

1896.  
NEW ZEALAND.

# REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS M TO Z COMMITTEE.

(MR. MEREDITH, CHAIRMAN.)

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

## ORDERS OF REFERENCE.

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

THURSDAY, THE 25TH DAY OF JUNE, 1896.

*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. Collins, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Lang, Mr. McNab, Mr. Meredith, Mr. Morrison, Mr. E. M. Smith, Mr. Willis, and the mover."—(Hon. Mr. T. THOMPSON.)

FRIDAY, THE 26TH DAY OF JUNE, 1896.

*Ordered*, "That the name of Mr. Lewis be added to the Public Petitions M to Z Committee."—(Hon. Mr. T. THOMPSON.)

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## No. 2.—Petition of THOMAS NESTOR, of Makairo.

PETITIONER states that in April last he was a first-class constable in charge of the Eketahuna sub-district; that he also acted as clerk and bailiff to the Eketahuna Magistrate's Court; that in August he was charged with perjury in connection with the service of certain summonses; that the grand jury threw out the bill; and that he was then dismissed from the service. He prays that he may be reinstated in his former position in the Police Department, that he may be compensated for loss of office, and that he be refunded the expenses incurred in defending the said charge.

I am directed to report that, having carefully considered the petition, the Committee are of opinion that the offence of the petitioner was to swear that summonses in the cases of *Dutton v. Bodmin* and *Heron v. Bodmin*, at Eketahuna, were personally served upon the defendant while the petitioner was acting as bailiff of the Court in that town; that the summonses were in reality served upon persons upon whom the defendant had previously instructed the petitioner to serve his summonses; that the affidavit should have specified the person upon whom service was actually effected; that the Stipendiary Magistrate at Masterton dismissed the charge against the petitioner, and, when afterwards the Stipendiary Magistrate at Wellington committed the petitioner for trial, the grand jury threw out the bill, with the approval of the presiding Judge; that the record of the petitioner while nearly twenty years in the Police Force of the colony is an excellent one, and the petitioner has always faithfully discharged his duties; that they are of opinion that the punishment meted out to the petitioner was out of proportion to the offence committed, and that the petitioner should either be reinstated in the Force, or receive some compensation for the loss of his position as constable.

8th July, 1896.

## No. 62.—Petition of ABRAHAM STOTT, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted some remuneration on account of his services as drill-instructor to the Volunteers.

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

8th July, 1896.

## No. 23.—Petition of ALBERT PLUMMER, of Port Ahuriri.

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted some compensation for loss sustained in connection with his contract to supply Maori prisoners at the Chatham Islands with food in the year 1868, &c.

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

8th July, 1896.

## No. 37.—Petition of ALFRED A. PENNEFATHER.

PETITIONER states that in March last he was retired from the position of constable in charge at Ashurst, on account of alleged gross neglect of duty, &c. He prays that inquiry may be made into the circumstances of the case, and that he be restored to his former position in the Police Force, and for other relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the action of the department in dismissing the petitioner from the service was justifiable.

8th July, 1896.

## No. 35.—Petition of JOHN J. WALKER, of Bromley, near Christchurch.

PETITIONER states that during the labour strike in September, 1890, he was attacked and badly injured by a band of six union men, and that he is now unable to support himself and family. He prays for relief.

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

8th July, 1896.

## No. 100.—Petition of WILLIAM M. and MARION DE WESTON, of Christchurch.

PETITIONERS pray for relief on account of alleged injuries received from a detective of the New Zealand Police Force.

I am directed to report that the Committee sees no reason for altering the decision arrived at last session by the Public Petitions A to L Committee—namely, "That, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioners have no claim against the colony."

10th July, 1896.

## No. 46.—Petition of WALTER SINCLAIR WATERSTON, of Invercargill.

PETITIONER prays for an inquiry into the circumstances in connection with the interpretation of "The Shipping and Seamen's Act, 1877," by the Collector of Customs at Greymouth, in September, 1895, and November, 1895, as affecting his ships the "Alexa" and "Ganymede," and for other relief, &c.

I am directed to report that, as the facts of this case appear to be of an intricate and complicated nature, requiring expert knowledge, and the matters at issue of an important character to the shipping interests of the colony, the Committee strongly recommends that the Government should institute a judicial inquiry into the whole circumstances of the case at the earliest possible date.

