

1899.
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF RAILWAYS COMMITTEE.

(MR. W. W. TANNER, CHAIRMAN.)

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

ORDER OF REFERENCE.

Extract from the Journals of the House of Representatives.

TUESDAY, THE 18TH DAY OF JULY, 1899.

Ordered, "That Standing Order No. 211 be suspended, and that a Committee, consisting of eighteen members, be appointed to examine into and report upon questions relating to the railways; with power to call for persons and papers; five to be a quorum: the Committee to consist of Mr. E. G. Allen, Mr. Carson, Mr. Crowther, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Flatman, Mr. Graham, Mr. Holland, Mr. Lawry, Mr. Massey, Mr. McLean, Mr. Morrison, Mr. O'Meara, Mr. Rawlins, Mr. Tanner, Mr. Taylor, Mr. J. W. Thomson, Mr. Wright, and the mover."—(Hon. Mr. CADMAN.)

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Nos. 21, 36, 199, 328, and 329, 1898.—Petitions of HENRY CARLYLE FAIRLIE and ROBERT MORTON PATERSON, JOHN GARDINER, JAMES WALLACE, JAMES MOORE, and HENRY MACKLE.

PETITIONERS pray for compensation for damage and loss of property alleged to have been caused by fires originated by sparks from locomotives.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend, in connection with the above five petitions, that they should be referred to the Government, and that a full investigation should be made by and a report obtained from a Stipendiary Magistrate. I am also directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the provisions of "The Crown Suits Act, 1881," which bar those who have claims against the Railway Department from taking legal proceedings without first obtaining permission of Crown Law Officers, should be rescinded.

4th August, 1899.

No. 24.—Petition of EUPHEMIA DEMPSEY, of Lyttelton (Widow).

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance on account of the death of her husband, caused by an accident when working on the railway.

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

4th August, 1899.

No. 112.—Petition of CHARLES FORBES VINCE, of Opawa, near Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays for compensation on account of having been disabled by an accident whilst working as a casual hand on the Government railways.

I am directed to report that in this case the Committee have no recommendation to make.

4th August, 1899.

No. 16, 1898.—Petition of W. S. C. BLACKLEY and 2 Others.

PETITIONERS pray for compensation for damage and loss of property alleged to have been caused by fires originated by sparks from locomotives.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend, in connection with the above petition, that it should be referred to the Government, and that a full investigation should be made by and a report obtained from a Stipendiary Magistrate. I am also directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the provisions of "The Crown Suits Act, 1881," which bar those who have claims against the Railway Department from taking legal proceedings without first obtaining permission of Crown Law Officers, should be rescinded.

15th August, 1899.

No. 95.—Petition of JOHN BLOOMFIELD and Others.

PETITIONERS pray for an extension of the railway from Waiotu to Hukerenui.

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

15th August, 1899.

No. 102.—Petition of Hon. E. MITCHELSON and Others.

PETITIONERS pray for an extension of the Helensville Railway northwards.

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

15th August, 1899.

No. 7.—Petition of ELIZABETH WILSON THOMSON.

PETITIONER prays that she may be granted a compassionate allowance on account of the death of her husband, who was killed whilst in the service of the Railway Department.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petition be referred to the Government that inquiry may be made into the matter contained therein.

15th August, 1899.

No. 109.—Petition of CHARLES TASH, of New Plymouth.

PETITIONER prays for relief on account of having been injured whilst working on the Government railways.

I am directed to report that, as the Railway Department has promised to provide Charles Tash with employment as soon as he is able to perform his duties, the Committee have no immediate recommendation to make.

17th August, 1899.

Nos. 71, 1897; 76, 1898; 250, 274, 294, and 349, 1897.—Petitions of SAMUEL VAILE, SAMUEL VAILE, J. H. NICOLLS and Others, W. H. MURRAY and 99 Others, CHARLES OGLE and 46 Others, and JOHN MARSHALL and 50 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the stage system of railway administration recommended by Mr. Samuel Vaile be brought into operation on the Auckland or some other section of the New Zealand Government railways as a trial.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the above six petitions be referred to the Government.

