

1914.
NEW ZEALAND.

RAILWAYS COMMITTEE

(REPORTS OF THE).

(MR. BUICK, CHAIRMAN.)

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

ORDERS OF REFERENCE.

Extracts from the Journals of the House of Representatives.

FRIDAY, THE 10TH DAY OF JULY, 1914.

Ordered. "That a Committee be appointed, consisting of ten members, to examine and report upon questions relating to the railways; with power to call for persons and papers, three to be a quorum: the Committee to consist of Mr. Buick, Mr. Dickson, Mr. Hine, Hon. Mr. Millar, Mr. Myers, Mr. Sidey, Mr. Sykes, Mr. Veitch, Mr. Witty, and the mover."—(Hon. Mr. HERRIES.)

Ordered. "That all petitions not finally dealt with during session 1913 stand referred to the same Committees as they were referred to during the said session."—(Right Hon. Mr. MASSEY.)

WEDNESDAY, THE 14TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1914.

Ordered. "That the petition of Mary Davidson be referred direct to the Railways Committee."—(Mr. DICKSON.)

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REPORTS.

No. 395 (1913).—Petition of Messrs. CASSIDY AND Co. (LIMITED).

PRAYING for inquiry and relief in connection with the mail-coach contract between Cass and Otira.

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

31st July, 1914.

No. 420 (1913).—Petition of WILLIAM RANKIN.

PRAYING for compensation for loss of health alleged to have been caused by the nature of his work whilst in the employ of the Railway Department, and for free medical treatment at the thermal springs.

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

6th August, 1914.

No. 3.—Petition of WALTER S. MITCHELL.

PRAYING for compassionate allowance on account of injuries received whilst in the employ of the New Zealand Railways.

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

3rd September, 1914.

No. 28.—Petition of WILLIAM HODGE.

PRAYING for inquiry into his dismissal from the Railway service.

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

3rd September, 1914.

No. 312 (1913).—Petition of JOHN LUCY.

PRAYING for compensation because of imprisonment through alleged wrongful prosecution by the Railway Department.

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

11th September, 1914.

No. 11.—Petition of JOHN COLLARD.

PRAYING for a compassionate allowance to relieve his present distressed condition.

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

1st October, 1914.

No. 128 (1913).—Petition of M. J. MACK.

PRAYING for rejection of the prayer contained in the petitions of the New Zealand Locomotive Engine-drivers, Firemen, and Cleaners' Association.

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

1st October, 1914.

No. 246.—Petition of C. J. HOBBS.

PRAYING that his case be investigated with a view to his being reinstated as a labourer in the Railway Department.

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

1st October, 1914.

No. 118 (1913).—Petition of M. H. QUINN and 36 Others, and 54 similar Petitions (as per attached Schedule).

PRAYING that legislation may be at once introduced to enable the Minister of Railways to recognize officially the duly constituted society to which they belong as the only society having the right to represent matters applicable to the whole of the New Zealand locomotive-engine drivers, firemen, and cleaners.

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

1st October, 1914.

SCHEDULE.

