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1880.
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

(MR. T. KELLY, CHAIRMAN.)

No. 12.—Petition of D. SHANNON.

THE petitioner, who acted as the chairman of a public meeting of the ratepayers of the Wanganui District, states that the county system of government has the effect of forcing Road Boards out of existence, owing to their powers of concurrent rating. He prays that the law be so amended that ratepayers may choose which of the two governing bodies, Road Boards or County Councils, shall have sole authority to levy rates.

I am directed to report that, as the petition involves a question of policy with regard to local government, the Committee do not consider it desirable to express any opinion, as the matter is one for the consideration of the Legislature.

10th June, 1880.

No. 16.—Petition of JOHN TREGEE and 25 other Licensed Victuallers, of Nelson.

THE petitioners pray that, in the event of the House legislating on the licensing laws, a system of uniform payment of license fees may be enacted.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now under the consideration of the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

10th June, 1880.

No. 25.—Petition of CECIL AUGUSTUS CURTIS.

THE petitioner states that the introduction of the system of free education by the Legislature has had the effect of ruining his private school and lodging him in the Bankruptcy Court. He prays that inquiry be made into his case and amends made him.

I am directed to report that the Committee see no sufficient reason to alter the decision arrived at during the session of 1879.

10th June, 1880.

No. 30.—Petition of WILLIAM TURNER and other Settlers, Motueka District.

THE petitioners pray that a sum of £400 be granted for the purpose of making a cart-road from the Motueka Valley to connect with the Buller Road.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition involves a question of policy with regard to the construction of local public works, the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion.

29th June, 1880.

No. 33.—Petition of JOHN MARSH.

THE petitioner states that, owing to powers conferred on Municipalities by "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1876," which enables those bodies to diminish the width of streets and sell surplus lands, he has, by the action of the Corporation of Cromwell in exercise of those powers, been ruined. He prays the House to grant him redress for the injuries he has sustained.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony for compensation for any loss he may have sustained through the action of the Corporation of Cromwell.

29th June, 1880.

No. 41.—Petition of JOHN BAXTER and 27 other Working Jewellers of Dunedin.

THE petitioners pray that a duty of 25 per cent. be placed on all imported jewellery, for the purpose of encouraging the manufacture in the colony.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of the petition being one of public policy, the Committee do not consider it advisable to make any recommendation further than to suggest that it be referred to the Royal Commission on Native Industries.

29th June, 1880.

1—I. 1.

No. 49.—Petition of HORI KAWAKURA.

THE petitioner prays that the sum of £15, alleged to be due to him as payment for services rendered as a ferryman before 1865, be paid him.

I am directed to report that, as no evidence has been offered by the petitioner and the Committee cannot obtain any evidence from Government departments to show that he is entitled to the money claimed, the Committee cannot recommend his claim.

29th June, 1880.

No. 54.—Petition of JAMES CLARK.

THE petitioner states that he was compelled to pay a land-tax on properties which did not belong to him, and prays that the tax and expenses be refunded.

I am directed to report that, as there is no evidence to show that the petitioner objected to the claim in accordance with the terms of the Act, the Committee consider that he has no claim for consideration.

29th June, 1880.

No. 55.—Petition of ROBERT BELGRAVE and Others, of Sydenham.

THE petitioners pray that their properties now included in the Borough of Sydenham, from which they receive no benefit, be included within the boundary of the Borough of Christchurch.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

29th June, 1880.

No. 57.—Petition of COUPLAND AND Co. and other Members of the Auckland Shipowners' Association.

THE petitioners pray that shipmasters having a certificate of exemption should not be compelled to pay pilotage, that foreign vessels should not be permitted to engage in the local coastal trade, and that the regulations by which masters of sailing-vessels are compelled to give twenty-four hours' notice to the post office before sailing be relaxed.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the question of the prohibition of foreign vessels from engaging in the local coastal trade is one of public policy, for the consideration of the Government. With respect to the regulations which compel masters of vessels to give twenty-four hours' notice before leaving port, the Committee think that they should be relaxed as far as may be consistent with the public interest, and therefore recommend the matter to the favourable consideration of the Government.

29th June, 1880.

No. 65.—Petition of THOMAS McMILLAN.

THE petitioner prays that a refund of the cost of the passage-money of himself and family be made him, on the ground that other late members of the 18th Regiment had their passage-money refunded.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim on the colony for a refund of passage-money.

29th June, 1880.

No. 71.—Petition of THOMAS PEDDIE and Others, of Hawke's Bay.

THE petitioners state that the full amount of the beer-tax will fall on the retail vendors; and, as they are already heavily burdened, they pray that other and fairer modes of increasing the colonial revenue be resorted to.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now under the consideration of the House, the Committee do not deem it necessary to make any recommendation.

29th June, 1880.

No. 73.—Petition of HARRY WARNER FARNALL.

THE petitioner prays that the balance of his claim, for services rendered the colony as Emigration Agent in Ireland, be paid him.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner has accepted a sum of money as a settlement in full of all claims against the colony, the Committee decline to entertain his claim, as it has been finally dealt with by the House.

29th June, 1880.

No. 74.—Petition of W. HODGSON and other Members of the Working-men's Club, Napier.

THE petitioners pray that the proposal to impose a license-fee of £20 on working-men's clubs be not insisted on, as it will have a very injurious effect on those associations.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition being now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion.

29th June, 1880.

No. 86.—Petition of the CHAIRMAN of the WELLINGTON GAS COMPANY (LIMITED).

THE petitioner prays that section 292 of "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1876," be not repealed.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition being now under the consideration of the House, the Committee do not deem it necessary to make any recommendation.

29th June, 1880.

No. 93.—Petition of THOMAS MCKENZIE and Others, of Wellington.

THE petitioners pray that the Municipal Corporations Bill now before the House, be not passed into law, as it materially interferes with their rights and privileges.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition being now under the consideration of the House, the Committee do not deem it necessary to make any recommendation.

29th June, 1880.

No. 97.—Petition of MARGARET BEITH.

THE petitioner states that her husband was killed while in the employ of the Government in erecting a steam-crane, by the falling of a portion of the machinery on him; that the Government paid her a sum equal to the wages her late husband was entitled to receive for six months. She prays that a further sum, making a total of twelve months' wages, be paid her.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not deem it advisable to interfere with the decision arrived at by the Government in the petitioner's case.

29th June, 1880.

Nos. 98A, 98B, 98C, 98D, 98E, 98F, 99, and 100.—Petitions of ALEXANDER CRAWFORD and Others; WILLIAM MURRAY and Others, and THOMAS GUTHRIE and Others; DAVID DUNBAR, and DUNBAR and Others; JOHN LAMONT and Others, and ALEXANDER KING and Others; JOSEPH CUFF and Others; ANDREW POLLOCK and Others; W. P. GRINSTED and Others; HOGG and HUTTON and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the system of issuing licenses to sell wines and spirits by the bottle be continued, and that provision be made accordingly in the Licensing Bill now before the House.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of these petitions being now under the consideration of the House, the Committee do not deem it necessary to make any recommendation.

29th June, 1880.

No. 105.—Petition of WILLIAM BROOKING and other Members of the Licensed Victuallers' Association, New Plymouth.

THE petitioners state that they are already burdened with liabilities not imposed on other trades or callings, and the imposition of a tax on colonial beer will fall entirely on them: they therefore pray that their view of the case be taken into consideration, and that they be relieved from the tax, or that its provisions be modified.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition being now under the consideration of the House, the Committee do not deem it necessary to make any recommendation.

29th June, 1880.

No. 114.—Petition of JOSEPH SOLER.

THE petitioner states that he is a vintner in the Town of Wanganui, where he cultivates the vine and manufactures wine; that, owing to the absence of a bottle license, he cannot sell less than two gallons of wine. The authority to issue bottle licenses would materially assist him; and he prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition being now under the consideration of the House, the Committee do not deem it necessary to make any recommendation.

29th June, 1880.

No. 28.—Petition of ROBERT ATKINSON.

THE petitioner was dismissed from the Customs Department in 1874 for not reporting the irregularities of a superior officer, of which he had a knowledge, and he prays for further investigation of his claim for employment in the public service.

I am directed to report that, as, during the session of 1879, on the recommendation of the Committee, the petitioner was employed in the Armed Constabulary, but lost his appointment in consequence of exceeding his leave of absence, the Committee have no further recommendation to make in the case of the petitioner.

29th June, 1880.

No. 2.—Petition of THOMAS SANDERSON.

THE petitioner prays for further compensation for alleged injury to his property by the making of a public road by the Government.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim for further compensation against the colony; but if he is of a different opinion he can avail himself of the protection which the law provides in such cases.

6th July, 1880.

No. 67.—Petition of J. H. SUTTER and Others, of Timaru.

THE petitioners state that in their opinion the property-tax is unfair in principle, and will prove exceedingly injurious to the progress of the colony. They pray that it be repealed.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition involves a question of public policy now under the consideration of the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

6th July, 1880.

