

1888.

NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS A TO L COMMITTEE.

(MR. SEYMOUR, CHAIRMAN.)

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

INDEX.

No.	Petitions.	Page.	No.	Petitions.	Page.
	A.			C.	
307	Adams, W., and Others	9	366	Cameron, D.	12
117	Agricultural Leaseholders of Ohinemuri ..	5	15	Campbell, A. P. . . .	1
	Akaroa Settlers (<i>vide I.-2</i>).		247	Campbell, R., and Others	8
196	Aldis, M. S.	9	434	Cambridge Settlers	14
469	Aldis, W. S.	14		Canterbury Farmers (<i>vide I.-2</i>).	
378	Allen, H. V.	13		Canterbury Protestants (<i>vide I.-2</i>).	
36	Andrews, J.	7	92	Carley, J.	4
	Arahura Reserve Settlers (<i>vide I.-2</i>).		492	Carmichael, R. and T.	16
1	Atkinson, J.	12	157	Carr, E. C., and Others	6
271	Atkinson, Major J. J.	9	155	Carter, T.	7
264	Atkinson, R.	13	290	Chapman, A. H., and Others	8
283	Auckland Jewellers	8	394	Chapman, M., and Others	13
115	Auckland, Mayor of, and Others	3	387	Charlton, G. E., and Others	14
157	Auckland Settlers	6	106	Chinese of Auckland	3
307	Auckland Settlers	9	191	Chisholm, R., and Others	7
320	Auckland Settlers	9	242	Christchurch, Bishop of, and Others ..	8
	Auckland Settlers (<i>vide also I.-2</i>).		89	Christchurch Residents	5
	B.		382	Christchurch Settlers (<i>vide I.-2</i>).	
	Balfour and Longridge Settlers (<i>vide I.-2</i>).		320	Clark, C., and Others	13
7	Barber, H. G.	2	305	Clarke, J. H., and Others	9
109	Baucke, H. (No. 1)	5	326	Clark, E. L. (No. 1)	10
443	Baucke, H. (No. 2)	15	363	Clark, E. L. (No. 2)	12
78	Bayne, E.	3	379	Clark, E. L. (No. 3)	11
151	Beaufort, J. W., and Others	5	194	Clark, E. L. (No. 4)	13
	Beekeepers (<i>vide I.-2</i>).		426	Clarkson, G.	7
321	Bee, W., and Others	9	476	Clutha Settlers	14
142	Bendall, E. R.	7	431	Clutha Settlers	15
	Benmore Ratepayers (<i>vide I.-2</i>).		376	Cochrane, R.	15
164	Bennett, J., and Others	5	434	Cooper, G. E.	12
467	Billing, T. J.	15	63	Cooper, P., and Others	14
242	Bishop of Christchurch and Others	8	195, 257	Corrigan, J.	2
296	Black, J.	12	107	County Councils, Eight	7
50	Blain, J.	2	324	County Councils, Twenty-one	3
*487	Blaremborg, Hotezzi von	1	381	Croydon Settlers	10
176	Blenheim Settlers	7		Cust Settlers	13
177	Blenheim Settlers	7			
356	Blenheim Settlers	11		D.	
119	Borrie, J., and Others	4	476	Dabinett, G., and Others	15
41	Bowring, H., and Others	2	220	Dalrymple, J. T., and Others	8
374	Boyes, Rev. N. D., and Others	11		Danevirke Ratepayers (<i>vide I.-2</i>).	
302	Bray, T., and Others	9	319	Darrock, R., and Others	9
23	Brennan, H.	6	384	Davidson, C. E., and others	13
350	Brown, A., and Others (No. 1)	11	187	Davis, R.	11
351	Brown, A., and Others (No. 2)	11	306	Dawson, Lieut.-Colonel C., and Others ..	9
455	Browne, P., and Others	14	300	Deck, S. J., and Others	10
425	Browne, E. J.	14	119	Deferred-payment Settlers of Te Aroha ..	4
433	Brown, J., and Others	15	76	Deighton, R. J.	3
13	Brown, P. S.	1	403	Devonport Settlers	14
426	Brown, T., and Others	14	60	Dick, J. G.	5
138	Bruce, A.	4	324	Dickson, R., and Others	10
482	Bubear, E.	16	355	Dodwell, V. B., and Others	11
25	Buckley, A.	4	289	Douglas, J. A., and Others	8
389	Bulls Settlers	13	323	Dowling, J., and Others	10
16	Burgham, G., and Others	1	88	Duncan, J., and Others	5
409	Burns, D., and Others	14	427	Dundas, A.	14

No.	Petitions.	Page.	No.	Petitions.	Page.
255	Dunedin City and Suburban Tramways Company	10	177	Holmes, A. J. A., and Others	7
311	Dunedin Public Meeting	9	169	Horsburgh, J., and two Others	14
178	Dunedin Settlers	7	130	Houston, R. M., and Others	4
191	Dunedin Settlers	7	178	Houston, W. D., and Others	7
249	Dunedin Settlers	8	460	Howick Settlers	14
350	Dunedin Settlers	11	55	Huddleston, H. B.	13
351	Dunedin Settlers	11	477	Hunter, A.	16
355	Dunedin Settlers	11	381	Hunter, A., and Others	13
464	Dunedin Women	15	356	Hutchens, H., and Others	11
91	Dunn, W., and Others	3		I.	
	E.			Invercargill, Mayor of, and Others (<i>vide I.-2</i>).	
176	Farll, W., and Others	7	398	Isbister, J.	13
306	Eden Road Boards	9		Isbister, W., and Malcolm, J. (<i>vide I.-2</i>).	
317	Edmond, J., and Others	11		J.	
57	Ell, G. W. (No. 1)	5	404	Jack, A.	14
285	Ell, G. W. (No. 2)	9	33	James, W. H.	4
117	Elliott, A., and Others	5	225	Jerred, H.	7
145	Elliott, W.	7	283	Jewellers of Auckland	8
20	Ellison, H. (No. 1)	6	24	Johnson, J.	6
21	Ellison, H. (No. 2)	6	325	Johnstone, E.	11
494	Elwin, J. J., and Others	16	169	Jones, E., and two Others	14
293	Ellworthy, E., and Others Engineers (<i>vide I.-2</i>).	8		K.	
89	Erwin, R., and Others	5		Kaikorai School Committee (<i>vide I.-2</i>).	
	F.		456	Kaipoi Settlers	15
389	Fagan, S., and Others	13	409	Karioi Settlers	14
78	Farnie, W., for Bayne, E.	3	283	Katterfeldt, T., and Others	8
156	Farquhar, J.	8	249	Kelly, J. A., and Others	8
318	Feilding Settlers	9	181	Kerr, J., and Others	6
255	Fenwick, G., and Others	10	453	King, F. S., and Others	14
7	Finch, Lewin, and Forbes	3	232	Kira, Kingi H., and Others	8
29	Finch, Thomas	2	459	Krippner, M.	15
245	Flatt, J.	11	348	Kirk, W. J., and others	11
95	Flett, J.	4		L.	
493	Franks, F.	16	51	Laird, J., and Others	2
*4	Fraser, S.	2	87	Lake County Miners	4
287	Fruit-growers of Whangarei	8	6	Lane, H.	2
301	Fulton, C., and Others (No. 1)	9	7	Lewin, Forbes, and Finch	3
303	Fulton, C., and Others (No. 2)	9	403	Lilewall, J., and Others	14
	G.			Limehills Ratepayers (<i>vide I.-2</i>).	
49	Gascoyne, Major F. J. W.	2	318	Linton, R., and Others	9
136	Gearon, W. C., and Others	6	235	Livock, F., and Others	10
254	Gillett, J.	12	141	Lloyd, J., and Others	4
460	Gilmour, H. K., and Others	14	34	Lockett, Major J.	3
	Gisborne Maoris (<i>vide I.-2</i>).		475	Lundon, J. (No. 1)	15
12	Given, R. and J.	1	496	Lundon, J. (No. 2)	17
297	Glen, R.	11	497	Lundon, J. (No. 3)	16
19	Godden, L. G. W.	1	498	Lundon, J. (No. 4)	17
131	Goodfellow, J., and Others (No. 1)	10	192	Lyttelton Settlers	7
423	Goodfellow, J., and Others (No. 2)	14		M.	
265	Gordon, A., and Others	8	455	Mahurangi Settlers	14
310	Grady, W.	12	384	Maungaturoto Settlers	13
486	Grant, A.	16	291	McLean, A., and Others	8
464	Grant, E., and Others	15	130	Mongonui County Council and Others	4
152	Grant, J., and Others	5	169	Mueller, H., and two Others	14
274	Gray, J. W., and Others	8		N.	
323	Grey County Settlers	10	388	New Plymouth Settlers	13
	Greytown Settlers (<i>vide I.-2</i>).		494	New Plymouth Settlers	16
102	Grey Valley Coal-miners' Association (No. 1)	3	141	Nightcaps Settlers	4
103	Grey Valley Coal-miners' Association (No. 2)	3	198	North Dunedin Settlers	8
51	Grogan, J., Friends of Wife of	2		O.	
71	Guirk, P.	6	321	Oamaru Settlers	9
487	Guthrie, C.	16	117	Ohinemuri Agricultural Leaseholders	
	H.		235	Omaha Village Settlers	10
150	Hacon, Dr.	6	131	Omapiere Village Settlers	10
388	Halcombe, A. F., and Others	13		Otago Settlers (<i>vide I.-2</i>).	
488	Hale, G., and Another	16	398	Otamatea County Chairman	13
93	Hamilton, A. McC.	4	152	Otiake Settlers	5
	Hamilton Volunteers (<i>vide I.-2</i>).			P.	
470	Hannaford, T. B.	15	151	Pahiatua Settlers	5
456	Hansen, C., and Others	15	453	Pakuranga Settlers	14
139	Hardy, G.	5	348	Petone Settlers	11
172	Hawkes, R. M., and Others	7	88	Presbyterian Church, General Assembly of	5
241	Herring, E.	11	311	Public Meeting at Dunedin	9
338	Hewitt, Captain J. D. R.	12		R.	
192	Hildyard, W., and Others	7	248	Rangiora, Mayor of, and Others	8
198	Hislop, Dr., and Others	8	220	Rangitikei County Council, Members of	8
87	Hogan, John, and Others	4	806	Road Boards of Eden County	9
423	Hokianga Settlers	14			
41	Hokianga Village Settlers	2			
172	Homestead Settlers of Tapu	7			

