

1900.
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORT OF PUBLIC PETITIONS A TO L COMMITTEE.

(MR. W. SYMES, 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 3RD DAY OF JULY, 1900.

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 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. Colvin, Mr. Hall, Mr. Lawry, Mr. Lethbridge, Mr. R. McKenzie, Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Symes, Mr. J. W. Thomson, Mr. Witheford, and the Mover."—(Hon. W. HALL-JONES.)

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REPORTS.

No. 23.—Petition of THOMAS CAIN, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted compensation for injuries received while in the execution of his duty as a constable.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make.
17th July, 1900.

No. 48.—Petition of DAVID KNIGHT, of Hawera.

PETITIONER prays for compensation in relation to railway accident.

I am directed to report that this Committee are of opinion the above petition should be dealt with by the Railways Committee, and is referred accordingly.
17th July, 1900.

Nos. 6, 30, 32, 57, 58, 59, 68, and 69. — Rev. MCKENZIE GIBSON and Others, of Waimate; C. COATES and Others, of Lyttelton; W. HARPER and Others, of Christchurch; Rev. J. M. ADCOCK and Others, of Timaru; Rev. W. BEAN and Others, of Christchurch; S. D. BARKER and Others, of Christchurch; J. BROCKER and Others, of Christchurch; Rev. J. DUKES and Others, of Hawera.

PETITIONERS pray that Inebriates' Homes may be established in the colony.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the petitions be referred to the Government for consideration.
17th July, 1900.

No. 24.—Petition of GEO. DAVIS and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the number of members of the Ministry be increased.

I am directed to report that, being a matter of policy, the Committee have no recommendation to make.
17th July, 1900.

No. 115.—Petition of HASSAN HASSEIN and Another.

PETITIONERS state that they were engaged at Singapore as marine firemen on the steam-dredge "Manchester" on a voyage to Lyttelton, New Zealand, stipulating that on arrival of dredge at Lyttelton they would be returned to their port of engagement. Petitioners pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of this Committee, the Lyttelton Harbour Board is responsible for the petitioners' detention in the colony and their return to the port of shipment, and recommend that the Marine Department should, in accordance with law, take immediate proceedings against the Lyttelton Harbour Board to recover on behalf of the petitioners, who are destitute, in order to enable them to return to the port of shipment.

18th July, 1900.

No. 13.—Petition of W. C. FITZGERALD.

PETITIONER prays for a refund of balance of costs incurred by him in defending an action brought against him as a Public Vaccinator.

I am directed to report that this Committee make the same report on this petition as the Public Petitions A to L Committee did on a similar one, viz. :—

"Paragraph 4. That, in the interests of the public generally, and of its public officials, the petitioner should be paid out of the Public Exchequer all moneys properly expended by him in defending the action in the Supreme Court.

"Paragraph 5. That the Crown Solicitor should tax the costs and moneys out of pocket payable by the petitioner, and the Committee recommend that when so taxed the Government pay the same.

"I am directed to report that the Committee finds from evidence taken before it this year that the petitioner has received from the Government the sum of £367, being nearly one-half of his claim—£735 7s. 11d.—of last year, and has since recovered by process in the Magistrate's Court the sum of £60—an amount included in the said £735 7s. 11d.—from one George Lambert, which sum of £60 is referred to in the evidence adduced before the Committee last year as money paid through the intervention of Messrs. Skerrett and Wylie, solicitors, and Mr. Lambert to Mr. Roberts for the withdrawal of an action by Roberts against the petitioner. The Committee also finds that the petitioner also suffered losses by reason of the Supreme Court action, which he successfully defended; but the petitioner will forego any claim therefor if the Committee's recommendation of last year be given effect to by the Government. Therefore, the Committee recommends the Government to pay the petitioner in accordance with the report presented to the House on the 27th September, 1898."

18th July, 1900.

No. 100.—Petition of F. P. BLACKMORE, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that the grant of £100 awarded to him by the Commission as an old military officer may be increased to £200.

I am directed to report that this Committee recommend Mr. F. P. Blackmore's claim be satisfied, and that the Government place the sum of £100 on this year's estimates for that purpose.

