

1902
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS M TO Z COMMITTEE.

(MR. MEREDITH, 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 8TH DAY OF JULY, 1902.

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 have power to report its opinions and observations thereon to this House; also to have power to call for persons and papers; three to be a quorum: the Committee to consist of Mr. Bennet, Mr. Buddo, Mr. Fowlds, Mr. W. Fraser, Mr. McGuire, Mr. Meredith, Mr. Monk, Mr. O'Meara, Mr. G. J. Smith, and the mover."—(Hon. Mr. MILLS.)

INDEX.

No.	Petition.	Page.	No.	Petition.	Page.
51	Adams, T., and 62 others	5, 6	93	Fisher, D. K., and 37 others	5, 6
28	Anderson, R. P., and 45 others	5, 6	150	Fraser, J. M., and 43 others	5, 6
149	Andrews, G., and 60 others	5, 6	275	Fraser, Bertha, and 64 others	5, 6
89	Arden, J., and 59 others	5, 6			
467	Beale, J., and 102 others	7	317	Glen, G. F., and 1,238 others	5, 6
196	Bean, W. S., and 13 others	5, 6	181	Glenny, E., and 37 others	6
175	Bennett, S. F., and 32 others	5, 6	182	Gow, Janet K., and 11 others	6
205	Berwick, H., and 150 others	5, 6	15	Grant, K. W., and 56 others	5, 6
373	Billcliff, S., and 60 others	5, 6	16	Gray, Rev. A., and 27 others	5, 6
76	Bourne, W., and 41 others	5, 6	177	Gray, E., and 60 others	5, 6
357	Brunsdon, A., and 38 others	5, 6	23	Greig, Rev. A., and 95 others	5, 6
12	Bull, J. E., and 60 others	5, 6	271	Griffin, T. N., and 41 others	5, 6
132	Bull, H., and 32 others	5, 6	77	Hales, F., and 35 others	5, 6
31	Bush, C. J., and 26 others	5, 6	362	Harper, W., and 5 others	5, 6
280	Buttle, J. N., and 62 others	5, 6	365	Henderson, Mrs., and 153 others	5, 6
361	Carr, T. G., and 24 others	5, 6	10	Hounsell, G., and 33 others	5, 6
176	Cathie, A. G., and 14 others	5, 6	264	Hunt, Jane, and 59 others	5, 6
17	Christie, J., and 60 others	5, 6	236	Hutton, W., and 87 others	5, 6
471	Coates, Rev. Canon, and 53 others	7	173	Joy, J. D., and 54 others	5, 6
276	Collis, W., and 197 others	5, 6	185	Kent, M. J., and 14 others	6
238	Coull, W., and 153 others	5, 6	200	MacDonald, Alexander, and 50 others	3
9	Cox, G. D., and 51 others	5, 6	54	Macdonald, C., and 64 others	5, 6
178	Crawford, A., and 93 others	5, 6	128	Mackenzie, Jessie, and 6 others	6
133	Crook, J. E., and 25 others	5, 6	33	Macnicol, Rev. R. F., and 84 others	5, 6
461	De Weston, W. M.	7	287	Manchester, George, and 8 others	4
473	Devenish, J. M., and 62 others	7	68	Marten, W. B., and 32 others	5, 6
134	Dixon, Rev. W. G., and 64 others	5, 6	350	Maunder, Fanny S., and 66 others	5
382	Downhard, L., and 25 others	5, 6	218	McAinch, James	3
243	Drake, E., and 52 others	5, 6	349	McCarthy, Thomas	5
49	Driver, H. H., and 477 others	5, 6	127	McCarthy, Mary, and 47 others	6
87	Dukes, Rev. J., and 137 others	5, 6	186		
114	Edie, John, and 45 others	5, 6	187	McClusky, A. J.	4
27	Elmslie, Rev. Dr., and 84 others	5, 6	188		
126	Fantham, A. A.	4	208	McDonald, J. K.	4
11	Fennell, R., and 25 others	5, 6	174	McDonald, F., and 22 others	5, 6
	Final Report	7	472	McKinstry, E. L., and 42 others	7
222	Findlay, J., and 56 others	5, 6	97	McLaw, Rev. J., and 64 others	5, 6
			320	McMillan, Thomas	5

INDEX—continued.

