

1892.
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS M TO Z
COMMITTEE.

(MR. T. THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN.)

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

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(MR. T. THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN.)

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

ORDERS OF REFERENCE.

Extracts from the Journals of the House of Representatives.

TUESDAY, 5TH JULY, 1892.

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. Buckland, Mr. Harkness, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Meredith, Mr. McGuire, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Taylor, Mr. T. Thompson, Mr. Wright, and the mover."—(Hon. Mr. W. P. REEVES.)

THURSDAY, 7TH JULY, 1892.

Ordered, "That Mr. McGuire be discharged from the Public Petitions M to Z Committee, and that Mr. Dawson be added thereto."—(Hon. Mr. W. P. REEVES.)

No. 14.—Petition of J. MCKENZIE and Others, of Dunedin.

PETITIONERS, commercial travellers, pray that they may be granted the same privilege that seamen at present enjoy in being enabled to record their votes wherever they may be upon the day of the election.

I am directed to report that, as it is proposed to deal with this question in the Electoral Bill now before the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

8th July, 1892.

Nos. 49 and 50.—Petitions of MARY McDONALD and Others, and SIMON McDONALD and Others, of Dunedin (Report No. 1).

PETITIONERS pray that the House will refuse to pass any Bill providing for the extension of the electoral franchise to women.

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.

8th July, 1892.

Nos. 77, 78, 75, 76, and 79.—Petitions of Bishop MORAN and Others, Bishop NEVILL and Others, MAYOR of DUNEDIN and Others, JOHN A. MILLER and Others, VINCENT PYKE and Others.

PETITIONERS pray that such permanent provision may be made as will admit of the construction of the Otago Central Railway being expeditiously prosecuted towards completion.

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

8th July, 1892.

No. 31.—Petition of WILLIAM ROBERTSON and Others, of Sandymount, Otago.

RE a Crown Grant.

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

8th July, 1892.

No. 61.—Petition of the ROSLYN BOROUGH COUNCIL.

PETITIONERS pray against the passing of the Ocean Beach Public Domain Bill.

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

8th July, 1892.

1—I. 2.

No. 70.—Petition of SAMUEL MORRISON, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss of office as a gaol-warder.

I am directed to report that this Committee indorses the report of the Committee of last session—namely, that “The petitioner was properly dismissed from the service, and has no claim upon the colony.”

14th July, 1892.

No. 102.—Petition of JAMES SCOTT REID and Others, of Otago.

PETITIONERS pray in favour of Bible-reading in schools.

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

14th July, 1892.

No. 68.—Petition of PETER PAXTON, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss of office as Defence Storekeeper, or for re-employment.

I am directed to report that, as it appears petitioner has received full compensation, the Committee is of opinion that he has no further claim.

14th July, 1892.

Nos. 103, 49, and 50.—Petition of M. E. WOORTON and Others, of Dunedin, MARY McDONALD and Others (Report No. 2), and SIMON McDONALD and Others (Report No. 2).

PETITIONERS state that they signed a petition to the House in the belief that such petition prayed for the extension of the franchise to women; they now find they were mistaken, and that said petition was against woman's franchise.

I am directed to report that, so far as the Committee have been able to compare the petitions they find the allegations of the petitioners to be correct, inasmuch as similar signatures are found attached to both petitions.

14th July, 1892.

No. 36.—Petition of ELIZA P. McKNIGHT, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance on account of her late husband's long services as bailiff of the Resident Magistrate's Court at Christchurch.

I am directed to report that, after full consideration of the circumstances set forth in the petition, the Committee is of opinion that the petitioner has no claim.

14th July, 1892.

No. 18.—Petition of DONALD McKINNON, of Puerua, Otago.

PETITIONER prays that licensed victuallers may be compensated for loss of license when such loss has not been caused by any misconduct on their own part.

I am directed to report that, as this question has already been dealt with by the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

14th July, 1892.

No. 94.—Petition of C. WHEATLEY and Others, of Wellington.

PETITIONERS pray against compensation being paid to licensed victuallers on non-renewal of license.

I am directed to report that, as this question has already been dealt with by the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

14th July, 1892.

No. 6.—Petition of GEORGE TIBBS, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER states that in March, 1887, he was convicted under “The Fisheries' Conservation Act, 1884,” of a breach of the regulations; that said breach consisted in selling a flounder less than 9in. in length; that he was fined £5 and costs (£2 10s.); that said small fish was in a case of fish bought by petitioner, and he was totally unaware that there was an undersized fish in the case. Petitioner prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the amount of the fine should be reduced to £1.

