

1896.
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS A TO L COMMITTEE.

(MR. JOYCE, CHAIRMAN.)

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

ORDER OF REFERENCE.

Extract from the Journals of the House of Representatives.

THURSDAY, THE 25TH DAY OF JUNE, 1896.

Ordered, "That a Public Petitions A to L Committee, consisting of ten members, be appointed to consider all petitions that may be referred to it by the Petitions Classification Committee, to classify and prepare abstracts of such petitions in such form and manner as shall appear to it best suited to convey to this House all requisite information respecting their contents, and to report the same from time to time to this House, and to have power to report its opinions and observations thereupon to this House; also to have power to call for persons and papers: three to be a quorum. The Committee to consist of Mr. Crowther, Mr. Green, Major Harris, Mr. Joyce, Mr. J. W. Kelly, Mr. Massey, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. R. McKenzie, Mr. O'Regan, and the mover."—(Hon. Mr. HALL-JONES.)

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No. 496 (1895).—Petition of JEFFERY ELLINGHAM and 47 Others, Ponsonby Road, Auckland. PETITIONERS pray that Licensing Commissioners may not be allowed to tender for any work in connection with the liquor trade.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Government for consideration ; but, as the matter is one of public policy, it has no recommendation to make.

1st July, 1896.

No. 39.—Petition of JAMES DEVINE, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays that he may be paid a certain sum of money to which he is entitled ; also that he may be reinstated in his office, or, in lieu thereof, may receive compensation.

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

2nd July, 1896.

No. 12.—Petition of JANE GOOD, of Upper Queen Street, Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance on account of her husband's death and length of service in the Government employ.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner should be granted one month's pay for each year of her husband's service, up to twelve months, in accordance with the practice obtaining in other Government departments.

2nd July, 1896.

No. 53.—Petition of H. A. AUSTIN and H. MOUNSEY.

PETITIONERS pray for compensation for alleged illegal arrest by the police.

I am directed to report that the police at Auckland had in March last information that some doubtful characters were *en route* from Sydney to Auckland, who duly arrived and went to Rotorua. That about the same period of time the petitioners also arrived at Rotorua from Sydney *via* the South Sea Islands as tourists for the benefit of their health, and while at Rotorua the post-office there was robbed of £200 in cash. That the police constables in the Auckland District, upon insufficient descriptions of the supposed burglars, unfortunately arrested the petitioners, who were taken to the police-station and detained there for two days. That the police authorities, so soon as it became known to them that the petitioners were absolutely above reproach, did everything possible to remove any indignity which had been cast upon the petitioners by reason of the arrest and detention at the police-station. That the Government be recommended to send a letter to the petitioners in New South Wales, expressing regret that they should have been subjected to the indignities complained of, and asking them to allow the New Zealand Government to reimburse them for any expenses paid by them in Auckland by reason of their arrest and detention at the police-station.

3rd July, 1896.

Nos. 49, 50, 51, 52, and 59.—Petition of M. J. DIXON and 165 Others, A. HOOKHAM and 951 Others, R. W. Fereday and 249 Others, E. Gibb and 2,470 Others, and C. Coates and 539 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that Scripture-lesson books may be used in the primary schools of New Zealand.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, these petitions should be referred to the Government for consideration ; but, as the matter is one of public policy, it has no recommendation to make.

3rd July, 1896.

No. 70.—Petition of Captain S. A. LEECH, of Westport.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss of office as Harbourmaster at Westport.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the Government to pay the petitioner compensation at the rate of one month's salary for each year's service during the time he was in the Marine Department's service—viz., from the abolition of the provinces to the date of his transfer to the service of the Westport Harbour Board.

7th July, 1896.

No. 22.—Petition of J. P. Low, of The Port, Nelson.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss of office.

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

7th July, 1896.

Nos. 77, 104, and 105 (all similar).—Petitions of JOSEPH HATSEL and 29 Others, of Prebbleton ; J. H. TWENTYMAN and 546 Others, of Ashburton ; C. A. FITZROY and 304 Others, of Hastings.

PETITIONERS pray that Scripture-lesson books may be used in the primary schools of New Zealand.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, these petitions should be referred to the Government for consideration ; but, as the matter is one of public policy, it has no recommendation to make.

8th July, 1896.

No. 64.—Petition of WILLIAM HALL, of Penrose, near Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that he may be compensated for losses caused by fire started by sparks from a railway-engine.

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

8th July, 1896.

No. 67.—Petition of W. CARLTON and 119 Others, of Ratanui.