No.	Petition.	Page.	No.	Petition.	Page.
209	McWilliam, Beatrice M.	3	432	Saunders, Mary Ann	7
313	Menzies, F. E., and 30 others ..	5, 6	56	Schofield, R., and 62 others ..	5, 6
263	Mexted, Emma, and 48 others ..	5, 6	198	Schollum, John, and 47 others ..	2
91	Mildenhall, A., and 11 others ..	5, 6	30	Shacklock, J. B., and 112 others ..	5, 6
69	Miller, Margaret, and 74 others ..	5, 6	172	Smalley, J. S., and 48 others ..	5, 6
131	Miller, A. R., and 33 others ..	5, 6	306	Smith, Richard, and 126 others ..	5
109	Mitchelson, E., and 65 others ..	5	282	Smith, James	6
116	Morgan, W. J., and 24 others ..	2	75	Spence, Rev. G. W., and 64 others ..	5, 6
180	Morrin, L. P., and 152 others ..	6	55	Stace, Rev. A. C., and 63 others ..	5, 6
286	Moyle, Thomas	4	19	Stewart, George V., and 6 others ..	2
50	Muirhead, J., and 64 others ..	5, 6	221	Sutherland, A., and 266 others ..	5, 6
102	Murgatroyd, J.	2			
			14	Taylor, Rev. R., and 62 others ..	5, 6
5	Newlyn, John H.	4	348	Thomas, William T., and 31 others ..	5
266	Nicholson, Dr., and 25 others ..	5, 6	78	Thomson, J. M., and 59 others ..	5, 6
			262	Thompson, R. J., and 73 others ..	5, 6
458	Oakes, Frank J., and 3 others ..	7	151	Tibbs, George	3
			234	Tinsley, W., and 66 others ..	5, 6
21	Pattulo, Rev. J. L., and 44 others ..	5, 6	22	Todd, A. B., and 52 others ..	5, 6
179	Peacocke, H., and 17 others ..	6	13	Toneycliffe, T. E., and 62 others ..	5, 6
217	Pepper, Henry	3	57	Trestrail, Rev. T., and 64 others ..	5, 6
167	Peters, John	4	308	Twidle, George	5
291	Philip, W. H., and 101 others ..	5, 6	184	Tye, Edith, and 38 others ..	6
130	Pinfold, T. T., and 32 others ..	5, 6			
220	Plummer, A.	3	32	Vanes, B., and 63 others ..	5, 6
324	Pollock, A. R.	5	420	Vaney, M., and 163 others ..	5, 6
52	Pope, J. J., and 24 others ..	5, 6			
86	Porter, L. G.	3	121	Wagstaff, T., and 34 others ..	5, 6
129	Potter, W. S., and 46 others ..	5, 6	158	Walker, William Charles	3
119	Pratt, Rugby M. A., and 53 others ..	5, 6	281	Walker, T., and 135 others ..	5, 6
			410	Walker, Alexander, and 15 others ..	7
53	Ramsay, Rev. P., and 32 others ..	5, 6	1	Ward, John, and 34 others ..	5
274	Rattray, J., and Son, and 675 others ..	4	452	Welch, Charles, and 113 others ..	7
112	Renshaw, J., and 26 others ..	5, 6	290	White, J. H., and 33 others ..	5, 6
88	Reid, Rev. J. S., and 95 others ..	5, 6	170	Willacy, Henry	3
34	Reynolds, R. S., and 18 others ..	2	195	Williams, S. S., and 2,767 others ..	3
120	Robertson, W., and 40 others ..	5, 6	18	Williams, A., and 79 others ..	5, 6
470	Robson, George	7	183	Wilson, Jane, and 24 others ..	6
192	Ryburn, R. M., and 93 others ..	5, 6			

REPORTS.

No. 102.—Petition of J. MURGATROYD and 39 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that the Young Persons Protection Bill may be passed.

I am directed to report that, as there is a measure now before the House dealing with the subject-matter of the petition, the Committee recommends it be referred to the Government for consideration.

31st July, 1902.

No. 34.—Petition of R. S. REYNOLDS and 18 Others, of Dunedin.

PETITIONERS pray that the Government may grant a subsidy of pound for pound for the maintenance of perfectly equipped kindergartens in the colony.

I am directed to report that, inasmuch as the public-school system of the colony provides for giving instruction and exercise by the kindergarten system, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

31st July, 1902.

