

1881.
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

(MR. T. KELLY CHAIRMAN.)

Presented to the House of Representatives, Session 1881, and ordered to be printed.

INDEX.

NO.	PETITION.	PAGE	NO.	PETITION.	PAGE
A.					
321	Aitchison, Peter	17	350	Davis, Richard	21
210	Alcorn, S. W., and Graves, I. ..	10	189	Deans, F. C., and Others ...	20
52	Aldridge, Charles James	6	129	Donald, Rhodes, and Others ...	4
278	Allan, Gordon, and Others, of Wellington ...	11	175	Douglas, R. T.	11
296	Amuri County Council and Others ...	20	208	Dunedin, Bishop of, and Others ...	8
47	Auckland Shipowners Association ...	5	92	Dunedin Freethought Association ...	4
B.					
102	Beeche, John B.	11	117	Dunedin Working Men's Club ..	3
360	Berry, John	18	57	Dunn, John	3
55	Bible-in-Schools Association, Otago ...	1	E.		
217	Bishop of Christchurch and Others (No. 1) ..	8	114	Eichardt, A., and Others, of Christchurch ...	7
221	Bishop of Christchurch and Others (No. 2) ...	11	281	Elmslie, J., and Others, of Christchurch ...	11
208	Bishop of Dunedin and Others	8	151	Evans, W., and Others, of Cambridge ...	8
152	Black, Thomas	8	F.		
357	Blain, John, of the Thames	23	36	Falconer, James, and Others, of Waitaki ...	6
43	Blair, Andrew	5	380	Farmers' Corn Exchange, Canterbury ...	22
4	Blewden, William	10	118	Farmers' Club, Opotiki	3
100	Bluch jr, Christian, William, and Gustave ..	9	81	Feltus, Richard J (No. 1)	4
247	Bohanna, Honora	11	82	Feltus, Richard J (No. 2)	4
153	Borel, J. E.	12	285	Feltus, Richard J (No. 3)	16
74	Bothamley, Arthur Thomas	7	345	Feltus, Richard J (No. 4)	16
355	Bray, Thomas, of Newton	23	131	Fire Insurance Companies (No. 1) ...	6
232	Broadbent, George, and Others, of Dunedin ...	9	156	Fire Insurance Companies (No. 2) ...	8
67	Brogden, Alexander, Henry, and James (for Minutes of Evidence, &c., vide I.—1A.) ...	19	226	Fitzpatrick, E., and Others, of Waikato ...	20
190	Brown, A., and Others, of East Gore	8	339	Flesher, William, and Others	16
225	Brown, Lavinia	19	330	Fountain, T. F., and Others	17
381	Bruce, Thomas, and Others	22	312	France, Charles, M.R.C.S.	15
346	Burgess, Bridget	21	310	Fraser, William	20
234	Butler, Thomas	14	92	Freethought Association of Dunedin ...	4
C.					
45	Campbell, Hector McNeill	9	G.		
193	Canham, C. H., and Others, of Auckland ...	8	69	Gallagher, C., and Others, of Waitaki ..	4
380	Canterbury Farmers' Corn Exchange ...	22	316	Gammack, James, and Others, of Canterbury	16
256	Carpenter, E., and Others (No. 2)	20	286	Gibbes, J. A. O.	20
322	Chisholm, John, and Others	21	160	Good Templars, Robin, C. B., and Other	8
217	Christchurch, Bishop of, and Others (No. 1) ...	8	119	Gorman, P., and Others	4
221	Christchurch, Bishop of, and Others (No. 2) ...	11	354	Graham, C. C., and Others, of Karori ...	16
130	Church of England Synod, Christchurch ...	4	210	Graves, I., and Alcorn, S. W.	10
110	Clements, A., and Others	3	367	Greytown Town Council and Others ...	22
155	Clery, Mrs. Annie	10	318	Guinness, A. R., and Others, of Greymouth ...	21
101	Codling, John	10	H.		
296	County Council of Amuri and Others ...	20	113	Hamblyn, James	7
46	County Council of Collingwood	3	362	Hamlin, F. E.	22
290	County Council of Vincent	13	231	Hardington, Henry	15
56	Coyle, J. E. F (No. 1)	5	260	Hare, Robert	15
337	Coyle, J. E. F (No. 2)	16	267	Harper, George, and Others, of Christchurch	11
370	Crispe, H., and Others, of Pukekohe ...	22	18	Heighway, F. H.	2
D.					
141	Dairymen of Christchurch	9	121	Highway Trustees, Mangapai	4
209	Darmandaritz, Pierre (Paper)	22	149	Highway Trustees, Maungakaramea ...	8
215	Davis, James Davidson	15	359	Hodge, Grace C.	19
			333	Hume, William	21
			379	Hutchison, T., of Wellington	23