17th August, 1899.

No. 123.—Petition of T. C. P. WHITELEY and Others, of Otahuhu.

PETITIONERS pray that a reduction be made in the price of what are termed workmen's twelve-trip tickets.

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

17th August, 1899.

No. 228.—Petition of JOHN CARLTON and 352 Others, of Catlin's, Woodland, Tautuku, and Chaslands Districts.

PETITIONERS pray that the Catlin's Branch Railway be extended for a distance of eighteen miles (as far as Tahakupa Valley).

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the Government consider the construction of the line in the next Railways Authorisation Bill.

22nd August, 1899.

No. 189.—Petition of WALTER NICOL, of Kaihiku, Otago.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss of sheep killed by a railway-engine.

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

22nd August, 1899.

No. 20.—Petition of JOHN SCOTT, of Sydenham.

PETITIONER, having been injured whilst working on the Government railways, prays that he may be given some light employment, or that he may be granted compensation.

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

22nd August, 1899.

No. 85.—Petition of SAMUEL VAILE, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that the stage system of railway administration be brought into operation on the Auckland or some other section of the New Zealand Government railways as a trial.

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

24th August, 1899.

Nos. 180, 190, 226, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 261, 268, and 269.—Petitions of Colonel H. BURTON and Others, L. F. ARMITAGE and Others, RICHARD SMITH and Others, R. E. LESTER and Others, D. GOLDIE and Others, W. CHADWIN and Others, J. M. KILLEN and Others, G. L. THOMSON and Others, F. CLARK and Others, J. C. MACKY and Others, and J. W. SHACKELFORD and Others.

PETITIONERS pray for an extension of the Helensville Railway northward.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that these petitions be referred to the Government.

29th August, 1899.

Nos. 270, 271, 272, 273, 286, 287, 296, and 297.—Petitions of W. N. ELLEN and Others, J. TREWIN and Others, W. J. NAPIER and Others, W. WATSON and Others, JULIUS BERZER and Others, HENRY HOOK and Others, T. CHAPLIN and Others, and TIMOTHY HEALEY and Others.

PETITIONERS pray for an extension of the Helensville Railway northward.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that these petitions be referred to the Government.

29th August, 1899.

No. 351, 1898.—Petition of Mrs. MARGARET CAMPBELL, of Campbelltown, Otago.

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance, her husband having died whilst in the service of the Railway Department.

I am directed to report that in this case the Committee have no recommendation to make.

14th September, 1899.

No. 70.—Petition of FREDERICK GEORGE CRAY, of Ravensbourne.

PETITIONER prays for relief owing to expense incurred through an accident to his wife, caused by stepping out of a railway-train.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make in this case.
14th September, 1899.

No. 136.—Petition of THOMAS McCLUGGAGE, of Caversham, near Dunedin.

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance owing to having had his arm injured by a railway-truck.

I am directed to report that in this case the Committee have no recommendation to make.
14th September, 1899.

No. 161.—Petition of JAMES J. NIBLOCK and 72 Others, of Hunua and Paparata.

PETITIONERS pray that a goods-shed be provided at Hunua Station.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petition be referred to the Government.
14th September, 1899.

Nos. 309, 310, 311, 323, 324, 341, 342, 343, 368, 372, 378, 379, and 404.—Petitions of JOHN H. O'NEILL and 9 Others, J. M. LAXON and 6 Others, FRANK BODLE and 44 Others, R. T. BIRT and 40 Others, JOSEPH GRIFFIN and 133 Others, WILLIAM F. THOMPSON and 46 Others, C. E. HAYWARD and 69 Others, WILLIAM CRAWFORD and 60 Others, GEORGE A. CRUICKSHANK and 10 Others, FRANK DYE and 19 Others, J. B. STEPHENSON and 38 Others, A. M. MACKAY and 20 Others, and ANDREW HOOD and 21 Others.