24th July, 1900.

No. 17.—Petition of SUSANNAH COCKROFT, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for compassionate allowance.

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

24th July, 1900.

No. 108.—Petition of W. G. GARRARD, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that he be acquainted why his wife has been deprived of her old-age pension.

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

25th July, 1900.

No. 92.—Petition of JAMES KING (No. 1), of Tauranga.

PETITIONER prays for refund of money paid by him for his son journeying to Wellington to join the Permanent Force, his son being rejected on medical grounds.

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

25th July, 1900.

No. 64.—Petition of E. F. CLENDON, of Russell, Bay of Islands.

PETITIONER prays for compassionate allowance for the services of her late husband.

I am directed to report that this Committee recommend this petition for the consideration of the Government.

25th July, 1900.

No. 26.—Petition of CALEB HILL and Others, of Matahuru, Waikato.

PETITIONERS pray that the Matahuru—Ohinewai Road be further improved.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend this petition to the favourable consideration of the Government.

25th July, 1900.

No. 132.—Petition of JAMES H. B. COATES, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays that an inquiry be held into the Midland Railway case, and that the debenture-holders be granted such redress as may be deemed meet.

I am directed to report that this petition be referred to the Railways Committee for consideration.

2nd August, 1900.

No. 61.—Petition of G. D. HAMILTON, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for investigation in the matter of seizure of his property by the Bank of New Zealand.

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

2nd August, 1900.

No. 29.—Petition of MARIA FINDT, of Westport.

PETITIONER prays that the balance of proceeds of intestate estate of Wilhelm Haack be paid to her.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having heard the evidence in this case, and believing that the deceased Wilhelm Haack has no living relative, are of the opinion that the petitioner has the best right to the money, and recommend the Government to place on the estimates the sum of £132 11s. 10d., to be paid to the petitioner Maria Findt.

3rd August, 1900.

No. 46.—Petition of SAMUEL A. LEECH, of Westport.

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

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

7th August, 1900.

No. 45.—Petition of A. FERGUSON and Others, of Toko.

PETITIONERS pray that a post-office may be erected at Toko.

I am directed to report that this Committee recommend the petition to the favourable consideration of the Government.

7th August, 1900.

No. 42.—Petition of JOHN GUARD, of Port Underwood.

PETITIONER prays that, being the first European child born in the South Island, and for services rendered, he be granted 100 acres of land.

I am directed to report that this Committee recommend this petition to the favourable consideration of the Government.

8th August, 1900.

No. 144.—Petition of OSCAR B. BRYAN, of Wangarei.

PETITIONER prays for a refund of £47 incurred by him in defending an action against him under the Justices of the Peace Act, for false imprisonment.

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

8th August, 1900.

No. 143.—Petition of A. C. BROWN and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that a clause in a Bill now before the House, requiring all gas-engines exceeding five horse-power while being used to be in charge of a certified engineer, be expunged.

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

9th August, 1900.

No. 75.—Petition of ELIZABETH BENNETT, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for compassionate allowance in that her late husband died from an illness contracted while at his work.

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

9th August, 1900.

No. 104.—Petition of ALEXANDER COCHRAN, Jun., and Others, of Waitemata.

PETITIONER prays for grants for certain roads in Waikumete Riding, Waitemata County.

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

15th August, 1900.

No. 517, 1899.—Petition of J. DILWORTH and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that they be reimbursed certain money costs paid in actions against the Government.

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

15th August, 1900.

No. 146.—Petition of MARIE AGNES GRIMSTONE.

PETITIONER prays for compassionate allowance.

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

15th August, 1900.

No. 84.—Petition of SARAH GILES, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for compensation and expenses in having to defend herself against a charge brought against her by the police.

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

15th August, 1900.

No. 83.—Petition of W. H. CONBOY, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for inquiry into his case, and compensation.

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

15th August, 1900.

No. 176.—Petition of SARAH GOSLING, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays that she be reinstated in her former position as one of the charwomen to the House of Representatives.

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

15th August, 1900.

No. 82.—Petition of THOMAS COLLIS, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for retiring-allowance, after having served in the Police Force.

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

15th August, 1900.

