

1888.  
NEW ZEALAND.

# REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS M TO Z COMMITTEE.

(MR. T. THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN.)

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

## INDEX.

No.	Petitions.	Page.	No.	Petitions.	Page.
<b>A.</b>			<b>M.</b>		
367	Akaroa Settlers .. ..	9	211	Maberly, G., and Others ..	5
210	Arahura Native Reserve Lessees ..	6	213	Macalister, R. .. ..	11
454	Auckland Intending Village Settlers ..	11	*498	Macdonald, J. .. ..	1
168	Auckland Special Settlers .. ..	5	212	Mack, C. .. ..	6
<b>B.</b>					
165	Balfour and Longridge Settlers .. ..	3	46	Mahurangi Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	6
124	Bee-keepers .. ..	3	135	Malcolm, J., and Isbister, W. ..	3
66	Bell, M., and Others .. ..	5	239	Mangonui and Takahue Settlers ..	5
349	Benmore Ratepayers .. ..	9	238	Martin, W. R., and Others .. ..	7
68	Blackler, W., and Others .. ..	5		Mathieson, R., and Others .. ..	
98	Brighton Settlers .. ..	2		Maungaturoto Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	
357	Brodie, A., and Others .. ..	9	56	McCluggage, T. .. ..	2
<b>C.</b>			*490	McConkey, W. H., and Others ..	1
168	Canterbury (Auckland) Special Settlers ..	5	410	McDonald, D., and Others .. ..	11
190	Canterbury Farmers .. ..	5	358	McFarlane, D., and Others .. ..	9
206	Canterbury Protestants .. ..	7	170	McGregor, Donald, and Others ..	5
343	Christchurch Residents .. ..	8	237	McKegney, P. .. ..	9
86	Clyde and Teviot Fruit-growers .. ..	2	237	McKegney, P. (Second Report) ..	9
<b>D.</b>			*488	McKenzie, D., and Others .. ..	1
304	Daneverk Residents .. ..	8	375	McKenzie, H., and Others .. ..	9
140	Deferred-payment Settlers, Wallace ..	3	367	McLennan, D., and Others .. ..	9
244	Deferred-payment Settlers, Wallace ..	7	438	Mill, A. J. .. ..	12
436	Donald, W. A., and Others .. ..	11	353	Millar, A., and Others .. ..	11
	Dunedin Residents ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).		333	Millar, J. C., and Others .. ..	8
<b>E.</b>			332	Millar, M., and Others .. ..	8
238	Engineers of Dunedin, Auckland, and Wel-	7	190	Miln, J., and Others .. ..	5
	lington .. ..		407	Miners of Paroa .. ..	10
<b>F.</b>					
86	Fruit-growers of Teviot and Clyde ..	2			
<b>G.</b>					
218	Gisborne Maoris .. ..	8	256	Mongonui County Council ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	8
359	Greytown Settlers .. ..	9	239	Morrison, S. .. ..	5
<b>H.</b>			364	Mount Hyde Leaseholders .. ..	10
444	Hamilton Light Infantry Volunteers ..	11	441	Moynihan, M. .. ..	13
418	Home Industries, Persons in favour of ..	10	352	Murcott, M. and W. .. ..	11
414	Hudson, J., and Others .. ..	10	360	Murley, M., and Others .. ..	9
<b>I.</b>					
358	Invercargill, Mayor of, and Others ..	9			
46	Isbister, W., and Malcolm, J. .. ..	6			
<b>K.</b>					
162	Kaikorai School Committee .. ..	6			
<b>L.</b>					
349	Limehills Ratepayers .. ..	9			
165	Longridge and Balfour Settlers .. ..	3			
			<b>N.</b>		
			17	Nash, J. .. ..	2
			413	Nathan, A. H., and Others .. ..	10
			35	National Women's Christian Temperance	
				Union (No. 1) .. ..	6
			223	National Women's Christian Temperance	
				Union (No. 2) .. ..	6
			*511	Nelly, M. L. B. .. ..	2
			304	Newdick, J., and Others .. ..	8
				New Plymouth Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	
			218	Ngaitamanuhiri and Ngaitirangiwhao Hapus	8
				Nightcaps Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	
			14, 42	North Auckland Charitable Aid Board ..	1
			97	North Auckland Charitable Aid Board ..	2
			412 &c.	North of Auckland Residents .. ..	10
			373	Nye, G. .. ..	12