PETITIONERS pray that the Catlin's River Railway may be extended to the Catlin's River.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having been informed that the Government will within the next three months commence a survey of the country beyond the Catlin's River, so as to determine the best route for the extension of the said railway, has no recommendation to make.

9th July, 1896.

No. 95.—Petition of H. B. HUDDLESTON, of Blenheim.

PETITIONER prays that he may be permitted to practise as an authorised surveyor, and for redress of certain alleged grievances.

I am directed to report that the Committee finds that the petitioner has presented to the House, during the years 1887 and 1896 (inclusive), no less than twelve petitions upon the same matter, the report upon each and every one of which has been either "No recommendation," or "No claim against the colony," and, after again considering the petitioner's case, the Committee is of opinion that he has no claim against the colony.

10th July, 1896.

No. 18.—Petition of JESSIE KELLY, of Wickliffe Terrace, Port Chalmers.

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance on account of her late husband's services.

I am directed to report that, after a full inquiry into the circumstances of the case, the Committee is of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

10th July 1896.

No. 58.—Petition of J. R. DUNCAN, of 34, Pirie Street, Wellington.

PETITIONER prays that he may receive further compensation for loss of office.

I am directed to report that the petitioner has proved that the Audit Department has in the past improperly paid two small sums of money by way of compensation for loss of office—viz., £1 7s. 8d. and £1 14s. 8d.; but the Committee cannot therefore recommend that a further impropriety should be committed by complying with the petitioner's prayer, and it has therefore no recommendation to make.

14th July, 1896.

No. 78.—Petition of R. BAUCHOPE and Others, Chairman, Taranaki Education Board.

PETITIONERS pray that increased grants may be made for their education district.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of the opinion that the subject-matter of the petition involves a question of policy, and that, as legislation would be necessary to give effect thereto, the Committee recommends that the petition should be referred to the Government for consideration.

14th July, 1896.

No. 27.—Petition of J. M. KING, J.P., and 7 Others, of Warkworth.

PETITIONERS pray that an inquiry may be held into the cause of the dismissal of Constable Haddock from the Police Force.

I am directed to report that the Committee has again gone into the circumstances of this case, and has also examined ex-Constable Haddock upon the matter. The Committee exceedingly regrets that the Government have not seen fit to carry into effect the recommendation made last session, and can but reiterate the same—viz., that an inquiry should be held into the circumstances connected with, and which led up to, the dismissal of Constable Haddock, late of Warkworth; such inquiry to be held before a Magistrate, ex-Magistrate, or any other competent person who has not been directly or indirectly connected with the case.

16th July, 1896.

No. 7.—Petition of CATHERINE BARNES, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for redress of certain alleged grievances.

I am directed to report that the Committee has again fully considered the petitioner's case, and has arrived at the same conclusion that has been arrived at by the A to L Petitions Committee upon four previous occasions—viz., that the petitioner has no claim against the colony.

16th July, 1896.

Nos. 128, 131, and 132.—Petitions of DAVID HENDERSON and 37 Others, C. POLSON and 90 Others, and C. MEYERS and 276 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that Scripture-lesson books may be used in the primary schools of New Zealand.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, these petitions should be referred to the Government for consideration; but, as the matter is one of public policy, it has no recommendation to make.

16th July, 1896.

No. 98.—Petition of JAMES HARRIS and 81 Others, of Chelsea, Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the Employers' Private Benefit Societies Bill may not be passed.

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

17th July, 1896.

No. 99.—Petition of JOHN BELL, of Auckland (No. 1).

PETITIONER prays that he may receive redress on account of certain wrongs said to have been sustained through the Stipendiary Magistrate at Auckland.

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

17th July, 1896.

No. 94.—Petition of W. G. GARRARD, of Grey Street, Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that an inquiry may be held into certain matters by which he is a sufferer.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner has not exhausted his legal remedies, and it has, therefore, no recommendation to make.

17th July, 1896.

No. 68.—Petition of Major CHARLES BROWN, of New Plymouth.

PETITIONER prays that he may receive compensation for the deprivation of his license as a Native interpreter, and the removal of his name from the Commission of the Peace.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no evidence before it as to how much compensation—if any—the petitioner is entitled to. The Committee regrets that the recommendation made by it last year—viz., that the inquiry then prayed for should be granted—has not been so granted. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Government should grant the inquiry prayed for.

17th July, 1896.

No. 71.—Petition of ALICE E. M. HILL and 5 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray for a compassionate allowance on account of their father's services to the Government.

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

17th July, 1896.

No. 84.—Petition of Sir W. L. BULLER, K.C.M.G., of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays that a Select Committee may be set up to inquire as to whether the report of the Horowhenua Commission is in accordance with the evidence as laid upon the table of the House.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition, bearing as it does upon matters connected with dealings with the Maoris, should therefore be referred to the Native Affairs Committee.