No. 123.—Petition of MATTHEW CARRICK and 127 other Settlers of Taranaki.

THE petitioners suggest that the property-tax be modified by exempting personal effects, reducing the minimum to £200, including official salaries by capitalizing the income, by making Native lands liable when the title is individualized, by the reimposition of the duties upon tea and sugar; and that the forms of assessment be simplified. They pray that these suggestions be considered by the House.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now before the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

6th July, 1880.

No. 139.—Petition of SHARP AND PICKERING and Others, of Nelson.

THE petitioners pray that the bottle license be not abolished.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition being now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

6th July, 1880.

No. 32.—Petition of MARY TAYLOR.

THE petitioner prays that compensation be given her on account of the small salary she has received in the past as matron of the Immigration Barracks, Auckland, and that her salary be increased for the future, or that compensation and a free passage to England be granted her.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has been fairly remunerated, and that she has no further claim on the colony.

6th July, 1880.

No. 106.—Petition of H. A. BAMFORD and Others, of Heathcote.

THE petitioners pray that power be given to construct a bridge over the Heathcote River at or near Woolston.

I am directed to report that as the subject-matter of this petition is now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion.

6th July, 1880.

No. 37.—Petition of HENRY NICCOL.

THE petitioner states that he obtained an agreement for a lease of a piece of land below high-water mark in the Auckland Harbour from the Superintendent; that on the strength of this agreement he built a patent slip; that in the year 1876 he got notice from the Harbourmaster to remove the slip; and, in consequence of such action, he was dispossessed of the land, and lost his whole capital. He prays for redress.

I am directed to report that from the evidence taken in this case the Committee are of opinion that the action of the local Road Board, and not the Harbour Board, was mainly the cause of the slip being removed. The Committee do not consider that the petitioner has any claim against the colony.

6th July, 1880.

No. 59.—Petition of JAMES LOGAN and 179 other Settlers, of Tapanui.

THE petitioners pray that an extension of the Kelso-Heriot Burn Railway be proceeded with without delay.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make on this petition, but to refer it to the Government for consideration.

6th July, 1880.

No. 96.—Petition of WILLIAM HUNTER REYNOLDS.

THE petitioner states that judgment was given against him in the Resident Magistrate's Court, Dunedin, for land-tax for the half-year beginning 1st January, 1880, although he had parted with the fee-simple of the land in October, 1879. He prays the House to grant him redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that a more effectual mode ought to be provided to relieve persons from future liability to taxes on property they have disposed of, and that the attention of the Government be directed thereto; but, as the petitioner has not taken full advantage of the remedy which the law provides, the Committee have no special recommendation to make in his case.

6th July, 1880.

No. 11.—Petition of WILLIAM WHITE.

THE petitioner states that Allotment 98, in the Town of Timaru, owned by him, was taken by the Government for public purposes, without his knowledge, in 1876; that in 1878 he sold the land, but, having afterwards become aware that the Government had seized the land, he was compelled to refund the purchase-money. He prays that he be compensated for difference in price of purchase, for interest, and for legal expenses, being £87 13s. 7d. over the £50 awarded by the Government as the price of the land taken.

I am directed to report that, with respect to the alleged failure of the Government to inform the petitioner that the land was required for railway purposes, the Committee are of opinion that the Public Works Department complied with the law, made fair inquiry, and took the usual course to notify all persons interested in the land by giving public notice in a paper published in the district where the land is situated. The loss occasioned by the action in Court is a matter between the petitioner and his solicitor who advised him to defend it. The Committee, under these circumstances, do not see their way to recommend that compensation be paid to the petitioner.

6th July, 1880.

No. 70.—Petition of ALEXANDER SMITH.

THE petitioner prays that he be allowed to bring an action for damages against the Government, in the Supreme Court, for claims arising out of a contract with the Government, without his case being prejudiced by the fact that he gave a receipt in full of all demands against the Government.

I am directed to report that, as it appears the petitioner accepted a sum of money in full of all claims against the colony, the Committee cannot recommend his request to the favourable consideration of the House.

6th July, 1880.

No. 50.—Petition of WILLIAM COLENZO.

THE petitioner prays that the report of the Public Petitions Committee of 1878, awarding him compensation for loss of office, be given effect to.

I am directed to report that, as it appears from the evidence before the Committee this session that the petitioner resigned his appointment after the abolition of provinces was effected, the Committee have no recommendation to make in his case.

6th July, 1880.

No. 4.—Petition of MURDOCH MCKENZIE.

THE petitioner states that he purchased an allotment of land in the Auckland District, and settled on it; but that he has been unable to obtain a right of road to it, and can only obtain access by passing through the farm of an adjoining proprietor.

I am directed to report that from the evidence before the Committee it appears that petitioner has agreed to sell his interest in the land to the adjoining proprietor, who objects to a line of road being taken through his land to the petitioner's: the Committee are therefore of opinion that the petitioner has by his own act settled the grievance complained of.

6th July, 1880.

No. 101.—Petition of ROBERT HODGE.

THE petitioner states that he received a pension for the two years ending in 1868, for injury received while in service in the Commissariat Transfer Corps. He prays that the pension be now renewed.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the petitioner's claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

6th July, 1880.

No. 68.—Petition of JOHN CAMPBELL.

THE petitioner prays that a deposit made by him of £153, when he tendered for a Government contract, be returned to him.

I am directed to report that the Committee consider that the petitioner has no claim, and cannot recommend his case to the favourable consideration of the House.

6th July, 1880.

Nos. 129, 130, 131.—Petitions of A. MACARTHUR and Others, JOHN CHISHOLM and Others, and WESLEY TURTON and Others, of Southland.

THE petitioners pray that a Select Committee be appointed, with power to confer with a Committee of the Legislative Council, to inquire into and deal with the rabbit nuisance question.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of these petitions is now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

6th July, 1880.

No. 141.—Petition of WILLIAM BRIDGEMAN, Mayor of Caversham, and five other Mayors of Suburban Boroughs of Dunedin.

THE petitioners state that they cannot borrow money to execute necessary public works at the low rate of interest allowed by law, and they pray that more effectual provision be made to enable boroughs to obtain money by way of loan.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition involves a question of policy now under the consideration of the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

6th July, 1880.

No. 127.—Petition of CHARLES MACK.

THE petitioner states that he was wrongfully imprisoned on a charge of smuggling tobacco, and prays that the House will grant him compensation for loss of liberty, peace of mind, and goods.

I am directed to report that the Committee have on several occasions dealt with this case, and decline to reopen it.

6th July, 1880.

No. 60.—Petition of the MAYOR and CORPORATION of Napier.

THE petitioners state that they have entered into engagements on the faith that the provisions of the Financial Arrangements Acts of 1876 and 1877 would be given effect to, by which subsidies would be granted for five years. They therefore pray that the subsidy for this year be granted; otherwise their revenue will be seriously crippled.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make on the subject-matter of this petition, as it is one of policy under the consideration of the House.
6th July, 1880.

No. 34.—Petition of ALFRED TEESDALE.

THE petitioner states that he entered into a contract with the Government to survey a block of Native land, and that, owing to obstruction offered by the Natives, and the extra work incurred by triangulating the block, he has a claim for compensation, and prays that an extra sum of 2d. per acre, or £338 3s. 4d., be paid to him.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim for extra payment on account of his contract.
6th July, 1880.

No. 83.—Petition of HENRY OLDHAM and HENRY DE RENZIE TURNER.

THE petitioners pray for compensation for loss said to have been occasioned by or arising out of the Native war in 1863.

I am directed to report that the petitioners' claim is one of a large class arising out of indirect loss occasioned by Native rebellion. While the Committee recognize that great hardship has been occasioned by such losses, they have no recommendation to make in this special case, as the question is one for the House to deal with.

6th July, 1880.

No. 90.—Petition of WELLINGTON CARRINGTON.

THE petitioner enumerates the offices he has held, under the New Zealand Company, the Provincial Government, and the General Government, in the colony since 1839, and states that his services have been dispensed with by the Native Department in consequence of large reductions being made. He prays the House to take into consideration the services he has rendered, and grant him compensation for loss of office.

I am directed to report that it appears from the evidence before the Committee that the petitioner lost his appointment through reductions made in the Native Department. The Committee do not, therefore, consider that he has any special claim for compensation.

6th July, 1880.

No. 45.—Petition of JAMES W. TREADWELL.

THE petitioner states that the procedure of the House in the matter of the Election Petition Committee *re* Christchurch election is informal and illegal.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that it is not necessary to offer any opinion to the House on this case.

6th July, 1880.

No. 62.—Petition of MICHAEL FAGAN and 37 other Settlers, of Palmerston South.

THE petitioners state that they view with alarm the imposition of a property-tax during the present depression; and suggest the reimposition of the duty on tea and sugar, the abolition of local subsidies, and the imposition of school-fees as a substitute.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition involves a question of public policy now under the consideration of the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

6th July, 1880.

No. 58.—Petition of MALCOLM F. RAMSAY.