I.			Q.		
NO.	PETITION.	PAGE	NO.	PETITION.	PAGE
122	Igoe, F. S. ...	6	311	Quigley, John ...	18
8	Innes, W. M., and Others, of Port Chalmers...	1			
J			R.		
188	Jackson, A. B. ...	15	192	Rees, W. G., and Others ...	8
264	Jenkins, E. F., and Others, of Christchurch ...	20	313	Reid, R. C., and Others, of Hokitika ...	16
196	Johnston, James ...	7	154	Reid, William ...	14
374	Johnston, N., and Others, of Invercargill ..	23	331	Renner, A. J. ...	17
K.			160	Robin, C. B., and other Good Templars ...	8
120	Kelly, John ...	12	257	Robson, J. M., and Others, of Ohinemuri ...	12
351	Kerr, J., and Others, of Tuapeka ...	22	375	Rowlands, Horace, of Waipu ...	23
309	Kidd, J. R., and Others, of Invercargill ...	13	S.		
182	Kidd, Sophia ...	12	146	Salmund, William, and Others, of Dunedin ...	11
141	Kinge, G., and Other Dairymen, of Christchurch	9	347	Savage, F., and Others, of Raglan ..	21
341	King, Robert, and Others, of Bay of Plenty ...	16	336	Sawyer, James ...	21
L.			276	Scott, H., and Others, of Dunedin ...	15
59	Lamb, John, and Others, of Auckland ...	3	300	Scott, William, and Others, of Otago ...	17
258	Law Society of Taranaki ...	11	240	Seddon, R. J., and Others, of Westland ..	12
167	Lendrum, George, and Others, of Auckland ...	14	178	Shaw, John Henry, of Wellington ...	19
329	Linton, James, and Others ...	18	47	Shipowners' Association, Auckland ...	5
317	Livingston, Alexander Robert ...	17	19	Short, Thomas ...	3
275	Lloyd, F. B., and Co. ...	12	327	Smart, John ...	18
180	Lundon, C. H. ...	13	233	Smethurst, Edward ...	9
M.			63	Smith, George ...	2
265	Mackay, John ...	14	13	Soall, J. C. ...	1
263	Mack, Charles ...	13	205	Stephens and Stephens ...	9
189	Mackenzie, Francis Wallace ...	14	136	Stephenson, Samuel ..	5
325	Maney, Richard David ...	12	109	Stevens, G., and Others, of Wellington ...	5
121	Mangapai Highway Trustees ...	4	139	Subritzky, W. A. ...	8
9	Mansford, Julia ...	2	130	Synod of Church of England, Christchurch ...	4
297	Matakohe and Other Road Boards ...	16	187	Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Otago and Southland ..	8
53	Matthews, William ...	6	T		
83	Mauhaura, Henare, and Others, of Moeraki	6	258	Taranaki Law Society ...	11
54	Maunder, George ...	7	328	Taylor, Joseph, and Others, of Brunner-ton ..	17
149	Maungakaramea Highway Trustees ...	8	17	Thompson, Robert Studholme (No. 1)	7
323	McCarthy, E. ...	17	239	Thomson, W. M., and Others, of Normanby	18
108	McCausland, A. ...	13	106	Tuturu, Inia, and two Others, of Arahura ...	6
12	McCormick, A., and Others, of Auckland ...	2	378	Twentyman, J., and Others, of Christchurch ..	23
79	McKenzie, Duncan, and Others, of Manaia ...	4	U		
251	McLean, John, of Wellington ...	14	68,69	Unemployed at Waitaki ...	4
137	McLean, John, and Others, of Pukeuri ...	6	V		
365	McSweeney, Justin ...	22	238	Veroe, J. L. ...	6
177	Mennie, James ...	19	290	Vincent County Council ..	13
26	Miller, David ...	2, 13	W		
58	Mitchell, Charles Featherstone ...	10	68,69	Waitaki Unemployed ...	4
126	Mosley, W. A. ...	5	352	Walker, G., and Others, of Tuapeka ..	22
N			306	Wanganui Harbour Board ..	18
66	Napier Working Men's Club ...	2	376	Watkins, Judith ...	19
159	Neill and Co., and Others, of Dunedin ...	7	7	Wear, William ...	1
161	Newell, J., and Others, of Waikato ...	14	132	Weedon, William ...	17
364	New Plymouth Harbour Board ...	23	75	Wellington Working Men's Club ...	3
O.			133	White, William ...	10
343	O'Malley, Charles ...	21	90	Williams, George Phipps ...	10
68	O'Nash, James, and Others, of Waitaki ...	4	22	Wilshire, William, and Others, of Christchurch	5
118	Opotiki Farmers' Club ..	3	261	Wilson, J., and Others, of Auckland ...	12
187	Otago and Southland Presbyterian Church ...	8	282	Wilson, W., and Others, of Canterbury ...	15
55	Otago Bible-in-Schools Association ...	1	366	Witherby, C. H., of Auckland ...	22
P			117	Working Men's Club, Dunedin ...	3
115	Paterson, James ...	20	66	Working Men's Club, Napier ...	2
301	Patten, R. A., and Others, of Otago ..	17	75	Working Men's Club, Wellington ...	3
230	Pye, Elizabeth ...	15	140	Wright, William, and Others, of Christchurch	7
			Y		
			6	Yates, Alfred Albert ..	1

