

SESS. II.—1891.  
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS A TO L COMMITTEE.

(MR. T. THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN.)

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

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REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS A TO L COMMITTEE.

(MR. T. THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN.)

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

ORDER OF REFERENCE.

*Extracts from the Journals of the House of Representatives.*

FRIDAY, THE 12TH DAY OF JUNE, 1891.

*Ordered*, "That a Public Petitions A to L Committee, consisting of ten members be appointed to consider all petitions that may be referred to it by the Petitions Classification Committee, to classify and prepare abstracts of such petitions in such form and manner as shall appear to it best suited to convey to this House all requisite information respecting their contents, and to report the same from time to time to this House, and to have power to report its opinions and observations thereupon to this House; also to have power to call for persons and papers: three to be a quorum. The Committee to consist of Mr. Buckland, Mr. Buick, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Meredith, Mr. E. M. Smith, Mr. Tanner, Mr. Taylor, Mr. T. Thompson, Mr. Wright, and the mover."—(Hon. Mr. CADMAN.)

No. 6, Sess. I.—Petition of JAMES DONALDSON, of Sydenham, Canterbury.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss of office as gaoler.

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

24th June, 1891.

No. 19.—Petition of WILLIAM HANLON, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER prays for additional allowance on retiring from the office of sergeant of police.

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

24th June, 1891.

No. 15.—Petition of GEORGE C. BEST, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for further compensation for loss of office in the Marine Department.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, petitioner has received all the compensation he is legally entitled to, and has no further claim against the colony.

26th June, 1891.

No. 4.—Petition of R. G. KNIGHT, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays that the case of the Rangitikei Fibre Company may be reheard in the Supreme Court, also for certain amendments in "The Companies' Act, 1882."

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

1st July, 1891.

No. 12, Sess. I.—Petition of H. KINNAIRD HOVELL, of Napier.

PETITIONER alleges that, by the Surveyor-General's printed report on the Kermadec Islands, he was induced to become the lessee of Run No. 7, Sunday Island; that he has since discovered the report to be exaggerated and misleading, and that through his reliance upon the accuracy of the report, he has been involved in loss to the value of £850. He prays for relief.

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

1st July, 1891.

1—I, 1.

## No. 35.—Petition of SEPTIMUS BACON and Others (No. 1).

PETITIONERS allege that they have suffered severe loss through an unfortunate attempt to settle Sunday Island, Kermadec group; that Mr. H. K. Hovell, who was appointed to forward an account of all their losses, only forwarded an account of his own, for the consideration of the House. They pray that their evidence may be heard and relief granted.

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

1st July, 1891.

## No. 59.—Petition of ISABELLA D. HAMLIN, of Onehunga.

PETITIONER prays for consideration on account of her late husband's services to the Government as Native Interpreter.

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

1st July, 1891.

## No. 66.—Petition of JAMES BEATTIE.

PETITIONER, late Gaoler of the Gisborne Gaol, prays for further compensation for loss of office.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, petitioner has received all the compensation he is legally entitled to, and has no further claim against the colony.

1st July, 1891.

## Nos. 107, 108, 68, and 50.—Petitions of ASHBURTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (No. 1), ASHBURTON COUNTY COUNCIL (No. 2), HOROWHENUA COUNTY COUNCIL, and BOROUGH OF CARTERTON.

PETITIONERS pray for certain amendments in "The Hospital and Charitable Institutions Act, 1885."

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, an alteration of the law relating to hospitals and charitable aid is absolutely necessary, therefore the several petitions on the subject should be referred to the Government for consideration.

1st July, 1891.

## No. 78.—Petition of HAYWARD BROTHERS, of Christchurch.

PETITIONERS, pickle and sauce manufacturers, pray for the abolition of the duty on pickle-bungs, a higher duty on imported pickles, and a reduction in the railway charges on carriage of empty bottles between Lyttelton and Christchurch.

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

7th July, 1891.

## No. 29.—Petition of GEORGE BURGESS, of Invercargill.

PETITIONER states that on the 15th April, 1891, a Government railway-engine ran into his horse and cart at the Nith Street crossing, smashing his cart, killing his horse, and injuring himself. He prays for compensation.

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

8th July, 1891.

## No. 88.—Petition of Major J. J. ATKINSON, of Invercargill.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for the loss of his appointment as musketry instructor to the Dunedin Volunteer District.

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

8th July, 1891.

## No. 90.—Petition of the HOBSON COUNTY COUNCIL (No. 1).

PETITIONERS state that they have been mulcted in the sum of £340 by an action at law, brought on them and caused through errors made by Government servants. They pray for relief.

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

8th July, 1891.

## No. 147.—Petition of EDWIN HARROW, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for amendment of the Education Act and the Poisons Act.

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

8th July, 1891.

## No. 10, Sess. I.—Petition of JAMES JONES and Others, of Brunner and surrounding Districts.

PETITIONERS state that twenty-five years ago Charles Seaton, and twenty-two years ago Henry Jones, came to reside on the north side of the Grey River, at Brunnerton, and carried on business as hotel-keepers, until the land on which their hotels were built was required for coal-mining purposes. That eight years ago the Government set aside sites for them on the south side of the river, and paid them £200 each for having to remove; that C. Seaton expended £1,300, and Henry Jones £1,250 in erecting new buildings on these sites; that they signed leases agreeing to give up posses-

sion without compensation on twelve and six months' notice respectively; that the Railway Commissioners have now given them notice that their leases are cancelled and they are required to give up full possession.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, Charles Seaton should be paid the sum of £150, and Henry Jones the sum of £200, and have the right to remove all their buildings.

9th July, 1891.

No. 25.—Petition of JAMES DRINNAN and Others, of Kaukapakapa.

PETITIONERS pray that a railway station-master may be appointed at Kaukapakapa.

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

9th July, 1891.

No. 30.—Petition of E. A. HAGGEN and Others, of Woodville and Pahiatua.

PETITIONERS allege that they suffer inconvenience and loss in connection with the train service on the Napier-Woodville Railway. 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.

9th July, 1891.

No. 153.—Petition of W. DYMCK and Others, of Dunedin.

PETITION against the passing of the Dunedin Cemetery Extension Bill.

No. 161.—Petition of JOHN CARROLL and Others, of Dunedin.

PETITION in favour of the passing of the Dunedin Cemetery Extension Bill.

I am directed to report that, as the Bill referred to in these petitions is now before the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

9th July, 1891.

No. 13, SESS. I.—Petition of JAMES HILL, of New Plymouth.

PETITIONER states that he and his wife were employed in the New Plymouth Hospital for sixteen years; that owing to charges unjustly preferred against him, and 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, after having given all the evidence in connection with this case the most careful consideration, the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim whatever against the colony.