No. 116.—Petition of W. J. MORGAN, and 24 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that section 13 of "The School Committees Election Act, 1891," may be amended.

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

31st July, 1902.

No. 19.—Petition of GEORGE VESSEY STEWART and 6 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that medical districts may be formed in the outlying districts, &c.

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

31st July, 1902.

No. 198.—Petition of JOHN SCHOLLUM and 47 Others, of Puhoi.

PETITIONERS pray that they may be granted the sum of £150 for deviations, &c., on the South-western Road.

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

15th August, 1902.

No. 170.—Petition of HENRY WILLACY, of Rotorua.

PETITIONER prays for relief on account of injuries received while acting as bath-attendant at the Postmaster's Bath, Rotorua.

I am directed to report that, as no fresh evidence has been adduced, the Committee confirms the resolution of last session—viz., "That the Committee has no recommendation to make."

15th August, 1902.

No. 151.—Petition of GEORGE TIBBS, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER states that he has been boycotted in his business as a fishmonger on account of laying informations against others for selling unwholesome fish, &c. He prays for relief.

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

15th August, 1902.

No. 195.—Petition of S. S. WILLIAMS and 2,767 Others, of Wellington.

PETITIONERS pray that provision may be made in "The Wellington Harbour Board Empowering Act, 1902," to insure that a graving-dock be constructed for the Port of Wellington.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to legislation now before the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

15th August, 1902.

No. 200.—Petition of ALEXANDER MACDONALD and 50 Others, of Taranaki.

PETITIONERS pray that the House may refrain from legislation which will validate "The Egmont County Act, 1901."

I am directed to report that, forasmuch as "The Egmont County Act, 1901," came into force on the 1st April, 1902, the prayer of the petition cannot be given effect to.

15th August, 1902.

No. 220.—Petition of ALBERT PLUMMER, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted 11 acres of land for military services rendered, and for payment on account of losses sustained through supplying Maori prisoners at the Chatham Islands with goods, &c.

I am directed to report that, as the claims have been considered and reported upon by previous Committees, and no fresh evidence has been adduced, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

19th August, 1902.

No. 218.—Petition of JAMES MCAINCH, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays that he may be compensated for loss sustained and degradation suffered through being imprisoned for alleged passing of false entries through the Customs, &c.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that there was no criminal intent to defraud the Customs, and therefore recommends the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

19th August, 1902.

No. 86.—Petition of LAWRENCE GODWIN PORTER, of Karori.

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance on account of his late father's services to the Government as an officer of the Survey Department, &c.

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

19th August, 1902.

No. 158.—Petition of WILLIAM CHARLES WALKER, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays for a grant for military services rendered to the colony.

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

19th August, 1902.

No. 209.—Petition of BEATRICE M. McWILLIAM, of Linwood.

PETITIONER prays that her mother, Annie McWilliam, who is serving a term of imprisonment, may be released on account of the broken-down state of her health, &c.

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

21st August, 1902.

No. 217.—Petition of HENRY PEPPER, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays that he may receive a compassionate allowance on account of the loss of his son, who was killed during the late war in South Africa.

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

21st August, 1902.

No. 5.—Petition of JOHN HEATH NEWLYN, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER states that he is the originator of the scheme known as the "cheap-money scheme" in the year 1884, &c. He prays for consideration.

I am directed to report that, while the Committee recognises that the petitioner formulated a scheme for Government advancing cheap money to settlers by utilising the public credit, and publicly advocated the same, there is not sufficient evidence to show that the scheme as propounded by the petitioner in May, 1884, was original, and could profitably be applied at the time, in consequence of the high rate of interest then obtaining.

21st August, 1902.

No. 126.—Petition of ARTHUR ALBERT FANTHAM, of Hawera.

PETITIONER states that in February, 1884, he advocated a scheme of Government advances to settlers at a lower rate of interest than at that time obtaining, &c. He prays for consideration.

I am directed to report that, as the evidence before the Committee shows the petitioner was the first to formulate a scheme for advancing money to farmers by Government, the Committee considers that in that respect the petitioner is entitled to public recognition for propounding the said scheme.

21st August, 1902.

No. 208.—Petition of JOHN KINNEAR McDONALD, of Waingaro.