21st July, 1896.

Nos. 138, 143, 144, and 152.—Petitions of Rev. W. H. ORBELL and 820 Others, of Timaru; L. C. BRADY and 553 Others; G. SMITH and 44 Others; and H. T. BLAIR and 103 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that Scripture-lesson books may be used in the primary schools of New Zealand.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, these petitions should be referred to the Government for consideration; but, as the matter is one of public policy, it has no recommendation to make.

24th July, 1896.

No. 140.—Petition of THOMAS HULLETT, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays that the law may be amended so as to allow of his practising as an expert in cases of cancer.

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

28th July, 1896.

No. 148.—Petition of JAMES GIBB and Others, of Dunedin.

PETITIONERS pray that the Deceased Husband's Brother Bill may not pass.

I am directed to report that, as this Bill has already passed its third reading, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

28th July, 1896.

No. 136.—Petition of L. J. FREEMAN and 13 Others, of Napier.

PETITIONERS pray that the proposed legislation as affecting working-men's clubs may not be passed.

I am directed to report that, as there is at the present time a Bill before the House dealing with the subject-matter of the petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

28th July, 1896.

No. 38.—Petition of DANIEL EGAN, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for compensation on account of injuries said to have been received in the service of the colony.

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

28th July, 1896.

No. 202.—Petition of JOHN BAILEY and 4 Others, of Kaiapoi.

PETITIONERS pray that the proposed legislation as affecting working-men's clubs may not be given effect to.

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

11th August, 1896.

Nos. 158 and 159.—Petitions of F. R. FLATMAN and 11 Others, and Mrs. D. WILSON and 34 Others, of Woodbury.

PETITIONERS pray that legislation may be passed to suppress gambling.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this is a matter of public policy; and, further, there is a Bill now before the House dealing with the matter: therefore it has no recommendation to make.

11th August, 1896.

Nos. 164, 175, 183, 192, 193, and 201 (all similar).—Petitions of L. WIGGINS and 99 Others, W. J. MULCOCK and 89 Others, JOS. WHITE and 47 Others, JNO. KIRK and 31 Others, BEN. JOHNSON and 89 Others, and ALEX. GREIG and 350 Others (of Sumner).

PETITIONERS pray that a Scripture-lesson book may be used in the primary schools of New Zealand.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, these petitions should be referred to the Government for consideration; but, as the matter is one of public policy, it has no recommendation to make.

11th August, 1896.

No. 103.—Petition of C. C. KETTLE, District Judge, of Wanganui.

PETITIONER prays that the existing law may be amended in the direction of—(a.) Raising the tenure of office of the District Court Judges from one "during the pleasure of the Governor" to a tenure "during ability and good behaviour." (b.) Placing the salaries of the District Court Judges on the permanent Civil List; and that the said salaries may be made adequate and commensurate with the responsible and onerous duties which the District Court Judges are called upon to perform.

I am directed to report that in 1894 the Committee considered a similar petition from District Judge Kettle, upon which it reported "That, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Government for favourable consideration." Having again heard Judge Kettle's statement of his case, and examined him thereupon, the Committee is strongly of the opinion that the Government should at an early opportunity take the whole matter into its careful and favourable consideration.

In support of this recommendation the Committee would draw the attention of the Government—Firstly, to the following quotation from a speech by the late Hon. J. Ballance (*vide Hansard*, Vol. LXIX, pages 909–10, 1890): "If there was one constitutional principle better established than any other it was that Judges should be appointed not 'during pleasure,' but during 'good behaviour'; and that their salaries should be fixed, and not be subject to the will of the Government or the House." Secondly, to the attached exhibit, headed "Independence of the Bench of Justice." (*Vide*, also, Appendix I.—1A.)

12th August, 1896.

Nos. 252, 243, 256, 244, 255, 306, 197, 216, 309, 227, 228, 229, and 196 (all similar).—Petitions of MARY OTWAY and 75 Others, the Vicarage, Lincoln; ADAM BARR and 99 Others; J. MCKERROW and 112 Others; W. S. CURRIE and 109 Others; J. O. BECKET and 249 Others; Rev. P. S. HAY and 137 Others; Rev. E. C. BUDD and 20 Others; S. HAMILTON and 445 Others; Mrs. A. W. WHITE and 135 Others; WM. DAVIDSON and 170 Others; WM. TAYLOR and 6 Others (No. 1); WM. TAYLOR and 6 Others (No. 2); Rev. R. COFFEY and 1,178 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that a Scripture-lesson book may be used in the primary schools of New Zealand.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, these petitions should be referred to the Government for consideration; but, as the matter is one of public policy, it has no recommendation to make.

