

SESS. II.—1891.
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS M TO Z COMMITTEE.

(MR. FISH, CHAIRMAN.)

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

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REPORT OF PUBLIC PETITIONS M TO Z COMMITTEE.

(MR. H. S. FISH, CHAIRMAN.)

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

ORDER OF REFERENCE.

Extract from the Journals of the House of Representatives.

FRIDAY, 12TH JUNE, 1891,

Ordered, "That a Public Petitions M to Z 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. Earnshaw, Mr. Fish, Mr. Houston, Mr. J. Kelly, Mr. C. H. Mills, Mr. McGuire, Mr. Moore, Mr. Swan, Mr. J. W. Thomson, and the mover."—(Hon. Mr. W. P. REEVES.)

No. 14, Sess. I.—Petition of WINKS and HALL and 87 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS are cabinet-makers and others connected with the trade in Auckland. They pray for an increase of duty on imported furniture.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to a matter of policy, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

23rd June, 1891.

No. 15, Sess. I.—Petition of PATRICK MCGILL, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER states that his services as police-constable have been dispensed with. He prays for compensation or reinstatement.

I am directed to report that, the prayer of the petition having been granted by the Government, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

23rd June, 1891.

No. 22, Sess. I., and No. 49, Sess. II.—Petitions of the MAYOR and COUNCILLORS of MASTER-
TON and the WAIRARAPA SOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL.

PETITIONERS state that the Wairarapa district is unjustly taxed for hospitals and charitable purposes. They pray that the Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act be so amended that the Wairarapa and Wellington Districts may be separated.

I am directed to report that, as these petitions refer to a question of policy, the Committee recommends that they be referred to the Government for consideration.

24th June, 1891.

No. 1, Sess. I.—Petition of STEPHEN SPALDING, of Auckland.

PETITIONER, a lunatic, prays for his removal from Wellington Asylum in order that he may be sent to England for treatment.

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

25th June, 1891.

No. 72, Sess. II.—Petition of THOMAS WALLACE, of Mongonui.

PETITIONER states that while doing contract-work for the Victoria Valley Road Board he suffered loss to the amount of £73 by a flood, and failed to recover the sum from the Road Board. He prays for relief.

1—I. 2.

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

25th June, 1891.

No. 2, Sess. II.—Petition of HUGH JOHNSTON STEWART, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that, in the execution of his duty as a constable, he received permanent bodily injury. He prays for a pension or other relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee finds that the petitioner met with the accident while in the execution of his duty, and that he will be in consequence crippled for life, and that in all probability his action saved another person's life. The Committee, therefore, recommends the petitioner to the very favourable consideration of the Government.

25th June, 1891.

No. 56, Sess. II.—Petition of MARY MOORE, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that her daughter was injured by machinery not under proper control, and failed to recover damages from her employer on account of defects in the law. She prays for relief.

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

25th June, 1891.

No. 3, Sess. II.—Petition of CHARLES STAPP, of New Plymouth.

PETITIONER states that after many years of distinguished military service he has been forced to retire at an advanced age without sufficient provision for his support. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that Colonel Stapp has rendered valuable military services to the colony, and that, these being of an exceptional character, it recommends the Government to place on the estimates a sum of £750 to be paid to him.

25th June, 1891.

No. 44, Sess. II.—Petition of the WAIPARA ROAD BOARD.

PETITIONERS state that the Waipara Road District is unjustly taxed for hospitals and charitable purposes. They pray that the Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act may be so amended that the Waipara Road District and North Canterbury District may be separated.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to a question of policy, the Committee recommends that it be referred to the Government.

25th June, 1891.

No. 55, Sess. II.—Petition of the WHANGAREI COUNTY COUNCIL.

PETITIONERS state that their district suffers injustice from the rating clauses of the Counties Act. They pray that the said Act may be so amended that a second rate, not exceeding $\frac{3}{4}$ d. in the pound, may be levied in merged and outlying districts, notwithstanding the existence of Town or Highway Boards in the same riding.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to a question of policy, the Committee recommends that it be referred to the Government.

25th June, 1891.

No. 54, Sess. II.—Petition of the NORTH AUCKLAND HOSPITAL and CHARITABLE AID BOARD.

PETITIONERS state that the districts under the Hospital and Charitable Institutions Act are too large, and the working unnecessarily expensive. They pray that the said Act may be so amended as to make each County Council a Hospital and Charitable Aid Board.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to a question of policy, the Committee recommends that it be referred to the Government.

25th June, 1891.

No. 1, Sess. II.—Petition of ROSA PILMER, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states the services of her late husband, Lieutenant A. A. G. Pilmer. She prays for a grant of land or other relief.

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

2nd July, 1891.

No. 85, Sess. II.—Petition of the PAHIATUA COUNTY COUNCIL.

PETITIONERS state that the Pahiatua County District is unjustly taxed for charitable purposes, and prays that the Hospital and Charitable Institutions Act be so amended that the Pahiatua County and Wellington Districts may be separated.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to a question of policy, the Committee recommends that it be referred to the Government for consideration.

3rd July, 1891.

No. 112, Sess. II.—Petition of ANNIE NETTINGHAM and 34 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS state that certain provisions in the Factories Bill now before Parliament will, if adopted, take away their means of livelihood. Petitioners pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to a question contained in the Factories Bill now under consideration by a Select Committee, the Committee are of the opinion that the petition should be referred to the said Select Committee for consideration.

3rd July, 1891.

No. 47, Sess. II.—Petition of LEONARD MONK, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER states that, whilst working in the Government employ, he received such injury as resulted in the loss of one of his eyes, and that since then the sight of the other eye has become impaired. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report the Committee considers the petitioner's case a deserving one, and to recommend the Government to place the sum of £250 on the supplementary estimates as compensation for the injury sustained by the petitioner.

3rd July, 1891.

No. 28, Sess. II.—Petition of THOMAS PATTERSON, of Invercargill.

PETITIONER states that, while driving his horse and cart over the railway-crossing, Conon Street, Invercargill, he was run into by an express-train, whereby he sustained severe bodily injuries and pecuniary loss. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner met with the accident through no fault of his own, and recommend the Government to place the sum of £100 on the supplementary estimates as compensation to the petitioner for the injuries received; and further recommend that the Railway Commissioners take steps to render the said crossing less dangerous.

