June, 1886.

Nos. 64, 65, and 66.—Petitions of JOSEPH HARVEY and Others (No. 2), JOSEPH CHAMBERS and Others (No. 2), and GEORGE TAIT and Others (No. 2).

THE petitioners regret to find that the industrial and destitute children's homes are excluded from the control of the Boards who have the management of "The Hospital and Charitable Institutions Act, 1885." They urge that these homes should be immediately placed under the supervision and control of the said Boards, so that those who have to contribute to the support of these institutions may have some voice in the annual expenditure required for their maintenance. They also think that inquiry should be made as to the reason why the children of so many Roman Catholic citizens are placed in these homes. The petitioners pray that a very special inquiry may be made into these matters, and that the Government will place all such institutions under local control.

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

1st June, 1886.

No. 35.—Petition of WILLIAM BOGLE.

THE petitioner states that he was in the service of the Railway Department as a Stationmaster from 1874 till March, 1886; that on the 26th March he received a peremptory notice to prepare for immediate removal from Napier to take charge of the Balclutha Station; that he apprehended danger to his family from so sudden a change of climate, and wrote to the District Manager asking if there was no appeal, who informed him unofficially that he thought he would have to go; that as he received no further communication, and had been told by his doctor that the change would be dangerous to his children, he felt compelled to resign; that soon after his resignation he received a letter from the General Manager to the effect that he would try and find him a station in the North Island, but no promise was made, and petitioner would have been unable to accept it as he had bound himself by another engagement. The petitioner further states that he has served the Government in various capacities for sixteen years. He prays for compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the prayer of the petitioner should be granted.

2nd June, 1886.

No. 421, 1885.—Petition of ANN GILLAN.

THE petitioner states that she is the owner of the Scotia Hotel, in Auckland, which has been licensed for twenty years, without any complaint having been made about the manner in which it was conducted; that the Licensing Committee have refused to renew the license, thereby causing a depreciation of £1,000 in the value of her property. She prays for redress.

I am directed to report that this Committee can see no reason for interfering with the action of the Licensing Committee.

4th June, 1886.

No. 220, 1885.—Petition of B. COOPER and Others.

THE petitioners pray that an Act may be passed to prohibit all publicans or other licensees from selling liquor of any kind to children under sixteen years of age; and that the law relating to Sunday liquor-traffic may be made simple and clear.

I am directed to report that, as a Bill is now before the House dealing with such matters, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

4th June, 1886.

No. 430, 1885.—Petition of CATHERINE FRASER.

THE petitioner states that in 1863 she purchased thirty-seven acres of land in the Peninsula District from the Crown, but, owing to an error on the part of the Government surveyor, she was left without access to her land; that, although the Government acknowledged their liability to make a road, they did not do so till 1881. The petitioner prays for compensation for loss sustained.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that this petition should be referred to the Waste Lands Committee.

4th June, 1886.

No. 33.—Petition of E. B. S. MERCER.

THE petitioner states that in 1883 he petitioned Parliament for consideration on account of his father's services to the colony; that the Public Petitions Committee reported, recommending his prayer to the consideration of the Government, with a view to offering him suitable employment; that he has been out of employment for eighteen months, and has had to borrow money to enable him to live. He prays that if the Government cannot find him immediate suitable employment they will give him a sum of money.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend that any sum of money should be given to the petitioner, but are of opinion that the Government should endeavour to give effect to the recommendation of this Committee in 1883.

4th June, 1886.

No. 424, 1885.—Petition of WILLIAM BEDDOES and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the House will endeavour to bring about the incorporation of Fiji with New Zealand.

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

4th June, 1886.

No. 48.—Petition of W. T. C. WILLIAMS and Others.

THE petitioners, members of the Piako County Council, pray that the Hospital and Charitable Aid Act may be amended.

I am directed to report that, as the Government intend to introduce a Bill to amend the said Act, the Committee are of opinion that this petition should be referred to them for consideration.

4th June, 1886.

No. 83.—Petition of WILLIAM TIMMS.

THE petitioner, late a member of the Royal Marines, prays that his passage-money may be refunded to him.

I am directed to report that the Committee can see no reason to alter the decision arrived at last year.

10th June, 1886.

No. 45.—Petition of J. D. ARMSTRONG.

THE petitioner, a licensed carrier, states that in October, 1885, one of his vehicles, while on the Nelson Wharf, was suddenly backed, in consequence of the horse being startled, and, owing to the want of a sufficient kerbing on the wharf, was precipitated into the harbour, the horse being drowned, cargo lost, and vehicle damaged; that the whole loss was directly attributable to the insufficient kerbing, it being only 2in. high; that the wharf as originally built was provided with 5in. kerbing, which was afterwards reduced to 2in., owing to the decking being sheathed. He prays for compensation.

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

10th June, 1886.

No. 4.—Petition of DOROTHY SUSAN MCCAUL.

THE petitioner states that she is the owner of land at Waikomiti, intersected by the Auckland and Kaipara Railway; that ever since the opening of the railway fires have been caused by sparks from the engines, from which she has suffered considerable loss of fruit-trees and hay from time to time, amounting in the aggregate to £300 at least. She prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the absence of direct evidence to prove that the injury complained of was caused by sparks from the engines on the railway, this Committee cannot recommend anything further than that petitioner should seek her remedy in the law Courts, to which the Government have consented.

10th June, 1886.

No. 108.—Petition of WILLIAM KEALL and Others.

THE petitioners pray that more stringent measures be passed for the protection of girls and young women, and especially that the age of consent may be raised to eighteen.

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

10th June, 1886.

No. 104.—Petition of ANDREW PRIMROSE and Others.

THE petitioners, members of the Waikato County Council and the local bodies within the county, pray for amendments in "The Hospital and Charitable Institutions Act, 1885."

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

10th June, 1886.

No. 11.—Petition of WILLIAM CAMERON and Others.

THE petitioners state that they have had contracts under the Public Works Department, and, when suitable opportunities offer themselves, will be found ready to tender again; but they are seriously deterred from doing so, owing to the very stringent character of the conditions, which in tendering they are required to submit to. They allege that these conditions are open to two grave objections: (1.) They abound with great uncertainty, the consequences of which are made to fall on the contractor. (2.) They confer very great powers upon the Engineer, which may be most arbitrarily exercised, without any appeal therefrom. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Government for consideration. The Committee would direct the attention of the Government to the mode of settling disputes between the Government and contractors in Victoria, as contained in their conditions of tendering.

10th June, 1886.

No. 46.—Petition of CHARLES WHISKER and Others.

THE petitioners state that a portion of the Borough Councillors of Newmarket are trying to have Newmarket and York Roads closed against traffic, and the course of the same changed, which will be of great loss to them; that the roads have been used by the public for twenty-five years; and that gates at the railway-crossings would answer all purposes. They pray that the said roads may not be closed.

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

10th June, 1886.

No. 52.—Petition of ROBERT COBB.

THE petitioner states that he is the breeder of a stud-flock of sheep, and exhibits at the various shows in the North Island; that in November, 1885, he returned from the Wairarapa shows by steamer to Foxton, bringing with him several of his stud sheep; that he telegraphed to the Inspector to the effect that he would hold his sheep at wharf for dipping; that on arrival at Foxton he was compelled to land the sheep, in order to allow the steamer to discharge cargo, but held them until the Inspector arrived, when they were found clean; that he was then informed he had committed a breach of section 35 of the Sheep Act, by landing the sheep previous to inspection on board; that in January, 1886, he pleaded guilty to the charge, and was fined £100, the Magistrate regretting that he had not the power to inflict a nominal fine. He prays for the fine to be returned, or other relief.

I am directed to report that, as the Magistrate imposed the fine because he had no option, and as it was far in excess of what it should have been, the Committee would recommend that, on the petitioner paying the costs incurred by the department, viz., £7 6s., the balance of the fine should be remitted.

11th June, 1886.

Nos. 2, 12, 22, 26, and 32.—Petitions of ARTHUR STEELE FORD, WILLIAM WHELAN, ALBERT H. RUSSELL, DAVID KENEALY, and ROBERT STEVENS.

THE petitioners allege that they are entitled to grants of land for military services.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, these petitions should be referred to the Waste Lands Committee.

15th June, 1886.

No. 15.—Petition of JOHN DOW BUSBY.

THE petitioner states that in 1883 he discovered that a portion of his sheep was infected with scab; that the infection was caused by wild sheep on neighbouring lands; that as soon as he discovered the disease he proceeded to clean his sheep, but could not succeed in doing so until August, 1884; that at the expiration of nine months, the period allowed by law, he was convicted of having scabby sheep, and fined £269 17s. 6d.; that he was not compelled to pay, but gave his bond to do so, under the full belief that it would be cancelled when his sheep proved to be clean; that his flock has been entirely free from scab since August, 1884; nevertheless, he has been compelled to pay the fine. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee can see no reason to alter the decision arrived at last year.

15th June, 1886.

No. 111.—Petition of P. R. McRAE.

THE petitioner states that he is a sheep-farmer residing in the Awatere District; that in 1883 he held a clean certificate, but in November of said year his sheep were declared infected with scab; that on the 18th August, 1884, notwithstanding that he had used every means in his power to clean the said sheep, he was convicted and fined £250 and costs; that he continued to make every exertion to eradicate the disease, but on the 15th May, 1885, he was fined £147 2s. and costs, three diseased sheep having been found in his flock; that in August, 1885, he received a clean certificate, which he still holds; that he has paid the foregoing fines and costs, amounting to £399 18s. He prays for an inquiry into his case, a remission of penalties, or other relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee can see no reason to alter the decision arrived at last year.