12th August, 1896.

No. 133.—Petition of CHARLOTTE KNIGHT and Others, of New Brighton, Christchurch.

PETITIONERS pray for redress on account of certain alleged grievances received from the New Brighton Tramway Company.

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

12th August, 1896.

No. 61.—Petition of L. J. BAGNALL and 32 Others, of Turua, Thames.

PETITIONERS pray that the Turua district may be constituted a separate road district.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having carefully considered the case in all its bearings, makes the two following recommendations for the consideration of the Government: (a.) That a short amending Act be passed to make compulsory the proper observance of clauses 46, 145, and 146 of "The Counties Act, 1886." (b.) That the said amending Act should also be made to amend clause 52 of the said "Counties Act, 1886," by bestowing the power of veto upon the Governor in Council instead of, as at present, the County Council.

13th August, 1896.

Nos. 254 and 262 (both similar).—Petitions of EDWIN CLIFFIN and 4 Others, of Waikato, ED. LAKE and 14 Others, of Waikato.

PETITIONERS pray that the Bill to amend the law of divorce, as now before the House, may not be passed.

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

13th August, 1896.

No. 258.—Petition of C. E. HAYWARD and 3 Others, of Waikiekie, Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the Local Government Bill, as now before the House, may not be passed.

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

13th August, 1896.

No. 221.—Petition of A. I. SUCKLING-BARON, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays that a certain sum of money paid by way of duty upon electrical machinery, under conditions set forth, may be refunded to the New Zealand Electrical Syndicate.

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

13th August, 1896.

No. 127.—Petition of JOHN HENRY FIELD, of Albert Street, Auckland (E. T. Field, Ponsonby, Auckland).

PETITIONER prays that the recommendation made last session by the Public Petitions Committee A to L—viz., that he should be paid the sum of £93 14s. in full satisfaction of his claim—may be given effect to.

I am directed to report that the Committee exceedingly regrets that the Government has not seen fit to give effect to the recommendation made last session upon the petitioner's case. That, at the last hearing of the petition, the matter was very fully and carefully gone into by the Committee, and, after the evidence adduced had been thoroughly weighed and considered, the Committee presented a full and detailed report to the House, recommending that the petitioner should be paid the sum of £93 14s. in full satisfaction of his claim of £119 12s. As upon this occasion no new evidence has been brought forward to prove that the facts of the case are other than as shown last session, the Committee therefore strongly recommends that the Government should take the matter into its early consideration, and pay to the petitioner the sum of £93 14s., as aforesaid.

14th August, 1896.

No. 245.—Petition of WILLIAM CRAWFORD and 4 Others, of Maungakarama, Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the Local Government Bill, as before the House, may not be passed.

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

14th August, 1896.

No. 261.—Petition of R. C. DYER and 5 Others, of Waikato.

PETITIONERS pray that the Bill to amend the law of divorce, as before the House, may not be passed.

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

14th August, 1896.

No. 236.—Petition of H. T. KEMP, of Onchunga, Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that a short Act may be passed to enable the Government to pay him the pension to which he considers that he is entitled.

I am directed to report that, from the evidence before the Committee, it appears that the Government has awarded such compensation as the law allows, and the Committee does not see any reason why the law should be altered to meet the petitioner's case. The Committee cannot, therefore, recommend this claim for a pension to the favourable consideration of the Government.

14th August, 1896.

No. 1.—Petition of G. F. BRYAN, of Inangahua.

PETITIONER prays for a refund by the Government of moneys stolen in transit through the post.

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

14th August, 1896.

No. 225.—Petition of JOHN BELL, of Auckland (No. 2).

PETITIONER prays for redress on account of certain alleged grievances.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
14th August, 1896.

No. 150.—Petition of GEO. JACKSON and 83 Others, of Christchurch.

PETITIONERS pray that the Irish Text-book, or any other form of religious instruction, may not be introduced into the State schools.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Government for consideration; but, as the matter is one of public policy, it has no recommendation to make.

14th August, 1896.

No. 203.—Petition of A. L. BELLERLY, and 18 Others, of Waimata, Cook County.

PETITIONERS pray that a sum of money may be placed upon the estimates for metalling the road between Waimata and Gisborne.

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

19th August, 1896.

No. 219.—Petition of ED. BROCK and 38 Others, of Ramarama Valley, Bay of Islands.

PETITIONERS pray that Government may grant a sum of money for road-making in the Ramarama Valley.

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

19th August, 1896.

No. 273.—Petition of G. F. DICKESON and 213 Others, of Ngaruawahia.

