

SESS. II.—1884.
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

(MR. R. TURNBULL, CHAIRMAN.)

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

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SESS. II.—1884.
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

(MR. R. TURNBULL, CHAIRMAN.)

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

No. 27, Sess. I.—Petition of JAMES YOUNG, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was late a warder in the gaol at Auckland, in which he served over eighteen years; that during the last twelve years of his service he was afflicted with rheumatism, the effect of severe wettings and cold; that he was discharged in October last, being unable to do the duty allotted to him, and was compensated for loss of office. He now asks for a further sum for compensation, as he is quite unfit to earn a living for himself and family.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no further claim against the colony.

10th September, 1884.

No. 12, Sess. I.—Petition of JOHN GREENLEAF, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he is a master mariner, residing in the City of Auckland; that he petitioned the House for redress on account of false imprisonment and arrest at the hands of the Government, which was favourably reported on; that he has received no redress or compensation whatsoever, as recommended. He now prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

10th September, 1884.

No. 22, Sess. I.—Petition of PATRICK WHELAN, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was sergeant in the 50th Regiment, and served through the Waikato, Wanganui, and Taranaki war; that in 1866 he left for England; that he returned to New Zealand with his family in June, 1883. He prays that some substantial recognition of his services may be granted to him.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

10th September, 1884.

No. 37, Sess. I.—Petition of SARAH ANNE FLIGHT, New Plymouth.

THE petitioner states that she is the widow of Josiah Flight, late Resident Magistrate of the Taranaki District, who also held a responsible position in Native affairs; that, owing to the smallness of his pay, he was unable to make provision for his family; that he was called on to retire on a superannuation allowance. She states that she is sixty-seven years of age, and prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend that the prayer of the petitioner be granted.

10th September, 1884.

No. 28, Sess. I.—Petition of ALEXANDER REID, Lyttelton.

THE petitioner states that he was a pilot in the service of the Provincial Government of Canterbury for thirteen years; that in May, 1877, his services were dispensed with on the abolition of the provincial system; that he made application in July, 1877, for compensation for loss of office under clause 13 of the Abolition of Provinces Act, but his claims were not entertained, on the grounds that his services were transferred to the Harbour Board. He now prays for the favourable consideration of his petition.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the Government.

10th September, 1884.

No. 29, Sess. I.—Petition of JAMES CORLEY, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he is a baker in Auckland; that J. C. McCormick was indebted to him in the sum of £31 5s. 2d.; that he proceeded against Mr. McCormick in the Resident Magistrate's Court, Auckland; that judgment was confessed but unpaid; that he then seized and sold some cattle belonging to defendant under legal distraint, through the Bailiff of the Resident Magistrate's Court at Coromandel; that he has not received the proceeds of such sale; that he has applied to the Hon. the Minister of Justice for the said sum of £31 5s. 2d. and costs, and was referred to a solicitor. He now prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that there has been gross neglect on the part of certain officers of the Justice Department, and that the petitioner has thereby been deprived of his just rights. The Committee therefore recommend that the Government should at once pay to the petitioner the amount of judgment in his favour, with his costs, and proceed to recover the sum paid from the officials through whose negligence the loss occurred.

11th September, 1884.

No. 109, Sess. I.—Petition of JOHN MARIE GRACE (No. 1), Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he is a son of the late Peter Grace of Auckland; that his father, in the year 1865, entered into a contract to construct the first section of the Auckland and Drury Railway, and carried on the contract for one year, but was delayed through the inability of the Commissioners to hand over to him a portion of the section, whereby he sustained great loss; that on the 16th February, 1866, the Commissioners took the contract out of the hands of petitioner's father and seized his plant; that his father was obliged to accept the sum of £3,600 from the Provincial Government, and to sign a deed acknowledging receipt of the above sum free of all demands, which he did through pecuniary embarrassments occasioned by the action of the Commissioners; that the petitioner's father petitioned the Provincial Council, and, although the Council passed a resolution partly in his favour, the Superintendent pleaded the aforesaid deed. The works were not completed until taken over by the Public Works Department. That his late father again petitioned the Provincial Council in 1868-69, when the Committee suggested that, provided the sum of £3,600, less the sum of £755 19s. 2d., amount due for work performed in February, be returned to the Government, the Government should permit the deed to be cancelled; that his late father was never in a position to do this, therefore no compensation has been received for his plant; that the action of the Provincial Government brought ruin on the estate of his late father. He claims the sum of £3,078 2s. as due to his father's estate, and prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the case of the late Mr. Grace having been considered by two Committees of the Provincial Council of Auckland, the circumstances having taken place nearly twenty years ago, and no evidence having been adduced that was not before the Committees referred to, this Committee do not consider they are in a position to make any recommendation in regard to it.

11th September, 1884.

No. 60, Sess. I.—Petition of WELLINGTON CARRINGTON, New Plymouth.

THE petitioner states that in 1839 he was appointed by the New Zealand Company as Chief Assistant Surveyor; that he was employed in laying out the City of Wellington and country lands until September, 1841, and was surveying in and around New Plymouth until 1850, when he returned Home; that he returned to New Zealand in 1852, and carried out surveying operations until 1860 under the Provincial Government of Taranaki, when he joined the Native Department; that in 1863 he was appointed captain, and for three years he was engaged upon outpost duty; that he was again employed in the Native Department from 1873 to end of 1876, and from July, 1879, to the 30th June, 1880, when his services were dispensed with. He now prays for compensation.

I am directed to report that the petitioner's case having been considered by the Committee in 1880, and, he not having produced any further evidence on the present occasion, the Committee are of opinion that the report of 1880 should be confirmed, and that the petitioner has no special claim for compensation.

11th September, 1884.

No. 97, Sess. I.—Petition of MALCOLM McGRUER, Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that his father was appointed Curator of the Botanic Gardens, Dunedin, in 1868, and held the appointment until his death in 1884, a period of about sixteen years; that from ill-health he applied to resign, and made application for compensation, and was informed that the Government had no power to satisfy the claim, and was advised to petition Parliament; that the petitioner's father died in February, 1884, and his mother's death since has prevented the application being made in her name; the petitioner acts in her stead as representative of the family. He now prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

11th September, 1884.

No. 128, Sess. II.—Petition of CROSBY KIDD, Coromandel.

THE petitioner states that he was lately a sergeant of police, stationed at Auckland; that he was discharged from the police force of the colony for a breach of the regulations. He claims that he is entitled to three months' pay, as he received no notice whatever. He now prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, no further evidence having been produced, the Committee see no reason to alter the previous decision of the Committee in 1882.

12th September, 1884.

No. 11, Sess. I.—Petition of ROBERT MOWATT, Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he presented a petition to the Legislative Council in 1883, the prayer of which was recommended to the favourable consideration of the Government, but that no effect has been given to the said recommendation. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having heard the evidence of Mr. Mowatt, considers he has no claim against the colony.

12th September, 1884.

No. 106, Sess. I.—Petition of THOMAS JOHNSTONE JONES, Westport.

THE petitioner, late a settler in the Nelson special settlement at Karamea, states that in 1875-6 he acted as ferryman for about two years at the Little Wanganui Ferry, when he was summarily ejected by order of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Nelson Province; that he did work entitling him to receive provisions at cost price, but for which he was charged a considerable advance; and that he has not received credit for the full amount of work performed by himself and sons, and cannot obtain a settlement of his claims. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having taken the evidence of Mr. Scanlan and Mr. O'Connor, M.H.R., are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim whatever upon the Government.

12th September, 1884.

No. 76, Sess. II.—Petition of NATHANIEL WILSON.

THE petitioner, Chairman of the Rodney County Council, states that the Council considers the system of allotting money under the Roads and Bridges Construction Act is unfair, and causes needless expense. He suggests that the amount each county can apply for should be reduced to £2,000, instead of £5,000, as even with that the wealthy counties absorb the greater part. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, as this petition relates to matters of policy, the Committee refer it to the Government for consideration.

12th September, 1884.

No. 22, Sess. II.—Petition of Captain S. AMOS and other Members of Fire Brigades.

THE petitioners state they are members of the United Fire Brigade Association of New Zealand that they are desirous of meeting their fellow-volunteer firemen in the various parts of New Zealand at annual demonstrations for practice and prizes to be competed for; that their resources are totally inadequate to meet the whole expense. They pray the House to assist them.

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

12th September, 1884.

No. 98, Sess. I.—Petition of GEORGE GOULD and Others, Christchurch.

THE petitioners state they are the committee of the Christchurch Benevolent Association; that there is a heavy charge laid upon the public to support the families of men who desert their homes, shirk their responsibilities, and women who connive at their so doing; that, as they understand, there is legal power to compel husbands to support their wives if these are willing to prosecute them, but no such legal power if the women are not willing to prosecute. They pray that the House will enact such provisions as may be necessary, whether the prosecution be instituted by the wives or not.

I am directed to report that the law on this point, referred to in the petition, appears to the Committee unsatisfactory; and that, with a view of amending the law to meet the circumstances, the Committee refer the petition to the Government for consideration.

12th September, 1884.

No. 8, Sess. I.—Petition of J. R. CLEMENT, Waimate.

THE petitioner prays for road-access to his sections.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Select Committee on Waste Lands.

16th September, 1884.

No. 48, Sess. I.—Petition of J. A. R. MENZIES.

THE petitioner asks that a reward may be paid to Captain Raymond for discovery and making known for the public good oat phosphorus poison for rabbits.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Select Committee on Waste Lands.

16th September, 1884.

No. 120, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM DOCHERTY.

THE petitioner prays for assistance in prospecting for gold and other minerals in Dusky Sound.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Select Committee on Gold Fields and Mines.

16th September, 1884.

No. 60, Sess. II.—Petition of ALITHEA S. SYMONDS, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that she is the widow of the late John Jermyn Symonds, who faithfully served the colony for thirty-seven years. That in 1840 he arrived in New Zealand as Assistant-Surveyor; that in 1844 he was appointed Police Magistrate in Wellington, and went as a Commissioner to purchase lands in Otago, and great benefits have accrued to the colony from purchases effected by him; that in 1845 he was appointed Police Magistrate in Auckland; that he served through the rebellion of Hone Heke; that in 1846 he was appointed Secretary to Sir George Grey; that in 1847 he was appointed Native Secretary, which exposed him to great hardships; that he was Staff Officer of Pensioners, and in 1856 was appointed Resident Magistrate of Onehunga; that in 1869 he resigned on a pension; that in 1875 he was appointed Resident Magistrate of Kaipara, but still retained his pension; that in 1876 he was appointed Judge of the Native Land Court; that in 1880 he had to surrender his pension when on full pay; that in 1882 he had to retire on his former pension without receiving compensation for his services since 1869. Mrs. Symonds prays for monetary compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee see no reason to depart from the report on the petitioner's case in the session of 1883.

16th September, 1884.

No. 24, Sess. I.—Petition of CHARLES H. ROBSON, Portland Island.

THE petitioner states that he has been in the Government service over sixteen years; that he has, without any hearing in his defence, been awarded a very severe punishment, of loss of rank in the service, from principal lighthouse-keeper to that of assistant; that he has applied to be heard in his defence, but his application was not granted. He prays for an inquiry into his case.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioner, his case having been inquired into by the Customs Department.

16th September, 1884.

No. 106, Sess. II.—Petition of JAMES LANEY, Cambridge, Waikato.

THE petitioner states that he petitioned the House in 1873 for compensation for wounds received by a Native. He prays the House to take his case into consideration.

I am directed to report that the Committee consider the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

16th September, 1884.

No. 21, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN GRANT and Others, Dunedin.