15th June, 1886.

No. 21.—Petition of CAMERON and BASSETT.

THE petitioners state that they are the contractors with the Government for the morning mail service between Hokitika and Kumara; that according to contract the service was to be carried out by a two-horse coach, but that, owing to the Arahura Bridge having been washed away, they have been compelled to employ four horses, and have been put to other expenses in order to fulfil their contract. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider the petitioners have any claim against the Government.

16th June, 1886.

No. 137.—Petition of JOHN MUIR and Others.

THE petitioners, settlers in the Wairoa District, pray for improvement in the railway management.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Committee appointed on the 28th May to inquire into Mr. Samuel Vaile's scheme.

16th June, 1886.

Nos. 138 and 139.—Petitions of F. GERMANN, and JAMES RYBURN (No. 1).

THE petitioners pray that effect may be given to a resolution of the Auckland District Hospital and Charitable Aid Board, by constituting the Counties of Waipa, Waikato, Raglan, and the Borough of Hamilton into a hospital district, under the name of the "Waikato District."

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

16th June, 1886.

No. 128.—Petition of C. K. ROSKRUGE and Others.

THE petitioners, inhabitants of Auckland, state that a petition is in the course of signature praying that a railway loop-line may be constructed from Auckland to Penrose, running along the foreshore at Parnell. They pray that the prayer of the said petition may not be granted.

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

16th June, 1886.

No. 86.—Petition of W. CARPENTER and Others.

THE petitioners, policy-holders in the Government Life Insurance Association, pray that the Government will resume entire control of the department; that in lieu of managers and agents the Postmasters should be the district appointees of the Government in matters of insurance, and that, instead of salaried local and itinerant agents, the right should be accorded to every policy-holder to canvass for and receive a commission on insurances effected by them.

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

17th June, 1886.

No. 119.—Petition of GEORGE PENNEY and Others.

THE petitioners, ratepayers of the Town District of Gordon, pray that Gordon and Gore may not be amalgamated as one municipality.

I am directed to report that, as a Bill dealing with this matter is now before the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

17th June, 1886.

No. 96.—Petition of JOHN MACGIBBON and Others, of Gordon.

THE petitioners, ratepayers of the Town District of Gordon, pray that Gordon and Gore may be amalgamated as one municipality.

I am directed to report that, as a Bill dealing with this matter is now before the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

17th June, 1886.

No. 151.—Petition of WILLIAM KELLY, of Rotorua.

THE petitioner states that he leased a piece of land at Ohinemutu from the Natives in November, 1880, for the term of twenty-one years; that owing to the passing of the "Thermal Springs Act, 1881," his lease became invalid; that the Government refused to confirm his lease for more than

ten years; that he was compelled to agree to this, as the Licensing Committee refused to renew his license unless he consented and signed the lease. He prays for an extension of his lease from the Government to the end of the time agreed by the Natives, viz., the 20th November, 1901.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Government for their favourable consideration.

18th June, 1886.

No. 88.—Petition of CATHERINE CAMPBELL, Port Molyneux.

THE petitioner states that she is the widow of the late Robert Campbell, who served the Government in the lighthouse service for fifteen years, but had to resign owing to ill-health. She prays for consideration on account of her late husband's services.

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

22nd June, 1886.

No. 422, 1885.—Petition of the UNION BANK of AUSTRALIA.

THE petition states that the petitioner was banker for the Board of Education for the District of Westland up to the time of its dissolution, and, as such banker, made advances, in the ordinary way of business, to the amount of £830 3s. 3d., upon which interest was payable until repaid; that by "The Westland Education District Subdivision Act, 1883," the said Board was dissolved, being still indebted to your petitioner in the aforesaid sum; that the Commissioner appointed under "The Westland Education District Subdivision Act, 1884," awarded interest only to the 31st December, 1883; that at the date of the last-mentioned Act £64 8s. was due from the said 31st December, and £82 12s. 3d. was due to the date of payment on the 7th February, 1885, and is still owing to your petitioner. The petitioner prays that his claim may be favourably considered, and relief granted.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner is entitled to the payment of interest up to the date of the commencement of "The Westland Education District Subdivision Act, 1884."

22nd June, 1886.

Nos. 61, 62, 63, and 23.—Petitions of JOSEPH HARVEY and Others (No. 1), GEORGE TAIT and Others (No. 1), JOSEPH CHAMBERS and Others, and H. WATT and Others (No. 1).

THE petitioners allege that on the occasion of the visit of Cardinal Moran to New Zealand favours were shown and honours heaped upon him by the Government. This they consider unfair, believing that no special favours should be shown to any Church. They pray that an inquiry may be made into these allegations, in order to prevent a repetition of them in future.

I am directed to report that, from the evidence adduced, it appears that a free railway-pass was given to Cardinal Moran, it being the usual practice both in this and the adjoining colonies to present free passes over Government railways to persons of distinction visiting them; that, although to oblige a number of gentlemen who wished to meet Cardinal Moran before the vessel on which he was a passenger reached the wharf, the steam-launch "Ellen Ballance" was permitted to put them on board, it does not appear that there was any intention on the part of the Government to give the Cardinal an official reception or show him any special favour; that all the available police were sent to the Auckland wharf, to preserve order and prevent accident there, by the local Inspector, but he being obliged to leave before the Cardinal's arrival, which was two or three hours later than expected, the Sergeant in charge, in the absence of explicit instructions to the contrary, considered himself justified in accompanying the procession with the detachment through the streets to prevent accident. The Committee have no recommendation to make.

22nd June, 1886.

No. 53.—Petition of ANNE HOUGH, of Nelson.

THE petitioner states that her husband served the Government as a Native interpreter for twenty-five years; that he received a salary of £40 per annum, which was paid quarterly; that he died during the currency of the first quarter of 1885, but the salary due for the quarter was not paid to her; that it never has been paid, but, on the application of Mr. Levestam, M.H.R., she received £3 2s. 4d. in January, 1886; that she received no compensation allowance. She prays for relief.

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

23rd June, 1886.

No. 143.—Petition of DONALD MCGREGOR and Others, of Whangarei.

THE petitioners pray for a telephone station at Whangarei Heads.

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

23rd June, 1886.

No. 203.—Petition of JOHN F. HERBERT and Others.

THE petitioners, settlers in the Heriot Hundred and surrounding districts, pray for the Heriot railway extension.

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

23rd June, 1886.

No. 153.—Petition of ROBERT ROSS and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the North Auckland Trunk Railway may be constructed.

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

23rd June, 1886.

No. 135.—Petition of PATRICK O'BRIEN and Others.

THE petitioners state that in August, 1882, Patrick O'Brien nominated with the Immigration Officer, Auckland, the following persons, viz., Daniel Bridget and Jeremiah O'Brien, and that the money demanded was £8, which he paid; that the said nominated persons received notice from the Agent-General's office to prepare for the first available ship: they accordingly sold all their belongings in Ireland, and went to London; that on their arrival they were informed that Jeremiah O'Brien was not amongst the nominated persons; that on the 23rd May, 1883, they received a letter from Mr. Kennaway demanding £5 more for Jeremiah's passage; that they refused to pay, and were delayed in London for ten months; that the said £5 was finally paid both in London and Auckland; that the whole of the delay was caused by an error on the part of the Immigration Officer in Auckland, in charging for a female instead of a male. The petitioners allege that they have lost £177 in time and money. They pray that their claim to that amount may be favourably considered.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the sum of £10 should be paid to the petitioners, being £5 for passage-money twice paid, and £5 for the delay in London, this delay having been caused by a mistake on the part of Mr. Brophy, the Immigration Officer.

23rd June, 1886.

No. 175.—Petition of the BISHOP of CHRISTCHURCH and Others (No. 1).

The petitioners pray that the Education Act may be so amended that provision may be made for imparting religious instruction in public schools; also that grants may be made in aid of schools set on foot by any religious denomination, under certain conditions.

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

24th June, 1886.

No. 176.—Petition of the BISHOP of CHRISTCHURCH and Others (No. 2).

The petitioners pray that more stringent measures may be passed for the protection of girls and young women, and that the age of consent may be raised to sixteen.

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

24th June, 1886.

No. 69.—Petition of THOMAS FEEHAN, of Wellington.

The petitioner states that he served in the Waikato Militia for three years; that he was in consequence entitled to fifty acres of land and twelve months' rations; that he received the grant of land, but did not get the rations, or money in lieu thereof. He prays for the money due to him.

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

24th June, 1886.

Nos. 173 and 195.—Petitions of WILLIAM SALMOND and Others, and Dr. COPLAND and Others, of Otago and Southland.

THE petitioners pray that measures may be passed for the daily reading of the Bible in public schools.

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

24th June, 1886.

No. 49.—Petition of THOMAS MILLS, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he served in the Railway Department for more than ten years; that he received an injury to his foot while in the performance of his duties; that when partially recovered he was appointed head storekeeper of a goods-shed; that he was ordered by the District Manager never to act as guard, nevertheless he was constantly sent out as assistant guard; that he was suspended in January, 1886; that the whole misunderstanding has been caused by the head shunter disobeying orders. He prays that he may be reinstated, or compensation granted to him for loss of time.

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

24th June, 1886.

No. 196.—Petition of HENRY BULL and WILLIAM JAMES WILLIAMS.

THE petitioners, the President and the Secretary respectively of the annual Conference of the New Zealand Wesleyan Methodist Church, pray that measures may be taken for the protection of girls and young women; that the age of consent may be raised to eighteen; that the Contagious Diseases Act may be made applicable to both sexes, or abolished altogether.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition being now before the House, his Committee has no recommendation to make.