No. 137.—Petition of ALFRED HARRISON and Others, of Ashburton.

PETITIONER prays for the establishment of Inebriates' Homes.

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

16th August, 1900.

No. 136.—Petition of H. B. HUDDLESTON, of Blenheim.

PETITIONER prays for redress as against the Survey Department.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petition should be referred to the Government, with the view that the prayer thereof may be given effect to.

16th August, 1900.

No. 199.—Petition of ALBERT CHAPPELL and Another, of Birkenhead, Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the House do support any measure dealing with the restriction of gambling.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
16th August, 1900.

No. 179.—Petition of C. G. BEECROFT and Others, of Devonport, Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the House do reject any proposed measure legalising gambling in any shape or form.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make.
16th August, 1900.

No. 157.—Petition of R. H. CAITCHEM and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that uncertificated masters be not permitted to command vessels trading between Auckland and Whangarei.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
21st August, 1900.

No. 171.—Petition of C. P. GARDNER, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that his old-age pension be restored to him.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make, as they understand that Government is bringing down legislation dealing with this and similar petitions.
21st August, 1900.

No. 252.—Petition of J. W. BANNERMAN (No. 1), of Otago.

PETITIONER prays that the law sanctioning the use of the totalisator be annulled, and steps be taken to restrict the vice of gambling.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
21st August, 1900.

No. 253.—Petition of J. W. BANNERMAN (No. 2), of Otago.

PETITIONER prays that the Bill to legalise marriage with deceased husbands' brother be not passed.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
21st August, 1900.

No. 113.—Petition of AH FOOT, of Riverton.

PETITIONER prays for a refund of expenses incurred by him in an action in the Magistrate's Court, Riverton.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
23rd August, 1900.

No. 286.—Petition of J. A. HASLETT and Others, of Auckland.

PRAYING to be brought under the law so that they shall be compelled to close their shops one half-day during the week.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make, as there is a Bill before the House dealing with this question.
23rd August, 1900.

No. 285.—Petition of DAVID DUNN, of Oamaru.

PETITIONER prays that a certain sum of money be paid him by the Railway Department for land taken by them.

I am directed to report that this petition be referred to the Railways Committee.
23rd August, 1900.

No. 194.—Petition of CLARA FINNERTY, of Patea.

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.
23rd August, 1900.

No. 270.—Petition of ROBERT GREEN and Others, of Otorohanga.

PETITIONERS pray that licenses for the sale of liquor in the King-country be issued.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that, as the petition involves a matter of policy, they have no recommendation to make.
23rd August, 1900.

No. 495, 1899.—Petition of PEIRCE LYNCH, of Coromandel.

PETITIONER prays for remission of fine imposed upon him under the Stamps Act.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
28th August, 1900.

No. 239.—Petition of ALEXANDER FLEMING, of Moeraki.

PETITIONER prays for relief for having attended certain Maoris medically.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
28th August, 1900.

No. 233.—Petition of R. ALLAN and 86 Others, of Christchurch.

PETITIONERS pray that an additional duty of 2d. per pound be imposed on all teas imported in packets or boxes of less than 30 lb. net.

I am directed to report that, as the subject of the petition is a matter of policy, the Committee has no recommendation to make.
28th August, 1900.

No. 207.—Petition of J. TREMAIN and 589 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the Bill for the abolition of trading-stamps now before the House may become law.

I am directed to report that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.
28th August, 1900.

No. 268.—Petition of JOHN KNIGHT and Others, of New Brighton, Christchurch.

PETITIONERS pray for relief in that John Knight was confined as a lunatic for three months, and was never insane.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
28th August, 1900.

No. 141.—Petition of ALISON BAIN and 83 Others, of Bainham.

PETITIONERS pray that a suspension-bridge be erected, connecting the communities on either side of the Aorere River at Bainham.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that this petition be referred to the Government for consideration.
30th August, 1900.

No. 98.—Petition of ADAM ARMSTRONG, of Carterton.

PETITIONER prays for reimbursement of expenses incurred by him as Returning Officer in the conduct of licensing election, Wairarapa District.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the petition to the favourable consideration of the Government.
30th August, 1900.