No. 119.—E. W. Henderson and 12 others.	No. 233.—W. J. Harris and 23 others.
No. 120.—W. J. Thomson and 9 others.	No. 234.—William Clark and 18 others.
No. 121.—W. J. Fitzgerald and 18 others.	No. 244.—G. H. Hall and 7 others.
No. 125.—H. Barker and 36 others.	No. 245.—M. J. Murfit and 8 others.
No. 149.—C. T. Beswick and 11 others.	No. 249.—James Meagher and 14 others.
No. 150.—T. Paton and 20 others.	No. 250.—F. W. Piper and 14 others.
No. 151.—E. D. Holland and 25 others.	No. 273.—W. Wiles and 16 others.
No. 152.—E. W. West and 8 others.	No. 274.—Gilbert A. McGavin and 10 others.
No. 153.—M. Dennehy and 15 others.	No. 275.—T. S. Black and 19 others.
No. 154.—C. Bennett and 45 others.	No. 276.—C. D. Braidwood and 19 others.
No. 155.—John Logie and 18 others.	No. 277.—J. McCubbin and 20 others.
No. 171.—William Greig and 14 others.	No. 279.—G. O. Nelson and 107 others.
No. 172.—F. J. Betts and 9 others.	No. 280.—J. Pepperell and 39 others.
No. 173.—C. G. Lee and 52 others.	No. 281.—W. S. Smith and 27 others.
No. 175.—H. L. Chadwick and 19 others.	No. 282.—H. J. Thomson and 15 others.
No. 181.—A. H. Jones and 6 others.	No. 283.—G. H. Hooper and 11 others.
No. 182.—H. A. Owen and 21 others.	No. 284.—F. K. Pirie and 20 others.
No. 183.—A. H. Manning and 7 others.	No. 293.—C. O. Bartram and 37 others.
No. 194.—M. McAra and 38 others.	No. 294.—B. Boden and 37 others.
No. 206.—J. Bates and 11 others.	No. 295.—A. Rillstone and 44 others.
No. 207.—S. McIntosh and 20 others.	No. 296.—W. D. Stewart and 17 others.
No. 227.—A. J. Batt and 6 others.	No. 299.—J. E. Lawson and 10 others.
No. 228.—Robert McKee and 10 others.	No. 300.—C. W. Watts and 10 others.
No. 229.—C. Little and 9 others.	No. 301.—John Hislop and 3 others.
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No. 231.—W. J. McCutcheon and 34 others.	No. 394.—J. H. Johnston and 10 others.
No. 232.—P. Hurrell and 18 others.	No. 461.—Robert Soulsby and 29 others.

No. 127 (1913).—Petition of AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF RAILWAY SERVANTS.

PRAYING for better conditions of service in the New Zealand Railways Department.

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

8th October, 1914.

No. 26 (1913).—Petition of S. KENNEDY and 8 Others.

PRAYING for redress of grievances in connection with the conditions of work, &c., in the New Zealand Railway service.

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

8th October, 1914.

No. 46, Petition of THOMAS FLOYD and 12 Others; No. 47, Petition of ANDREW SNODGRASS and 17 Others; and No. 48, Petition of JAMES BUCHANAN and 8 Others.

PRAYING that casual railway employees of ten years' service and over be placed on a better footing.

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

8th October 1914.

No. 316 (1913).—Petition of WALTER WHITE.

PRAYING for further compensation for injuries received in the New Lynn railway accident, and for inquiry as to circumstances of payment of compensation already received.

I am directed to report that, as the matter has been satisfactorily dealt with by the Railway Department since the presentation of the petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

16th October, 1914.

No. 224 (1913).—Petition of JAMES REIDY, Sen.

PRAYING for compensation for injuries sustained in the New Lynn railway accident.

I am directed to report that, as the matter has been satisfactorily dealt with by the Railway Department since the presentation of the petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

16th October, 1914.

No. 392 (1913).—Petition of G. R. JOHNSON.

PRAYING for compensation for injuries sustained in the New Lynn railway accident.

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, 1914.

No. 323 (1913).—Petition of ALBERT V. KING.

PRAYING for further compensation for injuries received in the New Lynn railway accident, and for inquiry as to circumstances of payment of compensation already received.

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

16th October, 1914.

No. 305.—Petition of J. TIMMINS.

PRAYING for a compassionate allowance because of injuries sustained whilst in the employ of the New Zealand Railways.

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

22nd October, 1914.

No. 463.—Petition of I. J. BRADLEY and 67 Others.

PRAYING that the Railway Department take steps to abolish the smoke nuisance from the Timaru railway engine-sheds.

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

22nd October, 1914.

No. 285.—Petition of THOMAS MCGAHAN.

PRAYING for compensation because of alleged vindictive treatment by the Railway Department.

