

Valuable Timber Rights.

Proposal that Crown Should Purchase.

A petition requesting that a Parliamentary Committee should inquire into the feasibility of the purchase by the Crown of 1600 million feet of timber, the rights for which are held by the Tongariro Timber Company, Ltd., was recently presented to the House by Mr. F. F. Hockly (Rotorua).

The petitioners were W. T. Williams, of Hawkes Bay, and three others, who stated that they were shareholders in the company named above. The company was formed in 1907 to acquire from Mr. Tudor Atkinson, of Wellington, a native timber lease or agreement secured by him in 1906. A capital of £25,000 had been fully subscribed. The lease was estimated to comprise what was probably the most valuable block of timber now remaining in the Dominion. The company had paid none of the royalties due to the Native owners for a period of six years, and was in default to the extent of £27,000. It was also in default in respect to the

PARTNERSHIP.

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