

Clause agreed to. Preamble read and agreed to.

On motion of the *Hon. Mr. Dillon Bell* the Bill as amended was agreed to, and ordered to be recommended to the House for adoption.

PETITIONS OF EGGERS AND OTHERS, JOHN MCKELLAR, AND Wm. HY. SHERWOOD
ROBERTS.

21st July, 1869.

These petitions were laid before the Committee. The Committee deliberated.

Moved by *Major Heaphy*, "That with respect to certain petitions, mentioned in the Schedule attached and referred to the Committee, against the declaration of Hundreds in the Province of Otago, this Committee recommend that no Hundreds whatever be declared in that Province except in accordance with the provisions of the Bill on the subject now under the consideration of the Legislature or any such provisions as may be passed in that behalf by the Assembly." Agreed to.

Ordered, That the Chairman do report the above resolution to both Houses of the Legislature for their adoption.

PETITION OF FORTY-SEVEN TAPANUI SETTLERS.

27th July, 1869.

This Petition was laid before the Committee.

Moved by the *Hon. Dr. Menzies*, That the Superintendent of Otago be requested to attend the Committee.

The Superintendent of Otago accordingly attended and said: "Prior to the meeting of the Provincial Council, Government had arranged to lay open a Hundred, as stated in the Petition and as indicated therein, for 20,000 acres on four runs under the covenants. The Provincial Council altered that arrangement, and recommended that the Hundred be declared on two runs only. I am not in a position to state the reasons of the Provincial Council for so doing.

"My opinion is, that the first proposal was the fairest, as it divided the Hundred between four instead of two runholders."

By the *Hon. Dr. Menzies*: "Would the original proposal include more arable land than the Provincial Council's proposal?"—"I cannot say."

The Superintendent was thanked, and then withdrew.

Moved by *Mr. Reynolds*, "That the Tapanui Petition be referred to Government, with a recommendation that the question involved be decided under the provisions of the Bill on Hundreds now passing through the Legislature." Agreed to.
