

1919.
NEW ZEALAND.

PUBLIC PETITIONS A TO L COMMITTEE

(REPORTS OF THE).

(MR. BROWN, CHAIRMAN.)

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 3RD DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1919.

Ordered, "That Standing Order No. 219 be suspended, and that a Select Committee be appointed, consisting of eleven members, to consider all petitions from A to L 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 have power to report its opinions and observations thereon to this House; also to have power to call for persons and papers; three to be a quorum: the Committee to consist of Mr. Brown, Mr. P. Fraser, Mr. Harris, Mr. Parr, Mr. Payne, Mr. T. W. Rhodes, the Hon. Mr. Russell, Mr. G. H. Smith, Dr. Thacker, Mr. Wright, and the mover."—(Right Hon. Mr. MASSEY, for Minister in Charge, Hon. Mr. HINE.)

THURSDAY, THE 25TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1919.

Ordered, "That all petitions not finally dealt with during the sessions of 1918 be again referred to the same Committees as they were referred to during the said sessions."—(Right Hon. Mr. MASSEY.)

WEDNESDAY, THE 15TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1919.

Ordered, "That the report of the Public Petitions A to L Committee on the petition of M. A. Harding be referred back to that Committee in order that the report may be amended in accordance with the resolution passed by the Committee."—(Mr. T. W. RHODES.)

INDEX.

No.	Petitioner.	Page.	No.	Petitioner.	Page.
357	Acheson, E. J.	6	269	Driscoll	5
56	Acheson, R. J.	4	9	Dustins Limited	5
280	Alexander, W. J.	2	306	Earl, William, jun.	6
122/Sess. II/18	Bailey, Philip	2		Final Report	6
64/Sess. II/18	Bambery, L. M.	3	308	Fleming and Co.	6
16	Black, Ivan	5	7	Forrester, R.	4
119	Bloomfield, C. A.	4	2/Sess. II/18	Forsyth, Lilian	4
120	Bloomfield, C. A.	4	18	Fraser, Marian	4
116/Sess. II/18	Brierly, W. H., and 9 others ..	3	70	Gordon, W. F.	6
13/Sess. I/18	Buchanan, V. C.	3	262	Harding, M. A. (first report) ..	4
65/Sess. II/18	Burke, I. M. P.	3	262	Harding, M. A. (second report)	5
66/Sess. II/18	Burke, M. E.	3	3	Heathcote County Council and 5 other petitions	5
47	Cholmondeley-Smith, C. R. ..	2		Hill, Elsie M.	2
45	Clarke, W. H., and 21 others ..	2	108	Hoyle, Robert	6
46	Clarke, W. H.	3	292	Hunter, T. A.	6
113 Sess. II/18	Clarke, W. H.	3	122	Ingle, Joseph	4
295	Clemens, C. H.	5	279	Jamison, John, sen.	2
242	Coleman, Elizabeth A.	5	485/17	Johnston, W. A.	4
12 Sess. II/18	Conrick, Patrick	2	246	Jones, Leonard	4
474/17	Cossman, H. A. M.	3	22	Leyland-O'Brien Company (Li- mited)	2
88/Sess. II/18	Curlett, Hustin	3	104/18	Lundon, Patrick	3
1/18	Dalziel, F. G.	2	1	Walton, B. B.	3
17	Doeherty, H. V. M.	5	277		
487/17	D'Oridant, W. A.	3			

REPORTS.

No. 47.—Petition of C. R. CHOLMONDELEY-SMITH, of Oneroa.

PRAYING that he may receive the military medals for service in the Maori War.

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

24th September, 1919.

No. 45.—Petition of W. H. CLARKE and 21 Others, of Auckland.

PRAYING that they receive the full military pension together with the old-age pension.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee the Government should be requested to legislate so that military pensioners should be allowed to receive the additional benefit of the old-age pension.

24th September, 1919.