THE petitioners, Harbour Board leaseholders, complain of the harsh and unjust treatment the Harbour Board is imposing on them, in having advanced their rents beyond their means. They pray that their case may be inquired into by a Commission.

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

16th September, 1884.

No. 94, Sess. I., and No. 44, Sess. I.—Petition of A. BUSBY and Others, Dunedin; and A. J. HOWLAND, President of the Industrial Association of Canterbury.

THE petitioners pray that steps may be taken to invite tenders for all rolling-stock and machinery required for the railways and other Government works. Such rolling-stock to be manufactured in the colony.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that these petitions should be referred to the Government for consideration.

17th September, 1884.

No. 104, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN MCLEOD and Others.

THE petitioners state that they are residents of Chatton, Wendon, Greenvale, and Glenkenich, in the Counties of Southland and Clutha, and pray that the Gore-Kelso line of railway may be commenced without delay.

No. 53, Sess. II.—Petition of FRANCIS SCOTHORN and Others.

THE petitioners state that they are landowners in the vicinity of Woodlaw, and ask for the erection of a goods-shed at Woodlaw siding, on the Otautau-Nightcaps branch line of railway.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that these petitions should be referred to the Government for consideration.

17th September, 1884.

No. 59, Sess. I.—Petition of JAMES MILNE and Others.

THE petitioners state that they are settlers of Wyndham and Mokoreta Districts, Otago, and are of opinion that it is expedient to form a line of railway through Wyndham and Mokoreta Districts, a continuation of the Edendale and Wyndham Railway as far as Mokoreta Township, a district of about twelve miles, ultimately to form the main trunk line to Dunedin. They pray that measures may be taken to give immediate effect to the project involved therein.

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

17th September, 1884.

No. 26, Sess. I.—Petition of ELLEN JACKSON, Parnell.

THE petitioner states that she is widow of the late Sergeant James Jackson, of the Auckland Police; that in November, 1883, her late husband resigned owing to continued ill-health, brought about by night-duty in Auckland; that she has a family of six, out of whom only one is able to assist her. She prays for relief.

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

17th September, 1884.

No. 107, Sess. II.—Petition of GEORGE PENNY and Others, of Gordon,

THE petitioners state that they are residents in the Town District of Gordon, and have heard that the House is to be moved to pass an Act forming the Town Districts of Gore and Gordon into a municipality. They pray the two districts may not be united.

I am directed to report that no such Bill as the petitioners refer to for forming Gore and Gordon into a municipality is before the House. The Committee have no recommendation to make.

17th September, 1884.

No. 180, Sess. II.—Petition of D. MACLEAN and Others.

THE petitioners, members of the South Canterbury Caledonian Society, the Friendly Society of Timaru, and the Timaru Volunteer Fire Brigade, state that there is no recreation-ground in Timaru; that there is a reserve for pleasure-gardens. They pray that the aforesaid reserve may be leased for twenty-one years, and that it may be used by various societies on holidays and gala days of the societies.

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

17th September, 1884.

No. 7, Sess. I.—Petition of JAMES LARKIN and JAMES O'BRIEN.

THE petitioners state they are contractors in Auckland; that they contracted with the Government to construct the Kawakawa Railway No. 3 Contract, and they claim for extra work done.

I am directed to report that, the matter having been settled by the Government, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

17th September, 1884.

No. 72, Sess. II.—Petition of CARL MOLLER and Others, Dunedin.

THE petitioners state they are manufacturing jewellers; that in carrying on such business they have been very heavily handicapped by competition with the manufacturers of Great Britain, America, and the Colonies of Australia. They pray that the tariff on imported jewellery be increased from 15 to 20 per cent.

I am directed to report that, as this petition involves a matter of policy, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

17th September, 1884.

No. 112, Sess. I.—Petition of J. M. GRACE (No. 2), Ponsonby.

THE petitioner states that his wife was sewing mistress of the Porotoi and Whangarei Native Schools; that, whilst in a delicate state of health, she was violently pushed by a Native named Pomore Kingi, which caused premature birth of a still-born child, and serious illness. He applied to the Education Department to prosecute; that his application was refused. He claims £100 as compensation for expenses put to and loss of wife's services.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the alleged claim of the petitioner to the consideration of the Government.

17th September, 1884.

No. 2, Sess. I.—Petition of RICHARD DALE, Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that he is a driver of locomotive engines; that he was employed as such by the General Government of New Zealand; that in February, 1883, he was dismissed without cause, and no reason given. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee see no reason in the petitioner's case to interfere with the action of the Railway Department.

17th September, 1884.

No. 150, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN ELLIOT and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the line of railway from Wellington to Auckland may be made *via* Stratford.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Select Committee now sitting for determining the best route.

19th September, 1884.

No. 82, Sess. II.—Petition of JAMES REID and Others (No. 2).

THE petitioners, residents in Lake County, pray for a line of telephone between Queenstown and head of Lake Wakatipu, for the purpose of remedying the present uncertainty of communication.

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

19th September, 1884.

No. 69, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM NORTHAM and Others.

THE petitioners state that they are residents of the Wangamoa and Rai Valleys, in the Provincial District of Nelson. They pray for a special vote during the present session for the formation of a dray-road through the valley to Mackay's Station.

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

19th September, 1884.

No. 126, Sess. II.—Petition of W. HINDMARSH and Others, Inangahua.

THE petitioners, ratepayers of the County of Inangahua, pray that the House will pass an Act during the present session of Parliament to prohibit all persons whose names are now on the counties electoral rolls by virtue of miners' rights, and who are not *bona fide* miners, and residing in the ridings for which their names are enrolled as voters, from voting at the forthcoming election in November next.

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

19th September, 1884.

No. 184, Sess. II.—Petition of ALLAN SHEARER and Others.

THE petitioners, ratepayers of the Waimate Railway District, in the Provincial District of Canterbury, pray the House will cause the Waimate Railway to be taken out of the hands of the company and taken over by the Government, or substitute a colonial loan for the present indebtedness of the said company. They further pray that the District Railways Acts may be repealed.

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

19th September, 1884.

No. 111, Sess. I.—Petition of JAMES McSHANE, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he is a carter living in Auckland; that whilst delivering a load of gravel on the 14th August, 1883, the train from Mount Albert came along, and the engine-driver did not blow the engine-whistle until he was sixty-six feet distant, and the train coming so suddenly frightened his horses; that in trying to prevent them running away his foot was caught by the cow-catcher, and he was dragged several feet along the line, by which his foot was severely lacerated and injured; that he was seventeen weeks confined to his house and sustained great loss thereby. He claims £102 as compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

19th September, 1884.

No. 81, Sess. II.—Petition of JAMES REID and Others (No. 1).

THE petitioners, settlers in Lake County, respectfully advocate the purchase by the Government of the Waimea Railway Company's interest in the said railway.

No. 67, Sess. II.—Petition of THOMAS BLACK and Others.

THE petitioners, residents and settlers in the County of Southland, pray the House to grant a sum of money for the purchase of the Waimea Plains Railway.

I am directed to report that, as these petitions involve a matter of policy, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

19th September, 1884.

No. 114, Sess. II.—Petition of J. L. DE LAMBERT and Another, Oamaru.

THE petitioners state that they are manufacturers of barbed wire. They pray for the imposition of a duty of 20 per cent. on foreign productions.

No. 145, Sess. II.—Petition of E. R. ANDERSON, Christchurch.

THE petitioner, Secretary of the Christchurch Patent Barbed Wire Company, prays for the imposition of a duty of 20 per cent. on the imported article.

I am directed to report that, as these petitions involve a question of policy, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

19th September, 1884.

No. 146, Sess. II.—Petition of LUKE WILSON and Others.

THE petitioners state that they are convinced that a very large amount in excess of the fullest requirements is annually spent in support of the various orphanages and homes for destitute and criminal children now existing in this colony; they feel that, in the present financial circumstances of the colony, some effort should be made to place these homes at once upon a different basis.

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

19th September, 1884.

No. 153, Sess. II.—Petition of RALPH PICKMERE and DAVID DUNNINGHAM.

THE petitioners state that they were sureties for Veall Harness, the contractor for works for the Kaipara Swing Bridge; that they were called upon as such sureties to complete the said contract; that they completed the contract; that on the final payment by the Government the sums of £54 13s., £28 13s., and £20 were deducted which the said Veall Harness had paid or deposited, which sums, making in all £103 6s., the Government refuse to pay. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioners seem to be equitably entitled to the payment of the moneys retained by the Government on the account of the contractors (as deposit and otherwise), the Committee recommend that the same be paid over to the petitioners.

24th September, 1884.

No. 219, Sess. II.—Petition of A. W. FRASER and Others, Invercargill

THE petitioners, settlers and others connected with the grazing interest, residents in and around Invercargill, pray that the House will take such steps as may be necessary to secure the early construction of loading-yards for stock at Wallacetown crossing, on the main north line of railway running out of Invercargill.

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

24th September, 1884.

No. 68, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN TOLMIE MCKENZIE and THOMAS S. SIBBALD, Dunedin.

THE petitioners, contractors for the Windsor Tunnel Contract No. 2, state they were delayed in carrying out their contract through the action of the Government; that they were served with notice on the 23rd September, 1883, that unless they employed twenty men upon the works of the said contract the works would be taken out of their hands; that the works have been subsequently advertised for re-tender and taken out of their hands, by which they have suffered great loss. They pray that a refund of their deposit of £75 may be granted to them.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend that the prayer of the petitioners be granted.

24th September, 1884.

No. 64, Sess. II.—Petition of GEORGE ST. GEORGE, New Plymouth.

THE petitioner states that he was an original land claimant of the Plymouth Company of New Zealand of 1841, having purchased fifty acres of land, Section No. 90, which now forms the Township of Waitara; that he has been deprived of his property by the fiat of Government; that in 1855 the petitioner's property was valued at £800 by the Government valuator and at £1,200 by his valuator; that he was afterwards told he had the alternative of taking £100 worth of land, or his claim would lapse altogether. He took the £100 worth of land under protest that it would not compromise his claim to compensation. That in 1882 he presented a petition to the House, which expressed an opinion that he was entitled to £750; that in November, 1882, he received notice that the Bank of New Zealand had been instructed to pay him £350, upon his signing a receipt, as follows: "Received from the Paymaster-General, through the Bank of New Zealand, the sum of £350, being the amount voted by the House of Representatives as a grant in benefaction in consideration of my having forfeited my claim to land in Taranaki through ignorance of the law." That he received the said sum and signed the receipt. He prays the payment of the sum of £350, or other relief.

I am directed to report that, the petitioner having signed a receipt in full of all claims, the Committee cannot recommend that any sum be paid him.

25th September, 1884.

No. 12, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM HARRIS, Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he served six years in the police force, Wellington, and two years in the defence force, and that at the reduction of the defence force he again joined the police, in which he served two years longer, when he was discharged from the police, having had his leg injured by the Inspector's horse, when on duty; that he is now suffering from the injury, and prevented from working for his living. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having examined the petitioner and the papers in the case, see no reason to interfere with the report of the Committee in 1883.

25th September, 1884.

No. 6, Sess. I.—Petition of J. W. FEDARB, Ponsonby.

THE petitioner states that during the months of May and June, 1840, at some considerable trouble and expense, he obtained the signatures of twenty-six chiefs to the Treaty of Waitangi; that he has never received any remuneration for such services. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

25th September, 1884.

No. 19, Sess. II.—Petition of ANNIE JONES, Camerham.