No.	Petitions.	Page.	No.	Petitions.	Page.
387	S. Scacliff Settlers	14	41	V. Village Settlers of Hokianga	2
300	Stewart Island Settlers	10	235	Village Settlers of Omaha	10
317	Stirling Settlers	11	131	Village Settlers of Omapere	10
382	Sydenham Settlers	13	*487	Von Blaremburg, Hotezzi	1
				W.	
			243	Waikato County Council	8
			232	Waimate, Bay of Islands, Settlers	8
301	T. Taieri Residents	9	289 &c.	Waimate Settlers	8
172	Tapu Homestead Settlers	7	164	Waipawa Settlers	5
274	Tauranga Settlers	8	138	Waitemata County Council	4
433	Tauranga Settlers	15	374	Waiuku Settlers	11
119	Te Aroha Deferred-payment Settlers	4	51	Wanganui, Mayor of, and Others	2
318	Temuka Settlers	9	13	Whangarei County Council	1
292	Teschemaker, T., and Others	8	287	Whangarei Fruit-growers	8
91	Tokomairiro Farmers' Club	3	394	Wellington Settlers	13
			494	West Coast Leascholders	16
			488	Wilson, A., and Another	16
				Z.	
16	U. Unemployed of Nelson	1	288	Zeisler, N., and Others	8

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No. 487, Sess. II., 1887.—Petition of HOTEZZI VON BLARAMBERG, of Matarawa, Wanganui.

THE petitioner alleges that from 1870 to 1878 he kept a private school at Te Aro, which did not pay; that he insured his life in the Government Office, but let the policy lapse; that he subsequently took service under the Education Department. He appears, however, to have had painful misunderstandings with his Committee and with his creditors, and attributes all his woes to the operation of the Education Act. He prays for inquiry and reparation.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of this petition.

23rd May, 1888.

No. 12.—Petition of RICHARD and JAMES GIVEN, of the Pollok.

THE petitioners allege that, in the face of conclusive evidence in their favour, a boundary dispute has been decided against them, whereby they have lost four acres of land, besides £316 12s. 2d. for expenses. They pray for relief.

I am directed to adopt the report brought up by this Committee on the 30th November, 1887—namely, that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioners are not entitled to any compensation.

23rd May, 1888.

No. 13.—Petition of PETER S. BROWN, Chairman of the County Council, Whangarei.

THE petitioner prays that powers may be granted to County Councils in the northern districts to deal with gum lands and gum-diggers.

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

23rd May, 1888.

No. 15.—Petition of ALEXANDER P. CAMPBELL, of Cove, Waipu.

THE petitioner states that, after taking a road and bridge contract at Dacre's Claim, County of Rodney, he was fined £40 by the Land Board for cutting the timber on Crown land. Moreover, that part of the timber was washed away by high tides, so that he lost instead of gaining by his contract. He prays for remission of the fine, and for other relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, the petitioner has no claim whatever to any consideration.

23rd May, 1888.

No. 16.—Petition of GEORGE BURGHAM, of Nelson, and 79 Others.

THE petitioners state that they are labouring-men in great distress for want of employment. They pray that employment may be found for them.

I am directed to report that, since the prayer of this petition has already been granted, this Committee has no recommendation to make.

23rd May, 1888.

No. 19.—Petition of L. G. W. GODDEN, of Taheke, Hokianga.

THE petitioner complains that he is without means of access to his allotment of land, and prays that a road may be formed without delay.

I am directed to recommend the prayer of this petition to the favourable consideration of the Government.

23rd May, 1888.

No. 29.—Petition of THOMAS FINCH, of Alexandra, Waipu.

THE petitioner prays for payment of £45 4s., being the balance of his account rendered to the Native Department for food and lodging supplied to Tawhiao and other Natives in 1881 and 1882, by order of Major Mair.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, this petition should be referred to the Native Affairs Committee.

23rd May, 1888.

No. 41.—Petition of H. BOWRING and OTHERS, of Motukaraka, Hokianga.

THE petitioners are special-village settlers, and say they are in great distress through the failure of the Government to fulfil the promises which induced them to take up their sections. They pray that road-work may be provided for them; that the Mangamuka bush may be opened to them for gum-digging; and that all payments may be made on the block.

I am directed to recommend that the Government should give effect to the prayer of the petitioners.

23rd May, 1888.

No. 50.—Petition of JOHN BLAIN, of Auckland.

THE petitioner prays for consideration for services rendered to the colony by watching the movements of the Ngatihako Tribe after the disturbances at Ohinemuri in 1879.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, this petition should be referred to the Native Affairs Committee.

23rd May, 1888.

No. 4, Sess. II., 1887.—Petition of SIMON FRASER, of Auckland.