No.	Petitions.	Page.	No.	Petitions.	Page.
	<b>O.</b>				
	Oamaru Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).			Stewart Island Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	
	Ohinemuri Leaseholders ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).		214	Stirling Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	6
116	Ollivier, J. .. ..	5		Such, G. F., and Others ..	
336	Olsen, H. .. ..	9		Sydenham Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	
	Omapere Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).			<b>T.</b>	
*510	Otago Settlers .. ..	4		Taieri Residents ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	
500	Otahuhu Residents .. ..	12	135	Takahue and Mangonui Settlers ..	3
	Otainatea County Chairman ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).		86	Tamblyn, J., and Others ..	2
	Otiaka Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).		153	Tansey, Matthew .. ..	3
	<b>P.</b>			Tapu Homestead Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	
	Packard, W. .. ..	8	240	Tauranga Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	
35	Packe, E. E., and Others (No. 1) ..	5		Taylor, Captain J. T. .. ..	9
223	Packe, E. E., and Others (No. 2) ..	5	*490	Te Aroha West Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	
304	Pahiatua Settlers ( <i>vide</i> also I.-1) ..	8		Te Awamutu Settlers .. ..	1
	Pakuranga Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).		86	Temuka Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	
437	Pangatotara Settlers .. ..	11	357	Teviot and Clyde Fruit-growers ..	2
99	Parau, Paora .. ..	3	258	Thames, Mayor of, and Others ..	9
201	Patterson, T. .. ..	8	490	Thames Settlers .. ..	7
490	Payne, W. C., and Others .. ..	12	137	Thames Settlers .. ..	12
124	Peacock, G., and Others .. ..	3	96	Thompson, G. .. ..	4
32	Penligon, J. .. ..	1		Thompson, R. S. .. ..	3
239	Perpetual Leaseholders, Mount Hyde	5	148	Tokomairiro Farmers' Club ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	
153	Perpetual Leaseholders, Woodville	3	270	Tolago Bay Settlers .. ..	4
	Petone Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).			Treadwell, C. H., for Weston, R. ..	7
258	Pickett, E., and Others .. ..	7	359	<b>U.</b>	
412	Pilling, O. F., and Others .. ..	10		Udy, H., and Others .. ..	9
437	Pokororo Settlers .. ..	11	422	Unemployed of Nelson ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	
349	Porteous, J. B., and Others .. ..	9		Unemployed of Waimate .. ..	10
118	Port Underwood Settlers .. ..	3		<b>V.</b>	
98	Powell, J. M., and Others .. ..	2	135	Village Settlers, Auckland ( <i>vide</i> also I.-1) ..	3
	Presbyterian Church ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).		454	Village Settlers, Intending, Auckland	11
	<b>R.</b>		471	Vincent County Council, Chairman of	11
	Rangiora, Mayor of, and Others ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).		*502	Vincent, J. .. ..	2
	Rangitikei County Council ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).			<b>W.</b>	
422	Ravenhall, F., and Others .. ..	10	144	Waddell, W. A., and Others ..	5
149	Reeves, A., and Others .. ..	4	149	Waipapu Settlers .. ..	4
444	Reid, J., and Others .. ..	11	473	Waikato County Council ( <i>vide</i> also I.-1) ..	12
268	Reischek, A. .. ..	12		Waimate South Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	
206	Revell, E., and Others .. ..	7	422	Waimate South, Unemployed ..	10
500	Reyburn, J. H., and Others ..	13	436 &c.	Waimea Plains Residents .. ..	11
174	Robinson, C. .. ..	4	375	Waipawa Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	
272	Robinson, W. J. N. (No. 1) .. ..	12		Waipu Settlers .. ..	9
435	Robinson, W. J. N. (No. 2) .. ..	12		Waitemata County Council ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	
465	Robinson, W. J. N. (No. 3) .. ..	12	163	Waiuku Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	
85	Rock, G. .. ..	2	244	Walker, T. H. .. ..	4
214	Rodney Settlers .. ..	6	140	Wallace Deferred-payment Settlers	7
244	Ronald, R., and Others .. ..	7	407	Wallace Settlers .. ..	3
65	Ross, H. J., and Others .. ..	5		Walsh, J., and Others .. ..	10
180	Rountree, S., and Others .. ..	4	454	Wanganui, Mayor of, and Others ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	
165	Roy, A., and Others .. ..	3	418	Warburton, A., and Others ..	11
218	Ruru, Hoani, and Others .. ..	8	354	Watson, S. A., and Others ..	10
9	Ryan, F. H., and Others .. ..	3	*510	Watson, S., and Others ..	11
	<b>S.</b>		343	Waugh, W., and Others ..	4
437	Salisbury, J. E., and Others ..	11	168	Webb, J., and Others .. ..	8
368	Saxon, J. B. .. ..	10	65 &c.	Webster, G. F., and Others ..	5
197	Schnackenburg, A., and Others ..	5	144	Wellington Residents .. ..	5
408	Scott, Brothers .. ..	10	331	Wellington Residents .. ..	5
458	Scott, M., and Others .. ..	11	468	Wellington Residents ( <i>vide</i> also I.-1)	8
331	Scott, S. .. ..	8		Wellington Women's Christian Temperance	
269	Scott, T. .. ..	7	270	Union .. ..	11
	Seacliff Settlers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).			Weston, R., per Treadwell, C. H. ..	7
421	Seymour, R. .. ..	12		Whangarei County Council ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	
10	Sharp, T., and Others .. ..	4	170	Whangarei Fruit-growers ( <i>vide</i> I.-1).	
8	Shearman, R. C. .. ..	1	*488	Whangarei Head Settlers .. ..	5
442	Simpson, J. S., and Others .. ..	11	162	Whangarei Settlers .. ..	1
224	Simpson, L. .. ..	7	161	Wilkinson, F. .. ..	6
94	Simpson, R., and Others .. ..	3	148	Williams, J. D. .. ..	4
210	Smith, J. L., and Others .. ..	6	14	Williams, J. M., and Others ..	4
31	Smith, T. H. .. ..	2	92	Wilson, J. F. (No. 1) .. ..	1
79	Smith, T. W. P. .. ..	4	27	Wilson, J. F. (No. 2) .. ..	1
203	Snellgrove, E., and Others .. ..	6	47	Wilson, J. F. (No. 3) .. ..	2
158	Spalding, S. .. ..	7	250	Wing, T. .. ..	8
118	Stace, H. J., and Others .. ..	3	349	Winton Ratepayers .. ..	9
251	Steen, W. .. ..	9	153	Woodville Settlers .. ..	3
478	Stephenson, S. .. ..	12	304	Woodville Settlers .. ..	8
			67	Woodward, G., and Others ..	5
			295	Wright, J. L., and Others ..	8

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Nos. 14 and 42.—Petition of J. F. WILSON, Auckland (Nos. 1 and 2).

THE petitioner, Chairman of the North Auckland Charitable Aid Board, prays for certain amendments in the Hospitals and Charitable Aid Act.

No. 488, Sess. II., 1887.—Petition of DUNCAN MCKENZIE and Others, Whangarei.

THE petitioners pray for certain amendments in the Counties Act.

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

23rd May, 1888.

No. 490, Sess. II., 1887.—Petition of W. H. McCONKEY and Others, of Te Awamutu.

THE petitioners pray that the Education Act may be so amended as to provide for the daily reading of portions of the Bible in public schools.

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

23rd May, 1888.

No. 498, Sess. II., 1887.—Petition of JULIET MACDONALD, of Kaiapoi.

THE petitioner states that for nearly fourteen years she was in the service of the colony as nurse and deputy head attendant at the Sunnyside Asylum, Christchurch; that in August, 1887, she resigned her position on account of ill health. She prays for compensation or other relief.

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

23rd May, 1888.

No. 8.—Petition of ROBERT CLARKE SHEARMAN.