3rd July, 1891.

No. 11, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM OLLIVER, of Lyttelton.

PETITIONER states he was employed as engine-driver on the New Zealand railways, and that he was discharged on the grounds of old age, but asserts he is still capable of performing his duties. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner is not altogether incapacitated by old age from working, the Committee strongly recommend the Railway Commissioners to find some light employment for the petitioner, and further recommend that the Government take into consideration the propriety of establishing a superannuation or insurance fund to meet such cases as the petitioner's.

3rd July, 1891.

No. 39, Sess. II.—Petition of ROBERT MCOWEN, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER states that, as a trustee of a private estate, he made an overpayment to the Property-tax Department. He prays for a refund.

I am directed to report that, as the evidence clearly shows that an overpayment was made by the petitioner, the Committee recommend the Government that the amount paid in error, £60 3s. 2d., be placed on the supplementary estimates, and refunded to the petitioner.

3rd July, 1891.

No. 99, Sess. II.—Petition of SAMUEL MORRISON, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER states that he was a warder in Her Majesty's gaol, Dunedin, and was dismissed. He prays for compensation.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner was properly dismissed from the service, and that he has no claim upon the colony.

8th July, 1891.

No. 109, Sess. II.—Petition of GEORGE MCLEAN, of Hawera.

PETITIONER states that he is the purchaser of a certain section of land. He prays for a title to the same.

By direction of the Committee I have the honour to report that, as the petition refers to a claim which has previously been before the Waste Lands Committee, it should be referred to that Committee for consideration.

8th July, 1891.

No. 10, Sess. II.—Petition of HENRY SMYTHIES, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER states he was prevented from following his profession as barrister and solicitor by the passing of "The Law Practitioners' Act Amendment Act, 1866." He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that as the petitioner has already received the sum of £1,000, for which he signed a receipt in full of all demands against the colony for losses sustained by him through the passing of "The Law Practitioners' Act Amendment Act, 1866," the Committee, while sympathizing with the petitioner in his misfortunes, cannot see their way to recommend the payment of any further sum.

8th July, 1891.

No. 42, Sess. II.—Petition of JOSEPH THOMPSON, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states he was one of the Wellington Rifle Rangers, and was wounded during the Maori outbreak. He prays for compensation.

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

10th July, 1891.

No. 8, Sess. I.—Petition of WALTER WALSH, of Petone.

PETITIONER states that he was discharged from the Government employ without compensation. He prays for compensation or employment.

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

10th July, 1891.

No. 148 and 149, Sess. II.—Petitions of GEE SEW and Others, and AH KEW and Others, of Auckland.

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

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

10th July, 1891.

No. 95, Sess. II.—Petition of S. WILLOUGHBY, of Auckland. (Report No. 1.)

PETITIONER states that, after eighteen years in the Government service, he was discharged without compensation. He prays for relief.

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

10th July, 1891.

No. 152, Sess. II.—Petition of RATEPAYERS of WAIMATE.

PETITIONERS pray for an alteration to the schedule to "The Stratford County Act, 1890."

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

10th July, 1891.

No. 160, Sess. II.—Petition of G. H. WEITZEL and Others, of Dunedin.

PETITIONERS pray that the North Dunedin Cemetery Extension Bill be thrown out.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to a Bill now before Parliament, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

10th July, 1891.

No. 65, Sess. II.—Petition of JAMES McNEILL, of Queenstown.

PETITIONER states that he took a sub-contract from a Government contractor who did not pay him in full. He prays for relief.

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

14th July, 1891.

No. 26, Sess. II.—Petition of ELIZABETH McDONALD, of Blenheim.

PETITIONER states that Government took a section of her land, paying £100, and afterwards sold it for £400. She prays for relief.

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

14th July, 1891.

No. 52, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM RIDDLE, of Taueru.

PETITIONER states that he was wrongfully convicted of an offence under "The Distillation Act, 1868." He prays for redress.

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

14th July, 1891.

No. 98, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN McMENAMEN, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that he was injured by a fall of gravel while in the employ of the Government at Westport. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petitioner's case be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

15th July, 1891.

No. 170, Sess. II.—Petition of W. H. WYNN-WILLIAMS and 39 Others, of Christchurch.

PETITIONERS pray that the Bill to vest certain reserves on the River Avon in the City Council, with powers to erect baths, &c., be not passed.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to a Bill now before Parliament, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

15th July, 1891.

No. 146, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM WEAR, of Waitara.

PETITIONER states he was engineer of the steamer "Hannah Mokau" when she was seized by the Government and sold, and that he has never been paid the wages due to him at the time of the said seizure. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, as the captain of the s.s. "Hannah Mokau" has, upon the recommendation of a previous Committee, been paid in full, it is only just that the petitioner should be similarly treated. The Committee therefore recommend the Government to place the sum of £57 ls. 4d. on the supplementary estimates for that purpose.

15th July, 1891.

No. 81, Sess. II.—Petition of WALTER WILLIAMS, of Westport.

PETITIONER states he was fined for a breach of "The Beer Duty Act, 1880." He prays for remission of fine.

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

15th July, 1891.

No. 166, Sess. II.—Petition of D. A. McNICOLL and 39 Others, of Dunedin.

PETITIONERS pray that the North Dunedin Cemetery Extension Bill be not passed.

I am directed to report that, as the Bill referred to has passed the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

15th July, 1891.

No. 155, Sess. II.—Petition of JAMES NEIL, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER states he was a manufacturer of tinctures, &c., but was prevented from so doing by the Customs authorities. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that to grant the prayer of the petition would tend to the evasion of the Customs tariff; but recommend that, on any revision of the tariff taking place, the Government should increase the duty of 15 per cent. charged on spirituous compounds and medicinal tinctures, now prohibited from being made in bond, in order that the industry may not be discouraged.

15th July, 1891.

No. 51, Sess. II.—Petition of FRANCIS STEVENS, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states he was an officer in the Civil Service of the colony, and that his services were dispensed with when within nine months of qualifying for a pension. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, although a Minister is not called upon to retain the services of unnecessary officers to enable them to qualify for a pension, that, in view of the special circumstances of Mr. Stevens's case, the Committee recommends his petition to the favourable consideration of the Government.