21st July, 1892.

No. 84.—Petition of SABINA METZENTHIN and Others, of Nelson.

PETITIONERS pray in favour of woman's franchise.

I am directed to report that, as this question has already been dealt with by the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

21st July, 1892.

No. 65.—Petition of NEIL MCGILL, now of Wellington, late of Dunedin.

PETITIONER states that in January, 1876, he was appointed night-watchman on the Port Chalmers railway; that he held that office for fifteen years, when he was discharged on account of advanced age; that he is now seventy-seven years old. He prays for consideration.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that a compassionate allowance of £50 be granted to the petitioner.

21st July, 1892.

No. 23.—Petition of JANE VICTORIA MAHER, of Sydenham.

PETITIONER states that her late husband, Hugh Maher, was employed in the Railway Department as a carpenter for sixteen years: that he died while in said service. She prays that a compassionate allowance may be granted to her.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that a compassionate allowance of £50 be granted to the petitioner.

21st July, 1892.

No. 39.—Petition of JESSIE LOUISA RENTOUL, of Lyttelton.

PETITIONER states that her late brother, T. W. Rentoul, was employed in the Railway Department from 1875 to November, 1891; that he died in the service; that had he left a widow she would have received compensation. Petitioner, who lived with and looked after her brother, prays that she may be treated in the same way as regards compensation as his widow would have been.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends that the sum of £183 12s. 4d., being the amount of her late brother's salary for one year, should be paid to the petitioner as a compassionate allowance.

21st July, 1892.

No. 33.—Petition of REES WATKINS, of Napier.

PETITIONER states that for many years he was a guard upon the Napier line of railway; that the constant vibration affected his spine, and brought on a form of paralysis which has compelled him to relinquish work. He prays for consideration.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends that a compassionate allowance of nine months' salary be paid to the petitioner.

21st July, 1892.

No. 7.—Petition of DIANA MEYNELL, of Sydenham.

PETITIONER states that her late husband, while engaged in the railway service, in filling a tub with coal, in the year 1890, sustained an injury which materially contributed to his death in April last. She prays for a compassionate allowance.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that a compassionate allowance of £50 be paid to the petitioner.

21st July, 1892.

No. 48.—Petition of LEONARD MONK, of Caversham, Otago.

PETITIONER, late foreman blacksmith in the railway workshops, states that while carrying out his occupation he received an injury to one of his eyes which has resulted in partial blindness, and unfitted him for employment in his trade. He prays for further compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the balance of one year's pay—namely, £34 16s.—be paid to petitioner.

21st July, 1892.

No. 52.—Petition of CHARLES A. PRATT and Others.

PETITIONERS pray for the construction of a road in the Tauranga district.

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

22nd July, 1892.

No. 3.—Petition of JANE MCGUIRE, of Sydenham.

PETITIONER states that her late husband's death was accelerated by injuries which he received in saving Government property during a bush-fire at Oxford; that up to the time of his death Government allowed him £1 per week in consequence of his having been injured while a sergeant in the Police Force. Petitioner prays that this allowance may be continued to her.

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

22nd July, 1892.

No. 17.—Petition of EDWARD SMYTH and Others.

PETITIONERS, curriers and tanners, pray for certain alterations in the Customs tariff.

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

22nd July, 1892.

No. 44.—Petition of RICHARD MILLER, of Ashburton.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for having lost his leg while in the service of the Government.

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

22nd July, 1892.

No. 5.—Petition of CATHERINE WARD, of Sydenham.

PETITIONER states that her late husband, Charles Ward, served the Customs Department for thirty-four years, retiring on pension in 1880. She prays for consideration on account of his long service.

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

22nd July, 1892.

No. 35.—Petition of JOHN MADIGAN, of Napier.

PETITIONER prays for consideration on account of his son having died of typhoid fever while in the service of the Postal Department. Petitioner alleges said fever was caught by his son in the execution of his duties.

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

22nd July, 1892.

No. 82.—Petition of MARIA W. WILSON, of Patea.

PETITIONER states that her late husband died from injuries received in the Government service in the year 1865. She prays for consideration.

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

22nd July, 1892.

No. 127.—Petition of the NEW ZEALAND MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY (LIMITED), by their Attorney, ROBERT WILSON.