PETITIONERS pray that the Government may grant a subsidy for the erection of a bridge over the Waipa River.

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

19th August, 1896.

No. 213.—Petition of C. C. N. BARRON, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays that the House may remove the doubts that have been raised relative to his status, and will declare him to have been a duly-appointed officer in the Civil Service, under "The Civil Service Act, 1866," on the 11th day of June, 1867, and will grant him relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee has gone very fully and carefully into the petitioner's case, and would draw the attention of the Government to two letters received by Mr. Barron (copies attached), dated respectively the 11th June, 1867, and the 7th November, 1867, from the then Under-Secretary of the Colonial Secretary's Department. The said letters convey to the minds of the Committee that the petitioner was not only an officer of the House, but was also constituted a Civil servant by virtue of the services demanded of him during the recess, and which were duly performed for many years. The Committee would also point out that, in its opinion, no precedent would be created by granting the prayer of the petitioner, as the case of no other officer under the Government would be "on all-fours" with that of the petitioner. The Committee therefore recommends that the petitioner should be allowed to make choice as between a pension (as under the Civil Service Act), and compensation as upon his length of service.

21st August, 1896.

No. 176.—Petition of GEO. H. DORE, of Otahuhu, Auckland.

PETITIONER prays he may be granted redress for loss of pension (on account of military services) for the period between the 30th June, 1870, and the 18th May, 1872, as set forth in his petition.

I am directed to report that the Committee has fully investigated this case, and, it having been proved in evidence that the Medical Board, which inquired into the petitioner's claim for a pension in 1870, would have granted him a permanent pension had they not considered that there was a possible chance of his ultimate recovery,—which, however, has not taken place,—the Committee therefore recommends that the prayer of the petitioner should be granted—viz., that he should receive 2s. per day pension for the two years named, as between the 30th June, 1870, and the 18th May, 1872.

21st August, 1896.

No. 237.—Petition of FREDERICK GULLIVER, of Rangiora (No. 1).

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted the Volunteer long-service medal.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner has not established his claim, and it has therefore no recommendation to make.

21st August, 1896.

No. 239.—Petition of FREDERICK GULLIVER, of Rangiora (No. 2).

PETITIONER prays that he may be given power to make a claim for a grant of land under the Naval and Military Settlers' Act.

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

21st August, 1896.

No. 220.—Petition of T. R. BROOKE, of 117, Manchester Street, Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays that he may receive compensation for loss of office in the Railway Department, or a compassionate allowance.

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

21st August, 1896.

No. 121.—Petition of JAMES R. LYSAGHT and 15 Others, of Hawera.

PETITIONERS pray for a refund of moneys by the Government on account of the Public Trustee, as set forth in the petition.

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

21st August, 1896.

No. 174.—Petition of W. N. CHAMBERS, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER prays that he may receive compensation for loss of office in the Railway Department, or a compassionate allowance.

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

21st August, 1896.

No. 231.—Petition of W. BULL and 23 Others, of Dunedin.

PETITIONERS pray that the duty may be removed from small fruits.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of the petition is one of public policy, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

21st August, 1896.

No. 181.—Petition of GEORGE HIRST and 43 Others, of Hunua.

PETITIONERS pray that the Government may construct a road to the Hunua Railway-station.

I am directed to report that the Chief Surveyor's report and other evidence is favourable to the prayer of the petition. The Committee therefore recommend that, if the Hunua Road Board obtained the necessary lands required for the deviation of the said road, the Government should place upon the estimates the sum of £1,500 for the construction of the same.

21st August, 1896.

No. 342.—Petition of EMMA FIELD, of Albert Street, Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that the report of the Public Petitions A to L Committee upon her late husband's petition may be given effect to.

I am directed to report that the Committee strongly recommend that the Government should take the matter into its early consideration, and pay to the petitioner the sum awarded—namely, £93 14s.

21st August, 1896.

Nos. 307, 314, 323, 324, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, and 340.

—Petitions of ALEX. D. THOMPSON and 2,169 Others, of Otipopo, Maheno.

PETITIONERS pray that a Scripture-lesson book may be used in the primary schools of New Zealand.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, these petitions should be referred to the Government for consideration; but, as the matter is one of public policy, it has no recommendation to make.

25th August, 1896.

No. 180.—Petition of GEORGE BAKER and 54 Others, of Punakitere, Bay of Islands.

PETITIONERS pray that the Government may build a bridge over the Punakitere River.

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

25th August, 1896.

No. 317.—Petition of ADAM LILE, of Inglewood.

