

Nos. 361 and 376.—Petitions of ALEXANDER YOUNG and 4,000 Others, of Dunedin; and FRANCIS TRASK and 142 Others; of Nelson.

PETITIONERS pray that the issue of bottle licenses may not be prohibited by law.

I am directed to report that, as there is legislation now before the House on the subject-matter of the petitions, the Committee recommends they be referred to the Government.

27th August, 1896.

Nos. 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 372, and 373.—Petitions of JAMES DOULL and 33 Others, SAMUEL WHILBURN and 33 Others, CHARLES MACDONALD and 33 Others, DAVID MARTIN and 40 Others, AGNES McMECKIN and 5 Others, JAMES BROWALL and 46 Others, and JAMES McKERRASS and 33 Others.

PETITIONERS state that gambling is widely prevalent, and is a growing evil. They pray that legislation may be introduced in order to suppress the same.

I am directed to report that, as there is legislation now before the House on the subject-matter of the petitions, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

27th August, 1896.

No. 165.—Petition of JOHN MYNOTT, of New Plymouth.

PETITIONER prays that he may be refunded the sum of £28, being amount of costs incurred in defending a proposed prosecution for a violation of "The Dairy Act, 1894."

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

10th September, 1896.

No. 360.—Petition of A. J. WINGFIELD and 41 Others, of Otago.

PETITIONERS pray that the road from Findlater's to the Big Hill may be constructed.

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

10th September, 1896.

No. 415.—Petition of BARTHOLOMEW O'ROURKE, of South Canterbury.

PETITIONER states that while a prisoner working on Quail Island, Lyttelton, he received an injury to one of his legs which laid him up in the Timaru Hospital for five weeks. He prays that he may be granted compensation.

I am directed to report that, as no negligence has been shown on the part of the medical practitioner to the Lyttelton Gaol, the Committee is of opinion that the petitioner has no claim upon the colony.

16th September, 1896.

No. 375.—Petition of MARGARET WYATT, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that, owing to failing health, increasing age, and the effects of an accident, she was compelled to resign her position as charwoman in the service of the Postal Department. She prays for relief.

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

16th September, 1896.

No. 396.—Petition of GEORGE MORTON and 14 Others, of the Lower Waihao.

PETITIONERS pray that the ratepayers of the Lower Waihao district may be exempt from the payment of any tax levied for the erection of rabbit-fences, &c.

I am directed to report that, as there is legislation now before the House on the subject-matter of the petition, the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Minister in charge of the Bill.

16th September, 1896.

No. 387.—Petition of JAMES ROULSTON and 131 Others, of Pukekohe.

PETITIONERS state that in the year 1891 the district of Pukekohe was deprived of certain lands used as a public domain by an Act of the General Assembly. They pray that they may be granted such compensation as will enable the district to purchase a suitable property for use as a public domain.

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

22nd September, 1896.

No. 422.—Petition of HENRY PHILLIPS, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that certain clauses in the Bankruptcy Act may be amended.

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

23rd September, 1896.

No. 454.—Petition of JOHN SMITH, of Masterton.

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted some recognition of his military services to the colony.

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

23rd September, 1896.