THE petitioner states that, after having served in the Police Force of Victoria for ten years, he was selected in 1862 to organize the Police Force in Canterbury; that he was appointed Commissioner, and retained the office until the abolition of the provinces, when he was appointed Inspecting Superintendent to the whole colony; that said appointment was afterwards cancelled on the plea of economy, when his salary was reduced, and he was given the charge of the North Island with Nelson and Marlborough; that his salary was again reduced, and he was given the charge of Wellington, with a remuneration of £450 per annum; that he was moved to Auckland in July, 1887, and in March, 1888, received notice that his services would be dispensed with on the ground of economy; that when he left Victoria he was persuaded that the colony which was to receive the benefit of his experience would recognise his claims on the service of Victoria to the same extent as if he had remained there, where he would have been entitled to a pension. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, after having given the fullest consideration to petitioner's case, the Committee is of opinion that the Government have dealt with him in a liberal manner, and that he has no further claim against the colony.

29th May, 1888.

No. 32.—Petition of JOHN PENLIGON, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he received an appointment in the Government Armoury and Stores Department, Auckland, on the 1st March, 1864; that he has held this appointment for twenty-four years; that his services have been dispensed with, and he has only received one month's pay for every year of service as compensation. He prays that a pension may be granted to him.

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

29th May, 1888.

1—I. 2.

## No. 17.—Petition of JOHN NASH, of Nelson.

THE petitioner, lately a sergeant of police, states that he joined the Force in June, 1857; that, after having served in it for more than thirty years, he was discharged on 30th November, 1887, under an Order in Council of the 7th January, 1887, and received an allowance of twelve months' pay; that only two other constables were discharged under said Order, which has since been revoked, and the said constables have been reappointed as district constables. He prays for further compensation.

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

29th May, 1888.

## No. 86.—Petition of JOHN TAMBLYN and Others.

THE petitioners, fruit-growers living in the Teviot and Clyde districts, allege that great quantities of fruit are imported from Victoria and Tasmania which are infected with codlin-moth and other insect pests. They pray that their industry may be protected by a duty being imposed on imported fruit.

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

31st May, 1888.

## No. 502, Sess. II., 1887.—Petition of JOSEPH VINCENT, of Greymouth.

THE petitioner, late cook on board s.s. "Koranui," states that, while crossing the wharf at Greymouth to his ship on the night of the 14th September, 1887, he was thrown down by a coal-truck which was travelling along the railway-line laid on said wharf; that at the time of the accident he was crossing, as he lawfully might, through an opening made by the department for the use of the public; that in consequence of said accident he had to have his foot amputated. He alleges that the accident was owing to negligence on the part of the Railway Department, and prays for compensation for injury received.

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

1st June, 1888.

## No. 97.—Petition of J. F. WILSON, Auckland (No. 3).

THE petitioner, Chairman of the North Auckland Hospital and Charitable Aid Board, prays that "The Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act 1885 Amendment Act, 1886," may be amended in certain directions.

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

1st June, 1888.

## No. 98.—Petition of J. M. POWELL and Others, of Brighton.

THE petitioners pray that the construction of the Brighton-Barrytown Road may be completed.

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

1st June, 1888.

## No. 85.—Petition of GILBERT ROCK, of Dunedin.

THE petitioner prays that a protective tax may be imposed on imported literature.

I am directed to report that this Committee has no recommendation to make.

1st June, 1888.

## No. 31.—Petition of THOMAS HAWKINS SMITH, of Maketu.

THE petitioner solicits the return of a sum of money expended by him in the purchase of Native lands, and for compensation for losses alleged to have been sustained through the wrongful acts of Government agents.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that this petition should be referred to the Native Affairs Committee.

8th June, 1888.

## No. 56.—Petition of THOMAS MCCLUGGAGE, of Caversham, Otago.

THE petitioner prays for relief, he having been disabled from ordinary work by an accident he met with while employed on the Otago Central Railway.

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

8th June, 1888.

## No. 511, Sess. II., 1887.—Petition of M. L. B. NELLY, of Auckland.

THE petitioner complains that he was wrongfully dismissed from the Defence Department.

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

8th June, 1888.

No. 99.—Petition of PAORA PARAU, of Gisborne.

THE petitioner claims payment for stone taken from his land for use in the construction of the Gisborne breakwater.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, as petitioner's claim is against the Gisborne Harbour Board, and the matter is regulated by the Gisborne Harbour Act of last session, this Committee has no recommendation to make.

8th June, 1888.

No. 96.—Petition of ROBERT STUDHOLME THOMPSON, of Normanby, Taranaki.

THE petitioner prays that Parliament will so legislate as to place the sole administration and control of his children's estate (in the West Coast Settlement Reserves) in the hands of petitioner.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petition should be referred to the Native Affairs Committee.

8th June, 1888.

No. 94.—Petition of ROBERT SIMPSON and Others, of Auckland.

THE petitioners, who were employed on Messrs. Irvine and Heath's Ohinemuri Railway contract, and whose wages have not yet been paid, pray that the amount alleged to be due to them may be paid to them or their appointee.

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

12th June, 1888.

No. 9.—Petition of F. H. RYAN and 54 Others.

THE petitioners pray that the Education Act may be so amended as to provide for the daily reading of suitable portions of Scripture in the public schools of the colony, with time-table and conscience-clause.

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

12th June, 1888.

No. 124.—Petition of GERALD PEACOCK and Others.

THE petitioners, bee-keepers of New Zealand, state that the bee-keeping industry of New Zealand is suffering terribly through the spreading of infectious diseases among bees; and they pray that provision may be made for the official inspection of all domesticated bees, and the compulsory destruction of diseased bees, combs, and hives.

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.

12th June, 1888.

No. 118.—Petition of HENRY J. STACE and Others.

THE petitioners, settlers in and near Port Underwood, pray for the construction of a road over the hill leading to White's Bay.

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

13th June, 1888.

No. 135.—Petition of JOSEPH MUIR and Others, of Takahue and Mangonui, Auckland.

THE petitioners pray for amendment of the Land Act with regard to special village settlers.

No. 165.—Petition of ALEXANDER ROY and Others.

THE petitioners, cash settlers of Balfour and Longridge, pray that relief may be provided for them under the Fair Rent Bill.

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

13th June, 1888.

No. 140.—Petition of JAMES P. YOUNG and Others.