21st July, 1891.

No. 8, Sess. II.—Petition of THOMAS McDONNELL, Lieutenant-Colonel, of Wellington (No. 1).

PETITIONER states he receives pension in connection with the New Zealand Cross from 1886 only, but that it should have dated from 1869. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee the petitioner is entitled to receive pension from the time of the institution of the New Zealand Cross in 1869, and recommends that the arrears of pension be paid to petitioner by the Government.

24th July, 1891.

No. 95, Sess. II.—Petition of S. WILLOUGHBY, of Auckland (Second Report).

PETITIONER states that after eighteen years in the Government service, he was discharged without compensation. He prays for relief.

The Committee's report on this petition having been referred back by the House for further consideration, I am now directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner has no claim upon the colony, but recommends the petitioner for employment by the Government if opportunity offers.

24th July, 1891.

No. 17, Sess. II.—Petition of R. R. MEREDITH, of Masterton.

PETITIONER states that he was instructed by the Whareama Road Board to remove certain obstructions from the East Coast Road, and in carrying out such instructions he became the defendant in an action for trespass, and had to pay the sum of £246 15s. 11d. law costs in connection with the same. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that this Committee is of opinion that petitioner is entitled in equity to be paid the sum of £246 15s. 11d., the amount of law costs incurred, and paid by him in defending a suit for trespass, which trespass occurred through him carrying out certain instructions by the Whareama Road Board. That such sum of money should be paid by the Wairarapa North County Council, into which the Whareama Road Board has merged. That inasmuch as the Wairarapa North County Council now refuse to pay such costs, although having formerly agreed to do so, the Committee recommend the Government to bring in a Bill during this session giving power to Mr. R. R. Meredith to sue the Wairarapa North County Council, and to recover from them any damages that may be awarded to him, notwithstanding any law to the contrary.

28th July, 1891.

No. 105, Sess. II.—Petition of MARY ELIZABETH WHITE, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states her husband agreed to make certain Maori translations, &c., for which he was to receive a bonus of £500, but the work was stopped before its completion by the Government. She prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner is entitled to the bonus in proportion to the work done by her husband, and therefore recommends the Government to place such sum on the supplementary estimates. The Committee is also of opinion that the passage of the petitioner and family back to Auckland should be paid if she desires to return there.

28th July, 1891.

Nos. 137 and 189, Sess. II.—Petitions of ROBERT S. ROST and 67 Others, residents, North of Auckland, and ROBERT MACKAY and 8 Others, North of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that a sum of money may be voted to complete the North Main Trunk Road.

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

28th July, 1891.

No. 93, Sess. II.—Petition of JOSEPH SANDLANT, of Gisborne.

PETITIONER states he is the founder of the perpetual-leasehold system, but that the fact has never been recognised. He prays for relief.

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

28th July, 1891.

No. 193, Sess. II.—Petition of RICHARD MILLER, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER states he was injured while in the Government employ, whereby he lost one of his legs. He prays for relief.

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

28th July, 1891.

No. 168, Sess. II.—Petition of W. PAGE, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states he was discharged from his position in the Railway Department without compensation. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, petitioner is fairly entitled to compensation, and recommends the Government to place such sum on the supplementary estimates.

31st July, 1891.

No. 364, Sess. II.—Petition of J. TOWNLEY and Another, of Gisborne.

PETITIONERS state that the Gisborne Harbour-works are in an incomplete condition, and pray Government to grant such funds as will put them in a workable state.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

4th August, 1891.

No. 135, Sess. II.—Petition of CHARLES F. MITCHELL, of Paeroa.

PETITIONER states he advanced stores, &c., to the Natives on behalf of the Government, but has never been reimbursed for the same. The petitioner states he is unable, through ill-health, to appear in support of his claim, and therefore wishes to withdraw the petition.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petitioner be granted permission to withdraw his petition.

4th August, 1891.

No. 369, Sess. II.—Petition of BRIDGET READY, of Woodville.

PETITIONER states that, through the incompetency of a herbalist, she suffered great bodily hurt. She prays for relief.

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

4th August, 1891.

No. 236, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN T. YOUNG and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS state that the passing of the Shop Hours Bill will prove disastrous to their interests, &c. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to a Bill now before Parliament, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

4th August, 1891.

No. 190, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN A. WILSON, of Auckland (No. 1).

PETITIONER states he was a Judge of the Native Land Court, and was entitled to pension, and that his services were dispensed with on compensation only. He prays for relief.

I have the honour to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, petitioner did not become a Civil servant until 1875, and, therefore, is not entitled to pension; and, further, that the petitioner is not entitled to greater compensation than has already been authorised by the Auditor-General.

5th August, 1891.

No. 237; Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN A. WILSON, of Auckland (No. 2).

PETITIONER states that his services as a Judge of the Native Land Court were dispensed with, while officers of a less length of service were retained. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
5th August, 1891.

No. 77, Sess. II.—Petition of HENRY CHARLES YOUNG, of Wellington.

PETITIONER alleges that, through the miscarriage of justice in his case he has suffered great loss. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, the petitioner has suffered great wrongs; but the case, however, is too intricate to be properly dealt with by this Committee, and therefore recommend the Government to appoint a Commission to inquire exhaustively into the matter, and report thereon to the Government, and that, as the matters complained of took place in Christchurch, it is desirable that the Commissioner or Commissioners should not be residents of that city.

5th August, 1891.

No. 198, Sess. II.—Petition of KATE MACDONALD, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states her husband's health broke down through overwork, while Chief Judge of the Native Land Court. She prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
5th August, 1891.

No. 250, Sess. II.—Petition of G. F. SUCH and 59 Others, residents North of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that a sum of money may be voted to complete the North Main Trunk Road.

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

7th August, 1891.

No. 297, Sess. II.—Petition of MAURICE READY, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that, after twenty-nine years' service in the Police Force, he was discharged with only twelve months' pay as compensation. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner has received the full amount of compensation that he is entitled to by the rates of the service, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

7th August 1891.

No. 224, Sess. II.—Petition of ELIZABETH A. MADIGAN, of Pahiatua.