THE petitioner states that her husband was drowned while bathing, leaving no will; that his life was insured in the Government Insurance for £1,000; that she received only one-third of that amount in July, 1881; that she applied for interest on her daughters' shares to assist her in their maintenance, which the department refused to pay, although it had been accumulating for three years. She prays that the injustice may be remedied.

I am directed to report that, as the delay in payment was not in any respect occasioned or contributed to by the Insurance Department, and as a cheque for the amount was during the time awaiting compliance by the petitioner with certain indispensable conditions, the Committee cannot recommend payment of any money to the petitioner.

25th September, 1884.

No. 9, Sess. I.—Petition of HUGH CALDER and Others, Caversham.

THE petitioners, burgesses of the Borough of Caversham, Otago, pray that the Caversham Drainage Bill, 1884, may receive the favourable consideration of the House.

I am directed to report that, the Bill having passed through the House of Representatives, the Committee have no recommendation to make in regard to it.

30th September, 1884.

No. 109, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM SAMUEL GRIFFIN, Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he was four years in the Government Insurance Department; that he resigned upon the understanding that he would receive compensation, which understanding has not been fulfilled. He claims compensation for overtime-work, and four months' pay, amounting to £126 12s.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having gone into the case by examining several witnesses, and reading a considerable amount of documentary evidence, are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the Government.

30th September, 1884.

No. 164, Sess. II.—Petition of ALEXANDER McCausland Hamilton, Campbelltown.

THE petitioner states that in 1879 he was employed by the Railway Department at Invercargill; that in April of that year he lost his leg, through an accident caused by the negligence of an engine-driver; that in 1881 the House granted him £50. He received this amount, which he considers inadequate compensation for the loss he has sustained. He prays for further relief.

I am directed to report that the recommendation of the Committee of 1881 having been carried out, and the petitioner having given a receipt in full of all claims, the Committee cannot recommend any further payment to petitioner.

30th September, 1884.

No. 227, Sess. II.—Petition of J. G. WARD and Others, Invercargill.

THE petitioners pray for recognition of Captain Raymond's services in making known the discovery of oat phosphorus rabbit poison.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Select Committee on Waste Lands.

30th September, 1884.

No. 41, Sess. I.—Petition of GEORGE LONGHURST, Wellington.

THE petitioner, a convict in Mount Cook Gaol, Wellington, states that on the 8th April, 1880, he was found guilty of rape on a girl named Genevieve Elizabeth Adams; that a sentence of ten years' penal servitude, with two floggings, was passed on him; that he is now undergoing ten years' penal servitude, and has suffered two floggings of twenty-five lashes each; that there was strong presumption that he had been falsely charged with the said crime in pursuance of a conspiracy between the said Genevieve Elizabeth Adams and her father, James Jonathan Adams, for which they were indicted and tried in the Supreme Court. He further states that, from the Judge's charge to the jury on this trial, it was again and again pressed upon the jury that they must be satisfied that the charge against Longhurst was false, before they could convict the Adams prisoners; that a verdict of guilty was brought in against both prisoners. He prays that he may receive relief from the penalty imposed upon him for the offence attributed to him.

I am directed to report that this Committee, having carefully considered the documentary evidence, and heard Messrs. Shaw and Gully, counsel on behalf of the petitioner, and having taken into consideration that the matter has been fully gone into by different Executives and by His Excellency the Governor, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

30th September, 1884.

No. 215, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN DUNN, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he is the late senior warder in the gaol in Auckland, in which he served seventeen years; that through severe ill health and infirmities he was compelled to resign; that he is now eighty years old, afflicted with incurable rheumatism, and is unable to support himself and his aged wife. He further states that he has petitioned the House, but hitherto without avail. He prays for further inquiry into his case, with a view to its alleviation.

I am directed to report that, having considered the petition and the evidence given on former petitions, the Committee recommend the petitioner's claims to the favourable consideration of the Government.

1st October, 1884.

No. 217, Sess. II.—Petition of R. B. MARTIN and Others.

THE petitioners are the committee of the Otago Benevolent Institution, and state that, in dealing with cases of destitution; the large proportion of applicants consist of women and children deserted by their husbands and fathers—in many cases connived at by the wives themselves; that your

petitioners understand there is no legal power to compel husbands to support their families if the wives decline to prosecute; that some of the husbands leave for the neighbouring colonies, and that the law is powerless to bring them back or compel them to support their families. They pray the House will enact such measures as may be necessary, or that an extradition treaty might be obtained to bring back husbands, or make them support their wives and families.

I am directed to report that the law on the point referred to in the petition appears to the Committee unsatisfactory, and that, with a view of amending the law to meet the circumstances, the Committee refer the petition to the Government for consideration.

1st October, 1884.

No. 54, Sess. II.—Petition of SMITH, ANDERSON, and Co., and Others.

THE petitioners, residents of the Provincial District of Otago, state that the report of the Benevolent Institution shows that the amount of subsidy for twelve months received for charitable aid by that institution was £2,159; that Canterbury received in 1882 nearly £13,000, in 1883 £13,000, and up to March of this year Canterbury had received £6,000 from the Government out of votes for charitable purposes. They further state that the Benevolent Institution of Otago finds it impossible to meet the present demands upon its charity. They pray that Otago may be placed on the same footing as Canterbury with respect to charitable aid.

I am directed to report that the Committee consider that the unequal distribution of funds in aid of charitable institutions is unsatisfactory, and recommend this matter to the Government for consideration.

1st October, 1884.

No. 52, Sess. I.—Petition of D. H. MCKENZIE and Others, Auckland.

THE petitioners, merchants, shipowners, and shipmasters, state that they have on several occasions petitioned the House on the subject of pilotage-exemption certificates, with a view of assimilating the certificates of New Zealand to those of the Australian Colonies, but so far with only partial success. They point out that the wording of clause 26 of the amended Harbours Act of 1883 is obscure. They also state that the clause enforcing annual payment of pilotage is still retained. They pray that this clause may be repealed.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the consideration of the Government to paragraph 3, with a view of amending the clause alluded to therein, so as to make its meaning more clear.

1st October, 1884.

No. 203, Sess. II.—Petition of W. G. GARRARD (No 1), Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was falsely imprisoned at the hands of Thomas Cotter, Registrar of the Supreme Court. He prays for compensation, or that a new trial may be granted him.

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

1st October, 1884.

No. 257, Sess. II.—Petition of J. G. KINROSS and Others, Napier.

THE petitioners state that they are ratepayers in the Provincial District of Hawke's Bay, and pray that the Napier Harbour Boards Empowering and Loan Bill, 1884, may not pass into law, but that the House will cause the appointment of a Commission to investigate the whole question of the construction of a harbour for large ships.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition being now before the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

1st October, 1884.

No. 65, Sess. II.—Petition of JAMES WILKIE, Waikaiti.

THE petitioner states that he has always been a duly-qualified elector; that on going to record his vote in June, 1884, he found his name had been struck off the roll. He prays that his name may be restored to the roll, and an inquiry made as to the reason of its omission.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having caused inquiry to be made into the matter, find there was no intentional neglect on the part of the Registration Officer, and have therefore no recommendation to make.

1st October, 1884.

No. 147, Sess. II.—Petition of C. W. HURSTHOUSE.

THE petitioner states that, while in the prosecution of his duties as a servant of the Government, he was, on the 20th March, 1883, violently seized by Maoris and taken to Te Kuiti, where his feet were chained together, and his hands tied, for forty-one hours, including two nights and one day; that he was robbed of all he had except his socks, trousers, and shirt, in which he had to pass the whole time, without food or water fit for human consumption. During the whole time he was in fear that he would be killed or allowed to perish from cold and hunger. He was rescued by friendly Maoris, and most of his property restored to him. That he suffered both in body and mind, and that he has not recovered from the shock then sustained.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the petition to the consideration of the Government.

3rd October, 1884.

No. 148, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM NEWSHAM.

THE petitioner states that in March, 1883, he was engaged in exploring for the main trunk railway between Te Awamutu and Taranaki; that while on this duty he was assaulted by Maoris; that his feet were chained and his hands tied, and so kept for over forty hours, without food or water fit to drink; that he was in fear of being murdered or that he would die of exposure and starvation; that after two nights and one day he was released by friendly Maoris; that he has suffered both in mind and body, and has not since recovered his previous health. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the petition to the consideration of the Government.

3rd October, 1884.

No. 173, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN D. BARNESLEY, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he held the appointment of Assistant-Superintendent of the Quarantine Station, Auckland, for a period of ten years; that he ran a small flock of sheep on the island; that he applied to the Government that he might have the right of pasturage leased to him and be relieved from the duties of the position which he held. He was then told that the Government required the island intact, and he removed the sheep, which incurred a loss to him of £125. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having inquired into the petitioner's case, are of opinion that he has not established any claim against the Government.

3rd October, 1884.

No. 37, Sess. II.—Petition of HENRY WHITE, Kaipara.

THE petitioner states that he was engineer of the Government steam-launch in 1879; that he remained in the service for five years; that he was unjustly and without any assigned reason dismissed from the Government service. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

3rd October, 1884.

No. 328, Sess. II.—Petition of GEORGE TURNER, Christchurch.

THE petitioner states that he entered the service of the Provincial Government in 1857, and remained in it until the abolition of the province in November, 1876; that in February, 1877, he received the appointment of corresponding clerk in the Railway Department; that he was assured by the Hon. Mr. Rolleston that his services would be continuous, and count from his first entering the service of the Provincial Government; that he submits that he is entitled to be compensated for loss of office from 1857 to the month of February, 1877, and asks for an investigation into his claim, as he has been informed other officers under similar circumstances have been compensated on their retirement from the General Government service for their provincial services. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having heard the petitioner's statement, and examined other witnesses and documentary evidence, consider that he has no claim against the colony.

3rd October, 1884.

No. 210, Sess. II.—Petition of RICHARD COLES JORDAN, Tauranga.

THE petitioner states that in 1878 he entered into negotiations with the Natives for the purchase of a block of land known as Te Puke; that some time after he heard the Government were negotiating for the purchase of the same land; that he had advanced a sum of over £200 to the Natives; that, although the amount was guaranteed by the Native Minister, he has not received any of this amount. He prays the House will grant him £200 in terms made with the Native Minister, the Hon. J. Sheehan.

I am directed to report that the Committee consider the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

7th October, 1884.

No. 140, Sess. II.—Petition of HENRY CASAUBON, Waikato.

THE petitioner states that he is a settler at Onewhero, Lower Waikato; that the Onewhero Grant Empowering Act gave the Natives a block of land surrounding his, leaving him without an outlet; that roads are marked on the plan, but no one knows where they are. He prays that roads may be granted and surveyed.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having heard the Surveyor-General, and considered the matter referred to them, are of opinion that the petition should be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

7th October, 1884.

No. 152, Sess. II.—Petition of DONALD HENDERSON, South Molyneux.

THE petitioner states that he has suffered a great injustice, involving considerable pecuniary loss, through the operation of section 64, "Public Works Act, 1876." He claimed £1,062 for land taken and injuriously affected by the construction of the Catlin's River Railway; that the valuers

estimated his claim at a larger sum; that the matter came before the Compensation Court, when the Judge stated that the Court had no option but to administer the law as it stood, and only awarded him the sum of £539 13s. 9d.; that having to pay costs the award was considerably reduced. He submits that he is entitled to a further sum of £600, and prays for redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having considered petitioner's case, and having heard the Hon. Mr. Stout, Mr. Robert Gillies, and Mr. J. W. Thomson, who are acquainted with the circumstances of the case, are of opinion that the petition should be referred to the Government for inquiry, with the view of compensating the petitioner for any special loss he may have sustained through the non-completion of the Catlin's River Railway. The amount of such compensation not to exceed £200, which sum is to be considered as full of all present and future claims in this matter.

