

1893.
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS A TO L COMMITTEE.

(MR. C. H. MILLS, CHAIRMAN.)

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

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

ORDERS OF REFERENCE.

Extracts from the Journals of the House of Representatives.

WEDNESDAY, THE 28TH DAY OF JUNE, 1893.

Ordered, "That a Public Petitions A to L Committee, consisting of ten members, be appointed to consider all petitions that may be referred to it by the Petitions Classification Committee, to classify and prepare abstracts of such petitions in such form and manner as shall appear to it best suited to convey to this House all requisite information respecting their contents, and to report the same from time to time to this House, and to have power to report its opinions and observations thereupon to the House; also to have power to call for persons and papers: three to be a quorum. The Committee to consist of Mr. Earnshaw, Mr. Houston, Mr. J. Kelly, Mr. Lake, Mr. C. H. Mills, Mr. Moore, Mr. E. M. Smith, Mr. Swan, and the mover."—(Hon. Mr. REEVES.)

WEDNESDAY, THE 5TH DAY OF JULY, 1893.

Ordered, "That the name of Mr. Valentine be added to the Public Petitions A to L Committee."—(Hon. Mr. REEVES.)

No. 450, 1892.—Petition of GUSTAVUS EDWARD HART, of Invercargill.

PETITIONER states that certain title-deeds for land owned by his late father are in the custody of the Registrar of Deeds, who will not give up possession unless a sum of £7 3s. 6d., custody fees, is paid. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner should be allowed to uplift the deeds, Nos. 1719 and 1720, upon a payment of £4 sterling to the Registrar.

6th July, 1893.

No. 525, 1892.—Petition of JOHN LLOYD and 8 Others, Motueka.

PETITIONERS pray for a grant of money to construct a road, one mile in length, leading to their sections of land in the Orinoco Valley.

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

6th July, 1893.

No. 359A, 1892.—Petition of HUBERT BURNETT and 247 Others, of Woodville and district.

PETITIONERS pray that a sum of money be placed on the estimates for the construction of the road—Ballance to Woodville.

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

6th July, 1893.

No. 412, 1892.—Petition of DANIEL EGAN, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that, while employed on road-works at the East Cape by the Survey Department, he received serious injury to his spine. He prays for relief.

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

6th July, 1893.

No 479, 1892.—Petition of WILLIAM DICKSON and Another, of Portobello.

PETITIONERS state that the Government reduced the tolls on the Portobello Beach Road by one-half, whereby the Road Board's revenue was very much reduced. They pray for an endowment of land, or grant of money, as compensation.

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

6th July, 1893.

1—I. 1.

No. 57.—Petition of CATHERINE HISLOP, of Invercargill.

PETITIONER states that her late husband died from an illness caused by an accident while in the employ of the Railway Department, and that she has not received any compassionate allowance. She prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, having now received a certificate from Dr. James Young, giving his opinion that John Hislop died from the results caused by an accident while employed in the Railway Department, the Committee recommends the petitioner be paid a sum of money not less than one year's wages of her late husband.

11th July, 1893.

No. 3.—Petition of RICHARD DOOLAN, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER states that he was discharged from the Police Force as unfit for duty through failing eyesight. He prays for relief.

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

11th July, 1893.

No. 453, 1892.—Petition of GEORGE A. ALLEN, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that he was dismissed from the Torpedo Corps for insubordination, and absented himself from duty without leave. He prays for reinstatement.

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

11th July, 1893.

No. 587, 1892.—Petition of MICHAEL HARTNETT, of Onehunga.

PETITIONER states that his son, Michael Hartnett, was murdered while acting as guard over the Maori prisoners at the Chatham Islands, when they escaped in 1868, and that he is now an old man, without any means of support. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the Government to inquire into the circumstances of the petitioner, and afford relief if necessary.

11th July, 1893.

No. 733, 1892.—Petition of CHARLES BURGESS, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays that no reduction be made in the subsidy to local bodies.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Government.

11th July, 1893.

No. 708, 1892.—Petition of GEORGE FISHER, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays that an inquiry be made into the circumstances which caused his dismissal from the Railway service, &c.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make, and consider the circumstances fully justified his dismissal.

11th July, 1893.

No 581, 1892.—Petition of F. LOGAN and 28 Others, of Hawke's Bay.

PETITIONERS pray that the specifications, indices, &c., of Letters Patent be printed, and sold at cost price, and that accommodation be provided for patent models.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends that the suggestions contained in the departmental report on the subject-matter of the petition be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

13th July, 1893.

No. 1.—Petition of ALEXANDER BRODIE, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that he has suffered great bodily harm through attending the Supreme Court at Auckland as a Grand Juror. He prays for relief on account of his many public services.

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

13th July, 1893.

No. 731, 1892.—The CHAIRMEN, OHINEMURI, THAMES, and COROMANDEL COUNTY COUNCILS.

PETITIONERS pray that inquiry be made into the misappropriation of kauri-trees in the Ohinemuri, Thames, and Coromandel Counties.

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

13th July, 1893.

Nos. 21 and 22.—Petition of CHARLES HARDY and 18 Others, and WILLIAM HEDLEY and 38 Others of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the immigration of Austrian subjects to the gum-fields in the Auckland Province may be prevented.

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

13th July, 1893.

No. 23.—Petition of H. B. HUDDLESTON, of Blenheim.

PETITIONER states that on 1st January, 1886, he was absolutely deprived of the right he had for many years previously enjoyed of practising as a Lands Transfer Surveyor under a State-issued license. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
13th July, 1893.

Nos. 712, 1892, and 42, 1893.—Petition of WILLIAM INNESS, of Okato.

PETITIONER states that he leased Section No. 77, at Okato, from the Police Department; last year the Taranaki School Commissioners advertised the said lease for sale by auction; that your petitioner bought the lease, but since then the Police authorities have sued him for rent, and the case has been given against him. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, as it appears to the Committee that the petitioner has not exhausted his legal remedy, they have no recommendation to make.

