

1913.
NEW ZEALAND.

PUBLIC PETITIONS A TO L COMMITTEE

(REPORTS OF THE).

(MR. BRADNEY, 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 3RD DAY OF JULY, 1913.

Ordered, "That a Committee be appointed, consisting of ten members, to consider all petitions from A to L 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 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. Bradney, Mr. Brown, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Dickson, Mr. Escott, Mr. Isitt, Mr. Malcolm, Mr. Payne, Mr. Robertson, and the mover."—(Hon. Mr. FISHER.)

WEDNESDAY, THE 6TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1913.

Ordered, "That the name of Mr. Malcolm be deleted from the list of members of the Public Petitions A to L Committee, and that the name of Mr. Webb be substituted in lieu thereof."—(Hon. Mr. FISHER.)

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REPORTS.

No. 53.—Petition of DUNCAN ANDERSON, of Wellington.

PRAYING for compensation for military services rendered.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on this petition.
31st July, 1913.

No. 28.—Petition of the CAMPBELL AND EHRENFRIED COMPANY (LIMITED) and 252 Others, of Auckland.

PRAYING that the duty on Australian wines be reduced.

I am directed to report that, as the question involved is a matter of policy, the Committee is of opinion this petition should be referred to the Government for consideration.
31st July, 1913.

No. 64.—Petition of JOSEPH CODY, of Ohakune.

PRAYING for compensation for cancellation of wholesale license at Taihape.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee this petition should be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.
31st July, 1913.

No. 21.—Petition of MARION GOLD SMITH, of Tauranga.

PRAYING for further compassionate allowance on account of her late husband's public services.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on this petition.
31st July, 1913.

No. 85.—Petition of A. J. ILES and 588 Others, of Rotorua.

PRAYING that the control of acclimatization matters in the Rotorua and Taupo Districts be taken from the Tourist Department and placed under a local acclimatization society.

I am directed to report that, in view of the impending visit of the Canadian Fisheries Commissioner, this petition be referred to the Government for consideration. (Appendix I.-1A).
31st July, 1913.

No. 9.—Petition of ERNEST H. JONES, of Christchurch.

PRAYING for relief on account of disablement while in the employ of the Public Works Department.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on this petition.
31st July, 1913.

No. 83.—Petition of ANDREW HAMILTON, of Auckland.

PRAYING for redress in connection with a Crown grant he states he was granted, but which was lifted by some person without his authority.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on this petition.
7th August, 1913.

No. 54.—Petition of JAMES HEMPHILL, of Maungaturoto.

PRAYING for a retiring-allowance for services rendered while an officer of the Justice Department.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on this petition.
7th August, 1913.

No. 1.—Petition of OLIPHANT HUGHES, of Wanganui.

PRAYING that effect be given to the recommendations of this Committee of last year, and (*inter alia*) he be allowed to pay into the Superannuation Fund.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee this petition should be referred to the Government for immediate and favourable consideration.
7th August, 1913.

No. 110.—Petition of NELLIE BARRON, of Wellington.

PRAYING for compassionate allowance on account of her late husband's services in the Defence Department.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee this petition should be recommended strongly for immediate and favourable consideration.
14th August, 1913.

No. 141.—Petition of WILLIAM HENRY CLARKE, of Auckland.

PRAYING for a compassionate allowance on account of deductions from his old-age pension.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on this petition.
14th August, 1913.

No. 89.—Petition of JOHN FLYNN, of Hawera.

PRAYING for more adequate compensation for his military service during the Maori War.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee this petition should be strongly recommended for immediate and favourable consideration.
14th August, 1913.

No. 49.—Petition of CHARLES THOMAS BAYLIS, of 179 Clarence Road, Riccarton, Christchurch.

PRAYING for a rehearing of the case of his dismissal from the Police Force.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on this petition.
21st August, 1913.

No. 379 (1912).—Petition of PETER A. FERGUSON, of 83 Thorndon Quay, Wellington.

PRAYING for inquiry into his committal and detention in a mental hospital.

I have the honour to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on this petition.
21st August, 1913.

No. 196.—Petition of MARGHERITA LOVEGROVE, of 85 Coromandel Street, Wellington.

PRAYING that the Public Trustee be authorized to pay to the petitioner and her brothers money held in her late father's estate.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee this petition should be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.
21st August, 1913.

No. 225.—Petition of J. J. BOYD and 4,769 Others, of Wellington.

PRAYING that the Wellington City Council shall not have power to stop the running of motor-buses.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee this petition should be referred to the Government.
28th August, 1913.

No. 380 (1912).—Petition of E. W. BUTCHER and 464 Others, of Te Kuiti.

PRAYING for the construction of a railway from Ohura via Waitewhena Valley to connect the North Island Main Trunk line.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee this petition should be referred to the Government.
28th August, 1913.