THE petitioner states that he is of opinion that 1s. a day extra pay is due to him for the period he served in the 1st Waikato Regiment of Military Settlers in 1863-64, and prays for inquiry.

I am directed to report that there is no evidence before the Committee except the petitioner's own statement to show that he is entitled to extra pay of 1s. per day after he joined the Military Settler Force in 1863.

6th July, 1880.

No. 170.—Petition of JOHN BARRETT.

THE petitioner is the owner and occupier of the Borough Hotel, Christchurch, and states that he was arrested on a charge of aiding and abetting in a riot which took place in the vicinity of his hotel on the 26th day of December last, but the case was summarily dismissed by the Resident Magistrate; that on the 15th day of June he applied to the Licensing Court for a renewal of his license, but the Court decided that the license would only be granted *pro forma* on the condition that the petitioner absolutely leased the hotel within one month from the 1st July. The petitioner prays that steps be taken to prevent the Licensing Commissioners giving effect to their decision, and also to grant such further relief as may be deemed just.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having made inquiry into this case, recognize the fact that the Licensing Court is the tribunal appointed by law to deal finally with such cases, and have no doubt the Commissioners acted in the public interest; but, as it appears the petitioner cannot obtain a suitable tenant for his hotel within the time allowed without a considerable sacrifice, the Committee venture to suggest to the Commissioners the propriety of rehearing the petitioner's application, with the view of extending the time if, on reconsidering the matter, they can do so without public disadvantage. The Committee recommend the Government to forward this report to the Commissioners for their consideration.

14th July, 1880.

No. 87.—Petition of WILLIAM GADD.

THE petitioner states that he brought under the notice of the medical officer in charge of the Auckland Hospital certain irregularities practised by the head-nurse of the Hospital, in appropriating to his own use money belonging to patients who had died in Hospital; that serious imputations were made on his character by the medical officer as to the motives which induced him to make the charges against the head-nurse; and that he had been dismissed from the Hospital on the ground that he did not make the charges earlier. The petitioner prays that an inquiry be made, so that he may vindicate his character.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having considered the correspondence between the Hospital surgeon and the Government, and the statements made by the petitioner, are of opinion that he has been unjustly dealt with in being dismissed from his employment before a full inquiry into the irregularities complained of by him had been made. The Committee are also of opinion that the so-called inquiry made by the surgeon was of a partial character and wholly insufficient, and recommend the Government at once to institute a searching investigation by competent and impartial persons.

15th July, 1880.

No. 13.—Petition of JAMES JOHNSTON.

THE petitioner states that he is a cattle-dealer, and that in September, 1878, he was driving certain bullocks and other cattle, belonging to him, from Hampden to Reefton, and that three of the bullocks were claimed by Eugene Joseph O'Connor, and the dispute was referred to the arbitration of John Dick and John Gilmer, and that the arbitrators, acting in collusion with the said E. J. O'Connor, fraudulently awarded him the sum of £144; that E. J. O'Connor caused the award to be made a rule of the Supreme Court, and an action was brought against petitioner, and judgment given for the amount claimed and £45 costs, being a total of £153 16s.; that E. J. O'Connor and John Gilmer, one of the arbitrators, were committed for trial for perjury, but that the case against John Gilmer broke down, because the indictment against him had been signed in blank by the Crown Prosecutor, and afterwards filled up by another solicitor; that the bullocks lost by O'Connor were afterwards found; that he has expended the sum of £800 in fruitless attempts to obtain justice, and prays that the case be inquired into.

I am directed to report that it appears that the prosecution for perjury instituted by the petitioner against Gilmer broke down in consequence of alleged gross irregularities on the part of the Crown Prosecutor. The Committee find, however, that proceedings can again be instituted, and recommend the Crown, on public grounds, to take the necessary action to prosecute Gilmer for perjury.

19th July, 1880.

No. 78.—Petition of HENRY MEDLAND SHEPHERD, of Hawke's Bay.

THE petitioner states that the sum of £120 was improperly deducted from the money due to him for building a lighthouse and other buildings at Portland Island, and that a sum of £136 11s., due to him for extra work, has not been paid. He prays that inquiry be made into his case, and relief afforded him.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim for further consideration on the part of the Government.

19th July, 1880.

No. 135.—Petition of ANN ROBERTSON.

THE petitioner states that she purchased in good faith the Ohinemutu Hotel for the sum of £1,000 from one Isaac Wilson; that, through the action of one Robert Graham, she was ejected from the hotel by the Natives. She prays that relief be granted to her.

I am directed to report that, from the evidence before the Committee, it does not appear that the petitioner has any claim against the colony.

19th July, 1880.

No. 143.—Petition of W. J. SPENCER and Others.

THE petitioners pray that some relief, by way of pension or otherwise, be given to Mrs. Kelsall, the widow of the late Walter Kelsall, Volunteer Drill Instructor, Hawke's Bay, who was shot at the Napier rifle-butts and died from the effects of his wound.

I am directed to report that, as it appears from the evidence before the Committee that Mr. Kelsall met his death from accident at the butts when he was a marker at private rifle-practice, and not in the Government service, the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioners to the favourable consideration of the House.

19th July, 1880.

No. 144.—Petition of MOSES CREWDSON.

THE petitioner states that he is the proprietor of the Nelson Tramway, and, owing to the railway cutting through it and the bad provision made for crossing the railway, he has been subjected to considerable loss and inconvenience. He prays that the grievance complained of be remedied, and compensation given him.

I am directed to report that the Committee regret that the recommendation made in this case in the session of 1879 has not been given effect to, as additional loss appears to have been occasioned to the petitioner in consequence. The Committee again recommend the Government to remedy the grievance complained of without any further delay.

19th July, 1880.

No. 150.—Petition of WILLIAM HOLLIDAY.

THE petitioner states that, while under medical treatment in the Auckland Hospital, his daughters Sarah, Mary, and Alice were committed to the Home for Neglected Children; that his daughter Sarah was sent by the authorities of the Home to service in the Waikato; that she was detained there against the will of the petitioner, and contrary to law, after the expiry of the term of her committal; that, after her term had expired, and while still in service, her ruin was effected by a Maori. The petitioner considers that he has been greatly injured, and prays redress be given him.

I am directed to report that the case of the petitioner appears to be a very hard one; but it is not one the Committee can see their way to provide a remedy for, except to recommend its consideration by the Auckland Benevolent Society.

19th July, 1880.

No. 161.—Petition of WILLIAM MUIR and Others, of Waihemo, Otago.

THE petitioners point out the great advantages that would arise if a line of railway were constructed from Palmerston to Waihemo; and they pray that the matter be taken into consideration, and that the railway be shortly proceeded with.

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

19th July, 1880.

No. 162.—Petition of J. MOGGATH and Others, of Waitahuna.

THE petitioners pray that the new post and telegraph office be opened for the transaction of postal and telegraphic business.

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

19th July, 1880.

No. 176.—Petition of P. GILROY and Others, of Campbelltown.

THE petitioners pray that Lee Street, Campbelltown, which is obstructed by the line of railway, water-tank, and turntable, be opened for public traffic.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the subject-matter of this petition is one for the consideration of the Government.

19th July, 1880.

No. 193.—Petition of WILLIAM PATERSON and Others.

THE petitioners pray for a Joint Committee of both Houses to inquire into the best mode of dealing with the rabbit-pest.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the prayer of the petition to the favourable consideration of the House.

19th July, 1880.

No. 212.—Petition of WILLIAM BRIDGEMAN, Mayor of Caversham and Chairman of the Conference of the Boroughs of Caversham, South Dunedin, and St. Kilda.

THE petitioners pray that an Act be introduced for the purpose of uniting the Boroughs of Caversham, South Dunedin, and St. Kilda into one borough, subject to conditions named in the petition.

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

19th July, 1880.

Nos. 152 and 205.—Petitions of the MEMBERS of the AUCKLAND WORKING-MEN'S CLUB; and of the WELLINGTON WORKING-MEN'S CLUB.

THE petitioners state that they view with alarm and regret the intention of the Legislature to subject Working-men's Clubs to a licensing tax, and pray that the House will not permit any such tax to be imposed.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of these petitions being now under the consideration of the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

20th July, 1880.

No. 166.—Petition of ALEXANDER MCHARDY and Others, of Southland.

THE petitioners pray that "The Property Assessment Act, 1879," be repealed, and a moderate land-tax, exempting improvements, and an income-tax be substituted.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition involves a question of policy now under the consideration of the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

20th July, 1880.

No. 172.—Petition of W. TANNER and Others, of Invercargill.

THE petitioners pray that the present Education Act may be amended in the direction of religion and liberty, for the purpose of raising the moral and intellectual tone of the community by meeting the requirements of each particular class.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

20th July, 1880.

No. 192.—Petition of THOMAS SCRIVENER and Others of Taranaki.

THE petitioners pray that the duty which has been imposed upon colonial beer be either abolished or greatly reduced.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

20th July, 1880.

No. 194.—Petition of WILLIAM CARPENTER and Others, of the Thames.