PETITIONER prays for redress on account of an alleged miscarriage of justice.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner has failed to avail himself of his legal remedies, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

27th August, 1896.

No. 9.—Petition of JOHN BRIDGMAN, Antigua Street, Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays that he may be reinstated in the Police Force, or receive compensation for loss of office.

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

27th August, 1896.

No. 271.—Petition of JAMES HARVEY, of Invercargill.

PETITIONER prays that he may receive the sum of £30 16s. 4d. as interest upon certain property in course of transfer from his clients to the Government.

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

1st September, 1896.

No. 371.—Petition of H. B. HUDDLESTON, of Blenheim (No. 2).

PETITIONER prays for relief, as clause 170 of "The Land Transfer Act, 1885," has had the effect of invalidating his license to practise as a surveyor.

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

1st September, 1896.

Nos. 344, 363, and 374.—Petitions of the Rev. W. WILL, of The Manse, East Taieri, and 133 Others; the Rev. A. CAMERON and 251 Others; and the Rev. W. NICHOL and 222 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that a Scripture-lesson book may be used in the primary schools of New Zealand.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, these petitions should be referred to the Government for consideration; but, as the matter is one of public policy, it has no recommendation to make.

1st September, 1896.

No. 366.—Petition of JAMES HOWARD, of Westport.

PETITIONER prays that he may receive compensation for injuries received from the bursting of a cannon.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having for a second time investigated the claim of the petitioner, and as no new evidence has been produced to cause a revision of the conclusion arrived at last session, can but repeat its former recommendation—namely, "That it is of opinion that the colony is in no way responsible for the unfortunate accident named; but that, taking into consideration the surrounding circumstances of the case, the Committee recommends that the Government should find some suitable employment for James Howard."

2nd September, 1896.

No. 215.—Petition of OSWALD CURTIS, of Nelson.

PETITIONER prays for compensation upon account of loss of office as Superintendent of the Province of Nelson upon the abolition of the provinces.

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

2nd September, 1896.

No. 101.—Petition of H. VON BLARAMBERG, Gray Street, Palmerston North (No. 1).

PETITIONER prays for an inquiry into the reason for his dismissal by the Wanganui Education Board.

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

8th September, 1896.

Nos. 379, 404, and 405.—Petitions of J. GRAY and 6 Others, of Hukerenui, Auckland; G. B. SUTTON and 2 Others; and J. R. LAMBERT and 6 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the Local Government Bill as before the House may not pass.

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

11th September, 1896.

Nos. 383, 384, and 385.—Petitions of JOSEPH DIXON and 62 Others, of Drury, Auckland; J. B. PRIESTLEY and 30 Others; and Rev. T. NORRIE and 40 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that gambling may be suppressed by law.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this is a matter of public policy, and therefore it has no recommendation to make.

11th September, 1896.

No. 370.—Petition of GEORGE ELLIOTT and 75 Others, of Mercer, Waikato.

PETITIONERS pray that a punt may be placed upon the Waikato River at Mercer.

I am directed to report that, as the Chief Surveyor at Auckland reports that there are two old punts on hand, either of which might be repaired and sent to Mercer, the Committee recommends that the departmental report of the 31st ultimo be given effect to.

15th September, 1896.

No. 381.—Petition of H. E. CROFTS, of Parnell, Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for further consideration of his case, and compensation for loss of office.

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

15th September, 1896.

No. 400.—Petition of Z. BAILEY, of Mornington, Dunedin.

PETITIONER prays for redress and compensation on account of certain grievances in connection with a sale of land.

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

15th September, 1896.

Nos. 406 and 446.—Petitions of G. L. GLADDING and 430 Others; and G. GRAYSON and 17 Others, Union Street, Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the Order in Council making it compulsory for Civil Service cadets to serve three years in a Volunteer corps may be repealed.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
18th September, 1896.

No. 398.—Petition of JOHN KING, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for a reconsideration of his claims against the Government.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
18th September, 1896.

Nos. 444 and 445.—Petitions of A. B. FORDYCE and 162 Others, of Mount Eden Road, Auckland; and J. G. WILE and 133 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that gambling may be suppressed by law.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this is a matter of public policy, and therefore it has no recommendation to make.

18th September, 1896.

Nos. 389, 390, 393, 399, 407, 408, 409, and 410.—Petitions of JAMES CLARKE and 464 Others, of Palmerston South; P. C. VALPY and 109 Others; A. C. BEGG and 296 Others; D. HARMAN and 136 Others; C. S. F. MOORE and 35 Others; M. FLEMING and 13 Others; T. O. HAY and 9 Others; and J. NEILD and 35 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that a Scripture-lesson book may be used in the primary schools of New Zealand.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, these petitions should be referred to the Government for consideration; but, as the matter is one of public policy, it has no recommendation to make.