1881.

NEW ZEALAND

REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

(MR. T. KELLY, CHAIRMAN.)

Presented to the House of Representatives, Session 1881, and ordered to be printed.

No. 8.—Petition of I. M. INNES and Others, of Port Chalmers.

THE petitioners state that the allotments in the present cemetery have all been disposed of, and that very shortly there will be no public place of interment. They pray that a part of the Town Belt of Port Chalmers be appropriated for the purposes of a public cemetery.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make, as it appears there is a Bill now before the House to deal specially with the subject-matter of the petition.

21st June, 1881.

No. 6.—Petition of ALFRED ALBERT YATES, late a Clerk in the District Lands Court, Tauranga. THE petitioner states that he was engaged as clerk to the Court of the Commissioner, under the Tauranga District Lands Act; that no remuneration was fixed for such engagement, and that a voucher was sent to the said Commissioner, J. A. Wilson, amounting to £17 17s and the aforesaid Commissioner certified to the correctness of the charge.

I am directed to report that, assuming the voucher submitted to the Committee purporting to be signed by the Commissioner, certifying to the reasonableness of the claim, is a correct copy of the original, the Committee are at a loss to understand why the claim has not been paid, and recommend that it be paid forthwith.

21st June, 1881.

No. 13.—Petition of J. C. SOALL, of Auckland.

THE petitioner prays that the House will grant him a fair enquiry into his system of musketry instruction, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee of the 2nd of October, 1878.

I am directed to report: It appears that several trials have been given to this system at a cost of £120, besides a large quantity of ammunition, without any definite result. The Committee are of opinion that the matter can be more satisfactorily dealt with by the local Rifle Association. The Committee have, therefore, no further recommendation to make on the petitioner's case.

29th June, 1881.

No. 7.—Petition of WILLIAM WEAR, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was engineer of the "Hannah Mokau" when she was seized and sold by the Government; that a sum of money, amounting to £89, was due to him for wages when the Government took possession, and that he was informed by the Collector of Customs at New Plymouth that he would be placed in a far better position as regards wages than he held before the sale; that he was induced by the Customs authorities both at New Plymouth and Auckland to surrender the right he held, on the distinct promise of the authorities that wages would be paid if he allowed the steamer to be sold; that he applied to the Collector at Auckland for his wages, but without success.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having taken evidence in this case, are of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to the wages due to him when the vessel was seized by the Government, and recommend that the amount be ascertained and paid forthwith.