PETITIONER prays that a Select Committee may be appointed to examine and consider certain proposed modifications of the existing contract. Also, that, if the House is pleased to approve of these modifications, an Act may be passed this session authorising the Governor in Council to contract with petitioner for said modifications.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Government for consideration. (*Vide* also I.—7A.)

26th July, 1892.

No. 138.—Petition of MOSES MANUEL and Others.

PETITIONERS, fruit-growers in the Teviot district, pray that an import duty of 3d. per pound may be placed on all imported green, sulphurised, and pulp fruit.

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

26th July, 1892.

Nos. 107, 108, 115, 122, 153, 154, 157, 158, 159, 162, 163, 165, 155, 156, 161, 164, 149, 192, and 160.—Petitions of M. Owen and Others, E. Allen and Others, J. Roberts and Others, D. Reid and Others, J. Stronach and Others, W. O'Connell and Others, W. F. Newman and Others, J. Jacobson and Others, W. Bell and Others, R. McDougall and Others, G. Lawrence and Others, B. H. Ginger and Others, C. Gibson and Others, B. Naylor and Others, W. Theyers and Others, N. P. Hjorring and Others, J. London and Others, R. Palamountain and Others, and J. Smail.

PETITIONERS pray that such permanent provision may be made as will admit of the construction of the Otago Central Railway being expeditiously prosecuted towards completion.

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

26th July, 1892.

Nos. 123 and 150.—Petitions of the MAYOR and BOROUGH COUNCIL of MORNINGTON and WILLIAM OWEN and Others.

PETITIONERS pray against the passing of the Ocean Beach Public Domains Bill.

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

26th July, 1892.

Nos. 104 and 105.—Petitions of ELIZABETH PATTISON and Others, and JAMES HAMILTON and Others.

PETITIONERS pray against women's suffrage.

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

26th July, 1892.

No. 173.—Petition of JEREMIAH O'CONNOR, of Burke's, Otago.

PETITIONER states that his wife is an inmate of the Seacliff Lunatic Asylum; that he has been adjudged to pay 10s. per week towards her maintenance; that he is out of work, and has no money wherewith to pay. He prays that the order may be set aside.

I am directed to report that, as it does not appear to the Committee that the Asylum authorities have put any undue pressure on petitioner to compel him to pay, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

27th July, 1892.

No. 86.—Petition of CHARLES STAPP, of New Plymouth.

PETITIONER prays that effect may be given to the report of the Public Petitions M to Z Committee of last session on his petition.

I am directed to report that this Committee cannot recommend that the prayer of the petitioner should be granted, in view of the fact that he has been dealt with in the same manner as other officers in similar positions with respect to retiring-allowance.

28th July, 1892.

No. 141.—Petition of R. C. SHEARMAN, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for a pension or further compensation, on the ground of long service in the Police Force of the colony.

I am directed to report that this Committee can see no reason to depart from the decision of the Committee in the session of 1889—namely, “That the Government has dealt with the petitioner in a liberal manner, and he has no further claim against the colony.”

4th August, 1892.

No. 119.—Petition of NORTH AUCKLAND HOSPITAL AND CHARITABLE AID BOARD.

PETITIONERS pray that the Hospital and Charitable Institutions Act may be so amended as to allow each county to have the administration of charitable aid within its own boundaries.

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

4th August, 1892.

Nos. 210, 211, and 238.—Petition of JOHN WILSON and Others, A. McDONALD and Others, and W. G. STEWART and Others.

PETITIONERS pray for the extension of the Otago Central Railway.

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

10th August, 1892.

No. 256.—Petition of G. V. PEARCE and Others, of Patea.

PETITIONERS pray against the passing of the Moumohaki County Bill.

Nos. 195 and 229.—T. G. USHER and Others, and SAMUEL WOODS and Others.

PETITIONERS pray against the passing of the Wesleyan Methodist Church Property Act 1887 Amendment Bill.

I am directed to report that, as these Bills are now before the Legislature, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

10th August, 1892.

No. 237.—Petition of DAVID McMILLAN and Others.

PETITIONERS pray that they may be relieved of the present unequal burden of taxation.

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

10th August, 1892.

No. 250.—Petition of W. PETERS and Others, of Canterbury.

PETITIONERS pray that the Licensing Acts may be amended.

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

10th August, 1892.

No. 168.—Petition of JANE WHITE, of Winton.

PETITIONER prays for further relief on account of her husband having lost his life in the service of the Railway Department.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner has received the usual compassionate allowance, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

10th August, 1892.

