

1894.
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS A TO L COMMITTEE.

(MR. JOHN JOYCE, CHAIRMAN.)

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

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(MR. JOHN JOYCE, CHAIRMAN.)

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

ORDER OF REFERENCE.

Extract from the Journals of the House of Representatives.

TUESDAY, THE 26TH DAY OF JUNE, 1894.

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 this House; also to have power to call for persons and papers: three to be a quorum. The Committee to consist of Mr. Crowther, Mr. Green, Mr. McLachlan, Major Harris, Mr. Joyce, Mr. J. W. Kelly, Mr. Massey, Mr. Mills, Mr. O'Regan, and the mover."—(Hon. Mr. CADMAN.)

No. 577, 1893.—Petition of J. D. FRANKISH, M.D., of Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays for a Royal Commission to investigate the management of certain public departments and institutions.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on this petition.
5th July, 1894.

No. 32.—Petition of A. E. JAQUIERY, of Invercargill.

PETITIONER states that her late husband served in the Prisons Department from 1875 to 1891; that he had to resign on account of breaches of the prison rules; and that he received no compensation. That petitioner believes her husband's death was indirectly the result of a blow received from a prisoner several years before. She prays for relief.

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

6th July, 1894.

No. 2.—Petition of WILLIAM HEPBURN, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that he joined the Armed Constabulary in 1879; that he was transferred to the Defence Store Department as express-driver in 1888; that he served there until May, 1894; that he was then compulsorily retired, and that he only received three months' pay in lieu of notice. He prays for the usual compensation—viz., one month's pay for every year of service.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the sum of £147 0s. 3d should be paid to the petitioner by the Government.

10th July, 1894.

No. 42.—Petition of W. D. G. BOHNING, of Roslyn, Dunedin.

PETITIONER states that he was seriously injured while working for the Kaitangata Railway and Coal Company; that he was physically unable to give notice of his accident within ten days as prescribed by law, thereby losing his right to assistance out of the funds provided for injured miners. He prays for relief.

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

10th July, 1894.

No. 28.—Petition of JAMES BEATTY, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for further compensation for loss of office in the Prisons Department.

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

10th July, 1894.

1—I. 1.

No. 85.—Petition of BRIDGET FITZHENRY, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance on account of her late husband's eleven years' service in the Railway Department.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
11th July, 1894.

No. 3.—Petition of REBECCA LAUDER, of Devonport, Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance on account of her late husband's services to the Auckland Provincial Government, and as signalman to the Auckland Harbour Board.

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

11th July, 1894.

No. 37.—Petition of the PALMERSTON NORTH KNIGHTS OF LABOUR ASSOCIATION.

PETITIONERS pray for assistance towards road-construction.

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

11th July, 1894.

No. 74.—Petition of WILLIAM CHAMBERS, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss of office as a tarpaulin-maker in the Railway Department.

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

11th July, 1894.

No. 29.—Petition of CATHERINE BARNES, of Wellington.

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

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

13th July, 1894.

No. 50.—Petition of JESSIE KELLY, of Port Chalmers.

PETITIONER prays that an allowance may be granted to her for her late husband's services as a pilot under the Provincial Government of Otago.

I am directed to report that, the Committee having taken much, and all the available, evidence, and also perused many letters and minutes, among which is that of the Secretary of the Marine Department, and the endorsement of the Hon. W. J. M. Larnach, in August, 1886, bearing on this case, find that this is the fourth petition received and dealt with during the past five years by the Public Petitions Committee, and that as much compensation has been paid by the Otago Harbour Board to the petitioner as would have been paid by the Provincial Government had it continued to exist until the late Pilot Kelly's death. The Committee is therefore of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

13th July, 1894.

No. 568, 1893.—Petition of WILLIAM STEADMAN ALDIS, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that in May, 1893, he learned from the newspapers that the Council of the Auckland University College had decided to give him six months' notice of the termination of his tenure of office; that the Council have declined to grant petitioner's request for a statement of their reasons for this action. He prays that the House will order an inquiry into all the circumstances which led up to the resolution to give notice of dismissal to him, and into the general management—financial and educational—of the Auckland University College, during the last three years.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner's request to be allowed to withdraw his petition presented to the House in the session of 1893 should be acceded to.

17th July, 1894.

No. 19.—Petition of WILLIAM STEADMAN ALDIS, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that in the year 1883 he was urged by the Agent-General for the colony to accept the position of Professor of Mathematics at the Auckland University College; that he gave up a valuable appointment in England, and came out, understanding from the information given him that the appointment would be practically tenable as long as he could perform the duties belonging thereto; that he has discharged said duties for ten years; that in May, 1893, the Council of the Auckland University College gave him six months' notice of the termination of his engagement; that the agreement under which he accepted the professorship expressly confines the power of giving such notice to the Government of New Zealand; that owing to the action of the said Council he has suffered grievous loss. He prays for relief.

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

17th July, 1894.

No. 12.—Petition of JAMES ANDERSON, of Wanganui.

PETITIONER states that he joined the Otago Police Force in 1868, and has served under the Provincial and General Governments for twenty-six years; that his active and hazardous service completely ruined his health and compelled him to retire in January last; that he did not receive the promotion to which he was entitled; that he has only been awarded one year's pay as compensation for loss of office. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner has received all the compensation to which he is entitled, and has no claim against the colony.

18th July, 1894.

No. 373, 1893.—Petition of S. J. JACKMAN, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that he entered the service of the Customs Department in 1863, as a gauger, and continued in said service till January, 1892, when he was compelled to retire, but granted a pension; that during his employment he rendered many and conspicuous services to the Customs Department; that in the year 1889 the New Zealand Government published a pamphlet entitled "Jackman's Charges"; that in consequence of the aspersions upon his character in said pamphlet he was retired in the prime of life from active service, and has been unable to obtain employment elsewhere. He prays for an inquiry, and for pecuniary relief.

No. 8.—Petition of S. J. JACKMAN, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays that the inquiry which was commenced last session before the Public Petitions Committee may be continued this session.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having taken a good deal of evidence, and carefully considered the contents of papers submitted to them (official and non-official), are of opinion that the petitioner rendered the colony such extra-good services in the discharge of unpleasant and onerous duties, and also supplied methods of detecting frauds and improving the work of the Customs officers whereby the revenue of the colony has been, and still is, benefited, that such services have not been adequately rewarded, although recognised and admitted. They therefore recommend that the petitioner be paid £200 in full of all claims; and further recommend that, on receipt of the aforesaid amount, petitioner should be required to hand over all books and papers submitted to the Committee (bearing on his case) to the Commissioner of Customs.

20th July, 1894.