THE petitioners, deferred-payment settlers in Wallace County, pray for revaluation of their lands, and relief from excessive payments.

I am directed to report that, as there is a Bill now before the House dealing with the subject of the petition, in the opinion of the Committee it should be referred to the Government.

13th June, 1888.

No. 153.—Petition of MATHEW TANSEY and Others.

THE petitioners, perpetual-lease holders in the Woodville district, pray for a reduction in the amount payable as capital value of their sections.

I am directed to report that, as a Bill dealing with the subject-matter of this petition is now before the House, in the opinion of the Committee this petition should be referred to the Government.

13th June, 1888.

Nos. 148 and 149.—Petitions of J. M. WILLIAMS and Others and ANDREW REEVES and Others.

THE petitioners, owners and occupiers of land in the Tolago Bay and Waiapu Ridings of the County of Cook, pray that Parliament will not sanction the Gisborne Harbour Board entering into any engagements other than those authorised by section 10 of "The Gisborne Harbour Act 1884 Amendment Act, 1887," or that, if further engagements be sanctioned, the said Tolago Bay and Waiapu Ridings be excluded from the Gisborne Harbour Board District.

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

13th June, 1888.

No. 161.—Petition of JOHN DAVIS WILLIAMS, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was appointed Dépôt Master and Superintendent of Quarantine at Motuihi Island in August, 1884, at a salary of £140 per annum; that he retained this office until April, 1888, but was only paid at the rate of £108 per annum, although he repeatedly protested; that he was dismissed on the 12th April, 1888, without notice. He prays for one month's salary in lieu of notice, and for his alleged arrears of salary, amounting in all to £131 13s. 4d.

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

13th June, 1888.

No. 10.—Petition of THOMAS SHARP and Others, of Onehunga.

THE petitioners state that they have just been discharged at a month's notice from their employment as boatmen in the Manukau Harbour pilot-boat, after having served faithfully for many years. They pray for compensation for loss of office.

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

13th June, 1888.

No. 137.—Petition of GEORGE THOMPSON, of Waikato.

THE petitioner alleges that his two children were improperly committed to an industrial school. He prays for an inquiry.

I am directed to report that, as no fresh evidence has been adduced, this Committee can see no reason to depart from the decision arrived at by the Committee of last session.

13th June, 1888.

No. 510, Sess. II., 1887.—Petition of WILLIAM WAUGH and Others, of Otago.

THE petitioners pray that section 10 of "The Rabbit Nuisance Act, 1882," may be amended.

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

13th June, 1888.

No. 163.—Petition of THOMAS HENRY WALKER, of Point Chevalier, Auckland.

THE petitioner prays for compensation on account of having become blind through exposure while in active service during the Maori war.

I am directed to report that, no evidence having been offered in support of the petition, and there being no information in the Defence Office *re* this claim, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

15th June, 1888.

No. 174.—Petition of CHARLES ROBINSON, of Ohinemuri.

THE petitioner prays for consideration on account of services rendered to the Government in the early days of the colony.

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

15th June, 1888.

No. 180.—Petition of S. ROUNTREE and Others, of Auckland.

THE petitioners pray that the Shop Hours Bill may be passed.

I am directed to report that, as this Bill is now before the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

15th June, 1888.

No. 79.—Petition of THOMAS W. P. SMITH, of Kaitaia.

THE petitioner states that in November, 1886, he was employed by the Crown Lands Commissioner at Auckland to convey village settlers and their luggage from Awanui to Takahue; that he has only received £3 3s. for this work, leaving £60 5s. 3d. still due; that he has made repeated applications for the money, but can get no satisfactory or official reply. He prays that his account may be paid, with interest.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, immediate steps should be taken to ascertain what amount is still due to petitioner, with a view to settling his claim.

15th June, 1888.

## No. 116.—Petition of J. OLLIVIER.

THE petitioner states that he was appointed Provincial Auditor for Canterbury, by warrant, in 1861; that the Act of 1866 took from Provincial Councils the power of appointment, and vested it in the Governor, but nevertheless confirmed those appointments already made; that his services have now been summarily dispensed with. He prays for compensation for the loss of a statutory office.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having fully considered the petition, and evidence given by petitioner, deemed it desirable that an opinion from the Solicitor-General should be obtained, with a view of ascertaining what petitioner's legal rights were. The Government complied with this request; and it is stated that petitioner is entitled, under the 33rd section of "The Civil Service Act, 1866," to a superannuation allowance equal to half of his present salary of £500—viz., £250. Under these circumstances, the Committee is of opinion that the petition should be referred to the Government, and recommends that effect be given to the Solicitor-General's opinion.

15th June, 1888.

Nos. 65, 66, 67, and 68.—Petitions of H. J. ROSS and Others, MARGARET BELL and Others, GEORGE WOODWARD and Others, W. BLACKLER and Others, of Wellington.

THE petitioners state that they view with regret the number of young girls who roam the streets at night soliciting prostitution, their ages varying from twelve years upwards. They pray that the House will legislate in the direction for the recovery of these girls in some such manner as is done by the New South Wales Government.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the allegations contained in these petitions are to some extent correct, the evidence showing that there are a number of very young girls leading immoral lives, though not actually living in known brothels or being declared prostitutes; that, in consequence of the evidence adduced by a number of witnesses whose knowledge of the subject entitles their opinions to have great weight, the Committee recommends the following as the most effectual means of arresting the spread of juvenile vice, viz.: (1) That the age of consent should be raised to sixteen; (2) that increased power should be given to members of the Police Force to visit and inspect at any time houses known as brothels; (3) that the Contagious Diseases Act should be put in force in all large centres of population.

15th June, 1888.

## No. 144.—Petition of W. A. WADDELL and Others, of Wellington.

THE petitioners pray that the Volunteer Regulations may be so amended that garrison bands shall not be permitted to play secular music during divine service on Sundays, and that no garrison band shall play music on Sundays except at divine service, or when marching with a company.

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

15th June, 1888.

## No. 170.—Petition of DONALD MCGREGOR and Others, of Whangarei Heads.

THE petitioners pray for a grant of money for the construction of a certain road.

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

15th June, 1888.