PETITIONER prays that he may receive recognition for his military services rendered to the colony.

I am directed to report that this Committee affirms the resolution reported to the House on the 24th September, 1896—viz., "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."

22nd August, 1902.

No. 274.—Petition of J. RATTRAY AND SON and 675 Others, of Dunedin, Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch.

PETITIONERS pray that legislation may be passed to suppress the use of coupons and similar devices in connection with the sale of packets and packages of tea or other goods.

I am directed to report that, having heard the prayer of the petition, this Committee wishes to emphasize and strongly recommend the resolution reported to the House last session—viz., "That, in the opinion of the Committee, the Government should amend 'The Trading-stamps Abolition and Discount-stamps Issue Act, 1900,' so as to include the coupon system of discounts, the Committee being of opinion that no system of discounts, except made in cash, is equitable or desirable in the interests of commercial morality."

28th August, 1902.

Nos. 186, 187, and 188.—Petition of ADAM JOHN McCLUSKY, of Auckland.

PETITIONER, who has been employed in the Police and Prisons Departments, and who has been discharged therefrom, prays that his grievances may be inquired into, and that he may be granted compensation for loss of office.

I am directed to report that, having considered the petitions, and as no further evidence has been adduced, the Committee is of opinion the petitioner has no claim whatever on the colony.

28th August, 1902.

No. 167.—Petition of JOHN PETERS, of Wanganui.

PETITIONER states that he has been wrongfully confined in the Porirua Lunatic Asylum, &c. He prays for an inquiry, and that he may be paid compensation for loss and wrongs he has suffered.

I am directed to report that, having heard the prayer of the petition, the evidence of the Superintendent of the Porirua Asylum, and of the petitioner, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

29th August, 1902.

No. 286.—Petition of THOMAS MOYLE, of Great Barrier Island.

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted 60 acres of land, or £30 in lieu thereof, for military services rendered to the colony.

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

3rd September, 1902.

No. 287.—Petition of GEORGE MANCHESTER and 8 Others, of Waimate.

PETITIONERS pray that a fairer system of valuations for the purposes of rating may be introduced, &c.

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

5th September, 1902.

No. 308.—Petition of GEORGE TWIDLE, of East Tamaki.

PETITIONER prays that inquiry may be made into the circumstance of the refusal to renew his old-age pension, &c.

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

5th September, 1902.

No. 348.—Petition of WILLIAM T. THOMAS and 31 Others, of Woolston.

PETITIONERS pray that clause 20 of "The Rating on Unimproved Value Act, 1896," may be repealed.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petition be granted.

5th September, 1902.

No. 306.—Petition of RICHARD SMITH and 126 Others, of Taranaki.

PETITIONERS pray that an inquiry may be held into the circumstances of R. Smith's eviction from Section 129, Waimate, by the Public Trustee, and that he may be compensated therefor.

I am directed to report that, after hearing evidence on the petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

5th September, 1902.

No. 350.—Petition of FANNY S. MAUNDER and 66 Others, of Waikato.

PETITIONERS pray for the removal of the civil and political disabilities of women.

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

5th September, 1902.

No. 349.—Petition of THOMAS MCCARTHY, of Papakura.

PETITIONER prays for a grant of land for military services rendered to the colony.

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

5th September, 1902.

No. 324.—Petition of ARTHUR ROBERT POLLOCK, of Manawatu.

PETITIONER prays that an investigation may be made into the circumstances of his conviction for cattle-stealing in December last.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the evidence placed before them is of such a nature as to warrant the petition being referred to the Government for investigation, with the view of granting the petitioner such relief as the circumstances of the case may suggest.

9th September, 1902.

No. 109.—Petition of E. MITCHELSON and 65 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that all restrictions on trawling in New Zealand waters may be removed, &c.

I am directed to report that, the Government having carried out the recommendation made by this Committee last year, and having held an exhaustive inquiry before issuing the present regulations limiting the trawling-area in the Hauraki Gulf, the Committee has no further recommendation to make.

9th September, 1902.

No. 320.—Petition of THOMAS McMILLAN.

PETITIONER prays that he may receive a grant of land, or £40 in lieu thereof, for military services rendered to the colony.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner is debarred by Act of Parliament through having obtained his discharge subsequent to the year 1872, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

9th September, 1902.