No. 97.—Petition of LAWRENCE KELLY, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER states he was employed as a constable at the Christchurch Railway-station from 1878 until 1890; that in 1890 he was, by order of the Railway Commissioners, transferred to Lyttelton as a night-watchman; that the duties of the latter position told upon his health, and he had to obtain sick-leave, but was assured by the Railway Commissioners that, although his services as constable had been discontinued, there was no intention to dispense with him altogether; that he was transferred to the goods department, and performed clerical duties from January, 1891, till April, 1892, when he received notice that he was to be transferred to the goods-shed as an ordinary porter; that he refused to accept this position; that during the whole time he was employed at the Christchurch Railway-station he was a servant of the Police Department, retiring from it and receiving compensation in 1890. He prays for reinstatement in the railway service, or for compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that, while in the Police Force, the petitioner was an efficient and valuable officer; that he resigned his position on the assurance that he would receive permanent employment from the Railway Commissioners; that, as the Commissioners failed to carry out this arrangement with the petitioner, the Committee recommend that he be allowed to refund any compensation which he received, and that he be reappointed to the position which he formerly held in the Police Force.

24th July, 1894.

No. 33.—Petition of J. J. LEONARD.

PETITIONER states that in 1880, while in the service of the Railway Department, he received certain injuries through a defective engine; that, as a result of such injuries, he was discharged from the railway service as unfit for work; that, on the recommendation of the Public Petitions Committee, he was awarded £150. He prays for light employment or other relief.

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

25th July, 1894.

No. 78.—Petition of Captain W. JACKSON BARRY.

PETITIONER prays that he may be rewarded for services rendered to the colony as an Immigration Agent in 1877, and as a prospector in the King-country in 1891, &c.

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

27th July, 1894.

No. 64.—Petition of MATTHEW EDGAR, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that in 1871 he entered into a contract with the Auckland Provincial Government for the construction of the Riverhead–Helensville line of railway; that the contract was taken over by the Government; that he supplied 33,600 sleepers, but was only paid for 23,000; that the balance of 10,600 were afterwards used by the Government, and he has never received payment for the same. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having gone exhaustively into the evidence (oral and documentary), are of opinion that the weight of evidence is in favour of the petitioner's contention with regard to the sleepers; but, as petitioner received a sum of £1,123 too much for fascines in the Black Swamp, within the contract, and which sum is still retained by him; and, as the Committee are of opinion, with respect to the claim for sleepers, that said sleepers were inferior, and not worth more than £1,060, the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

27th July, 1894.

No. 223.—Petition of E. DEMETRY and Others, of Canterbury.

PETITIONERS state that they are engaged in the fishing industry at Lake Ellesmere, or are connected therewith; that the Marine Department has issued a notice to the effect that on and after the 1st July, 1895, no flounders shall be taken under 10in. in length, and that the mesh of the nets used shall measure not less than 5in. when hung on the square; that the enforcement of such regulation would deprive many of the petitioners of their means of livelihood, and that no precedent exists for the use of square-meshed nets. They pray that the regulations proposed may be so modified that the size of the mesh allowed be 4in., and that the stipulation as to square-meshed nets be not included.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the nets to be used in Lake Ellesmere should be 5in. diagonal nets; and that the 5in. square net is not a suitable one.

31st July, 1894.

No. 209.—KEARNS, WILSON, AND Co., and Others.

PETITIONERS, chicory-growers and coffee-merchants, pray that an increased duty may be put upon "essence of coffee and chicory."

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition relates to a matter of public policy, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

3rd August, 1894.

No. 164.—Petition of J. CURTINE and Others, of Christchurch.

PETITIONERS, confectioners in and about Christchurch, pray that confectioners may be included in the exempted trades specified in clause 3 of the Bill now before the House relating to shops.

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

3rd August, 1894.

Nos. 200 and 170.—Petitions of the TAITA GOOD TEMPLARS, and E. W. HANMER, of Ashburton.

PETITIONERS pray for amendment of the Alcoholic Liquors Sale Control Act.

I am directed to report that, as a Bill is now before the House dealing with the subject-matter of these petitions, they should be referred to the Government.

3rd August, 1894.

Nos. 590 of 1893, and 198.—Petitions of R. CONDRON, of Auckland, and M. BOLAND, of Gisborne.

PETITIONERS pray for grants of land for Volunteer services.

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

3rd August, 1894.

No. 68.—Petition of T. J. GEE and Others, of Cheviot.

PETITIONERS pray that a post- and telegraph-office may be erected in the McKenzie Township.

I am directed to report that, the Government having intimated their intention to erect the said office, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

3rd August, 1894.

Nos. 234, 235, 236, and 238.—Petitions of MARY COOPER, JAMES KENNEDY, D. H. CHRISTIE, and THOMAS BULLIVANT.

PETITIONERS pray for compensation for loss of publican's license.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of these petitions refers to a question of public policy, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

3rd August, 1894.

No. 22.—Petition of CLEGHORN, FORREST, and MAGEE, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS state that they were the contractors for the Mangaonoho Section of the North Island Main Trunk Line; that in carrying out the contract they were subjected to reductions which were not provided for in the contract, and not contemplated by them when tendering; that they were required to do extra work outside the specifications, which has not been paid for as extra; that these reductions and extras have entailed great monetary loss on petitioners. They pray for redress.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioners are entitled to £278 4s. in full of all claims.

3rd August, 1894.

No. 36.—Petition of C. M. CAMERON, of Auckland.

PETITIONER alleges that the Government have wrongfully disposed of certain land at Kaiwara belonging to him. He prays that a full investigation may be made into all the circumstances of the case.

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

9th August, 1894.

No. 139.—Petition of E. ARMITAGE, of New Plymouth.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss sustained owing to his having had to abandon his calling as a tanner, and serve five years in the Volunteer Force.

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

9th August, 1894.

Nos. 276, 278, 285, 291, and 303.—Petitions of J. BURTON and Others, J. NEAVE and Others, P. WRIGHT and Others, F. MCPARLAND and Others, and WILLIAM HOGG and Others.

PETITIONERS, bakers carrying on business in various parts of the colony, pray that "The Adulteration Prevention Act Amendment Act, 1891," 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.

9th August, 1894.

Nos. 293 and 320.—Petitions of Mrs. SARAH JONES and Others, and Mrs. HAZELWOOD and Others, of Wellington.

PETITIONERS pray that the age of consent may be raised to sixteen years.

I am directed to report that, as a Bill is now before the House proposing to deal with the subject-matter of these petitions, they should be referred to the Government.

9th August, 1894.

No. 100.—Petition of J. J. HARRIS and Others, of Teviot, &c.

PETITIONERS, fruitgrowers, pray that an additional duty of 1½d. per pound may be imposed on imported fruit.