PETITIONERS pray for an extension of the Helensville Railway northward.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that these petitions be referred to the Government.
14th September, 1899.

Nos. 140, 141, and 237.—Petitions of SAMUEL VAILE and 52 Others, W. A. CARRUTH and 999 Others, and M. F. M. WHITELAW and 59 Others.

PETITIONERS pray for an extension of the Whangarei Railway to deep water.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the above petitions be referred to the Government.
14th September, 1899.

No. 183.—Petition of HENRY ATKINSON and 1,071 Others, of Oamaru.

PETITIONERS pray that the proposed new passenger railway-station at Oamaru may be proceeded with at once.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petition be referred to the Government.
15th September, 1899.

No. 244.—Petition of J. M. BROWN and 389 Others, of Oamaru.

PETITIONERS pray that before the proposed new passenger railway-station is proceeded with at Oamaru the Railway Engineer may be directed to meet a deputation of the petitioners to discuss the matter.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petition be referred to the Government.
15th September, 1899.

No. 6.—Petition of THOMAS PATTERSON, of Invercargill.

PETITIONER prays that the sum of £50, balance of a sum of £100 recommended by the Public Petitions M to Z Committee in 1891 to be given him as a compassionate allowance, be now paid.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the Government be urged to give full effect to the recommendation of the Public Petitions M to Z Committee dated 1st July, 1891, which was as follows: "That, in the opinion of this Committee, the accident to Thomas Patterson was caused partly through the belt of trees obscuring the view of an approaching train, and from the very high wind blowing at the time preventing him hearing the whistle, and that the Railway Commissioners be recommended to take steps to render this crossing less dangerous; and that the Government be recommended to place the sum of £100 upon the supplementary estimates as a slight compensation to Patterson for the severe injuries and loss sustained by him through the accident."

15th September, 1899.

No. 149.—Petition of TIMOTHY MORIARTY, of Ahaura.

PETITIONER prays that an inquiry may be made into his case, and that he may be reinstated in his former employment.

I am directed to report that the Committee decline at present to consider the petition of Timothy Moriarty on the ground that he has not as yet exhausted all means of redress, he not having placed his case before the Railway Appeal Board.

15th September, 1899.

No. 176.—Petition of Sir GEORGE CLIFFORD and Another, of Waipara Road Board.

PETITIONERS pray for a reduction of freights on goods of the A, B, and C Class, north of the Waipara River.

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

19th September, 1899.

No. 182.—Petition of JAMES KELMAN and 732 Others, of Central Otago.

PETITIONERS pray for the extension of the Otago Central Railway to Clyde.

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

19th September, 1899.

No. 200.—Petition of D. T. KING and Others, of Winton.

PETITIONERS pray for an extension of the Forest Hill Branch Railway.

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

19th September, 1899.

No. 323, 1898.—Petition of CHARLES REID and Another, of Ashburton.

PETITIONERS pray that Messrs. Collins and Co.'s tenancies of coal-sites at Ashburton be terminated.

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

19th September, 1899.

Nos. 338, 339, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 419, and 420.—Petitions of GEORGE McRAE and 3 Others, D. RUTHERFORD and 5 Others, J. H. REDWOOD and 5 Others, G. HOULDSWORTH and 5 Others, WILLIAM PRICE and 4 Others, R. T. GOULTER and 2 Others, G. A. N. GREENSILL and 9 Others, J. TREVOR and 5 Others, JAMES LAW and 5 Others, and G. TAYLOR and 8 Others.

PETITIONERS pray for the completion of the Christchurch-Blenheim Railway.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the above petitions be referred to the Government.

19th September, 1899.

No. 258.—Petition of H. EARLEY, of Palmerston South, Otago.

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance owing to alleged injury received whilst in the Government railway service.

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

22nd September, 1899.

No. 336.—Petition of COLIN ROBERTSON and 218 Others, of Waikaia, Wendon, and Wendonside Districts.