10th July, 1896.

## No. 45.—Petition of JANE MOORE, of Takaka.

PETITIONER prays that she may be granted a compassionate allowance on account of her late husband, Captain Moore, who was knocked down and fatally injured by a shunting-engine at the Lyttelton Railway-station on the 2nd June last.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having carefully considered the evidence adduced, is fully satisfied that Mrs. Moore has no legal claim against the Government, but, in consideration of her circumstances, recommends that a compassionate allowance of £50 be granted her.

10th July, 1896.

## No. 10.—Petition of JOHN JAMES MEIKLE, of Southland.

PETITIONER prays that full effect may be given to the Public Petitions M to Z Committee's recommendation of last session in his case.

I am directed to report that this Committee regrets that its recommendations of last session have not been carried out, and that the Committee is still of opinion that an allowance should be granted to him by way of compensation for imprisonment suffered and consequent loss sustained.

14th July, 1896.

## No. 41.—Petition of ALEXANDER McNAUGHT, of Oamaru.

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted an inquiry into the circumstances of his having been wrongfully declared a bankrupt, and for redress for having been imprisoned for contempt of Court, &c.

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

16th July, 1896.

## No. 65.—Petition of JAMES SCULLY, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted further compensation for loss of office as sergeant-major of the Defence Department.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to, and should receive, the same retiring-allowance as was paid to Sergeants-Major White and Haslem—viz., one month's salary for each year of service.

16th July, 1896.

## No. 85.—Petition of Mrs. JANE SILK, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that in June, 1895, her husband's reason became impaired, and that he was compelled to retire from his position in the Government Printing Office as engine-driver and acting engineer. She prays that she may be granted some additional assistance.

I am directed to report that, while recognising the petitioner has no legal claim against the Government, the Committee, under the painful circumstance of the case, recommends the Government to find her some suitable employment if possible.

21st July, 1896.

## No. 4.—Petition of R. MACALISTER.

PETITIONER prays that he may be either reinstated in the public service of the colony or that he be granted a suitable pension for the loss of a life office.

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

21st July, 1896.

## No. 28.—Petition of WILLIAM SEWELL, of Oamaru.

PETITIONER states that in May, 1862, he was appointed by the Provincial Government of Otago Beach-master and Pilot at Oamaru; that in May, 1876, he was transferred to the service of the Oamaru Harbour Board; that in April last he received intimation that his engagement with the Board would cease after the 31st July next. He prays that he may be granted a retiring-allowance.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that petitioner is entitled to compensation for the full length of his service under the Provincial Government of Otago, as indicated by the letters from the Marine Department dated 1st September, 1877, and 20th February, 1878, M 77/1946, and M 77/2605.

21st July, 1896.

## No. 137.—Petition of MARTIN MANSON and 124 Others, North of Auckland Districts.

PETITIONERS pray that legislation may be enacted to put an end to the "truck" system prevailing on the gumfields in the North of Auckland districts.

I am directed to report that, as the question involved is one of public policy, the Committee recommends that the petition should be referred to the Government for consideration.

23rd July, 1896.

## No. 149.—Petition of ELIZA MOIR, of Ahuroa.

PETITIONER prays that she may be granted redress on account of a road taken through her property, &c.

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

23rd July, 1896.

## No. 42.—Petition of A. W. REID and 124 Others, of Stratford.

PETITIONERS pray that the balance of the sentences of John Farrell, William O'Reilly, and Owen Cullen Cowen, convicted under "The Bankruptcy Act, 1892," may be remitted.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioners have not approached the department in the first instance in respect of the matter contained in the petition, the Committee recommends it be referred to the Government.

29th July, 1896.

## No. 122.—Petition of BESSIE ANNIE WARNER, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that her late husband was for twenty-four years a clerk in the Postal Department; that on his death she was granted a compassionate allowance equal to two weeks' salary for each year served. She prays that she may be granted a further allowance.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner should be granted the same compassionate allowance as other similar cases—viz., eighteen months' pay.

29th July, 1896.

## No. 126.—Petition of CHRISTINA MOUNTFORT, of Wanganui.

PETITIONER states that her late husband was for over twenty-eight years in the employ of the Telegraph Department; that she has been paid as a compassionate allowance twelve months' salary. She prays that she may be granted a further allowance on account of her late husband's long service.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner should be granted the same compassionate allowance as other similar cases—viz., eighteen months' pay.