I am directed to report that, as this is a question of policy, and as a Committee of the House is now taking evidence on the tariff, in the opinion of this Committee the petition should be referred to the Government.

9th August, 1894.

No. 51.—Petition of PATRICK FITZGIBBON, of North Loburn, Canterbury.

PETITIONER prays for a grant of land for military services.

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

9th August, 1894.

No. 125.—Petition of H. GOURLAY and Others, of Otago.

PETITIONERS, ratepayers of the Tomahawk district, pray that the main road through said district may be subsidised by £30 per annum for the term of four years, to enable the Road Board to keep said road in good order.

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

10th August, 1894.

No. 31.—Petition of W. H. CARLYLE, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that he entered the railway service in 1884; that in January, 1892, he was Chief Traffic Clerk on the Southland Section; that owing to a clerical error in the time-table the Commissioners decided to reduce him in rank and pay; that he refused to accept this reduction, and resigned. He prays for reinstatement in the service or for a rehearing of his case.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not reflect upon the decision of the Railway Commissioners to reduce petitioner to inferior rank and pay; but, considering his previous service and the length of time he has now been out of employment, they would recommend the Commissioners to give petitioner employment in the railway service. The Committee are of opinion that the petition should be referred to the Government for consideration.

10th August, 1894.

No. 5.—Petition of J. J. FREETH, of New Plymouth.

PETITIONER, late Clerk of the Court, &c., at New Plymouth, prays that some remuneration may be granted to him for work done as Registrar of Electors at the last election.

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

14th August, 1894.

No. 62.—Petition of C. H. HOLDER and Others, of Omaha, Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for a grant of £3,000 towards road-construction.

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

14th August, 1894.

No. 41.—Petition of WILLIAM HARPER, of Palmerston.

PETITIONER prays for further assistance on account of injuries received while in the employ of the Post and Telegraph Department.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner received an annual grant of money for three years after the accident, the Committee would refer the petition to the Government for consideration.

14th August, 1894.

No. 120.—Petition of DUNCAN ANDERSON, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for relief on account of loss of money and health while serving in the New Zealand militia, during the Waikato War.

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

14th August, 1894.

No. 187.—Petition of J. V. BROWN and Others.

PETITIONERS, members of the Napier Land, Building, and Investment Society, state that they have been sued by the Commissioner of Taxes for tax on the land and mortgages held by the society, and have had to pay £23 14s. 3d., including fine and costs, £3 12s. They allege that they are exempt under Schedule A, "Land and Income Assessment Act Amendment Act, 1892," and pray for relief.

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

15th August, 1894.

No. 483, 1893.—Petition of W. H. CHURTON, of Wanganui.

PETITIONER states that his late uncle, Henry Churton, bequeathed all his property upon trust to one G. McCaul, who was to pay all debts, a legacy of £1,000 to him (petitioner), and devote the remainder of the income of the estate towards the maintenance of the Maori College at Aromoho; that Henry Churton built the college in 1879, and in 1881 executed a deed of trust covenanting to support the college, but the deed was never completed; that after the death of Henry Churton the validity of the deed was questioned, and a suit instituted, and vexatious law-proceedings resulted. Petitioner complains that before the final decision of the Court of Appeal the Attorney-General had no right to be admitted to the administration of the estate. Intermediate processes were permitted by the Court, which cost many hundreds of pounds, and the funds which would have made up petitioner's legacy went to pay the lawyers. Petitioner prays for an inquiry into all the circumstances, and that an indemnity from the Crown may be given to him.

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

15th August, 1894.

No. 118.—Petition of W. G. BASSETT, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for reinstatement in the Post and Telegraph Department, or for compensation for loss of office.

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

16th August, 1894.

No. 220.—Petition of F. ASHBY and Others, of North Canterbury.

PETITIONERS pray that a sufficient sum of money may be granted to put the Loburn-Kowai Road in good repair, and that steps may be taken to have the road placed under the control of the adjoining Road Boards for future maintenance.

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

16th August, 1894.

No. 23.—Petition of JOHN ELLIS, of Collingwood.

PETITIONER prays for a reward for having discovered the Midoura coal-seams, twenty years ago.

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

16th August, 1894.

No. 113.—Petition of JOHN BARR, of Picton.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss of office in the Postal Department.

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

16th August, 1894.

No. 438.—Petition of FERGUSON and MITCHELL and Others.

PETITIONERS, printers in the colony, pray that some of the printing work and stationery supplies required for the public service may be distributed throughout the colony, instead of being done at the Government Printing Office.

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

17th August, 1894.

No. 260.—Petition of F. S. HAMLIN, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss of office as Interpreter to the House of Representatives.

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

17th August, 1894.

No. 273.—Petition of S. F. BOLER and Others, of Tauhoa, Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the sum of £500 may be granted towards the construction of the road from Pahi Creek to Kaipara Flats.

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

17th August, 1894.

No. 289.—Petition of JAMES LEVETT, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER alleges that he has suffered loss to the extent of £15 4s. 7d. owing to the action of the Christchurch Stipendiary Magistrate. He prays for inquiry and relief.

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

17th August, 1894.

No. 133.—Petition of J. L. KINSELLA, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that he was appointed to the office of Reporter of Select Committees by the Speaker in August, 1884; that he has held the office and performed the duties thereof without complaint since that date; that he did not receive notice that his office had been abolished until the 10th July last; that he is at present without employment. He prays for relief.

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

17th August, 1894.

Nos. 199 and 277.—Petitions of CHARLES GRAY and Others, and GEORGE BRUCE and Others, of Hawke's Bay and the East Coast.

PETITIONERS pray that provision may be made for the completion of the main road connecting Napier, Wairoa, and Gisborne.

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

22nd August, 1894.

Nos. 167 and 168.—Petitions of TE KOROWHITI TUATAKA, of Rotorua.

Re Native land claims, Okaiua and Waikeraheke Blocks.

I am directed to report that, as a petition dealing with the subject-matter of these petitions was considered by the Native Affairs Committee last session, and referred to the Government, in the opinion of this Committee these petitions should be referred to the Native Affairs Committee.

22nd August, 1894.

No. 91.—Petition of W. F. CRAWFORD, of Gisborne.

PETITIONER prays for refund of the value of beer-duty stamps destroyed by fire, and for a refund of the expenses incurred in petitioning, &c.

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

22nd August, 1894.

No. 256.—Petition of F. EASON and Others.

PETITIONERS, settlers in Glenoamaru and Catlin's districts, pray that a sufficient sum of money may be granted to complete the Hunts Road.

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

23rd August, 1894.

No. 59.—Petition of H. E. CROFTS, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss of office in the Deaf-mute Institution at Sumner.

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

23rd August, 1894.

