

1908.

NEW ZEALAND

GOLDFIELDS AND MINES COMMITTEE

(REPORTS OF THE).

(MR. POLAND, CHAIRMAN.)

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

• ORDERS OF REFERENCE.

Extracts from the Journals of the House of Representatives.

FRIDAY, THE 3RD DAY OF JULY, 1908.

Ordered, "That a Goldfields and Mines Committee, consisting of ten members, be appointed, to whom shall be referred all matters relating to mining and all Bills relating to mines, with power to call for persons and papers; three to be a quorum: the Committee to consist of Dr. Chapple, Mr. Colvin, Mr. W. Fraser, Mr. Herries, Mr. R. McKenzie, Mr. Macpherson, Mr. Poland, Mr. Seddon, Hon. Mr. Mills, and the mover."—(Hon. Mr. McGOWAN.)

WEDNESDAY, THE 29TH DAY OF JULY, 1908.

Ordered, "That the Hours of Underground Workers Bill be referred to the Goldfields and Mines Committee."—Mr. R. MCKENZIE, for Mr. GUINNESS.)

TUESDAY, THE 4TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1908.

Ordered, "That the petition of T. Moriarty be referred to the Goldfields and Mines Committee."—(Hon. Mr. DUNCAN.)

TUESDAY, THE 8TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1908.

Ordered, "That the Coal-mines Bill and the Mining Amendment Bill be referred to the Goldfields and Mines Committee."—(Hon. Mr. McGOWAN.)

WEDNESDAY, THE 16TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1908.

Ordered, "That the petition of A. D. Bayfield be referred to the Goldfields and Mines Committee."—(Mr. SIDEY.)

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REPORTS.

No. 880.—Petition of JAMES KELLY, of Nelson.

PETITIONER prays that a reward may be granted to him as the first discoverer of a payable goldfield in the Reefton district.

The Goldfields and Mines Committee have the honour to report that they recommend that the petition of James Kelly be referred to the immediate and favourable consideration of the Government.

30th July, 1908.

No. 174.—Petition of GEORGE LOW.

PETITIONER represents that he has been put to an expense of £100, and has also lost much time in contesting at law his right to a mining claim at Waipori, and this through no fault of his own. He prays that an amount equal to his expenditure out of pocket may be granted to him.

The Goldfields and Mines Committee have the honour to report on the petition of George Low that they have no recommendation to make.

3rd September, 1908.

No. 179.—Petition of R. B. THOMSON.

PETITIONER represents that he prospected for copper, and found copper-ore on Section 1, Block 6, Kao Survey District; on making application at Whangarei for a mineral license he found himself opposed by a Mr. Donald McLeod, but, a decision being given in his favour, his application was granted; legal proceedings ensued, and again, on appeal, Mr. Justice Edwards decided in his favour; notwithstanding this, petitioner found himself forced to come to terms with McLeod, and so arranged to pay him £100 and forego the Supreme Court expenditure amounting to over £100; then the Minister would not sign the lease unless £100 was lodged with the Public Trustee as a guarantee that £500 was expended on the property for the purpose of developing it. Petitioner prays that an allowance of £100 be paid to him in consideration of the amount paid to McLeod, and also the £120, the costs of the law proceedings in the Supreme Court.

The Goldfields and Mines Committee have the honour to report on the petition of R. B. Thomson that they have no recommendation to make.

3rd September, 1908.

No. 31.—Petition of TIMOTHY MORIARTY.

PETITIONER seeks to obtain compensation for loss sustained by him through the alleged sale of his land by the Government to the Greymouth Harbour Board.

The Goldfields and Mines Committee have the honour to report on the petition of Timothy Moriarty that they have no recommendation to make.

3rd September, 1908.

No. 221.—Petition of JAMES HOSIE.

PETITIONER seeks to obtain a reward for the discovery of gold which he alleges was made by him at Waihi, Karangahake, and Puru.

The Goldfields and Mines Committee have the honour to report on the petition of James Hosie that they have no recommendation to make.

3rd September, 1908.

HOURS OF UNDERGROUND WORKERS BILL.

THE Goldfields and Mines Committee, to whom was referred the Hours of Underground Workers Bill, have the honour to report to your honourable House that, having duly considered the provisions of the said Bill, they recommend that it be not proceeded with.

15th September, 1908.

COAL-MINES AMENDMENT BILL.

THE Goldfields and Mines Committee, having bestowed careful consideration upon the provisions of the Coal-mines Amendment Bill, referred to them by your honourable House, have the honour to report that they recommend that the said Bill be allowed to proceed, subject to the amendments shown on a copy of the Bill hereto attached.

15th September, 1908.

MINING AMENDMENT BILL.

THE Goldfields and Mines Committee have the honour to report to your honourable House that, having given careful consideration to the provisions of the Mining Amendment Bill, referred to them, they recommend that the said Bill be allowed to proceed, subject to the amendments shown on a copy of the Bill hereto attached.

22nd September, 1908.

No. 376.—Petitions of H. ANDREWS and 1,643 Others (as per Schedule attached).