THE petitioner alleges that a Select Committee of the Provincial Council of Otago in 1864 recognised and admitted his claim to a reward of £1,500 for the discovery of the West Taieri Goldfield, of which sum he has received as yet only £30 on account. He prays for payment of the balance, or for other suitable consideration.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, the petitioner has failed to establish a claim to any further reward.

29th May, 1888.

No. 7.—Petition of HENRY GEORGE BARBER, of Auckland.

THE petitioner complains of improper treatment in the gaol, the hospital, and the lunatic asylum at Auckland, and prays for compensation.

I am directed to report that this Committee, having taken the evidence of Captain Hume and of Dr. Macgregor, is of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

29th May, 1888.

No. 63.—Petition of JOHN CORRIGAN, of Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that he was dismissed from the post of assistant warder under the Prisons Department for refusing to flog a convict when ordered by the Gaoler to do so. He pleads that it is no part of the duty of warders to execute sentences of flogging, and that he was therefore wrongfully dismissed. He prays for reappointment or other consideration.

I am directed to report that this Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of this petition.

29th May, 1888.

No. 6.—Petition of H. LANE, of Opuia, Bay of Islands.

THE petitioner alleges that he is required to pay property-tax on a saw-mill that has been destroyed by fire. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that, if the mill was not insured, the petitioner is entitled to a remission of half the tax paid thereon for the year ending the 31st March, 1888.

30th May, 1888.

No. 49.—Petition of Major F. J. W. GASCOYNE.

THE petitioner states that he has been permanently disabled by injuries received on active service in the Defence Force of the colony; that his services have been dispensed with; and that he is unable to earn a livelihood. He prays for consideration.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the case of the petitioner to the favourable consideration of the Government, and that suitable employment may be found for him, if possible.

30th May, 1888.

No. 51.—Petition of JAMES LAIRD, Mayor of Wanganui, and Others.

THE petitioners pray that a sum of £35, alleged to have been paid to the Public Trustee on behalf of John Grogan, an inmate of the Wellington Lunatic Asylum, may be applied for the benefit of his wife.

I am directed to report that the Committee, finding that no money has ever been so received by the Public Trustee, is unable to make any recommendation in the matter of this petition.

30th May, 1888.

No. 34.—Petition of Major JOHN LOCKETT, of Wanganui.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for his discharge from the military service of the colony.

I am directed to report that this Committee sees no reason to dissent from the finding of the Public Petitions Committee that reported on this case on the 2nd October, 1878, to the effect that the petitioner has no claim to consideration.

5th June, 1888.

No. 7.—Petitions of Messrs. FINCH, LEWIN, and FORBES, of Te Awamutu.

THE petitioners pray that Licensing Commissioners may have discretionary power to reduce the fee for publicans' licenses in places where the population is small.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of this petition.

5th June, 1888.

No. 91.—Petition of WILLIAM DUNN and the TOKOMAIRIRO FARMERS' CLUB.

THE petitioners pray for the removal of the present restrictions on the establishment of distilleries in the colony.

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

5th June, 1888.

No. 102.—Petition of the GREY VALLEY COAL-MINERS' ASSOCIATION (No. 1).

THE petitioners pray that a duty of not less than 5s. a ton may be imposed on imported coal.

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

5th June, 1888.

No. 103.—Petition of the GREY VALLEY COAL-MINERS' ASSOCIATION (No. 2.)

THE petitioners pray that the Eight Hours Bill may become law.

I am directed to report that, inasmuch as there is now before the House a Bill dealing with the matter of this petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

5th June, 1888.

No. 106.—Petition of CHINESE RESIDENTS (21) of AUCKLAND.

THE petitioners protest against any legislation that imposes, or may hereafter impose, restrictions on the immigration and residence of Chinese in this colony, pleading that such legislation is not only unjust and impolitic in itself, but that it constitutes a violation of treaties now in force between the British and Chinese Empires.

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

5th June, 1888.

No. 107.—Petition of COUNTY COUNCILS (21).

THE petitioners pray for legislation to simplify the acquisition or exchange of land for public roads.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, it is desirable that the exchange of land for roads, as between local bodies and private owners, should, if possible, be simplified, and the cost thereof reduced.

5th June, 1888.

No. 115.—Petition of the MAYOR of AUCKLAND and Others.

THE petitioners pray for the abolition of the property-tax.

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

5th June, 1888.

No. 76.—Petition of R. J. DEIGHTON, of Te Wairoa, Hawke's Bay.

THE petitioner prays for fulfilment of a promise made to him in May, 1887, by the late Premier, that a sum of £20 should be placed on the estimates for repairs to the petitioner's house.

I am directed to report that, inasmuch as the Government has already granted the prayer of the petitioner, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

6th June, 1888.

No. 78.—Petition of EMMA BAYNE, of London, England (by her Attorney, William Farnie, of Dunedin).

THE petitioner claims inheritance of a sum of £15 6s. 9d., now held by the Public Trustee, and prays for payment thereof.

I am directed to report that, if the Government is satisfied of the truth of the petitioner's allegations, the Committee would recommend that the sum be paid to the petitioner.

6th June, 1888.

No. 87.—Petition of JOHN HOGAN and other Miners, of Lake County.

THE petitioners complain that their names have improperly been struck off the electoral roll of their county, and pray for restoration of electoral rights.

I am directed to report that, inasmuch as a remedy for the grievance of the petitioners appears to be provided under section 68 of "The Counties Act, 1886," the Committee has no recommendation to make.

6th June, 1888.

No. 93.—Petition of ALEXANDER McCausland HAMILTON, of Campbelltown.

THE petitioner states that he has lost one of his legs in the service of the Railway Department, and has received £50 as compensation. He prays for further consideration.

I am directed to report that this Committee, having fully considered this petition, and reported upon it on the 16th November, 1887, has no further recommendation to make.

6th June, 1888.

No. 95.—Petition of JOHN FLETT, of the Thames.

THE petitioner states that the course of the Waikiekie Stream, which used to run through his property, has been diverted for the purpose of supplying the Borough of Thames with water; and that his own supply of water has been cut off by the Borough Council, which maintains that "The Thames Water-supply Transfer Act, 1880," vests in the Borough of Thames all previously-existing rights. He prays for restoration of his old rights.

I am directed to recommend the Government to inquire into the allegations made in the petition, and, if these be found to be correct, the Committee is of opinion that a law should be passed to restore to the petitioner those rights of which, by previous legislation, he seems to have been deprived.

6th June, 1888.

Nos. 25 and 33.—Petitions of ALFRED BUCKLEY, of Invercargill, and WILLIAM HENRY JAMES, of Wanganui.

THE petitioners represent that in 1862, at the instance of the Provincial Government of Canterbury, they were transferred from the Police Force of Victoria to that of Canterbury, on the understanding that their prospect of pensions should not be prejudiced by the change. That on the abolition of provinces they remained in the New Zealand Police Force until they were dismissed the service in March, 1888. They pray for pensions or other consideration.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, the allowance already granted to the petitioners is of the most liberal character, seeing that no provision appears to have been made by Act for retiring allowance to officers of police; nor is there any evidence to show that any promise, either of pensions or of retiring allowance, was made to the petitioners on their appointment to the Police Force of Canterbury.

7th June, 1888.

No. 92.—Petition of JOSEPH CARLEY, of Te Awamutu.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for dismissal from his post of Cavalry Instructor.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of this petition.

8th June, 1888.

No. 119.—Petition of JOHN BORRIE and Others, of Te Aroha West.

THE petitioners are settlers on deferred-payment land, which, as they allege, was represented to them as good, but turns out to be exceedingly poor. They pray for a revaluation of it.