29th July, 1896.

## No. 155.—Petition of THOMAS VARCOE and 214 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that a bridge may be constructed over the Mararoa River where it crosses the road to the Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau.

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

6th August, 1896.

## No. 169.—Petition of JOHN McRAE and 121 Others, of Clutha Valley.

PETITIONERS pray that a dray-road may be constructed from Bendigo, *via* Rise and Shine, through Thompson's Gorge to Matakanui.

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

6th August, 1896.

## No. 177.—Petition of A. McPHERSON and 539 Others, of Manawatu.

PETITIONERS pray for the completion of the road leading from the Oroua Bridge to Jackeytown, and known as the Ngawhakarau Bend.

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

6th August, 1896.

## No. 195.—Petition of DAVID TAYLOR, Jun., and 54 Others, of Tirohanga and Pakaru.

PETITIONERS pray that they may be granted a sum of money for the purpose of obtaining better access to the main roads of the district.

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

6th August, 1896.

## Nos. 157 and 160.—Petitions of J. J. McCLASKY and 27 Others, and JOHN McTAGGART and 33 Others.

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

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

6th August, 1896.

## No. 241.—Petition of DONALD McMILLAN and 64 Others, of Burke's Pass.

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

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

14th August, 1896.

## No. 238.—Petition of the TEMPERANCE POLITICAL COMMITTEE, Dunedin.

PETITIONERS pray that the Alcoholic Liquors Sale Control Act Amendment Bill may provide that under no circumstances should bottle licenses be allowed to exist after June, 1897.

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

14th August, 1896.

## No. 166.—Petition of RUTH MANLEY, of Ngaire.

PETITIONER prays that she may be granted a sum of money on account of her late husband's services as guard on the Government railways, who died from paralysis of the spine, alleged to have been brought on by the nature of his duties.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make, as they consider the petitioner has no claim upon the colony.

14th August, 1896.

## No. 146.—Petition of FRANK MONTORFANO, of Aoroa.

PETITIONER prays that the sum of £110, withdrawn from his Post-Office Savings-Bank account by his wife on documents alleged to have been forged, may be refunded by the postal authorities.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner has not exhausted his legal remedy as set forth in clause 47 of "The Management of Savings-banks Act, 1858," the Committee has no recommendation to make.

19th August, 1896.

## No. 253.—Petition of ARCHDEACON WILLIS and 19 Others, of Waikato and Waipa.

PETITIONERS pray that Parliament will not increase the facilities for obtaining dissolution of marriage except such as will place women upon the same footing as men, &c.

I am directed to report that, as there is legislation pending upon the subject-matter of the petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

19th August, 1896.

## No. 178.—Petition of CHRISTOPHER R. WILSON, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted a remission of the fine of £10 inflicted on him for selling smoked fish as an auctioneer.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot deal with the prayer of the petition, as the petitioner has not applied to the proper authorities for redress.

19th August, 1896.

## No. 36.—Petition of CHARLES PHILLIPS, of Bull's.

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted a compassionate allowance on account of his services as linesman in the Telegraph service of the colony.

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

19th August, 1896.

## No. 265.—Petition of JOHN H. ROCHFORD and 24 Others, of Otago.

PETITIONERS pray that a retiring-room may be erected at the Evansdale Station.

I am directed to report that the petition be referred to the Government for favourable consideration, and that, as it is a case of urgent necessity, the Committee recommends it should be attended to at once.

19th August, 1896.

## No. 319.—Petition of E. PHEASANT and 16 Others, of North of Auckland.

PETITIONERS state their reasons for objecting to the proposed Act to consolidate and amend the laws relative to local government, &c.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petition should be referred to the Minister in charge of the Local Government Bill.

26th August, 1896.

## No. 318.—Petition of WILLIAM STRINGER and 92 Others, of Nelson.

PETITIONERS state that in the Provincial District of Nelson the red and fallow deer are becoming a serious nuisance to the settlers. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petition should be referred to the Government, with the view of legislation being introduced dealing with the nuisance complained of, and giving settlers the right to destroy red and fallow deer found trespassing on their cultivations.

26th August, 1896.

## No. 320.—Petition of A. TAYLOR and 119 Others, of Canterbury.

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 a Bill now before the House dealing with the subject-matter of the petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

26th August, 1896.