No. 94.—Petition of RICHARDSON CLIFFORD, of Pukekohe.

PETITIONER prays that the freehold of certain land at Pukekohe, which he leases from the Public Trustee, may be conveyed to him.

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

23rd August, 1894.

No. 580, 1893.—Petition of OCTAVIUS HARWOOD, of the Otago Peninsula.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for the loss of certain land known as Kaiapoi, which was conveyed to him by King Bogany in 1840.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Government, so that, in the event of their instituting an inquiry into outstanding land-claims, this case may also be considered.

23rd August, 1894.

No. 40.—Petition of W. C. HEIGHWAY, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for reinstatement in the Customs Department, or for compensation for loss of office.

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

24th August, 1894.

No. 175.—Petition of HAPIMANA, TUNUPAURA, and Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the Government will cause a road to be opened through the Pakowhai to Wharera and on to Te Koihe, at the Wairoa, and in the Taramarama Block.

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

24th August, 1894.

No. 233.—Petition of H. FRIEDLANDER, of Ashburton.

PETITIONER states that on the 16th September, 1885, he was called upon in the Queen's name to assist the police in arresting a prisoner; that he sustained serious injuries while doing so. 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 consideration.

24th August, 1894.

No. 207.—Petition of MAGGIE HOGG and Others.

PETITIONERS, the widow of the late Constable Hogg and residents in the districts north of Auckland, pray that a compassionate allowance may be granted to the widow of Constable Hogg on account of his special service during the Hauhau rebellion, and on account of having lost his life while in the execution of his duty.

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

24th August, 1894.

No. 73.—Petition of MYLES M. DIXON, of Reefton.

PETITIONER states that on the 18th July, 1893, he was travelling in the mail-coach from Nelson to Reefton; that owing to the state of the road an accident occurred, and the coach was precipitated over the road; that he sustained serious injuries; and that he has brought an action against the County Council, and failed. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, as the Government is not liable for the accident, the Committee has no recommendation to make; but they would be glad if the Government could see their way to give the petitioner some light employment.

24th August, 1894.

No. 53.—Petition of WILLIAM GRADY, of Waitahu.

PETITIONER alleges that, owing to the faulty construction of the bridge over the Waitahu River, his land has been seriously damaged. He prays for compensation, or for a free grant of land.

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

24th August, 1894.

No. 63.—Petition of H. B. HUDDLESTON, of Blenheim.

PETITIONER complains that clause 170 of "The Land Transfer Act, 1885," has had the effect of invalidating his license as a surveyor, and consequently of depriving him of his professional income. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that this Committee adopts the report brought up by the Public Petitions Committee on the 17th July, 1891—namely, "That as the petitioner refuses to comply with the conditions required to enable him to obtain his license, the Committee is of opinion that he has no claim on the colony for relief."

24th August, 1894.

No. 506, 1893.—Petition of A. E. FINCH, of Wellington.

RELATIVE to loss of office as matron of Mount View Asylum.

I am directed to report that, as neither the petitioner or any one on her behalf appeared before the Committee with reference to this petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

24th August, 1894.

No. 301.—Petition of WILLIAM FALCONER, of Owaka, Otago.

PETITIONER prays for further compensation for the damage done to his property by the railway from Balclutha to Owaka being taken through it.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the Crown Lands Commissioner for Otago (Mr. Maitland) should be requested to inspect and value the damage done to petitioner's land by the railway passing through it.

24th August, 1894.

No. 230.—Petition of JAMES JOHNSTON, of Wakamarina.

PETITIONER prays for relief in connection with a certain arbitration case between himself and Mr. Eugene O'Connor.

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

24th August, 1894.

No. 526, 1893.—Petition of PERCY F. BAYLEY, of Normanby, Taranaki.

PETITIONER states that he was engaged as road inspector in charge of works carried on under the co-operative system on the East Road, and alleges that he was dismissed from his employment without inquiry. He prays for inquiry and relief.

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

28th August, 1894.

Nos. 339 and 340.—Petition of EMILY HUNT and W. J. HUNT, of Wellington.

PETITIONERS pray for compensation for loss sustained through the passing of "The Ngarara and Waipiro Investigation Act, 1889."

I am directed to report that, while sympathizing very much with the petitioners in the position they have been placed in through the agreement entered into with Wi Parata not having been legalised, the Committee considers they have no claim against the colony.

29th August, 1894.

No. 426.—Petition of S. C. JOLLY, of Ashburton.

PETITIONER states that he was the originator of a scheme for loan-conversion, and that his scheme has been worked upon by the different Governments in power since 1884. He prays that he may be compensated for having been a benefactor to the colony.

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

29th August, 1894.

No. 436.—Petition of A. CAMPBELL and Others, of Matakana and Whangaripo.

PETITIONERS pray that the road from Matakana, Te Arai, to Whangaripo Valley may be rendered passable for traffic.

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

29th August, 1894.

No. 84.—Petition of WILFRED BADGER, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays that his rights in "Badger's Statutes" may be purchased by the Government, and that, as a mark of appreciation of his services in the past, he may be granted a position under the Government.

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

29th August, 1894.

No. 288.—Petition of J. B. BORTON, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER prays for consideration on account of services rendered to the colony.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner's request to be allowed to withdraw his petition should be acceded to.

29th August, 1894.

No. 123.—Petition of C. V. H. de C. VON BLARAMBERG, of Palmerston North.

PETITIONER alleges that he has been unfairly treated by the Wanganui Education Board, and prays for an inquiry.

I am directed to report that this Committee considers the case one demanding diligent inquiry, and recommends the Government to thoroughly investigate it.

29th August, 1894.

No. 208.—Petition of ISABELLA DONNE HAMLIN, of Pokeno.

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

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

30th August, 1894.

Nos. 381 and 488.—Petitions of EDWIN COX and Others, and J. C. GREENWOOD and Others. PETITIONERS, dentists of New Zealand, pray for an amendment of the Dentists Act Amendment Act.

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

31st August, 1894.

No. 205.—Petition of J. H. FIELD, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that in June, 1893, he entered into a contract with the Government to print the electoral roll and supplementary rolls for the City of Auckland; that the Government rescinded the contract after it had been partly performed, and that, in consequence thereof, he sustained loss to the amount of £119 12s. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has proved that he entered into a contract with the Registrar of Electors, Auckland, on the 7th June, 1893, and that he was ready and willing to execute his part of the contract, but the Registrar of Electors did not complete his part of the said contract.

That the petitioner is therefore entitled to compensation for the breach thereof. The Committee would therefore refer the case to the Government for favourable consideration.

31st August, 1894.

No. 194.—Petition of E. W. BROOKE.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for injuries received at the Shag Point Coal-mine.

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

4th September, 1894.