No. 324.—Petition of CAMPBELL JOHNSTON and Others, of Raglan.

PETITIONERS pray that an inquiry be held into the conduct of a certain police constable.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
30th August, 1900.

No. 116.—Petition of JOHN HOLMES, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for heavy losses sustained when acting as special Fibre Commissioner.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
6th September, 1900.

No. 323.—Petition of MARY ANN DONNELLY, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the petition be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.
6th September, 1900.

No. 158.—Petition of H. L. GREER, of Johnsonville.

PETITIONER prays that he be advised of the reason why the Government will not comply with the recommendation of the Public Petitions A to L Committee of 1899.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
6th September, 1900.

No. 131.—Petition of J. H. BANNEHR and Others, of Nelson.

PETITIONERS pray that Nelson may be declared a place where the University examinations may be held.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends that the five (5) districts proposed by the University Senate to be abolished be retained; that the Government be recommended to hold Matriculation and Civil Service Examinations, &c., wherever there is a high school.
7th September, 1900.

No. 39.—Petition of THE GISBORNE HIGH SCHOOL BOARD, of Gisborne.

PETITIONERS pray that University examinations be continued to be held at Gisborne.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends that the five (5) districts proposed by the University Senate to be abolished be retained; that the Government be recommended to hold Matriculation and Civil Service Examinations, &c., wherever there is a high school.
7th September, 1900.

No. 40.—Petition of GRACE FOX, of Waiapu.

PETITIONER prays that university examinations may continue to be held at Gisborne.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the five (5) districts proposed by the University Senate to be abolished be retained; that the Government be recommended to hold Matriculation and Civil Service Examinations, &c., wherever there are high schools.

7th September, 1900.

No. 38.—Petition of VINCENT BAKER and Others, of Gisborne.

PETITIONERS pray that Gisborne be retained as a place where the law professional examinations may be held.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends that the five (5) districts proposed by the University Senate to be abolished be retained; that the Government be recommended to hold Matriculation and Civil Service Examinations, &c., where ever there is a high school.

7th September, 1900.

No. 41.—Petition of JOHN HUNTER BROWN and 183 Others, of Wairoa.

PETITIONERS pray that £1 for £1 be given by the Government for the improvement of Wairoa Harbour.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the petition to the favourable consideration of Government.

7th September, 1900.

No. 232.—Petition of JOHN LAWSON, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that certain money due to Oliver Mason Creagh (bankrupt) be paid to petitioner for and on behalf of the creditors of O. M. Creagh.

I am directed to report that the petition be referred to the Government, with the recommendation that the amount of £273 9s. 4d. be paid to the petitioner.

11th September, 1900.

No. 326.—Petition of R. P. BRADLEY, of Manganui.

PETITIONER prays for refund of certain costs incurred by him in the Magistrate's Court.

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

13th September, 1900.

No. 229.—Petition C. A. HANNING, of Southland.

PETITIONER prays for relief for injuries received while in Government employ.

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

13th September, 1900.

No. 88.—Petition of G. H. ALLEN and Others, of Aorere.

PETITIONERS pray for the erection of a cart bridge over the Aorere River, near Collingwood.

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

13th September, 1900.

No. 168.—Petition of J. BACCICH and Others, of Herekino.

PETITIONERS pray that letters of naturalisation be granted to them.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that letters of naturalisation be issued to the five Austrians who have complied with the law, and that the sixth be informed that he will be naturalised on his application papers being put in as having complied with the law, and furnishing a certificate made and signed by a Magistrate (J.P. or S.M.).

13th September, 1900.

No. 316.—Petition of D. W. GUNN and 172 Others, of Nelson.

PETITIONERS pray for the establishment of Inebriate Homes.

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

13th September, 1900.

No. 443.—Petition of H. BOLLIWELL and 64 Others, of Wellington.

PETITIONERS pray that shelter-sheds do remain as they are at present.

I am directed to report that, it being a matter of policy, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

13th September, 1900.

No. 211.—Petition of YOUNG HEE and 541 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that an Act be passed prohibiting or limiting the importation of opium, and controlling the use and sale thereof.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the prayer of this petition to the favourable consideration of the Government.