13th July, 1893.

No. 49.—Petition of ELIZABETH CLARK, of Invercargill.

PETITIONER states that her late husband lost his life by falling through the Railway Bridge at Hamilton, while serving as ganger in the Railway Department. She prays for further consideration.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends that the petitioner be granted a sum of money equal to another six months' pay of her late husband.

18th July, 1893.

No. 14.—Petition of THOMAS COLLIS, of Auckland (Report No. 1).

PETITIONER states that he was discharged from the Police Force on account of debts contracted through backing a bill. He prays for compensation, or that he be reinstated in the Police Force.

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

18th July, 1893.

No. 33.—Petition of EDWARD A. DOOLEY, of Anderson's Bay.

PETITIONER states that in 1874 the Provincial Council of Otago voted £50 for the Gibbston Coal-pit Road, and alleges that he is entitled to the same, but in 1875 the vote lapsed. He prays that the sum of £50 be now paid to him.

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

18th July, 1893.

No. 89.—Petition of WILLIAM N. CHAMBERS, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER states that, after twelve years' service in the Railway Department as sailmaker, he was discharged without compensation. He prays for relief.

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

18th July, 1893.

No. 5.—Petition of WILLIAM HICKINBOTTOM, of Sydenham.

PETITIONER states that he was compelled through ill-health to leave his employment in the Railway service, and has not received any compassionate allowance. He prays for relief.

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

18th July, 1893.

No. 54.—Petition of JOHN ARTHUR, of Invercargill.

PETITIONER states that after sixteen years' service as crossing-sweeper in the Railway Department he was discharged without any retiring-allowance. He prays for relief.

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

18th July, 1893.

No. 705, 1892.—Petition of Mrs. MARY BROUGH, of Wanganui.

PETITIONER states in 1881 she was refused the renewal of her license for the Railway Hotel, but that six months afterwards it was renewed. She prays for compensation for loss of rent, &c.

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

18th July, 1893.

No. 103.—Petition of WILLIAM LAWRENCE, of Invercargill.

PETITIONER states that while he was crossing the railway-line in Ythan Street, Invercargill, the train overturned his trap and horse, receiving bodily injury to himself, and damage to his trap and horse. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends a sum of £20 be paid to the petitioner by the Government in full satisfaction of his claim.

20th July, 1893.

No. 17.—Petition of EDWARD R. CHUDLEIGH and 53 Others, of the Chatham Islands.

PETITIONERS pray the Government to vote a sum of £300 for the construction of a bridge over the Waitangi River, at the Chatham Islands.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petition to the favourable consideration of the Government.

20th July, 1893.

No. 27.—Petition of A. G. FELL, Mayor of Picton.

PETITIONER states that the Railway Goods-shed and Platform has been built on the street known as London Quay, thereby reducing the width of the street to 24ft., and prays Government to take part of Sections 207 and 208, in order to restore the street to a proper width.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the Public Works Department to take the necessary steps to acquire a sufficient portion of Sections Nos. 207 and 208 in the Borough of Picton (as shown on the plan attached to petition) to widen London Quay and Wellington Street.

20th July, 1893.

No. 719, 1892.—Petition of the BANK OF NEW ZEALAND ESTATES COMPANY and 30 Others, of Karangahape.

PETITIONERS pray that some assistance may be given towards making the Muddy Creek—Huia Road.

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

20th July, 1893.

No. 108.—Petition of PATRICK JOHN CAREY, of Napier.

PETITIONER states that he was dismissed from the position of Drill Instructor, Hawke's Bay, without sufficient reason. He prays that he be reinstated or paid compensation.

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

20th July, 1893.

No. 703, 1892.—Petition of JAMES C. R. ISHERWOOD, of Palmerston North.

PETITIONER states that he gave scrip of certain sections in the Birmingham Small-farm Settlement as security for a loan of £30 to one John Waldegrave, and that his son, Harry Waldegrave, obtained the Crown grants for same. He prays for relief.

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

20th July, 1893.

No. 43.—Petition of WILLIAM CARLTON, of Catlin's River.

PETITIONER states that co-operative workmen on the Long Point Road felled trees on to his fences, thereby causing eleven head of his cattle to stray and be lost. He prays for compensation for loss sustained.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petitioner has a good case against the department, and recommends that reasonable compensation be given him.

27th July, 1893.

No. 7.—Petition of H. E. CROFTS, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss of office, as an instructor of deaf-mutes at Sumner.

I am directed to report that the petitioner, having by his counsel requested to be allowed to withdraw his petition, the Committee recommends the request be granted.

27th July, 1893.

No. 77.—Petition of JOHN ELLIOTT and 118 Others, of Thames and Ohinemuri Counties.

PETITIONERS pray for the construction of a road from the junction of the Hikutaia Stream and the Waihou River to connect with the Miranda-Pokeno Road.

I am directed to report that, as a great portion of the road will pass through Native lands which cannot be rated, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

27th July, 1893.

No. 668, 1892.—Petition of H. E. CROFTS, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays that he be allowed to call and cross-examine witnesses at the Commission of inquiry to be held in connection with the Summer Deaf and Dumb Institution.

I am directed to report that, as the investigation has been held, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

27th July, 1893.

No. 702, 1892.—Petition of ARPER ALESWORTH, of Picton.

PETITIONER prays for further consideration on account of his services while in the Mounted Police Force, and for services as mail-carrier during the Maori war.

I am directed to report that, as a pension of £10 per annum has been granted by the Government to the petitioner, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

27th July, 1893.

No. 732, 1892.—Petition of JOHN JERVIS, of Auckland.

PETITIONER complains of wrongs done him by money-lenders. He prays for relief.

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

27th July, 1893.

No. 28.—Petition of CHARLES BROWN, of New Plymouth.

PETITIONER states that he was paid on short measurement for certain work done for the Railway Department, and that he was unjustly dismissed from his employment. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to a matter of contract, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

27th July, 1893.