No. 204.—Petition of J. H. MORRIS and Others.

PETITIONERS pray that a bridge may be erected over the Rangitikei River, at Vinegar Hill.

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

10th August, 1892.

No. 248.—Petition of CHARLES O'MALLEY, of Sydenham.

PETITIONER prays that the recommendation of the Public Petitions Committee of last session with regard to his petition may be adopted.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, effect should be given to the said recommendation—namely, “That petitioner be paid £50 in full of all demands.”

10th August, 1892.

Nos. 232 and 254.—Petitions of MAYOR and COUNCILLORS of ONEHUNGA, and F. A. WHITE and Others.

PETITIONERS pray in favour of the passing of the Borough of Onehunga Boundaries Alteration Bill.

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

11th August, 1892.

No. 263.—Petition of A. C. SAUNDERS and Others.

RE Catlin's Railway.

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

11th August, 1892.

No. 121.—Petition of JOSEPH SMART, of Lyttelton.

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance on account of injuries incurred while in the service of the Railway Department.

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

12th August, 1892.

No. 29.—Petition of LACHLAN MCQUEEN, of Invercargill.

PETITIONER states that while in the service of the Railway Commissioners he has sustained injuries which will make him a cripple for life. He prays for compensation.

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

12th August, 1892.

No. 139.—Petition of GEORGE NEALE, of Napier.

PETITIONER alleges that he has been unjustly dismissed from the Police Force, and prays for compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot comply with the prayer of the petition, but strongly recommend that an independent inquiry should be made by Government into the circumstances of the case alleged in the petition.

16th August, 1892.

No. 114.—Petition of WILLIAM and MARY SMITH, of Sydenham.

PETITIONERS pray for consideration on account of long service under the Immigration Department.

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

17th August, 1892.

No. 125.—Petition of PETER MCKEGNEY, of Sydenham.

PETITIONER prays that compensation may be granted to him on account of injuries sustained while working for the Railway Commissioners, or that suitable employment may be found for him.

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

17th August, 1892.

No. 321.—Petition of EBENEZER WAYMOUTH, of Auckland.

PETITIONER, secretary of the Northern Railway League, prays that a Committee of the House may be appointed to summon witnesses, take evidence, and report within a month, as to the best method of connecting by railway the cities of Auckland and Wellington.

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

17th August, 1892.

No. 109.—Petition of DENNIS MURPHY, of Te Aroha (Report No. 1).

PETITIONER alleges that he has been improperly and unjustly dismissed from his position as road-overseer in the Rotorua district. He prays for reinstatement, and also that he may be recouped the losses he has sustained.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee—from the facts of the case before it, and the evidence taken—the petitioner has not shown any reason for granting the prayer of the petition, nor any cause for a reopening of the case.

18th August, 1892.

No. 59.—Petition of CHARLES WILLIAM REARDON.

PETITIONER alleges that, owing to the improper action of the Native Land Court, he is kept out of certain moneys due to him for the survey of the Mangaohane Blocks, whereby he has suffered loss and inconvenience. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner has suffered considerable inconvenience and loss through the action of the Native Land Court, and therefore recommends that the department arrange for a rehearing without delay; and, when the title is ascertained, the Government register a survey lien on the land for the amount of work performed by the petitioner, and pay the same to him.

18th August, 1892.

No. 324.—Petition of H. MISON and Others.

PETITIONERS pray for the extension of the Otago Central Railway.

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

18th August, 1892.

No. 315.—Petition of O'CONNOR AND McKENZIE.

PETITIONERS state that they were the successful tenderers for the staiths at Westport, and for the Ngakawau Railway-bridge; that they imported a large quantity of rough-sawn timber from Australia for these works under the impression that it would come in duty free, being unaware that the Customs laws had been altered in this respect; that, had they imported rough-hewn timber, such timber would have been admitted duty free, and would have suited their purpose equally well. They pray for a remission of the duties imposed.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having heard the evidence of the petitioners and the Secretary of Customs, consider that the petitioners have not established their claim for a refund, and cannot therefore recommend the prayer of the petition.

19th August, 1892.

No. 152.—Petition of JOHN OUTRAM, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER states that in the year 1878 a pension of £188 was granted to him for meritorious service and injury sustained while in the employ of the Prisons Department. That said pension was paid to him until September, 1890, when Parliament, acting, as he believes, under erroneous information, struck the item out of the estimates. He prays that amends may be made to him.

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

24th August, 1892.