7th October, 1884.

No. 45, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN MURTON, Tuakau.

THE petitioner states that he was injured severely in February, 1883, whilst in the employ of the Auckland and Waikato Railway authorities, through falling from a trolley, by which his lower jaw was fractured; that he has thus been prevented from earning his living, and has a large family to support. He prays for assistance in money or permanent employment.

I am directed to report that, having inquired into petitioner's case, the Committee are of opinion that they cannot recommend any money grant, but suggest the Government may be able to find him some suitable light employment.

9th October, 1884.

No. 531, 1883.—Petition of FREDERICK GEORGE MACE and WILLIAM ODGERS, Patea.

THE petitioners state that they entered into recognizances for the appearance of William Dale to answer a criminal charge of forgery; that the said William Dale did not appear, but absconded from justice, and their recognizances were estreated; that they took every precaution to prevent his so doing by giving up the bond and taking steps to have him arrested; that they were arrested and imprisoned through the Government enforcing the recognizances, which amounted to £275 with costs; that they have used every endeavour to secure the said William Dale's surrender for trial, and rendered every assistance in their power to secure his apprehension. They pray to be relieved from payment of their recognizances, and of the judgment obtained thereon.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having inquired into the circumstances of the case, refer the matter to the Government, with the view of ascertaining whether the bail was excessive, as alleged; and, if so, that they may grant to the petitioners such relief as they may consider will meet the equity of the case.

9th October, 1884.

No. 88, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM MILLAR, Roslyn.

THE petitioner states that he was apprenticed as an engine-fitter in the Government workshops, Hillside, Dunedin; that he petitioned the House in 1882 for back wages, amounting to £65 4s., which the Committee on Public Petitions recommended should be paid; that in October, 1882, he was discharged with one week's notice. He now claims one month's wages in lieu of one week's notice, and for the payment of wages up to the time of his dismissal, as he considers he was entitled to improvers' wages from the 20th January to the 14th October, 1882, although he refused to sign his indentures. He now claims £67 11s. 8d., and prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

9th October, 1884.

No. 122, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM HENRY BEERE, Cust.

THE petitioner states that he suffered loss in the sale of sheep through the non-receipt of a telegram by Messrs. H. Matson and Co., fixing a reserved price on the said sheep, which telegram did not reach its destination until after the sale had taken place; that he has, through the action of the Telegraph Department in detaining the telegram for several hours before delivery, sustained a loss of £9. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee consider the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

9th October, 1884.

No. 36, Sess. II.—Petition of JOSEPH BRABAZON, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was a school-teacher under the Education Board, Auckland; that he was notified his services would be dispensed with on the 30th September, 1884, and three months' pay granted him as compensation. He thinks that he is entitled to further compensation for long service and good character, and prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make in the petitioner's case.

9th October, 1884.

No. 107, Sess. I.—Petition of MARY PHELAN, Kumara.

THE petitioner states that she is the widow of Denis Phelan, who was killed at the Sludge-channel, Kumara, which she believes was a Government work; that by the death of her husband she was deprived of all means of support for herself and family; that from ill-health she is unable to earn a livelihood for herself and family; that she has not received any compensation. She prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having inquired into the circumstances of the petitioner's case, cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioner.

14th October, 1884.

No. 223, Sess. II.—Petition of T. B. HANNAFORD, Auckland.

THE petitioner suggests the erection of bell-turrets worked by wind-mills, and coated with luminous paint, on the sunken rocks and reefs surrounding the coast of New Zealand.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having referred the petition to the Marine Department, have been informed by that department that the petitioner is in error with respect to his statement that the New Zealand coast is especially dangerous from sunken rocks and reefs; they are also informed it is not desirable to carry out the suggestions of the petitioner that wind-mill bell-turrets should be erected on sunken rocks and reefs. The Committee cannot, therefore, recommend the prayer of the petitioner.

14th October, 1884.

No. 13, Sess. I.; No. 17, Sess. I.; No. 18, Sess. I.; No. 25, Sess. I.; No. 30, Sess. I.; and No. 31, Sess. I.—Petitions of Bishop MORAN and Others, Dunedin; J. J. CROFTS and Others, Ross; ELLEN WALSH and Others, Blenheim; FRANK CONNELL and Others, Temuka; JAMES BUTLER and Others, Lincoln and Malvern; MICHAEL STAPLETON and Others, Ellesmere.

THE petitioners, Roman Catholics, pray for justice and equity in the matters of education.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

14th October, 1884.

No. 123, Sess. II.—Petition of CHARLES H. STEWARD, Napier.

THE petitioner states that he served his time in the Waikato war, and selected land at Rahui Pakeka, and built a house in the redoubt, and paid license for three years, when he was ordered to remove with his family; that the house and fencing cost him over £350, all of which was sacrificed. He prays for compensation.

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

14th October, 1884.

No. 51, Sess. I.—Petition of L. W. J. NATHAN and Others, Auckland.

THE petitioners state that they are merchants in Auckland, and elsewhere; that on the 4th day of October, 1882, the barque "Gazelle" was seized by the Customs authorities for a breach of the Customs laws; that they consider the course adopted was of the utmost harshness, and has created a feeling of uneasiness among shipowners; that they consider the fine of £100 inflicted upon the captain was sufficient to satisfy the demands of justice. They pray that redress may be granted to the owner.

I am directed to report that, having heard the evidence of the Hon. Mr. Reynolds, Commissioner of Customs; Mr. McKellar, Acting Secretary for Customs; and Mr. Hamlin, M.H.R., the Committee—whilst convinced that the owner of the "Gazelle," James Cole Ellis, member of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, has not been in the least degree cognizant of the guilty acts of his servant—do not see their way to make any recommendation, but refer the matter to the consideration of the Government.

14th October, 1884.

No. 226, Sess. II.—Petition of HENRY FREEMAN and A. H. WYLD, Palmerston North.

THE petitioners state that they were the owners of a vessel called the "Emerald," which was wrecked in the harbour of Kaikoura through the gross misconduct of the Harbourmaster of that port; that they brought an action against the Government for £800; that, from the judgment of the Judge, the whole of the facts were found in their favour, with the exception that, as there were no dues received from the wharf at Kaikoura, they could not recover. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, having heard the evidence of the Hon. Mr. Reynolds, Commissioner of Customs, and the solicitor for the plaintiffs, the Committee do not see their way to make any recommendation, but refer the matter to the consideration of the Government.

14th October, 1884.

No. 350, Sess. II.—Petition of JANE CUMMICK and Others, Dunedin.

THE petitioners state that they are working-women residing in Dunedin and suburbs; that, prior to the passing of "The Employment of Females and Factories Act, 1873," the women employed in the various work-rooms and factories in New Zealand were detained at work in heated and badly-ventilated rooms from a period of from eight to twelve hours a day; that since the passing of the

said Act their condition has been greatly improved. They pray the House will not sanction any alteration of the Act, or deprive them of any benefits already conferred on them by it.

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

16th October, 1884.

No. 369, Sess. II.—Petition of J. WILSON and Co.

THE petitioners state that they have established the manufacture of hydraulic lime in the Provincial District of Auckland, and ask for a bonus of £2,000; and that the Government will be pleased to use it in the public works of the colony.

I am directed to report that, in regard to the question of bonus, the Committee have no recommendation to make; and that, as to the question of using it in Government works, the petition should be referred to the Government for consideration.

16th October, 1884.

No. 312, Sess. II.—Petition of H. TANNER and Others, Kihikihi.

THE petitioners state they are European and Native residents at Kihikihi; that, from the proximity of Kihikihi to the Puniu River, the erection of a traffic bridge thereon is indispensably required; that it would greatly improve the condition of the Natives settled over the river, and give an impetus to the local trade of the town.

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

16th October, 1884.

No. 541, 1883.—Petition of T. TUNKS and Others.

THE petitioners state that a postal service is urgently required from Tauranga to Te Aroha. They state they have a great grievance, as their letters and papers, now sent *via* the Tauranga-Thames route, take four days to reach Te Aroha. They suggest a mode of service which would give them facilities of communication such as they require.

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

16th October, 1884.

No. 390, Sess. II.; and No. 415, Sess. II.—Petitions of A. D. WILLIS and Others, Wanganui; and JOHN HANDLEY and Others, Waitotara.

THE petitioners state they are in favour of the Wanganui Harbour Rating Bill passing into law.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of these petitions being now before the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

16th October, 1884.

No. 57, Sess. I.—Petition of F. G. MACE and JOHN BASSETT, Patea.

THE petitioners state that they opened a gravel-pit and constructed a line of road to the same at a cost of £360, in order to carry out a contract on the Normanby and Hawera section of permanent-way; that on the completion of their contract the Government took over the line to the pit, and are now using it; that the Resident Engineer recommended the payment of £182 8s. to them on account of the pit-road. They pray that they may be awarded such sum as may appear just.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having examined the petitioner Mace, and Mr. Holmes, District Engineer, and considered documentary evidence, are of opinion that the sum of £5 8s., admitted by the Engineer-in-Chief to be due to the petitioners, does not seem to the Committee to meet the claim of the petitioners, and that, therefore, the petition be referred to the Government for consideration, as was done in the session of 1882.

16th October, 1884.

No. 397, Sess. II.—Petition of C. P. HULBERT and Others, Christchurch.

THE petitioners, the Mayor and Councillors of Christchurch, pray that the House will pass an Act giving power to the Council of the City of Christchurch to deal with the Market Reserve for general municipal purposes, as it has proved a failure as a market for sale of colonial produce.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition having been dealt with by the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

16th October, 1884.

No. 363, Sess. II.—Petition of THOMAS MCGANN, St. Bathans.

THE petitioner states that he is a late sergeant of New Zealand Constabulary; that he served for a period of nineteen years; that he resigned his position in December, 1881, and asked for compensation, as he resigned on account of ill-health, which was disallowed by the then Minister of Defence. He prays that he may be awarded compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee see no reason to alter the resolution come to in the session of 1882.

16th October, 1884.

No. 105, Sess. I.—Petition of P. KELLY, P. O'BRIEN, and P. SHERLOCK, Westport.

THE petitioners state that they are miners, and were the contractors for the track from Mokihinui Township to reefs; that the plan of the Public Works Department only showed two bluff rocks; that there were other rocks not marked on the plan, which put them to some considerable expense to get out; that they sent in a claim for extras to the Public Works Department, and were told

they could only be allowed £16. They compute the extra work done by them at £200, and pray for payment of the same.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioners have no claim against the colony.

16th October, 1884.

No. 408, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN STRATFORD, Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he acted as Native interpreter to Colonel Wakefield and the officers of the New Zealand Company without any remuneration; that he was appointed the first constable in Wellington, and acted as such for many years, in which capacity he rendered many useful and important services to the Government; that during the first Native disturbances, at the Hutt, he acted as interpreter and frequently as scout, and bearer of despatches from head-quarters to the camps, at considerable personal risk without remuneration and without travelling allowances; that after twenty years of service he retired without any pension or allowance. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, owing to the petitioner having died since the presentation of the petition, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

16th October, 1884.

No. 166, Sess. II.—Petition of FORSYTH MASTERS and Others, Westland.

THE petitioners state that they are creditors of the Education Board of the District of Westland; that in 1883 the Education District of Westland was divided into two parts; that thereupon the Minister of Education withheld all moneys and subsidies, and has since refused to pay any of the liabilities of the said Board, thereby entailing great hardships on them; that the money detained and assets taken possession of by the Government will be found sufficient to liquidate the debts of the said Board. They pray the House will consider their claims.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition being now before the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

16th October, 1884.