No. 148.—Petition of ROBERT LAMBIE and 154 Others, of Waimate and Hawera.

PETITIONERS pray for the constitution of a new county, to be called the Egmont County.

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

27th July, 1893.

No. 142.—Petition of WILLIAM LONGLEY FOWLER, of Aylesbury.

PETITIONER states, that by agreement with the Stock Department, he killed 1,767 of his sheep, and was to receive 2s. 6d. per head for so doing, in order to stamp out scab on his run; but now petitioner alleges the Stock Department refuse to pay him £220 17s. 6d., the value of the sheep destroyed. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the full amount of petitioner's claim of £220 17s. 6d. be paid to him.

1st August, 1893.

No. 24.—Petition of THOMAS KENNEDY, Junior, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that in 1885 his services in the Lands Department were dispensed with, and that he received compensation for only part of the time he was in the Service, his temporary service for over five years not being counted. He prays that he be granted compensation for the full period, and payment of three months' pay in lieu of notice.

I am directed to report that, after hearing further evidence from the Surveyor-General, the Committee are of opinion that, if it is usual to grant retiring-allowances from the date of an officer's temporary service, the full amount should be paid to the petitioner, but without payment in lieu of three months' notice.

1st August, 1893.

No. 349, 1892.—Petition of The CHAIRMAN, COOK COUNTY COUNCIL, and 4 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the passing of the Cook and Waiapu Counties Property Adjustment Bill be held over until due notice is given.

I am directed to report that, as "The Cook and Waiapu Counties Property Adjustment Act, 1892," has been passed by the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

1st August, 1893.

No. 126.—Petition of H. J. JEROMSON and 96 Others, of Dunedin.

PETITIONERS pray that Government will encourage the manufactures from sheepskins in the colony.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Manufactures and Industries Committee.

No. 30.—Petition of MOSES S. BREACH, New Plymouth.

PETITIONER prays for redress on account of certain land which he alleges has been wrongly taken from him.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Waste Lands Committee.

1st August, 1893.

No. 691, 1892.—Petition of J. C. ANDREW, of Masterton.

PETITIONER prays that "The Rabbit Nuisance Act 1882 Amendment Act, 1886," be amended, so as to allow an appeal against a fine of under £10.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion the petition should be referred to the Live-stock and Rabbits Committee.

2nd August, 1893.

No. 261, 1892.—Petition of the BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION, of Wellington.

PETITIONERS pray that certain alterations be made in the Government conditions of contract.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Government for favourable consideration, and that a copy of the evidence taken be attached to the report.

2nd August, 1893.

No. 190.—Petition of JOHN HENRY HANNAN, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that the system of Grand Juries may be abolished by an Act of Parliament.

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

4th August, 1893.

No. 172.—Petition of JOSEPH H. GROCOTT, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER states that he was injured while in the Railway Service, and is now lying in the Dunedin Hospital in straitened circumstances.

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

4th August, 1893.

No. 84.—Petition of DAVID LAW, of Port Chalmers.

PETITIONER states that his land has been greatly injured by the Marewhenua River being declared a watercourse under the Mines Act.

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

4th August, 1893.

No. 65.—Petition of E. DEMETRY and 107 Others, of Canterbury.

PETITIONERS state that they are fishermen and fishmongers, and pray that they be not compelled to use a square-meshed net instead of the diagonal one now in use when fishing for flounders.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, there is no need to compel fishermen to use a square-meshed net instead of the diagonal mesh now in use.

4th August, 1893.

No. 631, 1892; No. 88, 1893.—Petition of Mrs. A. A. HELPS, of Alexandra, Waikato.

PETITIONER states that her husband was, on his retiring from the public service, granted a pension of £60 per annum, and that he died shortly after the granting of the pension leaving petitioner in very straitened circumstances. She prays that she be granted a portion of her late husband's pension.

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

8th August, 1893.

No. 8.—Petition of EDWARD BRETON, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER states that he was fined £5 for selling flounders under regulation size. He prays for the remittance of the fine, as he had bought the flounders from the fishermen not knowing that any were under the regulation size.

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

8th August, 1893.

No. 127.—Petition of JOSEPH GOWER and 56 Others, of Okaihau.

PETITIONERS pray that a post and telegraph and money-order office be opened in the centre of the Okaihau Settlement.

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

8th August, 1893.

No. 40.—Petition of W. G. D. BOHNING, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER states that he has lost the use of his left hand through the faulty machinery used by the Kaitangata Coal Company, and is now unable to earn a livelihood. He prays that he be granted relief out of the several funds that are applied to injured miners.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Government.

10th August, 1893.

No. 137.—Petition of JOHN LEONARD, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER states that he received certain injuries through a defective engine, and on account of such injuries he was discharged from the Railway service as being unfit for work. He prays for relief.

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

15th August, 1893.

No. 156.—Petition of ARTHUR JAS. COGHLAN, of Penrose, Auckland.

PETITIONER states that a spark from a passing train set fire to his house at Penrose, and destroyed his household furniture, &c. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petitioner be paid the sum of £70 as compensation in full satisfaction of his loss.

15th August, 1893.

No. 34.—Petition of MARY BURKE, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER states that her husband died from pleurisy contracted while on night duty as head porter at the Port Chalmers Railway-station. She prays for a compassionate allowance.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the sum of £159 12s. 11d., which, according to the report from the Railway Department, John Burke would have been entitled to had he retired from the service when "The Railway Act, 1887," came into operation, be paid to his widow as a compassionate allowance.

15th August, 1893.

No. 52.—Petition of MATTEO GIBENS and 21 Others, of Karamea.

PETITIONERS pray that the road from Black Creek to the Oparara River, on the Karamea-Collingwood Road, be widened into a dray-road.

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

15th August, 1893.

No. 187.—Petition of the OTAMATEA COUNTY COUNCIL, Maungaturoto.

PETITIONERS pray for a division of the North of Auckland Hospital and Charitable Aid District, so that each county shall distribute its own charitable aid.