No. 372.—Petition of P. MITCHELL and Others, of Caversham.

PETITIONER prays for amendment of the Municipal Corporations Act.

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

25th August, 1892.

No. 373.—Petition of ROBERT SUTHERLAND and Others, of Port Chalmers, &c.

PETITIONERS pray that the bonus for exporting cured fish may be continued.

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

25th August, 1892.

No. 249.—Petition of the WELLINGTON AND MANAWATU RAILWAY COMPANY (LIMITED).

PETITIONERS pray for a refund of the amounts paid as property-tax on debentures issued by the company and held by the Commissioners of Sinking Funds.

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

25th August, 1892.

No. 322.—Petition of COLLINS TOUSSAINT MARIE and Others, of Dunstan.

PETITIONERS pray for an inquiry into the circumstances attending the closing of the coal-pit of Collins T. Marie by the construction of a road through his coal-mining lease.

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

30th August, 1892.

No. 255.—Petition of MARY MOORE, of New Plymouth.

PETITIONER states that she paid her own passage to New Zealand in the year 1876, and became entitled to land to the value of £20; that the Immigration Agent refused her the land to which she was entitled; that two years ago the Government paid her £20. She submits that that sum is not sufficient compensation for having been kept out of her land, and prays for more.

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

30th August, 1892.

No. 343.—Petition of GILBERT MAIR.

PETITIONER prays that the arrears of pension to which he is entitled as a holder of the New Zealand Cross may be paid to him.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, petitioner should be treated in the same manner as the other recipients of the New Zealand Cross.

1st September, 1892.

Nos. 396 and 425.—Petitions of TARANAKI COUNTY COUNCIL, and W. N. SYME and 68 Others, County Electors of Parihaka Riding, of Taranaki County.

PETITIONERS object to the proposed severance of the County of Taranaki.

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

2nd September, 1892.

Nos. 406, 436, 418, 419, 438, 437, and 417.—Petitions of C. F. Russ, Masterton Road Board, Henui Road Board, Barrett Road Board, M. Organ, Henry Smith, and Picton Road Board.

PETITIONERS pray that the present subsidy should not be withdrawn from the Hospital and Charitable Aid Boards.

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

2nd September, 1892.

No. 420.—Petition of F. McPARLAND and 199 Others, Residents of Brunnerton.

PETITIONERS pray that a free pass by rail be granted to elder boys to enable them to attend the Catholic male school at Greymouth.

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

2nd September, 1892.

No. 281.—Petition of EDWARD WALTER PUCKEY, Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for further consideration for services as Judge, Native Land Court.

I am directed to report that, as it appears to the Committee from perusal of the file of papers forwarded from the Native Office in connection with the case, and the departmental report thereon, that the Government is prepared to pay Judge Puckey the full amount of compensation—viz., £1,017 12s. 2d.—to which he is legally entitled, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

2nd September, 1892.

No. 389.—Petition of J. McKINNON and 137 Others, Residents at Whangarei Heads.

PETITIONERS pray that a wharf may be erected at Urquhart's Bay.

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

2nd September, 1892.

No. 427.—Petition of JOHN MOFFAT and 56 Others, Settlers and Orchardists of the Wade and Surrounding Districts.

PETITIONERS pray that the Codlin-moth Bill be not allowed to become law this session, and any future legislation proposed be circulated six months beforehand among settlers.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now in a Bill before the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

2nd September, 1892.

No. 397.—Petition of GEORGE MAXWELL and 49 Others, Residents of Kilbirnie.

PETITIONERS pray that a telephone bureau be established at the post-office of the district.

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

2nd September, 1892.

No. 433.—Petition of OTAMATEA COUNTY COUNCIL and 132 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that a sum of money be placed on the estimates for maintaining the road between the settlements of Matakoho and Tokatoka.

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

2nd September, 1892.

No. 334.—Petition of ANN SKIFFINGTON, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER prays for consideration on account of her husband having lost his life while in the service of the Railway Department.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, a gratuity equal to three months of her late husband's pay should be granted to petitioner.

7th September, 1892.

No. 109.—Petition of DENNIS MURPHY (Report No. 2).

PETITION referred back to the Committee, by order of the House, dated 18th August, for reconsideration.

I am directed to report that, as no fresh evidence has been presented to the Committee since their report of the 18th ultimo was presented to the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

7th September, 1892.

No. 348.—Petition of JOSEPH SPEIGHT and Others.

