

and that in their opinion the time has arrived when provision should be made for separate institutions for weak-minded or imbecile and idiotic persons, who at present, through the want of more suitable accommodation, are sent to the lunatic asylums, where they are unavoidably associated with patients who are under treatment for insanity, and where, also, no attempt is made towards classification or improvement by means of training and education; and, further, that from the evidence before them the Committee is of the opinion that there is urgent necessity for immediate action being taken by the Government in the matter."

17th September, 1902.

No. 458.—Petition of FRANK J. OAKES and 3 Others, of Wellington.

PETITIONERS pray that an annual subsidy may be granted to the North Island Brass Band Association towards the expenses of holding brass-band contests in the various centres.

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

30th September, 1902.

No. 461.—Petition of W. M. DE WESTON, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays for relief on account of having been imprisoned for three months for criminal libel.

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

30th September, 1902.

No. 470.—Petition of GEORGE ROBSON, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted 60 acres of land, or £30 in lieu thereof, for military services rendered to the colony.

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

30th September, 1902.

No. 410.—Petition of ALEXANDER WALKER and 15 Others, of Waimangaroa.

PETITIONERS pray that ammunition may be sold to Defence rifle clubs on the same terms and conditions as it is supplied to other branches of the Defence Forces of the colony.

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

30th September, 1902.

Nos. 452, 471, 472, and 473.—Petitions of CHARLES WELCH and 113 Others, Rev. CANON COATES and 53 Others, E. L. MCKINSTRY and 42 Others, and J. M. DEVENISH and 62 Others.

PETITIONERS state that, as gambling is demoralising to the individual and baneful to the best interests of the community, they pray that the totalisator may be entirely suppressed.

I am directed to report that the Committee affirms the resolution reported to the House on the 11th instant in connection with a number of similar petitions—viz., "That, in view of the large and influential representations made by the 7,143 petitioners praying for the abolition of the totalisator, this Committee recommends the prayer of the petitioners to the earnest consideration of the Government."

30th September, 1902.

No. 467.—Petition of J. BEALE and 102 Others, of Petone.

PETITIONERS pray that the publication by newspapers of the winners of sweepstakes, "tote betting," and "street betting," may be prevented.

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

30th September, 1902.

No. 432.—Petition of MARY ANN SAUNDERS, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that she may be granted 80 acres of land, or £40 in lieu thereof, for military services rendered by her late husband to the colony.

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

30th September, 1902.

FINAL REPORT.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Committee has held sixteen meetings during the session.

Number of petitions referred to the Committee	...	...	144
Number of petitions dealt with by the Committee	...	...	142
Number of petitions not dealt with	...	...	2
Number of reports presented to the House	...	...	43
Number of specific recommendations made therein	...	...	7
Number referred to Government for consideration	...	...	16
Number of "No recommendation," &c.	...	...	20