I am directed to report that, as the whole question of charitable aid will be dealt with shortly, the Committee recommends the petition to the Government for consideration.

15th August, 1893.

No. 66.—Petition of the HOROWHENUA COUNTY COUNCIL.

PETITIONERS state that the charitable-aid levy absorbs nearly one-third of the Council's revenue, and pray for an amendment of the Act.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Government.

15th August, 1893.

No. 298.—Petition of THOMAS F. BYRNE and 45 Others, of Kumara.

PETITIONERS pray for a reduction in the price charged by Government for water for sluicing purposes.

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

15th August, 1893.

No. 260.—Petition of WILLIAM GUFFIE and Another, of Mount Buster.

PETITIONERS complain of the injustice done them by changing their mining leases into licensed holdings under "The Mining Act, 1886."

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

15th August, 1893.

No. 90.—Petition of DAVID CUNNINGHAM, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER states that his patent for a fire-escape has been used by the Public Works Department when erecting the police barracks in Dunedin, without payment of any royalty, &c. He prays for relief.

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

15th August, 1893.

No. 64.—Petition of JAMES BEATTY, of Gisborne.

PETITIONER states that he entered the Service as gaoler in 1865, and his services were dispensed with in March, 1891, a total service of over twenty-five years, but that he only received compensation for his services since 1876. He prays for further compensation.

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

15th August, 1893.

No. 655, 1892.—Petition of THOMAS R. BROOKE, of Lyttelton.

PETITIONER states that after over twenty years' service in the Government Railways he is now incapable of performing any laborious work. He prays that he may be granted a compassionate allowance.

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

17th August, 1893.

No. 2.—Petition of WILLIAM JOHN DAVIDSON, of Sydenham, Christchurch.

PETITIONER states that in 1865 he was in charge of the surf-boats during the Maori war, and that he performed special services in landing troops, &c. He prays that a compassionate allowance be granted him for such services.

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

17th August, 1893.

No. 284.—Petition of HENRY COOK LANAUZE, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER states that he was retired from the position of District Police Clerk through physical incapacity on account of blindness. He prays for further compensation.

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

17th August, 1893.

No. 201.—Petition of JOSEPH EDWARD BRETHERTON, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that, owing to misfortunes before joining the Police Force he was compelled to seek the protection of the Bankruptcy Court, and was therefore discharged. He prays for his reinstatement in the Police Force.

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

17th August, 1893.

No. 101.—Petition of FREDERICK W. HOWARD, of Mount Eden, Auckland.

PETITIONER states that in 1863 he was promoted from a lieutenancy in the Colonial Forces to a captaincy, but only drew the pay of a lieutenant. He prays that he be now paid the difference between the two salaries.

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

17th August, 1893.

No. 256.—Petition of RUSSELL BATES, of Kai Iwi, Auckland.

PETITIONER states that he selected 100 acres of land, understanding that the price was 5s. per acre, and that he afterwards was charged 7s. 6d. per acre. He prays for relief.

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

17th August, 1893.

No. 141.—Petition of the BAY OF ISLANDS COUNTY COUNCIL, Russell.

PETITIONERS pray that the Charitable Aid Act be so amended as to allow the administration of charitable aid in each county to be vested in the Council thereof.

I am directed to report that, as the whole question of charitable aid will probably be dealt with shortly, the Committee recommends that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

17th August, 1893.

No. 314.—Petition of MARY STEADMAN ALDIS, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that an Act be passed repealing the Contagious Diseases Act.

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

17th August, 1893.

No. 304.—Petition of THOMAS CHAPMAN and 2 Others, of Cheviot.

PETITIONERS pray that the portion of their property in the Cheviot County may be included in the County of Amuri.

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

17th August, 1893.

No. 155.—Petition of JOHN DAN, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that he had goods to the value of £94 stored at the Waitara Railway-station, and that the same were totally destroyed by fire when that station was burnt on the 15th June. He prays for compensation.

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

18th August, 1893.

Nos. 186, 167, 185, 197, 237, 315, and 336.—Petitions of Messrs. Ekensteen Brothers and 115 Others, D. D. Hyde and 26 Others, Wm. Adair and 51 Others, Aitken and Roberts and 1,900 Others, N. Hall and 52 Others, B. and W. Hellaby and 52 Others, J. K. Hamilton and 466 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the clause in the Shop Hours Bill, making it compulsory to close on Saturday afternoon, be not passed.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petitions be referred to the Government.

18th August, 1893.

Nos. 293, 290, 291, 303, 353, 354, 357, 359.—Petitions of Mary J. Carpenter and 25,519 Others, Elizabeth M. Eyre Kenny and 601 Others, Caroline Anderson and 393 Others, Kate Baldwin and 2,765 Others, Clara M. Birch and 40 Others, Sarah Lurchin and 15 Others, Marian Kirker and 49 Others, Sophia James and 34 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the franchise be extended to women.

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

18th August, 1893.

Nos. 193, 154, 157, 198, 199, 204, 206, 207, 209, 210, 212, 219, 221, 223, 225, 226, 229, 238, 239, 241, 244, 264, 270, 320, 344, 347, 362, and 363.—Petitions of L. Graham and 38 Others, John Cooper and 66 Others, Thomas Guinness and 35 Others, A. A. Carson and 100 Others, James Ellman and 53 Others, Charles Chivers and 78 Others, J. M. Brown

and 119 Others, R. Hursthouse and 29 Others, George Graham and 95 Others, Herbert Hurle and 82 Others, Luther Hains and 100 Others, R. Fairmaid and 48 Others, W. H. Beck and 356 Others, S. Aitchison and 89 Others, C. G. Bigwood and 51 Others, J. A. Forbes and 58 Others, Allan Douglas and 300 Others, C. Lang and 137 Others, Charles Ahier and 29 Others, Peter Campbell and 38 Others, J. M. Barr and 73 Others, Abel Kersall and 48 Others, John Dumbell and 99 Others, William B. Farraud and 28 Others, E. W. Blackwell and 83 Others, John Gray and 41 Others, William Dawson and 46 Others, William Hain and 49 Others.