10th July, 1891.

No. 27.—Petition of JAMES ATKINSON, of Wanganui.

PETITIONER states that he was wounded in the head by rebel Maoris in 1865 while carrying mails, and that he has lost his sight in consequence of the wound. He pleads that the sum of £50 already paid to him is insufficient, and prays for further relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner having rendered good services to the colony, is deserving of consideration, and would therefore recommend that the Government should make arrangements with some institution, such as the Costley Home for the aged poor at Auckland, should there be no such institution at Wanganui. The charge for maintenance to be paid by the Government.

10th July, 1891.

No. 102.—Petition of JAMES LOADER, of Lyttelton.

PETITIONER states that in the year 1886, through no fault of his own, he met with a serious accident while in the service of the Railway Department, whereby he received permanent injury to his spine. He prays that some light employment may be found for him, or compensation awarded.

I am directed to report that the Committee would recommend the Government to find some light employment for the petitioner if possible.

10th July, 1891.

No. 106.—Petition of JAMES BOURKE, of Mangaone.

PETITIONER prays for amendment of the Selectors' Land Revaluation Act.

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

10th July, 1891.

No. 142.—Petition of WILLIAM FRASER and Others, of Te Aroha.

PETITIONERS pray that such steps may be taken as to the House shall seem fit to remove the electoral disqualification from which Mr. William Sheppard Allen now suffers.

I am directed to report that, inasmuch as the offence committed by William Sheppard Allen while a candidate for the Te Aroha district in December, 1890, and for which his election was subsequently declared void, was not the act of Mr. Allen himself, but of an agent representing him during his absence in England, and was merely of a technical nature even on the part of that agent, it is, in the opinion of the Committee, desirable that any stigma resting upon Mr. Allen should be removed, and that he should be relieved from any disqualifications imposed upon him by a judgment

of the Court under the provisions of the Corrupt Practices Prevention Act. To effect this purpose the Committee recommend that a similar course to that taken in the case of Mr. Pilliet, in 1881, be followed in this instance, and that a Bill be introduced to relieve Mr. Allen from any such disqualifications.

10th July, 1891.

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No. 119.—Petition of ANNIE FERGUSON and Others, of Kaitangata.

PETITIONERS, the widows and children of the miners who lost their lives by an explosion in the Kaitangata Mine on the 21st February, 1879, pray that the House will cause an inquiry to be made into all the circumstances in connection with the Kaitangata Relief Fund.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the House should legislate in the matter of the Kaitangata Relief Trust Fund.

15th July, 1891.

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No. 124.—Petition of JOHN FORRESTER, of South Dunedin.

PETITIONER prays that an inquiry may be held into the cause of his dismissal from the service of the Railway Commissioners.

I am directed to report that the Committee can see no reason for doubting the propriety of the decision arrived at by the Railway Commissioners, and therefore cannot recommend that the prayer of the petition should be granted.

15th July, 1891.

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No. 144.—Petition of F. INNES, of Sydenham.

PETITIONER states that a fine of £20 was inflicted upon him for an alleged breach of "The Licensing Act, 1881." He prays that this sum may be refunded to him.

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

16th July, 1891.

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No. 145.—Petition of GEORGE F. HARRIS, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for consideration on account of services rendered in the Customs and other departments, and also as a Volunteer during the Maori wars.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner, having been dismissed from the service for inefficiency and for breaches of the Civil Service and Customs departmental regulations, has no claim against the colony.

16th July, 1891.

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No. 162.—Petition of FREDERICK HINDS, of Lyttelton.

PETITIONER prays for a pension or compensation, on account of loss of office through a permanent injury received in the service of the Railway Department.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner is entitled to consideration, and recommend that he be paid the sum of £55.

16th July, 1891.

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No. 177.—Petition of MICHAEL HENNESSY and Others, of Orepuki.

PETITIONERS pray that Michael Hennessy may be refunded the amount of a fine inflicted on him in the Warden's Court, at Riverton.

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No. 74.—Petition of EDWARD LOUGHNAN, of Teremakau.

PETITIONER prays for compensation on account of damage done to his land by mining *débris*.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, these petitions should be referred to the Goldfields and Mines Committee.

17th July, 1891.

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No. 110.—Petition of DENNIS DOYLE, of Westport.

PETITIONER, late manager of the Argyle Water-race, at Charleston, prays for compensation for loss of office.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner should receive an allowance of one month's pay, in accordance with the memorandum from the Public Works Department.

17th July, 1891.

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No. 121.—Petition of H. B. HUDDLESTON (No. 1), of Blenheim.

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

I am directed to report that this Committee adopt the report brought up by the Public Petitions Committee on the 25th July, 1888—viz., 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.

17th July, 1891.

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No. 122.—Petition of BAKER BROTHERS, of Wellington.

PETITIONERS, auctioneers, allege that before taking out a license they inquired at the office of H. M. Customs when a license should commence, and were informed that the year dated from the

1st April; that they acted on this information and took out a license; that this information was misleading, and that they had to take out another licence in three weeks time, when the annual commencement really did date from; that they thus suffered a loss of £40. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, this being purely a matter between the petitioners and the local authorities, the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petition.

17th July, 1891.

No. 9, Sess. I, and No. 136, Sess. II.—Petitions of JOHN F. BOYD and HENRY GELL, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray for grants of land for military services.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, these petitions should be referred to the Naval and Military Claims Committee.

17th July, 1891.

No. 141.—Petition of ALEXANDER FORDYCE, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER, a carter, states that he has been charged and convicted, on the unsupported evidence of the police, of obstructing the police in the execution of their duty, in Rattray Street, Dunedin, during the late strike; that the charge was false. He prays that inquiry may be made, and if his statements are found to be true, that the conviction recorded against him may be quashed.

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

17th July, 1891.

No. 181.—Petition of JAMES LANEY, of Waikato.

PETITIONER prays for consideration on account of having received a blow on the head from a Maori in 1873.

I am directed to report that the Committee sympathize with petitioner, yet, as the injury was not received while performing any Government service, they consider it is a case for the local Charitable Aid Board, and therefore the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

17th July, 1891.

Nos. 196 and 197.—Petitions of C. C. FLEMING and Others, and HENRY KING and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that a trial may be at once given to Vaile's railway stage system.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, it is desirable that Mr. S. Vaile's scheme of railway management should be fairly tested, and they therefore recommend that a trial of same be made on the Auckland Section of the New Zealand railways.

17th July, 1891.

No. 9.—Petition of JAMES G. FOX, of Wellington.