No. 303, Sess. II.—Petition of EMILE JOSEPH BOREL, Tauranga.

THE petitioner states that before the war broke out in the Waikato he owned a store at Rangiawhia, and was forced to fly to save his life; that in 1868 he proved, in the Auckland Court, presided over by Judge Beckham, losses amounting to £850, for which he has never been compensated. He prays for compensation.

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

16th October, 1884.

No. 205, Sess. II.—Petition of JAMES HILL, New Plymouth.

THE petitioner states that himself and wife have been employed in the New Plymouth Hospital for sixteen years; that, owing to charges unjustly preferred against him, of which he was acquitted, he resigned, but considers he is entitled to compensation of one month's pay for each year of service. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee see no reason to depart from the recommendation of the Petitions Committee of 1882.

16th October, 1884.

No. 182, Sess. II.—Petition of DENIS LYNCH, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that one Pierce Crosbie was indebted to him for rent, and that he (petitioner) signed a document purporting to be a receipt for rent, made out by the said Pierce Crosbie, which turned out to be a promissory-note for £1,000; that he pronounced the document a forgery, and telegraphed to the police authorities to arrest Crosbie for forgery, but they declined to do so; that he was sued on the bill, and an action was brought against him for libel, when the Judge expressed an opinion that the promissory-note was a forgery, and was impounded; that the other case fell through; that he has been obliged to pay costs amounting to upwards of £300; that he suffered a loss of £450 through being compelled to relinquish his business while the said actions were pending; that had action been taken by the authorities he would not have been subjected to the actions at law, and a criminal would have been brought to justice; that the said Crosbie has nothing, and has absconded. He prays that his case may be inquired into, and that adequate relief may be granted to him.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

16th October, 1884.

No. 330, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN FISHER and Others, Auckland.

THE petitioners state that they are butchers in Auckland and suburbs, and pray that the present Slaughterhouse Act may not be amended so as to allow Road Boards the power to grant or refuse licenses.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition being a question of policy, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

16th October, 1884.

No. 75, Sess. I.; No. 99, Sess. I.; No. 102, Sess. I.; No. 104, Sess. I.; No. 55, Sess. I.; No. 56, Sess. I.; No. 69, Sess. I.; No. 71, Sess. I.; No. 73, Sess. I.; and No. 74, Sess. I.—Petitions

of WILLIAM BURKE and Others, South Dunedin; MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM and Others, Taranaki; JAMES MCBRIDGE and Others, Queenstown; JAMES MAHONEY and Others, Tauranga; CHARLES H. KIRK and Others, Wanganui; W. B. PURTON and Others, Oamaru; THOMAS KEANE and Others, Geraldine; JOHN POWER and Others, Taranaki; R. T. STEWART and Others, Nelson; and BRIDGET LYNCH and Others, Hokitika.

THE petitioners, Roman Catholics, pray for justice and equity in the matter of education.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

16th October, 1884.

No. 189, Sess. II.; No. 190, Sess. II.; No. 191, Sess. II.; No. 192, Sess. II.; No. 193, Sess. II.; No. 194, Sess. II.; No. 195, Sess. II.; No. 196, Sess. II.; No. 197, Sess. II.; No. 198, Sess. II.; No. 199, Sess. II.; No. 200, Sess. II.; No. 201, Sess. II.; No. 230, Sess. II.; No. 307, Sess. II.; and No. 308, Sess. II.—Petitions of JOHN JOYCE and Others, Loburn; D. MACNAMARA and Others, Brackenbridge; D. CONDON and Others, Oxford; J. LAMPILA and Others, Kaikoura; T. ROACH and Others, Waikari; W. BOURKE and Others, Kaiapoi; J. MCKENNA and Others, Rangiora; J. MCNAMARA and Others, Wellington; P. MCGUINNESS and Others, Timaru; C. REARDON and Others, Napier; T. CALNAN and Others, Westport; H. SWEENEY and Others, Hastings; J. CLEARY and Others, Meanee; J. HEALEY and Others, Blenheim; T. MINOGUE and Others, Hutt; and P. KERRIGAN and Others, Wellington.

THE petitioners, Roman Catholics, pray for justice and equity in education matters.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

16th October, 1884.

No. 38, Sess. I.—Petition of ROBERT PAUL HODGE, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was contractor for a bridge across Mongonui-Oruaiti River; that he built it according to the specifications, but not according to plan; that the bridge was raised 5ft. 9in. He prays that redress may be awarded him.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having examined the plans and papers, and an officer of the Public Works Department, are of opinion that the department should inspect the bridge, with a view of ascertaining definitely whether it is higher than provided for by the plans and specifications; and, if so, that the Committee consider the petitioner is entitled to such consideration as the department thinks would meet the case.

21st October, 1884.

No. 373, Sess. II.—Petition of ALEXANDER STITT, Westport.

THE petitioner states that he was contractor for four sections of the Westport and Reefton Road, in 1874; that there were large slips on the road, after it was completed, which the Engineer insisted he should clear away, which he did, at a cost of £1,560; that he was awarded £800, but only received £620. He prays that £180 may be placed on the Estimates to meet his claim.

I am directed to report that, as there seems to be some doubt as to the basis on which the damage was assessed at £800, the Committee refer the matter to the Minister for Public Works, with the view of further investigating the petitioner's claim, and making such settlement as he thinks may meet it.

21st October, 1884.

No. 439, Sess. II.—Petition of H. J. SHAND and Others, Maungatua.

THE petitioners, ratepayers and settlers of the District of Maungatua, Henley, and Otakia, pray for the erection of a bridge across the Taieri River, at some suitable place between the present bridges at Greytown and Henley.

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

21st October, 1884.

No. 393, Sess. II.—Petition of HENRY LITTLE and Others, Otago.

THE petitioners, members of the agricultural and pastoral associations of New Zealand, state that, as the Government has hitherto given very little assistance to the agricultural associations, they pray that the Government would take into consideration the desirability of reducing or abolishing the rates on stock sent to the various shows, and of granting free passes to gentlemen travelling as judges.

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

21st October, 1884.

No. 445, Sess. II.—Petition of JAMES McLAREN and Others.

THE petitioners, residents of the County of Maniototo, pray for the construction of the Otago Central Railway as far as Taieri Lake.

No. 458, Sess. II.—Petition of J. HALL and Others.

THE petitioners, inhabitants of Hawkesbury, pray the Government to take steps for the formation of a ship-harbour at Waikouaiti.

No. 472, Sess. II.—Petition of THOMAS KERR and Others.

THE petitioners, residents of Murchison District, ask that Mr. A. Rowe may be compensated for the erection of a foot-bridge over the Matakitaki River.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that these petitions should be referred to the Government.

21st October, 1884.

No. 7, Sess. II.; No. 49, Sess. II.; No. 50, Sess. II.; No. 51, Sess. II.; No. 52, Sess. II.; No. 70, Sess. I.; No. 72, Sess. I.; No. 154, Sess. II.; No. 155, Sess. II.; No. 281, Sess. II.; No. 282, Sess. II.; No. 291, Sess. II.; No. 246, Sess. II.; No. 306, Sess. II.; No. 403, Sess. II.; and No. 404, Sess. II.—Petitions of T. KAVANAGH and Others, Marekai; S. WATERTON and Others, Papakura; M. D. O'HARA, Otahuhu; K. BRADY and Others, Howick; P. RIORDAN and Others, East Coast; E. MAHONY and Others, Ponsonby; W. McDONALD and Others, Auckland; P. O'REILLY and Others, Thames; D. MURPHY and Others, Te Aroha; D. C. DOWNEY and Others, Newton; H. T. FYNES and Others, Parnell; D. NOBBA and Others, Coromandel; M. J. POWER and Others, Ohinemuri; J. McCOMISH and Others, Cambridge; P. GANLEY and Others, Panmure; and M. HARTNETT and Others, Onehunga.

THE petitioners, Roman Catholics, pray that their schools may be placed on an equality with other schools of the colony.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not see it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

21st October, 1884.

No. 156, Sess. II.; No. 231, Sess. II.; No. 232, Sess. II.; No. 233, Sess. II.; No. 234, Sess. II.; No. 235, Sess. II.; No. 236, Sess. II.; No. 237, Sess. II.; No. 238, Sess. II.; No. 239, Sess. II.; No. 240, Sess. II.; No. 271, Sess. II.; No. 272, Sess. II.; No. 273, Sess. II.; No. 274, Sess. II.; and No. 275, Sess. II.—Petitions of A. THOMPSON and Others, W. MORGAN and Others, Z. OWEN and Others, C. S. GATHON and Others, B. H. BISHOP and Others, H. SWIFT and Others, S. DUNN and Others, J. LUCK and Others, A. C. WALKER and Others, R. H. MATTHEWS and Others, J. P. YATES and Others, W. SIMPSON and Others, J. BELL and Others, T. H. CRAWFORD and Others, W. FERGUSON and Others, and J. DONALDSON and Others.

THE petitioners, inhabitants of the colony, pray the House to maintain intact the present free, secular, and compulsory clauses of the Education Act.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

21st October, 1884.

No. 53, Sess. I.; No. 54, Sess. I.; No. 76, Sess. I.; No. 77, Sess. I.; No. 78, Sess. I.; No. 79, Sess. I.; No. 80, Sess. I.; No. 81, Sess. I.; and No. 93, Sess. I.—Petitions of J. T. CAMP and Others, S. S. GRAHAM and Others, J. T. MELLISOP and Others, G. HARPER and Others, C. GRIBBLE and Others, W. NOBBS and Others, H. BOARDMAN and Others, W. WEBBER and Others, and E. TABUTEAU and Others.

THE petitioners, inhabitants of the colony, pray the House to maintain intact the present free, secular, and compulsory clauses of the Education Act.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

21st October, 1884.

No. 371, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN MARKS and Others, Jackson's Bay.

THE petitioners complain of the unsatisfactory manner in which the subsidized mail steam-service to Jackson's Bay is carried out.

No. 372, Sess. II.—Petition of R. C. McINTOSH and Others, Okarito.

THE petitioners complain of the very unsatisfactory manner in which the subsidized mail steam-service to Okarito has been and is being carried out.

I am directed to report that, as the Government has already called for tenders for the steam-services referred to, the Committee deem it unnecessary to make any recommendation.

21st October, 1884.

No. 324, Sess. II.—Petition of MICHAEL EGAN, Coromandel.

THE petitioner states that he was in the Armed Constabulary; that in May, 1877, while on duty, he was obliged to jump a watercourse, and in doing so he received a jar in the spine, which compelled him to retire in 1880; that on leaving the service he received compensation for loss of office; that he petitioned the House before, but was unsuccessful. He now prays for assistance, as he is unable to work.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot see any reason to depart from the report on petitioner's claim in the session of-1882.

21st October, 1884.

No. 457, Sess. II.—Petition of GEORGE M. SNELSON and Others (No. 3).

THE petitioners, ratepayers in Palmerston North, pray the House not to vest in the Governors of the Wellington College the block of land situate within their borough.

No. 443, Sess. II.—Petition of GEORGE M. SNELSON and Others (No. 2).

THE petitioners, ratepayers of Fitzherbert, in the Manawatu Road District, pray the House not to vest in the Governors of the Wellington College the block of land situate within their district.

I am directed to report that, as a Bill dealing with the subject-matter of these petitions is now before the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

21st October, 1884.

No. 302, Sess. II.—Petition of MARTIN KRIPPNER, Warkworth.