PETITIONERS pray for the right of popular veto of the liquor traffic, and that it be not hampered by any compensation clause.

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

18th August, 1893.

No. 53.—Petition of JOHN JAMES ATKINSON, of Otago.

PETITIONER states that he was discharged from the position of Musketry Instructor for the Otago District in the year 1887 without compensation. He prays that he be compensated, or granted a piece of land.

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

22nd August, 1893.

No. 14.—Petition of THOMAS COLLIS, of Auckland (Report No. 2).

PETITIONER states that he was discharged from the Police Force on account of debts contracted through backing a bill. He prays for compensation, or that he be reinstated in the Police Force, the former report on this petition having been referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

I am directed to report that, as no evidence has been given to warrant the Committee altering their former decision, they cannot alter the previous report.

22nd August, 1893.

No. 316.—Petition of JAMES HAMBLYN, of New Plymouth.

PETITIONER prays that he be granted a portion of the Taranaki Volunteers Trust Fund.

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

22nd August, 1893.

No. 727, 1892.—Petition of JAMES ATKINSON, of Wanganui.

PETITIONER states that he undertook a contract to clear the rapids on the Wanganui River to the Parikino Pah, and that he was not paid the full contract price by the Government. He prays for relief.

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

22nd August, 1893.

No. 74.—Petition of JOHN DEVERILL, of New Plymouth.

PETITIONER states that he obtained a ticket to travel on the Government Railways available for one calendar month, and that through misunderstanding the regulations, he travelled one day on the railways after it had expired, and was fined for so doing. He prays that he be compensated.

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

22nd August, 1893.

No. 55.—Petition of JOHN GRINDLAY, of Invercargill.

PETITIONER prays for a grant of 30 acres of land for military services performed as a garrison bandman at Invercargill and Timaru.

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

22nd August, 1893.

No. 253.—Petition of ELLIS BROTHERS and VALDER and 243 Others, of Rangitikei.

PETITIONERS pray that a subsidy of pound for pound be granted by Government for the construction of a bridge over the Rangitikei River at Vinegar Hill.

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

22nd August, 1893.

Nos. 263, and 268.—Petitions of J. W. KERR and 52 Others, and JOHN GRAY and 52 Others, of Whangarei and surrounding districts.

PETITIONERS pray that the Whangarei-Kamo Railway be extended to the Whakapara River, an extension of three miles.

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

22nd August, 1893.

2—I. 1.

No. 69.—Petition of the OTAMATEA COUNTY COUNCIL and 137 Others.

PETITIONERS pray for a grant of £500 for the improvement of the main road from Mangawai to Tokatoka.

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

22nd August, 1893.

No. 251.—Petition of STEPHEN LANCASTER and 6 Others, of Karori.

PETITIONERS pray that the charge for telephone connections to Karori be reduced to £5 per annum.

I am directed to report that, in view of the great advantage derived from the telephone system throughout the country districts, and its probable extension, the Committee recommends the revision of the scale of charges to be considered by the Government.

22nd August, 1893.

No. 273.—Petition of THOMAS J. DEANE, of Tenui.

PETITIONER prays that his daughter, Mary Ellenor Deane, may be paid a portion of the estate of James Graham, lately deceased.

I am directed to report that, as the Public Petitions M to Z Committee have a similar petition before them, and have commenced their investigation of the same, the Committee recommends the petition be referred to that Committee.

25th August, 1893.

No. 296.—Petition of ALEXANDER BRODIE, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that he be granted some reward for the many public services rendered by him in connection with opening up roads through Native lands, &c.

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

25th August, 1893.

No. 223.—Petition of CATHERINE BARNES, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that she was ejected from the Resident Magistrate's Court and Government Buildings, Wellington, by Government officials with great force, &c. She prays for relief.

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

25th August, 1893.

No. 333.—Petition of J. J. LEWIS and 509 Others, of Canterbury.

PETITIONERS pray that the principal of the direct veto be not sanctioned by Parliament.

I am directed to report that, as a Licensing Amendment Bill is now before the House, the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

25th August, 1893.

No. 277.—Petition of E. HOWARD and 182 Others, of Otago.

PETITIONERS pray that Saturday may be declared the statutory half-holiday for the Provincial District of Otago.

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

25th August, 1893.

No. 343.—Petition of JAMES KING, of Greymouth.

PETITIONER prays that the duty on such photographic materials as mounts, bromide paper, and other sensitised papers may be abolished.

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

25th August, 1893.

No. 257.—Petition of JOHN COYLE, of Bulls.

PETITIONER states that, after twenty-two years and six months' service in the Police Force, he was compelled, through failing health, to send in his resignation, and was refused any retiring allowance on technical grounds. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, as a Medical Board reported that the petitioner was unfit for further service through failing health, the Committee recommends he be allowed the usual retiring allowance.

25th August, 1893.

No. 41.—Petition of the CHRISTCHURCH DRAINAGE BOARD, Christchurch.

PETITIONERS pray that an annual subsidy be granted them by the Government for the removal of sewage from the Government Buildings in Christchurch.

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

25th August, 1893.

No. 332.—Petition of Dr. HOCKEN, President of the Otago Institute, Dunedin.

PETITIONER prays that a new work of the flora on New Zealand may be prepared, and suggests that Mr. Thomas Kirk be associated with Sir Joseph Hooker in order to compile the work.

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

25th August, 1893.

No. 369.—Petition of WILLIAM G. GARRARD, of Auckland (No. 1).

PETITIONER states that he applied for a warrant for the arrest of his son, who was a minor, and who had left the district with £27 10s., and that the application was refused. He prays for relief.

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

31st August, 1893.

No. 60.—Petition of MATTHEW EDGAR, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that twenty years ago he supplied the Government with 33,600 sleepers, and was paid for 23,000, the balance of 10,600 sleepers were afterwards used by the Government, but petitioner has never received payment for the same. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee considers the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

31st August, 1893.