PETITIONER states her husband was injured while executing his duties as a warder at the Auckland Prison, and, through such injury, he is unable to earn a livelihood. She prays for further relief.

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

7th August, 1891.

No. 215, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM G. MAIR, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that, after over twenty-eight years' service, first as an officer during the Maori disturbances, and afterwards as a Judge of the Native Land Court, he was discharged when within sixteen months of qualifying for a pension. He prays for relief.

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

7th August, 1891.

No. 362, Sess. II.—Petition of THOMAS QUILL, of Queenstown. (First Report.)

PETITIONER states that his son, who was the main support of petitioner and his family, lost his life while in the employ of the Government. He prays for relief.

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

11th August, 1891.

No. 159, Sess. II.—Petition of THOMAS McDONNELL, Lieutenant-Colonel, of Wellington (No. 2).

PETITIONER states that on taking command of the Colonial Field Force in the year 1869 he was promised a permanent suitable appointment, with a salary of not less than £500 per annum, and the full rank of colonel, but that promise has never been fulfilled. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, although the petitioner had been promised by the Government in office in 1869 permanent employment in recognition of his services in the Taupo campaign, which promise was not fulfilled, he is now precluded from making any claim upon that account, inasmuch as that in 1878 he petitioned Parliament, and, as a result, was paid by the Government the sum of £400, which he accepted in full satisfaction of his claim for past services. The Committee, however, in further recognition of those services, recommend the Government to give petitioner employment for which he is suited if opportunity offers.

13th August, 1891.

No. 174, Sess. II.—Petition of S. J. NEILL and 722 Others, of Thames.

PETITIONERS state that the compulsory clauses of the Vaccination Act are obnoxious. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioners pray for an alteration of the law, which provides for compulsory vaccination, and which involves a question of considerable social importance, the Committee refrains from making any definite recommendation, but refers the petition to the Government for consideration, for the purpose of making further inquiries, with a view of seeing if any relief in the manner indicated by the petitioners can be afforded.

13th August, 1891.

No. 299, 1890.—Petition of WILLIAM SIMPSON, of Oamaru.

PETITIONER alleges that there was a failure of justice in his case, which was adjudicated on by the Resident Magistrate, at Oamaru. He prays for an inquiry.

I am directed to report that, whilst the Committee is of opinion that the Resident Magistrate in dealing with this case may not have been justified in the extreme judgment he gave, they are also of opinion that he did not act partially, and do not think the circumstances of the case as a whole warrant the Government in holding the inquiry asked for.

13th August, 1891.

No. 215, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM G. MAIR, of Wellington (Second Report).

PETITIONER states that, after over twenty-eight years' service, first as an officer during the Maori disturbances, and afterwards as a Judge of the Native Land Court, he was discharged when within sixteen months of qualifying for a pension. He prays for relief.

The Committee's report on this petition having been referred back by the House for consideration of the legal position of petitioner's claim to a pension, I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, petitioner is not entitled to a pension under the Act of 1858, he having served only twenty-eight years, the period of service which would have so entitled him being thirty years. This being so, the Committee has nothing to add to its previous report, except to recommend the petitioner for employment should opportunity offer.

18th August, 1891.

No. 416, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM MCKEEVER, of New South Wales.

PETITIONER states he is entitled to a grant of land for military services. He prays for relief.

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

18th August, 1891.

No. 344, Sess. II.—Petition of HUGH MCGREGOR and 16 Others, of Wendon.

PETITIONERS state they bought sections of land, part of an educational endowment, but that the terms are too high. They pray for relief.

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

18th August, 1891.

No. 422, Sess. II.—Petition of A. McLACHLAN and 59 Others, of Clinton.

PETITIONERS complain that the license fee for the Clinton Railway Hotel and Refreshment-room is not paid to the local body. They pray for relief.

I have the honour to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petition should be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

18th August, 1891.

No. 386, Sess. II.—Petition of G. W. RILEY and 25 Others, of Marlborough.

PETITIONERS pray that the Act, which makes it punishable to destroy stoats, weasels, &c., be amended, and that their importation may be discontinued.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to a question of policy, it be referred to the Government for consideration.

18th August, 1891.

No. 389, Sess. II.—Petition of P. S. BROWN, Chairman of Whangarei County Council.

PETITIONER prays for an amendment of the Public Works Act in order to simplify the means of acquiring and exchanging land for public roads.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to a question of policy, it should be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

18th August, 1891.

No. 228, Sess. II.—Petition of F. MACKENZIE and 201 Others, of the Bay of Islands.

PETITIONERS pray that the existing Kawakawa, Opua, and Kamo-Whangarei Railways may be connected.

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

19th August, 1891.

No. 362, Sess. II.—Petition of THOMAS QUILL, of Queenstown. (Second Report.)

PETITIONER states that his son, who was the main support of petitioner and his family, lost his life while in the employ of the Government. He prays for relief.

The Committee's report on this petition, having been referred back by the House for further consideration, I am directed to report that, in consideration of the age and poverty of the petitioner, the Committee recommends the Government to grant him a gratuity of £50.

19th August, 1891.

No. 445, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN MALCOLM McCASKILL, of Hikutaia.

PETITIONER states that his father's property, at Hikutaia, was destroyed by Natives during the Maori war. He prays for relief.

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

19th August, 1891.

No. 337, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN JAMES W. WHITE, of Blenheim.

PETITIONER states that he was for sixteen years and a half in the Provincial Government and fourteen years and three-quarters in the General Government service, but has only been offered compensation for fourteen and three-quarter years' service only. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, petitioner is only entitled to compensation for his service under the General Government, and that there are no special circumstances in connection with his case to justify the Committee in recommending any compensation for his Provincial Government service.

19th August, 1891.

No. 434, Sess. II.—Petition of J. W. THOMAS and DAVID BROWN, of Amberley.

PETITIONERS state that they tendered for the New River contract, and accompanied tender with a deposit-cheque for £100, and were not informed that their tender was not accepted until four months afterwards. They pray for relief.

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

19th August, 1891.

Nos. 48 and 143, Sess. II.—Petitions of the Rev. J. S. LEWIS and 515 Others, and M. TREVEY and 120 Others, of Wellington.