I am directed to recommend this petition to the favourable consideration of the Government.

8th June, 1888.

No. 130.—Petition of R. M. HOUSTON, Chairman of Mongonui County Council, and Others.

THE petitioners pray that County Councils may be empowered to exact license fees from gum-diggers.

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

8th June, 1888.

No. 138.—Petition of ALEXANDER BRUCE, Chairman of Waitemata County Council.

THE petitioner prays for such amendment of the Public Works Act as may simplify the acquisition or exchange of land for public roads.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, it is desirable that the exchange of land for roads, as between local bodies and private owners, should, if possible, be simplified, and the cost thereof reduced.

8th June, 1888.

No. 141.—Petition of JOHN LLOYD and Others, of Nightcaps.

THE petitioners pray for the erection of a goods-shed at Nightcaps railway-station.

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

8th June, 1888.

No. 57.—Petition of GEORGE WALDOCK ELL, of Christchurch (No. 1).

THE petitioner makes serious charges against the Registrar of the Supreme Court, against the Official Assignee, and against several solicitors, all at Christchurch, by whose misconduct he has suffered, and continues to suffer, grievous wrong and hardship. He prays for inquiry and redress.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, the Government should be recommended to appoint a Commissioner to inquire into the matters alleged by the petitioner, and to report thereon to the House.

12th June, 1888.

No. 109.—Petition of HENRY BAUCKE, of Wellington (No. 1).

THE Public Petitions Committee in 1867 recommended that a certain sum of money should be paid to the petitioner, who complains that it was paid not to him, but to a Mr. Cameron, of Auckland. The petitioner prays for production of the authority whereby this payment was made; or, failing that, for prompt settlement of his account of sundry claims against the colony, amounting in all, with interest, to £67,165 10s. 5d.

I am directed to report that the Committee sees no reason to depart from the report brought up on the 16th December, 1887, namely, "That the money in question was properly paid to Mr. Cameron, and that the petitioner has therefore no claim against the colony."

12th June, 1888.

No. 117.—Petition of ADAM ELLIOTT and Others, of Ohinemuri.

THE petitioners are agricultural leaseholders, and state that their rents are disproportionately heavy, considering the poverty of the soil, and its remoteness from a sufficient market. They pray that they may be allowed to acquire the freehold of their sections.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, it is desirable that such of the settlers as have paid rent amounting to 5s. an acre and upwards should be allowed to retain their leases at a nominal rent.

12th June, 1888.

No. 151.—Petition of J. W. BEAUFORT and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the Pahiatua Riding and part of the Alfredton Riding of the County of Wairarapa North may be erected into a new county, to be called the Pahiatua County.

I am directed to report that, as a Bill dealing with the subject of this petition is shortly coming before the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make,

12th June, 1888.

No. 152.—Petition of JOHN GRANT, of Otiake, and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the District Railways Purchasing Act Amendment Bill may not be allowed to pass into law.

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

12th June, 1888.

No. 139.—Petition of GEORGE HARDY, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that after nineteen years' service in the Auckland Lunatic Asylum he was compelled, by persecution on the part of Dr. Cremonini, the new Medical Superintendent, to resign his appointment.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of this petition.

13th June, 1888.

No. 164.—Petition of James BENNETT and Others, of Waipawa.

THE petitioners pray that a certain piece of land now in the hands of the Public Trustee, as being an intestate estate, may be granted to the Town of Waipawa for a reserve.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of this petition.

13th June, 1888.

No. 60.—Petition of JOHN G. DICK, of Mornington, Dunedin.

THE petitioner prays for payment of the balance of his account for completion of the Mullocky contract on the Otago Central Railway. His claim is made up of the four items following: (1) Maintenance, £20; (2) use of plant, £52 5s. 9d; (3) taking out rocky bottom, £279 10s. 9d.; (4) removing slip, £33 5s. 6d.

I am directed to recommend that the petitioner be allowed £33 5s. 6d., the amount of his claim for removing the slip.

14th June, 1888.

Nos. 88 and 89.—Petitions of J. DUNCAN and the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of NEW ZEALAND, and R. ERWIN and other Residents of Christchurch.

THE petitioners pray that Magistrates may be empowered, in the interests of morality, to forbid the publication of details of evidence in certain classes of police cases.

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

14th June, 1888.

No. 157.—Petition of E. C. CARR and Others, of Auckland.

THE petitioners pray that the system of education now established in the colony may be maintained unaltered.

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

14th June, 1888.

No. 181.—Petition of J. KERR and Others.

THE petitioners pray for the immediate extension of the Waipahi—Heriot Railway.

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

14th June, 1888.

No. 20.—Petition of HENRY ELLISON, of Napier (No. 1).

THE petitioner states that he is the agent of Mr. C. W. Reardon, surveyor, who took a contract from the Secretary of the Wellington Special-settlement Association for the survey of a block of Crown land; that the survey was executed in accordance with the instructions of the Inspector, Mr. Marchant; but that, after the members of the association had accordingly been permitted to enter on possession of their allotments, the Inspector issued further requisitions inconsistent with his previous instructions, and not warranted by the terms of the contract; that the petitioner refused to comply with these further requisitions, and that the Secretary thereupon determined the contract; that the petitioner has suffered great pecuniary loss through the unjustifiable action of the Inspector. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, the petitioner has no claim for relief.

15th June, 1888.

No. 21.—Petition of HENRY ELLISON, of Napier (No. 2).

THE petitioner states that he executed a survey for the Masterton-Mangahao Special-settlement Association to the satisfaction of the Inspector, who certified the work in October, 1886; that the plans of the survey were then lodged by the petitioner with the Commissioner of Crown Lands, on condition that no use of them should be made until the petitioner's claim against the association under the survey contract should be satisfied; that notwithstanding this condition the plans have been so used, whereby the association has been enabled hitherto to evade payment of the petitioner's claim. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, inasmuch as the petitioner has received from the secretary of the association payment of the balance due to him according to Mr. Marchant's award, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

15th June, 1888.

Nos. 23 and 24.—Petitions of HANNAH BRENNAN and JANE JOHNSON, both of Christchurch.

THE petitioners have been dismissed after many years' service in the Sunnyside Lunatic Asylum, and pray that retiring allowances may be granted to them.

I am directed to recommend these two petitions to the favourable consideration of the Government.

15th June, 1888.

No. 71.—Petition of PATRICK GUIRK, of Wellington.

THE petitioner states that after a term of nearly nine years' service in the Permanent Militia he has been discharged with five months' pay, amounting to £37 10s. He prays that, in consideration of a previous term of nine years' service in the Armed Constabulary, his allowance may be increased to twelve months' pay.

I am directed to recommend that the petitioner be allowed a gratuity of one month's pay—£7 10s.—in addition to what he has already received.

15th June, 1888.

No. 136.—Petition of W. C. GEARON and Others.

THE petitioners pray for amendment of clause 60 of "The Education Act, 1877," which relates to alteration of the boundaries of school districts.

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

15th June, 1888.

No. 150.—Petition of W. E. HACON, M.D., of Christchurch.

THE petitioner prays for remuneration for his services to the colony in cultivating vaccine lymph during his tenure of the office of Medical Superintendent at the Sunnyside Lunatic Asylum.

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

15th June, 1888.

No. 155.—Petition of THOMAS CARTER, of Wellington.

THE petitioner prays for payment of £29 17s. alleged to have been withheld from his pay during the time of his service in the Torpedo Corps.

I am directed to report that, since the Public Petitions Committee of the Legislative Council last session made an exhaustive inquiry into the subject of this petition, and reported that the petitioner had no claim, this Committee declines to proceed with the consideration of the petition.