No. 295.—Petition of THOMAS DAVIDSON, of Waitahuna.

PETITIONER states that the railway-line to Lawrence was taken through his property, and that he has not been compensated for the same. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petitioner, on showing a clear title to the land, be fairly compensated for the land taken.

31st August, 1893.

No. 359, 1892.—Petition of CHARLES RICHARD LAIRD, of Wanganui.

PETITIONER states that through the negligence of certain police constables a man named J. T. Kenny set fire to the Commercial Hotel, the property of petitioner, whereby he suffered serious loss. He prays for relief.

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

31st August, 1893.

No. 376.—Petition of WILLIAM FALCONER, of Owake.

PETITIONER states that certain land belonging to him was taken for railway purposes, and that he considers he did not receive sufficient compensation for same. He prays for relief.

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

31st August, 1893.

No. 377.—Petition of EDWARD LENNON, of Motukaraka.

PETITIONER states that the expenditure of public money on the Herd's Point-Takahue Road is wasted, and prays that all future road-work north of Auckland be done under the co-operative system among the village settlers.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the request of the petitioner *re* having all future road-work in the village settlements constructed under the co-operative system by the village settlers should be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

31st August, 1893.

No. 306.—Petition of Mrs. BUCKWORTH, of Whakatane.

PETITIONER states that in the year 1865 her father, James Fulloon, was murdered by the Natives while in charge of the Government cutter "Kate," and that certain lands petitioner was entitled to were confiscated by the Government. She prays that she be granted compensation to the extent of £500.

I am directed to report that the Committee fail to see why the department awarded compensation only to James Fulloon's sister when his wife and child were alive, and recommend the petition to the favourable consideration of the Government.

1st September, 1893.

No. 406.—Petition of Mrs. ISABELLA DONNE HAMLIN, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that her late husband died while in the service of the Government as Native Interpreter, and that she has never received any compassionate allowance. She prays for relief.

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

1st September, 1893.

Nos. 451 and 407.—Petitions of ROBERT KILPATRICK and 402 Others, and J. ASHER and 3,299 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the principle of the direct veto be not sanctioned by Parliament.

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

1st September, 1893.

No. 628, 1892.—Petition of WILLIAM DODDS, of Otaki.

PETITIONER states that in the year 1848 his father, brother, and himself were promised grants of land for erecting a flour-mill at Otaki, and that the land so promised has never been given to them. He prays for relief.

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

1st September, 1893.

No. 79.—Petition of CHARLES BIXBY, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that after over eighteen years' service in the Public Works Department as carpenter, overseer, and then inspector, he has been discharged without any compensation, although his work has always been satisfactorily performed. He prays for relief.

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

5th September, 1893.

No. 420.—Petition of PETER COIRA, of Temuka.

PETITIONER states that he found certain jewellery in his paddock, which was handed over to the police for identification. The jewellery has never been claimed, and is still in the custody of the police. He prays that the jewellery be given back to him.

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

5th September, 1893.

No. 425.—Petition of JOHN CAMPBELL, of Southland.

PETITIONER states that, through having undertaken a contract with the Government to supply 150,000 creosoted sleepers, he set up a large creosoting plant in Southland, and that now the Government will not let any further contracts for the supply of creosoted sleepers, consequently his expensive plant is now lying idle. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the petitioner has no claim against the Government; but, in the opinion of the Committee, some further experiments should be made by which the soft woods of the colony could be utilized.

5th September, 1893.

No. 418.—Petition of JOSEPH BOWMAR, of Waikawa.

PETITIONER states that he acquired certain land and erected a boundary-fence thereon. It has since been ascertained that the survey-line was an incorrect one. He prays for relief.

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

7th September, 1893.

No. 485.—Petition of JOHN DRUMMOND, of Wairarapa.

PETITIONER states that between the years 1877 and 1890 he paid away the amount of £402 15s. 4d. in travelling-expenses out of his own moneys while performing the duties as Stock Inspector for the Government, through pressure of work, and inability to obtain receipts at the time. He prays that the above amount be refunded to him.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the amount due to the petitioner, as per audited accounts furnished, be paid to him.

12th September, 1893.

No. 496.—Petition of WILLIAM DUNN and 1,443 Others, of Brunner, Greymouth, and County of Grey.

PETITIONERS pray for a reduction to 6d. per ton on the royalties paid on coal taken from the mines at Brunner.

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

12th September, 1893.

No. 410.—Petition of THOMAS JOHNSTON JONES, of Granity Creek.

PETITIONER states that on Easter Monday last he met with a serious accident at the Granity Creek Railway-station, and that the said accident was caused by the approach to the line being out of repair, and that he did not receive proper attention from the District Railway Manager. He prays for an inquiry.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the Resident Magistrate at Westport be instructed to make further inquiries into the statements made by the petitioner, and to report to the Government.

13th September, 1893.

No. 471.—Petition of JOHN BERRELL and 69 Others, of Port Chalmers.

PETITIONERS pray that powers be granted to corporate bodies to pass a by-law to cause all fish to be passed through a market.

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

13th September, 1893.

No. 473.—Petition of J. P. CAMPBELL and 45 Others, of Marlborough.

PETITIONERS pray that the Direct Veto Bill be not sanctioned by Parliament.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Government.

13th September, 1893.

No. 331.—Petition of the MAYOR and COUNCILLORS of the BOROUGH of WEST HARBOUR.

PETITIONERS state that, when the Dunedin-Port Chalmers Railway was made, the main road through the borough was considerably altered, and has never been put into a proper state of repair, the grades being steep, &c., although it was understood at that time the road should be made as good as it was before the construction of the railway. They pray that a sum of £5,000 be granted to them.

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

15th September, 1893.

No. 349.—Petition of Mrs. ANN KEAST, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER states that her late husband died while in the employ of the Railway Department, and that he left her unprovided for. She prays that she be granted a compassionate allowance.

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

15th September, 1893.