PETITIONERS state that they believe that serious wrongs have been inflicted upon one G. W. Ell by the process of the Court of Bankruptcy having been used improperly to stay him in vindication of certain claims urged by him against Mr. Leonard Harper and others. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report: (1.) That one George Waldoek Ell was formerly connected in business with the Messrs. Harper, of Christchurch, in cattle-, stock-, and other dealing. (2.) That on ceasing business operations legal proceedings were commenced by Ell against the Harpers, and by the Harpers against Ell. (3.) That Ell obtained judgment against Harper and Hanmer for upwards of £2,000, for which, together with costs, in all £2,400, judgment was signed in Christchurch, which judgment still stands, but is unsatisfied. (4.) That in the action against Ell accounts were taken by the Registrar, at Christchurch. (5.) That the said Registrar, in disobedience to an order of the Supreme Court, went behind a settlement of accounts made between the contending parties in 1873, and brought in a verdict for the Messrs Harper against Ell for upwards of £2,000. (6.) That thereupon Ell appealed against the said last judgment, and the judgment was set aside by the Court of Appeal, and referred back to the Registrar (and accountant), at Christchurch, on the ground that he had no right to inquire into accounts prior to the settlement between the parties in 1873. (7.) That when the verdict of the Court of Appeal, under the hand of the Chief Justice, was transmitted to Christchurch, all the papers were then sent to the Registrar there by Mr. Cooper, then Deputy-Registrar, at Wellington. (8.) That on returning to Christchurch Ell received notice from the Registrar to attend for the purpose of completing the accounts. (9.) That on Ell attending the office of the Registrar for that purpose the Registrar stated that he had not received the papers from Wellington, though, as a matter of fact, he had received them, and they were in his office at that time. (10.) That pending the proceeding with the accounts, the delay being thus caused, proceedings in bankruptcy were taken against Ell, and he was adjudicated a bankrupt. (11.) That the three debts upon which he was adjudicated and kept in the Bankruptcy Court were proofs—(a) by T. S. Weston for upwards of £5,000, arising in three years out of an alleged debt of £103, of which Ell states only £17 was due, as the Trustee in Bankruptcy could have satisfied himself if he had ordered Mr. Weston to produce the books; (b) a proof for £121 by F. J. Haskins, which was subsequently illegally altered to £21 odd, which £21 odd had already been recovered by the said F. J. Haskins against Ell in the Resident Magistrate's Court, at Christchurch, and paid by him, as the Court proceedings showed; (c) the whole claim proved in this case had been already paid by Ell's Assignee in Bankruptcy under former proceedings against Ell. (12.) That the Registrar on Ell's bankruptcy refused to go on with the accounts in the second action, and they have never been taken by the Registrar to this day, although the whole of the proofs on both sides have been lodged in Court. (13.) That two several Commissioners have been appointed on petitions by Ell to examine into this case, the first addressed to Mr. (now Mr. Justice) Conolly, who reported partially in Ell's favor and partially against him, the second to Mr. C. C. Graham, the Official Assignee in Bankruptcy, who inquired more minutely into the proceedings of the Bankruptcy Court, and who ordered an investigation into the accounts in the second action by Mr. Kember, a certified accountant. (14.) That the said accountant, Mr Kember, examined into the accounts furnished by both parties in the second action, and certified that in that action there was due to Ell a further sum of £1,530. (15.) That the total amount in the two actions, therefore, with costs and interest at 10 per cent., as stated by Ell to have been ordered by the Supreme Court, would amount to a sum of between £6,000 and £7,000. (16.) That upon the proofs of debt before

alluded to Ell has been kept in the Bankruptcy Court for five years. (17.) That the Official Assignee in Bankruptcy, in Christchurch, Mr. Latter, obtained his release from Ell's estate by an order made some time since, and has since resigned from the position of Assignee in Bankruptcy. (18.) The Committee are therefore of the opinion that Ell has suffered grievous wrong by the abuse of the powers of the Courts of Law and Bankruptcy, and beg to recommend that he be appointed trustee in his own estate, or that some other impartial person be so appointed: first, for the payment out of his estate of all his just debts; second, to hold the residue of his own estate (if any) for his own benefit.

19th August, 1891.

No. 294, Sess. II.—Petition of J. MOLLOY and 130 Others, of the Grey Valley.

PETITIONERS pray that the Haupiri district may be opened up by the formation of a road.

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

25th August, 1891.

No. 444, Sess. II.—Petition of JAMES M. McLAREN, of the Thames.

PETITIONER states he was discharged from the Government service without the usual leave of absence. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, as it has been the general rule in the Service to grant leave of absence upon retirement, the Committee recommends the Government to grant the petitioner three months' leave on full pay.

25th August, 1891.

No. 208, Sess. II.—Petition of R. A. TROTTER and 53 Others, of Mataura.

PETITIONERS pray for an extension of the Edendale-Toitois Railway from Glenham.

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

25th August, 1891.

No. 129, Sess. II.—Petition of JANET and CHARLES P. McDONALD, of Dunedin.

PETITIONERS state that they were left by will a certain section of land in the Upper Kaikorai district, but they were evicted from the same, and their goods sold to pay the costs of the eviction, &c. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that the petitioners are entitled in equity to relief, and that, as other persons in the same position as the petitioners have been compensated by a former Government, the Committee recommend the Government to place the sum of £200 on the supplementary estimates as compensation to the petitioners.

25th August, 1891.

No. 472, Sess. II.—Petition of GEORGE ALBERT TAPPER, of Palmerston North.

PETITIONER states that he was unjustly sentenced by the District Court Judge, at Palmerston North, to six months' imprisonment with hard labour for not keeping proper account books in his business. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee sees no reason why the judgment of Mr. Justice Keble should be disturbed.

25th August, 1891.

No. 365, Sess. II.—Petition of D. M. MACGOWN, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER states that, after thirty-three years' service, he was discharged on thirteen days' notice only. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, as it has been the general rule in the service to grant leave of absence upon retirement, the Committee recommends the Government to grant petitioner three months' leave on full pay.

25th August, 1891.