13th September, 1900.

Nos. 317, 348, and 349.—Petitions of L. D. NATHAN and 33 Others, J. J. CRAIG and 100 Others, and H. BOND and 8 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that a clause in a Bill before the House, providing that gas-engines exceeding 5-horse power must be driven by a man holding a driver's certificate, be expunged.

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

19th September, 1900.

Nos. 376 and 377.—Petitions of G. W. LACEY and 107 Others, and J. LAUNDER and 297 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the duty on wax vestas be reinstated.

I am directed to report that, as petitions deal with a matter of policy, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

19th September, 1900.

No. 433.—Petition of L. J. BAGNALL and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the Education Act of 1877 be amended.

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

21st September, 1900.

No. 384.—Petition of P. HAYMAN and Co. and Others, of Dunedin.

PETITIONERS pray that proposed reductions in the duty on patent medicines and drugs be not put into force for six (6) months.

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

21st September, 1900.

Nos. 483 and 494.—Petitions of S. T. BRENT and Others, of Rotorua; and RICHARD S. INGLE and Others, of Rotorua.

PETITIONERS pray for the suppression of gambling.

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

21st September, 1900.

No. 389.—Petition of M. D. DINNEEN, of Mount Roskill Road, Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for the loss of certain land.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that petitioner be paid the amount claimed, namely, £18 18s. 4d.

25th September, 1900.

No. 240.—Petition of P. A. CONNOLLY, of Hyde.

PETITIONER prays that his long service may be recognised in a more fitting and substantial manner.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that provision be made on the supplementary estimates for an additional £60 to be paid to petitioner.

25th September, 1900.

No. 512.—Petition of ELIZABETH F. CLENDON (No. 2), of Russell, Bay of Islands.

PETITIONER prays for compassionate allowance for services rendered to Government by her late husband.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the medical certificate shows that Mr. Clendon's death was hastened by the coach accident which took place whilst he was travelling in discharge of his official duty, and would therefore recommend the Government to make some provision on the supplementary estimates by way of compassionate allowance to his widow.

25th September, 1900.

Nos. 396 and 397.—Petitions of EDWARD HUTCHINGS and Another, of Wellington; and R. H. ELLIOTTE, of Foxton.

PETITIONERS pray that the recommendation of the Public Petitions A to L Committee of 1899 on a similar petition be given effect to.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the Government to make provision on the supplementary estimates to give effect to recommendation made by Public Petitions A to L Committee, 1899: "That petitioners are entitled to a sum of £20 each by way of refund of moneys actually paid out of pocket, at the time the members of the Wellington Defence Force, at their own expense, made their way to the front."

25th September, 1900.

2—I. 1.

No. 402.—Petition of JOHN KILGOUR, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss of office and for injuries received whilst on the Government service.

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

28th September, 1900.

Nos. 114 and 492. — Petitions of WILLIAM COOK and Another, of Wellington; and H. AYERS and 573 Others, of Lyttelton.

PETITIONERS pray that the Trading-stamps and Coupons Abolition Bill now before the House be postponed for three weeks, and that they be allowed to attend and give evidence with a view of suggesting amendments to the same Bill that will have the effect of regulating the trading-stamp system without totally abolishing the same.

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

28th September, 1900.

No. 175.—Petition of JESSIE KELLY, of Port Chalmers.

PETITIONER prays that a sum of money alleged to be still payable to her late husband be paid to her.

I am directed to report that, as no fresh evidence has been tendered, the Committee is of opinion that petitioner has no claim on the colony.

2nd October, 1900.

No. 436.—Petition of VESEY J. HINE, of Merriwa, New South Wales.

PETITIONER prays for remedial legislation to enable him to obtain Crown grant to certain land.

I am directed to report that the Committee, after hearing the evidence of Mr. Bolton, solicitor, Mr. Kennedy Macdonald, and the various departmental officers, and inspecting letters, affidavits, deeds, and documents put in, are of opinion that the Bill to provide for investigation of Hine's land claim be allowed to proceed.

2nd October, 1900.

No. 379.—Petition of J. BOLES and 160 Others, of the Thames.