No. 348.—Petition of Mrs. SARAH ADAMS and Another, of Wellington.

PETITIONERS state that one John O'Brien, deceased, devised to his two sons certain land and buildings in Wellington; on the decease of the said two sons the said property was to fall to one Robert Woodgate, who was also one of the attesting witnesses to the will, and who thereby could not inherit. The petitioners pray that the technical defect be not taken advantage of by the Crown.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the prayer of the petition be granted, and the fact that the father happened to be one of the attesting witnesses to John O'Brien's will should not be taken advantage of by the Crown.

22nd September, 1893.

No. 424.—Petition of RICHARD EDWARD CRAWLEY, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that he was compelled to resign his position as constable in the Police Force through a quarrel with a comrade. He prays that he be allowed compensation.

I am directed to report that, under all the circumstances and provocation Constable Crawley received, the Committee are of opinion the petitioner should receive whatever retiring allowance he would have been entitled to had he been retrenched.

22nd September, 1893.

No. 532.—Petition of WILLIAM GRADY, of Waitahu.

PETITIONER states that through the construction of a bridge across the Waitahu River his property was seriously damaged. He prays for relief.

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

26th September, 1893.

No. 448.—Petition of EDWIN A. LOCK, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays that he be granted a pension or compensation on his retirement from the Public Works Department on 31st October next.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner is undoubtedly entitled to a pension, as shown in Parliamentary paper G.—10, 1872.

26th September, 1893.

No. 514.—Petition of Messrs. COOK BROTHERS and Another, Bay of Islands.

PETITIONERS pray that a duty be laid upon imported fish and whale oil.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Government.

26th September, 1893.

Nos. 282, 1892, and 13, 1893.—Petitions of HENRY BAUCKE, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for a settlement of his accounts rendered against the Government, on account of his being wrongfully outlawed from the Chatham Islands in 1860, whereby he was despoiled of all his property through the alleged illegal actions of an officer of the Crown.

I am directed to report that, after very careful consideration of all the documents and correspondence relative to this petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

26th September, 1893.

No. 476.—Petition of ALEXANDER P. CAMPBELL and 36 Others, of Waipu.

PETITIONERS pray for a survey of a more direct line of road between Warkworth and Wangarei, and for a grant for its construction.

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

26th September, 1893.

No. 470.—Petition of DANIEL MOORE BROOKS, of Mauriceville.

PETITIONER states that in the year 1888 he was an inspector of permanent-way in the railway department, on the Wellington-Masterton Railway; that he was required to remove to Lumsden at a reduced rate of pay, whereupon he obtained two months' leave of absence, and then resigned his position. He prays for compensation.

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

26th September, 1893.

No. 31.—Petition of WILLIAM FITZGERALD, of Timaru.

PETITIONER states that he was discharged from the railway service for making a charge against a foreman of giving away certain timber. He prays for relief.

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

26th September, 1893.

No. 133.—Petition of JAMES JOHNSTON, of Seaward Bush.

PETITIONER states that he was employed on the Seaward Bush Railway extension and received 5s. 6d. per day only, when other men were paid from 7s. to 8s. per day. He prays for relief.

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

26th September, 1893.

No. 478.—Petition of Miss L. CLEMENTS and 206 Others, of Nelson.

PETITIONERS pray that "The Medical Practitioners Act, 1869," be amended so as to allow herbalists to recover fees, &c., at law.

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

26th September, 1893.

No. 512.—Petition of R. CAMERON and 42 Others, of Devonport.

PETITIONERS pray that Constable Rowles be not removed from his position as constable in the Borough of Devonport.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make, and regret that such a frivolous petition should have been presented to Parliament.

26th September, 1893.

No. 524.—Petition of FRANCIS HENRY BRITAIN, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states he has been for nine years a teacher in the Native schools, and had to be retired on account of an affection of the throat, and that his compensation has been paid on salary drawn under the new code, which has considerably lessened the amount. He prays that his compensation be computed on the larger salary, or that he be re-employed in the Government service.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends some clerical or other suitable employment should be found for the petitioner by the Government, as the case is a most deserving one.

28th September, 1893.

No. 475.—Petition of JOSEPH BELL and 2 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS state that, in May, 1892, they acted as a Board of Reviewers under "The Land and Income Assessment Act, 1891," understanding that the pay was to be two guineas per day, and travelling-expenses, but, when the accounts were rendered, the department refused to pay them. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petitioners have no claim beyond the expenses paid out of pocket, and 10s. per day for other expenses.

28th September, 1893.

No. 486A.—Petition of JOHN JERVIS, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for protection against lawyers and others, whom he alleges are absorbing his property.

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

29th September, 1893.

No. 500.—Petition of JOHN BUCKLAND, of Arch Hill.

PETITIONER states that he advanced certain moneys to one John Franklin, on the security of a remission certificate under the Naval and Military Settlers' and Volunteers' Land Acts, but same was seized by the Official Assignee, who administered John Franklin's bankruptcy. He prays for relief.

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

29th September, 1893.

No. 549.—Petition of the PELORUS ROAD BOARD and Others, of Marlborough.

PETITIONERS pray that the Government should procure the present Rai Valley Tramway-line, and extend the same up the Rai Valley, in order to open up the splendid forest contained therein and to facilitate settlement.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, the bush on the Crown lands in Marlborough is of such importance that the Committee recommends the Government to make further inquiries, so as to ascertain in what manner they can be worked in the interest of sawmilling and settlement to the best advantage of the district and colony.

29th September, 1893.

No. 533.—Petition of MATILDA L. GLASSON, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER states that her late husband died while in the postal service, and she was promised by the department that she should receive a gratuity of two years' salary of her late husband, but she has only received eighteen months' pay. She prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the full two years' salary should be paid to the petitioner, as advised in the letter sent to her by the Postmaster-General, bearing date the 24th February, 1892.

29th September, 1893.

No. 488.—Petition of JOHN JACKSON, of Wanganui.