Nos. 345, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 291, 292, 298, 299, 300, 305, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 382, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 418, 423, 424, 425, 426, 437, 448, 449, 450, 451, 520, 561, 562, 563, 521, Sess. II.—Petitions of Mrs. Blair and 37 Others, of Otago; F. Hutchins and Others, F. W. Adams and Others, T. J. Wills and Others, J. T. Borlass and Others, M. Thomas and Others, J. Kirk and Others, W. E. Barker and Others, J. Booth and Others, J. S. Ross and Others, M. Mutch and Others, J. G. Fraser and Others, S. Inkster and Others, J. M. Atkinson and Others, M. Walton and Others, J. Simpson and Others, J. Gibson and Others, C. Dixon and Others, W. West and Others, J. Doull and Others, C. Woodyall and Others, M. Jamieson and Others, J. Williamson and Others, J. T. Garlick and Others, Rev. Dr. Stuart and Others, A. Barclay and Others, W. H. Prosser and Others, J. Baxter and Others, T. Baxter and Others, G. W. Bignell and Others, T. W. Foster and Others, A. Drakely and Others, A. H. Maude and Others, M. G. Scott and Others, J. W. Watts and Others, J. Beli and Others, P. Campbell and Others, J. Simpson and Others,

F. H. Cockrill and Others, A. Cox and Others, W. B. White and Others, H. Curran and Others, E. Clarke and Others, S. Shepherd and Others, G. N. Skelton and Others, J. Wilson and Others, G. Dawson and Others, T. W. Wilson and Others, Rev. J. Gow and Others, Rev. C. W. Jennings and Others, A. Honore and Others, G. Everiss and Others, J. Dukis and Others, E. W. Irving and Others, N. Mine and Others, R. Allen and Others, D. Hall and Others, M. A. Ruff and Others, J. R. Douglas and Others, T. Kirk and Others, G. Wyeth and Others, F. Bicknall and Others, T. Barr and Others, W. Prebble and Others, A. Bull and Others, T. Efford and Others, C. Davis and Others, M. M. Green and Others, W. G. Bassett and Others, J. Barnett and Others, G. W. Holland and Others, J. Johnston and Others, T. W. Gunnett and Others, J. Reynolds and Others, J. Paterson and Others, H. Edwards and Others, W. J. Williams and Others, J. N. Blackwell and Others, B. W. Dudley and Others, J. Crawford and Others, J. B. Findlay and Others, J. W. Shadwick and Others, R. Clapham and Others, P. Ensom and Others, C. H. Hill and Others, S. Newport and Others, J. Dillow and Others, Rev. J. J. Garlick and Others, F. Graham and Others, B. C. Robbins and Others, Rev. W. Lambert and Others, Rev. W. W. McARD and Others, F. R. Peart and Others, A. Shepherd and Others, P. Massey and Others, C. Stewart and Others, D. Swinton and Others, F. G. Fox and Others, J. Band, junior, and Others, G. M. Plzey and Others, A. McKenzie and Others, E. R. McLiskey and Others, J. B. Denyon and Others, P. Rankin and Others, J. Hunter and Others, T. Neave and Others, E. W. D. Mathews and Others, G. Redpath and Others, G. A. Cruickshank and Others, M. Broadbent and Others, G. R. Stowell and Others, M. Budden and Others, Rev. W. Campbell and Others, A. R. Hornblow and Others, James Morgan and Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the sale of intoxicating liquors may be controlled by the vote of the inhabitants of the several districts.

I am directed to report that, as the petitions refer to legislation now before Parliament, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

27th August, 1891.

No. 456, Sess. II.—Petition of CHARLES SEATON, of Brunnerton.

PETITIONER states that he erected an hotel and other buildings on a piece of land near the railway-station in the belief that he would not be disturbed. The Railway Commissioners now require him to move without compensation. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petitioner's case is an extremely hard one, which will not be adequately met by compensation to the extent of £150, and therefore recommends the petition to the favourable consideration of the Government.

27th August, 1891.

No. 541, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN TENNENT and 124 Others, of Nightcaps.

PETITIONERS pray that the Nightcap Coal Company's line of railway may be purchased by the Government.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

27th August, 1891.

No. 465, Sess. II.—Petition of ANDREW H. STOBO, of Invercargill.

PETITIONER prays that the Indecent Advertisements Bill may be passed.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to legislation now before Parliament, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

27th August, 1891.

No. 483, Sess. II.—Petition of J. C. MACKY and 66 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the Payment of Members Bill be not passed, as it is opposed to the retrenchment policy adopted.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to a Bill now before Parliament, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

27th August, 1891.

No. 279, Sess. II.—Petition of JANE MCGUIRE, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER states that her husband was injured while acting as a policeman, and that up to his death he received an allowance of £1 per week. She prays that the allowance be continued to her.

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

27th August, 1891.

No. 475, Sess. II.—Petition of W. B. MARTIN and 144 Others, of Thames.

PETITIONERS state that the compulsory clauses of the Vaccination Act are obnoxious. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

27th August, 1891.

No. 80, Sess. II.—Petition of Mrs. ANN ROBERTSON, of Rotorua.

PETITIONER states she was forceably ejected from the Lake House Hotel, in February, 1880, by one Robert Graham, who remained in possession until the passing of "The Thermal Springs Act, 1881," which Act debars petitioner from recovering possession of her property. She prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the sum of £200, offered petitioner by the late Government, is not sufficient compensation, and therefore recommend petitioner be paid the sum of £400, and granted a lease, free of rent, of a section of land, in the Government Township of Rotorua.

27th August, 1891.

No. 191, Sess. II.—Petition of WALTER RUTHERFORD, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that in 1867 he left the Mounted Force and settled on a piece of land at Normanby, and was robbed of his goods, &c., by the Natives. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

1st September, 1891.

No. 481, Sess. II.—Petition of G. PATTERSON and 437 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the slaughtering of all live-stock may be placed under Government supervision.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

1st September, 1891.

No. 439, Sess. II.—Petition of JAMES MORRISON, of Napier.

PETITIONER states that during a certain period of his service as Bailiff of the Resident Magistrate's Court, at Napier, he did not receive the fees to which his office was entitled. He prays for relief.

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

1st September, 1891.

No. 512, Sess. II.—Petition of THOMAS HAWKINS SMITH, of Maketu.

PETITIONER states that the sum of £50 granted him as interest on a sum of £50 detained in the possession of the Government is not sufficient. He prays for a further sum of £50.