No. 130.—Petition of THOMAS CHAPMAN and 65 Others, of Clydevale.

PRAYING for the construction of a traffic-bridge over the Pomohaka River.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee this petition should be referred to the Government.
28th August, 1913.

No. 61.—Petition of ELIZABETH CARMODY, of Carterton.

PRAYING for compensation on account of the death of her husband while on duty as a police constable.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee this petition should be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.
28th August, 1913.

No. 186.—Petition of FRANK LAKE, of Tauranga.

PRAYING for compensation for military services rendered.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on this petition.
28th August, 1913.

No. 90.—Petition of Major D. H. LUSK, of Auckland.

PRAYING for investigation into his claim and compensation for military services rendered.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee this petition should be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.
28th August, 1913.

No. 122.—Petition of FRANCIS EDWARD CARSON, of Palmerston North.

PRAYING for compensation for loss of his son's arm, refused through alleged wrongful evidence of the Inspector of Machinery.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on this petition.
4th September, 1913.

No. 265.—Petition of HERBERT CLAPHAM and 7,110 Others, of Auckland.

PRAYING for assistance to enable him to establish his alleged remedy for the cure of consumption.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee this petition should be referred to the Government.
4th September, 1913.

No. 195.—Petition of ALICE CORMACK, of Wellington.

PRAYING for compassionate allowance on account of services rendered by her late husband in the Electoral Department.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee this petition should be referred to the Government for consideration.
4th September, 1913.

No. 74.—Petition of JOHN DEAN, of Onehunga.

PRAYING for compensation or a fresh lease to take oysters within a certain area along the shore of Puketuta Island, Manukau Harbour.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee this petition should be referred to the Government for consideration.
4th September, 1913.

No. 264.—Petition of MARIA KELSEY DICKINSON, of Waireka, Seddon.

PRAYING for a compassionate allowance on account of the loss of her son, killed in South Africa in 1902.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee this petition should be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.
4th September, 1913.

No. 186.—Petition of FRANK LAKE, of Tauranga (Second Report).

PRAYING for compensation on account of military services rendered.

I am directed to report that the Committee's previous recommendation be adhered to.
4th September, 1913.

No. 262.—Petition of HENRY BRETT and 687 Others, of Takapuna, Auckland.

PRAYING for a reconsideration of the proposed site of the Takapuna Post-office.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee this petition should be referred to the Government for consideration.
26th September, 1913.

No. 261.—Petition of ELLEN HALLEY BROWN, of Napier.

PRAYING for a compassionate allowance on account of the services rendered to this country by her late husband, Mr. J. C. Brown, M.H.R.

I am directed to report that, in view of the valuable services rendered by her late husband, the Committee is of opinion that this petition should be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

26th September, 1913.

No. 287.—Petition of Rev. ANDREW CAMERON and Another, of Wellington.

PRAYING that the law relating to local option and national prohibition be altered to allow the majority required to be reduced from 60 to 55 per cent. of the valid votes recorded, and that in the event of national prohibition being carried it should come into operation not more than two years after the poll is declared; also that private bars be abolished, and the principle be established of "one license, one bar."

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of the petition is one of policy, the Committee is of opinion it should be referred to the Government for consideration.

26th September, 1913.

No. 240.—Petition of JOHN F. W. CHURTON, of Henderson.

PRAYING for compensation on account of military services rendered.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on this petition.
26th September, 1913.

No. 285.—Petition of **GEORGE COCK**, of New Plymouth.

PRAYING to be granted a land scrip on account of military services rendered.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on this petition.
26th September, 1913.

No. 164.—Petition of **THOMAS COTTER** and 3,082 Others; No. 187.—Petition of **David Teed** and 71 Others; and No. 219.—Petition of **WILLIAM BROWN** and 74 Others.

PRAYING that the system carried out in the past—viz., that Mr. Thomas Gresham, Coroner, should conduct inquests—be adhered to.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee this petition should be referred to the Government for consideration.
26th September, 1913.

No. 81.—Petition of **Lieut.-Colonel F. Y. GORING**, of Auckland.

PRAYING for further compensation on account of military services rendered.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on this petition.
26th September, 1913.

No. 289.—Petition of **CHARLES HENRY GREENHEAD**, of Waiuku.

PRAYING that he be allowed an opportunity to vindicate his character in open Court.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the Government should be recommended to institute proceedings in accordance with the specific directions of Mr. Justice Cooper delivered in the Supreme Court in December, 1910.

26th September, 1913.

No. 292.—Petition of **A. W. LINCOLN** and 145 Others, of Auckland.

PRAYING that the term of imprisonment imposed on Lincoln Evans Turner be shortened on account of good conduct, and through his legs being broken by an accident whilst undergoing imprisonment.

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

26th September, 1913.