PETITIONER states that he first entered the service of the Government as an armed policeman, he then was deputed to carry mails between Wanganui and Wellington, and performed many other services during the Maori war. He prays for relief.

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

29th September, 1893.

No. 535.—Petition of THOMAS KING and 117 Others, of Tiniroto.

PETITIONERS pray for a grant of money for the improvement of the Wairoa-Gisborne Road.

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

29th September, 1893.

No. 527.—Petition of RICHARD JAMES FELTUS, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that he was employed as sub-enumerator for the collection of the census returns, and understood that he was to be paid 10s. per day, and 10s. per day travelling-expenses, but was only paid 10s. per day. He prays for relief.

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

29th September, 1893.

No. 554.—Petition of W. G. GARRARD, of Auckland (No. 2).

PETITIONER states that his son kept possession of certain moneys which he had intrusted him with, and that the Resident Magistrate at Auckland refused to issue a summons for his arrest. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee sees no reason to alter their former decision.

29th September, 1893.

No. 556.—Petition of RICHARD CARR, of Papakura.

PETITIONER states that he lost an eye while in the service of the Railway Department, and is in straightened circumstances. He prays for relief.

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

29th September, 1893.

No. 534.—Petition of THOMAS CRAIG and 5 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that steps be taken to raise lawyers in the social scale, &c.

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

29th September, 1893.

No. 123.—Petition of EDWARD O'HARA CANAVAN, of Wellington.

PETITIONER alleges he was dismissed from the charge of the Porirua School, on account of false reports from the Inspector to the School Board. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, if the petitioner is a suitable teacher for a Native school, the Committee recommends him for employment in that capacity.

29th September 1893.

No. 447.—Petition of DAVID ANDREW and 5 Others, of Otago (*vide* also Appendix I.—1B).

PETITIONERS pray that, in the event of the Government paying for the Fernhill Railway line in cash or otherwise, a sum or sums may be deducted from the amount so agreed to be paid, sufficient to meet the claims of the petitioners for the land taken for the railway, wages, &c.; that, in the event of a Bill being introduced to vest the said railway line in any person or persons, a clause may be inserted providing that he or they, before assuming possession of the said railway line or in any way dealing with it, pay to petitioners such sum or sums of money as may be found to be due to them.

I am directed to report,—

1. That the Fernhill Railway line was made by the Government in 1882 for a private company, and afterwards, under "The Government Railways Act, 1887," was vested in the Railway Commissioners.

2. That the Committee recommends an inquiry should be held before a Judge of the Supreme Court, to ascertain who are the legal representatives of the said Fernhill Railway and Colliery Company.

3. That the Railway Commissioners take the necessary steps to re-vest the Fernhill Railway line in the legal representatives of the said company.

4. That, if after due inquiry, it is found that John Hamill, one of the petitioners, has been constantly employed on the said railway line, the Railway Commissioners be recommended to pay him any wages due.

5. That, as the other petitioners have not exhausted their legal redress against the legal representatives of the said company, the Committee cannot express any opinion on the merits of their claims.

29th September, 1893.

No. 301.—Petition of HENRY GRAHAM and 449 Others, of Otago.

PETITIONERS pray for an extension of the railway system in the Wakatipu, Cromwell, Wanaka, and Hawea districts.

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

3rd October, 1893.

No. 327.—Petition of DANIEL EGAN, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that he was employed by the Survey Department on the Waiomatatine to Hicks Bay Road, as overseer, and while lifting a heavy piece of timber he slipped, the timber falling on him and severely injuring him. He prays for relief.

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

3rd October, 1893.

No. 143.—The DUNEDIN CITY AND SUBURBAN TRAMWAYS COMPANY (LIMITED) (*vide* also Appendix I.—1A).

PETITIONERS state that they have entered into arrangements for the disposal of their tramways to a new company, who make it an essential condition that electricity on the single-trolley system shall be adopted as the motive-power. That, on application to the Public Works Department for the issue of an Order in Council permitting the use of electricity as the motive-power, under the single-trolley system, such permission was refused, on the plea that the use of the ground as a return-circuit would interfere with the telephone system.

They pray that they be not debarred from adopting the single-trolley system as a motive-power for their tramways.

The Committee having considered the evidence given before the recent Parliamentary Committee in England on a similar question, and all the other evidence submitted in connection with the petition of the Dunedin City and Suburban Tramways Company (Limited), asking permission to use electricity on the single-trolley system as a motive-power, beg to report as follows:—

1. That while the request of the petitioners, that the Government shall at its own cost insulate the wires of its telephones, and take such other precautions as may be deemed necessary for making their exchange a self-contained system, is clearly untenable at law, the Committee are of opinion that, owing to the delicacy of the instruments employed, it will soon be necessary to alter the telephones in all large cities to the metallic-return; and they therefore suggest, in the interests of the public, that the Government should as far as possible give facilities to companies desirous of establishing electrical tramways. The fact that the Government is first in the field, and (as acting under statute) presumably within their legal rights, should not, in the opinion of the Committee, be considered to give them paramount right over the streets, which were primarily established, not for telephone purposes, but for the purpose of facilitating travel and transportation; they belong entirely to the Corporations for the above purposes, and any use of them for telephones must necessarily be considered as subservient to this original easement of the public for highway purposes.

2. That it is desirable, in view of the facts disclosed in the evidence, that proper precautions should be adopted to safeguard the rights both of the municipal bodies and the general public, and, with this view, that any company desiring to introduce electrical energy for the purpose of traction should have to submit to conditions similar to those contained in the clause proposed by the English Parliamentary Committee (see Appendix H., I.—1A), or such modification thereof as further experience may have rendered necessary; but the Committee are of opinion that these conditions should not be such as to practically give the Government a monopoly of the ground-circuit, or to impose such limitations as would be practically prohibitive, having regard to expense and the commercial prospects of the undertaking, both in construction and working. A copy of the evidence taken is herewith attached. (*For evidence vide* Appendix I.—1A)

3rd October, 1893.

C. H. MILLS,
Chairman.

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