PETITIONER, late Chief Clerk and Accountant in the Police Department, states that he entered the Otago Armed Constabulary in August, 1862, that in the October following he was appointed clerk in the office of the Commissioner of that body, and was subsequently promoted to other positions in that office, which he held until transferred to the service of the General Government in 1869; that on the 11th March last he received notice of his retirement; that the Audit Department has reported that on the 5th October, 1892, he would be entitled to retire on a pension; that his compulsory retirement now not only deprives him of his pension, but of compensation in respect of the seven years spent in the Otago Provincial service; that his salary was reduced in 1888 by £25, and the compensation now awarded has been calculated on this reduced salary, although the pension would have been calculated on the higher salary. Petitioner prays that he may be allowed to complete the fifteen months' service which would entitle him to a pension, or that a pension be granted to him in proportion to his length of service, or for other relief.

I am directed to report that, having fully considered this case, in which petitioner was represented by counsel, the Committee is of opinion that, he should receive such amount of compensation as he is entitled to under the Civil Service Regulations, but cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioner as regards a pension.

22nd July, 1891.

No. 128.—Petition of JOHN LEONARD, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER states that in February, 1880, he met with an accident while in the service of the Railway Department, which has resulted in a permanent injury. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that some light employment should be found for petitioner, and strongly recommends his case to the favourable consideration of the Government.

22nd July, 1891.

No. 117.—Petition of W. J. KEYS and W. C. HARVIE, of Hill End, Otago.

PETITIONERS allege that their flax-mill was burnt down owing to negligence on the part of a rabbiter in the employ of the Stock Department. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioners sustained loss by the carelessness of a man in the employ of the Stock Department, and they therefore recommend the petition to the Government for favourable consideration.

23rd July, 1891.

## No. 21, Sess. I.—Petition of WILLIAM BENNETT, of Sydenham.

PETITIONER prays for consideration on account of a permanent injury received while in the service of the Railway Department.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner should be paid the sum of £75 as a compassionate allowance.

23rd July, 1891.

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## No. 118.—Petition of JAMES GOUGH and Others, of New Plymouth.

PETITIONERS pray for a Government grant for road-making purposes.

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

23rd July, 1891.

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## No. 133.—Petition of HAROLD CROWLEY and Another, of Sydenham.

PETITIONERS, engine-cleaners in the Railway Department, at Christchurch, state that they reported their foreman for coal-stealing; that an inquiry was held, and the foreman disgraced; that since that time they have been suspended from duty. They allege that this suspension is in consequence of having reported the foreman, and pray for an inquiry into the whole matter.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the mode of holding inquiries into such charges as were made against the foreman by the petitioners—viz., by officials of the department, is highly unsatisfactory, and recommends that such cases should be dealt with by a Board independent of the department, and that petitioners should have an opportunity of being heard before such Board if they so desire.

23rd July, 1891.

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## No. 167.—Petition of JAMES HAMBLYN, of New Plymouth.

PETITIONER prays that assistance may be extended to him out of the Taranaki Volunteer Trust Fund.

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

23rd July, 1891.

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## No. 127.—Petition of FRANK BIRD, of Westport.

PETITIONER, late Warden and Resident Magistrate at Westport and Reefton, prays that the whole question of his dismissal from the public service may be reconsidered.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having considered this case, in which petitioner was represented by counsel, fully endorse the report of the Commission of the 2nd July, 1890, and are of opinion that petitioner has no claim against the colony.

24th July, 1891.

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## No. 175.—Petition of Major GASCOYNE.

PETITIONER prays for reinstatement in some suitable position in the public service of the colony.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having taken into consideration the exceptional case of Major Gascoyne, recommend his petition to the favourable consideration of the Government, and that suitable employment be found for him.

24th July, 1891.

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## No. 187.—Petition of MARY STEADMAN ALDIS and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that a Bill may be passed enabling the Senate of the University of New Zealand to confer degrees upon women possessing certain qualifications.

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

24th July, 1891.

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## No. 219.—Petition of PATRICK CASEY, of Longburn, Wellington.

PETITIONER prays that an inquiry may be held into the circumstances of his dismissal from the Police Force, and that he may be either reinstated or receive compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having carefully considered the evidence given in petitioner's case, are of opinion that he was justly dismissed from the police service, and that he has no claim whatever against the colony.

24th July, 1891.

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## No. 18, Sess. I.—Petition of HENRY CAVELL, late of Dillmanstown, Westland.

PETITIONER states that his daughter, aged four years and three months, fell into the bye-wash of a water-race, owing to the unsafe and defective nature of the hand-rail placed there to protect passengers crossing the race; that his daughter was very seriously injured, and that he has been put to considerable expense for doctors' fees and other charges. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that petitioner should be paid the sum of £30 in full of all demands, and on condition that out of such sum Dr. McBrearty's account be paid.

29th July, 1891.



## No. 126.—Petition of CHARLES EAILLY, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for reinstatement in the Telephone Department, or for compensation for loss of employment.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on this petition.  
29th July, 1891.

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## No. 134.—Petition of ANNIE DE CARLE, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER prays for compensation on account of a certain section of land belonging to her in St. Kilda having been injured by the soil being excavated by the Public Works Department.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, an officer of the Public Works Department should be requested to file a claim in Court, under the provisions of the Public Works Act, and to give the necessary notices to the petitioner, so that she may place her case before a Compensation Court, and receive such an amount as the Judge and Assessors thereof may deem just and reasonable.

29th July, 1891.

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## No. 173.—Petition of ROBERT PAUL HODGE, of Waipu.

PETITIONER states that he belonged to the transport corps, was invalided, and received a pension for two years. He now prays for further relief.

I am directed to report that, after having examined all the documents in connection with this case, the Committee can see no reason to depart from the decision of the Committee of 1885—viz., that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

29th July, 1891.

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## No. 182.—Petition of CHARLES TOWNLEY BROWNE, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that he considers that his discharge from the Police Force, under the exceptional circumstances of his case, was attended with great hardship, loss, and degradation. Also, that his transfer to Auckland, in 1888, involved considerable pecuniary loss, as he was compelled to dispose of his furniture at a sacrifice of £95. He prays that, in addition to the compensation which he has received, he may be paid his salary for the three months' leave of absence to which he was in equity entitled, amounting to £75 1s. 6d., together with compensation for the loss on his furniture (£95).

I am directed to report that it appears to the Committee there is a want of uniformity in dealing with public officers on retirement, some being allowed three months' pay in lieu of notice, in addition to the compensation to which they are entitled, while others are dispensed with without this being granted. That the Committee, while not approving of officers getting anything beyond the compensation to which they are entitled under the Civil Service Regulations, is of opinion that the petitioner, having been a good officer, and having in view the fact that other officers have had three months' pay allowed them on retirement, recommends that the petition be dealt with in a similar manner, and that the sum of £75 1s. 6d. be paid to him.