## No. 251.—Petition of J. THOMAS and 175 Others, of Waimea.

PETITIONERS pray that a compassionate allowance may be granted to the widow and orphans of one James Kerr, who was accidentally killed while working on a ballast-train at Wakefield.

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

26th August, 1896.

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.

## No. 423.—Petition of JOHN KINNEAR McDONALD, of Waingaro.

PETITIONER prays for a grant of land for military services.

I am directed to report that, as the Waste Lands Committee has already reported favourably on this petition, the Committee is of opinion it should be referred to the Government for consideration.

24th September, 1896.

## No. 513.—Petition of HENRY McLAUGHLAN, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that certain legislation may be introduced in regard to private benefit societies, &c.

I am directed to report that, as the matters contained in this petition are of such an important nature; the Committee recommends it be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

8th October, 1896.

## No. 498.—Petition of JAMES WRIGHT and 110 Others, of Catlin's District.

PETITIONERS pray that they may be granted a sum of money in order to metal the Catlin's-Waikawa Road.

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

8th October, 1896.

## No. 522.—Petition of THOMAS WOOD, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted a refund of £45, being an alleged excess of *ad valorem* duty charged on certain conveyances of shares and property.

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

8th October, 1896.

## No. 6.—Petition of WILLIAM ALEX. TRIBE, of Christchurch (No. 1).

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted a refund of £23, being Customs duty on part of a shipment of oilskins, *ex* "Matatua," found to be worthless.

I am directed to report that, as the claim has already been settled by the Customs Department, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

8th October, 1896.

## No. 476.—Petition of WILLIAM ALEX. TRIBE, of Christchurch (No. 2).

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted a refund of £50, being Customs duty on part of a shipment of oilskins, *ex* "Aorangi," found to be worthless.

I am directed to report that, as there appears to have been no neglect shown on the part of the Customs officials, in the opinion of the Committee the petitioner has no claim upon the colony.

8th October, 1896.

## No. 452.—Petition of JOHN ROSS and Another, of Patea.

PETITIONERS pray that they may be granted relief on account of certain alleged wrongs done them by Mr. George Hutchison, M.H.R., and the Public Trustee.

I have the honour to report that the petitioners are settlers, and reside at Otauto, near Patea. In the year 1894 Mr. Ross, one of the petitioners, borrowed considerable sums of money from Mr. George Hutchison, M.H.R., and mortgaged to that gentleman all his leasehold property and stock. The land was Native land, and under the control of the Public Trustee. After being mortgaged, the farm, which comprised 1,000 acres, was subdivided, and 360 acres placed in the name of a Mr. P. F. Verdon. The mortgage and instruments secured only money actually advanced and disbursements, and the rate of interest was the same as Mr. Ross had paid to a former mortgagee. Mr. Ross alleges non-fulfilment of a verbal agreement alleged to have been entered into under the following circumstances: Mr. Hutchison, while mortgagee, through his manager, entered into an agreement, dated the 16th July, 1894, with Messrs. Ross and Verdon regarding the security which he held. Messrs. Ross and Verdon allege that to enable this agreement to be executed Mr. Hutchison's manager (Mr. Muldrock) verbally agreed with them "to take over the property and stock it, and to take 10 per cent. of the profits, and the balance of the profits" were to go to them. There were other and minor matters referred to. This is denied by Mr. Muldrock, and letters to that gentleman instructing him bear out Mr. Hutchison's statement that he was never authorised to make any such proposal. Though this verbal agreement is alleged in the petition, the whole case of the petitioners is admitted in evidence to stand upon a subsequent agreement which was reduced to writing. Apart from any agreement, Mr. Hutchison had at this time full powers to sell under his mortgages, and he had actually realised upon some of the stock. The allegations made against the Public Trustee were abandoned by the petitioners during the hearing of the case, and the claim resolved itself into a demand by the petitioners that Mr. Hutchison should specifically carry out the terms of a letter dated the 7th August, 1895. This letter or agreement has been the ground of a Supreme Court action against Mr. Hutchison. The case, after great delay, was settled by the petitioners consenting to judgment being entered up against them, and in favour of Mr. Hutchison. The subsequent proceedings were the ordinary proceedings to enforce a judgment against an unsuccessful litigant. During the hearing of the petition it was sought to establish the fact that great cruelty had been shown to the petitioner's family by persons acting on Mr. Hutchison's behalf, but the evidence showed that that gentleman used every endeavour to minimise the effects of the proceedings necessary to recover possession of his own property. The evidence failed completely to establish that the estate had been mismanaged by Mr. Hutchison, or that the petitioners had been defrauded of their just rights, or that no accounts had been rendered to them. The Committee accordingly has no recommendation to make.