24th June, 1886.

No. 107.—Petition of EDWARD W. PUCKEY.

THE petitioner states that he was in the public service of the colony from 1863 to 1880, when, for no fault of his own, his services were dispensed with; that he received compensation under "The Civil Service Act, 1866;" that in 1881 he was reappointed to the Civil Service, and allowed half-pay for the time he was out of office, but had to refund the compensation he had received, less the half-pay allowance; that he has been officially informed that "The Civil Service Amendment Act, 1871," bars his right to a pension on his ultimate retirement; that, owing to there having been a want of continuity in his service, for which he is not accountable, his right to retiring allowance is forfeited. He prays for such relief as his case deserves.

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

24th June, 1886.

Nos. 160 and 161.—Petitions of RICHARD JERVIS and Others, and C. CARBOYS and Others, of Auckland.

THE petitioners pray that the House may take such steps as are necessary to influence the Home Government to prevent the proposed annexation of the New Hebrides Islands by France.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of these petitions being now before the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

24th June, 1886.

No. 157.—Petition of A. DEVORE and Others, of Auckland.

THE petitioners state that a petition is in course of signature praying for the construction of a loop-line of railway from Auckland to Penrose, along the foreshore at Parnell. They pray that the prayer of said petition may not be granted.

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

14th June, 1886.

No. 191.—Petition of DAVID MCKAY and Others, of Lower Matakura.

THE petitioners pray that the Edendale-Toitoto Railway may be completed to a reproductive point.

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

24th June, 1886.

No. 132.—Petition of G. W. WOODROOFE and Others.

THE petitioners pray that certain amendments may be made in the Municipal Corporations Bill.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, the petition should be referred to the Government in order that they may consider the question raised, and grant such relief to the petitioners as may seem desirable.

24th June, 1886.

No. 74.—Petition of JOHN CRAWFORD, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he has sustained a loss of more than £50, owing to fires caused by sparks from railway-engines.

I am directed to report that, in the absence of direct evidence to prove that the injury complained of was caused by sparks from railway-engines, this Committee cannot recommend anything further than that petitioner should seek his remedy in the law-courts, to which the Government have consented.

25th June, 1886.

No. 123.—Petition of SINGLETON ROCHFORD, Auckland.

THE petitioner prays that measures may be adopted with reference to the practice, pursued by the Court of Appeal, of levying fees of Court.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, the levying of fees by the Court of Appeal is authorized by law, and they cannot therefore recommend the prayer of the petitioner.

25th June, 1886.

No. 198.—Petition of W. H. BOSWORTH, New Plymouth.

THE petitioner states that he was Gaoler at Her Majesty's prison in New Plymouth for more than twenty years; that his services have been dispensed with owing to his being over sixty years of age; that he received serious injuries while in the performance of his duties, and is now unfit for manual labour. He prays for an annual retiring allowance under the 38th section of "The Civil Service Act, 1866," or other relief.

I am directed to report that although the injuries received by the petitioner were serious, yet the long time during which he afterwards continued to be employed renders the 38th clause of "The Civil Service Act, 1866," in the opinion of the Committee, inapplicable, and they therefore cannot recommend that the prayer of the petitioner should be granted.

25th June, 1886.

No. 34.—Petition of E. E. ALLEN and Others.

THE petitioners state that they were appointed a committee to inquire into the action of the Otago Harbour Board's expenditure of the loan borrowed under "The Otago Harbour Board Further Empowering Act, 1882," and that the result of their investigation caused them to petition His Excellency the Governor for a special audit to be made; that, in accordance with this petition, the Controller and Auditor-General was appointed to conduct the audit, and his report bore out the statement that the Board had committed a breach of trust. The petitioners pray that such steps may be taken as shall compel the Harbour Board to administer the funds placed at its disposal by the House as the law directs, and in accordance with the Controller and Auditor-General's report.

I am directed to report that, having heard the evidence of several witnesses, including the Auditor-General, the Committee is of opinion that the complaint of the petitioners should be referred to the Law Officers of the Crown, with the view of their taking such action as may be necessary to compel the Otago Harbour Board to expend the proceeds of the loan of 1884 in terms of the provisions of the Act, and also to keep a distinct account of such expenditure, as pointed out in the Auditor-General's report. The Committee recommend the Government accordingly.

25th June, 1886.

No. 147.—Petition of CHARLOTTE BRACEWELL, of Auckland.

THE petitioner, the widow of the late James Bracewell, states that on the 1st March, 1886, her husband, while in the execution of his duty as an engine-driver, came into collision with a water-tank stand improperly placed too near the railway-line, causing an injury, which resulted in his death; that he was in the service of the Railway Department for thirteen years; that the Railway Department offered her a gratuity of £94, in satisfaction of all claims. This offer she has been compelled to accept, not being in a position to enter upon a contest with the department. She thinks the said compensation is totally inadequate, and prays for a further sum.

I am directed to report that, as it appears the petitioner has received the usual compensation, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

29th June, 1886.

No. 219.—Petition of MICHAEL MOYNIHAN, of Lyttelton.

THE petitioner states that he served in the Armed Constabulary for six years, namely, from 1879 to 1885; that in March, 1885, he was employed at a cutting in a new road; that a fall of earth took place, causing him serious injuries, amongst others a broken leg; that he was granted four months' sick leave; that he returned to work, but was declared by the Surgeon of the Force to be unfit for further service; that he was thereupon discharged, receiving three months' pay (£22 10s.) as compensation. He prays for a further sum.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend that any further compensation should be given to the petitioner.

29th June, 1886.

No. 136.—Petition of CAROLINE GUTHRIE, of Wellington.

THE petitioner states that her son was employed by a baker, and was ordered on the morning of Good Friday, 1885, to deliver goods at an early hour at the house of Mr. C. T. Tatum; that, in attempting to carry out his orders, he was fired upon by the said Mr. C. T. Tatum; that, being in delicate health, the shock caused him to become ill, whereby she was put to expense for doctor's fees; that she brought an action for damages, but judgment was given against her; that she cannot appeal for want of funds. She prays for relief.

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

29th June, 1886.

No. 162.—Petition of MICHAEL CAIRNS, of Otago.

THE petitioner states that while in the employment of the Railway Department he received the serious injury of a broken leg, caused by a fall of earth while he was working on a ballast-engine; that the accident was due to the negligence of others; that he has since been dismissed on account of a reduction in the number of workmen, and is unable to pursue his calling as a labourer owing to said accident. He prays that his claim may be considered.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner has no claim against the Government.

29th June, 1886.

No. 197.—Petition of JOSEPH SOLER, Wanganui.

THE petitioner states that he is a manufacturer of New Zealand wines. He prays that he may be permitted to use a private still for distilling spirits of wine for his own use, or such relief as will enable him to purchase spirits of wine free of duty.

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

29th June, 1886.

No. 134.—Petition of JAMES CHARLTON and Others, Taranaki.

THE petitioners pray that the New Plymouth Harbour Board Bill may not be passed.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Local Bills Committee.

29th June, 1886.

No. 171.—Petition of ALEXANDER STEWART, of Wellington.

THE petitioner, a commission agent, states that he has been prosecuted and fined for selling a railway return-ticket; that the fine was 10s., and the costs £10 1s., but the sum of £6 1s. has since been remitted; that he has suffered loss amounting to £200, owing to his credit being damaged by the prosecution. He prays for compensation.

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

30th June, 1886.

No. 170.—Petition of JAMES HOLMES, Waitara.

THE petitioner states that he was employed by the captain of the steamer "Hannah Mokau" to float the said vessel, which had stranded at Mokau in 1879; that he succeeded in floating her at a cost of £205 8s. 6d. for labour, including his own time and expenses; that his subsequent expenses in prosecuting his claim against the Government amounted to £25, making a total of £230 8s. 6d.; that the Government sold the vessel for £800. He prays that the House will do an act of grace, and consider the equities of his claim, and pay him a fair amount.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner has no claim against the Government.

30th June, 1886.

Nos. 213 and 221.—Petitions of G. S. ROBERTSON, Chairman of Waitotara County Council, and D. G. POLSON, Chairman of Wanganui County Council.

THE petitioners pray that the Wanganui Harbour Bill may not be passed into law.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, these petitions should be referred to the Local Bills Committee.

30th June, 1886.

No. 206.—Petition of CHARLES SUTTON, Chairman of Whangaroa Road Board.

THE petitioner prays for certain amendments in "The Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act, 1885."

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

1st July, 1886.

No. 70.—Petition of H. J. STURLEY, Clyde, Wairoa.

THE petitioner states that in 1865 he was compelled to act as pilot for H.M.S. "Eclipse," during the Maori war, for which he was promised compensation by Sir Donald McLean, and was afterwards given the contract for supplying the troops at Wairoa; but that, owing to the control of the troops being changed from the Imperial to the Colonial Government, he had his provisions thrown on his hands, and suffered severe loss. He is now in indigent circumstances, and prays for relief.

I am directed to report that it does not appear to the Committee the petitioner has any claim against the colony.

1st July, 1886.

No. 207.—Petition of JAMES RYBURN, Chairman of Mangapiko Road Board.

THE petitioner prays for certain reforms in local government.

I am directed to report that, as Bills dealing with the subject-matter of this petition are now before the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

1st July, 1886.

No. 94.—Petition of COLIN McMILLAN.

THE petitioner states that after being employed by the Railway Department for six years he was discharged with the promise of future employment; that on making application he was told that, being over forty years of age, he was ineligible; that after this objection was raised against him other men who were over the said age were taken on. Petitioner prays for redress.

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

1st July, 1886.

No. 230.—Petition of JOHN A. BARR.