29th July, 1891.

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## No. 201.—Petition of WILLIAM HARRIS, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for consideration on account of having lost his employment in the Wellington Police Force, and because he sustained an injury to his leg while in the Force.

I am directed to report that, from an examination of the papers in connection with this case, the Committee find that the petitioner has been twice discharged from the Police Force for drunkenness. They consider that he has no claim whatever against the colony.

29th July, 1891.

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## No. 220.—Petition of EDWARD HAMMOND, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that, for nearly twenty-three years, he has been an officer of the Native Land Court, at Auckland; that his services were dispensed with on the 31st May last; that had he remained in the Service until December of next year he would have been entitled to a pension under "The Civil Service Act, 1866;" that he is incapacitated for further work, owing to an accident he met with in the public service about a year ago. He prays that his pension may be granted to him.

I am directed to report that, having fully considered this case, the Committee is of opinion that petitioner should receive such amount of compensation as he is entitled to under the Civil Service Regulations, but cannot recommend the prayer of the petition as regards a pension.

29th July, 1891.

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## No. 229.—Petition of the HOBSON COUNTY COUNCIL, of Auckland (No. 2).

PETITIONERS state that all the lands owned by the Kaihu Valley Railway Company were not included in the property-tax valuation-roll for 1889; that through this omission the county had no power to levy rates thereon; that the value of the portion omitted was £50,000; that they have suffered loss of rates to the amount of £833 6s. 8d. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, the Hobson County Council having neglected their interests in not amending the statements of values prepared from the property-tax assessor's work, which were forwarded to the County Council with the request that the Council would assist in perfecting such statements, but which the Council neglected to do, this Committee is of opinion that the petitioners have no claim upon the colony.

29th July, 1891.

No. 305.—Petition of GEORGE SEPTIMUS BRODRICK, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER prays for relief with respect to the non-payment of rates in connection with the Dunroon-Hekateramea Railway.

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

29th July, 1891,

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No. 206.—Petition of HUGH JONES, of Westport.

PETITIONER prays for redress for loss sustained through the alleged maladministration of his brother's estate by the Public Trustee.

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

30th July, 1891.

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No. 218.—Petition of T. W. HUMPHREYS, of Coromandel.

PETITIONER prays for an inquiry into the administration of the law in the Coromandel and Mercury Bay districts.

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

30th July, 1891.

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No. 225.—Petition of JOSEPH JESSOP, of Pahiatua.

PETITIONER states that he has been fined £20 under the Beer Duty Act, and that his brewery plant has been sold up to satisfy the fine. He alleges that he is thus deprived of a business which was worth £200 a year to him, and prays for compensation.

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

30th July, 1891.

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Nos. 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, and 379.—Petitions of JOHN JOHNSTON, ELIZA M. BATTLEY, WILLIAM JAMES, J. H. TAYLOR, SARAH LOCKHEAD, C. R. HEATH, of Christchurch.

PETITIONS relative to refusal of license by the Sydenham Licensing Committee.

I am directed to report that, as there is a Bill before the House proposing to deal with the subject-matter of these petitions, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

30th July, 1891.

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No. 289.—Petition of T. W. BECKETT and Others, of Canterbury.

PETITIONERS state that the orchards in Canterbury are now absolutely free from the ravages of the codlin-moth. They pray that effective measures may be taken by the Legislature to prevent the unrestricted importation of fruit from infected districts and colonies.

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

30th July, 1891.

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No. 302.—Petition of WONG CHOI FONG and Others.

PETITIONERS pray for amendment of "The Chinese Immigration Act, 1881."

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

30th July, 1891.

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No. 138.—Petition of BRIDGET BAILEY, of Lyttelton.

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance on account of her late husband's long services in the Railway Department.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, a compassionate allowance of £100 should be paid to the petitioner. The Committee are further of opinion that it is in the highest degree necessary that some more definite information should be available by which to determine the status of petitioners in the public service, so that all or none may be entitled to a pension.

31st July, 1891.

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No. 188.—Petition of THOMAS INGER, of Port Albert.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss of office as police constable.

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

31st July, 1891.

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No. 380.—Petition of PATRICK THOMAS FAIR, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that he was discharged from the Police Force on the 31st March last on account of retrenchment. He prays that he may be reinstated, or receive other relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner having received the usual compensation on his services being dispensed with, has no claim against the colony.

4th August, 1891.

## No. 371.—Petition of DANIEL FALLON, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that in September, 1888, he entered into a contract with the Kaihu Valley Railway Company to construct the terminal section of their railway; that he did work to the value of £6,641 5s. 1d.; that the company went into voluntary liquidation in May, 1890; that the Queen, as mortgagee, entered into possession of the completed railway, and also the land through which petitioner was constructing the terminal portion; that he received a progress-payment of £639 12s. 8d., but there are no assets of the company out of which he can be paid the sum of £6,001 12s. 5d. still owing; that the work done by him will prove of great benefit to Her Majesty as owner of the remaining portion of the line, and that it would be profitable for Her Majesty to cause his contract to be completed, as it would open up the timber traffic. Petitioner prays that the House will recommend that the railway should be completed, and that he should be employed to complete it under the terms of his contract with the company; also, that he may be paid the amount due under his said contract—viz., £6,001 12s. 5d.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the Government should take steps to obtain from Mr. Owen and the Kauri Timber Company a substantial guarantee to cut and send by rail such a quantity of timber yearly as may be agreed upon, and, in the event of such an arrangement being entered into, the petitioner to be paid for the work already done by him on his Kaihu Valley Railway contract, and that he be allowed to complete the same at the expense of the Government. Failing such arrangement being made, the Committee is further of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to some consideration in equity, and therefore refers the petition to the Government for consideration.

5th August, 1891.

## No. 94.—Petition of JAMES BENNET and Others, of Rankleburn, &amp;c.

PETITIONERS pray that a sum of money may be placed on the estimates for the construction of a road between Beaumont and Rankleburn.

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

6th August, 1891.

## No. 277.—Petition of R. J. FELTUS, of Auckland (No. 1).

PETITIONER prays for consideration on account of alleged long public services.

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

6th August, 1891.

## No. 211.—Petition of ALPHEUS HAYES, of Waimate.

PETITIONER alleges that, under the present deferred-payment system, a selector may take up a large area, and after paying several hundred pounds on account thereof, he may at any time file as a bankrupt and defraud his creditors, although possessing possibly an interest in the said land amounting in value to four or five times the total of his debts. Petitioner prays that the law may be amended.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, Bills being now before the House proposing to deal with the land and bankruptcy laws, the subject-matter of this petition should be considered in passing these measures, and that the petition should therefore be referred to the Government for consideration.