No. 319.—Petition of **G. SUTTON** and 14 Others, of Wellington.

PRAYING that the sentence imposed on George D. Hewitt for use of obscene language be alleviated.

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

26th September, 1913.

No. 191.—Petition of **PETER HEYES**, of Wellington. (Interim Report.)

PRAYING that the charges on which he was asked to resign his position as Commissioner of Taxes be fully inquired into, and that he may be granted compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee has passed the following resolution, and begs to report the same to this House:—

“That consideration of this petition be deferred until the Chairman of the Committee asks the Speaker to rule as to what powers members of Parliament sitting in committee have with regard to the obtaining of papers from Ministers in charge of Departments.”

1st October, 1913.

No. 191.—Petition of **PETER HEYES**, of Wellington. (Second Interim Report.)

PRAYING that the charges on which he was asked to resign his position as Commissioner of Taxes be fully inquired into, and that he may be granted compensation.

I have the honour to report that the Committee requests the House to direct that the evidence required by the Committee in connection with the above petition be produced by the Department of Internal Affairs.

3rd October, 1913.

Nos. 200 and 201.—Petitions of **T. H. and E. JOHNSTON**, of Waihi.

PRAYING for compensation for petitioners and their children on account of alleged wrongful committal and detention of T. H. Johnston in a mental hospital.

I am directed to report that at a meeting of the Committee held on Friday, the 3rd October, 1913, it was resolved—That a ruling given by the Chairman during the taking of evidence, viz., “That any evidence showing the previous mental state of the petitioner should be admitted, independently of whether it came before the doctor: who committed him or not,” be disagreed with, and that the Chairman do report the matter to the House with a view to obtaining the Speaker’s ruling on the point.

7th October, 1913.

No. 326.—Petition of J. C. BROWN and 409 Others, of Denniston.

PRAYING for amending legislation remedying the injustice contained in section 75 of the Defence Act of last session, so as to enable members of the Denniston Rifle Volunteers to own their own hall.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the Denniston Hall should be vested in the trustees who were appointed when the corps was disbanded, on or about the 22nd May, 1911, on behalf of the residents of Denniston, provided that the trustees set aside one night per week for the purpose of drill of Territorials at a rental to be mutually agreed upon by the Minister of Defence and the trustees.

16th October, 1913.

No. 314.—Petition of J. A. GORDON and 18 Others, of Thames.

PRAYING that the Military Pensions Act and regulations be amended to provide a pension for all who saw active service from 1863 to 1881.

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

16th October, 1913.

No. 339.—Petition of WALTER GRIMMER, of Streamlands, Auckland.

PRAYING for compensation on account of alleged miscarriage of justice for resisting arm-to-arm vaccination.

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

16th October, 1913.

No. 367.—Petition of KATE KENT, of Wellington.

PRAYING for a compassionate allowance on account of her late husband's services as messenger in the Customs Department for thirty-one years.

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

16th October, 1913.

Nos. 200 and 201.—Petitions of THOMAS H. and ELIZABETH JOHNSTON, of Waihi. (Second Report.)

PRAYING for compensation for petitioners and their children on account of alleged wrongful committal and detention of T. H. Johnston in a mental hospital.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on this petition. A copy of the evidence is attached hereto [*vide* I.—1B].

21st October, 1913.

No. 405.—Petition of JOHN BELL, of Auckland.

PRAYING for inquiry and compensation for alleged wrongful conviction.

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

30th October, 1913.

No. 374.—Petition of GEORGE DEAN, of Auckland.

PRAYING for inquiry and compensation on account of alleged wrongful committal and detention in Avondale Mental Hospital.

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

30th October, 1913.

No. 368.—Petition of CHARLES FINCHAM, of New Plymouth.

PRAYING for compensation for military services rendered as a member of the Taranaki Military Settlers.

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

30th October, 1913.

No. 350 (1912).—Petition of CHARLES E. DIXON, of Nelson.

PRAYING for compensation for loss on the Alexander's Bluff Bridge Contract through the alleged action of the Government Engineer.

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

6th November, 1913.

No. 5.—Petition of WILLIAM SMITH DRYDEN, of Ward.

PRAYING for a compassionate allowance on account of injuries received whilst a ganger on the Main Trunk line.

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

6th November, 1913.

No. 379.—Petition of ALEXANDER ALISON and 107 Others, of Auckland.

PRAYING that the Auckland Dock be not closed.

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

13th November, 1913.

No. 436.—Petition of RICHARD HUGHES and 10,437 Others; and No. 442.—Petition of JOHN LOWE and 618 Others.

PRAYING that the Auckland Half-holiday Bill now in charge of Mr. Bradney may not be made law.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of these petitions is affected by a Bill now before Parliament, the Committee is of opinion they should be referred to the Labour Bills Committee.

13th November, 1913.