THE petitioner states that in 1863 he succeeded in obtaining the Puhoi Block for the special settlement of his countrymen, Germans, of whom 366 are settled there; that he has not received any compensation for his services and losses in this matter. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, although the petitioner was instrumental in introducing a number of valuable immigrants, he has not proved that he has any claim against the colony. Your Committee have therefore no recommendation to make.

21st October, 1884.

No. 453, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN GEDDES and Others, Waimate.

THE petitioners, ratepayers of the Waimate Railway District, pray the House to consider the mode of levying the rate by the Waimate Railway Company, and the circumstances under which the certificate as to deficiency was given.

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

24th October, 1884.

No. 367, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN SHARP and Others.

THE petitioners, ratepayers in the Lincoln District, County of Selwyn, pray for the erection of a railway siding on the Southbridge branch line of railway, known as Ladbroke's, for the reception of grain.

No. 469, Sess. II.—Petition of DUNCAN CAMERON and Others.

THE petitioners, residents in the Rakaia and Ashburton Forks Railway District, pray the Government to take over the said line of railway.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that these petitions should be referred to the Government for consideration.

24th October, 1884.

No. 329, Sess. II.—Petition of JAMES CATTELL and Others, Wellington.

THE petitioners state that in 1879 the Government offered certain reclaimed land in the City of Wellington for sale by auction; that the auctioneers, after consulting with the Colonial Secretary, who was present, announced that the Government would make, metal, and complete the said streets; that, relying on this statement, they purchased some of the said land, otherwise they would not have purchased at the price they did; that the streets have never been made, metalled, and completed as promised. They pray the House will inquire into the premises and grant them relief.

I am directed to report that, having taken the evidence of Dr. Newman, Sir G. S. Whitmore, and other gentlemen who were present at the sale, having perused all documents, and carefully considered the circumstances of the case, the Committee agree with the report of the Committee in 1882. They are further of opinion that the Government have already behaved in the most liberal manner, and should not grant the request of the petitioners. The Committee think that it is the duty of the City Council of Wellington to keep the streets of the city in order.

24th October, 1884.

No. 323, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN MCGREGOR and Others, Wanganui.

THE petitioners, ratepayers in the County of Wanganui, pray that the House will not pass the Bill to enable the Wanganui Harbour Board to levy a rate.

No. 391, Sess. II.—Petition of DYER and KEARSE and Others, Wanganui.

THE petitioners, ratepayers in the Counties of Wanganui and Waitotara, pray that the House will pass the Bill before the House, conferring on the Harbour Board rating powers.

I am directed to report that, the matters referred to in these petitions having been dealt with by the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

24th October, 1884.

No. 435, Sess. II.—Petition of B. HALLENSTEIN, Dunedin.

THE petitioner, chairman of a meeting of female operatives held in Dunedin, states that "The Employment of Females and Others Act, 1881," has proved a great benefit to the women and children employed in the work-rooms and factories of New Zealand; and, in accordance with a resolution passed at such meeting, prays the House to reject the amendments proposed to be made in the Employment of Females and Others Act.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter referred to in this petition having been dealt with by the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

24th October, 1884.

No. 351, Sess. II.—Petition of P. S. DEMPSEY, Wellington.

THE petitioner states that when in the Wellington Hospital, in February last, one of the nurses administered to him, by mistake, an ounce of carbolic acid instead of a sleeping draught, by which his health has permanently suffered. He prays the House to inquire into his case, and afford him relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

24th October, 1884.

No. 142, Sess. II.; No. 333, Sess. II.; No. 334, Sess. II.; No. 335, Sess. II.; No. 336, Sess. II.; No. 337, Sess. II.; No. 338, Sess. II.; No. 339, Sess. II.; No. 342, Sess. II.; No. 341, Sess. II.; No. 343, Sess. II.; No. 309, Sess. II.; No. 344, Sess. II.; No. 345, Sess. II.; No. 352, Sess. II.; No. 253, Sess. II.; No. 354, Sess. II.; and No. 355, Sess. II.—Petitions of L. H. WHITE and Others, C. A. ELLICE and Others, D. MCGREGOR and Others, A. B. WHITE and Others, W. M. MCKENZIE and Others, W. BARBER and Others, M. E. STAUNTON and Others, J. LEVEL and Others, J. SMITH and Others, J. WRIGHT and Others, R. SPENCER and Others, A. SMITH and Others, M. GOULTON and Others, J. TORRENS and Others, J. MACK and Others, W. H. WALLIS and Others, J. MCKINNON and Others, and J. HEWITT and Others.

THE petitioners, inhabitants of the colony, pray the House to maintain intact the present free, secular, and compulsory clauses of the Education Act.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

24th October, 1884.

No. 463, Sess. II.; No. 395, Sess. II.; No. 464, Sess. II.; No. 465, Sess. II.; No. 466, Sess. II.; and No. 473, Sess. II.—Petitions of JOHN McBEAN and Others, JAMES COPELAND and Others, HENRY CROSS and Others, FREDERICK HOWELL and Others, THOMAS BUTLER and Others, and JOHN BEVIN and Others.

THE petitioners, settlers of New Zealand, pray for the amendment of the Education Act, to allow of Bible-reading in schools.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

24th October, 1884.

No. 70, Sess. II.; No. 71, Sess. II.; No. 77, Sess. II.; and No. 78, Sess. II.—Petitions of HEYWOOD CRISPE and Others, R. M. HAWKES and Others, P. MASON and Others, and G. MURRAY and Others.

THE petitioners, inhabitants of the colony, pray the House to maintain intact the present free, secular, and compulsory clauses of the Education Act.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

24th October, 1884.

No. 356, Sess. II.; No. 357, Sess. II.; No. 358, Sess. II.; No. 359, Sess. II.; No. 382, Sess. II.; No. 383, Sess. II.; No. 384, Sess. II.; and No. 385, Sess. II.—Petitions of J. THOMS and Others, C. COOPER and Others, E. G. CLEMENTS and Others, W. J. HARE and Others, W. P. COGSWELL and Others, G. MATTHEWSON and Others, F. MATTHEWS and Others, and J. HURNDALL and Others.

THE petitioners pray the House to maintain intact the present free, secular, and compulsory clauses of the Education Act.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

24th October, 1884.

No. 411, Sess. II.—Petition of ROBERT ATKINSON, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that in 1874 he was summarily dismissed from the Customs service on unfounded allegations, without an opportunity to prove his innocence; that, on the Public Petitions Committee applying in 1875 for the correspondence in his case, some of it, which was in his favour, was suppressed by Mr. H. S. McKellar. He prays the House will grant him an investigation into this charge and consider his claims to compensation for loss of office.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having examined Mr. McKellar and the Hon. Mr. Reynolds, and also the whole of the records relating to the matter, see no reason to depart from the resolution come to by the Public Petitions Committee in 1875. The Committee are of opinion that the charges against Mr. McKellar in clause 6 of the petition are unfounded.

24th October, 1884.

No. 434, Sess. II.—Petition of H. LETHEBY and Others.

THE petitioners, umbrella manufacturers, of the South Island, ask that the duty may be taken off umbrella materials, to enable them to compete with the Home market.

No. 326, Sess. II.—Petition of C. B. THORNE and Others, Auckland.

THE petitioners, umbrella manufacturers, pray the House to take such action as will speedily result in the remission of the Customs duties on all materials imported from abroad used in umbrella- and parasol-making.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that, the subject-matter of these petitions being a question of policy, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

24th October, 1884.

No. 310, Sess. II.; No. 331, Sess. II.; No. 332, Sess. II.; No. 386, Sess. II.; No. 387, Sess. II.; No. 401, Sess. II.; No. 402, Sess. II.; No. 416, Sess. II.; No. 422, Sess. II.; No. 423, Sess. II.; No. 539, Session of 1883; No. 540, Session of 1883; and No. 543, Session of 1883.—Petitions of JAMES HILL and Others, W. F. THOMPSON and Others, G. F. DICKSON and Others, JOHN MARK and Others, J. R. RANDERSON and Others, B. HONEYFORD and Others, J. GORDON and Others, F. DYE and Others, WM. LEE and Others, J. OLIVE and Others, S. COSSEY and Others, J. BLACKMAN and Others, and J. FLAT and Others.

THE petitioners pray the House to maintain intact the present free, secular, and compulsory clauses of the Education Act.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

28th October, 1884.

No. 490, Sess. II.—Petition of DAVID TEED.

THE petitioner, vice-president of the Rodney Agricultural Association, states that a grievance exists in the working of the Sheep Act, which requires all ship-borne sheep to be dipped before being yarded for sale. He prays on behalf of the association that ship-borne sheep and lambs when accompanied with a "clean certificate" from the District Inspector be free from the present dipping restrictions.

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

28th October, 1884.

No. 444, Sess. II.—Petition of JAMES LINTON and Others, Palmerston North.

THE petitioners, ratepayers of the Borough of Palmerston North, pray that clause 61, subsection 4, of "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1876," should be amended, so as to exclude holders of leases of borough reserves from its operations, and leave them eligible for election of Councillors.

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

28th October, 1884.

No. 479, Sess. II.—Petition of E. F. CORLEY and Another, Christchurch.

THE petitioners state that they are the secretary and chairman of a meeting of the unemployed, and complain of many grievances the unemployed had to suffer whilst working for the Government, and wish to make a true statement of all the grievances under which they had suffered.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petition should be referred to the Commission appointed to inquire into the condition of the unemployed workmen in the Provincial District of Canterbury.

29th October, 1884.

No. 476, Sess. II.—Petition of G. M. SNELSON and Others (No. 4).

THE petitioners, ratepayers of the Manawatu Road District, pray the House to so amend the Rating Act as to enable local bodies to make their own valuation in any year during the triennial term named in such Act.

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

29th October, 1884.

No. 2, Sess. II.—Petition of EDOUARD TOUET, Nelson.

THE petitioner states that he was one of the sufferers in the Taranaki war of 1860; that he was awarded compensation, part of which was paid to him, leaving a balance still unpaid of £439 14s. He asks that justice may be done to him in this matter.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having heard Mr. Levestam, M.H.R., and carefully examined all the documentary evidence, are of opinion that the petitioner's claim has been fully satisfied.

29th October, 1884.

No. 4, Sess. II.; No. 43, Sess. II.; No. 62, Sess. II.; No. 83, Sess. I.; No. 91, Sess. II.; No. 92, Sess. II.; No. 93, Sess. II.; No. 94, Sess. II.; No. 95, Sess. II.; No. 96, Sess. II.; No. 97, Sess. II.; No. 98, Sess. II.; No. 99, Sess. II.; No. 100, Sess. II.; No. 101, Sess. II.; No. 102, Sess. II.; No. 103, Sess. II.; and No. 119, Sess. II.—Petitions of A. J. IRVINE and Others, JANE WILLIAMS and Others, SARAH THOMAS and Others, ANNE DEAVOLL and Others, ANNIE MILLS and Others, SARAH BENNETT and Others, SARAH STOKES and Others, LETTIE M. NORTH and Others, LOUISA TRENWITH and Others, JESSICA ELBARDALE and Others, HARRIET R. STONESE and Others, CHARLOTTE BAILEY and Others, MARY ANNE GITTONS and

Others, JANE A. TURNBULL and Others, MARY SMITH and Others, ELEANOR BALLANS and Others, JANE SOMERVILLE and Others, and SALOME PICKETT and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the House will pass a Local Option Extension Act, giving all women of mature age the power to vote.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

29th October, 1884.