18th September, 1896.

Nos. 416, 417, 418, 419, 448, 449, 450, and 451.—Petitions of Rev. E. J. CARTER and 51 Others, Riversdale, Otago; M. A. SMELLIE and 85 Others; J. BLACKBOURNE and 34 Others; J. GRIGG and 16 Others; A. C. KNIGHT and 22 Others; W. SHAW and 21 Others; W. H. BRISTOW and 22 Others; M. LATTEK and 22 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that a Scripture-lesson book may be used in the primary schools of New Zealand.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, these petitions should be referred to the Government for consideration; but, as the matter is one of public policy, it has no recommendation to make.

22nd September, 1896.

No. 413.—Petition of R. G. KNIGHT, Customhouse Quay.

PETITIONER prays that a Bill may be passed enabling every father of ten children to obtain a grant of 100 acres of land.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
22nd September, 1896.

411.—Petition of Mrs. L. C. LYSTER, of Petone.

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance on account of her late husband's service in the police.

I am directed to report that, as evidence has been given that the petitioner has died since presenting her petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

22nd September, 1896.

No. 118.—Petition of W. C. HIGHAM and 33 Others, of Huia, Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that £400 may be placed upon the estimates for the construction of a bridge over the Huia River.

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

29th September, 1896.

No. 455.—Petition of GEORGE BALDICK, of Blenheim.

PETITIONER prays that he may receive a grant of land as being one of the oldest colonists.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
29th September, 1896.

No. 414.—Petition of W. G. BASSETT, of 83, Tinakori Road.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for alleged wrongful arrest by the police.

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

29th September, 1896.

No. 158, 1895.—Petition of THOMAS P. HUGHSON and 41 Others, of Okato, Taranaki.

PETITIONERS pray that the Public Trustee may be compelled to construct certain roads.

I am directed to report that, as it has been shown that the prayer of the petitioners has been already granted, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

29th September, 1896.

No. 517, 1895.—Petition of W. LITCHFIELD and 947 Others, of Blenheim.

PETITIONERS pray that the Lower Wairau and Spring Creek River Boards may be amalgamated.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the provisions made for amalgamation in the Local Government Bill now before the House are sufficient to meet the case, and therefore it has no recommendation to make.

29th September, 1896.

No. 453.—Petition of H. K. GILMOUR, of Howick, Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that the sum of £60 may be refunded him by the Department of Justice.

I am directed to report that, as it has been shown that the Government have this matter under consideration with a view to an early settlement, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

6th October, 1896.

No. 479.—Petition of J. H. KELLY, of Hillside, Ngauruawahia.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss of stock, said to have been caused by rabbit-poison laid by the Government Inspector.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner has not exhausted his legal remedies, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

6th October, 1896.

No. 465.—Petition of H. VON BLARAMBERG, of Gray Street, Palmerston North (No. 2).

PETITIONER prays that the Education Act may be amended so as to place School Boards under the control of the Government.

I am directed to report that, as the prayer of the petition deals with a matter which is entirely one of public policy, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

6th October, 1896.

Nos. 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, and 488.—Petitions of C. KEMP and 7 Others, Kerikeri, Bay of Islands; W. ROSS and 17 Others; H. LANE and 8 Others; Captain BURLEIGH and 20 Others; C. LEWIS and 2 Others; R. MARSHALL and 8 Others; G. C. HODGES and 19 Others; and J. B. CLARKE and 23 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the Local Government Bill as now before the House may not pass.

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

6th October, 1896.

Nos. 466, 467, and 468.—Petitions of D. HIGGINS and 480 Others, of Castle Street, Dunedin; G. L. DENNISTON and 254 Others; and W. THOMPSON and 227 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that a Scripture-lesson book may be used in the primary schools of New Zealand.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, these petitions should be referred to the Government for consideration; but, as the matter is one of public policy, it has no recommendation to make.

6th October, 1896.

No. 154.—Petition of DAVID HUTCHISON, of Balfour, Southland.

PETITIONER prays for redress as against certain specified actions of the Public Trustee.

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

8th October, 1896.

Nos. 523, 524, and 530.—Petitions of P. KEDDIE and 66 Others, St. Andrew's, Canterbury; M. HATTON and 81 Others; and A. DEWDNEY and 559 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the Government will draw the attention of the Imperial Government to the concern of the people of New Zealand regarding the treatment of the Armenians by the Turks.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this is a matter where Imperial interests are at stake, and therefore it has no recommendation to make.

8th October, 1896.