6th August, 1891.

## Nos. 233, 234, and 235.—Petitions of G. E. NICHOLSON and Others, JAMES HARRISON and Others, and JAMES ISBISTER and Others.

PETITIONERS pray that a sum of money may be voted for the completion of the construction of the Main Trunk Road, north of Auckland.

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

6th August, 1891.

## No. 372.—Petition of JOHN BELL, of Oamaru.

PETITIONER states that he has served in the Police Force of the colony for over seventeen years, and that he has now been discharged for alleged misconduct. He prays that the usual compensation may be allowed him, or for other relief.

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

6th August, 1891.

## No. 114.—Petition of JESSIE KELLY, of Port Chalmers.

PETITIONER claims an allowance for her late husband's services as a pilot under the Provincial Government.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner has received all the compensation she is entitled to, and has no further claim upon the colony.

7th August, 1891.

## No. 248.—Petition of HUGH BROWN, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for his services as a pilot under the Provincial Government, or for a pension.

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I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner has received all the compensation he is entitled to, and has no further claim upon the colony.

7th August, 1891.

No. 381.—Petition of JAMES BODKIN and Others, of Central Otago.

PETITIONERS, fruit-growers, of Otago, pray that the fruit-preserving industry may be encouraged.

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

7th August, 1891.

No. 221.—Petition of PETER DOULL, of Southbridge, Milton.

PETITIONER prays that he may receive an appointment in the Civil Service of the colony.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner has lost his appointment through a misunderstanding on his part, and should be offered a cadetship in the Civil Service at as early a date as possible.

11th August, 1891.

No. 290.—Petition of SEPTIMUS BACON and Others, of Pahiatua (No. 2).

PETITIONERS state that, in consequence of a report published by the Government, they joined an association which was formed to settle the Kermadec Islands. They allege that said report was erroneous, and pray for consideration on account of losses sustained.

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

11th August, 1891.

No. 308.—Petition of the MAYOR and COUNCILLORS, of Picton.

PETITIONERS pray that the Customs dues on an importation of water-pipes may be remitted.

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

11th August, 1891.

No. 229.—Petition of the HOBSON COUNTY COUNCIL (No. 2) (second report).

PETITION *re* the payment of rates on the Kaihu Valley Railway. This petition being referred back to the Committee by the House on the 29th July for reconsideration.

I have the honour to report that the Committee, after having heard the evidences of Messrs. Houston and R. Thompson, M.H.R.'s, also of Mr. Crombie, Property-tax Commissioner, and further considered the petition, can see no reason to alter the decision already arrived at, and set out in their report, dated the 29th July last, as they consider the responsibility of the loss of revenue sustained by the Hobson County rests with the members of the County Council then in office.

12th August, 1891.

No. 4, Sess. I.—Petition of WILLIAM HARRISON and Others, of Great Barrier Island.

PETITIONERS pray that a mail-service may be subsidised between Auckland and Great Barrier.

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

19th August, 1891.

No. 31.—Petition of WILLIAM FOWLER, of Houhoura, Mongonui, Auckland.

PETITIONER states that on the 1st January, 1888, there was a fire at the Kawakawa Railway-station; that in the absence of the railway officials at some races he and four other men saved valuable property from the burning buildings; that the other men who assisted have been rewarded by the Government for their efforts. He prays that he may be paid the same amount of money as has been paid to each of them.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Government, in order that further inquiry may be made; and if it is found that petitioner's statement of services rendered is correct, then he should be paid the same reward as the other men.

19th August, 1891.

No. 251.—Petition of STEPHEN EARL, of Katikati.

PETITIONER prays that a Crown grant may be issued for certain land bought by him.

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

19th August, 1891.

No. 419.—Petition of JAMES FREEMAN and Others, of Christchurch.

PETITIONERS protest against the Shop Hours Bill.

I am directed to report that, as this Bill is now before the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

19th August, 1891.

No. 432.—Petition of H. B. HUDDLESTON (No. 2), of Blenheim.

PETITIONER prays that his case may be reconsidered.

I am directed to report that, having further considered the petitioner's case, and having before

it the evidence of the Surveyor-General given before a Committee of the Legislative Council in July, 1890, the Committee is of opinion that petitioner has only himself to blame for any loss he may have sustained, and that he has therefore no claim to compensation.

19th August, 1891.

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No. 443.—Petition of DAVID CARNACHAN, of Cambridge, Waikato.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss sustained through the alleged negligence of the police.

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

19th August, 1891.

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No. 209.—Petition of THOMAS FORGIE and Others, of Central Otago.

PETITIONERS pray for the extension of the Otago Central Railway.

No. 455.—Petition of T. J. EDWARDS and Others, of Tairua, Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the Government may complete the road from Puriri to Tairua.

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

19th August, 1891.

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No. 183.—Petition of Captain C. A. HUMFREY, of Wellington.

PETITIONER, late Under-Secretary for Defence, states that on the 11th March last he was verbally informed by the Defence Minister that his services were dispensed with as from the 31st March, on the ground of retrenchment. He considers that, after many years of faithful service, he ought not suddenly to be compelled at the age of fifty-six to find other employment than the State; and that his official designation and status under the Civil Service Acts being "permanent head of the department," his dismissal from the public service on the verbal notice of the Minister, without the consideration or determination of the whole Executive, was unjust and unconstitutional. Petitioner prays that he may be restored to some rank and emolument in the public service of the colony proportionate to that of which he has been deprived, or for other relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, petitioner was not improperly retired from office as alleged in paragraph 11 of the petition, but that his services were dispensed with on the ground of retrenchment and economy. That as he has received the full compensation to which he was entitled for loss of office, they cannot recommend that the prayer of the petition be granted.

20th August, 1891.

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No. 286.—Petition of REBECCA BRINKLEY, of Ohinemutu.

PETITIONER states that in 1872 she acquired an allotment in Westport; that subsequently the said allotment was taken by the Government for railway purposes; that she received no compensation for section taken. She prays for relief.

I am directed to report that no fresh evidence having been adduced in support of this petition, the Committee cannot see their way to alter the decision of the Public Petitions Committee in the session of 1885—viz., that petitioner has no well-founded claim.

20th August 1891.

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No. 120.—Petition of SAMUEL GOODALL, of Greymouth.

PETITIONER, late Inspector of Police, states that he has been in the Police Force of New Zealand for twenty-seven years, and that his services have now been dispensed with through no fault of his own. He alleges that his retirement was due to a statement having been made that he had done something cowardly in regard to the arrest of Te Kooti. That this statement is wholly untrue. Petitioner prays that a full inquiry may be held into his case, and that he may be reinstated in his former position, or for other relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the allegations contained in paragraph 5 of the petition have not been borne out by the evidence adduced. The Committee cannot recommend that the prayer of the petitioner should be granted.