PETITIONERS pray that the powder-magazine at the Thames be removed to a more isolated position.

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

2nd October, 1900.

Nos. 501, 502, 503, 514, 515, 531, 536, 541, 549, 550, 561, 562, 563, 564, and 572.—Petitions of Rev. ELMSLIE and 108 Others, of Christchurch; SUSAN BOWMAN and 98 Others, of Napier; JOSEPH WHITE and 156 Others, of Pleasant Point; W. J. COMRIE and 147 Others, of Hastings; D. LITTLEJOHN and 150 Others, of Epsom; S. J. SERPELL and 155 Others, of New Plymouth; SAMUEL WILLIAMS and 48 Others, of Napier; J. FRASER and 49 Others, of Greatford; H. W. JOHNSTON and 31 Others, of Waipawa; E. PARKER and 47 Others, of Matawhero; THOMAS JAMES and 235 Others, of Eilerslie; G. CLARK and 148 Others, of Kaitiaki; R. S. ALLEN and 36 Others, of Eltham; T. J. WILLS and 49 Others, of Ormondville; B. A. FRANKLIN and 81 Others, of Napier.

PETITIONERS pray that gambling be suppressed.

I am directed to report that, as petitions deal with a matter of policy, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

2nd October, 1900.

No. 431.—Petition of JOHN ANGELO, of Ngunguru.

PETITIONER prays for a refund of expenses incurred prospecting for coal on Native land.

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

2nd October, 1900.

No. 432.—Petition of S. T. BRENT and Others, of Rotorua.

PETITIONERS pray that the Rotorua water-supply be further improved.

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

3rd October, 1900.

No. 383.—Petition of CHARITY W. GAUNTLETT, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for compassionate allowance.

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

3rd October, 1900.

No. 574.—Petition of MATILDA FRIEND, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for further compensation for services rendered to the Government by her late husband.

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

3rd October, 1900.

Nos. 106, 90 (1899), 60, 143 (1899), 66, 93, 109, 111, 117, 169, 273, 298, 435, and 455.—Petitions of W. H. CLARKE, of Whakarewarewa; R. J. FELTUS, of Auckland; R. J. FELTUS, of Ngunguru; M. CAREY, of Auckland; R. CLIFFORD, of New Plymouth; J. KING (No. 2), of Tauranga; W. HUNTER, of Wellington; G. COCK, of Taranaki; D. COFFEY, of Opotiki; M. FITZGERALD, of Wairoa; J. HUMPHREYS, of Leithfield; D. KENEALEY, of Remuera; R. COX, of Kopu; J. CASH, of Pambula, New South Wales.

PETITIONERS pray for grant of land for past military service.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend these petitions be referred to the Government, and that the claims be further inquired into.

5th October, 1900.

No. 551.—Petition of CHURCHILL JULIUS (Bishop of Christchurch), and Others, of Christchurch.

PETITIONERS pray that an institution in which all the idiot and imbecile children may be cared for and protected, be provided.

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

9th October, 1900.

Nos. 511 and 595.—Petitions of J. H. ANDERSON and Others, of Te Kopuru; JOHN DOWNEY and Others, of Maunganui Bluff.

PETITIONERS pray for a grant of £500 to erect ferry slips over the Wairoa.

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

9th October, 1900.

No. 447.—Petition of JOHN GRAY and Others, of Tauranga.

PETITIONERS pray that the limits of restricted navigation from the Port of Tauranga be amended.

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

9th October, 1900.

No. 130.—Petition of EDMOND CARRIGAN and Others, of Wellington.

PETITIONERS pray for further compensation for land taken by the Wellington Harbour Board.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having taken the evidence of the petitioners, and having heard counsel on both sides, are of the opinion that the petitioners have suffered loss by the legislation of 1898, and that therefore the law should be so amended as to enable them to obtain a rehearing before the Compensation Court.

9th October, 1900.

No. 542.—Petition of EDWIN T. HART and 1,039 Others, of Caversham.

PETITIONERS pray that there be established a uniform scale of teachers' pay throughout the colony.

I am directed to report that, as the petition deals with a matter of policy, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

9th October, 1900.