## No. 168.—Petition of G. F. WEBSTER and Others, of Auckland.

THE petitioners pray that a certain road may be made to the Canterbury special settlement.

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

15th June, 1888.

## No. 190.—Petition of JOHN MILN and Others.

THE petitioners, farmers of Canterbury, pray that agricultural implements and binding-twine may be admitted duty-free.

I am directed to report that, as there is a Bill now before the House dealing with the subject-matter of this petition, in the opinion of the Committee it should be referred to the Government.

15th June, 1888.

Nos. 197 and 211.—Petitions of ANNIE JANE SCHNACKENBERG and Others, and GEORGE MABERLY and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the Contagious Diseases Act may be repealed.

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

21st June, 1888.

## No. 239.—Petition of WILLIAM REID MARTIN and Others, of Mount Hyde, Otago.

THE petitioners pray for relief in the matter of the rents of perpetual leaseholds.

I am directed to report that, as there is a Bill now before the House dealing with the subject-matter of this petition, in the opinion of the Committee it should be referred to the Government for consideration.

21st June, 1888.

## No. 214.—Petition of GEORGE FREDERICK SUCH and Others, of Rodney.

THE petitioners pray that, if the Government sell the forests north of Auckland, they will devote the proceeds of such sale to the extension of the Main Trunk Railway north of Auckland, or to the completion and metalling of the main line of north road.

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

21st June, 1888.

## No. 203.—Petition of EMANUEL SNELLGROVE and Others, of Marton.

THE petitioners pray for the abolition of the totalisator.

## No. 223.—Petition of EMMA E. PACKE and Others (No. 2).

THE petitioners, president, secretary, treasurer, and superintendent of the National Women's Christian Temperance Union, pray that the electoral franchise may be extended to women.

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

21st June, 1888.

## No. 35.—Petition of EMMA E. PACKE and Others (No. 1).

THE petitioners, president, secretary, and treasurer respectively of the National Women's Christian Temperance Union, pray that the liquor-law may be so amended as to prevent drink being sold to children under sixteen years of age; and that the licensing of clubs may be amended, and placed on the same footing as hotels.

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

21st June, 1888.

## No. 212.—Petition of CHARLES MACK, of Auckland.

THE petitioner alleges that he was illegally convicted of smuggling tobacco in the year 1868; that he has petitioned Parliament many times, but can get no redress. He prays for relief.

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

21st June, 1888.

## No. 162.—Petition of FRANCIS WILKINSON.

THE petitioner, Chairman of the Kaikorai School Committee, prays that the Government will pay the costs incurred by the Committee in testing the legality of the action of the Otago Education Board in resolving to dispense with the services of Mr. David McLaughlan (headmaster of the Kaikorai School) without consulting the Committee.

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

21st June, 1888.

## No. 46.—Petition of JAMES MALCOLM and WILLIAM ISBISTER, of Otago.

THE petitioners state that in April, 1866, the Superintendent of Otago leased to William Isbister Section 51, Block I., Lower Harbour West, for twenty-one years, at a rental of £1 per annum; that William Isbister agreed to erect a slip on said land, and the Superintendent covenanted to pay the full value of slip and other erections at the expiration of term, and, in case of any dispute, that the matter of compensation was to be settled by arbitration; that in 1866 petitioners became jointly entitled to said lease; that, by virtue of "The Otago Dock Trust Act, 1883," and Amendment Act, 1885, the land comprised in the lease became vested in the Otago Dock Trust; that in 1887 two arbitrators and an umpire were appointed to decide as to the amount of compensation petitioners were entitled to, and the umpire made an award of £776 to petitioners; that the costs attending this award amounted to £53 18s. 4d., which petitioners had to pay; that the Otago Dock Trust refused to pay the award and half costs, consequently petitioners had to bring an action against them in the Supreme Court; that it was discovered that the Superintendent of Otago had failed to obtain an ordinance from the Provincial Council authorising him to grant the before-mentioned lease, and petitioners were advised that they had no legal ground of action against the Otago Dock Trust or the Crown. Petitioners allege that they have suffered great loss through the invalidity of the lease, amounting in the aggregate to £872 9s. 2d., and also the interest at £6 per centum per annum on £776 from the time the award was made. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that this petition be referred to the Government, with an expression of opinion from the Committee that the petitioners, in equity, are entitled to relief.

28th June, 1888.

## No. 210.—Petition of JOHN L. SMITH and Others.

THE petitioners, farmers residing on the Arahura Native Reserve, allege that their homes and farms are being destroyed by thousands of tons of tailings which are being daily discharged into the Arahura River by the Humphrey's Gully Gold-mining Company; that the sluicing operations of the said company are on the increase, and petitioners are being practically driven out of their farms. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, having taken the evidence of the Public Trustee, the Inspecting Engineer of Mines, and Mr. Seddon, M.H.R., and also considered a telegram from the manager of



Humphrey's Gully Gold-mining Company, the Committee is of opinion there is great danger that the interests of farmers in the Arahura Valley will be injuriously affected by mining operations in that district; but, as a Bill is now before the House proposing to amend "The Mining Act, 1886," it considers that the petition should be referred to the Government for consideration.

28th June, 1888.

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No. 158.—Petition of STEPHEN SPALDING, of Auckland.

THE petitioner, an inmate of the Whau Lunatic Asylum, states that he was tried in October, 1886, for arson; that he was pronounced insane, and sent to the asylum; that he petitioned Parliament in November, 1887, praying to be removed to Mount Eden Gaol. Petitioner now alleges that five patients have died in the asylum through cruelty and neglect, that twenty-one have run away, and that forty-eight attendants have left since November, 1887. He prays for a public inquiry into the affairs of the asylum.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, an examination of the petitioner should be made by two medical men, independent of the Superintendent, with a view to ascertaining his sanity or otherwise; and the Committee would draw the attention of the Government to the report of the Official Visitor (14th June, 1888) in connection with this case.

28th June, 1888.

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No. 206.—Petition of EDWARD REVELL and Others, of Canterbury.

THE petitioners pray that State aid may not be granted to Roman Catholic schools.

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

18th June, 1888.

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No. 224.—Petition of LEONARD SIMPSON, of Maketu.