No. 438.—Petition of DRESDEN PIANOFORTE-MANUFACTURING AND AGENCY COMPANY (LIMITED) and 20 Others.

PRAYING that section 55 of the Customs Law Act, 1908, be amended, and that other regulations be substituted.

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

26th November, 1913.

No. 213.—Petition of JOHN A. LASTELLE, of Wellington.

PRAYING for inquiry into and compensation for his dismissal from the Post and Telegraph Department; also for a good discharge.

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

26th November, 1913.

No. 361.—Petition of the HOROWHENUA COUNTY COUNCIL and the LEVIN BOROUGH COUNCIL.

PRAYING that the Tokomaru and Wirokino Ridings of the Horowhenua County be transferred from the Wellington Hospital District to the Palmerston North Hospital District.

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

26th November, 1913.

No. 421.—Petition of ALFRED ANDREWS, of Wellington.

PRAYING for payment for services rendered as mailman.

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

4th December, 1913.

No. 449.—Petition of HANNAH BEATTIE, of Taihape.

PRAYING for a compassionate allowance on account of services rendered by her late husband whilst employed in the Police Force.

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

4th December, 1913.

No. 395.—Petition of CASSIDY AND Co. (LIMITED), of Christchurch.

PRAYING that the present system of booking "through passengers" by the Railway Department between Cass and Otira be discontinued, and for other relief.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee an injustice has been done to the petitioner, and it recommends the petition to the favourable consideration of the Government.

4th December, 1913.

No. 432.—Petition of JAMES CRAPPER and 22 Others, of Nelson.

PRAYING that restrictions be placed upon fishing-trawlers' operations in Tasman and Blind Bays.

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

4th December, 1913.

No. 373.—Petition of JAMES WILLIAM DURIE, of Wanganui.

PRAYING he may be granted the New Zealand War Medal on account of military services rendered.

I am directed to report that in the opinion of the Committee this petition should be referred to the Government for special consideration, on account of the dangerous nature of the meritorious services rendered by petitioner.

4th December, 1913.

No. 452.—Petition of PHILIP EVA, of New Plymouth.

PRAYING that he be granted a pension for services as a Militiaman.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion, in view of the fact that petitioner, on account of his age, is disqualified from obtaining the old-age pension, and that he is totally blind, the petition should be recommended to the Government for favourable consideration.

4th December, 1913.

No. 462.—Petition of G. S. HARDY and 79 Others, of South Rakaia.

PRAYING that part of the district may be constituted a town district.

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

4th December, 1913.

No. 191.—Petition of PETER HEYES, of Wellington. (Third Report.)

PRAYING that the charges on which he was asked to resign his position as Commissioner of Taxes be fully inquired into, and that he be granted compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends, in view of the circumstances surrounding the retirement of Mr. P. Heyes from the Public Service, that his petition be referred to the Government with a recommendation that the subject-matter thereof, and the statement made before the Committee, should be investigated by a Judge of the Supreme Court.

4th December, 1913.

No. 381.—Petition of WALTER J. HUNT, of Wellington.

PRAYING that the opinion of the Crown Law Officers be obtained on the legality of petitioner's agreement with the Natives, and for compensation.

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

4th December, 1913.

SPECIAL REPORT.

THE Public Petitions A to L Committee desires to express to this House its unanimous appreciation of the high and distinguished services rendered to the Committee by the Chairman, Mr. J. H. Bradney.

4th December, 1913.

No. 466.—Petition of H. A. GILLER, of Christchurch.

PRAYING for compensation for loss of office as Assistant Postmaster at Christchurch.

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

9th December, 1913.

No. 447.—Petition of the GREEN ISLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL, of Green Island.

PRAYING that the sum of £103 raised by the Green Island Rifles towards the purchase of a public hall be paid to the Council.

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

9th December, 1913.

SPECIAL REPORT.

THE Committee desires to place on record its high appreciation of the services of its Clerk (Mr. E. D. Dunne) during the past two sessions, and that the attention of the Government be drawn to his eight years' careful and painstaking work on the A to L Committee as well as on other Committees, with a view to making his appointment permanent; and that this resolution be forwarded to the Government for early and favourable consideration, thereby carrying out the recommendation of the Committee in 1911.

9th December, 1913.

FINAL REPORT.

I AM directed to report that—

The Committee held 23 meetings during the session.

The Committee dealt with 66 petitions (including 3 held over from last session).

The number referred to the Government was 4

The number referred to the Government for consideration was 17

The number referred to the Government for favourable consideration was 13

The number referred to the Government for immediate and favourable consideration was 6

The number referred to other Committees was 3

The number on which the Committee made special reports was 2

The number on which the Committee had no recommendation to make was 21

The average attendance of members at each meeting was 8.0

J. H. BRADNEY,
Chairman.

9th December, 1913.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (1,400 copies), £5 5s.