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REPORTS.

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES LIABILITY BILL.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Statutes Revision Committee has carefully considered the Fire Insurance Companies Liability Bill, and recommends that the Bill be not allowed to proceed. The Committee desires, however, to recommend to the Government that legislation be introduced to provide—(1) That every fire-insurance policy over buildings and every renewal notice shall bear printed prominently thereon a notice that the insurance policy is a contract of indemnity only, and that in the event of fire no greater sum can be recovered than the amount of loss at the date of the fire, and that in the event of total loss of buildings the insurance company will either reinstate the property destroyed or pay the value at the date of such destruction, such value to be determined by mutual agreement or by reference to arbitration; and (2) that in cases of total loss of buildings by fire where the full amount of insurance stated in the policy is not paid, there shall be an equitable refund of the excess amount of premiums paid. The Committee recommends that the report be referred to the Government for consideration.

6th December, 1933.

LAW OF LIBEL AMENDMENT BILL.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Statutes Revision Committee has carefully considered the Law of Libel Amendment Bill, and recommends that the Bill be allowed to proceed, with the amendments shown in the copy of the Bill hereto annexed.

6th December, 1933.

No. 152.—Petition of E. PAGE, S.M., and 8 Others.

PRAYING that the constitutional principle of fixed salaries for the Judiciary be adhered to and for an inquiry into the remuneration granted to Stipendiary Magistrates.

I have the honour to report that the Statutes Revision Committee has carefully considered the above-mentioned petitions and recommends that they be referred to the Government for consideration.

7th December, 1933.

No. 153.—Petition of H. A. YOUNG, S.M., and 2 Others.

PRAYING that the constitutional principle of fixed salaries for the Judiciary be adhered to and for an inquiry into the remuneration granted to Stipendiary Magistrates.

I have the honour to report that the Statutes Revision Committee has carefully considered the above-mentioned petitions and recommends that they be referred to the Government for consideration.

7th December, 1933.