PETITIONERS state that they have acquired, under perpetual lease, about 20,000 acres of the Whakatane and Rangitaiki swamp-lands; that they are spending large sums of money on drainage-works; that the adjoining Government lands will be greatly benefited by said drainage-works. They pray that pecuniary assistance may be granted to them, and also that the capital value of the land may be reduced from £1 to 10s. per acre.

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

15th September, 1892.

No. 451.—Petition of ROBERT PROCTOR and Others, of Hokianga.

PETITIONERS pray for certain amendments in the Impounding and Fencing Acts.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the Fencing and Impounding Acts be so amended as to meet such cases as those mentioned by petitioners, and therefore refer the petition to the Government for consideration.

16th September, 1892.

No. 483.—Petitions of the MAYOR, COUNCILLORS and BURGESSES of the BOROUGH of ONSLOW.

PETITIONERS state that a certain road in the Borough of Onslow was severed by a deep cutting made in connection with the Wellington-Manawatu Railway; that they petitioned Parliament last session praying that an over-bridge might be erected to connect the two roadways; that the Public Petitions Committee recommended that the Onslow Borough Council should be subsidised to the extent of £150 towards the erection of the said over-bridge; that the Hon. the Minister for Public Works has consented to contribute said amount on the Council contributing a like sum; that the raising of said sum by the Council is a matter of great difficulty, and that £150 would be sufficient to construct a bridge over said cutting. They pray that the sum of £150 may be paid to them.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the Government should contribute a sum of money not exceeding £150 provided the petitioners will contribute an equal sum, or labour to its value, for the erection of said over-bridge.

16th September, 1892.

No. 558.—Petition of MELLO SCHEUKEL, of Lyttelton.

PETITIONER prays for consideration on account of services alleged to have been rendered to the colony.

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

16th September, 1892.

Nos. 481 and 482.—Petitions of TAOTAOROA ROAD BOARD and WAIKATO COUNTY COUNCIL.

PETITIONERS complain of the injustice of "The Land and Income Assessment Act, 1891," and pray for relief.

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

16th September, 1892.

No. 510.—Petition of MARY MATILDA PLUMMER, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for an inquiry into the circumstances connected with the shooting of her late husband, Frederick Plummer, and for relief.

I am directed to report that the allegations contained in the petition are of so serious a nature that the Committee considers it desirable that the Government should take steps to ascertain the truth or otherwise of such allegations, and therefore recommend that a public inquiry be held as to the manner in which Frederick Plummer met his death.

16th September, 1892.

No. 480.—Petition of JAMES WOODS, of Wellington.

PETITIONER alleges that he has rendered services to the colony by prospecting and exploring back-country. He prays that permanent employment may be found for him.

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

16th September, 1892.

No. 455.—Petition of WALTER J. MEEK, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER prays against any alteration in the rate of Customs duty now levied on imported writing-ink.

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

16th September, 1892.

No. 484.—Petition of GEORGE RODGERS and Others, of Taranaki.

PETITIONERS pray in favour of the passing of the Egmont County Bill.

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

16th September, 1892.

No. 608, Sess. II., 1891.—Petition of the WELLINGTON AND MANAWATU RAILWAY COMPANY.

PETITIONERS pray that provision may be made for a settlement of their claims with respect to the lands allocated to them under the terms of their contract with the Government, and also that effect may be given to the recommendation of the Public Petitions Committee on a petition from said company presented to the House in the session of 1889.

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

16th September, 1892.

No. 582.—Petition of the HENLEY RIVER BOARD.

PETITIONERS pray for a grant of money to assist them in repairing the damage done to protective works on the Taieri River by the last flood.

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

20th September, 1892.

No. 554.—Petition of JAMES STEWART, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER, on behalf of his daughter-in-law, states that his son was in the employ of the Customs Department, Dunedin; that in the year 1890 he was instructed to proceed to the Macquarrie Islands in the s.s. "Kakanui," to report on the condition of affairs there; that the s.s. "Kakanui" foundered with all hands. Petitioner prays that his daughter-in-law may be granted a compassionate allowance.

I am directed to report that, as the Committee find that the petitioner's son was only in the temporary employ of the Government, and, further, that his daughter-in-law declined to receive aid from the "Kakanui" Relief Fund, although entitled to participate therein, they cannot recommend that the prayer of the petition should be granted.

23rd September, 1892.

No. 423.—Petition of JOHN MOORE, of Lyttelton.

PETITIONER, the master of the vessel "Croydon Lass," prays that the fines inflicted on him for a breach of the Lyttelton Harbour by-laws may be wholly or partially remitted.