THE petitioner alleges that he was authorised by Government to survey a certain block of land called Paengaroa North, near Maketu, which survey was first stopped by the Natives, and afterwards relinquished by the Government. He prays for a refund of the money expended by him.

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

28th June, 1888.

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No. 238.—Petition of ROBERT MATHIESON and Others.

THE petitioners, certificated engineers, of Dunedin, Auckland, and Wellington, state that the foreign cargo-carrying steamers are running on the coast with only foreign engineers, whereas if they carried passengers they would have to comply with the provisions of the Shipping and Seamen's Act, and have properly-certificated engineers; that British vessels are not allowed to run with engineers holding only foreign certificates. They pray that the foreign cargo-carrying vessels may be put on the same footing as British ones with regard to certificated engineers.

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

28th June, 1888.

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No. 244.—Petition of ROBERT RONALD and Others.

THE petitioners, deferred-payment settlers of Wallace, pray that their lands may be revalued, with a view to the price being reduced.

I am directed to report that, as a Bill is now before the House dealing with the subject-matter of this petition, in the opinion of the Committee, it should be referred to the Government.

28th June, 1888.

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No. 270.—Petition of C. H. TREADWELL, of Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he is solicitor for one Richard Weston, of Salop, England, who claims to be heir-at-law to Sections 92 and 103, Town District of Waipawa; that, according to a notice published in the *Waipawa Mail* on the 16th June, 1888, it is proposed to introduce a Bill during the present session of Parliament which he is advised is likely to prejudicially affect his client's interest, whose claims are now under the consideration of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the colony. He prays that said Bill may not be allowed to become law.

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

28th June, 1888.

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No. 269.—Petition of THOMAS SCOTT.

THE petitioner prays that inquiry may be made into the services he has rendered the colony, and that he may receive a grant of land.

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

28th June, 1888.

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No. 258.—Petition of E. PICKETT and Others, of Thames.

THE petitioners pray that the Contagious Diseases Act may be repealed.

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

28th June, 1888.

## No. 256.—Petition of SAMUEL MORRISON.

THE petitioner, late a warder in Dunedin Gaol, prays for compensation for loss of office.

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

28th June, 1888.

## No. 202.—Petition of WILLIAM PACKARD, of Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he was appointed as clerk in the District Engineer's office, Pipitea Point, on the 7th January, 1884, at the rate of 10s. per diem; that his services were dispensed with on the 30th April, 1888, on the plea of retrenchment. He prays for compensation—viz., the customary allowance of one month's pay for each year of service.

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

28th June, 1888.

## No. 250.—Petition of THOMAS WING, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was appointed pilot at Port of Manukau by the Governor in March, 1857, and Harbourmaster in 1868; that he was granted six months' leave of absence on the 1st November, 1887, on account of ill health, and on the expiry of said leave his services were dispensed with; that he has been informed he is entitled to £191 12s. 5d. as compensation for loss of office. Petitioner alleges that, although at the time of the abolition of the provinces he was paid by the Provincial Government, yet he had received his appointment from the Governor, and was therefore virtually in the employment of the General Government. He prays for further compensation.

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

28th June, 1888.

## No. 332.—Petition of M. MILLAR and Others, of Otago.

THE petitioners pray that "The Contagious Diseases Act, 1869," may be repealed.

## No. 333.—Petition of J. C. MILLAR and Others, of Otago.

THE petitioners pray that the Bible may be read daily in public schools.

## No. 295.—Petition of J. L. WRIGHT and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the totalisator may be abolished.

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

4th July, 1888.

## No. 218.—Petition of HOANI RURU and Others, of Gisborne.

THE petitioners, the Ngaitamanuhiri and Ngatirangiwhao hapus, pray that they may be employed in repairing the road from Gisborne to Te Mahanga; also that a post-office may be established at Te Muriwai.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the question as to the repairing of the road is a matter for the consideration of the local bodies, and that the portion of the petition *re* the erection of a post-office should be referred to the Government for consideration.

4th July, 1888.

## No. 343.—Petition of J. WEBB and Others, of Christchurch.

THE petitioners pray that the Shop Hours Bill may not be passed.

## No. 304.—Petition of J. NEWDICK and Others.

THE petitioners, ratepayers and selectors of Danevirke, Woodville, and Pahiatua, pray that the Counties Act Amendment Bill (No. 2) may not be passed this session.

I am directed to report that, as these Bills are now before the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make, but would refer the petitions to the Government.

4th July, 1888.

## No. 201.—Petition of THOMAS PATTERSON, of Invercargill.

THE petitioner, a carter, states that on the evening of the 18th September, 1886, he was returning home with his horse and dray through Conon Street, Invercargill, and when attempting to go over the railway-crossing was run into by an express train; that he was so seriously injured as to be unable to follow any occupation for the support of his wife and nine children; that his horse was killed and his dray broken, causing a loss of £30. He prays for compensation.

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

6th July, 1888.

## No. 331.—Petition of SIMON SCOTT and Others, of Wellington.

THE petitioners pray that the Shop Hours Bill may not be passed.

I am directed to report that, as this Bill is now before the House, in the opinion of the Committee, the petition should be referred to the Government.

6th July, 1888.

No. 240.—Petition of Captain JOHN TAYLOR MARSHALL, of Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he joined the New Zealand Constabulary in January, 1870; that in September, 1874, he was transferred to the command of the Militia and Volunteer District of Nelson at a salary of £329; that this salary was afterwards reduced, and he was retransferred to the Constabulary; that he served until January, 1881, when he was compelled to retire owing to ill health caused by a coach accident; that he received a bonus of £125, or six months' pay; that a bonus of one month's pay for every year of service has lately been granted to officers of the Constabulary whose services have been dispensed with. Petitioner prays that he may be placed on a similar footing, and be paid the sum of £104 3s. 4d., or balance of five months' salary.

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

6th July, 1888.

No. 360.—Petition of A. MURRAY and Others.

IN favour of the Shop Hours Bill.

I am directed to report that, as this Bill is now before the House, in the opinion of the Committee, the petition should be referred to the Government.

11th July, 1888.

No. 251.—Petition of WILLIAM STEEN, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that his mother and two sisters came out from England to Auckland in the ship "Indian Empire" in 1862; that they paid £18 each as passage-money, but neglected to obtain land-scrip; that in consequence of this omission they have been unable to obtain the land to which they would otherwise have been entitled. He prays for compensation.