No. 1 of 1918.—Petition of F. G. DALZIELL, of Wellington.

PRAYING that legislation be enacted so that the natural resources of the Dominion could be thoroughly developed.

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

24th September, 1919.

No. 108.—Petition of ELSIE MARY HILL, of Christchurch.

PRAYING that the payment of £100 gift duty on the sum of £2,000, personally supplemented by the Hon. W. F. Wigram to an equal sum, for which a trust was formed for her benefit and the benefit of her children, be refunded.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion this petition should be recommended to the Government for favourable consideration, and that the prayer of the petitioner be granted.

24th September, 1919.

No. 12 of Session II, 1918.—Petition of PATRICK CONRICK, of Porirua.

PRAYING that he be compensated for alleged wrongful arrest in connection with his being called up for military service, and that he be refunded his travelling-expenses.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make with regard to this petition.

6th October, 1919.

No. 485 of 1917.—Petition of JOHN JAMISON, sen., of Dunedin.

PRAYING that an inquiry be made into certain correspondence with the Soldiers' Financial Assistance Board.

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

6th October, 1919.

No. 104 of Session II, 1918.—Petition of LEYLAND-O'BRIEN COMPANY (LIMITED), of Auckland.

PRAYING for compensation for loss sustained through the seizure of their vessel by the escaped German prisoners.

I am directed to report that the Committee is strongly of opinion that the Government should grant reasonable compensation to the petitioners.

6th October, 1919.

No. 280.—Petition of W. J. ALEXANDER, of Auckland.

PRAYING for compensation for losses sustained by the refusal by the Administrator for permission to land at Samoa.

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

15th October, 1919.

No. 122 of Session II, 1918.—Petition of PHILIP BAILEY, of Dannevirke.

PRAYING that he may be granted adequate compensation for injuries received during an alleged illegal assault committed by a returned soldier named Sergeant White.

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

15th October, 1919.

Nos. 64, 65, and 66 of Session II, 1918.—Petitions of M. L. BAMBERY, I. M. P. BURKE, and M. E. BURKE, all of Ravensbourne.

PRAYING for compassionate allowance for injuries sustained through the alleged negligence of the Defence authorities in allowing one Onslow Mayhew to retain the use of firearms.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee the Defence Department is in no way to blame, but, in view of the distressing circumstances, it recommends the several petitions to the favourable consideration of the Government.

15th October, 1919.

No. 116 of Session II, 1918.—Petition of W. H. BRIERLY and 9 Others, of Auckland.

PRAYING that the Mount Eden Quarry Reserve should not be leased to any public or private body for purposes of quarrying or stone-crushing.

I am directed to report that this petition should be referred to the Government for inquiry, the Committee being of opinion that a renewal of the lease to the Auckland City Council should not be granted.

15th October, 1919.

No. 13 of Session I, 1918.—Petition of V. C. BUCHANAN, of Christchurch.

PRAYING that an inquiry be held into the circumstances surrounding his being called up for service in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

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

15th October, 1919.

No. 113 of Session II, 1918.—Petition of W. H. CLARKE, of Auckland.

PRAYING that he may be heard at the bar of the House in reference to his scheme of land-settlement for soldiers.

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

15th October, 1919.

No. 46.—Petition of W. H. CLARKE, of Auckland.

PRAYING for a compassionate allowance on account of deductions from his old-age pension.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the request of the petitioner for one month's pension should be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

15th October, 1919.

No. 474 of 1917.—Petition of H. A. M. COSSMAN and 7,000 Others, of Wanganui.

PRAYING that all enemy aliens be interned.

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

15th October, 1919.

No. 88 of Session II, 1918.—Petition of HUSTON CURLETT, of Christchurch.

PRAYING for compensation for alleged wrongful detention in a mental hospital.

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

15th October, 1919.

No. 487 of 1917.—Petition of W. A. D'ORIDANT, of Oamaru.