Nos. 570, 571, 603, 611, 612, 613, 614, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, and 587.—Petitions of JAMES GORRIE and 60 Others, of Mungaroa; MURRAY AYNLEY and 40 Others, A. B. EGLINTON and 40 Others, T. R. LAWSON and 56 Others, H. G. MASON and 157 Others, J. MURPHY and 70 Others, J. ROBINSON and 42 Others, S. BOLTON and 35 Others, J. BROWN and 43 Others, C. SWANSON and 30 Others, A. J. SPEEDY and 149 Others, A. WATSON and 151 Others, A. WALLIS and 140 Others, H. W. WILLIAMS and 21 Others, D. J. CAMERON and 12 Others, A. D. J. DUNCAN and 139 Others, C. ELGAR and 17 Others, T. O. HAYCOCK and 25 Others, ROBERT NEIL and 21 Others, J. R. NICOL and 60 Others, C. A. SCHULTZ and 79 Others, DAVID SIMPSON and 52 Others, and W. STAPLES and 104 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that means be devised to vest the Mount Cook Reserve in the Victoria College Council, to be administered by that body for University purposes.

I am directed to report that, as the petitions deal with a matter of policy, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

10th October, 1900.

Nos. 575, 576, and 609. — Petitions of CHARLES DUNCAN and Others, of Johnsonville; A. E. BROWN and Others, of Whangarei; and A. P. CLARKE and Others, of Taradale.

PETITIONERS pray that gambling be suppressed.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of these petitions involves a question of public policy, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

10th October, 1900.

No. 32, 1899.—Petition of HENRY HENDERSON, of Wairoa South.

PETITIONER prays that relief be granted to the family of the late John Henderson, his father, for his military services and the loss of his life while so employed.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the petition be referred to the Government, and the claim therein be further inquired into.

10th October, 1900.

No. 293.—Petition of FREDERICK COCK and 1,304 Others, of Paeroa.

PETITIONERS pray that Mr. John Mackay, formerly Warden and Resident Magistrate, be granted relief for past services.

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

10th October, 1900.

No. 127, 1899.—Petition of Sir WALTER L. BULLER, K.C.M.G., of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for payment of costs incurred by him in a certain action at law.

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

13th October, 1900.

No. 312, 1897.—Petition of JOHN BELL, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for redress for certain wrongs said to have been sustained through the action of the Stipendiary Magistrate, Auckland.

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

13th October, 1900.

No. 444.—Petition of F. R. HOWARD and 26 Others, of Puhipuhi.

PETITIONERS pray for redress in connection with seizure of gum at Puhipuhi by the police.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend this petition to the favourable consideration of the Government.

13th October, 1900.

Nos. 405, 500, and 513.—Petitions of J. F. BOND and 127 Others, of Hamilton; JOHN GIBSON and 51 Others, of Te Awamutu; and PERCY R. COLEBROOK and 94 Others, of Te Kuiti.

PETITIONERS pray that if any change be made as regards sale of liquor in the King-country a fair trial of State control under the Gothenburg system be given effect to.

I am directed to report that these petitions be referred to the Government for consideration.

13th October, 1900.

No. 196, 1899.—Petition of R. J. FELTUS, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for burying the body of one George Petingall.

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

13th October, 1900.

No. 516.—Petition of J. R. DUNCAN, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for an inquiry into the working of the Treasury Department.

I am directed to report that, as no evidence has been produced in support of the allegations, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

13th October, 1900.

No. 71.—Petition of A. DE B. BRANDON and Others, of Wellington.

PETITIONERS pray that certain land belonging to the Wellington College be not given to the Victoria College, and protesting against the Victoria College Act Amendment Bill of 1900.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of the petition is *sub judice*, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

13th October, 1900.

No. 335, 1899.—Petition of HENRY ELLIS, of Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

PETITIONER prays for redress on account of alleged false imprisonment at Rarotonga.

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

13th October, 1900.

No. 594.—Petition of D. B. DUNCAN, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for redress, having been imprisoned for alleged contempt of Court.

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

13th October, 1900.