I am directed to report that, having considered the petition and read the report of the Resident Magistrate who inflicted the fines, the Committee cannot recommend that the prayer of the petition should be granted.

23rd September, 1892.

No. 559.—Petition of MAYOR of PALMERSTON NORTH and Others.

PETITIONERS complain of the action of the Railway Commissioners in closing certain streets in the Town of Palmerston North, and pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, the Railway Commissioners having agreed to revest that portion of Main Street fronting Sections Nos. 310, 311, and 312, in the Borough Council of Palmerston North, the Committee have no recommendation to make on that point, but recommend that the Government place on the supplementary estimates a sufficient sum to construct two 4ft. overhead footbridges at Pitt Street and Cook Street, so as to give access to Main Street, on condition that the Borough Council express by resolution their acceptance of the same, and that the consent and approval of the individual members of the deputation who appeared before the Committee is obtained. With reference to the allegations of the petitioners, that the Railway Commissioners have refused to allow trains to stop at the northern end of the town, known as the Terrace End, the Committee are of opinion that this is a matter for the consideration of the Commissioners. As regards the further allegations of the petitioners, that the line of railway beyond West Street is constructed on the main road to Foxton in such a manner as to interfere with the rights of the freeholders and others who purchased their holdings with a frontage to the main road, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

23rd September, 1892.

No. 287.—Petition of J. G. Woon, of Hokitika.

PETITIONER states that he entered the Civil Service in September, 1878, and remained therein continuously until the 31st March, 1892, when he was compulsorily retired. That he is only fifty-three years of age, and that his retirement before the age of sixty is both illegal and unjust. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, petitioner has no claim for compensation for being compulsorily retired on pension.

24th September, 1892.

No. 294.—Petition of WILLIAM STAVELEY, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for consideration for services rendered to the colony as a Volunteer and Militia officer.

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

28th September, 1892.

No. 126.—Petition of Hon. Sir JULIUS VOGEL.

(Vide I.—2B.)

No. 598.—Petition of REUBEN MARTIN, of Waimauku.

PETITIONER alleges that gum-diggers are compelled to sell their gum by the hundredweight instead of by the pound, whereby they lose all the fractions. That the instruments used for weighing are very incorrect. He prays that all storekeepers may be compelled to use Fairbank's machines for weighing gum; that police officers may be made inspectors of the machines; and that no person who keeps an hotel may be allowed to be a gum-buyer.

I am directed to report that the allegations in this petition are of so serious a nature that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petition should be referred to the Government for consideration as to the best mode of remedying the grievances complained of.

29th September, 1892.

No. 599.—Petition of RODNEY TOWN COUNCIL.

PETITIONERS pray that they may be relieved of the unequal burden of taxation imposed upon them.

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

29th September, 1892.

No. 457.—Petition of A. R. MACKAY, of Rangitikei.

PETITIONER states that his services as a District Surveyor were dispensed with on the 30th June, 1885; that a few weeks afterwards he was appointed Crown Lands Ranger for Wellington and Hawke's Bay at a salary of £175; that it was agreed between the Surveyor-General and himself that on his retirement from the Service he should receive compensation, computed on the difference between his past salary of £325 as District Surveyor and his salary of £175 as Ranger; that on the faith of this agreement he accepted the sum of £108 as part payment of the compensation due; that, owing to a disagreement with his superior officer with regard to travelling-allowances he has been dispensed with without compensation. Petitioner prays that the terms of his agreement with the Surveyor-General may be carried out, also that he may receive compensation for loss of office as Ranger.

I am directed to report that, as it appears that the petitioner virtually resigned his position as Crown Lands Ranger, and that his services were not dispensed with by the Government, the Committee are of opinion that he is not entitled to any further compensation, but that the question of travelling-expenses should be at once adjusted.

29th September, 1892.

No. 21.—Petition of PARKER AND MADDOCK, of Blenheim (Report No. 1).

PETITIONERS, the contractors for the construction of the Dashwood Section of the Picton-Hurunui Railway, allege that on the completion of the contract the Government withheld, and still refuses to pay, certain moneys to which they (petitioners) are equitably entitled. They pray for redress.

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

3rd October, 1892.

No. 706.—Petition of AH SAM and Others, of Wellington.

PETITIONERS, Chinese hawkers of vegetables, &c., pray that that the Pedlars and Hawkers Bill may not be passed.