21st August, 1891.

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No. 390.—Petition of EDWARD COOKE and Others, of Kirikiri, Thames.

PETITIONERS pray that the Kirikiri Native Licensing District and the Hastings Licensing District may be united and made one European district with one Committee.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Government, with a recommendation that the prayer of the petitioners should be granted.

21st August, 1891.

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No. 464.—Petition of WILLIAM HENRY CLARKE, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that his scheme for relieving poverty may be printed in pamphlet form at the expense of the Government.

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

21st August, 1891.

## No. 467.—Petition of the BISHOP of CHRISTCHURCH and Others.

PETITIONERS protest against the Divorce Extension and Amendment Bill.

I am directed to report that, as this Bill is now before the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

21st August, 1891.

## No. 516.—Petition of the HAWERA COUNTY COUNCIL.

PETITIONERS pray for relief from the New Plymouth Harbour rate.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now under the consideration of the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

21st August, 1891.

## No. 528.—Petition of THOMAS FIRMAN, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays for a grant of land for military services.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Naval and Military Claims Committee.

21st August, 1891.

Nos. 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, and 546.—Petitions of SARAH E. PACKER and Others, E. M. COAD and Others, E. MORRISON and Others, J. H. A. BAKER and Others, E. P. RICHMOND and Others, MARY SPRING and Others, J. MORRIS and Others, Mrs. FLETCHER and Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the franchise may be extended to women.

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

21st August, 1891.

## No. 363.—Petition of A. W. CARKEEK.

PETITIONER states that he was authorised to survey a block of land in the Otaki district; that he proceeded to perform the work, and after a portion had been done and considerable expense incurred, the Survey Department illegally and unwarrantably cancelled his authority, thereby causing him loss which he estimates at £100. He prays for relief.

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

26th August, 1891.

## No. 396.—Petition of A. A. FANTHAM, of Hawera.

PETITIONER states that in the year 1889 he became entitled to a land order under the Forest Trees Planting and Encouragement Acts; that he received the scrip and gave it into an agent's hands to make use of for him; that said agent neglected to do so until too late, and has now returned the order to him. Petitioner prays that steps may be taken to enable him to make use of his scrip.

I am directed to report that the petitioner, having failed to make use of his scrip within the time prescribed by law, has no claim against the colony.

26th August, 1891.

## No. 427.—Petition of THOMAS HAYCOCK, of Richmond, Nelson.

PETITIONER prays for a bonus on account of discovery of an improved method of utilising tow and refuse of dressed flax.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having carefully considered the evidence of Mr. Haycock in reference to the samples of the waste products of flax submitted to them, recommend that the Government should purchase from him five tons according to samples submitted to Committee, the cost of same not to exceed £14 per ton; that the same should be sent to the Agent-General to be distributed amongst manufacturers, with the view of having their value tested, and reported on to the Government.

26th August, 1891.

## No. 459.—Petition of LINDSAY JACKSON, of Thames.

PETITIONER prays for refund of bail escheated.

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

26th August, 1891.

## No. 285.—Petition of JOSEPH HATCH, of Invercargill.

PETITIONER states that in July, 1890, the whole of the position of the Macquarie Island oil-trade was placed in the hands of the Government by letter. That the Government has persistently tried to stop the oil-trade by urging the Tasmanian Government, the owners of the Macquaries, to cause it to be discontinued. That a petition was presented to the House last session praying that the wanton destruction of penguins there, and on various New Zealand dependencies, might be prohibited. That erroneous evidence was taken, and your present petitioner and his business freely defamed, while he was not summoned to give evidence on his own behalf. That in March, 1890, a party was sent to the Macquaries by petitioner; that they were under legal articles to remain for twelve months, and that a sufficient supply of food and stores were landed with them. That he expended £1,000 or more in putting suitable plant on the ground to work the oil business. That in December last the Government, without rhyme or reason, sent down the s.s. "Kakanui" to bring up his men from the Macquaries, a foreign port; that eight of them agreed to leave the island, and their lives were sacrificed in attempting to reach New Zealand. That the Government

refused to allow petitioner to send stores, or even an agent by the "Kakanui." That through the interference of the Government the petitioner is now unable to obtain men to continue the industry. That within seven days of the sailing of the "Kakanui" petitioner's own vessel, the "Gratitude," could have been sent in the ordinary course of his business. That, in consequence of the action of the Government, the petitioner had to go to the Macquaries himself. That he was absent from his business in Invercargill for three months, and suffered great loss thereby. That the evidence of the "Kakanui" inquiry went to prove that there was no reason for the interference of the Government. That, through the misstatements, the loss sustained, and the notoriety brought about by the "Kakanui" disaster the Tasmanian Government has closed the Macquaries for elephant oiling, &c., much to petitioner's discomfort and loss. Petitioner prays for indemnity and relief to the extent of £4,000.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the Government was justified in sending a vessel to the Macquarie Islands in December last, to ascertain the condition of the people located there, and in offering them an opportunity of removal to the main land. The Committee is further of opinion that petitioner has no valid claim on account of the losses or damages he alleges he has sustained by the action of the Government. The Committee cannot recommend that the prayer of the petitioner be granted.

28th August, 1891.

No. 433.—Petition of A. S. COLLINS, Chairman of Kaikoura County Council.

PETITIONER prays that the Blenheim-Waiapu Road may be completed by "unemployed" labour.

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

31st August, 1891.

No. 552.—Petition of W. BROWN and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS, manufacturers of saddlery, pray that a law may be passed making it compulsory that all goods manufactured in the colony shall be stamped with a brand or trade-mark, and suggest that a charge should be made for such registration.

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

1st September, 1891.

No. 545.—Petition of C. A. FITZROY, of Hastings.

PETITIONER states that his services as a Sheep Inspector were dispensed with on the 18th April, 1891, by telegram. That he has received the usual retiring-allowance, but has not received three months' pay in lieu of notice. He prays that the sum of £43 15s. may be paid to him, being three months' salary.

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

1st September, 1891.

No. 576.—Petition of R. J. FELTUS, of Auckland (No. 2.)

PETITIONER prays for consideration on account of alleged public services, &c.

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

1st September, 1891.

No. 593.—Petition of ELIZABETH CARROLL, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that she was the mother of five sons, all of whom served with the 18th Regiment throughout the last New Zealand war. That one of them—that is, John Carroll, died in Auckland in 1886, and was entitled to a grant of land for his services. Petitioner prays for a money compensation in lieu of the land to which her late son was entitled.