PETITIONERS pray for the completion of the Riversdale-Switzers Railway.

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

22nd September, 1899.

No. 329.—Petition of W. STEWART and 899 Others, of the Electoral District of the Bay of Islands.

PETITIONERS pray that the sections of the Whangarei-Hukerenui and Kawakawa-Opuia Railways be connected.

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

22nd September, 1899.

No. 137.—Petition of T. C. P. WHITELEY and 570 Others, of Otahuhu.

PETITIONERS pray for the deviation of the main south line of railway from Auckland.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petition be held over till next session, and in the meantime the Public Works Department be asked for a detailed estimate as to the cost of a branch line, and the Railway Department be asked to furnish an estimate of the probable revenue derived and expenses incurred by such extension.

3rd October, 1899.

No. 421.—Petition of W. TROUGHTON and 74 Others, of Omaha.

PETITIONERS pray that a railway-station may be placed on the Wharepoa Road.

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

3rd October, 1899.

No. 357.—Petition of A. R. HARE and 31 Others, of Southland.

PETITIONERS pray for the removal of the Ringway Siding to another site.

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

3rd October, 1899.

No. 210.—Petition of Mrs. JANE WILSON, of Lyttelton.

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance owing to the death of her husband after twenty-two years' service on the Government railways.

I am directed to report that, the subject of the petition having already been dealt with by the Government, the Committee have no recommendation to make, and consider that the petitioner has no further claim on the colony.

3rd October, 1899.

No. 177.—Petition of CHARLES HENRY CARTER, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER, who was tried for manslaughter in connection with the Rakaia railway accident, and found "Not guilty," prays that he may receive compensation for the expenses he has been put to in defending himself.

I am directed to report that, after full investigation and careful consideration of this case, the Committee have no recommendation to make. (*Vide* Appendix I.—6A.)

3rd October, 1899.

No. 482.—Petition of Mrs. CLARA RAPLEY, of Woodville.

PETITIONER prays for compensation owing to the death of her husband, who lost his life by an accident whilst in the execution of his duty.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the Government be asked to grant another £50 as compassionate allowance to the petitioner.

10th October, 1899.

No. 498.—Petition of JOHN MADDEN, of Lyttelton.

PETITIONER prays for a reduction in the weight carried by lumpers.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petition be referred to the favourable consideration of the Government, and are of opinion that legislation should be introduced dealing with the subject.

10th October, 1899.

No. 316.—Petition of WILLIAM COLLARD, of Aramoho.

PETITIONER prays for an inquiry into his case, and that he may be granted relief.

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

10th October, 1899.

No. 370.—Petition of JOHN BURNS AND Co. and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the Government may be pleased to reconsider the case of Mr. Stevenson, late Stationmaster at Auckland.

I am directed to report that, in the absence of any petition from Mr. Stevenson himself, and seeing that he has not taken advantage of his right to bring his case before the Railway Appeal Board, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

10th October, 1899.

No. 483.—Petition of JAMES HOWELL, of Waipiata, Otago.

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted compensation for loss of a quantity of grass, caused by the spread of fires lit by employes on the Otago Central Railway-works.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that, the matter having been already dealt with by the Courts of the colony, they have no recommendation to make.

10th October, 1899.

No. 471.—Petition of GEORGE WILLIAMS and 55 Others, of Woodend, Southland.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss of property and damage, alleged to be caused by sparks from locomotives.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that this petition be added to others that are the subject of an adjourned debate with the same report.

10th October, 1899.

No. 501.—Petition of TIMOTHY MORIARTY, of Ahaura.

PETITIONER prays that his case may be reheard, and that he be granted compensation, &c.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of the petition has already been dealt with during the present session, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

19th October, 1899.

No. 288.—Petition of HUGH McLAUGHLIN and 2 Others, of Little Grey Junction.

PETITIONERS pray that inquiry may be made into the encroachment of the Grey River on their land, caused by the erection of certain bridges, &c.

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

19th October, 1899.

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