I am directed to report that, as it has been decided not to proceed with this Bill, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

4th October, 1892.

No. 633.—Petition of COLEMAN PHILLIPS, of Wairarapa.

PETITIONER alleges that, owing to the action of the Wellington Land Board, he has been put to serious loss and damage. He prays that a Royal Commission may be appointed to inquire into all matters in dispute between himself and the said Board.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner has not exhausted his legal remedies, the Committee cannot recommend that the prayer of the petition should be granted.

4th October, 1892.

No. 387.—Petition of JAMES PRESTON and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS, children of the late William Preston, a lunatic, pray that the accounts in the estate of the said William Preston—which was administered by the Public Trustee—may be inquired into, and that a detailed account of all disbursements and receipts may be rendered to petitioners, and that, if any of the disbursements are found to be excessive or erroneous, the charges may be disallowed; and, further, that the charge for maintenance of the said William Preston may be inquired into and a remission made, and for further and other relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the charge for maintenance is excessive. They therefore recommend that a refund to the estate of 15s. per week be made for the first period for which the Resident Magistrate's order was made for 5s., and a further refund of 8s. per week for the remainder of the term during which the late William Preston was actually in the asylum be made. The Committee are further of opinion that, while it does not appear that any charges have been made by the Public Trust Office for the administration of the estate not allowable by the regulations, yet it appears such charges are excessive, and steps should be taken at an early date to alter the law relating thereto.

6th October, 1892.

No. 672.—Petition of HANNAH B. WILSON, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance on account of her late husband's long service in the Public Works Department.

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

6th October, 1892.

No. 494, &c.—Petition of the MOTUEKA ROAD BOARD, and of 317 other Local Bodies.

PETITIONERS pray that no reduction may be made in the amount of the subsidies granted to local bodies.

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

4th October, 1892.

No. 698.—Petition of H. B. MORTON and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS allege that the mode provided by law for the composition of the Auckland Harbour Board is seriously defective. They pray that an alteration may be made in the mode of electing members of said Board.

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

4th October, 1892.

No. 528.—Petition of GEORGE ROSS, of Wellington.

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

I am directed to report that, after having heard the evidence of Mr. Commissioner Maxwell and petitioner, the Committee are of opinion that—although the latter had not received the official notification of his appointment as foreman till 1886, and as he had been performing the duties of that office, and had been entered on the pay-sheets as foreman since 1879—he is entitled to further compensation from the 14th April, 1879, to the 1st April, 1886, subject to deductions for any sums paid during that period for overtime work. (For evidence, &c., *vide* I.—2A.)

4th October, 1892.

No. 671.—Petition of W. J. W. ROBINSON, of Wellington.

PETITIONER alleges that the Public Petitions Committee recommended that certain sums of money should be paid to him; that the Government have paid the money to the wrong Robinsons; and prays for an inquiry into the matter, and for redress of his grievances.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the Government should cause inquiry to be made as to the sanity of this petitioner.

4th October, 1892.

No. 673.—Petition of DAVID McEWAN and Others.

PETITIONERS, members of the Union Steamship Company's friendly society, pray that the Friendly Societies Acts Amendment Bill may not be passed.

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

4th October, 1892.

No. 21.—Petition of PARKER AND MADDOCK, of Blenheim (Report No. 2).

REFERRED back to the Committee for reconsideration, by an order of the House, dated 3rd October, 1892.

I am directed to report that, the honourable member who presented this petition having written to the Chairman stating that he has taken steps to obtain further evidence which he considers essential in the interests of the petitioners, but which will not be available before the close of the session, the Committee are of opinion that the reconsideration of the petition should be postponed.

7th October, 1892.

No. 439.—Petition of PAUL STRAKA, of Auckland.

PETITIONER complains of the action of his solicitors with regard to certain lands which he purchased from the Government; and also that the Government have not done certain surveys which he was led to believe they would do.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot interfere with the business arrangements between the petitioner and his solicitors. But with reference to his complaint against the Government, the Committee are of opinion that he should be allowed to select an area of ten acres of Government land adjoining his selection.

7th October, 1892.

No. 713.—Petition of EDWIN ROBERTSON, of Rotorua.

PETITIONER presses his claim to the property of the late Te Taupua te Whanoa.

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

7th October, 1892.

No. 730, &c.—KAIKOURA COUNTY COUNCIL and 40 other Local Bodies.

PETITIONERS pray against any reduction in the amount of the subsidies paid to local bodies.

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

7th October, 1892.

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