15th June, 1888.

No. 172.—Petition of R. M. HAWKES and Others, of Tapu, Thames.

THE petitioners are homestead settlers, and pray for the issue of Crown grants to their several holdings.

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

15th June, 1888.

Nos. 176, 177, and 191.—Petitions of W. EARLL and Others, of Blenheim; A. J. A. HOLMES and Others, of Blenheim; and R. CHISHOLM and Others, of Dunedin.

THE petitioners pray that early closing of shops may be made compulsory.

No. 178.—Petition of W. D. HOUSTON and Others, of Dunedin.

THE petitioners pray that early closing of shops may not be made compulsory.

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

15th June, 1888.

No. 192.—Petition of W. HILDYARD and Others, of Lyttelton.

THE petitioners pray for the abolition of the totalisator.

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

15th June, 1888.

No. 194.—Petition of GEORGE CLARKSON, of Auckland.

THE petitioner, on behalf of himself and three others, claims payment of a reward of £5,000 for the discovery of the Thames goldfield.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, this petition should be referred to the Goldfields Committee.

15th June, 1888.

No. 145.—Petition of WILLIAM ELLIOTT, of Newmarket.

THE petitioner complains that he has been dismissed from the post of locomotive foreman in the Railway Workshops at Newmarket, with only nine months' pay and three months' leave of absence on full pay. He claims further compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of this petition.

19th June, 1888.

No. 36.—Petition of JAMES ANDREWS, of Kaiapoi.

THE petitioner states that his property has been seriously damaged by flood-waters from the Waimakariri, which have been directed upon his land by a Government railway embankment and bridge.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner has a claim against the colony, and to recommend his claim to the favourable consideration of the Government.

20th June, 1888.

No. 142.—Petition of E. R. BENDALL, of New Plymouth.

THE petitioner has been discharged after nearly twenty-seven years' good service as a soldier in this colony, with the loss of his right eye from the kick of a troop horse. He prays for employment.

No. 225.—Petition of H. JERRED, of Auckland.

THE petitioner was formerly in the Armed Constabulary of New Zealand, and has lost one leg through the accidental discharge of his revolver. He has since served as engineer of a torpedo-boat and of a mining-launch, but was discharged on the reduction of the Permanent Militia in February, 1888. He prays for employment.

I am directed to recommend these two petitioners to the favourable consideration of the Government, for employment, when suitable work can be found for them.

28th June, 1888.

Nos. 195 and 257.—Petitions of COUNTY COUNCILS (8).

THIS petition is identical with those of twenty-two other County Councils, already reported upon by this Committee, for certain amendments in the Public Works Act.

I am directed to adopt the report brought up on the 5th June current—namely, "That, in the opinion of the Committee, it is desirable that the exchange of land for roads, as between local bodies and private owners, should, if possible, be simplified and the cost thereof reduced."

28th June, 1888.

Nos. 220, 242, 243, and 248.—Petitions of JOHN T. DALRYMPLE and other Members of the Rangitikei County Council; the BISHOP of CHRISTCHURCH, and Others, the WAIKATO COUNTY COUNCIL; and the MAYOR of RANGIORA and Others.

THE petitioners pray for the abolition of the totalisator.

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

28th June, 1888.

No. 232.—Petition of KINGI H. KIRA and Others, of Waimate North, Bay of Islands.

THE petitioners complain that the allowance of £30 a year formerly made to Mr. William King, Maori dispenser, has been reduced to £10. They pray that the old allowance of £30 may be continued.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, this petition should be referred to the Native Affairs Committee.

28th June, 1888.

No. 249.—Petition of J. A. KELLY and Others, of Dunedin.

THE petitioners pray for extension of the franchise to women.

No. 283.—Petition of T. KATTERFELDT and other Jewellers, of Auckland.

THE petitioners pray for increase of the Customs duty on jewellery.

No. 287.—Petition of FRUIT-GROWERS of Whangarei.

THE petitioners pray for substantial increase of the Customs duty on all kinds of fruit, including oranges and other subtropical fruit.

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

28th June, 1888.

No. 265.—Petition of ADAM GORDON and Others, of Thames.

THE petitioners protest against the granting of State aid to Roman Catholic schools, or to other denominational schools.

I am directed to report that, as Bills dealing with the subject of this petition are now before the House, this Committee has no recommendation to make.

28th June, 1888.

No. 274.—Petition of J. W. GRAY and Others, of Tauranga.

THE petitioners pray for the plantation of a settlement of Highland crofter fishermen at Te Puna.

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

28th June, 1888.

Nos. 289, 290, 291, 292, and 293.—Petitions of J. A. DOUGLAS and Others, A. H. CHAPMAN and Others, A. McLEAN and Others, T. TESCHEMAKER and Others, and E. ELLWORTHY and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the Borough and County of Waimate may be no longer included in the South Canterbury Hospital and Charitable Aid District, but may be constituted a separate district.

No. 288.—Petition of N. ZIESLER and Others.

THE petitioners protest against the above proposed separation.

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

28th June, 1888.

No. 156.—Petition of JAMES FARQUHAR, of Christchurch.

THE petitioner prays for investigation of certain charges which he makes against the Resident Magistrates at Christchurch and Lyttelton.

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

29th June, 1888.

No. 198.—Petition of JOHN HISLOP, LL.D., and Others, of North Dunedin.

THE petitioners pray that all trains to and from Dunedin may be made to stop at Pelichet Bay Railway-station.

I am directed to recommend the Government to give effect to the prayer of this petition.

29th June, 1888.

No. 247.—Petition of ROBERT CAMPBELL and Others, of Waimate.

THE petitioners protest against the revival of the district railway rate.

I am directed to report that, as a Bill dealing with the subject of this petition is now before the House, this Committee has no recommendation to make.

29th June, 1888.

No. 285.—Petition of GEORGE W. ELL, of Christchurch (No 2).

THE petitioner prays that an allowance may be made to him for maintenance pending inquiry into his case.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of this petition.
29th June, 1888.

No. 196.—Petition of MARY STEADMAN ALDIS, of Auckland.

THE petitioner prays for repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having considered this petition, and taken Sir George Grey's evidence thereon, has no recommendation to make.
4th July, 1888.

No. 271.—Petition of Major J. J. ATKINSON, of Dunedin.

THE petitioner prays for compensation or loss of his appointment as Musketry Instructor to the Dunedin Volunteer District.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of this petition.
4th July, 1888.

No. 301.—Petition of C. FULTON and Others, of the Taieri (No. 1).

THE petitioners pray for such amendment of the Education Act as will provide for the daily reading of the Holy Scriptures in the State schools.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Government for consideration.
4th July, 1888.

Nos. 302 and 303.—Petitions of T. BRAY and Others, and C. FULTON and Others (No. 2).

THE petitioners pray for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of these petitions.
4th July, 1888.

No. 306.—Petition of Lieut.-Colonel C. DAWSON and other CHAIRMEN of ROAD BOARDS in the COUNTY of EDEN.

THE petitioners propose certain amendments in the Cemeteries Act 1882 Amendment Bill.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Government for consideration.
4th July, 1888.

No. 307.—Petition of W. ADAMS and Others, of Auckland.

THE petitioners pray for the repeal of the property-tax.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Government for consideration.
4th July, 1888.

No. 311.—Petition of a PUBLIC MEETING at DUNEDIN.

THE petitioners pray: Firstly, that all trains to and from Dunedin may stop at Pelichet Bay Station; secondly, that the station itself may be enlarged without encroaching on Albany Street.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having already reported in favour of the first prayer of this petition, has no further recommendation to make, but is of opinion that the second should be referred to the Government for consideration.
4th July, 1888.