THE petitioners state that they view with alarm and regret the course pursued by the House last session in adopting the report of the Committee on the Christchurch Election. They pray that the House will cause to be erased from the Journals the record of the proceedings of the said Committee.

I am directed to report that, the House being the sole judge in questions of this character, and having finally dealt with the subject, the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion.

20th July, 1880.

Nos. 197, 186, 168, 164, 163, and 198.—Petitions of JOHN GIBBON and Others; S. S. MYERS and Others, of Otago; PATERSON and McLEOD and Others, of Otago; W. A. MOSLEY and Others, of Otago; JOHN MACDONALD and Others, of Otago; WILLIAM YOUNG and Others, of Otago.

THE petitioners pray that a clause be inserted in the Licensing Bill now before the House providing for the continuance of the bottle license.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of these petitions is now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

20th July, 1880.

No. 199.—Petition of R. T. WATERS and Others, of Otago.

THE petitioners pray that in the Licensing Bill now before Parliament the House will not allow any clause to be inserted providing for the continuance of the bottle license.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

20th July, 1880.

No. 183.—Petition of LOUIS EHRENFRIED.

THE petitioner is a brewer and the owner in fee-simple, or lessee, of five hotels in the Thames Licensing District which have been closed in consequence of the Licensing Court refusing to issue a renewal of the license certificate; and, in consequence of such refusal, he states that he has sustained loss to the amount of £2,750. He prays that the matter be taken into consideration.

No. 181.—Petition of THOMAS GRAHAM and 5 other Hotelkeepers of the Thames Licensing District.

Five of these petitioners were the licensees of the hotels referred to in the above petition, and they state that, owing to the action of the Licensing Court in refusing to issue a renewal of their license certificates, they have been ruined. They pray that inquiry be made, and relief afforded them.

The Committee have made careful inquiry into these cases, and find that the Licensing Court gave notice at the quarterly meeting in September, 1879, and at subsequent sittings, that the number of licensed houses would be reduced in June, 1880, as they were far in excess of the requirements of the population. On the sitting of the Court in June, 1880, the issue of renewal certificates was accordingly refused. The Court appears to have acted under the authority of the 22nd section of "The Licensing Act, 1873," which is as follows:—

"The Licensing Court shall exercise its discretion in granting or refusing any certificate for any description of license, and shall not be obliged to grant the same merely because the requirements of the law as to accommodation or personal fitness of the applicant are fulfilled, unless in its opinion there is a necessity for the publichouse or other establishment for the sale of spirituous liquors for which application is made."

The question arises whether the Court was justified by this provision in refusing to issue renewal certificates on the ground that the public convenience did not require so many publichouses in the district. On the matter being referred to the Law Officers of the Crown, the Committee were advised "that the 22nd section of 'The Licensing Act, 1873,' is very specific in granting a discretionary power of granting or refusing any certificate for any description of license, and, in fact, requires the Court to be of opinion that there is a necessity for the publichouse for which application is made." The Court is therefore constituted the sole judge as to whether a publichouse is required, and is also, as a matter of duty, directed to satisfy itself of its necessity before issuing a certificate; and, as it appears the Commissioners acted in good faith and in the public interests in refusing to issue certificates, the Committee cannot recommend the House to override the decision of the Licensing Court in the case of these petitions.

29th July, 1880.

No. 226.—Petition of SAMUEL BROOKS and 8 Others.

THE petitioners state they are owners of land fronting upon Leach Street, in New Plymouth; that the New Plymouth Railway passes down the centre of Leach Street, causing great damage to their property. They pray the matter be investigated, and compensation awarded.

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I am directed to report that it appears from the evidence before the Committee that the line of railway has been constructed along the street in accordance with the provision of section 69 of "The Immigration and Public Works Act, 1870," and that no compensation has been given in other parts of the colony under similar circumstances; the Committee cannot, therefore, make any special recommendation in the petitioners' case.

29th July, 1880.

No. 169.—Petition of JAMES GROVE.

THE petitioner, a brewer, complains that he has suffered severe loss through the imposition of the beer-duty, and prays for redress.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition being now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

29th July, 1880.

No. 211.—Petition of SAMUEL ANDREW and Others, of the Buller County.

THE petitioners pray that the Mount Rochfort Railway be completed.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the subject-matter of this petition is one for the consideration of the Government.

29th July, 1880.

No. 167.—Petition of THOMAS PRICE and Others, of Aparima.

THE petitioners pray that the Aparima Road Board be merged in the Counties of Wallace and Southland; also, that the Counties Act be amended in the direction of giving increased representation to County Councils.

I am directed to report that the grievance complained of by the petitioners appears to the Committee to be one that ought to be inquired into and dealt with in the Bill now before the House amending the Counties Act. The Committee therefore refer the petition to the Government for consideration.

29th July, 1880.

No. 230.—Petition of EDWIN CARR and Others, of Auckland.

THE petitioners, who are leaseholders in the City of Auckland, state that by the Electoral Act of last session they are deprived of their right to vote for members of the House of Representatives. They pray that the leasehold vote formerly held by them be restored.

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

29th July, 1880.

No. 151.—Petition of JOHN PEARCE and other Licensed Victuallers of the Thames.

THE petitioners state the circumstances under which six publichouses were closed on the Thames by the Licensing Court, and pray that the Licensing Act be amended, and the duties of the Licensing Commissioners more clearly defined, and their irresponsible powers abrogated.

No. 182.—Petition of L. D. NATHAN and other Merchants of Auckland.

THE petitioners refer to the same case, and state that the power exercised by the Licensing Court, without appeal, is likely to lead to oppression and hardship, and pray that legislative enactment be made to prevent the recurrence of such acts.

I am directed to report that, as a Licensing Bill is now before the House, the amendments suggested in the law in the above petitions may be made if the House considers it necessary to make them. Under these circumstances, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

29th July, 1880.

No. 177.—Petition of RICHARD J. FELTUS (No. 1).

THE petitioner states that he tendered for the valuation, under "The Land-Tax Act, 1878," of the Waieiti Riding, in the County of Waitemata, and his tender was accepted. He was not aware of the extra work attached to his duties, and was put to considerable expense in the execution of his contract. He prays that he be compensated for loss sustained.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioner to the favourable consideration of the House, as it appears he contracted to do the work for a sum which the Government has paid.

29th July, 1880.

No. 189.—Petition of STANOUS DANIELL and Others.

THE petitioners state that they are subjected to great loss and inconvenience, through the bridge over the river at the Tuapeka-mouth being almost impassable for traffic. They pray that the bridge be either properly repaired forthwith, or a new bridge erected.

I am directed to report that from the evidence before the Committee it appears that an alteration of the boundary between the Counties of Bruce and Tuapeka would tend to settle the grievance complained of by the petitioners; and, as the Counties Act makes provision for such alterations, the Committee have no special recommendation to make.

29th July, 1880.

No. 244.—Petition of WAIPA COUNTY COUNCIL.

THE petitioners pray that "The Rating Act, 1876," and "The Property Assessment Act, 1879," be so amended that there shall be one valuation of all real and personal property for all purposes every third year, made either by the local body or General Government. They further pray that power be given to Highway Boards for taxing the landed property of absentee owners.

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

29th July, 1880.

Nos. 224, 247, 221, 223, 222, and 246.—Petitions of JOHN SPEAR and 71 Others, of Wairoa; E. B. CARGILL and 14 Others, of Otago; THOMAS LOWRY and 70 Others, of Taradale; N. BAILLIE and 29 Others, of Picton; WILLIAM JONES and 21 Others, of Hawke's Bay; J. H. VAUTIER and 530 Others.

THE petitioners pray that the Education Act be so amended as to provide for the use of the Lord's Prayer and the reading of the Bible in the public schools, subject to a conscience-clause, as in the English Education Act.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of these petitions being now under the consideration of the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

29th July, 1880.

Nos. 248, 250, and 249.—Petitions of G. SINCLAIR and Another, of Vincent; M. MALAGHAN and 40 Others, of Queenstown; JOHN HUGHES and 52 Others, of Vincent.

THE petitioners pray that a clause be inserted in the Licensing Bill now before the House, providing for the continuance of the bottle license.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of these petitions is now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

29th July, 1880.

No. 235.—Petition of BISHOPS and CLERGY of New Zealand.

THE petitioners point out that the State should make provision for grants-in-aid to schools set on foot by any religious denomination, provided that such schools come up to the required standards and satisfy the Government Inspectors; also, that provision be made in the Education Act for religious instruction in the public schools by ministers of religion or persons duly authorized by them.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

29th July, 1880.

Nos. 206 and 207.—Petitions of W. G. RICH and 48 other Settlers; and W. G. RICH and 82 Others.

THE petitioners pray that a telegraph and post office be built at once at Fortrose Township, on the grounds that the nearest telegraph station is twenty-five miles away, and the population of the township is daily increasing. They also pray that a pilot be stationed at Fortrose Harbour.

I am directed to report that these petitions be referred to the Government for consideration.

29th July, 1880.