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

1st September, 1891.

No. 518.—Petition of C. R. G. GIBSON, of Wellington.

PETITIONER, late acting petty officer in the Torpedo Corps, states that he had to answer questions at the inquest on the victims of the Shelly Bay disaster, adversely reflecting on the conduct of his commanding officer, Captain John Falconer. He alleges that from this time Captain Falconer displayed a hostile spirit towards him; so much so, that he was compelled to resign his position. That before doing so he applied for a transfer to another station, and finally asked for an interview with the Defence Minister, or the Under-Secretary for Defence, but was met with denial and repudiation on all points. Petitioner prays that he may be given employment somewhat approaching that which he has been coerced into relinquishing.

I am directed to report that, the petitioner having failed entirely to prove the allegations made in his petition, especially against Captain Falconer, the Committee cannot recommend that the prayer of the petition be granted.

1st September, 1891.

Nos. 581, 582, 601, and 602.—Petitions of ARTHUR H. NATHAN and Others, WILLIAM BEAUMONT and Others, EDWIN HESKETH and Others, W. HOTOHKISS and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONS in favour of the Auckland Electric Lighting Bill.

I am directed to report that, as this Bill is now before the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

1st September, 1891.

## No. 533.—Petition of CHARLES BROWN, of New Plymouth.

PETITIONER states that he was employed by the Police Department as an interpreter, and summoned as a witness in the case of Regina v. Mahi Kai; that he attended the Court for eleven days; that he has only been paid for five days, and then only at the rate of 5s. per day, with half a guinea for interpreting the sentence of death to the prisoner. He prays that the further sums which he alleges are owing to him may be paid.

I am directed to report that the sum of £11 11s. should be paid to the petitioner, less £2 0s. 6d., the amount already paid to him by the Registrar.

3rd September, 1891.

## No. 592.—Petition of ELIZA HEIGHTON, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that she is the widow of the late W. H. Heighton, torpedo-man, who lost his life by the explosion which occurred at Shelly Bay in March last; that she has three children to maintain, and is without means to do so. Petitioner prays for reasonable compensation for the loss she and her children has sustained in the untimely death of the said W. H. Heighton.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner has received the maximum allowance made under similar circumstances, therefore the Committee has no recommendation to make.

3rd September, 1891.

## No. 596.—Petition of ALEXANDER GRANT, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for the refund of the £10 deposited by him as candidate for election to the House of Representatives for the Manukau Electoral District.

I am directed to report that, the forfeiture of the deposit being in accordance with law, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

3rd September, 1891.

## No. 618.—Petition of ROBERT G. HAWES, of Auckland.

PETITIONER alleges that his property was too highly valued by Mr. Thomas Seaman, the property-tax valuer. He prays for an inquiry and for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, in view of the charges made against Mr. Thomas Seaman by petitioner, an inquiry should be held by the Auckland Resident Magistrate (Dr. Giles), and that it is desirable such inquiry should take place when Mr. Crombie (Property-tax Commissioner) visits Auckland.

3rd September, 1891.

## No. 519.—Petition of JOHN C. HUNTER, of Bluff.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss of office in the railway service.

I am directed to report that this Committee can see no reason to depart from the decision arrived at by the Committee of 1889—viz., that petitioner has been treated with sufficient liberality, and has no further claim against the Government.

4th September, 1891.

## No. 571.—Petition of MARY GILLESPIE, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that her late husband, Alexander Gillespie, was caretaker at Government House, Auckland, for nineteen years; that during that time he twice saved the mansion from destruction by fire; that under section 40 of "The Civil Service Act, 1866," she was entitled, as said Alexander Gillespie's widow, to a gratuity not exceeding two years' salary; that she has only received a gratuity of £100. Petitioner prays for a further allowance.

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

4th September, 1891.

## No. 595.—Petition of CHRISTIANA CALLCOTT, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that her late son, Walter Charles Callcott, who died on the 14th August, 1891, had served the Government in the Public Works Department for nineteen years and a half; that he was the sole support of his mother and two sisters; that had he, dying in the public service, left a widow or children, the Government could have granted her or them, under "The Civil Service Act, 1866," an allowance of £550. Petitioner prays for consideration and relief.

I am directed to report that, owing to the exceptional circumstances of the case, the Committee recommend that the petitioner should be treated in the same manner as regards compassionate allowance, as if she had been the widow of the late Mr. Callcott.

4th September, 1891.

## No. 617.—Petition of MARTIN KRIPPNER, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that, in the year 1863, he was the means of bringing out a number of immigrants for a German settlement at Auckland. He prays for some consideration for his services.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no evidence to prove that the petitioner has any claim against the colony.

4th September, 1891.



## No. 607.—Petition of W. GOODLET, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss of office as Inspector of Works in the Public Works Department.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner does not come under the operation of the Civil Service Acts, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

4th September, 1891.

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## No. 591.—Petition of JOHN LUNDON, of Auckland (No. 3).

PETITIONER prays for consideration on account of services rendered to the Government of New Zealand in Samoa.

I am directed to report that, as at this late period of the session there is not sufficient time to get the evidence of Sir J. Vogel, Mr. Tole, and Sir R. Stout, the Committee recommend this petition to the consideration of the Government.

9th September, 1891.

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## No. 639.—Petition of DAVID LUNDON and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS protest against the Payment of Members Bill.

I am directed to report that, as this Bill is now before the Legislature, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

11th September, 1891.

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## No. 640.—Petition of THOMAS GILBERT and Others, of Nelson.

PETITIONERS protest against the Trafalgar Park Purchasing Bill.

I am directed to report that, as this Bill is now before the Legislature, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

11th September, 1891.

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## No. 643.—Petition of SYDNEY A. GIBBS and Others, of Nelson.

PETITION in favour of the Trafalgar Park Purchasing Bill.

I am directed to report that, as this Bill is now before the Legislature, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

11th September, 1891.

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## No. 497.—Petition of M. J. JONES, of Waitara.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for land taken for railway purposes.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner's claim should receive the same consideration as it would have done had the statutory time not expired during which application should have been made.

14th September, 1891.

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## No. 582.—Petition of EMILIA JOHNSTONE, of Raglan.

PETITIONER states that the Public Petitions Committee of 1884 recommended that she should be paid the sum of £180 for losses sustained during the Maori war. She prays that the recommendation of the Committee may be given effect to.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner's claim is not one which should be entertained by the Government.

14th September, 1891.

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## Nos. 644 and 666.—Petitions of JOHN JACKSON and HENRY BURLING.

PETITIONS *re* land claims.

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

14th September, 1891.

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## No. 653.—Petition of C. R. BAYLEY and Others, of Normanby.