No. 202.—Petition of WILLIAM LISTER, of Wanganui.

PETITIONER alleges that he is entitled to certain land at Whakamara under the will of one George Green, and that said land is now held by the Public Trustee. Petitioner prays that the said land may be assigned to him.

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

4th September, 1894.

No. 380.—Petition of JOHN KING, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that certain charges were made against him by a member of the House of Representatives during the session of 1892; that a Royal Commission was set up to inquire into the whole matter, and petitioner was proved guiltless. He prays for relief in connection with the expenses he incurred in defending himself.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner has not exhausted all his remedies, the Committee can only refer the petition to the Government for consideration.

4th September, 1894.

No. 172.—Petition of JOHN MCKAIL GEDDES, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that, in 1893, he was captain of the A Battery of New Zealand Artillery Volunteers; that a report upon said battery by Colonel Fox was published; that said report should not have been published, and that it contained reflections upon petitioner which were not justified, and which have injured him in mind and reputation. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, after having taken a large amount of evidence, the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has been a most zealous and energetic Volunteer, and for a great number of years has devoted much of his valuable time and private means to make the A Battery of New Zealand Artillery Volunteers, of which he was captain, an efficient battery; but on the days when Colonel Fox inspected the battery the petitioner had hired horses to draw the guns on the parade-ground, which horses became restive and unmanageable; the petitioner got excited, and was thus rendered unable to control the movements of his battery for a march past. Colonel Fox took charge of the battery, and whilst he (Colonel Fox) had charge the petitioner gave an order for the battery to halt, thinking that an accident would happen, which order was highly improper for him to give.

The Committee are therefore of opinion that Colonel Fox's report was justifiable, inasmuch as it referred only to what took place when he inspected the A Battery, and was not intended to reflect on petitioner's previous career, or his private character as an officer and a gentleman. The Committee, therefore, have no recommendation to make.

4th September, 1894.

No. 211.—Petition of MARGARET BEITH, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that her husband was killed while in the employ of the Railway Department in the year 1878; that the Government promised petitioner twelve months of her husband's pay as a compassionate allowance; that she has only received six months' pay. She prays that pay for the remaining six months may be paid to her as promised.

I am directed to report that, if the petitioner was ever promised twelve months of her late

husband's pay, as she has only received six months she is entitled to the balance of six months. In the opinion of the Committee, the petition should be referred to the Government for consideration.

7th September, 1894.

No. 136.—Petition of L. D. BOSSELMANN and Others, of Motueka, &c.

PETITIONERS pray that the sum of £1,000 may be granted for the purpose of building a cart-bridge over the Riwaka River.

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

7th September, 1894.

Nos. 491 and 492.—Petitions of T. H. GARTH and Others, and JAMES PARSONS and Others, of Inangahua, &c.

For a grant of money for road-construction.

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

7th September, 1894.

No. 496.—Petition of WILLIAM LLOYD and Others, of Dacre's Claim, Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the sum of £20 may be granted towards the construction of an approach to the Whangateau Wharf.

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

7th September, 1894.

No. 480.—Petition of SAMUEL HENRY and Others, of Lawrence, &c. (No. 1).

PETITIONERS pray that a compassionate allowance may be granted to the widow of the late Hon. Vincent Pyke.

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

7th September, 1894.

No. 15.—Petition of T. B. DICKSON and Others, of Oxford.

PETITIONERS pray that a sum of money may be granted for the erection of a dray-bridge over the River Eyre.

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

7th September, 1894.

No. 434.—Petition of G. S. CAMMELL and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS, shipowners, and due-payers to the Auckland Harbour Board, pray that an alteration may be made in the existing constitution of the said Board.

I am directed to report that, as the Board is constituted under a local Act ("The Auckland Harbour Board Act, 1885"), the proposed alteration can only be made by the Legislature passing a local Bill. The Committee has no recommendation to make.

7th September, 1894.

No. 455.—Petition of the BISHOP of CHRISTCHURCH, on behalf of the Standing Committee of the Diocesan Synod of the Diocese of Christchurch.

PETITIONERS pray for such an alteration of the law as would exempt from liability to taxation all property held for religious and educational purposes, or, failing that, for such an alteration in the Land and Income Assessment Acts as would exempt from liability to the graduated tax the endowments held by them.

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

7th September, 1894.

No. 384.—Petition of R. J. FELTUS, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that one G. J. Petingale died in the Lunatic Asylum, Auckland, and was buried by him; that deceased was indebted to him in certain sums of money; that he has been unable to obtain a shilling of said money. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee can see no reason to depart from the decisions arrived at by the Public Petitions Committees in 1880, 1881, and 1882.

11th September, 1894.

No. 106.—Petition of GEORGE GAYLORD, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that on the 10th July, 1893, he was employed as a mariner on the s.s. "Queen of the South" loading grain at the Port of Timaru; that while so employed an accident occurred whereby he sustained serious injuries. He alleges that said accident was caused by the negligence of the employes of the Railway Commissioners. Petitioner prays for reasonable compensation for injuries sustained, or that an enactment may be passed which will enable him to prosecute his action against the Commissioners, notwithstanding the provisions of section 84 of "The Government Railways Act, 1887."

I am directed to report that, after having brought witnesses from Timaru and carefully gone through all the evidence, the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

12th September, 1894.

No. 439.—Petition of THOMAS FISHER, of Mangonui.

PETITIONER, Chairman of the Fairburn Road School Committee, alleges that ruinous loss has been entailed upon him by the unjustifiable and injurious action of the Auckland Board of Education. He prays for redress.

I am directed to report that, as there are actions now pending in the Supreme Court, Auckland, respecting the petitioner's case, until they are disposed of the Committee can have no recommendation to make.

13th September, 1894.

No. 466.—Petition of E. A. LOCK, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted a pension or compensation on his retirement from the Public Works Department.

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

13th September, 1894.

No. 580.—Petition of E. S. W. BUTLER, late of Oamaru, now of Wellington.

PETITIONER alleges that he has been put to expense, inconvenience, and disgrace through the conduct of the Deputy Assignee in Bankruptcy at Oamaru. He prays for redress.

I am directed to report that, as the Deputy Assignee entered into an agreement with petitioner to the effect that in the event of petitioner signing a certain deed his discharge in bankruptcy would not be opposed, and as the Assignee now opposes said discharge on the ground that petitioner has since appealed to Parliament, the Committee are of opinion that the Government should cause an inquiry to be made into the case.

26th September, 1894.

No. 503.—Petition of S. CANDWELL and Others, of Taieri.

PETITIONERS pray that the Town of Waipori and the surrounding district may be again included within the boundaries of the Tuapeka electorate.

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

28th September, 1894.