THE petitioner, the Chairman of the Dunedin City and Suburban School Committees Conference, prays that effect may not be given to the clauses in the Local Bodies' Loans Bill authorizing the raising of loans by local bodies for the erection of school-buildings, or any other legislation which will make the cost of school-buildings a charge on local rates.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition has been already dealt with by the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

1st July, 1886.

No. 253.—Petition of RODERICK McLEAN and Others, Waipu.

THE petitioners state that a mill-dam belonging to Roderick McLean has been twice washed away by floods, and rebuilt by him at a cost of £500; that, as the stoppage of his mill would be a serious inconvenience to an extensive surrounding population, they pray that he may be assisted.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioners.
1st July, 1886.

No. 223.—Petition of JOHN PARKIN and Others, Canterbury.

THE petitioners pray that more stringent measures may be passed for the protection of girls and young women, and especially that the age of consent may be raised to eighteen.

I am directed to report that, as a Bill dealing with the subject-matter of this petition is now before the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.
1st July, 1886.

No. 224.—Petition of W. C. BUCHANAN and Others, Wairarapa North.

THE petitioners pray for the completion of the railway from Kopuaranga to Eketahuna.

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

1st July, 1886.

No. 209.—Petition of ELLEN COCK, New Plymouth.

THE petitioner states that her late husband served the New Zealand Settlement Company, the General Government of New Zealand, the Provincial Government of Taranaki, and the New Plymouth Harbour Board respectively from 1841 to 1884 as a signalman and lighterman; that he died from an accident received while in the active performance of his duties; that, had he retired when the Provincial Government of Taranaki ceased, he would have been entitled to a retiring allowance from the General Government. The petitioner, who is without means of support, prays for relief.

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

1st July, 1886.

No. 220.—Petition of JOHN BARNES and Others, Dunedin.

THE petitioners pray that the sea-wall at St. Clair may be repaired by the Government without delay.

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

1st July, 1886.

Nos. 248 and 249.—Petitions of WILLIAM BROWNLEE and Others, and H. HOWARD and Others.

THE petitioners, inhabitants of Marlborough and Nelson, pray that a sum of £100,000 may be voted to construct a railway from Blenheim, *via* Renwicktown, Rock Ferry, Are Are, and Kaituna Valley, Havelock, Pelorus, and Rai Valley, to Wakapuaka and Nelson, and that a complete survey may be authorized to be made during the recess.

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

2nd July, 1886.

No. 166.—Petition of GEORGE WEBB, Wellington.

THE petitioner states that on the 1st April, 1885, his contract for the supply of groceries to the Wellington Hospital was accepted; that he supplied groceries to the hospital until the 10th May, when he received notice from Dr. Chilton that another contract had been accepted, and his tender cancelled; that he petitioned Parliament, and received a favourable report on his case from the Public Petitions Committee; that on the 1st October he received a letter from the Colonial Secretary, suggesting that he and Mr. Whitehouse should each carry out the contract for six months of the year; that on the 14th October he received another letter to the effect that the proposed splitting of the contract would be unfair to Mr. Whitehouse, who had supplied eggs and butter during the winter months at a loss, and proposing that Mr. Whitehouse should continue the contract until January, or otherwise be allowed to supply butter and eggs until the end of the term, petitioner to take up the contract for supply of groceries on the 10th November; that he replied to these letters, refusing to consent to any such arrangements; that on the 12th November, 1885, he received a letter to the effect that, as the Hospital Committee, who now had sole power in the matter, had declined to interfere, the Government could not do so; that the deprivation of the contract has inflicted a loss on him of not less than £300. He prays for compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee regret effect was not given to their recommendation of last year, and recommend that the sum of £25 should be paid to the petitioner as compensation for loss of contract.

2nd July, 1886.

No. 92.—Petition of JAMES MACGREGOR, D.D.

THE petitioner states that he was the convener of a committee of conference on secondary education, and prays that an inquiry may be granted to the committee into the whole matter of secondary education in North Otago.

I am directed to report, that your Committee have taken the evidence of the Hon. Mr. Holmes, the Hon. Mr. Miller, and the Hon. Mr. Shrimski, members of the Legislative Council, and Mr. Hislop, Mr. Duncan, and Mr. J. McKenzie, members of the House of Representatives, and have been requested to take the evidence of a large number of other persons. This would involve considerable expense, and occupy more time than your Committee can give to the matter. They would therefore refer the petition and evidence to the Government, in order that such steps may be taken as they may consider desirable under the circumstances.

6th July, 1886.

No. 172.—Petition of JOHN MEACHEAM and Others, Woodville.

THE petitioners state that manifest injustice has been done by reason of a decision of the Supreme Court in November, 1885, in a case in which F. J. Bradbury, contractor, was plaintiff, and the Woodville Road Board defendant. They pray that the matter may be referred back to the said Court for revision.

I am directed to report that, as the Committee are advised that the Government have no power to grant the request made, they have no recommendation to make.

6th July, 1886.

No. 71.—Petition of HENRY BAUCKE, of Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he has rendered his account to the Government for losses sustained; and prays that his long-standing claim may be settled.

I am directed to report that this Committee can see no reason to alter the decisions arrived at by the many successive Committees which have reported on this case.

6th July, 1886.

No. 236.—Petition of Sergeant-Major STEVENS, of Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that he was appointed Sergeant-Instructor of Militia in 1863; that he was severely injured while on duty; that he is now seventy years old, and has become paralysed. He prays for a small pension.

I am directed to report that the Committee can see no reason to depart from the decision arrived at last year.

6th July, 1886.

No. 302.—Petition of SAMUEL HOOD, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that in December, 1873, he undertook, and performed to the satisfaction of the Native population, the duties of Native medical attendant for the Waimate District, until November, 1874; that the salary ordinarily attached to the said office was £120 per annum; that he only received £10, and is therefore entitled to £110. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that this Committee can see no reason to depart from the decision arrived at by the Committee in 1875.

7th July, 1886.

Nos. 272, 284, 285, and 307. — Petitions of WILLIAM MARSHALL and Others, ANDREW MACKAY and Others, ANDREW CAMERON and Others, and JAMES KIRKLAND and Others.

THE petitioners pray that measures may be taken to secure the daily reading of the Bible in public schools.

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

7th July, 1886.

No. 289.—Petition of GEORGE THOMPSON and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the Contagious Diseases Act may be repealed, and the age of consent raised to eighteen years.

I am directed to report that, as a Bill dealing with the subject-matter of the petition is now before the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

7th July, 1886.

No. 274.—Petition of J. WINKS and Others, of Auckland.

THE petitioners pray that the loop-line of railway to Penrose may be constructed by way of Parnell, without delay.

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

7th July, 1886.

No. 290.—Petition of W. H. COOPER and Others, of Auckland.

THE petitioners pray that the House will pass an Act this session to readjust the representation of the people.

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

7th July, 1886.

No. 300.—Petition of THOMAS GRIFFITH and Others.

THE petitioners, inhabitants of Motueka Valley and surrounding districts, pray that a road may be made from Stanley Brook to Wakefield.

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

7th July, 1886.

Nos. 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, and 296.—Petitions of W. WASTNEY and Others, R. H. J. REEVES and Others, WILLIAM MACEY and Others, FRANCIS TRASK and Others, THOMAS ROWLING and Others, and ARTHUR TREGGA and Others.

THE petitioners pray that a sum of £100,000 may be voted to construct a railway from Blenheim, *via* Renwicktown, Rock Ferry, Are Are and Kaituna Valleys, Havelock, Pelorus and Rai Valleys, to Wakapuaka and Nelson, and that a complete survey may be authorized to be made during the recess.

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

7th July, 1886.

No. 271.—Petition of THOMAS BUTLER, of Nelson.

THE petitioner, late Superintendent of the Nelson Lunatic Asylum, states that he petitioned Parliament this session, asking for a full inquiry to be made into his case. He now prays that the prayer of said petition may be complied with.

I am directed to report that, the case of the petitioner having been so frequently inquired into by the Committee, notably in 1882, when petitioner attended and gave evidence, and also by a Royal Commission in 1877 (see H.—34, from which the following is an extract: "That the evidence of Mr. Butler is proved, by comparing his evidence with his letters, to be generally untrustworthy, and in some respects deliberately false. That the said Thomas Butler was not unwarrantably and unjustifiably dismissed, but was rightly and properly removed for knowingly making scandalously false charges, and for the gross immoralities of which he is proved, partly by his own admission, to have been guilty"), the Committee cannot, therefore, recommend that the prayer of the petitioner should be granted.

8th July, 1886.

No. 273.—Petition of E. B. RANTON and Others, of Otago.

THE petitioners state that they have had contracts under the Public Works Department, and when suitable opportunities offer themselves will be found ready to tender again, but they are seriously deterred from doing so owing to the very stringent character of the conditions which in tendering they are required to submit to. They allege that these conditions are open to two grave objections—(1) they abound with great uncertainty, the consequences of which are made to fall on the contractor, and (2) they confer very great powers upon [the engineer, which may be most arbitrarily used without any appeal therefrom. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having already reported on a similar petition, have no further recommendation to make.

8th July, 1886.

No. 283.—Petition of J. WAGHORN and Others.

THE petitioners, ratepayers of Little Akaloa, pray for a grant of £700 in order to enable them to repair the damage done to their roads by the recent floods.

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

8th July, 1886.

No. 267.—Petition of A. LE G. CAMPBELL, of Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he has served the Government for many years, but that, owing to his having been at one time only temporarily employed, he has forfeited his right to a pension. He prays that the difficulty which has hitherto prevented him from obtaining a pension may be removed.