PRAYING that he may be granted compensation for the loss of his fishing-launch by the foreclosure of a mortgage.

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

15th October, 1919.

No. 1.—Petition of PATRICK LUNDON, of Wellington.

PRAYING that he be granted the amount of money to which he claims he is entitled for overtime worked in the Internal Affairs Department.

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

15th October, 1919.

No. 277.—Petition of B. B. WALTON and Others, of North Otago.

PRAYING for assistance to the surviving victims of the Gemmell's Crossing tragedy.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee the Defence Department is in no way to blame, but, in view of the distressing circumstances, it recommends this petition to the favourable consideration of the Government.

15th October, 1919.

No. 262.—Petition of MARY A. HARDING, of Palmerston North. (First Report.)

PRAYING for a reduction of the death duties on a deceased relative's estate.

I am directed to report that, in view of the existing legislation, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

15th October, 1919.

No. 56.—Petition of R. J. ACHESON, of Wairarapa.

PRAYING for a compassionate allowance or increase of his superannuation so as to provide a living for his wife.

I am directed to report that, owing to the very special circumstances that have arisen since the petition was presented, the Committee have no recommendation to make, but would strongly urge upon the Government that the charge for Mr. Acheson's maintenance in the mental hospital be remitted.

20th October, 1919.

No. 119.—Petition of C. A. BLOOMFIELD, of Southland.

PRAYING for a gift of grass-seed to enable him to grass an area of burnt bush land, which he is unable to do without such help, being totally blind.

I am directed to report that upon this petition the Committee has no recommendation to make, but would urge upon the Government the great need for introducing legislation making provision for the sustenance of blind people.

20th October, 1919.

No. 120.—Petition of C. A. BLOOMFIELD, of Southland.

PRAYING for assistance to provide transport to New Zealand for his nephew and his wife and child, to help him on his farm, he himself being totally blind.

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

20th October, 1919.

Nos. 7 and 22.—Petitions of R. FORRESTER and L. JONES, of Auckland.

PRAYING for half civil pay while members of the New Zealand Army Postal Service.

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

20th October, 1919.

No. 2.—Petition of LILIAN M. FORSYTH, of Palmerston North.

PRAYING for compensation for services rendered by her late husband, who was employed as a Dairy Inspector and accidentally killed in the course of his duty.

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

20th October, 1919.

No. 18.—Petition of MARIAN FRASER, of Christchurch.

PRAYING for further compassionate allowance on account of services rendered by her late husband while a member of the Police Force.

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

20th October, 1919.

No. 279.—Petition of JOSEPH INGLEY, of New Plymouth.

PRAYING that he may be awarded the Maori War Medal for services rendered during the Maori War.

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

20th October, 1919.

No. 246.—Petition of W. A. JOHNSTON, of Wellington.

PRAYING for compensation for loss of wages and a refund of legal expenses incurred through alleged wrongful arrest.

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

20th October, 1919.

No. 242.—Petition of ELIZABETH A. COLEMAN, of Christchurch.

PRAYING for a compassionate allowance on account of the services rendered by her late husband while he was a member of the New Zealand Defence Force.

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

21st October, 1919.

No. 17.—Petition of HENRIETTA V. M. DOCHERTY, of Christchurch.

PRAYING for a compassionate allowance on account of the loss of her husband, who was a member of the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces.

I am directed to report that the petitioner should apply for the war pension under the provisions of section 16, subsection (1) (b), of the War Pensions Amendment Act, 1917; and, further, that the Committee directs the attention of the Government to clause 13 of the departmental report on this petition.

21st October, 1919.

No. 9.—Petition of DUSTINS LIMITED, of Wanganui.

PRAYING for compensation for loss sustained in connection with the purchase of canteen premises at Trentham.

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

21st October, 1919.

No. 262.—Petition of MARY A. HARDING, of Palmerston North. (Second Report.)

PRAYING for reduction of the death duties on a deceased relative's estate.