No. 210.—Petition of A. REID and Others.

THE petitioners point out that, while all other cereals are protected by an import duty, maize has been exempted. They solicit the House to impose such a duty on maize as shall place the maize-growers on an equal footing with growers of other cereals.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

29th July, 1880.

No. 125.—Petition of JAMES BROWN and 83 Officers of Friendly Societies.

THE petitioners object to the clause in "The Friendly Societies Act Amendment Act, 1878," which compels the payment of all interest accruing from any fund to be paid to that particular fund. They prefer reasons and suggest amendments.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioners to the favourable consideration of the House.

3rd August, 1880.

No. 234.—Petition of RICHARD J. FELTUS (No. 2).

THE petitioner states that he was employed to take tickets for a totalisator erected on the Auckland Racecourse in April, 1880; that he was arrested by the police and imprisoned for eighteen hours, and thereby has lost any chance of employment in Auckland. He prays the House to grant him redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make in the case of the petitioner.

3rd August, 1880.

No. 236.—Petition of the MAYOR, COUNCILLORS, and Others of West Hawkesbury.

THE petitioners pray that the Beach Street Railway-station, in the Town of Hawkesbury, be placed upon the railway time-tables.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that this petition is one for the consideration of the Government.

No. 200.—Petition of G. F. SHERWOOD and Others, of Patea (No. 1).

THE petitioners pray that the House will cause such action to be taken as shall insure that the main line of railway from Wanganui to Waitara (the portion now in slow progress of construction) will be completed with reasonable speed.

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

3rd August, 1880.

No. 201.—Petition of G. F. SHERWOOD and Others, of Patea (No. 2).

THE petitioners pray that in the new Representation Bill provision be made for the separate representation in Parliament of the Patea County, and they pray the House to give effect to the prayer of their petition by granting such representation.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now before the House, the Committee does not consider it necessary to offer any opinion.

3rd August, 1880.

No. 180.—Petition of WILLIAM DALE.

THE petitioner states he is the creditors' trustee in the estate of George Beamish, late lessee of the Oeo Hotel. The Licensing Court at New Plymouth, on the 3rd June, refused for the time being a renewal of the license for that hotel, on the ground that a Native outbreak might arise owing to the acts of certain Natives ploughing European lands; that, in consequence of this action of the Licensing Court, the said George Beamish was unable to pay his creditors. The petitioner, on behalf of the creditors, prays the House to grant redress.

I am directed to report that, as it appears from the evidence before the Committee that the Licensing Court refused to issue a renewal of license to the house on the ground that it existed in a purely Native district, and, in the face of threatened disturbance, it was advisable in the public interest that it should be closed, the Committee does not consider that the colony is liable for the subsequent loss said to be sustained by the creditors of Beamish.

3rd August, 1880.

No. 223.—Petition of ROBERT LOUDON and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the Arms Act now in force be altered so as to effectually facilitate the inland trade in lead and gunpowder and other articles not really intended for warlike purposes.

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

3rd August, 1880.

No. 173.—Petition of the MAYOR and COUNCILLORS of Hokitika.

THE petitioners state that they have been informed by the Government that it is their intention to discontinue paying the yearly subsidy which, under the 13th section of "The Financial Arrangements Act, 1876," they were entitled to receive for five years. They point out that, if such subsidy be withdrawn, the funds at the disposal of the Borough Council will be quite inadequate to defray the necessary expenditure connected with the functions of the Council, &c. They pray the House to grant them such relief as it may think fit.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition being now under the consideration of the House, the Committee does not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

3rd August, 1880.

No. 15.—Petition of J. CASEY.

THE petitioner is the owner of the steamer "Rose Casey," and states that, on the 31st August, 1879 he was engaged by the late Native Minister, the Hon. Mr. Sheehan, to convey him from Grahamstown to Auckland. The steamer was detained eleven hours waiting for Mr. Sheehan, and then had to leave without him, as she had to fulfil a mail contract. The petitioner, in consequence, claims the sum of £42 for demurrage in all, which amount he prays may be paid him.

I am directed to report that, from the evidence before the Committee, it appears that the petitioner is entitled to £20 for charter of vessel, and an additional sum for detention. The Committee recommends the Government to make inquiry into the case, and settle the claim.

3rd August, 1880.

No. 17.—Petition of JOHN NAPIER.

THE petitioner states that he suffered damage to his property by the action of the Arch Hill Road Board, of Auckland; that he took action to sue the Board, but that the Resident Magistrate, Mr. Barstow, declined to hear the case. He prays that such action be taken in the matter that the case may be heard.

I am directed to report that it appears from the petitioner's own statement that he has not taken advantage of the provisions made by "The Public Works Act, 1876," within the time limited by law to obtain compensation. The Committee has, therefore, no recommendation to make on the petitioner's case.

10th August, 1880.

No. 118.—Petition of JOHN CAREY.

THE petitioner states that he has been for three and a half years engineer of H.M. Customs launch at Auckland, and that, owing to an accusation of carelessness, he has been discharged from the service; that, as such dismissal has greatly injured his chances for employment, he prays that an inquiry be made, and that he be reinstated if the charges made are refuted.

I am directed to report that, the case of the petitioner having been inquired into by the Government and finally dealt with, the Committee does not consider that he is entitled to further consideration.

10th August, 1880.

No. 126.—Petition of ROBERT LAIRD.

THE petitioner states that he was employed as a seaman on board the "Hinemoa," and while on duty he received injuries which incapacitated him from performing his work. He prays that compensation be given him for the loss he has sustained.

I am directed to report the Committee is of opinion that petitioner has no claim for consideration against the colony.

10th August, 1880.

No. 115.—Petition of AMOS BURR.

THE petitioner prays that a Commission be constituted to inquire into certain charges made against him in 1874, as, in consequence of those charges, he has been deprived of five years' employment which had previously been given him in place of a pension given him by the New Zealand Company.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make in the case of the petitioner.

10th August, 1880.

No. 66.—Petition of EDWARD HENRY LYNNE.

THE petitioner states that he stored his luggage in the Railway Luggage Department at Dunedin, and obtained a receipt from the booking-clerk for the same; that subsequently, upon making application for the luggage, a tin box, containing surgical instruments, specie, gold and silver bullion, mineral teeth, and other articles, in all valued at £388 16s., was missing. He prays the House to grant him such redress as they deem fit.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having made further inquiry in this case, sees no cause to alter the decision arrived at during last session.

10th August, 1880.

Nos. 262 and 263.—Petitions of EDWARD MORGAN and Others, of the Hutt; and HENRY DAMANT and Others, of the Hutt.

THE petitioners point out that a clause exists in the Hutt Park and Racecourse Act, which provides that a trustee must be an elector of the Hutt. The Wellington Racing Club Act proposes to change the trust by placing the control of the Hutt Park and Racecourse in the hands of a body without the consent of the Hutt electors. The petitioners urge the House not to allow any alteration without the consent of a majority of the electors is first obtained.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of these petitions is now under the consideration of the House, the Committee does not deem it necessary to make any recommendation.

10th August, 1880.

No. 258.—Petition of ARCHIBALD ANDERSON and Others.

THE petitioners pray that power be given to the Inch Clutha River and Road Board to levy a uniform acreage-rate over all lands within the district.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition being now under the consideration of the House, the Committee does not deem it necessary to make any recommendation.

10th August, 1880.

No. 227.—Petition of JAMES DAVIDSON and Others, of Patea.

THE petitioners state that the New Plymouth Harbour Board has obtained a loan of £200,000 for the purpose of constructing a harbour in the neighbourhood of New Plymouth, in accordance with plans approved by the Governor in Council; that the Board has abandoned such plans, and is expending large sums of money from loan on works not so approved; and that, without the authority of law,

and contrary to the provisions of "The Harbours Act, 1878," large liabilities have been incurred in England for plans and for plant. The petitioners pray that relief be granted to them.

I am directed to report that the Committee has taken the allegations of the petitioners into consideration, and obtained the advice of the Law Officers of the Crown; and it appears that, if the New Plymouth Harbour Board is expending its funds contrary to the provisions of "The Harbours Act, 1878," or any special Act affecting the Board, the petitioners can obtain redress in the Supreme Court. As the law provides a remedy for the grievances complained of by the petitioners, the Committee cannot recommend the House to take any special action in the matter of the petition.

10th August, 1880.

No. 195.—Petition of RICHARD DUIGNAN.

THE petitioner states that he had a contract for forming and metalling streets on the reclaimed land; that the contract has been carried out under the inspection of a clerk of works and engineer until the work approached completion; but that, owing to the change of the Engineer in Charge, he cannot obtain the balance of the money due on account of the work performed. He prays that his counsel and witnesses be heard, and that his claim be settled.

I am directed to report that the Committee has taken further evidence in the case of the petitioner's claim, and are of opinion that he has received more than full value for the work performed by him under his contract. The Committee therefore cannot recommend his claim for further consideration.

10th August, 1880.

No. 56.—Petition of JOHN DOUGHERTY.