I am directed to report that, the petitioner having received a sum of £495 2s. 7d. as compensation, the Committee is of opinion that he has no further claim.

8th July, 1886.

No. 184.—Petition of THOMAS SPENCER, of the Thames.

THE petitioner states that his land was deprived of water for public purposes; that subsequently a supply was granted to him, which he used for five years; that it was then cut off on the ground that he had no right to it, thereby putting him to great trouble, annoyance, and expense. He prays that his loss and expenses may be considered, and relief granted.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, the colony is not responsible for the expenses referred to in the petition.

13th July, 1886.

No. 174.—Petition of WILLIAM MILLAR, of Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that he was an apprentice in the workshops at Hillside, Dunedin; that he was employed for 232 days after having completed his term of five years, at the wages of an apprentice only, although he did the work of an improver. He prays that the sum of £7 13s. for

three weeks' wages in lieu of notice, and £59 19s. 8d., the difference between the wages of an apprentice and an improver, may be paid to him.

I am directed to report that the Committee entirely concurs with the reports on this petition in 1884 and 1885, and considers that the petitioner, having already been liberally dealt with, has no further claim against the colony.

13th July, 1886.

No. 298.—Petition of E. L. CLARKE, of Auckland.

THE petitioner prays that an inquiry may be made into his case, and that rule No. 267 of the Supreme Court may be altered, so that the Judge should not have the power to nonsuit a plaintiff and discharge the jury without giving the plaintiff the benefit of the verdict of a jury for which he has paid.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having considered the petition and the report from the department thereon, is of opinion that the petition should be referred to the Government for consideration.

13th July, 1886.

No. 112.—Petition of SIMON CHISHOLM, of Pahiatua.

THE petitioner, a contractor, states that in 1883, during a flood in the Manawatu River, some buildings which he had erected were washed away; that he erected a new building worth £20 on a site pointed out to him by the Inspector of Bridges, Mr. Mackay; that he had to leave his work owing to ill-health, and on his return found that the Natives had removed his building, with his plant, and furniture inside, to their own land; that he has been informed the Natives took possession with the full consent and concurrence of the Native Office. He prays for relief.

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

13th July, 1886.

No. 314.—Petition of J. McRAE, C. H. HUMPHREYS, and J. BIRD.

THE petition sets forth that the petitioners have been residents at Te Wairoa for some years; that J. McRae was the owner of an hotel, store, and bakery; C. H. Humphreys of a boarding-house and store; and John Bird of a waggon and team of horses; that on the 10th June, 1886, a volcanic eruption took place, completely destroying their petitioners' hotels and stores; that for the following three days they were engaged in saving life and searching for bodies; that on the 13th June, when the petitioners attempted to rescue some of their own property, the roads had become impassable; that a party of men was organized by the Government Agent to go and recover property, but the men were ordered back by Dr. Hector; that the goods which had been excavated were pillaged by Natives; that this might have been in a great measure prevented if a special constable had been placed on the bridge at Rotokakahi, over which was the only means of access to Wairoa; that the loss sustained by J. McRae amounts to £4,000 sterling, by C. H. Humphreys to £2,000, and by J. Bird to £70. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, while the Committee do not consider that parties who have suffered losses owing to volcanic eruptions have any claim against the colony for compensation, still, taking into consideration the fact, as shown by the evidence, that the petitioners would have been able to save a considerable portion of their property on the days immediately after the eruption had they devoted their energies to that object instead of to saving and endeavouring to save life, the Committee recommend that their case receive the favourable consideration of the Government when putting a sum on the estimates to relieve the sufferers by the recent calamity.

15th July, 1886.

No. 212.—Petition of MONTGOMERY DAVIES.

THE petitioner states that a sale by auction under a distress warrant was granted in June, 1883, to a Mr. Corley against a Mr. McCormick; that he bought a horse at said sale for £13 10s., but six months afterwards Mr. McCormick took action against a Mr. Furey, a hotel-proprietor, in whose stable the horse was when seized; that judgment was given against Mr. Furey for the price of the horse—£25—and £6 10s. costs; that an order of the Court was applied for to compel petitioner to give up the horse or pay £31 10s. to Mr. Furey; that he refused to give up the horse, and was compelled to pay said amount; that the horse has since died. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, as the claim of the petitioner does not appear to have ever been before the Government, it should be referred to them for consideration.

15th July, 1886.

No. 279.—Petition of C. L. KASPER and Others.

THE petitioners, shipowners in Auckland, pray that the law may be altered, so that all vessels, whether foreign or coastwise, shall be compelled to produce vouchers for payment of all wharfage and harbour dues before being allowed to clear at the Customs.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that forcing masters of vessels in the home-trade to enter and clear at the Customs every trip would greatly restrict their freedom of trade; but would recommend that masters should be obliged to produce receipts for wharfage and harbour dues when applying for a clearance for a specified period under general transire.

15th July, 1886.

No. 312.—Petition of WILLIAM LYONS and others.

THE petitioners, members of New Zealand racing clubs, state that in the case of gentlemen using the railways for the carriage of hunters to the scenes of their engagements the department has made a reduction in their freight to half the usual rate. They pray that, in the interest of the railway revenue and the furthering of a grand national pastime, a similar concession may be made in the case of racehorses.

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

15th July, 1886.

Nos. 326 and 327.—Petitions of GEORGE HENDERSON and Others, and ALEXANDER T. THOMPSON and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the House will give effect to the proposal of the Government to vote the sum of £100,000 for the construction of a direct line of railway from Blenheim to Tophouse.

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

15th July, 1886.

Nos. 328, 329, 330, and 331.—Petitions of A. E. HYDE and Others, R. H. WAITE and Others, J. G. HARKNESS and Others, and JOHN SHARP and Others.

THE petitioners, inhabitants of Marlborough and Nelson, pray that the House will vote a sum of £100,000 to construct a railway from Blenheim, *via* Renwicktown, Rock Ferry, Are Are and Kaituna Valleys, Havelock, Pelorus and Rai Valleys, to Wakapuaka and Nelson, and authorize a complete survey to be made during the recess.

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

15th July, 1886.

No. 333.—Petition of H. B. MACKENZIE and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the New Plymouth Harbour Board Bill may not be passed.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Local Bills Committee.

15th July, 1886.

No. 321.—Petition of B. W. DUDLEY and THOMAS KEIR.

THE petitioners, President and Secretary of the Mandeville and Rangiora Temperance Union, ask the House to refund the expenses incurred by the Licensing Committee of Mandeville and Rangiora in defending an action in the Supreme Court for refusing to renew a license. They pray that the sum of £146 18s. 10d. may be refunded to them, the Committee having had to pay that amount for legal expenses.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioners should be granted.

16th July, 1886.

No. 325.—Petition of ALEXANDER STEWART and Others, of Peninsula.

THE petitioners pray that the Otago Harbour Bridge Bill may not be passed.

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

16th July, 1886.

No. 336.—Petition of E. L. CLARK.

THE petitioner states that he was confined in the Auckland Lunatic Asylum without any cause except the malice of persons whose interest it was to make it appear he was insane. He prays that a Select Committee may be appointed to inquire into his case and determine the amount of compensation he is entitled to; and also that the laws relating to lunacy may be so altered that such an appeal as the present may never again become necessary.

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

20th July, 1886.

No. 288.—Petition of EDWIN HARROW.

THE petitioner states that, on hearing of the volcanic eruption in the Rotorua District, he at once proceeded there; that a rescuing party was organized to proceed across Lake Tarawera in a boat, but a guarantee of £12 10s. was required by the owner of the said boat for its safe return; that the Government Agent refused to guarantee that sum, on account of its being too much, whereupon petitioner and the other members of the party did so; that the boat had to be taken in a wagon to Wairoa, and they were informed that the Government would send a party of men to clear the road; however, only one man came to their assistance in doing so; that, although the expedition was a private one, yet Captain Mair took charge of it as if it had been sent out by Government. The petitioner prays that a searching inquiry may be made into the following matters—viz., the conduct of the Government officials in the district in not promptly despatching relief parties; the conduct of Mr. Johnstone in not guaranteeing the sum of £12 10s., and of Captain Mair in assuming the

command of a private expedition as a Government official; who instructed him to do so; and why the rescue work was left to private enterprise; and generally into the want of proper organization, and the incapability of the Government officials in not affording proper relief to the sufferers by the disaster.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having taken all available evidence, are satisfied that several of the allegations in the petition are unfounded, and that there is nothing before them to show the necessity for further inquiry.

20th July, 1886.

No. 320.—Petition of JOHN CHRISTIE and Others.

THE petitioners, members of the Waikouaiti Presbyterian congregation, pray that measures may be passed to secure, under the provisions of a time-table and a conscience-clause, the daily reading of the Bible in public schools.

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

20th July, 1886.

Nos. 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 374, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, and 389.—Petitions of J. D. DAVIS and Others, ELIZABETH WATSON and Others, HENRIETTA FERGUSON and Others, — KENNEDY and Others, HUGH McCLEERY and Others, FRANCES MCGOUN and Others, A. ROACH and Others, SARAH R. WATSON and Others, E. B. MILLER and Others, ISABELLA McLEOD and Others, DAVID NICHOL and Others, and ROBERT ASHTON and Others.

THE petitioners pray for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act.

I am directed to report that, as a Bill dealing with the subject-matter of these petitions is now before the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

21st July, 1886.

No. 340.—Petition of GARRETT Brothers and Others, of Auckland.