PETITIONERS pray that a police-constable may be stationed at Normanby.

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

14th September, 1891.

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## No. 679.—Petition of WILLIAM EDGECOMBE, of Western Springs, Auckland.

PETITIONER states that he has suffered and is suffering great loss owing to the railway authorities having drained a large area of land on to his property. He prays for compensation, or that his case may be referred to arbitration.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Government with the recommendation that, failing a suitable arrangement being arrived at, petitioner should be allowed to have his claim settled by arbitration.

14th September, 1891.

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## No. 685.—Petition of E. LATIMER CLARK, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that an inquiry may be held into a certain case which was tried in the Supreme Court, Auckland.

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

14th September, 1891.

## No. 684.—Petition of JOHN HILL, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for a grant of land for military services.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Naval and Military Claims Committee.

14th September, 1891.

## No. 695.—Petition of MARY ANN CANNON, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER *re* a land claim.

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

14th September, 1891.

## No. 570.—Petition of ALEXANDER CAIRNS, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER prays for consideration on account of certain public services alleged to have been rendered by him.

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

15th September, 1891.

## No. 574.—Petition of JOHN LUNDON, of Auckland (No. 1).

PETITIONER prays for a bonus for services rendered in the inauguration of the village special-settlement scheme, north of Auckland.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having taken the evidence of the following witnesses—viz., Hon. J. Ballance, Mr. Gavin, Mr. Elliott, and petitioner himself, consider that the petitioner has been already fairly compensated by the Government for his services in connection with the village settlement scheme; but, looking to the fact that the Hon. Mr. Ballance admits having promised petitioner that he would recommend him for a bonus of £100 if he performed his work satisfactorily, which Mr. Ballance admits has been done, the Committee recommend that the Government should pay the sum of £100 to petitioner, such payment to be in full of all demands of the said petitioner against the Government in connection with the village settlement scheme north of Auckland; on receipt of the said sum of £100 the said petitioner to execute a full release under seal.

15th September, 1891.

## No. 585.—Petition of JOHN LUNDON, of Auckland (No. 2.)

PETITIONER prays for compensation for alleged damage through having a cheque dishonoured which was drawn against a voucher deposited at the National Bank, but which voucher was not acknowledged by the Crown Lands Department.

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

15th September, 1891.

## No. 648.—Petition of JOHN JERVIS, of Auckland.

PETITIONER *re* certificate of title to his land under Land Transfer Act.

I am directed to report that, as this petition deals with a question of law between the several parties concerned, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

15th September, 1891.

## No. 650.—Petition of H. J. HAWKINS, of Te Aroha.

PETITIONER prays for amendment of the lunacy laws.

I am directed to report that, as the lunacy law has already been altered in the direction desired by the petitioner, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

15th September, 1891.

## No. 660.—Petition of THOMAS CARTER, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for relief in connection with his services having been dispensed with by the Defence Department.

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

15th September, 1891.

## No. 689.—Petition of H. S. JONES and Others, of Onehunga.

PETITIONERS pray that a duty may be placed on imported iron.

I am directed to report that, as this petition deals with a matter of public policy, in the opinion of the Committee it should be referred to the Government.

15th September, 1891.

## No. 696.—Petition of DANIEL EGAN, of Wellington.

PETITIONER alleges that he was injured while in the employment of the Government. He prays for a compassionate allowance to take him up to the Hot Springs.

I am directed to report that, as the Government have offered to let the petitioner use the sulphur baths at Rotorua free of charge, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

15th September, 1891.

## No. 716.—Petition of W. DAVIS and Others, of Bay of Islands.

PETITIONERS pray that sittings of the Resident Magistrate's Court may be held at Waimate North as heretofore.

## No. 438.—Petition of JOHN FORD and Others, of Wairoa.

PETITIONERS pray for a railway-siding at the crossing of the main and centre road in their district over the Otautau and Wairoa Railway.

I am directed to report that, the report of the Railway Commissioners on this matter being unfavourable, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

21st September, 1891.

## No. 554.—Petition of ISABEL M. FARNALL, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray for consideration on account of her late husband's services as an Immigration Agent.

I am directed to report that, in face of the full release signed by the late Mr. Farnall on the 7th November, 1878, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

21st September, 1891.

## No. 624.—Petition of H. B. HUDDLESTON, of Blenheim (No. 3).

PETITION *re* "The Land Transfer Act, 1885."

I am directed to report that the Committee has already reported on two petitions from petitioner dealing with this matter during the present session, and can see no reason to depart from the decision previously arrived at.

21st September, 1891.

## No. 670.—Petition of WORLEY BASSETT EDWARDS, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that he relinquished a lucrative practice to take judicial office, which has since been abolished. He prays that right may be done and relief granted to him.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner's case is now before the highest Appeal Court of the realm, this Committee has no recommendation to make.

21st September, 1891.

## No. 702.—Petition of ROBERT HETHERINGTON and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS protest against the Payment of Members Bill.

I am directed to report that, as this Bill is now before the Legislature, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

21st September 1891.

## No. 704.—Petition of ROBERT DARROCH and JOHN MCLEAN, of Waikari, Canterbury.

PETITIONERS state that they became sureties for the completion of the Ashurst contract of the Napier-Palmerston Railway, Mr. P. Honeybone being the contractor; that after some work had been done Mr. Honeybone assigned the contract to Mr. Knight; that he also failed to carry it out, and it was eventually taken over by the Government, who called for fresh tenders; that the work was finally completed at a loss to the Government on the original contract of £370; that petitioners are now called upon by the Government to make good this amount. Petitioners further state that they had no pecuniary interest in the contract, that it has already cost them £360, and that if they have to pay the amount they are now called upon for they and their families will be totally ruined. 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 favourable consideration.

21st September, 1891.

## No. 708.—Petition of SUSANNA PRESCOTT BOYS, of Greytown North.

PETITIONER prays for consideration on account of her late husband's services as Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

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

21st September, 1891.

## No. 709.—Petition of PETER ARCHER and Others, of Pelorus Sound.

PETITIONERS pray for assistance towards making a bridle-track.

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

21st September, 1891.

## No. 722.—Petition of PATRICK BROWN, of Whakatane.

PETITIONERS pray for consideration on account of loss sustained through inability to get a title to his land.

I am directed to report that, as at this late stage of the session there is not sufficient time to get a departmental report upon this case, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

22nd September, 1891.

## No. 723.—Petition of H. TREBEC SMITH and Others, of Promise Land.

PETITIONERS pray for a grant of money towards constructing a road.

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

22nd September, 1891.

*Approximate Cost of Paper.*—Preparation, nil; printing (1,300 copies), £12 12s.