THE petitioner states that, in the year 1876, sixty-one head of cattle belonging to him, which he was driving from the Kaikoura District to the West Coast, were slaughtered by the order of Inspector Naden. He prays that, as he has additional evidence to offer to the House, inquiry be made and relief afforded him.

I am directed to report that the petitioner states that he endeavoured to obtain redress for the loss occasioned by the slaughter of his cattle by the order of the Cattle Inspector of the Kaikoura District, by taking action in a Court of law; but failed, as the Inspector could not be found, he having left the district. As, however, Inspector Naden has been summoned to Wellington as a witness and examined before the Committee, the petitioner's plea that he cannot find the Inspector is no longer valid. The Committee, having considered the evidence of the petitioner and Inspector Naden, is of opinion that the petitioner's case is one in which it can make no recommendation, as he has not exhausted his legal remedy.

10th August, 1880.

No. 10.—Petition of WILLIAM REID.

THE petitioner complains of the action of Mr. Ward, R.M., of Palmerston, for accepting as sureties for the payment of costs in an action to be tried in the Supreme Court for the recovery of a section of land, persons who were notoriously without means. The petitioner obtained a judgment in the Supreme Court, but, in consequence of the defendant and his sureties being without means, he has been compelled to pay the whole cost. He prays the House to give him redress.

I am directed to report that the evidence before the Committee is of so conflicting a character that the Committee does not deem it expedient to review the action of the Resident Magistrate's Court in the petitioner's case.

10th August, 1880.

No. 269.—Petition of JAMES MCINDOE.

THE petitioner prays that inquiry be made into the differences between him and the Land-Tax Department with respect to remuneration he is entitled to for his services as a valuer for the Taieri and Peninsula Counties and several of the boroughs round Dunedin.

I am directed to report that the Committee has made inquiry into the petitioner's case, and is of opinion that the offer made by the department of £15, in settlement of his claim, is a fair remuneration for the extra work performed.

12th August, 1880.

Nos. 275, 297, and 312.—Petitions of JACOB JAMES and Others; S. PIZZEY AND Co. and Others; GEORGE NAYLOR and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the duty of 6d. per gallon which has been imposed on colonial beer be not enforced.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of these petitions is now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

17th August, 1880.

Nos. 271 and 272.—Petitions of E. G. LANE and Others; SPENCE AND BEE and Others.

THE petitioners pray that a clause be inserted in the Licensing Bill now before the House providing for the continuance of the bottle license.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of these petitions is now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

17th August, 1880.

Nos. 303, 307, and 314.—Petitions of JOHN S. HUNTER and Others; JAMES MORTON and Others; PERCEVAL PEARCE and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the bottle license may be abolished.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of these petitions is now before the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

17th August, 1880.

Nos. 304 and 305.—Petitions of E. LYNDON and Others; CHARLES H. RHODES and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the Education Act be so amended as to provide for the use of the Lord's Prayer and the reading of the Bible in the public schools, subject to a conscience clause, as in the English Education Act.

I am directed to report that, as these petitions involve matters of public policy, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

17th August, 1880.

No. 268.—Petition of FRANCIS HASTWELL.

THE petitioner states that, after being employed in the public service for fifteen years, he has been dismissed from his office as warder in the Wanganui Gaol, on an alleged charge of drunkenness, without an opportunity being afforded him to prove his innocence. He prays that an inquiry be made.

I am directed to report that the Committee consider that the subject-matter of this petition is one to be dealt with by the Government.

17th August, 1880.

No. 290.—Petition of MOSES EDWIN MANUEL.

THE petitioner states that a sum of £8,000 was granted to the Tuapeka County by the colony for the purpose of repairing the damage done by the flood in the Clutha River in 1878, by which flood the Roxburgh Bridge, which cost £7,000, was carried away; that the said county has diverted the money from the purpose for which it was granted, and paid off liabilities then existing, and now refuses to reconstruct the said bridge. Petitioner prays the House to make inquiry into the matter, and recommends the Government to order the work to be proceeded with in accordance with section 185 of "The Counties Act, 1876."

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

17th August, 1880.

No. 316.—Petition of HENRY ELMS CAMPBELL.

THE petitioner states he is a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand, and complains of the action of another solicitor, one George Nathaniel Brassey, who is also a Justice of the Peace and a Coroner, in inducing a witness to refrain from attending at the Licensing Court of the Thames District in June last. He prays that an inquiry be made into the allegation, and that the matter be brought under the notice of the Governor, with the view that G. N. Brassey be called on to resign his office of Justice of the Peace and Coroner.

I am directed to report that, no evidence in support of this petition having been tendered to the Committee, they are unable to deal with the case; but, as the petition contains very serious charges against a high Government official, the Committee refer the petition to the Government, with a view of their making the necessary inquiry.

17th August, 1880.

No. 220.—Petition of ROBERT LITTLECOTT.

THE petitioner states that he was tried on a charge of having destroyed wearing apparel belonging to his wife, and committed for trial and illegally detained in gaol for a number of weeks. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee refer the petition to the Government for consideration.

17th August, 1880.

No. 179.—Petition of J. M. DARGAVILLE.

THE petitioner states that he became bound to the Government in the sum of £250 per annum for five years to pay for the working expenses and salaries of the Dargaville Telegraph Office; that other offices have subsequently been opened on the line, and he considers that a reduction should consequently be made in the amount of his guarantee bond. He prays that inquiry be made into the case, and relief afforded him.

I am directed to report that the Committee has made inquiry into the matter, and as, from the evidence taken, it appears that the Government are acting very fairly towards Mr. Dargaville, have no recommendation to make.

17th August, 1880.

No. 187.—Petition of ANNIE ROBERTS.

THE petitioner prays that a case instituted by her against one William Short, the father of her illegitimate child, which was improperly dismissed by Harry Kenrick, Esq., Resident Magistrate of the Thames, be reheard, and that R. C. Barstow, Esq., R.M., be instructed to hear such case at the Thames.

I am directed to report that, as it appears from the evidence before the Committee that the petitioner's case can again be heard on the production of fresh evidence, and as it further appears that such evidence is available, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

17th August, 1880.

No. 132.—Petition of THOMAS FRANCIS SAVAGE.

THE petitioner states that he has been a member of the Armed Constabulary Force since 1873, but having become ill at Opunake, was transferred to the hospital, and subsequently discharged in September, 1879. He prays that his case be inquired into, and relief afforded him.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider that the petitioner has any claim for compensation on the colony.

17th August, 1880.

No. 239.—Petition of JOHN GRAHAM.

THE petitioner states that he has been illegally proceeded against for a false claim for debt, that the case was disposed of in his absence, and that he was imprisoned by order of the Resident Magistrate of the Hamilton Court, and unjustly dealt with while in prison. He prays that relief be afforded him.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner has not produced the evidence before the Committee that he says he has at his disposal to sustain his allegations, the Committee cannot recommend his case to the favourable consideration of the House.

17th August, 1880.

No. 261.—Petition of JOHN TRACY.

THE petitioner states that he has suffered serious loss as a contractor owing to the unjust and unfair manner he has been treated by the Public Works Department. He prays for inquiry.

I am directed to report that, from the evidence before the Committee, it appears that the contractors have received full payment in terms of their contract: the Committee therefore cannot recommend the prayer of the petition.

17th August, 1880.

No. 267.—Petition of W. R. COLE and other Railway Employés.

THE petitioners pray that the House will investigate all the circumstances connected with their employment, and not sanction any reduction of their wages, which are only barely sufficient to provide decent maintenance for themselves and families.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

17th August, 1880.

No. 82.—Petition of JAMES READE.

THE petitioner states that he leased 25,000 acres of land from the Government, but that he cannot make profitable use of it owing to the trespass of large numbers of Natives and their horses, who camp on the land to search for kauri-gum. He prays that his case be taken into consideration, and relief afforded him.

I am directed to report that, no evidence having been offered to the Committee in the petitioner's case, the Committee has no recommendation to make to the House.

17th August, 1880.

No. 116.—Petition of HUGH DOUGHERTY.

THE petitioner states that a cottage and acre of land to which he was entitled, at Otahuhu, was taken from him without any just cause. He prays that the cottage and land be restored to him.

I am directed to report that there is no evidence before the Committee to show that the petitioner is entitled to compensation, and, as the grievance complained of arose out of alleged injustice sustained in the early days of the settlement of Auckland, the Committee are of opinion that the claim for consideration, if any, has lapsed.

17th August, 1880.

No. 245.—Petition of WILLIAM SEARLE.

THE petitioner states that there has been a great failure of justice in the case, the Queen v. Yates, tried in the Resident Magistrate's and Supreme Courts, at Blenheim, by which the defendant was acquitted; and the petitioner has obtained no redress for the great crime committed on his daughter, a child of ten years of age. He prays the House to investigate the case and recommend the Government to institute a new trial.

I am directed to report that the Committee do not consider it advisable to inquire into this case, as it has already, in the ordinary course of law, been finally dealt with by the Supreme Court before a jury.

17th August, 1880.