Nos. 318 and 319.—Petitions of R. LINTON and Others, of Feilding, and R. DARROCK and Others, of Temuka.

THE petitioners pray for the abolition of the totalisator.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, these two petitions should be referred to the Government for consideration.
4th July, 1888.

No. 320.—Petition of J. H. CLARKE and Others, of Auckland.

THE petitioners pray for such amendment of "The Licensing Act, 1881," as may enable all persons qualified to vote at general elections to vote also at elections of Licensing Committees.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Government for consideration.
4th July, 1888.

No. 321.—Petition of WILLIAM BEE and Others, of Oamaru.

THE petitioner prays for the passing of the Shop Hours Bill.

I am directed to report that, as the Shop Hours Bill is now before the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of this petition.
4th July, 1888.

No. 323.—Petition of J. DOWLING and Others, of Grey County.

THE petitioners pray that certain rivers may be declared sludge-channels.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, this petition should be referred to the Goldfields Committee.

4th July, 1888.

No. 324.—Petition of R. DICKSON and Others, of Croydon, Southland.

THE petitioners pray that certain lands may be thrown open for settlement.

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

4th July, 1888.

No. 131.—Petition of J. GOODFELLOW and Others (No. 1), of Wainamaku, Omapere.

THE petitioners complain that there is no road to their settlement, and that the promise of road-work made to them by the Government Agent, Mr. John Lundon, has not been fulfilled. They pray for relief.

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

6th July, 1888.

No. 235.—Petition of F. LIVOCK and Others, of Dacre's Claim, Omaha.

THE petitioners show that there is a road through their village settlement, but that neither end of that road is connected with any public road. They pray for establishment of such connection, and also for revaluation of their holdings.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Government for consideration, with recommendation that the petitioners be provided with means of access to their land.

6th July, 1888.

No. 255.—Petition of GEORGE FENWICK and Others (being the Board of Directors of the Dunedin City and Suburban Tramways Company).

THE petitioners represent themselves to be the assignees of the original promoters of the Dunedin, Peninsula, and Ocean Beach Railway Company, and allege that in the year 1875 the Provincial Government of Otago, acting in concert with the Colonial Executive of the time, promised those promoters a grant of an acre of ground as a site for a station, near the Dunedin Railway-station. The petitioners now pray for fulfilment of the alleged promise, or for other equivalent relief.

I am directed to report as follows: The petition was considered at a meeting of the Committee held on the 5th July, 1888. Present—Mr. Seymour (Chairman), Mr. Allen, Mr. Blake, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Fish, Hon. Mr. Fisher, Mr. Marchant, Mr. Moat. The Committee, having received a report from the Public Works Department, and taken the evidence of Dr. F. Fitchett, M.H.R., Mr. C. C. Kettle, of Dunedin, solicitor, Mr. G. Fenwick, petitioner, chairman of the company, Mr. W. N. Blair, of the Public Works Department, and Mr. A. Barron, of the Survey Department, proceeded to consider the petition. Mr. Fish moved, and the question was proposed, That, in the opinion of the Committee, no promise of a grant of land was made that was binding upon the Provincial Government or upon the colony. Mr. Blake moved, That the question be amended by the omission of all the words after the word "that," and the insertion of the following words in lieu thereof: "on completion of the line to Portobello, or on sufficient guarantee that the line shall be completed within a reasonable time, this Committee is of opinion that the prayer of the petitioners should be granted. And the question being put, "That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the resolution," the Committee divided, and the names were taken down as follow: Ayes, 4—Mr. Allen, Mr. Fish, Mr. Marchant, Mr. Moat. Noes, 3—Mr. Blake, Mr. Duncan, Hon. Mr. Fisher. So it was resolved in the affirmative. And the original question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

6th July, 1888

No. 300.—Petition of SAMUEL J. DECK, J.P., and Others, of Stewart Island.

THE petitioners state that the sailing-day of the weekly mail steamer from the Bluff to Stewart Island used to be Wednesday, and that the Post Office has inflicted great hardship on the fishermen and other islanders by changing the day to Monday. They pray either for a return to Wednesday instead of Monday, or, preferably, for the establishment of two mails a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays.

I am directed to report that the Post Office has decided to comply with the wish of the petitioners by reverting to Wednesday as the sailing-day for the weekly mail; and that on the rest of the petition the Committee has no recommendation to make.

6th July, 1888.

No. 305.—Petition of E. L. CLARK, of Auckland (No. 1).

THE petitioner brings charges of arbitrary and oppressive conduct against Mr. Justice Gillies, Judge of the Supreme Court at Auckland. He prays for removal of the Judge or for other relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of this petition.

6th July, 1888.

No. 317.—Petition of J. EDMOND and Others, of Stirling.

THE petitioners complain that the newly-elected Licensing Committee for their district has refused to renew the licenses of the only two hotels in Stirling, though no fault has ever been found with either of them. They pray for compensation to the licensees, for amendment of the Licensing Act, or for other relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of this petition.

6th July, 1888.

No. 325.—Petition of Mrs. EMILIA JOHNSTONE, of Raglan.

THE petitioner prays for payment of a sum of £180 awarded to her by the Public Petitions Committee in 1884.

I am directed to report that the Committee sees no reason to depart from the decision arrived at on the 25th November, 1887, namely, "That the claim is not one to be entertained by the Government."

6th July, 1888.

No. 187.—Petition of RICHARD DAVIS, of Christchurch.

THE petitioner prays for an inquiry into the circumstances of his dismissal from the office of Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court at Christchurch.

I am directed to report that ample inquiry has already been made into the petitioner's case, and that the Committee has therefore no recommendation to make.

10th July, 1888.

No. 245.—Petition of JOHN FLATT, of Auckland.

THE petitioner prays for some consideration for his long service as a domain gardener.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of this petition.

10th July, 1888.

No. 297.—Petition of ROBERT GLEN, of Roslyn.

THE petitioner complains that he has been dismissed from his employment as a platelayer under the Railway Department. He prays for relief.

I am directed to recommend the petitioner to the Government for employment in any capacity that may be found suitable.

10th July, 1888.

No. 241.—Petition of EDWARD HERRING, of Ashburton.

THE petitioner alleges that, owing to the improper refusal of the Crown Prosecutor at Timaru to prosecute the charges of perjury laid by the petitioner against James Toner and James Bullevant in June, 1887, the expenses of the prosecution devolved upon the petitioner himself. He prays that these expenses may be refunded to him.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of this petition.

11th July, 1888.

Nos. 348 and 356.—Petitions of W. J. KIRK and Others, of Petone, and H. HUTCHENS and Others, of Blenheim.

THE petitioners pray for the abolition of the totalisator.

No. 351.—Petition of A. BROWN and Others, of Dunedin (No. 2).

THE petitioners pray for such amendment of the Education Act as will provide for the daily reading of the Holy Scriptures in the State schools.

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

11th July, 1888.

Nos. 350, 355, and 374.—Petitions of A. BROWN and Others, of Dunedin (No. 1); V. B. DOWELL and Others, of Dunedin; and Rev. N. D. BOYES and Others, of Waiuku.

THE petitioners pray for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of these petitions.

11th July, 1888.

No. 363.—Petition of E. L. CLARK, of Auckland (No. 3).

THE petitioner prays for amendment of the law which empowers a Judge to discharge a jury for which fees have been paid, without the consent of the party that has paid the fees.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of this petition.

11th July, 1888.

No. 310.—Petition of WILLIAM GRADY, of Waitahu, Reefton.