THE petitioners state that they are tenants of the corporate body of the Mayor, Councillors, and citizens of Auckland under certain leases granted to them by virtue of "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1876;" that doubts have arisen as to the validity of such leases, and the price of real property has gone down, therefore it will inflict great hardship on petitioners if they are compelled to accept such leases; that they believe a Bill is to be introduced to make such leases valid. They pray that any such Bill may be treated as a private Bill, and notice given in the *Gazette*; also, that they may be heard by counsel or otherwise before the Bill is passed.

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

21st July, 1886.

No. 322.—Petition of ANN ROBERTSON, of Ohinemutu.

THE petitioner states that in February, 1880, she purchased and entered into possession of the Ohinemutu Hotel, but was shortly afterwards forcibly ejected from both hotel and a bath-allotment^t adjoining, at the instigation of the late Mr. Robert Graham. That she brought two actions against^t Mr. Graham in the Supreme Court, which, after many postponements and adjournments, were finally set down for hearing at the civil sittings commencing the 12th April, 1886; and all her witnesses were in attendance in Auckland on that date. That Mr. Justice Gillies commenced the trial of actions; but they were adjourned until the 19th of said month to await the arrival of the Chief Justice, as it had been arranged that he should try the cases instead of Mr. Justice Gillies. The petitioner and witnesses were accordingly compelled to remain in Auckland until the 19th April; but on the opening of the Court on that day it was announced that, in consequence of the illness of the Chief Justice, the sitting would have to be adjourned until the 10th May following. That the expense of bringing her witnesses to Auckland was great; that petitioner was compelled to retain them as far as she was able. However, three returned home, and their absence seriously affected her case. That the expenses incurred in maintaining and retaining her witnesses during the adjournment amounted to £281 17s. She prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the sum of £150 should be paid^t to the petitioner.

21st July, 1886.

No. 322.—Petition of ANN ROBERTSON.

THIS petition having been referred by the House back to the Committee, to consider and report whether the petitioner should not be allowed her expenses in prosecuting her claim before the Committee,

I have the honour to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, there are no special circumstances to justify the Committee in recommending that the expenses incurred by the petitioner in respect of her petition should be paid to her by the Government.

22nd July, 1886.

No. 358.—Petition of Rev. W. CAMPBELL and Others, of Dunedin.

THE petitioners pray that measures may be passed to insure the daily reading of the Bible in public schools.

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

22nd July, 1886.

No. 346.—Petition of CHARLES DALLASTON and Another.

THE petitioners, President and Secretary respectively of the Baptist Union, pray that more stringent measures may be passed for the protection of young women and girls, and especially that the age of consent may be raised to eighteen.

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

22nd July, 1886.

Nos. 341 and 371.—Petitions of R. WARNOCK and Others, and PATRICK MULLINS and Others, of Auckland.

THE petitioners pray that an inquiry may be made into the relative advantages and cost in compensation and construction of the Parnell-Penrose proposed route and the Ponsonby-Newton route for a loop-line of railway.

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

22nd July, 1886.

No. 120.—Petition of C. MAINWARING.

THE petitioner states that he was an officer in Her Majesty's Indian navy, and prays for a military grant of land.

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

22nd July, 1886.

No. 235.—Petition of JOHN FALCONER, of Oamaru.

THE petitioner states that by "The Oamaru Reserves Ordinance, 1865," certain lands were vested in the Council of Oamaru for recreation purposes; that at various times portions of the said lands have been taken for Government purposes; that by Proclamation dated the 20th February, 1886, thirty additional acres for railway purposes were taken; and that the amount taken is excessive, and will render the reserve practically useless. He prays for an inquiry and relief.

I am directed to report that, having considered the petition, and report of the department, and having availed themselves of the information of the Hon. Mr. Shrimski, M.L.C., and Messrs. Hislop and Steward, Ms.H.R., the Committee are of opinion that, unless inconsistent with the safety of the public or the convenient working of the railway, so much of the esplanade on the seaward side of the railway-line as is not essential for railway purposes should be returned to the borough, and access thereto afforded across the line. The Committee recommend that inquiries should be made by the Government with this object, and that in as far as possible the wishes of the local bodies should be consulted.

23rd July, 1886.

No. 59.—Petition of WILLIAM COLENZO, of Napier.

THE petitioner states that in 1856 he purchased from the Crown Lands Commissioner Sections Nos. 325, 327, 330, and 331 in the Town of Napier; that Section 331 was a more valuable one than the others, as it abutted on Stamford Street; that the Government took over and closed said street, and he therefore claims compensation; that the case came before the Compensation Court, when he was awarded £225; that the Government refused to give him said amount, which was therefore paid into the Public Trust Office and petitioner called upon to prove his claim to it; that he proceeded to do so in the Supreme Court, but judgment was given to the effect that he was not entitled to any compensation, and he was ordered to pay costs in both trials. He has not, however, been called upon to pay costs of the Government in the first trial. He prays that equitable relief may be granted to him.

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

23rd July, 1886.

No. 353.—Petition of R. S. GALBRAITH and Others, of Rangiuru.

THE petitioners, leaseholders under "The Land Act 1877 Amendment Act, 1882," state that their land has been greatly damaged owing to the deposit of ashes and dust caused by the recent volcanic eruptions. They pray for an abatement of rent, or other relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Waste Lands Committee.

23rd July, 1886.

No. 356.—Petition of J. H. REDWOOD.

THE petitioner, the Chairman of the Spring Creek Road Board, prays that certain subsidies due to the said Board under "The Local Bodies' Finance and Powers Act, 1885," may be paid without delay free from any illegal deduction for hospital building purposes.

I am directed to report that, as the subsidies mentioned by the petitioner have already been paid, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

23rd July, 1886.

No. 335.—Petition of JOSEPH WARD and Others.

THE petitioner, the Chairman of the Wairau Road Board, prays that certain subsidies due to said Board under "The Local Bodies' Finance and Powers Act, 1885," may be paid, free of any illegal deductions for hospital building purposes.

I am directed to report that, as the subsidies mentioned by the petitioner have already been paid, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

23rd July, 1886.

No. 334.—Petition of JOSEPH WARD.

THE petitioner, the Chairman of the District Board of Wairau under "The Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act, 1885," states that the Board is entitled to have paid to it certain subsidies out of the Consolidated Fund in proportion to moneys collected by it from other sources; that a hospital is now being erected in the Board's district on a site to which the Board objects, and has therefore informed the Government that it declines to find any money towards the said building; that the Board has now been informed that in no case will the Government pay anything toward the maintenance of patients in the present hospital after the 30th September next. The petitioner prays that steps may be taken to prevent the threatened stoppage of payments.

I am directed to report that the Committee consider the Government are perfectly justified in the action they have taken, and cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioner.

23rd July, 1886.

No. 354.—Petition of CHARLES ROGERS.

THE petitioner states that he was the proprietor of a store at Te Wairoa, and, owing to the volcanic eruption, has lost almost everything; that the store and stock together was worth £430; that he was only able to save twenty-five pounds' worth of goods, which cost him nearly that amount to save. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner has no claim against the colony, but that the petition should be referred to the Government in order that they may consider whether or not he is entitled to participate in any sum which may be voted by the House for the relief of the sufferers by the recent calamity.

23rd July, 1886.

No. 339.—Petition of ELIZA J. HARGREAVES.

THE petitioner states that her husband was employed for about fourteen years on the New Zealand railways; that he died suddenly of heart-disease, leaving her in very poor circumstances. She prays for consideration.

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

23rd July, 1886.

No. 365.—Petition of JOHN SHEARER, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he discovered the "Shearer Rock," assisted in surveying the coast up to the North Cape, and gave the authorities reliable and valuable information *re* harbours, anchorages, currents, shelters, &c., on the coast. He prays for some consideration on account of these services.

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

23rd July, 1886.

No. 372.—Petition of A. McDONALD and Others (No. 1).

THE petitioners, settlers in the County of Cook, pray that the House will set apart a sufficient sum of money to construct a line of light railway part of the way from Gisborne to Opotiki.

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

28th July, 1886.

No. 373.—Petition of A. McDONALD and Others (No. 2).

THE petitioners, settlers in the counties of Cook and Wairoa, pray that the House will set apart a sufficient sum of money to construct a permanent dray-road to connect the towns of Napier and Gisborne and the country south of the East Cape, in order to induce settlement of the large area of Crown and Native lands now lying waste.

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

28th July, 1886.

No. 251.—Petition of G. W. GANE, of Rahotu.

THE petitioner states that on the 31st January, 1885, he purchased at auction from the Taranaki County Council the right to collect the dog-registration fee for 1885 over the greater portion of the County of Taranaki, including the Parihaka District, for the sum of £155, the said fee being fixed at 5s. per head; that on the 30th July the latter district was proclaimed to be excluded from the operation of "The Dog Registration Act, 1880;" that Parihaka District contains about fifteen hundred dogs, and petitioner would have made at least £100 after paying all expenses; that

owing to said Proclamation he has suffered great pecuniary loss. The petitioner prays for compensation.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner has no claim against the Government.

29th July, 1886.

No. 367.—Petition of THOMAS PEPPERELL.

THE petitioner states that in March, 1883, he had, in partnership with one O'Malley, a contract on the Wellington-Napier Railway, called "the Opaki Contract;" that he made every effort to complete the same, but vexatious obstacles were placed in his way by Mr. Connal, the Engineer, and Mr. Oliver, the Inspector; that in December he received notice to complete the contract within four months from date; that the Government took over and completed the contract. The petitioner alleges that he has suffered great loss owing to the action of the Government, and prays for compensation, either in cash or Crown lands.

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

29th July, 1886.

No. 200.—Petition of ALLAN ANDERSON, of Masterton.