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

1st September, 1891.

No. 163, Sess. II.—Petition of GEORGE MACKIE, of Makarewa.

PETITIONER states that, although he was first to apply for a certain saw-mill area at Makarewa, preference was given to another person. He prays for relief.

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

1st September, 1891.

No. 446, Sess. II.—Petition of SAMUEL STEPHENSON, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that he applied for an hotel license at the Thames, he was granted one, but was not permitted to use it, through which action he was obliged to abandon his property, and leave the district. He prays for relief.

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

4th September, 1891.

Nos. 500, 484, and 564, Sess. II.—Petitions of JOHN CARROLL and 10 Others, JOHN G. WOODS and 899 Others, A. T. BRAZIL and 19 Others, of Otago.

PETITIONERS state that the late J. C. Brown, ex. M.H.R. for Tuapeka, through devoting his time and energy for a period of over twenty-five years exclusively to the service of his adopted country, neglected his private affairs, and has consequently left his widow in very straitened circumstances. They pray that relief may be granted her.

I am directed to report that, in consideration of the long public services of the late Mr. J. C. Brown, and the absolutely destitute condition of his widow, the Committee recommends the Government to place the sum of £500 on the supplementary estimates as a compassionate allowance to Mrs. Brown.

4th September, 1891.

No. 565, Sess. II.—Petition of MICHAEL SULLIVAN, of Palmerston North.

PETITIONER states that he deposited certain deeds of property with one Isaac Allen, and from time to time obtained small sums of money from him, and as security signed a mortgage (under protest) to Allen on the property. He prays for relief.

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

4th September, 1891.

No. 466, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM WATTS, of Stirling.

PETITIONER prays for a grant of land on account of his military services.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

4th September, 1891.

No. 162, Sess. II.—Petition of J. A. SHEPHERD and 44 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the Payment of Members Bill be not passed, as it is opposed to the retrenchment policy adopted.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to a Bill now before Parliament, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

4th September, 1891.

No. 164, Sess. II.—Petition of THOMAS SCOTT, of Rangitikei.

PETITIONER prays for a grant of land for military services performed for the country.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

4th September, 1891.

No. 606, Sess. II.—Petition of FREDERICK SWINDLEY, of Whakatane.

PETITIONER states that, after fifteen years of military service in the colony, he finds himself in very straitened circumstances. He prays for relief.

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

4th September, 1891.

No. 513, Sess. II.—Petition of DONALD GRANT, Chairman, Manawatu Road Board, Palmerston North.

PETITIONER prays that a Commission be appointed to inquire into an alleged misappropriation of certain funds of the Board, &c.

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

10th September, 1891.

No. 463, Sess. II.—Petition of CHARLES Y. O'CONNOR, of Perth, Western Australia.

PETITIONER states that, through the insecurity of his appointment in the Service of this colony, he accepted an appointment elsewhere, and accordingly had to resign, and thereby invalidating his claims for compensation and leave of absence. He prays for relief.

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

10th September, 1891.

No. 568, Sess. II.—Petition of EDMUND A. MACHECHNIE, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that he was employed by the Kaihu Valley Railway Company, as solicitor, to resist certain claims for compensation for land taken for railway purposes, and that his bill of costs amounted to £539 5s. 8d. has never been paid, &c. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the Government to pay the petitioner the sum of £250 in full satisfaction of his claim, that sum being the amount still standing to the credit of the Trust Account.

10th September, 1891.

No. 557, Sess. II.—Petition of R. J. SANDALL and 32 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the Slaughterhouse Act 1877 Amendment Bill may be passed.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to legislation now before Parliament, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

14th September, 1891.

No. 477, Sess. II.—Petition of CHARLES O'MALLEY, of Sydenham.

PETITIONER states that in the year 1868 his office was abolished, and that certain compensation was due to him, that by accepting another office such compensation was not paid to him, and that in the year 1875 his services were dispensed with without any remuneration. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petitioner be paid the sum of £50 in full of all demands.

14th September, 1891.

No. 473, Sess. II.—Petition of JAMES SHANAGHAN, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that he was severely wounded in the arm and hand while serving under the late Major Von Tempsky, and is thereby unable to obtain employment. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the Government to give the petitioner suitable employment should opportunity offer.

14th September, 1891.

No. 548, Sess. II.—Petition of W. LITTLEJOHN, the Mayor of the Borough of Onslow.

PETITIONER states that a certain road in the Borough of Onslow was severed by a deep cutting made in connection with the Wellington—Manawatu Railway, and prays that an overbridge be erected to connect the roadways.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the Government should be recommended to subsidise the Onslow Borough Council to the extent of £150 towards the construction of the overbridge.

14th September, 1891.

No. 658 Sess. II.—Petition of S. H. MACKAY and 715 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the Auckland Electric Lighting Bill may be passed.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to legislation now before Parliament, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

14th September, 1891.

No. 667, Sess. II.—Petition of J. B. SAXON and 77 Others, of Nelson.

PETITIONERS pray that the Trafalgar Park Purchasing Bill, may be passed.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to legislation now before Parliament, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

14th September, 1891.

No. 558, Sess. II.—Petition of JANE N. MAKER, of Sydenham.

PETITIONER states that her late husband, Hugh Maker, died while in the employ of the Railway Department, and that she has not received any compassionate allowance, &c. She prays for relief.

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

14th September, 1891.

No. 577, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN McCLUSKEY, of Tauranga.

PETITIONER prays that a Commission be appointed to inquire into the charges which led to his dismissal from the position of Inspector of Police, at Oamaru.

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

14th September, 1891.

Nos. 615, 616, and 641, Sess. II.—H. ROCHE and 76 Others, L. WALTON and 19 Others, and A. PRIMROSE and 115 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the Payment of Members Bill be not passed, as it is opposed to the retrenchment policy adopted.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to a Bill now before Parliament, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

14th September, 1891.

No. 550, Sess. II.—Petition of DANIEL MAHER, of Ramarama.

PETITIONER states that in 1881 a watch and chain were stolen from his house, and alleges that through the incompetency of the police he was put to considerable trouble in the matter. He prays for relief.

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

14th September, 1891.