THE petitioner complains that his property has been damaged by floods, which he attributes to the recent construction of a bridge over the Waitahu, a short distance above his farm. He prays for compensation.

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

13th July, 1888.

No. 338.—Petition of Captain J. D. R. HEWITT, of Wellington.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for having been dismissed from the Civil Service without sufficient notice; and further alleges that on his entering the service of the Provincial Government it was agreed that on completion of five years' service he should receive a bonus of 10 per cent. on the whole amount of the salary earned by him during the five years; that at the time of abolition of the provinces, having served three years and nine months, he received from the Provincial Government a proportionate bonus of £112 10s., and entered the service of the General Government, in which he has remained until the present year. He claims payment of the sum of £37 10s., being the balance that would have fallen due to him fifteen months after abolition.

I am directed to report that the petitioner appears to the Committee to be equitably entitled to payment of £37 10s., being a provincial liability; and, if the Government, on inquiry, is satisfied that such is the case, the Committee would recommend that this sum be paid to the petitioner.

13th July, 1888.

No. 366.—Petition of DANIEL CAMERON, of Greytown, Wairarapa.

THE petitioner alleges that in the Maori outbreak of 1869 his crops were damaged to the value of £90 by rebel Natives during his absence from his farm on military service.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of this petition.

13th July, 1888.

No. 254.—Petition of JOHN GILLET, of Opawa.

THE petitioner shows that he has been in the service of the Railway Department for nearly fourteen years continuously but for one break of seventeen days. He complains that he has been dismissed without compensation, and prays for relief.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee, the short break in the petitioners' service ought not to interfere with his receiving such retiring allowance as is usually given by the department to men serving in the like capacity.

17th July, 1888.

No. 296.—Petition of JOHN BLACK of Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that he has been fined £200 by the Public Works Department for delay in completion of a certain contract on the Otago Central Railway. He pleads that the delay arose from causes entirely beyond his own control, and prays for remission of the fine.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the Government should be recommended to remit the fine imposed upon the petitioner.

17th July, 1888.

No. 326.—Petition of E. L. CLARK of Auckland (No. 2).

THE petitioner prays for a certified copy of the report of the inquiry held by Mr. District Judge Seth Smith, in September, 1886, into certain charges made by the petitioner against Mr. Brewer, Registrar of the Supreme Court at Auckland, and for a certified copy of Mr. Brewer's written defence.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner has already received from the Under-Secretary for Justice a letter containing the substance of Mr. Judge Smith's report, the Committee sees no reason why the prayer of the petitioner should be granted.

17th July, 1888.

No. 376.—Petition of G. E. COOPER of Devonport, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that since his discharge, on the reduction of the Permanent Militia, he has been unable to obtain employment. He prays that his name may be placed on a list of persons for employment under Government as vacancies may occur.

I am directed to recommend that the prayer of the petitioner be granted.

17th July, 1888.

No. 1.—Petition of JAMES ATKINSON, of Upokongaro.

THE petitioner states that he was wounded in the head by rebel Natives in 1865, while carrying mails, and that he has lost his sight in consequence of the wound. He prays for compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee, after taking evidence, is of opinion that the petitioner did receive a gun-shot wound in the service of the colony, and that from that wound his blindness has resulted. The Committee would therefore recommend the petition to the favourable consideration of the Government.

20th July, 1888.

No. 378.—Petition of H. V. ALLEN, of Woodville.

THE petitioner prays for mitigation of a fine of £5 inflicted upon him, by the Mayor of Woodville, for being drunk and disorderly.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner is not entitled to any relief.

20th July, 1888.

No. 379.—Petition of E. L. CLARK, of Auckland (No. 4).

THE petitioner prays that new regulations may be made with regard to fees and costs payable by suitors in the Supreme Court.

I am directed to report that the Committee sees no reason to recommend the prayer of the petitioner.

20th July, 1888.

No. 381.—Petition of A. HUNTER and Others, of Cust.

THE petitioners protest against the granting of State aid to Roman Catholic schools.

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

20th July, 1888.

No. 384.—Petition of C. E. DAVIDSON and Others, of Maungaturoto.

THE petitioners pray for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of this petition.

20th July, 1888.

Nos. 388 and 389.—Petitions of A. F. HALCOMBE and Others, of New Plymouth, and S. FAGAN and Others, of Bull's.

THE petitioners pray for the abolition of the totalisator.

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

20th July 1888.

No. 55.—Petition of H. B. HUDDLESTON, of Blenheim.

THE petitioner complains that clause 170 of "The Land Transfer Act, 1885," has had the effect of invalidating his license to practice as a surveyor, and consequently of depriving him of his professional income.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner refuses to comply with the conditions required to enable him to obtain his license, the Committee is of opinion that he has no claim on the colony for relief.

25th July, 1888.

No. 264.—Petition of ROBERT ATKINSON, of Auckland.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for alleged illegal dismissal from the service of the Customs Department.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, the petitioner has no claim whatever against the colony.

25th July, 1888.

No. 382.—Petition of C. CLARK and Others, of Sydenham.

THE petitioners pray for amendment of the Slaughterhouses Act.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition has been dealt with by the House during the present session, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

25th July, 1888.

No. 394.—Petition of MARTIN CHAPMAN and Others, of Wellington.

THE petitioners are of opinion that the Thorndon Cemetery is so crowded as to endanger the public health, and ought therefore to be closed without delay. They pray for the appointment of a Commission to examine the cemetery and report upon its condition, with a view to closing it.

I am directed to report that, as this is a local matter, and as there is now before the House a Bill dealing with the subject, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

7th August, 1888.

No. 398.—Petition of JOHN ISBISTER, Otamatea County Chairman.

THE petitioner prays for such amendment of the Rating Act that the smallest collectable rate may be made one shilling.

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

7th August, 1888.

Nos. 403, 434, and 455.—Petitions of J. LILEWALL and Others, of Devonport; PHILIP COOPER and Others, of Cambridge; and EDWARD BROWNE and Others, of Mahurangi.

THE petitioners pray for the abolition of the totalisator.

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

7th August, 1888.

No. 426.—Petition of THOMAS BROWN and Others.

THE petitioners pray for immediate expenditure of £1,000 on roads in the County of Clutha.

I am directed to report that, as all the signatures to this petition are pasted on, the petition is irregular, and the Committee has no recommendation to make.

7th August, 1888.

No. 404.—Petition of ANDREW JACK, of Wade, Waitemata.

THE petitioner prays for consideration under the Forest Trees Planting Act.

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

14th August, 1888.

No. 409.—Petition of DAVID BURNS and Others, of Karioi.

THE petitioners pray that the practice of levying rates according to valuation may be discontinued, and that land may for the future be rated according to its area, irrespective of improvements.

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

14th August, 1888.

No. 423.—Petition of J. GOODFELLOW and Others, of Hokianga (No. 2).

THE petitioners pray for construction of a wharf at Omapare.

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

14th August, 1888.

No. 169.—Petition of JOHN HORSBURGH, EMANUEL JONES, and HENRY MUELLER, of Clutha.

THE petitioners allege that they erected certain fencing for the Government along the Catlin's River Railway; that part of the work, after being approved by one Government Engineer, was condemned by his successor; and that they are refused payment for this part of the work. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioners have no claim to any further payment.

17th August, 1888.

No. 427.—Petition of ALEXANDER DUNDAS, of Palmerston North.

THE petitioner states that he served as a surveyor under the Provincial Governments of Otago, Southland, and Wellington, from March, 1861, till the abolition of the provinces; that he continued in the service of the General Government till February, 1888, when he was discharged with compensation for his service under the General Government only. He prays for compensation for his provincial service also.