I am directed to report that, on account of existing legislation, the Committee has no recommendation to make on the prayer of the petition, but recommends that legislation should be introduced making a reduction on death duties where the successors die within a year of each other, thus following on the lines of the Death Duties Act, 1914, and Finance Act, 1914, of the Imperial Parliament.

21st October, 1919.

No. 3.—Petition of HEATHCOTE COUNTY COUNCIL, of Armagh Street, Christchurch, and 5 similar Petitions (as per Schedule attached).

PRAYING for the repeal of clause 9 of the Selwyn County Subdivision Act, 1910.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee an amendment of the Act is necessary in order that each county shall receive its full subsidy. The Committee recommends the petitions for the consideration of the Government.

21st October, 1919.

SCHEDULE.

No. 39.—Selwyn County Council.
No. 247.—Ellesmere County Council.
No. 281.—Halswell County Council.

No. 282.—Springs County Council.
No. 283.—Paparoa County Council.

No. 16.—Petition of IVAN BLACK, of Auckland.

PRAYING for redress for alleged wrongful prosecution.

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

22nd October, 1919.

No. 295.—Petition of C. H. CLEMENS, of Wellington.

PRAYING for inquiry into the methods used by the Defence Department for the transportation of his son, an invalided soldier who subsequently died.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee this petition should be referred to the Government for favourable consideration and inquiry. The Committee desires to express its sympathy with the petitioner in the loss of his son, and places on record the high sense of duty actuating him in presenting the petition, its purpose being to make a recurrence of his unfortunate case impossible.

22nd October, 1919.

No. 269.—Petition of T. M. DRISCOLL, of Wellington.

PRAYING for an inquiry into his claim for military pension.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends that the petition be referred to the Government for immediate and favourable consideration, and that the pension granted be such as will, together with the salary he is receiving, enable the petitioner to properly provide for a home.

27th October, 1919.

No. 306.—Petition of WILLIAM EARL, jun., of Waikari.

PRAYING for refund of penalty for late payment of land-tax.

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

27th October, 1919.

No. 118.—Petition of T. A. HUNTER and 306 Others, of Wellington.

PRAYING that inequitable discrimination in the matter of relief under the Military Service Act be not exercised.

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

27th October, 1919.

No. 308.—Petition of FLEMING AND Co., of Gore.

PRAYING for a refund of duty on automatic packeting-machine.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that, owing to the special circumstances, the petition should be referred to the favourable consideration of the Government to refund the excess duty upon the firm entering into a bond to pay the full duty in the event of the machinery being used other than in the preparation of foodstuffs, or disposed of.

4th November, 1919.

No. 357.—Petition of EMILY J. ACHESON, of Masterton.

PRAYING that a sum of money be granted her by way of compassionate allowance to enable her to pay off certain liabilities.

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

4th November, 1919.

No. 70.—Petition of W. F. GORDON, of New Plymouth.

PRAYING for compensation for loss of half-pay while on leave from the Survey Department.

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

4th November, 1919.

No. 292.—Petition of ROBERT HOYLE, of Arapohue.

PRAYING for a survey of route for branch railway to connect Dargaville and Northern Wairoa with the Main Trunk line via Mititai, Raupo, and Ruawai.

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

4th November, 1919.

FINAL REPORT.

I AM directed to report—

The Committee during the session held 10 meetings.

The Committee dealt with 54 petitions.

The number of petitions recommended for immediate and favourable consideration was 1.

The number recommended for favourable consideration was 23.

The number recommended for consideration was 13.

The number referred to other Committees was 1.

The number on which the Committee had no recommendation to make was 8.

The number held over until next session was 2.

The number referred for inquiry was 2.

The number withdrawn was 1.

The number not dealt with was 3.

4th November, 1919.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (650 copies), £5.

By Authority: MARCUS F. MARKS, Government Printer, Wellington.—1919.

Price 6d.]