No. 281.—Petition of J. J. ELWIN and Another, of Puniho, Taranaki.

PETITIONERS pray that section 8 of "The West Coast Settlements Reserves Act, 1892," may be amended.

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

28th September, 1894.

No. 487.—Petition of H. K. HOVELL, of Devonport.

PETITIONER alleges that, by the Surveyor-General's printed report on the Kermadec Islands, he was induced to become the lessee of Run No. 7, Sunday Island; that he has since discovered the report to be exaggerated and misleading; that owing to his reliance upon the accuracy of said report he has been involved in serious loss; and that his lease of Run No. 7 has now been forfeited, and valuation of his improvements allowed in favour of another. He prays for inquiry and relief.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner alleges that he has entered into an arrangement with the Minister of Lands for the settlement of some of the points raised in the petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

28th September, 1894.

No. 371.—Petition of J. M. TWEED and Others, of Ashburton.

PETITIONERS pray that the mouth of the Ashburton River may be declared open for fishing with nets.

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

28th September, 1894.

No. 482, 1893.—Petition of JOHN LUNDON (No. 2).

PETITIONER prays for a refund of money paid, and remuneration for services rendered, *re* Te Moananui (chief of the Hauraki), in 1868.

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

28th September, 1894.

No. 519, 1893.—Petition of JOHN LUNDON (No. 3).

PETITIONER prays for a reward for his services in connection with the proposed annexation of Samoa.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, any claims which petitioner may consider he has on the Government should have been rendered before the year 1885; that, as the petitioner had no official status, he has no claim against the colony.

28th September, 1894.

No. 519, 1893.—Petition of JOHN LUNDON, *re* Proposed Annexation of Samoa (No. 3, Report No. 2).

I AM directed by the Committee to bring up the evidence taken on the above petition, and to move that the report and evidence be printed.
30th September, 1894.

No. 523, 1893.—Petition of JOHN LUNDON (No. 4).

PETITIONER alleges that, owing to the action of the Government in prosecuting him in connection with his purchase of the Kaitaia Block from the Natives for the Government, he has been put to great monetary loss and inconvenience. He prays for compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having taken evidence and examined the official records and other papers, find that the reasonable personal expenses of the petitioner to Mongonui were disallowed by the Court, but all other witnesses were paid. The Committee are of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to all reasonable personal expenses incurred by him in and about the petition *re* Kaitaia Block, and Court proceedings connected therewith.

28th September, 1894.

No. 611.—Petition of JOHN LUNDON (No. 1).

PETITIONER prays that he may be recompensed for services rendered in connection with the inauguration of the special-settlements scheme, North of Auckland.

I am directed to report that this Committee can see no reason to depart from the decision arrived at by the Public Petitions Committee in 1891, and therefore recommend that the sum of £100 should be paid to the petitioner.

28th September, 1894.

No. 6.—Petition of C. C. KETTLE, District Judge, Wanganui (No. 1).

PETITIONER prays that the law may be amended in the direction of—(a) Raising the tenure of District Judges from one “during the pleasure of the Governor” to a tenure “during ability and good behaviour”; (b) causing the salaries of all District Judges to be of the like amount; (c) placing the salaries of all District Judges on the permanent Civil List; and (d) making it impossible to reduce any such District Judge’s salary during the tenure of office of the Judge receiving the same.

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

28th September, 1894.

No. 7.—Petition of C. C. KETTLE, District Judge, Wanganui (No. 2).

PETITIONER prays for inquiry and relief in connection with a certain case in which Mr. Jellicoe was fined for contempt of Court.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that it is derogatory to the Courts of justice that a fine for contempt of Court, inflicted in the year 1891, should not have been enforced, and that the rule *nisi* issued out of the Supreme Court on the 2nd December, 1891, in relation to the said fine, ought not to be now on the records of the said Court as an undisposed-of rule of Court. The Committee find that Mr. Jellicoe left New Zealand this year for England, and that he will not return to the colony before December next, and they recommend that within two months after his return notice should be served upon him to proceed with the said rule *nisi*, and, if no action be taken by him in pursuance of such notice, that the Crown Solicitor be instructed to apply for the discharge of the said rule *nisi*, and that afterwards the fine be enforced. The Committee also find from the evidence that the petitioner has been promised by the Government that his costs incurred in relation to the said rule *nisi* should be paid, and they are therefore of opinion that payment thereof should be made.

28th September, 1894.

No. 473.—Petition of R. HOBBS and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the Shops and Shop-assistants 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.

3rd October, 1894.

Nos. 605 and 606.—Petitions of L. DEAN and Others, and J. O’DEA and Others, of Wellington.

PETITIONERS pray for the exemption of improvements from taxation for local rating.

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.

3rd October, 1894.

No. 382.—Petition of JENNIE G. BEST and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that “The Contagious Diseases Act, 1869,” may be repealed.

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.

3rd October, 1894.

No. 535.—Petition of A. A. GEORGE and Others, of Hastings.

PETITIONERS pray that the Shearers' Accommodation 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.

3rd October, 1894.

Nos. 406, 409, 350, 437, 418, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, and 449.—Petitions of Johanna O'Connor, G. Robbs, M. W. Lake, W. Simmonds, W. Shakel, J. Dunne, R. Mackenzie, W. Woodward, P. O'Meagher, J. Costello, H. J. Syms, and J. R. Shields.

PETITIONERS pray for compensation for loss of publicans' licenses.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of these petitions relates to a question of public policy, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

3rd October, 1894.

No. 617.—Petition of R. COUPLAND and Others, of Southland.

PETITIONERS pray that the Invercargill Racecourse Trustee Empowering 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.

3rd October, 1894.

Nos. 524, 624, and 628.—Petitions of R. DALZIEL and Others, F. HOLLAND and Others, R. MANSON and Others.

PETITIONERS pray that an Act may be passed providing that it shall not be compulsory to send out more than two men with any traction-engine.

I am directed to report, that as the Government propose to legislate in this matter, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

3rd October, 1894.

No. 307.—Petition of A. S. ANDREWS and Others, of Hokianga, &c.

PETITIONERS pray that the through railway-line from Kawakawa to Hikurangi may be constructed.

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

3rd October, 1894.

No. 585, 1893.—Petition of J. DUNCAN and Others, of Wakamarina, &c.

PETITIONERS pray that steps may be taken by the Government to open up the Rai Valley.

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

3rd October, 1894.

No. 528.—Petition of A. D. GRAY and Others.

PETITIONERS pray that "The Dentists Act Amendment Act, 1891," may be amended.

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

3rd October, 1894.

Nos. 419, 421, 424, 427, and 429.—Petitions of JOHN KING and Others, L. GARDINER and Others, A. NICOL and Others, R. HUDSON and Others, and G. P. COATES and Others.