No. 1.—Petition of JOHN WARD and 34 Others, of Westland, and Eighty-nine similar Petitions as per Schedule attached.

PETITIONERS state that, as gambling is demoralising to the individual and baneful to the best interests of the community, they pray that the totalisator may be entirely suppressed.

I am directed to report that, in view of the large and influential representations made by the 7,143 petitioners, praying for the abolition of the totalisator, this Committee recommends the prayer of the petitioners to the earnest consideration of the Government.

11th September, 1902.

Schedule of Petitions praying for the Entire Suppression of the Totalisator.

No.	Name.	Sig- natures.	No.	Name.	Sig- natures.
1	J. Ward and others	35	129	W. S. Potter and others	46
9	G. D. Cox and others	51	130	J. T. Pinfold and others	32
10	G. Hounsell and others	33	131	A. R. Miller and others	33
11	R. Fennell and others	25	132	H. Bull and others	32
12	J. E. Bull and others	60	133	J. E. Crook and others	25
13	T. E. Toneycliffs and others	62	134	Rev. W. G. Dixon and others	64
14	Rev. R. Taylor and others	62	149	G. Andrews and others	60
15	K. W. Grant and others	56	150	J. M. Fraser and others	43
16	Rev. A. Gray and others	27	172	J. S. Smalley and others	48
17	J. Christie and others	60	173	J. D. Joy and others	54
18	A. Williams and others	79	174	F. McDonald and others	22
21	Rev. J. L. Pattulo and others	44	175	S. F. Bennett and others	32
22	A. B. Todd and others	52	176	A. G. Cathie and others	14
23	Rev. A. Greig and others	95	177	E. Gray and others	60
27	Rev. Dr. Elmslie and others	84	178	A. Crawford and others	93
28	R. P. Anderson and others	45	192	R. M. Ryburn and others	93
30	J. B. Shacklock and others	112	196	W. S. Bean and others	13
31	C. J. Bush and others	26	205	H. Berwick and others	150
32	B. Vane and others	64	221	A. Sutherland and others	266
33	Rev. R. F. Macnicol and others	84	222	J. Findlay and others	56
49	H. H. Driver and others	477	234	W. Tinsley and others	66
50	J. Muirhead and others	64	236	W. Hutton and others	87
51	T. Adams and others	62	238	W. Coull and others	153
52	J. J. Pope and others	24	243	E. Drake and others	52
53	Rev. P. Ramsay and others	32	262	R. J. Thompson and others	73
54	C. Macdonald and others	64	263	Emma Mexted and others	49
55	Rev. A. C. Stace and others	63	264	Jane Hunt and others	59
56	R. Schofield and others	62	266	Dr. Nicholson and others	25
57	Rev. T. Trestrail and others	64	271	T. N. Griffin and others	41
68	W. B. Marten and others	32	275	Bertha Fraser and others	64
69	Margaret Miller and others	74	276	William Collis and others	197
75	Rev. G. W. Spence and others	64	280	J. N. Buttle and others	62
76	W. Bourne and others	41	281	T. Walker and others	135
77	F. Hales and others	35	290	J. H. White and others	33
78	J. M. Thomson and others	59	291	Rev. W. H. Philip and others	101
87	Rev. J. Dukes and others	137	313	F. E. Menzies and others	30
88	Rev. J. S. Reid and others	95	317	G. F. Glen and others	1,238
89	Miss J. Ardern and others	59	357	A. Brunnsden and others	38
91	A. Mildenhall and others	11	361	T. G. Carr and others	24
93	D. K. Fisher and others	37	362	W. Harper and others	50
97	Rev. J. McLaw and others	64	365	Mrs. Henderson	153
112	J. Renshaw and others	26	373	S. Billecliff and others	60
114	John Edie and others	45	382	L. Downhard and others	25
119	M. A. Rugby Pratt and others	53	420	M. Vane and others	163
120	W. Robertson and others	40			
121	T. Wagstaff and others	34			
					7,143

No. 282.—Petition of JAMES SMITH, of Pahiataua.

PETITIONER prays for a grant for military services rendered to the colony.

I am directed to report that this Committee strongly recommends the Government to give effect to the decisions arrived at by previous Committees on the petitions of E. Hutchings and others—viz., “That, in the opinion of the Committee, 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”—and regrets that these recommendations have not been given effect to, considering the just claims the petitioners have against the State.