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

22nd October, 1914.

No. 236.—Petition of FREDERICK HYDE and 183 Others.

PRAYING that an overhead traffic-bridge be erected on the Tuakau-Harrisville main road.

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

22nd October, 1914.

No. 32.—Petition of JAMES GRAY.

PRAYING for a refund of excess railage.

I am directed to report that, by leave of the Committee, this petition has been withdrawn.

22nd October, 1914.

No. 591.—Petition of MARY DAVIDSON.

PRAYING that she be allowed to participate in the benefits of the Superannuation Fund, or, failing this, that she be granted compensation.

I am directed to report that, in view of the exceptional circumstances connected with the case, the Committee is of opinion that this petition should be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

22nd October, 1914.

No. 64.—Petition of JOHN LEONARD.

PRAYING for casual work in the New Zealand Railways service.

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

22nd October, 1914.

No. 341.—Petition of A. B. SMITH and 102 Others.

PRAYING that Scroggy Hill Street crossing be converted into a flag station, and that all suburban trains stop at the flag station on request.

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

22nd October, 1914.

No. 126 (1913).—Petition of FOXTON HARBOUR BOARD.

PRAYING that the Foxton Wharf and revenue therefrom be transferred to them.

I am directed to report that, as arrangements have been made for arbitration, the Committee has no recommendation to make with regard to this petition.

22nd October, 1914.

No. 482.—Petition of W. J. HARRINGTON.

PRAYING that Parliament uphold the findings of tribunals created by them in order to rectify mistakes.

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

23rd October, 1914.

No. 469.—Petition of E. F. SHADBOLT.

PRAYING for compensation for illness contracted through alleged insanitary arrangements of the Railway Department.

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

23rd October, 1914.

No. 365.—Petition of WERA HIKO TEREHINA and 2 Others.

PRAYING for compensation for the loss of their mother, who was accidentally killed in connection with the construction of the Ohakune-Raetihi Railway.

I am directed to report that, as this is a matter for the Public Works Department to deal with, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

23rd October, 1914.

No. 49.—Petition of HUGH GUNN.

PRAYING for compensation for the alleged infringement of his patent by the Railway Department.

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

23rd October, 1914.

No. 247.—Petition of JAMES WELSH.

PRAYING for compensation for grass fire starting on a railway siding.

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

23rd October, 1914.

No. 304.—Petition of C. A. NEILSON.

PRAYING for a compassionate allowance for injuries received whilst in the employ of the New Zealand Railway Department.

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

23rd October, 1914.

No. 604.—Petition of T. H. DOYLE.

PRAYING for compensation for loss suffered by him through the closing-down of his flour-mill, caused by the Railway Department building a bridge over the outfall race.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner has not exhausted his legal remedy, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

27th October, 1914.

SPECIAL REPORT.

THE Committee places on record its high appreciation of the services of the Chairman, Mr. David Buick, for his patience and the straightforward and impartial manner in which he conducted the business of the Committee.

27th October, 1914.

SPECIAL REPORT.

A VOTE of thanks was passed to the clerk, Mr. J. L. Higgin, for the able manner in which he has carried out his duties during the session, and the Committee recommends that the Government find him some employment during the recess; as a clerk who knows his business is of great value to the Chairman and to the Committee.

27th October, 1914.

FINAL REPORT.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Railways Committee held its final meeting on the 27th October, 1914.

During the session the Committee met on 14 occasions, the average attendance being 6.4.

The Committee had before it for consideration 88 petitions, which were dealt with as follows:—

Referred to the Government for consideration, 6.

Referred to the Government for favourable consideration, 63.

The Committee had no recommendation to make upon 19.

The number of reports brought down by the Committee and presented to the House was 35.

This Committee desires to place on record its high appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mr. McVilly, of the Railway Department, which services have been of the greatest use to the Committee.

27th October, 1914.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (650 copies), £8 17s. 6d.

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