PETITIONERS pray that an Act may be passed to limit the hours worked in factories to eight hours per day.

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

3rd October, 1894.

No. 586, 1893.—Petition of REUBEN BAILEY, Colonel in Command of the Salvation Army in New Zealand.

For amendment of the Municipal Corporations Act.

I am directed to report that, as the House has already legislated on the subject-matter of this petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

3rd October, 1894.

No. 352.—Petition of G. W. ELL.

PETITIONER prays that a Select Committee may be appointed to consider the evidence given before the Royal Commission appointed on 10th May, 1893, to inquire into certain charges made by him, and to report as to whether or no, from the evidence, the sum of £200 is an adequate reward, and, if not, to name what sum, in their opinion, would be an adequate reward.

I am directed to report that, the petitioner having undertaken in writing that the Commissioners acting under the Royal Commission were to make a final settlement in his case, the Committee are of opinion that he is only entitled to the £200 which the Commissioners awarded. But, as sixteen months have elapsed since the Commissioners made their report, the Committee are further of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to a further sum of £50 for the loss of time and expenses incurred in endeavouring to get payment of the £200, which should have been paid last year. The receipt to be taken should be written in the following words (*vide* report of the Royal Commission): "Received the sum of £200 in full satisfaction of all alleged claims."

4th October, 1894.

No. 719.—Petition of ROBERT BEATTIE and Others, of Christchurch.

PETITIONERS pray for a grant in aid of "Herrick's Home."

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

4th October, 1894.

No. 708.—Petition of G. H. BELLAMY and Others, of Tahaukupu and Rimu.

PETITIONERS pray that the Tahaukupu River Road may be formed, and the river bridged.

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

5th October, 1894.

No. 716.—Petition of A. ADAMS and Others, of Waikouaiti.

PETITIONERS pray for assistance towards metalling, &c., the Waikari-Waitati Road.

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

5th October, 1894.

No. 620.—Petition of THOMAS COLLIS, of Devonport.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss of office as a police constable.

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

5th October, 1894.

No. 654.—Petition of W. H. CLARKE, of Parnell.

PETITIONER prays that the sum of 5s. 1d., the cost of a telegram to the Hon. Mr. Cadman, may be refunded to him (petitioner).

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

5th October, 1894.

No. 656.—Petition of W. BUCHANAN, of Waimamuku, Hokianga.

PETITIONER states that when he came to the colony, thirty years ago, he had an order for 40 acres of land, but, through unfortunate circumstances, was unable to register it. He prays that a section may be granted him.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, as the law stands at present the prayer of the petition could not be granted. The Committee has no recommendation to make.

5th October, 1894.

No. 635.—Petition of G. H. BUCKERIDGE and Others, of Eltham.

PETITIONERS pray that the Town Districts Acts may be again brought into operation.

I am directed to report that, as this is a matter of public policy, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

5th October, 1894.

No. 518.—Petition of E. BEZAR, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that he invented the system of "dummy targets" for rifle practice. He prays for remuneration.

I am directed to report that, the petitioner having failed to substantiate his statements by any documentary evidence, and as the alleged invention of an improved system of firing occurred twenty years ago, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

5th October, 1894.

No. 684.—Petition of J. LANGLEY, of Waikaka, Gore.

PETITIONER prays for the payment to him of the balance of the proceeds of a fixed deposit for £300 made jointly by him and the late W. Corrin.

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

5th October, 1894.

No. 562.—Petition of A. S. ANDREWES and Others, of Hokianga.

PETITIONERS pray that the Education reserves in and around the Town of Rawene may be converted from leaseholds into freeholds, under the provisions of "The Public Reserves Sales Act, 1882."

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition relates to a question of public policy, the Committee has no recommendation.

8th October, 1894.

No. 697.—Petition of F. W. EAST and Others, of Whakatane.

PETITIONERS pray that a traffic-bridge may be erected on the Whakatane River, or, failing that, that a punt or ferry-boat may be provided.

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

8th October, 1894.

No. 667.—Petition of ANDREW HUNTER, of Wanganui.

PETITIONER prays for a refund of land-tax paid on an unregistered mortgage.

I am directed to report that, the tax having been levied in accordance with the law, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

8th October, 1894.

No. 659.—Petition of JAMES AIKIN, of Tokatoka.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for costs incurred by him in his proceedings in the Supreme Court to assert his right to a road-line through Mrs. Clark's property at Tokatoka.

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

8th October, 1894.

No. 526.—Petition of JOHN HERON, of Greymouth.

PETITIONER prays that an inquiry may be made into the truth of certain allegations which have been made against the moral character of one Richard Bell, a warder of the Grey River Hospital, with a view of his being dismissed if they are proved to be true.

I am directed to report that the Committee have taken evidence, which shows that the Inspector-General of Hospitals had made inquiries into the charges contained in the petition and had reported to the Government that they were absolutely true, and that the Government had made every effort to insure the dismissal of the said warder, but there is no statutory power to do so.

The Committee is of opinion that, in relation to the matters mentioned in the petition, a grave scandal has arisen in the Greymouth Hospital, and that the retention in the said hospital of the said warder is deserving of the gravest censure and is a reflection upon the administration of the hospital.

10th October, 1894.

No. 696.—Petition of J. R. DAVIS, of Sydenham.

PETITIONER, who was recently employed as night-attendant at the Sunnyside Asylum, prays for an inquiry into the cause of his dismissal.

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

10th October, 1894.

No. 731.—Petition of KATE LUNDAY and Others, of Wellington.

PETITIONERS pray that the Bill for the admission of women to Parliament may be passed.

I am directed to report that, as this is a question for the House to deal with, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

10th October, 1894.

No. 134.—Petition of THOMAS KENNEDY, Jun., of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that he petitioned Parliament last session for compensation for loss of office in the Survey Department, and that the Public Petitions Committee recommended that he should be paid the sum of £124 11s. 9d.; that he has only received a cheque for £82. He prays that the balance which he alleges is due to him may be paid.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner has not supplied the Committee with the further evidence promised by him, they have no recommendation to make.

10th October, 1894.

No. 481.—Petition of DAVID GLENDENNING, of Napier.

PETITIONER prays that the sum of £227, the difference between the amount of Native land duty actually paid him and the amount with which he should have been charged in connection with his purchase of Pohukura Nos. 1 and 2 Blocks, may be refunded to him by the Government.

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

10th October, 1894.

No. 669.—Petition of WILLIAM COURTNEY, of Taranaki.

PETITIONER alleges that, on the strength of a promise made to him by the late Premier (Hon. J. Ballance) that he would do something for him on his (petitioner's) return from England, he visited all the chief towns in Britain, and sent out some 243 desirable immigrants; that he has rendered other services in connection with immigration. He prays that the fee-simple of 700 acres of second-class land which he holds may be granted to him in recognition of his services.