The petitioner states that he entered into an arrangement with O'Malley and Pepperell to do certain carpentering work on the Opaki section of the Wellington-Napier Railway; that he executed said work, which was passed by the Government Inspector; that he was not paid by the contractors, and when the Government took over the contract it reaped the benefit of the petitioner's work; that he has since received £33 10s. from Government. He alleges that there is still a balance due to him, and prays that it may be paid.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, petitioner's claim has been fully satisfied by the Government.

30th July, 1886.

No. 357.—Petition of H. D. VAVASOUR.

THE petitioner, the Acting-Chairman of the Awatere Road Board, prays that certain subsidies due to the said Board under "The Local Bodies' Finance and Powers Act, 1885," may be paid, free from any illegal deductions for hospital building purposes.

I am directed to report that the Committee consider the Government are perfectly justified in the action they have taken, and cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioner.

30th July, 1886.

Nos. 395, 396, 397, and 419.—Petitions of T. C. VALPY and Others, WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM and Others, SARAH HARRIS and Others, and ALFRED NORTH and Others.

THE petitioners pray for the repeal of The Contagious Diseases Act.

I am directed to report that, as a Bill is now before the House dealing with the subject-matter of these petitions, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

30th July, 1886.

No. 355.—Petition of AGNES A. HELPS, of Waikato.

THE petitioner states that a pension of £60 was granted by the Government to her late husband, but that he only lived for five years to enjoy it. She prays that a small portion of said pension may be granted per annum to her for life.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, petitioner has no claim against the Government.

30th July, 1886.

No. 402.—Petition of JOHN MANCHESTER and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the Waimate County may be constituted a separate district under "The Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act, 1885."

I am directed to report that, as a Bill dealing with the subject-matter of this petition is now before the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

30th July, 1886.

No. 379.—Petition of JOHN GODSELL and Others.

THE petitioners, ratepayers of the Duntroon and Hakateramea Railway District, state that they have been unjustly called upon to pay rates on said line of railway, although the line is not completed, and is of no practical benefit to them. They pray that they may be relieved of the said threatened unjust tax.

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

30th July, 1886.

No. 414.—Petition of JOHN CAWTE and Others.

THE petitioners pray that a sufficient sum of money may be voted this session to construct a dray-road from Havelock to Mahakepawa.

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

30th July, 1886.

No. 381.—Petition of T. B. HANNAFORD, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he has heard it is the intention of the Government to erect a lighthouse on Cuvier Island at a cost of £8,000; that it is in his power to submit plans, specifications, and cost of his invention "The Iron Skeleton Windmill Bell-tower Lighthouse," which structure is not only better than an ordinary lighthouse, but could be erected for one-quarter of the before-mentioned sum. He prays that monetary aid may be afforded in order to enable him to employ a first-class mechanical engineer to usher his invention into the world.

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

30th July, 1886.

No. 93.—Petition of BURNETT and YULE, of Masterton.

THE petitioners, lately trading as Burnett and Yule, sawmillers, state that they supplied timber to the Opaki section of the Wellington-Napier Railway, under arrangement with O'Malley and Pepperell, the contractors; that the said contractors became bankrupt, and the Government took over the contract, but petitioners continued to supply timber to the works, which was passed as before by the Government Inspector, and their condemned timber was also used on the works; that they have suffered loss owing to the Public Works Department taking and using their timber. They pray that the balance due to them may be paid.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion, from investigations made by them, that the petitioners should be paid the sum of £35 in full satisfaction of all claims.

30th July, 1886.

No. 418.—Petition of JOHN M. GRACE, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he is the heir-at-law of the late Peter Grace, of Auckland; that his late father in 1865 entered into a contract to construct the first section of the Auckland-Drury Railway; that in 1866 the contract was taken out of his hands, and the plant seized; that he received the sum of £3,600, and signed a receipt in full of all demands. He now claims the sum of £3,078 2s., as money owing by the Provincial Government to his father.

I am directed to report that this Committee can see no reason to alter the decision arrived at by the Committee last session.

3rd August, 1886.

No. 407.—Petition of JOHN HUNTER BROWN and Others.

THE petitioners, residents in the counties of Cook and Wairoa, pray that a permanent dray-road may be constructed to connect the towns of Napier and Gisborne and the country south of the East Cape.

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

3rd August, 1886.

No. 404.—Petition of GEORGE GROVES and Others, of Southland.

THE petitioners pray that station-buildings may be erected at Nightcaps Railway terminus, and that the Government will purchase the line in order to enable their prayer to be granted.

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

3rd August, 1886.

No. 393.—Petition of JAMES KELLY, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he has discovered and patented a process by which New Zealand iron-sand can be manufactured into pig-iron of a marketable quality, in a practical and economic manner. He prays that a sum not exceeding £500 may be placed on the estimates, to enable him to demonstrate in public that his statement is true.

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

3rd August, 1886.

No. 408.—Petition of J. H. TAYLOR and Others, of Rotorua.

THE petitioners pray that the Government will cause certain roads to be made in the Rotorua District, and also that the Mourea Bridge may be so altered as to admit of boat-traffic.

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

3rd August, 1886.

No. 378.—Petition of J. A. L. HALL and Others.

THE petitioners pray that a railway-station and cattle-yards may be erected at Kawakawa.

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

3rd August, 1886.

No. 342.—Petition of JOSEPH GRIFFIN and Others.

THE petitioners pray that a flag-station for passengers and traffic may be erected on the Whauwhau branch of the Whangarei-Kamo Railway.

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

3rd August, 1886.

No. 428.—Petition of J. McDOWELL and Others, of Wellington.

THE petitioners pray that the City of Wellington may be constituted a single electoral district, returning three members to the House.

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

4th August, 1886.

No. 429.—Petition of JOSEPH WEBSTER and Others, of Mangawai.

THE petitioners pray that a railway may be constructed from Helensville to Hokianga as soon as possible.

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

4th August, 1886.

No. 425.—Petition of JAMES FARRELL and Others, of Kihikihi.

THE petitioners pray that legislation may be enacted whereby it may be rendered optional for a town district to sever its connection with a county, and whereby such town district may, as regards such county, be placed on the same footing as if it were a borough.

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

4th August, 1886.

No. 421.—Petition of T. B. MATTHEWS and Others, of Otago.

THE petitioners state that, although willing and able to work, they are unable to find employment of any kind whatsoever, and that many of them are on the verge of starvation. They pray that the Government will give them employment.

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

4th August, 1886.

No. 368.—Petition of ALFRED JARMAN, of Napier.

THE petitioner states that he was Chief Draughtsman in the Napier Survey Office; that he was compelled to retire from the service, and received compensation. He alleges that the amount of said compensation was inadequate, and prays that a further sum may be given to him, or that he may be reappointed, or that the Government will find some means to redress his various grievances.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend that any further compensation should be granted to the petitioner, and in other respects can see no reason to depart from the decision arrived at last session.

4th August, 1886.

No. 359.—Petition of CHARLES DOWNIE and Others, of the Buller.

THE petitioners pray that a sufficient sum may be placed on the estimates to erect a wire suspension footbridge over the Buller River at Murchison.

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

4th August, 1886.

No. 427.—Petition of E. PEARCE and Others, of Wellington.

THE petitioners, Chairman and members of the Wellington Harbour Board, pray that such measures may be passed as will enable them to have granted to them endowments adequate to the importance of the port; and also that they may be compensated for the loss of a certain piece of land which has been taken from them by the Government to form the site of a proposed new printing office.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the Board should be compensated for the land taken from them as a site for the proposed new printing office, and that the petition generally should be referred to the Government for consideration.

5th August, 1886.

No. 426.—Petition of HENRY HIGGINS, of Ormond.

THE petitioner states that he has been a teacher in the public schools of New Zealand for fourteen years; that, in consequence of having been compelled to work in unsuitable school-buildings, he has become almost blind, and is forced to give up his occupation. He prays that a small section of land may be granted to him.

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

5th August, 1886.

No 433.—Petition of SOPHIA TAEAWHIO, of Rotorua.

THE petitioner, a guide, states that, owing to the recent volcanic eruptions at Te Wairoa, she has lost her house and home; that she has also suffered so severely through fear as to be unable to do any manual work in order to earn a living, and is now without means of support. She prays for relief.

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

5th August, 1886.

No. 398.—Petition of MICHAEL COLLINS, of Coromandel.

THE petitioner states that he has been a member of the Nelson Rifle Volunteers and the Armed Constabulary Field Force; that he was also in the Artillery corps at the taking of Ngatiapa; that while in charge of Hauhau prisoners at Poverty Bay he received an injury to his knee from which he still suffers. He prays that inquiries may be made, and relief granted to him.

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

5th August, 1886.

No. 423.—Petition of E. L. CLARK (No. 1), of Auckland.

THE petitioner prays that certain alterations may be made in the jurisdiction of District Courts.

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

5th August, 1886.

No. 441.—Petition of JOHN THOMPSON, of Gisborne.

THE petitioner states that he supplied the necessary data for a scheme for the construction of the Gisborne breakwater; that this scheme was made the basis of a plan under which the works are at present being constructed. He prays that he may receive some recognition of his services, or be compensated by the House.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, any claim which the petitioner may have is against the Gisborne Harbour Board, not the Government.

6th August, 1886.

No. 247.—Petition of H. L. GREER, of Johnsonville.

THE petitioner states that his son and daughter were committed to the Burnham Industrial School; that they were kept at work when they should have been receiving education; that they were otherwise neglected and ill-used. He prays for a grant of land to make a home for himself and children.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having taken the evidence of the following witnesses—viz., Mr. O'Callaghan, M.H.R., Mr. Reese, M.H.R., Mr. Carson, Mr. Greer, and the Rev. Mr. Habens—are of opinion that there is nothing to prove any negligence or ill-usage on the part of the officials of the Burnham Industrial School, and they therefore cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioner.