No. 311.—Petition of CHARLES THOMPSON and other Ratepayers of the Kaiwarra Road Board District.

THE petitioners pray that the district of the Kaiwarra Road Board be exempted from the operation of the Counties Act, as the duty of maintaining the road and footpaths will be more efficiently performed by the Road Board than by the County Council.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now before the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

17th August, 1880.

No. 281.—Petition of ANN DERMOTT.

THE petitioner prays that an allowance equal to one year's salary of her late son, Dr. Dermott, be granted to her, as she is left in destitute circumstances owing to the death of her son, who was twelve years in the Government service.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend that the compassionate allowance, under "The Civil Service Act, 1866," occasionally given to widows of Civil servants, be extended to the petitioner's case.

17th August, 1880.

No. 284.—Petition of E. W. STOCKMAN.

THE petitioner states that he has been in the service of the Government, chiefly as Native interpreter, for more than twenty years, and that, owing to misfortunes over which he had no control, he became bankrupt, and was dismissed from the public service. He prays that a small pension be granted to him.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioner for a pension to the favourable consideration of the House.

17th August, 1880.

No. 213.—Petition of CHARLES LETT.

THE petitioner states that the Masterton line of railway runs along his property for one and a half miles, that it is unfenced, and his cattle are being killed and injured by the passing trains. He prays that compensation be given to him for the loss he has sustained, and that further injury be prevented by the Government fencing along the line of railway.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the question of making the Government liable for fencing along railways going through private property is one for the House to deal with. The Committee has therefore no special recommendation to make in this case.

17th August, 1880.

No. 154.—Petition of R. McCLUNE.

THE petitioner states that, in consequence of a deep cutting made by the Government in a road bounding his property, he is seriously damaged owing to the earth falling away from his fence, and necessitating its removal. He prays that £20 be given him as compensation.

I am directed to report there is no evidence before the Committee to show whether the petitioner has availed himself of the provisions of "The Public Works Act, 1876," which enables any person injuriously affected by the construction of road-works to obtain compensation alleged to be due to him. The Committee has therefore no recommendation to make.

17th August, 1880.

No. 288.—Petition of MAYORS and COUNCILLORS of South Dunedin, St. Kilda, and Caversham.

THE petitioners state that a petition has been already presented to the House, praying that provision be made for the amalgamation of the Boroughs of Caversham, South Dunedin, and St. Kilda. They pray the House to give effect thereto.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

19th August, 1880.

No. 283.—Petition of JAMES HUXLEY.

THE petitioner, a tailor, prays that the contract for the making of the Armed Constabulary outfits be subject to public competition.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the subject-matter of the petition.

19th August, 1880.

No. 289.—Petition of THOMAS H. GREEN and JOHN GILMOUR, of Christchurch.

THE petitioners pray that imported agricultural produce, such as butter, cheese, lard, bacon, and hams, be subject to import duty, so that producers in this colony be placed on an equal footing with producers in the several Australasian Colonies.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that this petition be referred to the Agricultural Committee.

19th August, 1880.

No. 277.—Petition of WARD & Co. and OTHERS.

THE petitioners complain that the provision in clause 28 of the Licensing Bill now before the House, which prohibits any person from holding or having any beneficial interest in more than one house, will injuriously affect the interests of those brewers who have hotel property. They pray that the clause be amended so as to apply to licensees.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

19th August, 1880.

No. 292.—Petition of JOSEPH ERRIDGE.

THE petitioner states he was dismissed from the Dunedin Gaol in April last on the charge of leaving a prisoner for a short time; but that in so doing he was acting under the instructions of his superior officer. He has had no opportunity of making his defence, and now prays for an inquiry, and that justice be done.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the case of the petitioner is one for the Government to deal with.

19th August, 1880.

No. 298.—Petition of R. J. MARSH and Others.

THE petitioners complain that highway districts are put to considerable expense in advertising, and pray that a scale of charges be fixed by the Government when appointing any paper a gazette for highway advertisements as the present charges are extortionate. They also pray that the yearly valuation be altered to a triennial one, thereby saving needless expense.

I have the honor to report that the Committee recommend the prayer of this petition to the serious and favourable consideration of the Government.

19th August, 1880.

No. 104.—Petition of STEPHENS and STEPHENS.

THE petitioners state that one Edward Ffrancis Ward, Registrar of the Supreme Court in Dunedin, was, by order of the Court, appointed trustee of the estate of the late James Schoefield Douglas; that, as trustee, certain English property belonging to the estate was realized, and the proceeds—£526—were duly remitted to the trustee; that the value of the property in the colony was unknown to the petitioners, but two sums of £600 each were sent to the deceased in the year of his death; that the widow of the deceased J. S. Douglas has only a life-interest in the property, and has been reduced to the greatest destitution in consequence of the trustee having left Otago without rendering any account or giving any information as to the trust estate. The petitioners consider that, as the Judge issued letters of administration to the Registrar of the Court, the Government is clearly responsible for the administration of the estate by its officers. They pray for redress.

The Committee has made inquiry into this case, and find that the will of the late J. S. Douglas named Arthur William Morris as executor. This gentleman, in a letter dated the 18th August, 1873, addressed to J. Hyde Harris, Esq., of Dunedin, who appears to have acted as solicitor for the widow of J. S. Douglas, states that he cannot undertake the duty, and suggests that the trust be transferred to the Public Trustee. On the 1st day of September, Jane Douglas, the widow of the deceased, applies that the administration of the estate be granted to Edward Ffrancis Ward, of Dunedin, Registrar of the Supreme Court. On the 5th of September, 1873, Mr. Justice Chapman grants administration to E. F. Ward without the usual bond, and directs that a full, true, and perfect inventory of the estate be made by him to the Court on or before the 5th December, 1873, and a true account of his administration be made on or before the 10th August, 1874. The order of Mr. Justice Chapman has not been complied with, no inventory of the estate or any account of administration having been made by Mr. Ward.

I am directed to report that, taking into consideration the fact that a Registrar of the Supreme Court was appointed trustee without the usual bond for the proper performance of his duty, the Committee is of opinion that the Government cannot divest itself of moral responsibility, and recommends that the Crown Prosecutor be instructed to take action against the said Edward Ffrancis Ward, on behalf of Jane Douglas, to recover the property which appears to have been misappropriated.

25th August, 1880.

No. 53.—Petition of WILLIAM THOMAS L^{td} TRAVERS (referred to the Committee by special order, dated 9th July, 1880).

THE petitioner states that the Government, in a letter dated the 10th September, 1877, addressed to him by John Knowles, Under-Secretary for Public Works, became responsible for the payment of a sum of money due to petitioner by Frank Oaks, contractor for the Pakuratahi section of the Wellington and Masterton Railway, on the completion of his contract; that the contract was assigned to Joseph Edward Nathan, and on its completion the balance of the money due on the contract was paid over to the said Joseph Edward Nathan by the Government; that the payment of the money by the Government, without giving petitioner an opportunity of prosecuting his claim, was a breach of faith, in view of the letter of the Under-Secretary for Public Works of the 10th September, 1877: and the petitioner prays that the House will take such steps as may be necessary in order that justice may be done him.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having made an exhaustive inquiry into the petitioner's case, is of opinion that the petitioner is not entitled to recover from the Government the amount claimed by him.

25th August, 1880.

No. 44.—Petition of WILLIAM BELL and Sons, of Marlborough.

THE petitioners pray that the driving of infected sheep under the 69th section of "The Sheep Act, 1878," be put a stop to.

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

27th August, 1880.

No. 368.—Petition of RATEPAYERS and PROPERTY-OWNERS of Karangahape, County of Eden.

THE petitioners pray that relief be given them in making and maintaining the roads in their district.

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

27th August, 1880.

No. 353.—Petition of SETTLERS resident in the Makarewa Valley.

THE petitioners pray that the route of the Forest Hill Tramway be to the south of Forest Hill, as the public interest would be better served and the Crown lands receive greater value than if the Gap route was adopted by the Government.

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

27th August, 1880.

No. 361.—Petition of C. GREENWOOD and Others, of Christchurch.

THE petitioners pray that licenses to sell spirits by the bottle be not authorized.

I am directed to report that, as the Licensing Bill is withdrawn for this session, the petition is referred to the Government.

27th August, 1880.

No. 320.—Petition of F. W. F. LUKIS and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the Hawera Light Horse Volunteers be placed on the same footing as regards pay as the Waikato Cavalry Volunteers.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the subject of this petition is one for the consideration of the Government, to whom the petition is referred.

27th August, 1880.

No. 359.—Petition of RATEPAYERS of Portobello Road District.

THE petitioners pray that the House will take such steps as may be necessary to make the harbour beach-road a main district road, and that the boundary of the road districts be altered.

I am directed to report that this petition be referred to the Government for their consideration.

27th August, 1880.

Nos. 322 and 335.—Petitions of A. ROGERS and other Persons employed on the Auckland Railways; and JOHN HISLOP and other Persons employed on the Southland Railways.