No. 589, Sess. II.—Petition of DAVID T. SMITH, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that during last February he had to resign his office as Assistant Librarian, and received six months' leave on full pay only, but considers he should receive a pension or further consideration. He prays for relief.

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

16th September, 1891.

No. 542, Sess. II.—Petition of DAVID MURRAY, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that he is entitled to £30 compensation for wounds received, and a grant of land for military services performed. He prays for relief.

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

16th September, 1891.

Nos. 642 and 673, Sess. II.—A. CRAWFORD and 15 Others, T. H. MORROW and 96 Others, of Canterbury.

PETITIONERS pray that the Payment of Members Bill be not passed.

I am directed to report that, as the petitions refer to legislation now before Parliament, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

16th September, 1891.

No. 37, Sess. II.—JOHN ROCHFORD, of Kihikihi.

PETITIONER states that he agreed to take a contract from the Survey Department for the survey of a certain block of Native land, at a $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per acre less than his tender price, because he was told that

another offer had been made at that price. He alleges that no such other offer was ever made, and prays that he be granted the $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per acre and £50 compensation.

I am directed to report, that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
16th September, 1891.

No. 698, Sess. II.—WILLIAM JOHN SLOAN and Others, of Christchurch.

PETITIONERS pray that the Divorce Extension and Amendment Bill may not be passed.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to legislation now before Parliament, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

16th September, 1891.

No. 517, Sess. II.—Petition of John T. QUIN and 45 Others, of Te Roti.

PETITIONERS pray that a road be granted, and two cattle-stops put in at Te Roti Railway-station.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the petition be referred to the Government for favourable consideration, and that the attention of the Government be drawn to the Railway Commissioners' report to this Committee thereon.

16th September, 1891.

No. 625, Sess. II.—Petition of MAURICE SOGGIN POWER, of Paeroa.

PETITIONER alleges that while an inmate of the Thames Hospital he did not receive proper treatment, which necessitated one of his arms being amputated. He prays for relief.

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

16th September, 1891.

No. 529, Sess. II.—Petition of DANIEL MAHONY, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that he made a claim against the Government for preparing the plans and specifications for a Courthouse, &c., in Dunedin; that a special jury awarded him £495; that this verdict was set aside on purely technical grounds; that he then petitioned Parliament, and was awarded the sum of £325, which was paid him, less £137 7s. 6d., being the Crown costs of the trial; that he had also to pay his own costs, although the verdict of the jury gave costs to him. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the Government to pay the petitioner the sum of £137 7s. 6d., that being the amount which was deducted from the sum of £325 voted by Parliament during the session of 1890. The Committee being of the opinion that in equity the petitioner was fully entitled to the amount rewarded him by a special jury of the Supreme Court—viz., £495.

16th September, 1891.

No. 697, Sess. II.—Petition of COLLINS T. MARIE and 125 Others, of Dunstan.

PETITIONERS pray that a certain road in the Leaning Rock District be closed; that an inquiry be made respecting certain surveys in said district; and for compensation for making roads to coal-mining leases, &c.

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

21st September, 1891.

No. 608, Sess. II.—Petition of the WELLINGTON-MANAWATU RAILWAY COMPANY, of Wellington.

PETITIONERS pray that the deficiency in the land endowment to be granted to the company may be made good.

I am directed to report that, as the petition involves the consideration of matters of considerable importance, and that as there is not sufficient time before the close of the session to properly investigate them, the Committee defers consideration until next session, and recommends that, if the Standing Orders permit, it should then be considered without the petitioners being under the necessity of presenting a fresh petition.

23rd September, 1891.

No. 663, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN SPICER, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that he be granted the position of fourth Recording Clerk in the Auckland Deeds Office.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the permission be granted for the withdrawal of the petition.

23rd September, 1891.

No. 668, Sess. II.—Petition of ANDREW YOUNG and ALFRED ANDREWS, of Wellington.

PETITIONERS state that as guarantors of an agent of the Government Life Insurance Department they have had to pay the sum of £28 5s. They pray for relief.

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

23rd September, 1891.

No. 511, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM NEARY, of Wanganui.

PETITIONER states that he received permanent injury to one of his legs while in the employ of the Government. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
23rd September, 1891.

No. 657, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN MARSHALL and 149 Others, of Westland.

PETITIONERS pray that the Mokihinui Coal Company's line of railway be purchased by the Government.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, the full consideration of the petition should be deferred until next session.

23rd September, 1891.

No. 700, Sess. II.—Petition of JOHN OUTRAM, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER states that in the year 1878 he was granted a pension of £188 per annum on account of injury received to one of his eyes while in the service of the Government, and that in the year 1890 such pension was struck off the estimates. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, the petitioner has not the slightest claim upon the colony.

23rd September, 1891.

No. 630, Sess. II.—Petition of WI NAIHIRA and 9 Others, of Kaiapoi.

PETITIONERS pray that a delivery of letters, &c., be made at their settlement near Kaiapoi.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
23rd September, 1891.

No. 637, Sess. II.—Petition of ANDREW THOMPSON, of Hawkesbury.

PETITIONER states he was not fairly treated in regard to a sale of sections in the Township of Hawkesbury, near Waikowaiti. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
23rd September, 1891.

No. 701, Sess. II.—Petition of W. PATERSON and 60 Others, of Awaroa.

PETITIONERS pray that they be granted more accommodation in the way of roads, &c., in the Awaroa, Oruwhero, Opuatia, Pepepe, and Whangape districts.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

23rd September, 1891.

No. 717, Sess. II.—Petition of WILLIAM TOWERS, of Thames.

PETITIONER states he was granted his piece of land for military services jointly with several others forming one block. He now wishes to sell, but, as the Crown grant is for the whole block, he cannot do so without incurring a great expense in securing a separate Crown grant. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

23rd September, 1891.

No. 476, Sess. II.—Petition of E. T. RHODES and 36 Others, of Wai-iti.

PETITIONERS pray that telephone communication be made between Timaru and Wai-iti.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
23rd September, 1891.

No. 677, Sess. II.—Petition of JAMES TRAVES, of Gibbston.

PETITIONER complains of the harsh treatment he alleges he received from officials of the Government through distraining on his property for arrears of rent.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
23rd September, 1891.

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