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

10th October, 1894.

No. 709.—Petition of DANIEL EGAN, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for injuries sustained by an accident which happened when he was employed as overseer on Government roadworks.

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

12th October, 1894.

No. 735.—Petition of THOMAS CANNING and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray for legislation with respect to licenses to sell New Zealand wine.

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

12th October, 1874.

No. 746.—Petition of ROBERT COMER, of Thames.

PETITIONER states that Block No. 2B, Kuaotunu, belonging to him, was sold by order of the Supreme Court upon a registered survey lien. He prays for relief.

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

12th October, 1894.

No. 450.—Petition of W. G. GARRARD, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for relief in connection with certain alleged land-claims, &c.

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

12th October, 1894.

No. 741.—Petition of HENRY JONES, of Brunnerton.

PETITIONER states that he has sustained loss and damage owing to the Railway Commissioners having resumed certain land at Brunnerton which was leased by him. He prays that his claims may be recognised in the same manner as those of the late Charles Seaton.

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

12th October, 1894.

No. 717.—Petition of M. ELLIOTT and Others, of Roxburgh, &c.

PETITIONERS pray that the duty on powder and shot used for the destruction of rabbits may be abolished.

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

12th October, 1894.

No. 564.—Petition of S. HENRY and Others, of Otago (No. 2).

PETITIONERS pray that a compassionate allowance may be granted to the widow of the late W. E. Shury.

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

12th October, 1894.

No. 736.—Petition of ALEXANDER GRANT and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that a bridge may be erected over the Mangawai River.

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

12th October, 1894.

No. 742.—Petition of JOHN LUNDON (No. 2).

PETITIONER prays that the House will fix the amount to which he is entitled under and by virtue of the report of the Public Petitions A to L Committee on the 28th September, 1894, on the petition *re* Kaitaia Block.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having gone through all the documents, and taken evidence, are of opinion that the sum of £30 should be paid to the petitioner in full satisfaction of all claims in connection with his petition.

12th October, 1894.

No. 703.—Petition of JOHN LAWSON, Official Assignee in Bankruptcy, Auckland.

PETITIONER, in the interests of the creditors of H. W. Mitchell, prays that the Government will take over certain surveys and survey liens on Native land in the thermal-springs district, or that the Natives for whom the surveys were done may be empowered to sell their lands and pay for the work done.

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

13th October, 1894.

No. 704.—Petition of CHARLES BROWN, of New Plymouth.

PETITIONER states that he settled in Taranaki in 1841, and since that date has held high positions in the service of the colony; that in May last the Government cancelled his license as a Native interpreter, and removed his name from the list of Justices of the Peace, on the ground that he had interpreted a declaration to a Native named Meringa knowing it to be false. He prays that he may be granted an inquiry at the hands of the Chief Judge of the Native Land Court.

I am directed to report that, after having taken evidence on this petition, the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner was grossly careless in the Meringa case, but think he might have been requested by the Government to resign his positions as interpreter and Justice of the Peace

on account of his advanced age and defective memory (of which Mr. District Judge Kettle gave illustrations), which rendered him unable to deal with such a complicated case as Meringa's.

The Committee are further of opinion that in the Meringa case the petitioner was less to blame than the other persons mixed up therewith—viz., Messrs. Ward and Humphries.

The Committee cannot recommend that the inquiry prayed for should be granted.

16th October, 1894.

No. 646.—Petition of JAMES HOLMES and Others, *re* Equitable Insurance Association of New Zealand. (*Vide* I.—1A.)

No. 639.—Petition of J. A. JOHNSTON, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays that the penalty inflicted on him for non-completion of the Patea Railway-station buildings within the contract time may be remitted.

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

19th October, 1894.

No. 469.—L. P. BEECROFT and Others, of Albertland.

In favour of an extra 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.

19th October, 1894.

Nos. 414 and 420.—Petitions of F. A. COTTERILL and Others, of Auckland, and A. BROWNING and Others, of Dunedin.

AGAINST an extra duty being imposed on imported fruit.

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

19th October, 1894.

Nos. 758 and 761.—Petitions of HENRY BETTS and Others, and E. P. EDMUNDS and Others, of Taranaki.

PETITIONERS, holders of leases from the Public Trustee of portions of the West Coast Settlement Reserves, allege that they suffer from two classes of injustice, one caused by the provisions of "The West Coast Settlement Reserves Acts Amendment Act, 1892," and the other by the manner in which the Act is administered. They pray for relief.

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

19th October, 1894.

No. 93.—Petition of R. KELLING and Others, of Stanley Brook, Nelson.

PETITIONERS pray that the sum of £250 may be granted towards the improvement of the road between Stanley Brook and Wakefield.

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

19th October, 1894.

No. 445, 1893.—Petition of A. W. CARKEEK, of Manukau.

PETITIONER alleges that he has suffered serious loss through the fault and misrepresentation of the Survey Department. He prays for compensation.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner has failed to supply corroborative evidence in support of his petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

20th October, 1894.

No. 755.—Petition of DENIS GLACKEN, of Te Horo.

PETITIONER alleges that the decision of the Stipendiary Magistrate in the case Glacken *v.* Yates, at Otaki Stipendiary Magistrate's Court, was against the weight of evidence. He prays for an inquiry.

I am directed to report that the petitioner has allowed the time to elapse within which he could have appealed, and the circumstances of the case do not warrant the Committee in recommending the House to order a review of the judgment of the Magistrate who tried the case. The Committee therefore cannot recommend that the prayer of the petition should be granted.

20th October, 1894.

No. 762.—Petition of MARGARET CANNON, of Petone.

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance on account of her late husband having died from the effects of injuries sustained while in the railway service as a platelayer.

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

20th October, 1894.

No. 561.—Petition of WILLIAM HYNDMAN, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER alleges he was frostbitten while working on the Christchurch-Hokitika Road as one of the "unemployed." He prays for consideration.

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

20th October, 1894.

No. 760.—Petition of THOMAS BEGG and Others, of Waimate.

PETITIONERS pray that they may be allowed to net the mouth of the Waitaki River and tidal waters thereof, for the purpose of taking all indigenous fish other than trout.

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

20th October, 1894.

FINAL REPORT.

I am directed to report that the Public Petitions A to D Committee have had 195 petitions referred to them by the Petitions Classification Committee, have held 65 meetings to consider the same, and have brought up 195 reports thereon—viz., 20 specific recommendations, 9 for favourable consideration by the Government, 66 for consideration by the Government, 100 no claim or no recommendation.

20th October, 1894.

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