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

11th July, 1888.

No. 349.—Petition of JAMES B. PORTEOUS and Others.

THE petitioners, ratepayers of Winton, Limehills, and Benmore, pray that a sufficient sum of money may be granted for the connection of the works of the Winton River District with the projected works of the Benmore-Limehills River Board.

No. 375.—Petition of HUGH MCKENZIE and Others, of Waipu.

THE petitioners pray that a sufficient sum of money may be granted to put a bridge over the Waipu.

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

11th July, 1888.

Nos. 357, 358, 359, and 367.—Petitions of ALEXANDER BRODIE, Mayor of Thames, and Others; D. MCFARLANE, Mayor of Invercargill, and Others; HART UDY and Others, Greytown; and D. MCLENNON and Others, Akaroa.

THE petitioners pray that the totalisator may be abolished.

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

11th July, 1888.

No. 336.—Petition of HANS OLSEN, of Manawatu.

THE petitioner states that he was employed as roadman on the Manawatu Gorge Road by the Government; that in January, 1887, the Government handed over the control of the road to the local governing bodies, who, however, declined the responsibility; that he worked upon the road for forty-four days after it was given over, and that the sum of £15 8s. is due to him. He prays for payment of this amount.

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

11th July, 1888.

No. 237.—Petition of P. MCKEGNEY, of Christchurch.

THE petitioner states that in May, 1888, he was employed on the relief-works at Kaituna Valley in working a crane by hand-power; that through no fault of his own two fingers of his right hand were drawn into the cog-wheels and so severely crushed that they have had to be amputated; that the cog-wheels of this crane have since been covered over; that he has been receiving half-pay from the Public Works Department at the rate of 2s. 3d. per day. He prays for compensation.

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

11th July, 1888.

No. 237.—Petition of P. MCKEGNEY, of Christchurch (Second Report).

THE report of the Committee on this petition was referred back by the House on the 11th July for further consideration.

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

31st July, 1888.

## No. 364.—Petition of MICHAEL MOYNIHAN, of Lyttelton.

THE petitioner states that he served in the Armed Constabulary for six years—viz., from 1879 to 1885; that in March, 1885, he was employed in a cutting on a new road in the Taupo district; 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 as compensation (£22 10s.). He prays for a further sum.

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

12th July, 1888.

## No. 368.—Petition of JAMES BULLER SAXON, of Nelson.

THE petitioner states that in 1884 he entered into an arrangement with the Chief Surveyor at Nelson to survey Crown lands for which no application had been made for lease or purchase, on the understanding that when application was made he should receive survey-fees at the rate of 1s. 9d. per acre; that he surveyed Crown lands to the extent of 3,345 acres 3 roods 33 perches, the fees on which would amount to £292 15s. 6d.; that in December, 1885, 608 acres 3 roods 10 perches of these unapplied-for lands were withdrawn from application in connection with the Midland Railway; that the Survey Department refuse to pay for the survey, on the ground that the lands have not yet been applied for. Petitioner prays that his case may be considered.

I am directed to report that, from the documents before the Committee, it would appear that 608 acres 3 roods 10 perches have been withdrawn for the Midland Railway, and for this portion the petitioner would be entitled to payment at the rate of 1s. 9d. per acre; the Committee also thinks he has an equitable claim for payment on the balance of 2,737 acres and 23 perches. Petitioner is willing to accept payment at the rate of 1s. 3d. per acre on the 3,345 acres 3 roods 33 perches; and, this being approved by the Surveyor-General, the Committee recommends that the petitioner be paid the sum of £209 2s. 6d., in terms of his offer.

18th July, 1888.

## No. 422.—Petition of F. RAVENHALL and Others.

THE petitioners, residents of the County and Borough of Waimate, state that they are unable to obtain employment of any description. They pray that a subsidy may be granted to the County or Borough Council for the purpose of inducing them to start some public work of utility which would give petitioners employment and enable them to support their wives and families.

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

2nd August, 1888.

## Nos. 412, 413, and 414.—Petitions of O. F. PILLING and Others, ARTHUR H. NATHAN and Others, and JOSIAH HUDSON and Others.

THE petitioners, residents and owners of property north of Auckland, pray that the North Auckland Main Trunk Railway line may be constructed.

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

2nd August, 1888.

## No. 408.—Petition of SCOTT BROS., of Christchurch.

THE petitioners state that in April, 1885, they entered into a contract with the Government for the supply of ten locomotives for the sum of £13,850; that it was necessary to import certain material from England, and petitioners imported it in what they believed to be strict accordance with the conditions of the contract; that the General Manager of Railways condemned certain portions of said material as not being in accordance with the conditions; that the petitioners were finally allowed to use the condemned material on agreeing to sign a new contract, which provided for a reduction of £350 in the amount of the former one. They pray that this amount may be refunded to them.

I am directed to report that, while the Committee are of opinion that the strict wording of the contract was infringed upon, they believe that the contractors ordered the material used in the construction of the engines in the ordinary manner from the manufacturers, and consider that the amount deducted under the amended contract—viz., £350—should be refunded to the petitioners.

2nd August, 1888.

## No. 407.—Petition of JOHN WALSH and Others.

THE petitioners, miners of Paroa, pray that their very critical position with regard to a special mining claim of a hundred acres in the New River at Paroa, granted to Messrs. Byrne and Brown, may be considered.

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

2nd August, 1888.

## No. 418.—Petition of S. A. WATSON and Others.

THE petitioners pray that provision may be made for the introduction of a few persons skilled in home industrial pursuits, such as hand-spinning and weaving, &c., also the simple implements required, as they believe such a course would tend to alleviate the distress now so prevalent amongst the industrial classes.

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

3rd August, 1888.

No. 437.—Petition of JOHN EDWARD SALISBURY and Others.

THE petitioners, landowners in the districts of Pangatotara and Pokororo, pray that a bridge may be erected over the Motueka River to enable them to cross their stock.

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

3rd August, 1888.

No. 410.—Petition of D. McDONALD and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the services of the unemployed may be given to form a road through the Popotunoa Gorge.

