

# REPORT.

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THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the House of Representatives, appointed 30th April, 1856, to enquire into alleged malpractices connected with the administration of Sir George Grey's Land Regulations of the 4th March, 1853, report as follows:—

Your Committee has to report that, after careful inquiry into the administration of Sir George Grey's Land Regulations, the Committee entirely exonerates the late officials from any malpractices in reference thereto; and is of opinion that the Land Regulations introduced by Sir George Grey, although conscientiously administered by the Surveyor General in the Province of Auckland, have not worked in a satisfactory manner; at the same time, in justice to that officer, your Committee feels it necessary to state that the administration of the Waste Lands in the different provinces, under Sir George Grey's Regulations, seems to have varied with the different views taken of them by their various administrators.

The Surveyor General is of opinion that an application once made for land in a particular locality maintains its priority until satisfied, or withdrawn. The effect of this view is, that unfulfilled applications, standing over in consequence of deaths of applicants, non-completion of survey, or any neglect of applicants, prevent the survey and completion of subsequent applications; besides withholding from the public, for any number of years, the beneficial occupation of the land so applied for and held over.

Under these circumstances, your Committee is of opinion that the attention of Government ought to be drawn to the necessity for taking such steps as may be deemed most advisable for limiting the period in which outstanding claims, or grants, may remain open under Sir George Grey's Land Regulations.

The case of Mr. John Cox, brought before the Committee, has been fully entered into, and, after a consideration of the correspondence and documents bearing on it, the Committee is of opinion that the Surveyor General exercised a wise discretion in his decision on this case; a decision founded, as it appears, on the opinions of the 25th July, and 10th August, 1853, supplied by the Attorney General for the guidance of the Surveyor General in connection with the facts of the case.

The Committee has taken the evidence of the Commissioner of Crown Lands at Wellington on the Petition of James Gilligan, and is of opinion that the Petitioner has a claim to compensation, in consequence of his not having been able to obtain possession of the land he had purchased, and recommends his case to the Government for consideration.

CHARLES BROWN, *Chairman.*

*Committee Room, House of Representatives,  
Monday, June 30, 1856.*