PETITIONERS pray that legislation be passed during the current session such as will enable the Government to deal with certain applications for water-rights necessary for harnessing the Toaroha River, Westland, in connection with which it is proposed to develop power for working the Rimu Terraces.

The Goldfields and Mines Committee have the honour to report that they recommend that the petitions of H. Andrews and others be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

18th September, 1908.

SCHEDULE.

No. 376.—Andrews, H., and 88 others.	No. 407.—Mabin, E. B., and 88 others.
.. 403.—Campbell, F., and 22 others.	.. 378.—Meharry, A., jun., and 99 others.
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.. 466.—Cushman and 55 others.	.. 434.—McCarthy, F., and 53 others.
.. 468.—Davidson and 22 others.	.. 474.—McIntosh, G. C., and 6 others.
.. 433.—Ellison, P., and 41 others.	.. 552.—Parkinson, W. R., and 14 others.
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.. 472.—Karnback, E., and 33 others.	.. 465.—White, W. H., and 16 others.
.. 473.—Keller, W., and 7 others.	.. 435.—Wicks, E. A., and 49 others.
.. 406.—Linklater, H., and 27 others.	.. 379.—Wickes Limited and 80 others.

No. 99.—Petition of A. J. FARMER and Another.

PETITIONERS represent that they acquired from one Malcolm Fleming the lease of a coal-mining property at Greymouth in connection with which the said Malcolm Fleming had paid into the hands of the Public Trustee a sum of £500 as security for the fulfilment of the conditions of the lease; that the petitioners had paid to the said Malcolm Fleming £500 in consideration of the £500 paid by him to the Public Trustee; that by the company brought into existence by them a considerable amount of work was done, and a large sum expended in seeking to develop the mine, the company being ultimately wound up; that they had seen that all the liabilities in connection with the company were paid. They pray that the £500 deposited with the Public Trustee be repaid to them.

The Goldfields and Mines Committee have the honour to report that they recommend that the petition of A. J. Farmer and another be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

22nd September, 1908.

INDEXING OF MINING ACTS.

THE Goldfields and Mines Committee have the honour to report to your honourable House that, in order that the transaction of the business of your Committee may in future years be greatly facilitated, they respectfully recommend that indices be supplied to the Mining Acts. Your Committee recommend that this report be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

22nd September, 1908.

No. 573.—Petition of ALEXANDER MACKAY.

PETITIONER seeks to obtain a reward for the discovery of gold alleged to have been made by him at Waihi, Karangahape, Waitekauri, and Owharoa.

The Goldfields and Mines Committee have the honour to report on the petition of Alexander Mackay that they have no recommendation to make.

2nd October, 1908.

No. 572.—Petition of JOSIAH HUDSON and 47 Others.

PETITIONERS represent that coal has been found in six different places on the Kaipara Flats; that this coal has been tested by the Government Analyst, who reported that it contained about 96 per cent. of pure carbon. They therefore pray that a sum of money may be allocated in order to thoroughly test the coalfield, and that a competent geologist be sent to examine and report upon the outcrops.

The Goldfields and Mines Committee have the honour to report that they recommend that the petition of Josiah Hudson and others be referred to the Government, in order that a geological officer may report upon the Kaipara coalfield as soon as an officer is available for that purpose.

2nd October, 1908.

No. 494.—Petition of ARTHUR D'OYLY BAYFEILD.

PETITIONER, on behalf of himself and other shareholders of the Westport-Cardiff Coal-mining Company, liquidated, represents that in May, 1900, in order to satisfy a debt of £4,470, of which £2,363 was for royalty in coal and £2,107 for deficiency on the working-expenses of the Westport-Ngakawau Railway to Mokihinui, the Government seized the plant, material, and works of the company, valued at £24,329; that the £2,107 ought not to have been charged against the company; that, for the reason that the debt was created through the default of another company, it ought properly to have been extinguished at the time of the passing of "The Westport-Ngakawau Railway Act, 1897." Petitioner further represents that the plants, material, and property seized were valued by the Mining Inspectors of the Government at £7,516; that the whole of the property is now being worked by the Government in connection with the operations in progress at the State coal-mine at Seddonville, and that through the company the colony has been saved the cost thereof. No consideration has been allowed to the shareholders of the liquidated company for the value of the plant and material in excess of the alleged debt. Petitioner therefore prays for inquiry, consideration, and relief.

The Goldfields and Mines Committee have the honour to report on the petition of Arthur d'Oyly Bayfeild that they recommend that it be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

2nd October, 1908.

[*Vide* Appendix I.—4A.]

THANKS TO CHAIRMAN.

THE Goldfields and Mines Committee have the honour to report to your honourable House that at their meeting held on Thursday, the 1st day of October last, the following resolution was unanimously agreed to, namely:—

"1. That this Committee give expression to warm appreciation and thanks for the very able manner in which the Chairman (H. Poland, Esq., M.P.) has presided over its deliberations and conducted its business during the three years of the present Parliament.

"2. That this resolution be properly recorded."

5th October, 1908.

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