6th August, 1886.

No. 424.—Petition of F. B. HUGHES, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was discharged from the prison service in June, 1883, on account of ill-health; that his illness was blood-poisoning, caused by the opening of an old drain on the gaol premises; that he is now quite broken down in health; that he received a certain sum as compensation, but the amount was inadequate. He prays for further compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend that any further compensation should be granted to the petitioner.

6th August, 1886.

No. 174.—Petition of WILLIAM MILLAR, of Roslyn.

THIS petition having been referred back to the Committee by the House in order that further evidence might be taken,

I have the honour to report that the Committee, having taken the evidence of the Hon. Mr. Bathgate, M.L.C., and Mr. Macandrew, M.H.R., and reconsidered the matter, are of opinion that there is no reason to alter the decision already arrived at.

6th August, 1886.

No. 437.—Petition of JOHN T. DALRYMPLE and Others, of Rangitikei.

THE petitioners pray that a pilot may be stationed at the mouth of the Rangitikei River.

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

6th August, 1886.

No. 442.—Petition of RICHARD BILLINGTON, of Raglan.

THE petitioner prays for certain amendments in the Counties Act.

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

6th August, 1886.

No. 440.—Petition of T. B. HANNAFORD, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he has a scheme for the introduction of two thousand efficient servant-girls into the colony; that he submitted the said scheme to the Minister of Immigration, who stated verbally that he had no objection to his bringing out the young women; that he accordingly communicated with his agent in England, desiring him to select and nominate an unlimited number of girls; but that instructions were sent to the Agent-General to on no account entertain any such nominations; that petitioner has received a letter from the Minister to the effect that under no circumstances will he permit petitioner's proposals to be entertained. He prays that assistance may be granted towards the introduction of female servants, and that all the papers mentioned in the petition may be laid before the House.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioner.
6th August, 1886.

No. 439.—Petition of E. L. CLARK (No. 2), of Auckland.

THE petitioner prays that an inquiry may be granted into the conduct of the Registrar of the Supreme Court at Auckland.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition, together with the affidavit of Mr. S. Leers, should be referred to the Government, and the Committee recommend that a special inquiry may be made into the matter.

6th August, 1886.

No. 309.—Petition of JAMES CALDWELL, of Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that he was appointed Chief Officer of the Dunedin Gaol in 1862, and Governor of the same in 1867; that he was in the service for twenty years, fifteen being under the Provincial and five under the General Government; that on several occasions he took charge of Maori rebel prisoners and kept them safely, when other governors of gaols refused to receive them; that the Hon. Mr. Bowen, when Minister of Justice, minuted in the books of the department that a pension of £200 should be granted to the petitioner; that in 1882 he applied for twelve months' leave of absence on full pay, and a pension on retirement; that twelve months' leave, to commence in January, 1883, was granted to him, but pension refused; that during his leave a Royal Commission sat to inquire into irregularities alleged to have occurred in the gaol from 1877 to 1883; that he was required to attend before the Commission during his hardly-earned period of retirement; that the report of the Commission was not on the whole unfavourable to him; that in November, 1883, he was informed that his services were dispensed with, and a gratuity granted to him of one month's pay for every year in the Government service; that, after a long and honourable career, he now finds his good name tarnished by this dismissal. The petitioner prays that his fifteen years' Provincial service may not be overlooked, that his case may be taken into consideration, and his claims dealt with as justice may require.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner has received full compensation for loss of office, the Committee are of opinion that he has no further claim against the colony.

10th August, 1886.

No. 406.—Petition of WILLIAM LOWE and others.

THE petitioners, miners, state that in June, 1886, they recovered judgment in the Resident Magistrate's Court, Westport, against the Public Trustee for the sum of £21 15s. 10d., money wrongfully obtained by the said Trustee from funds voted by the House for payment of a portion of the costs incurred in the litigation *Costello versus O'Donnell* and others; that they have levied distress against the Public Trustee, which has been returned unsatisfied; that the said Trustee has offered the petitioners £15 5s. 10d., which he alleges is the whole amount of money in his hands available for satisfying the judgment; that it was clearly proved at the hearing of the case that he had previously assigned to petitioners all right to the moneys so received by him, and that legally and equitably the petitioners were entitled thereto. The petitioners pray that such relief may be given as is provided for in "The Public Trust Office Act, 1872," or other relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the circumstances of this case are such as to require a careful inquiry by the Government. It appears that, in a similar case against a private individual as trustee, the costs on both sides would have to be paid by the trustee out of his own money, if there were not sufficient assets in the estate.

10th August, 1886.

No. 150.—Petition of WILLIAM FOWLER, of Palmerston, Otago.

THE petitioner states that he is the owner of property situated in the Town of Palmerston; that the said property had a frontage to the main street; that the railway has been constructed close to his boundary-fence; that his frontage is thereby rendered completely valueless, and his property depreciated in value at least one-half.

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

10th August, 1886.

No. 448.—Petition of W. T. LOCKE TRAVERS, of Wellington.

THE petitioner prays that the House will not sanction any legislation calculated to divert certain land, and buildings thereon, now held by the Wellington College Trustees, from the purposes contemplated by "The Wellington City Reserves Act, 1872."

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition having been dealt with by the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

11th August, 1886.

No. 455.—Petition of WALTER SWIFT and Others, of Kawakawa.

THE petitioners state that they have heard that a petition has been presented to the House praying that Kawakawa Railway-station may be removed to Waiomio Village; that the said removal is not necessary, and would be a great injustice to those who have bought land in the vicinity of the station under the belief that the present site would be a permanent one.

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

11th August, 1886.

No. 452.—Petition of FREDERICK COCK and Others, of Waihi and Katikati.

THE petitioners pray that the Ohinemuri River may be rebridged at Waihi.

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

11th August, 1886.

No. 449.—Petition of JOHN J. MACDONALD and Others.

THE petitioners state that they were appointed members of the Greenstone Licensing Committee by the Governor; that they held a meeting, and granted licenses; that, objections being raised by the police and others against certain licenses applied for, they adjourned for fourteen days to consider them; that, without being asked whether they intended to refuse the license or not, a *mandamus* was obtained to order a renewal to one J. K. Birley; that in consequence of this action they have been saddled with law expenses to the amount of £60. They pray that their case may be considered, all documents relating thereto called for, and relief granted.

I am directed to report that, having examined the documents relating to the case, and taken the evidence of Mr. Fergus, M.H.R., the Committee have no recommendation to make.

11th August, 1886.

No. 445.—Petition of CHARLES POPE.

THE petitioner states that he is the captain of the screw-steamer "Tui;" that on the 31st October 1885, Mr. R. Cobb, sheep-owner, shipped twelve sheep on board the said steamer at Foxton for Wellington; that in November following twelve sheep, which he had every reason to believe were the same ones he had brought down, were shipped at Wellington for Foxton, and he was informed by their owner, Mr. Cobb, that everything was all right, which he understood to mean that a certificate had been obtained. He prays that the fine which was imposed upon him for a breach of the Sheep Act may be remitted.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the fine should be remitted.

11th August, 1886.

No. 450.—Petition of GEORGE SUMPTER, of Oamaru.

The petitioner, the Chairman of the Oamaru Harbour Board, states that certain lands in Oamaru were vested in the Board; that the value was greatly increased by reclamation and protective works made by the Board at a heavy outlay; that in 1879 the Minister for Public Works intimated that the land would be required for the purposes of a loop-line of railway, and in consequence the Board was prevented from leasing the same; that on the 13th August, 1885, the Minister offered £9,316 as compensation for the said land; that a plan showing the land referred to accompanied the offer, and the whole land shown was stated to contain approximately 4 acres 2 roods; that, although the Board considered the sum offered insufficient, it was compelled to accept, being in financial difficulties; that, by Proclamation in the *Gazette* of the 18th February, 1886, land belonging to the Board to the extent of 8 acres 1 rood $9\frac{1}{10}$ perches, was taken for railway purposes; that the Board accepted the sum of £9,316 on the understanding that the amount of land taken corresponded with the quantity mentioned in the letter of the Minister for Public Works of the 13th August; that an extra amount of land has been taken, and the remaining land belonging to the Board is lessened in value; that the land taken includes certain sidings which were not shown on the plan referred to, and therefore the Board has received no compensation for them, and has sustained serious loss through the whole transaction. The petitioner prays for compensation on behalf of the Board.

I am directed to report that the Committee have taken evidence regarding the case, and cannot recommend that any further compensation be granted.

13th August, 1886.

No. 457.—Petition of O. M. CREAGH, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that on the 15th July, 1886, he petitioned the House with respect to certain charges made against him by Mr. Commissioner Barton; that the petition was referred to the Native Affairs Committee; that, in order to dispose of the charges against him, he was obliged to come down from Auckland with four witnesses, also to obtain professional assistance; that the Committee took petitioner's evidence, and that of three of the witnesses, and reported in a manner which he considers completely exonerates him from the crime charged against him by the Commissioner. That the counsel who appeared on his behalf before the Committee made application for expenses, but was informed that the Committee could not grant the request.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having taken the evidence of the petitioner and Colonel Trimble, M.H.R., can see no reason to interfere with the action of the Native Affairs Committee.

14th August, 1886.

No. 458.—Petition of SAMUEL McCULLOUGH.

THE petitioner, the Chairman of the Maniototo County Council, prays that a Commission may be appointed to inquire into and report upon the management of the working railways.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition has been dealt with by the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

14th August, 1886.