17th September, 1902.

Nos. 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, and 185.—Petitions of H. PEACOCKE and 17 Others, L. P. MORRIN and 152 Others, E. GLENNY and 37 Others, JANE K. GOW and 11 Others, JANE WILSON and 24 Others, EDITH TYE and 38 Others, and M. J. KENT and 14 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the Young Persons Protection Bill may be passed.

I am directed to report that, as there is a measure now before the House dealing with the subject-matter of the petitions, the Committee recommends they be referred to the Government for consideration.

17th September, 1902.

Nos. 127 and 128.—Petitions of MARY MCCARTHY and 47 Others and JESSIE MACKENZIE and 6 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that provision may be made for the shelter and management of weak-minded or imbecile and idiotic children, &c.

I am directed to report that this Committee reaffirms the resolutions reported to the House on the 11th July, 1900, and the 31st July, 1901, in connection with similar petitions—viz., “That the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Government for favourable consideration,

and that in their opinion the time has arrived when provision should be made for separate institutions for weak-minded or imbecile and idiotic persons, who at present, through the want of more suitable accommodation, are sent to the lunatic asylums, where they are unavoidably associated with patients who are under treatment for insanity, and where, also, no attempt is made towards classification or improvement by means of training and education; and, further, that from the evidence before them the Committee is of the opinion that there is urgent necessity for immediate action being taken by the Government in the matter."

17th September, 1902.

No. 458.—Petition of FRANK J. OAKES and 3 Others, of Wellington.

PETITIONERS pray that an annual subsidy may be granted to the North Island Brass Band Association towards the expenses of holding brass-band contests in the various centres.

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

30th September, 1902.

No. 461.—Petition of W. M. DE WESTON, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays for relief on account of having been imprisoned for three months for criminal libel.

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

30th September, 1902.

No. 470.—Petition of GEORGE ROBSON, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted 60 acres of land, or £30 in lieu thereof, for military services rendered to the colony.

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

30th September, 1902.

No. 410.—Petition of ALEXANDER WALKER and 15 Others, of Waimangaroa.

PETITIONERS pray that ammunition may be sold to Defence rifle clubs on the same terms and conditions as it is supplied to other branches of the Defence Forces of the colony.

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

30th September, 1902.

Nos. 452, 471, 472, and 473.—Petitions of CHARLES WELCH and 113 Others, Rev. CANON COATES and 53 Others, E. L. MCKINSTRY and 42 Others, and J. M. DEVENISH and 62 Others.

PETITIONERS state that, as gambling is demoralising to the individual and baneful to the best interests of the community, they pray that the totalisator may be entirely suppressed.

I am directed to report that the Committee affirms the resolution reported to the House on the 11th instant in connection with a number of similar petitions—viz., "That, in view of the large and influential representations made by the 7,143 petitioners praying for the abolition of the totalisator, this Committee recommends the prayer of the petitioners to the earnest consideration of the Government."

30th September, 1902.

No. 467.—Petition of J. BEALE and 102 Others, of Petone.

PETITIONERS pray that the publication by newspapers of the winners of sweepstakes, "tote betting," and "street betting," may be prevented.

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

30th September, 1902.

No. 432.—Petition of MARY ANN SAUNDERS, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that she may be granted 80 acres of land, or £40 in lieu thereof, for military services rendered by her late husband to the colony.

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

30th September, 1902.

FINAL REPORT.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Committee has held sixteen meetings during the session.

Number of petitions referred to the Committee	...	...	...	144
Number of petitions dealt with by the Committee	...	...	...	142
Number of petitions not dealt with	...	...	...	2
Number of reports presented to the House	...	...	...	43
Number of specific recommendations made therein	...	...	...	7
Number referred to Government for consideration	...	...	...	16
Number of "No recommendation," &c.	...	...	...	20

I am also directed to report the following resolutions passed by the Committee, viz. :—

“That this Committee desires to record its hearty appreciation of the able and businesslike manner in which the Chairman (Mr. Meredith) has carried out the business of the Committee during the past session.”

“That the Committee desires to place on record their approval of the courtesy, attention, and ability with which the Clerk (Mr. Dasent) has discharged his duties during the session, and again recommend him to the favourable consideration of the Government for permanent employment in the public service.”

30th September, 1902.

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