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

17th August, 1888.

Nos. 453, 460, and 469.—Petitions of F. S. KING and Others, of Pakuranga; HUGH K. GILMOUR and Others, of Howick; and W. STEADMAN ALDIS, of West Tamaki.

THE petitioners pray for the repeal of "The Contagious Diseases Act, 1869."

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of these three petitions.

17th August, 1888.

No. 387.—Petition of G. E. CHARLTON and Others, of Seacliff.

THE petitioners pray that 500 acres of the Seacliff Asylum Reserve may be cut up into allotments and leased for twenty-one years.

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

21st August, 1888.

No. 425.—Petition of EPHRAIM J. BROWNE, of Woodhill, Kaipara, Helensville.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for land taken for railway purposes.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the proper course for the petitioner to pursue is to send in a formal claim to the Minister for Public Works, as prescribed by "The Public Works Act, 1882."

21st August, 1888.

No. 459.—Petition of MARTIN KRIPPNER, of Warkworth, Auckland.

THE petitioner prays for consideration for his services in establishing the German special settlements at Puhoi and elsewhere.

I am directed to adopt the report on this claim brought up by the Public Petitions Committee A to L, on the 30th November, 1887, namely, "That, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner has no claim against the colony."

21st August, 1888.

No. 464.—Petition of ELIZABETH GRANT and other Women, of Dunedin.

THE petitioners pray for extension of the parliamentary franchise to women.

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

21st August, 1888.

No. 470.—Petition of T. B. HANNAFORD, of Auckland.

THE petitioner calls the attention of the Government to his invention of a beacon.

I am directed to recommend this petition to the favourable consideration of the Government.

21st August, 1888.

No. 431.—Petition of R. COCHRANE, of Reefton.

THE petitioner states that he was the contractor for the construction of the Waitahu Bridge and approaches, and that in consequence of delays on the part of the Public Works Department he lost on the contract to the amount of £450.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner should be granted the sum of £150.

28th August, 1888.

No. 433.—Petition of JONATHAN BROWN and Others, of Tauranga.

THE petitioners pray for remission of the stamp duty paid by them as shareholders in the Tauranga and Hot Lakes Railway Company.

I am directed to report that the Committee is unable to recommend the prayer of the petition.

28th August, 1888.

No. 443.—Petition of HENRY BAUCKE, of Wellington (No. 2).

THE petitioner censures the action of the Government in allowing His Excellency the Governor to be absent from the colony at a crisis in the petitioner's affairs, and presses for settlement of his old claim.

I am directed to report that this Committee, having on two previous occasions inquired carefully into the petitioner's case and reported thereon, declines to make any further recommendation.

28th August, 1888.

No. 456.—Petition of C. HANSEN and Others, of Kaiapoi.

THE petitioners represent that the Town of Kaiapoi is subject to damage from floods in the Waimakariri, and that the railway embankment aggravates this evil. They pray that openings may be made in the embankment to allow flood-waters to escape.

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

28th August, 1888.

No. 467.—Petition of T. J. BILLING, of Opunake.

THE petitioner prays for additional compensation for discharge from the Permanent Militia.

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

28th August, 1888.

No. 475.—Petition of JOHN LUNDON, of Onehunga (No. 1).

THE petitioner prays for remuneration for his services in organizing village settlements, and for refund of expenses incurred.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner is entitled to the amount of his claim—viz., £250 12s. 6d., less all such sums as he may have received on account of his personal expenses.

28th August, 1888.

No. 476.—Petition of GEORGE DABINETT and Others, of Clutha.

THE petitioners pray that the Glenoamaru section of the Catlin's River Railway should be completed as soon as possible.

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

28th August, 1888.

No. 477.—Petition of ANDREW HUNTER, of Kakaramea, Patea.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for damage to his property and for loss of live-stock, alleged to have been caused by the negligence of the persons employed by the Government in making the Foxton and New Plymouth Railway, which passes through his land.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of this petition.
28th August, 1888.

No. 482.—Petition of ELIZABETH BUBEAR, of Wellington.

THE petitioner alleges that she furnished the police with information which led to the conviction of two incendiaries. She prays for consideration.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner is not entitled to any reward.

28th August, 1888.

No. 486.—Petition of ALEXANDER GRANT, M.A., late Headmaster of the District High School, Waimate.

THE petitioner complains that he has been improperly removed by the South Canterbury Education Board. He prays for redress.

I am directed to report that, as the petition deals with the subject of the relations between an Education Board and its employé, this Committee is of opinion that there is no ground for interference, and therefore declines to consider the petition.

28th August, 1888.

No. 487.—Petition of CAROLINE GUTHRIE, of Wellington.

THE petitioner states that her son, George Henry Guthrie, was injured by Charles Thomas Tatum in April, 1885; that she accordingly sued Mr. Tatum in the Supreme Court for damages; that judgment was given against her with costs; that payment of the costs was levied by distraint; and that she has been left without means to appeal against the decision of the Court. She prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject of this petition.

28th August, 1888.

No. 488.—Petition of GEORGE HALE and ALLAN WILSON, of Okaiawa, Taranaki.

THE petitioners pray for relief from excessive rents, and for compensation for improvements made by them as lessors of a Native reserve.

I am directed to recommend this petition to the favourable consideration of the Government.

28th August, 1888.

No. 492.—Petition of R. and T. CARMICHAEL, of Wellington.

THE petitioners pray for remission of penalties exacted by the Public Works Department for delay in completion of their contract to build the Government Printing Office.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, the delay in carrying out the work was caused by the department itself, and not by the contractors. The Committee therefore recommends that the penalty of £300 imposed upon the petitioners should not be enforced.

28th August, 1888.

No. 493.—Petition of FRANCIS FRANKS, of Temuka, Canterbury.

THE petitioner alleges that he sent two hogsheads of ale to London to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, with directions that the exhibits should be sold by public auction at the close of the Exhibition. He complains that it was, on the contrary, sold privately, for less than the value of the casks. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, since it appears to the Committee that the Exhibition officials did the best that was possible under the circumstances, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

28th August, 1888.

No. 494.—Petition of J. J. ELWIN and Others, of New Plymouth.

THE petitioners are leaseholders under the West Coast Settlements Act, and pray for relief from excessive rents.

I am directed to recommend this petition to the favourable consideration of the Government.

28th August, 1888.

No. 497.—Petition of JOHN LUNDON, of Onehunga (No. 3).

THE petitioner states that a certain sum, voted by a former Parliament for making a road to open up certain Crown lands for settlement, has never been so applied. He prays for restoration of the vote.

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

28th August, 1888.

No. 498.—Petition of JOHN LUNDON, of Onehunga (No. 4).

THE petitioner prays that certain sums, amounting in all to £39 5s., for which vouchers have been signed by himself and by the Commissioner of Crown Lands at Auckland, may be paid to the several claimants.

I am directed to report that as Mr. Tole, Commissioner of Crown Lands at Auckland, was the officer appointed by the department to certify to the accuracy of the petitioner's accounts, the Committee is of opinion that the several claimants are entitled to receive such amounts as are set forth in this petition, and have been so certified to by the Commissioner.

28th August, 1888.

No. 496.—Petition of JOHN LUNDON, of Onehunga (No. 2).

THE petitioner prays for payment of a voucher for £21, certified by the Commissioner of Crown Lands at Auckland, and for refund of £12, expenses incurred through non-payment of the voucher.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having gone partially into the case, but being unable fully to complete its inquiries thereon, recommends that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

29th August, 1888.

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