THE petitioners pray that a reduction of 10 per cent. be not made in their wages.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the subject-matter of these petitions be referred to the Government for consideration.

27th August, 1880.

No. 327.—Petition of ARTHUR PITTAR and other Settlers of Great Barrier Island.

THE petitioners pray that steam-communication be established with that island.

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

27th August, 1880.

No. 343.—Petition of RESIDENTS of Seventy-mile Bush.

THE petitioners state that they were promised, when they were located on the land, that employment would be afforded them till the line of railway reached Woodville, and hitherto this promise has been kept, and they have struggled on under many privations, hoping that the railway would be extended to their district. They pray that the twelve miles beyond Makatoko which is cleared of bush be proceeded with, as a small sum spent on the earthworks would give great relief to them.

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

27th August, 1880.

No. 352.—Petition of WANGANUI VOLUNTEERS.

THE petitioners pray that the Volunteer capitation grant be continued, and that a sum of £300 be given towards the cost of a drill-shed.

I am directed to report that this petition be referred to the Government for their consideration.

27th August, 1880.

No. 19.—Petition of JAMES EDMUND FITZGERALD COYLE.

THE petitioner prays for compensation for loss sustained by him in carrying out a contract for surveying 85,782 acres of land in Canterbury, the loss being occasioned in consequence of the terms of his contract not having been observed by the Chief Surveyor of Canterbury, in not supplying him with a triangulation of the block in advance of his sectional surveys, and in deviating from the terms of the contract by requiring preliminary plans, and delaying his working staff by not returning them promptly. That, owing to the delays so occasioned, he has sustained great loss, and prays that relief be afforded him.

The Committee has made a careful inquiry into the petitioner's case, having examined the petitioner and Mr. Barron, Office Surveyor, and read the reports of the Surveyor-General and the Chief Surveyor of Canterbury Provincial District.

The Committee find that the terms of the contract contained in the copy furnished by the department are different in one very essential particular from that furnished by the petitioner; the copy furnished by the petitioner being admitted by Mr. Barron to be a correct copy of the original in the Survey Office, Christchurch. The discrepancy referred to is contained in clause 34 of the special conditions. The copy furnished to the Committee by the Survey Department reads, "34. Special attention to be paid to the *written* applications." The copy furnished by the petitioner reads, "34. Special attention to be paid to the *within* applications." Clause 27 of the specification provides that in case of any dispute the matter is to be referred to the Surveyor-General, whose decision shall be final and conclusive.

I am directed to report that, owing to the absence of the personal evidence of the Chief Surveyor of the Provincial District of Canterbury, who arranged the terms of the contract with the petitioner, and supervised the execution of it, the Committee is unable to make a recommendation of a specific and final character.

The Committee is, however, of opinion that the petitioner has shown that some remuneration is due to him for the delay he has been subjected to in consequence of the terms of his contract not having been strictly complied with by the Survey Department. The Committee regrets that the Surveyor-General should have given an opinion on the case before the matter had been submitted to him in his judicial capacity, as provided by the terms of the specification, as such a premature decision prevents him from considering the case of the petitioner on its merits. The Committee recommends the Government to take all the circumstances of the case into consideration, and grant the petitioner fair compensation for loss occasioned by delay, and for the extra work which appears to have been performed by him.

27th August, 1880.

No. 69.—Petition of W. CLARK and Others employed on the Auckland Railways.

THE petitioners state that they are entitled under regulations to receive a yearly increase of pay, but have not received it. They pray that relief be given them.

I am directed to report that it appears the regulations referred to have not the force of law, as they were issued under Ministerial authority, and were liable to be cancelled by the same authority, and were so cancelled. The Committee has therefore no recommendation to make on the petitioners' case.

27th August, 1880.

No. 346.—Petition of RESIDENTS of Marlborough.

THE petitioners pray that one Robert Francis Bayley be restored to his position as mounted constable.

I am directed to report that, as the person who is said to be injuriously affected by loss of his appointment has not petitioned, the Committee consider the petition informal, and cannot therefore be dealt with.

27th August, 1880.

No. 363.—Petition of FITZCLARENCE ROBERTS.

THE petitioner complains of a decision of the Police Magistrate by which he was unjustly fined £5 and costs for assaulting the police. He prays for inquiry.

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

27th August, 1880.

No. 282.—Petition of W. J. GARWOOD.

THE petitioner prays that immediate steps be taken to give relief to one John Smart, on account of injuries he has sustained by an accident while employed as a navvy on the Wellington and Masterton Railway.

I am directed to report that, as the grievance complained of has not been sustained by the petitioner, but by another person who has not petitioned, the Committee consider the petition informal, and cannot therefore entertain it.

27th August, 1880.

Nos. 321, 328, 334, and 336.—Petitions of MARSHALL AND COPELAND and Others, of Dunedin; MERCHANTS, BREWERS and HOTEL PROPRIETORS, and Others, of Wellington; LICENSED PUBLICANS of Westland; and MERCHANTS, BREWERS, and TRADESMEN of Christchurch.

THE petitioners state their objections to the provisions of the Licensing Bill, and pray that the House will not pass it in its present shape.

I am directed to report that, as the Licensing Bill has been discharged, the subject-matter of these petitions cannot now be dealt with. The Committee has therefore no recommendation to make.

27th August, 1880.

No. 318.—Petition of ANNIE A. SPEAR and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the reading of the Bible be allowed in public schools.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now before the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

27th August, 1880.

No. 238.—Petition of THOMAS BRAY.

THE petitioner states that he has been deprived of his property by fraud, and he has failed to obtain redress in the Supreme Court owing to the abuses which exist in it. He prays the House to afford him the protection of the law, to which, as an Englishman, he is entitled.

I am directed to report that the Committee see no way by which the grievance the petitioner complains of can be redressed. The Committee cannot, therefore, make any special recommendation in his case.

27th August, 1880.

No. 319.—Petition of JAMES ATKINSON.

THE petitioner prays for compensation on account of a wound received from rebel Natives in 1865.

I am directed to report that, as no evidence has been submitted to the Committee to enable it to come to a decision in the petitioner's case, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

27th August, 1880.

No. 63.—Petition of JAMES JOSEPH HALLIDAY.

THE petitioner states that a watch and money was sent him by his father from England by post, for which a registration fee was paid, but that he has not received the articles. He prays that compensation be given him.

I am directed that, as it appears from the evidence before the Committee that the subject-matter of this petition is under consideration of the Post Office Department, the Committee does not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

27th August, 1880.

No. 142.—Petition of JAMES BARNES and Others.

THE petitioners pray that a railway-siding be granted them at Ormondville, on the Napier line of railway.

I am directed to report that, the Government having already dealt with this case, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

27th August, 1880.

No. 155.—Petition of C. A. HARRIS.

THE petitioner states that an Order in Council was issued by the Governor cancelling a former Order in Council which authorized him to erect a wharf in the Auckland Harbour, and that he has been grievously injured thereby, and he prays for redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having made inquiry into this case, and having read the correspondence between the Board and the Government, find that the petitioner could have arranged the matter with the Harbour Board. The Committee therefore do not consider it necessary to interfere in the matter.

27th August, 1880.

No. 339.—Petition of F. S. IGOE.

THE petitioner states that he has been unjustly dismissed from the Police Force, and prays the House to grant him redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on the petitioner's case.

27th August, 1880.

No. 354.—Petition of the COUNCIL of the LAW SOCIETY of WELLINGTON.

THE petitioners pray that the Law Practitioners Act Amendment Act be not assented to this session.

I am directed to report that, as the subject of this petition has already been dealt with by the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

27th August, 1880.

No. 252.—Petition of JOHN CLEVERLEY.

THE petitioner prays that the question of his dismissal from the office of schoolmaster of the Training School of Kohimarama be inquired into, and relief afforded him.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petition to the favourable consideration of the House.

27th August, 1880.

No. 280.—Petition of JOHN DELVES and Others, of Wanganui.

THE petitioners pray that the proposed tax of 6d. per gallon on colonial beer be rescinded.

I have the honor to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition is now before the House, the Committee does not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

27th August, 1880.

No. 347.—Petition of HENRY BAUCKE.

THE petitioner states that the Chief Justice made an order, in an action he instituted in the Supreme Court, to stay proceedings; and he is advised that such order was made without due authority. The petitioner prays the House to make inquiry into the conduct of the Chief Justice, and grant him relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having on several former occasions dealt with this case, does not consider it necessary to reopen it.

27th August, 1880.

Nos. 342, 317, and 351.—Petitions of SETTLERS of Hawke's Bay; ROBERTS AND Co. and others; and SETTLERS of Hawke's Bay.

THESE petitioners pray that a fence which had been constructed by the late Provincial Government between the District of Hawke's Bay and the Wellington District for the purpose of keeping out scabby sheep, and which fence has been partially destroyed by fire, be repaired, as the Hawke's Bay settlers are sustaining injury by scabby sheep entering their district and infecting their flocks.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the request of the petitioners to the immediate and favourable consideration of the Government.

27th August, 1880.

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