No. 10, Sess. I.; No. 14, Sess. I.; No. 20, Sess. I.; No. 49, Sess. I.; No. 82, Sess. I.; No. 84, Sess. I.; No. 85, Sess. I.; No. 86, Sess. I.; No. 87, Sess. I.; No. 88, Sess. I.; No. 89, Sess. I.; No. 90, Sess. I.; No. 91, Sess. I.; No. 96, Sess. I.; and No. 108, Sess. I.—Petitions of M. B. PECK and Others, C. BIRRELL and Others, F. BARROWMAN and Others, J. MORRISH and Others, E. PITT and Others, M. J. RICHARDSON and Others, R. LEE and Others, G. DEE and Others, J. ULBRIDGE and Others, J. MARTIN and Others, R. CLARK and Others, R. HARRISON and Others, W. T. CHAPMAN and Others, J. HOSKINS and Others, and B. O'CONNOR and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the House will pass into law the Local Option Extension Act introduced by Mr. M. W. Green, M.H.R.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

30th October, 1884.

No. 161, Sess. II.; No. 162, Sess. II.; No. 228, Sess. II.; No. 279, Sess. II.; No. 280, Sess. II.; No. 489, Sess. II.; No. 498, Sess. II.; No. 506, Sess. II.; No. 521, Sess. II.; No. 524, Sess. II.—Petitions of J. E. TROLLOPE and Others, E. RANDLE and Others, A. JAMESON and Others, M. JONES and Others, A. J. DALLOW and Others, L. GRIFFIN and Others, C. BRIDGMAN and Others, H. C. SNOW and Others, J. BOWIE and Others, and G. W. J. SPENCE and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the House will pass a Local Option Extension Act, giving women power to vote.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that it is not necessary for them to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

30th October, 1884.

No. 157, Sess. II.; No. 229, Sess. II.; No. 241, Sess. II.; No. 242, Sess. II.; No. 243, Sess. II.; No. 244, Sess. II.; No. 245, Sess. II.; No. 264, Sess. II.; No. 268, Sess. II.; No. 276, Sess. II.; No. 277, Sess. II.; No. 278, Sess. II.; No. 315, Sess. II.; No. 346, Sess. II.; No. 347, Sess. II.; No. 348, Sess. II.; No. 361, Sess. II.; and No. 362, Sess. II.—Petitions of JOHN H. SCOTT and Others, J. EDSON and Others, W. HOGG and Others, E. J. MATTHEWS and Others, A. C. W. MILLAR and Others, S. COOMBES and Others, S. MACFARLANE and Others, J. LILEWALL and Others, C. B. STONE and Others, A. M. McCALLOM and Others, T. MCKENZIE FRAZER and Others, R. P. BAVIN and Others, S. GRIFFITHS and Others, T. FROST and Others, J. B. SAYERS and Others, T. COOKE and Others, J. FLETCHER and Others, and E. GOODISON and Others.

THE petitioners state that they are convinced that only elected Committees under the Licensing Act can give general satisfaction.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that it is not necessary for them to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

31st October, 1884.

No. 518, Sess. II.; No. 519, Sess. II.; No. 525, Sess. II.—Petitions of JOHN MCKAY and Others, Otago; PETER MALLON and Others, Gore; and F. A. LUCK and Others, Kihikihi, Waipa.

THE petitioners, Roman Catholics, ask that their schools may be placed on an equality with the other schools of the colony.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that it is not necessary for them to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

31st October, 1884.

No. 485, Sess. II.; No. 486, Sess. II.; No. 503, Sess. II.; and No. 517, Sess. II.—Petitions of G. B. INGLIS and Others, P. MCGILL and Others, J. CLARK and Others, and A. BEST and Others.

THE petitioners, residents of the colony, pray the House will so amend the Education Act as to provide for the daily reading of the Scriptures in all the public schools of the colony.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that it is not necessary for them to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

31st October, 1884.

No. 590, Sess. II.—Petition of J. W. KING, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he is the oldest English native of the Colony of New Zealand, and prays that some provision may be made for him in his old age.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make
4th November, 1884.

No. 325, Sess. II.—Petition of J. LYNCH, Coromandel.

THE petitioner states that in 1872 he gave the Provincial Government of Auckland one acre of land for a Courthouse, and in consideration Mr. Sheehan, one of the Executive of the Provincial Council, promised him a grant of land, which promise has not been fulfilled. He prays for compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee see no reason to depart from the report of the Committee of 1882.

4th November, 1884.

No. 429, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN CONNOR, Kensington.

THE petitioner states that he was severely injured in November, 1883, while on duty by an accident when on a trolley, which has made him a cripple for life.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner is now employed in Government service, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

4th November, 1884.

No. 454, Sess. II.—Petition of ANNE SKIFFINGTON, Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that her husband, whilst working on the railway at Dunedin on the 13th November, 1883, was killed by an accident, and that she is left unprovided for. She prays for some assistance.

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

4th November, 1884.

No. 542, Sess. 1883.—Petition of JAMES CONLEY, Auckland.

THE petitioner claims compensation for the loss of a boat supposed to have been taken by three boys from Kohimarama.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

4th November, 1884.

No. 176, Sess. II.—Petition of F. M. CHAPMAN, Patea.

THE petitioner complains of loss and damage done to property by the unemployed working on the railway passing through his land. He prays for compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend his claim, inasmuch as the petitioner has not availed himself of the offer of the Government in April last, that they would put no obstacle in his way to enable him to take his case into Court.

4th November, 1884.

No. 349, Sess. II.; No. 406, Sess. II.; No. 417, Sess. II.; No. 418, Sess. II.; No. 419, Sess. II.; No. 424, Sess. II.; No. 425, Sess. II.; and No. 461, Sess. II.—Petitions of A. J. LITCHFIELD and Others, H. KENNEDY and Others, L. A. SOAL and Others, D. WHYTOCK and Others, J. CLOVER and Others, W. HOLDSWORTH and Others, E. BRECKENRIG and Others, and J. GREACEN and Others.

THE petitioners state that they are convinced that only elected Committees can give satisfaction under the Licensing Act.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

4th November, 1884.

No. 33, Sess. I.—Petition of CATHERINE COOLAHAN, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that she is the widow of Hugh Coolahan; that her husband executed a deed of trust in bankruptcy to John Marshall Mowbray in 1868; that the said John Marshall Mowbray did convey a portion of land at Pokeno to the Queen, free, for railway purposes, about two years after her husband's death, thereby depriving her of a portion of her property.

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

5th November, 1884.

No. 508, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM VAILE and Others, Oamaru.

THE petitioners, unemployed, complain of the many grievances they are suffering under, and pray the House to afford them relief.

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

5th November, 1884.

No. 522, Sess. II.—Petition of D. POTTS and Others, Ashburton.

THE petitioners, farmers, landowners, and occupiers in the Upper Ashburton Road District, pray that the Westerfield Railway Station be not moved from its present site.

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

5th November, 1884.

No. 429, Sess. II.—Petition of A. MACLEAN and Others, Waipu.

THE petitioners, inhabitants of Waipu, County of Marsden, complain that, although the district

was averse to a license under the Licensing Act being granted, a liquor-selling establishment was forced upon them, in the shape of a working-men's club. They complain of the conduct of the said club, and pray for an inquiry into it.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petition should be referred to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

5th November, 1884.

No. 520, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM SMITH, Auckland.

THE petitioner prays for an investigation into the conduct of Mr. Oliver Mays, Superintendent of Motuihi Quarantine Station, in regard to the manner in which he was compelled to resign his office of Dépôt-master there.

I am directed to report that, from the evidence before the Committee, they consider the petitioner has no claim; but the Committee recommend that, if the petitioner still desires an investigation into his case, an independent inquiry should be made in Auckland.

5th November, 1884.

No. 59, Sess. II.—Petition of MARGARET HIGGINS.

THE petitioner states that her late husband left some land in the Matakohi District; that at the end of last October she received a notice from the Public Trustee that he would sell the land if the highway rates were not paid. She ascertained the rate was only 1s. 7d., and that she was only liable for two years; but a demand was made upon her for £5 1s., which she paid to prevent the land being sold. That about the same time the Highway Board claimed 1s. 7d. for the year's rate, and £4 13s. 4d. for arrears, which she also paid, fearing the land would be sold; that the Public Trustee, on the 28th July last, claimed a further sum of 12s. 6d. She prays the House to make inquiry into her case, and to refund her the £5 1s. she has been compelled to pay twice over.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the local body, before placing the property in question in the hands of the Public Trustee for sale or lease, should have exhausted all available means to find out the owner of the land, and this they do not appear to have done. The Committee would draw attention to the very large proportion which the expenses in this case bear to the rates. The rates for two years amount to only 3s. 2d.; but the amount which Mrs. Higgins had to pay was £5 1s., and the sum of 12s. 6d. is still unpaid. As, however, the law does not seem to have been broken, the Committee do not see their way to make any recommendation for relief. The Committee would point out that Mrs. Higgins is in error in regard to paying the same rates twice over. The rates on which the Public Trustee took action were the county rates, but the rates she paid to the local body were the rates due to the Road Board.

5th November, 1884.

No. 512, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN LONDON.

THE petitioner claims the sum of £43 7s. expended by him on account of survey of Native land at Lower Waihou, purchased by the Government.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner should be paid the amount claimed, £43 7s.

5th November, 1884.

No. 477, Sess. II.; No. 505, Sess. II.; and No. 495, Sess. II.—Petitions of A. DENNISTON and Others, J. MOFFAT and Others, and G. W. COWARD and Others.

THE petitioners pray that no alteration may be made in the present Licensing Act.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not deem it necessary for them to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

5th November, 1884.

No. 412, Sess. II.—Petition of GEORGE M. SNELSON and Others (No. 1), Palmerston North.

THE petitioners, ratepayers of the Manawatu Road Board, pray that some consideration be given to them for the improvements made on the road-lines contiguous to Section 443, situate at Palmerston North, and sold on deferred payment.

I am directed to report that the Committee consider the petitioners have no claim against the colony.

5th November, 1884.

No. 497, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM PIGGOTT and Others, Bombay Settlement.

THE petitioners pray for a compassionate allowance for a widow named Catherine Anne Piggott, aged thirty-two, with six children.

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

5th November, 1884.

No. 158, Sess. II.; No. 87, Sess. II.; No. 159, Sess. II.; No. 160, Sess. II.; No. 377, Sess. II.; No. 468, Sess. II.—Petitions of WILLIAM COOPER and Others, Auckland; L. MACNELL and Others, Picton; L. H. RAWSON and Others, Wanganui; R. STOUT and Others, Dunedin; H. A. SYMES and Others, Waverley; and JOHN WEBBER and Others, Christchurch.

THE petitioners, office-bearers of the various freethought associations of New Zealand, pray that the House will refuse to enact any blasphemy laws.

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

5th November, 1884.

No. 492, Sess. II.—Petition of JOSEPH MAXFIELD, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he is engaged in fish-curing and fish-canning, and further states that he has considerable difficulty to contend with, in the Old and New World fish canneries being allowed to introduce their manufactured articles with only a nominal duty of 1d. per lb.; that the Colonies of Victoria, Queensland, and New South Wales have imposed a duty of 2d. per lb. on the imported article. He prays the House to act in a similar manner.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petition should be referred to the Government.

5th November, 1884.

No. 413, Sess. II.—Petition of B. W. DUDLEY and Another, Rangiora.

THE petitioners, president and secretary of the Mandeville and Rangiora Temperance Union, ask the House to refund the expenses incurred by the Licensing Committee of Mandeville and Rangiora in defending an action in the Supreme Court for refusing to renew a license. They pray that the sum of £146 19s., which the Committee had to pay for legal expenses, may be refunded to them.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petition should be referred to the Government for favourable consideration, and recommend that they inquire into the legal grounds on which the Judge granted a rehearing of the case.