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

3rd August, 1888.

Nos. 352, 353, and 354.—Petitions of MARY MURLEY and Others, A. MILLAR and Others, and SARAH WATSON and Others.

THE petitioners pray that "The Contagious Diseases Act, 1869," may be repealed.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the Government should be requested to bring in a Bill in the Legislative Council this session for the repeal of "The Contagious Diseases Act, 1869."

14th August, 1888.

No. 213.—Petition of ROBERT MACALISTER, of Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he was appointed to the Civil Service of the colony in 1865; that in May, 1874, he received the statutory appointment of Provincial Auditor for Wellington, under "The Provincial Audit Act, 1866," and by warrant under the hand of the Governor; that he is now informed his services are no longer required, on the ground of retrenchment, and he is thus deprived of what he considers a life-office, through no fault of his own. He prays that his case may be considered.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having considered this petition, and taken evidence thereon, is of opinion that petitioner is only legally entitled to the sum of £978 16s. 6d., as provided for by "The Civil Service Act, 1866."

14th August, 1888.

No. 444.—Petition of JAMES REID and Others.

THE petitioners, officers, non-commissioned officers, and members of the Hamilton Light Infantry Volunteers, pray that the Hamilton Volunteer Hall Site Bill may not be passed.

I am directed to report that, as this Bill is now before the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

14th August, 1888.

No. 458.—Petition of MARIANNE SCOTT and Others.

THE petitioners, residents of Auckland and suburbs, pray for the repeal of section 46 of "The Gaming and Lotteries Act, 1881," and for the abolition of the totalisator.

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

17th August, 1888.

No. 454.—Petition of AMBROSE WARBURTON and Others.

THE petitioners, residents in the city and suburbs of Auckland, pray that provision may be made for resuming the village-settlement system in the Auckland District.

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

17th August, 1888.

Nos. 436 and 442.—Petitions of W. A. DONALD and Others, and J. S. SIMPSON and Others.

THE petitioners, residents in the Waimea Plains Railway District, pray that the Waimea Plains Railway may be worked in future as a portion of the Main Trunk line.

No. 471.—Petition of CHAIRMAN of VINCENT COUNTY COUNCIL.

For amendment of the Public Works Act.

No. 468.—Petition of PRESIDENT of WELLINGTON WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

For repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act.

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

17th August, 1888.

## No. 373.—Petition of GEORGE NYE, of Foxton.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for loss of office in the Public Works Department.

I am directed to report that, from the evidence before the Committee, the petitioner appears to have performed the duties of his office most efficiently, but, as he does not come under the operation of the Civil Service Acts, the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of his petition.

17th August, 1888.

## No. 421.—Petition of ROBERT SEYMOUR, of Wellington.

THE petitioner, secretary to the Seamen's Union, states that he was offered a more remunerative position than his present one by £1 per week, but failed to obtain it owing to the negligence on the part of the officers of the Telegraph Department in not carrying out his written instructions as to the delivery of his telegrams. He prays for compensation for loss sustained.

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

21st August, 1888.

## No. 438.—Petition of ALICE JANE MILL, of Wellington.

THE petitioner states that she has suffered wrongs at the hands of a certain medical man owing to his alleged unskilfulness; that owing to the Statute of Limitations she is now unable to proceed against him for damages, as the injuries were sustained in 1881; that she has only lately discovered how serious said injuries are. She prays for relief.

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

21st August, 1888.

## No. 473.—Petition of WAIKATO COUNTY COUNCIL.

THE petitioners pray for the refund of certain sums of money which they allege were wrongfully deducted from subsidies due to them.

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

24th August, 1888.

## No. 478.—Petition of SAMUEL STEPHENSON, of Auckland.

THE petitioner prays for amendment of the Licensing Act.

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

24th August, 1888.

## No. 268.—Petition of ANDREAS REISCHEK, of Auckland.

THE petitioner alleges that a valuable collection of bird-skins belonging to him was destroyed by the action of salt water while on board the Government steamer "Stella." He prays for compensation for loss sustained.

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

24th August, 1888.

## No. 490.—Petition of W. C. PAYNE and Others, of Thames.

THE petitioners pray for certain alterations in the regulations under the Fisheries Conservation Act.

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

24th August, 1888.

## No. 272.—Petition of W. J. N. ROBINSON, of Wellington (No. 1).

THE petitioner prays that he may have redress for certain alleged wrongs in connection with the Resident Magistrate's Court, Wellington.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the matters complained of by the petitioner are not of such a nature as to call for interference on the part of the Committee, but should be dealt with in the ordinary way by the Courts of law. The Committee has no recommendation to make.

18th July, 1888.

## No. 435.—Petition of W. J. N. ROBINSON, of Wellington (No. 2).

THE petitioner alleges that he has suffered injustice in connection with the Resident Magistrate's Court at Wellington, and also at the hands of the Public Petitions M to Z Committee. He prays for relief.

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

3rd August, 1888.

## No. 465.—Petition of W. J. N. ROBINSON, of Wellington (No. 3).

THE petitioner prays that his petition of the 19th June may be considered by a Special Committee.

I am directed to report that this Committee has no recommendation to make.

28th August, 1888.

## No. 441.—Petition of MARY and WILLIAM MURCOTT, of Hampden, Otago.

THE petitioners state that in 1870 W. Murcott purchased from the Crown Section 48, Block I., Otepopo, containing 114 acres; that at the time of such purchase access was gained to said section by means of a road which ran through what was then a bush reserve; that by virtue of "The Special Powers and Contracts Act, 1885," this road has since been Crown-granted to the Borough of Hampden, despite the protests of both petitioners and the County Council of Waitaki; that other settlers, as well as your petitioners, suffer loss by the closing of this road. Petitioners pray that this matter may be inquired into, that the grant of said road may be cancelled, and the land included therein again set apart as a public road.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the Government should cause an inquiry to be made in the locality, in order that the County Council of Waitaki, the Borough of Hampden, and the petitioners may be heard.

28th August, 1888.

## No. 500.—Petition of JESSIE H. REYBURN and Others, Otahuhu.

THE petitioners pray for the repeal of "The Contagious Diseases Act, 1869."

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

28th August, 1888.

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