8th October, 1896.

No. 539.—Petition of the NEW ZEALAND REFRIGERATING COMPANY (LIMITED), of Dunedin.  
 PETITIONERS pray for exemption from paying an annual license-fee under "The Stamp Act, 1882."  
 I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.  
 9th October, 1896.

No. 546.—Petition of RHODA McQUEEN, of Invercargill.  
 PETITIONER prays that her husband, Lachlan McQueen, may be granted further compensation on account of an injury to his spine received while in the employ of the New Zealand Government railways.  
 I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner has no further claim upon the colony.  
 9th October, 1896.

No. 508.—Petition of E. KELSEY and 33 Others, of Auckland.  
 PETITIONERS pray that the Order in Council compelling youths joining the Civil Service to serve three years in a Volunteer corps may be repealed.  
 I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.  
 9th October, 1896.

No. 470.—Petition of ALBERT E. ORANGE, of Otago.  
 PETITIONER prays that he may be granted £50 as compensation for loss of stock, &c., on his joining the defence force during the Maori War in the year 1863.  
 I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.  
 9th October, 1896.

No. 519.—Petition of MAURICE READY, of Wellington.  
 PETITIONER prays that he may be granted some further compensation for loss of office as sergeant of police in the year 1890, or that he may be granted some other employment.  
 I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner has no further claim upon the colony.  
 9th October, 1896.

No. 532.—Petition of ADOLPH SCHLESINGER, of Christchurch.  
 PETITIONER states that in June last he was summoned for selling goods on a half-holiday; that, after four adjournments, the case was tried, and he was fined £2 and £2 8s. 1d. costs. He prays for a refund of the same.  
 I am directed to report that, as it appears a breach of the law was committed, the Committee has no recommendation to make, but regrets that so many adjournments took place at the request of the department before the matter was finally settled.  
 9th October, 1896.

No. 511.—Petition of HENRY SCHWASS and 148 Others, of Nelson District.  
 PETITIONERS pray that before any step is taken in the direction of removing the protection from deer evidence may be taken as to the advantage or disadvantage of continuing the protection of the animals.  
 I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.  
 9th October, 1896.

No. 541.—Petition of Rev. G. WILLIAMS and 175 Others, of Canterbury.  
 PETITIONERS pray that steps may be taken to draw the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the sufferings of the Christian subjects of the Sultan of Turkey, with a view of their relief from the same.  
 I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petition should be referred to the Government.  
 13th October, 1896.

No. 19, 1895.—Petition of JOSEPH WALTER STRUDWICK, of Rangitikei.  
 PETITIONER prays that he may be granted an inquiry into his alleged grievances in connection with his contract to build a platelayer's cottage at the Mangaonoho Railway-station.  
 I am directed to report that, as there is no evidence before them in support of the petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make.  
 13th October, 1896.

#### FINAL REPORT.

I HAVE the honour to report that the above Committee has held twenty-nine meetings, and the attendance of the members thereat is as follows: Mr. Meredith, 29; Mr. Collins, 25; Mr. McNab, 22; Mr. Lewis, 20; Mr. Willis, 15; Mr. Morrison, 12; Mr. E. M. Smith, 12; Mr. Lang, 9; Mr. Fraser, 3; and the Hon. Mr. T. Thompson, 0.

Number of petitions referred to the Committee	...	...	69
Number of petitions dealt with by the Committee	...	...	69
Number of reports presented to the House	...	...	61
Number of specific recommendations made therein	...	...	10
Number referred to the Government for favourable consideration	...	...	2
Number referred to the Government for consideration	...	...	16
No recommendation, &c.	...	...	33

I am also directed, by resolution of the Committee, to further report that they desire to express their appreciation of the able and courteous manner in which the Chairman (Mr. Meredith) has conducted the business of the Committee during the past session.  
 13th October, 1896.

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