6th November, 1884.

No. 410, Sess. II.—Petition of J. H. SHAW, Wellington.

THE petitioner states that the Legislature, by the repeal of "The Reprint of Statutes Act, 1878," has done him a grievous wrong in his feelings, his professional character, and prospects, and prays the House to afford him redress.

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

6th November, 1884.

No. 445, Sess. 1883.—Petition of WILLIAM MCKENZIE, Carnarvon.

THE petitioner asks for compensation for injury sustained by a railway accident on the Masterton line of railway in September, 1880, by which he has sustained permanent injury to his arm.

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

6th November, 1884.

No. 467, Sess. II.—Petition of W. A. ARCHER, Wellington.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for the wrongful and improper dismissal of himself from the Government service as clerk to the Insurance Department.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

6th November, 1884.

No. 460, Sess. II.—Petition of GEORGE COLLIER, Christchurch.

THE petitioner states that in January, 1883, he became one of the bondsmen of the contractors for the Deep Stream contract, and, as such bondsman, had to carry on the works until they were taken over by the Government. He states that he has suffered a loss of £2,406, of which the Government received the benefit. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

6th November, 1884.

No. 305, Sess. II.—Petition of MARY TAUTARI, Taumarere.

THE petitioner, widow of Hemi Tautari, states that the railway station has been erected on another site than that originally intended on the petitioner's land, whereby she has suffered loss and is deprived of an approach to the said station. She prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, as it appears from evidence that the case is at present under the consideration of the Government, with a view to its settlement, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

6th November, 1884.

No. 470, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN McDELL, Auckland.

THE petitioner, late Warder of Auckland Gaol, prays for further compensation for loss of office.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

6th November, 1884.

No. 481, Sess. II.—Petition of SAMUEL STEPHENSON, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that under the new Licensing Act the district in which he resides was partitioned, whereby he lost his license, his property was confiscated for three years, and himself and family brought to ruin. He prays for compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee consider the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

7th November, 1884.

No. 258, Sess. II.—Petition of M. H. S. PEACOCK and Others, Manutahi.

THE petitioners, settlers residing about Manutahi and Woodville, ask for access by road to the railway station on the north side, within the railway fence.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the work in question is one that should be performed by the local body.

7th November, 1884.

No. 406, Sess. 1883.—Petition of JAMES HARPER, Ohaupo.

THE petitioner claims compensation for damage to his land by large quantities of water brought on to it by the railway formation and the ditches not being cleared out.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

7th November, 1884.

No. 529, Sess. II.—Petition of MARGARET MADIGAN, Wellington.

THE petitioner asks for compensation for loss of her husband, killed by a railway accident at Kaiwara.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

7th November, 1884.

No. 542, Sess. II.—Petition of MARY PHELAN, Kumara.

THE petitioner asks for compensation for the loss of her husband, killed by an accident at the sludge-channel, Kumara, in 1880.

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

7th November, 1884.

No. 483, Sess. II.—Petition of EMELIA JOHNSTONE, Raglan.

THE petitioner claims for loss of sheep in 1861 through the action of King Natives; that Judge Beckham allowed the losses proved, and awarded a sum of £180; and that no effect has been given to that award. She prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the Government should inquire into the case, and that, if the amount of the award has not been paid, the same should be paid.

7th November, 1884.

No. 441, Sess. II.—Petition of JOSEPH MACKAY, Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he was for some time engaged in the service of the New Zealand Government Life Insurance Department; that he was criminally prosecuted by the department, but the Grand Jury threw out the Bill. He prays the House to grant him satisfaction.

I am directed to report that the Committee have examined Mr. Luckie, Mr. Thorne, Hon. Mr. Stout, Mr. Munro, and the petitioner; they also had before them a large mass of documentary evidence. They are satisfied that the petitioner is innocent of any criminal intent. As, however, the petitioner acted injudiciously and in contravention of the rules of the department, the Committee cannot recommend a large sum by way of compensation. Taking all the circumstances into consideration, they are of opinion that a payment of £50 would meet the case, and they accordingly recommend the payment of this sum to the petitioner as an act of grace.

7th November, 1884.

No. 459, Sess. II.—Petition of W. WARDRUP and Others.

THE petitioners ask that the Mayors of South Dunedin, Caversham, and St. Kilda may be appointed members of the Ocean Beach Domain Board.

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

7th November, 1884.

No. 488, Sess. II.—Petition of HENRY MCPHERSON, Frankton.

THE petitioner states that he lost employment promised him in the Railway Department through a regulation made by the department prohibiting the employment of persons over the age of forty. He prays for relief.

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

7th November, 1884.

No. 300, Sess. II.; No. 311, Sess. II.; No. 366, Sess. II.; No. 392, Sess. II.; No. 420, Sess. II.; No. 421, Sess. II.; and No. 500, Sess. II.—Petitions of W. JOHN HARE, R. FARRELL and Others, R.-S. WHITE and Others, C. COOMES and Others, J. KENYON and Others, H. H. SEABROOK and Others, and C. GOTHARD and Others.

THE petitioners express a wish that the orphanages and homes for destitute children now existing in the colony may be placed upon a different basis than at present.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that these petitions should be referred to the Government.

7th November, 1884.

No. 449, Sess. II.—Petition of ANDREW HUNTER, Kakaramea.

THE petitioner prays for consideration for the loss he has sustained through the construction of the Foxton-New Plymouth Railway through his land.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the claim of the petitioner. He has not exhausted his legal remedy, and there is reason to believe that, as in the case of the petitioner Chapman, the Government would not put any obstacle in his way to take his case into Court.

7th November, 1884.

No. 507, Sess. II.—Petition of MICHAEL FUREY, Coromandel.

THE petitioner states that a horse was placed in his charge at livery; that a bailiff of the Resident Magistrate's Court claimed the horse and it was given up to him; that an action was brought against petitioner to recover the value of the horse; that he has had to pay law costs £25, and other expenses £12, which he prays may be repaid.

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

7th November, 1884.

No. 548, Sess. II.—Petition of MICHAEL POLLOCK and Others, Hokitika.

THE petitioners pray for a refund of costs incurred in prosecuting one Costello for fraudulent bankruptcy.

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

8th November, 1884.

No. 552, Sess. II.—Petition of E. GARMONSWAY and Others, Alexandra.

THE petitioners complain of the dangerous state of the bridge over the Waipa. They pray for a new bridge to save life.

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

8th November, 1884.

No. 539, Sess. II.—Petition of H. W. PERRYMAN and Others.

THE petitioners, farmers of Canterbury, object to a 15-per-cent. rate of duty on binder-twine.

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

8th November, 1884.

No. 531, Sess. II.—Petition of ROBERT MILSON and Others.

THE petitioners, ratepayers in the Manawatu Road District, complain that the present Rating Act bears unjustly on all land, and suggest an acreage-tax in its place.

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

8th November, 1884.

No. 553, Sess. II.—Petition of THOMAS H. MILES and Others.

THE petitioners, residents in the Pelorus Sound, pray that a branch post office at Manaroa may be opened.

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

8th November, 1884.

No. 515, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM RAMSAY, Tuapeka.

THE petitioner complains of having to pay for his wife's keep in the Dunedin Lunatic Asylum whilst she has been of service in such asylum; and further complains of the Government claiming £800, moneys bequeathed to petitioner, as an investment for such keep. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Government be recommended to inquire into the matter with the view of ascertaining (1) whether any reduction can be made from the charge for maintenance owing to services rendered by the petitioner's wife; and (2) whether, as regards the money invested at Home, any steps can be taken with the view of having the money invested in the colony in order that the interest may be increased.

8th November, 1884.

No. 535, Sess. II.—Petition of H. W. PARSONS and Others.

THE petitioners pray the House to pass the Bill to enable the Land Association to obtain the assistance of the State.

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

8th November, 1884.

No. 536, Sess. II.—Petition of A. BOSWELL, New Plymouth.

THE petitioner complains of the action of the Resident Magistrate, Mr. C. Rawson, in the matter of his arrest and trial. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion, from the oral and documentary evidence before the Committee, that the charges made by the petitioner against Mr. Rawson are altogether unfounded, and that therefore the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

8th November, 1884.

No. 185, Sess. II.—Petition of H. W. HENDERSON and Another, Auckland.

THE petitioners state that they have become possessed of valuable rights and interests in certain landed properties in Samoa, of which properties Messrs. W. McArthur and Co., of Auckland, claim to be owners, and are in possession. They complain that the High Commissioner of the Western Pacific not only prevents them from taking possession of the said lands, but has illegally placed the said William McArthur and Co. in possession of the same, and, as there is no Court of competent jurisdiction in which they can plead their rights to the lands held by them in Samoa, they pray that the House may move the Government of New Zealand to represent their grievances to the Imperial Government, with a view of obtaining redress.

I am directed to report that, having taken the evidence of Sir George Grey, and also of Mr. R. A. Sherrin, one of the shareholders of the said company, and having examined the documentary evidence submitted, and it appearing that the question of title to the said lands, as well as the action of the High Commissioner in the matter, are at present under consideration by the Imperial Government, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

8th November, 1884.

No. 305, Sess. II.—Petition of GEORGE ERICKSON and Others, Orwell Creek.

THE petitioners pray for a bi-weekly mail.

No. 541, 1883.—Petition of J. TUNKS and Others.

THE petitioners pray for a mail service, Tauranga to Te Aroha.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioners.

8th November, 1884.

No. 532, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN WILLIAM MATTHEWS.

THE petitioner, as legal representative of the late Matthew Price, late Resident Magistrate at Gisborne, prays that the compensation claimed on behalf of the deceased, or a sufficient sum to pay all claims against the estate, may be granted to him.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

8th November, 1884.

No. 547, Sess. II.—Petition of P. O'LEARY and Others.

THE petitioners, Roman Catholics, pray for justice and equity in the matter of education.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not deem it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of this petition.

8th November, 1884.

No. 540, Sess. II.—Petition of THOMAS MCMASTERS and Others.

THE petitioners pray for the extension of the local-option franchise to women.

No. 541, Sess. II.—Petition of E. DUTTON and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the present Education Act may remain in tact.

No. 533, Sess. II.—Petition of F. SPEAR and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the Scriptures may be read in the public schools.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not deem it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

8th November, 1884.

No. 551, Sess. II.—Petition of J. R. JONES.

THE petitioner prays for consideration, as he is suffering from varicose veins brought on by exposure in Her Majesty's service.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim on the colony.

8th November, 1884.

No. 105, Sess. II.—Petition of H. T. SALMON.

THE petitioner asks for compensation for land taken for road from Hamilton to Raglan.

I am directed to report that, as it appears from evidence that this case is at present under the consideration of the Government with a view to its settlement, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

8th November, 1884.

No. 13, Sess. II.—Petition of HENRY BAUCKE, Wellington.

THE petitioner, who has petitioned the House for many years, states that unless the House will deal with and satisfy his claim he is without remedy in the colony. He prays his claim may be satisfied.

I am directed to report that the case of the petitioner having been repeatedly before the Public Petitions Committee, and dealt with, the Committee see no reason to alter the former decisions come to.

8th November, 1884.

No. 534, Sess. II.—Petition of ARCHIBALD MORGAN, Christchurch.

THE petitioner states he was Drill Instructor to the Volunteer forces of Canterbury; that he was dismissed as unfit for service. He prays for an inquiry into his case and a sum of money as compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim on the colony.

8th November, 1884.

By Authority: GEORGE DIDSBUY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1884.