Nos. 636, 629, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 641, and 651.—Petitions of A. THOMPSON and 4 Others, of Pukearuru; H. BRENTON and 41 Others, WILLIAM COOK and 52 Others, GEORGE FROST and 14 Others, A. E. GIBBS and 20 Others, G. W. HILL and 26 Others, C. E. HYLTON and 37 Others, F. HOLDSWORTH and 47 Others, and JAMES COOPER and 80 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that means be devised to vest the Mount Cook Reserve in the Victoria College Council, to be administered by that body for university purposes.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
13th October, 1900.

No. 195, 1899.—R. J. FELTUS (No. 2), of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for a sum of money for services rendered.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make.
13th October, 1900.

No. 330, 399, 450, 434, 479, 480, 481, 487, 496, 497, 498, 495, 499, 520, 534, 535, 537, 540, 578, 543, 547, 548, 565, 546, 566, 567, 615, 590, 591, 604, 605, 607, 630, 638, 640, and 648.—Petitions of Rev. J. CHRISTIE and 153 Others, of Oamaru; C. ROBINSON and 258 Others, of Dunedin; R. B. M. SUTHERLAND and 163 Others, Dunedin; CHRISTINA BROWN and 5,050 Others, of Dunedin; OLIVE C. FEIST and 49 Others, of Masterton; D. FINLAYSON and 49 Others, of Masterton; H. JAMES and 63 Others, of Masterton; PETER McBEAN and 61 Others, of Taieri; JAMES SHANNON and 57 Others, of Dunedin; W. B. STEEL and 78 Others, of Dunedin; C. O. NELSON and 169 Others, of Nelson; BISHOP OF WELLINGTON and 4,499 Others, of Wellington; NIKORIMA POKIHA and 136 Others, of Wellington; MARK MORRIS and 340 Others, of Hamilton; J. H. MCKENZIE and 19 Others, of Nelson; J. WOOD and 67 Others, of Wellington; EMMA DAVIS and 30 Others, of Nelson; WIARI TURANGAPITO and 16 Others, of Wanganui; J. CRICHTON and 35 Others, of Stanley Brook; A. REID and 276 Others of Palmerston North; J. J. BUCKTON and 191 Others, of Waitemata; W. LINDSAY and 28 Other, of Paparata; D. SINCLAIR and 1,599 Others, of Opio; W. EARLAND and 304 Others, of Mornington; JOHN ELLING and 208 Others, of Black's Point; C. ELLIS and 19 Others, of Hunterville; T. BARR and 61 Others, of Temuka; D. GOLDIE and 120 Others, of Auckland; A. JAGO and 20 Others, of Springburn; W. PASK and 18 Others, of Havelock; A. GRANT and 15 Others, of Dannevirke; C. E. BEECROFT and 14 Others, of Devonport; SARAH H. HOLLARD and 22 Others, of Kaponga; JAMES KIRK and 3 Others, of Waikaka Valley; JANE M. BUCHANAN and 18 Others, of Collingwood; and A. W. ARCHIBALD and 101 Others, of Waikaka Valley.

PETITIONERS pray that licenses for the sale of liquor be not granted in the King-country.

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

13th October, 1900.

No. 368.—Petition of JNO. TAMMADGE and Others, Te Kuiti.

PETITIONERS pray that the King-country be placed in the same position as regards the sale of liquor as any other licensed district in New Zealand.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition involves a matter of policy, the Committee has no recommendation to make, but that the report and evidence taken on the petition be laid on the table of the House and the evidence be printed. (*Vide* Appendix I.—1A.)

17th October, 1900.

FINAL REPORT.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Committee has held thirty-six meetings this session.

Number of petitions referred to the Committee	...	...	...	225
Number of petitions dealt with	...	...	...	218
Number of petitions not dealt with	...	...	...	7
Number of petitions, specific recommendation	...	...	...	20
Number of petitions for favourable consideration	...	...	...	21
Number of petitions for consideration	...	...	...	42
Number of petitions, no claim or no recommendation	...	...	...	131
Number of petitions referred to other Committees	...	...	...	4

I am directed to report that the following resolution was passed by the Committee: "That the Committee desires to place on record its high appreciation of the valuable services rendered by its Chairman, and tender their sincere thanks to him."

17th October, 1900.

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