No. 502.—Petition of R. R. M. SUTHERLAND and 520 Others, Kaikorai Manse, Roslyn, Dunedin.

PETITIONERS pray that a Scripture-lesson book may be used in the primary schools of New Zealand.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this petition should be referred to the Government for consideration; but, as the matter is one of public policy, it has no recommendation to make.

8th October, 1896.

Nos. 457 and 458.—Petition of JAMES JACKSON, of Hyde, Otago Central, and P. KINNEY and 73 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that James Jackson may be found some suitable employment, or receive compensation, on account of injuries received while in the service of the Railway Department.

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

8th October, 1896.

No. 516.—Petition of JOSEPH H. DOYLE, of Fairlie, Mackenzie County.

PETITIONER prays for redress on account of losses said to have been caused by an action of the Government Insurance Department.

I am directed to report that, having made careful inquiry into all the circumstances of the case, the Committee is of the opinion that the petitioner is not entitled to relief.

13th October, 1896.

No. 499.—Petition of M. E. GARNAUT, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for redress on account of the seizure of her boat by Her Majesty's Customs.

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

13th October, 1896.

No. 397.—Petition of JOHN FITZGERALD, of Little Grey Junction.

PETITIONER prays that he may receive relief on account of the encroachment of the Grey River upon his land, said to be caused by the erection of a bridge over the said river.

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

13th October, 1896.

No. 534.—Petition of NILS JACOBSON, Masterton.

PETITIONER prays for compensation on account of alleged wrongful imprisonment, and also for delay in liberation after such wrongful incarceration is said to have been proved.

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

16th October, 1896.

No. 388.—Petition of THOMAS BOYES and Others, of Motueka.

PETITIONERS pray that the sum of £100 may be placed upon the estimates to assist them in erecting protective works upon the Motueka River.

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

16th October, 1896.

No. 550.—Petition of H. MORRIS and 399 Others, of Onehunga.

PETITIONERS pray that the House may devise some means for preserving in its integrity the bargain made between the Parliament of New Zealand and the Borough Council of Onehunga in "The Special Powers and Contracts Act, 1881," *in re* a public cemetery.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the injunction against the cemetery should be withdrawn, or that the borough and county should be compensated in such a manner as to place them in the same position as they occupied before the passing of "The Special Powers and Contracts Act, 1881."

16th October, 1896.

Nos. 554, 544, 545, 548, 549, and 553.—Petitions of Rev. P. McQUEEN and 95 Others, Rev. B. RHODES and 46 Others, Rev. S. LAWRY and 55 Others, C. R. COLDHAM and 45 Others, Rev. Father PAUL and 56 Others, and THOMAS MAICHER and 22 Others, of Onehunga.

PETITIONERS pray that a piece of land in the Borough of Onehunga, used as a cemetery until such practice was stopped by an injunction against further burying, may be reopened as a public cemetery.

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

16th October, 1896.

No. 538.—Petition of JOHN DODDS, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for alleged wrongful arrest by the police.

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

16th October, 1896.

No. 552.—Petition of J. G. LE BRUN, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for redress on account of alleged injustice.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, it is too late in the session—being the last day but one—to open an inquiry such as the petitioner desires; therefore it has no recommendation to make.

16th October, 1896.

No. 525.—Petition of W. HOPKINS and Others, of Newman.

PETITIONERS pray that a subsidy may be granted for erecting a cottage hospital at Eketahuna.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
16th October, 1896.

No. 316.—Petition of LOUISA C. JONES, of Grey Street, Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance on account of her husband's death while in the Government service.

I am directed to report that, as no evidence has been produced to prove the petitioner's case, and also as leave has been asked to withdraw the petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

16th October, 1896.

Nos. 528, 540, and 542.—Petitions of W. A. EVANS and 25 Others, of Ellice Avenue, Wellington; JAMES HILTON and 136 Others; and Rev. W. GILLIES and 24 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the Government will draw the attention of the Imperial Government to the concern of the people of New Zealand regarding the treatment of the Armenians by the Turks.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, this is a matter where Imperial interests are at stake, and therefore it has no recommendation to make.

16th October, 1896.

No. 527.—Petition of M. COWLING, of New Plymouth.

PETITIONER prays that she may receive a grant of land under the Military Settlers Act.

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

16th October, 1896.

FINAL REPORT.

I AM directed to report that the Committee has had 194 petitions referred to it by the Classification Committee, have held thirty-six meetings to consider the same, and have brought up 194 reports thereon, viz. :—

Specific recommendations ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	15
For favourable consideration of Government ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	5
For consideration of Government ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	92
No claim or no recommendation	79
Referred to other Committees	3
Total	194

16th October, 1896.

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