29th June, 1881.

No. 55.—Petition of the MEMBERS of the COUNCIL of the BIBLE-IN-SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION in Otago.

THE petitioners state that they are convinced that disastrous consequences are certain to result from the exclusion of the Bible from schools, and that they have reason to believe that a large majority of the parents of children attending the public schools in the colony are in favour of reading the Bible in public schools. They pray that such amendments be made in the Education Act as will secure the daily reading of the Bible in the public schools.

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

30th June, 1881.

1—1. 1.

No. 9.—Petition of JULIA MANSFORD, Wellington.

THE petitioner is the widow of the late Mr. Mansford, District Judge and Resident Magistrate of Wellington. Petitioner states that her late husband left her totally unprovided for, owing to the impossibility, out of the small salary he received until just recently, of making suitable provision; and she prays that, in addition to the sum equal to one year's salary paid by the Government and invested for the benefit of her children, that an additional year's salary be granted to her.

I am directed to report that, as it appears twelve months' leave of absence on full pay was granted to the late Mr. Mansford, of which one-fourth was paid, the Committee, after taking all the circumstances of the petitioner's case into consideration, recommend that the balance—viz., £487 10s. be granted for her special use and benefit, subject to the deduction of £222 4s. paid to the late Mr. Mansford, as compensation for loss of office in 1867, but not repaid by him when he was appointed in 1874.

The Committee have directed me to report the following resolution to the House as a rider to the above report: "This Committee recommend that the Government should insist upon all persons entering the Government service in future, under permanent engagement, insuring their lives for an amount equal to not less than one year's pay"

30th June, 1881.

No. 18.—Petition of F. H. HEIGHWAY, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that on the 29th November, 1878, he was appointed as a permanent clerk in the Land-Tax Office, Auckland, with a fixed salary, and at a lower rate than temporary officers were receiving; he believes that he has been harshly dealt with, his services being dispensed with while other persons were still kept on. He prays that the House will take his grievance into consideration and grant him relief.

I am directed to report, that it appears that the petitioner was appointed temporarily, and that his services were dispensed with when a reduction was made in the office. The Committee do not consider that the petitioner has any claim for special compensation.

30th June, 1881.

No. 66.—Petition from MEMBERS of the NAPIER WORKING-MEN'S CLUB.

THE petitioners state that they view with alarm the efforts made to carry through the House a Licensing Bill, in which it is proposed to subject clubs to police supervision and the imposition of a license fee; they also state that the evils which it is intended the Bill should cure, that is to say, the existence of "bogus" clubs, will not be effected thereby. They pray that the House will take such steps as will lead to the excision from the Bill of proposed provisions complained of.

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

30th June, 1881.

No. 63.—Petition of GEORGE SMITH, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was a member of the Armed Constabulary; that in the course of his duty in August, 1877, he, being a blacksmith by trade, was directed to assist in raising the water-pipe of a well in Cambridge Camp; that the piping broke suddenly, whereby he sustained injuries to his head and spine, in consequence of which he was discharged from the Constabulary with a gratuity of three months' pay. He prays that the House will review the decision of the Government in his case, and grant him some recompense for the injury sustained.

I am directed to report, the Committee see no reason to reverse the decision of last session on the petitioner's case.

30th June, 1881.

No. 26.—Petition of DAVID MILLER, of Roslyn, Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that his son entered on his apprenticeship as a fitter at the Government Railway Workshops, Dunedin; that he should be bound to serve for five years; that he should receive no remuneration for the first year, £1 sterling per week for the second year, and 5s. advance every year thereafter, until the completion of his apprenticeship; that he agreed to these conditions, but that the Locomotive Engineer neglected to draw up the indentures, and that an attempt was made to bring the petitioner's son under the operation of new rules, lengthening the term of service and reducing the remuneration. He prays that his son's case may be dealt with as if he had been serving under the indenture.

I am directed to report that, it appears the petitioner has practically agreed to the new regulations by accepting the pay for the first year of his son's services, and as no evidence has been submitted showing a special contract between the Government and himself, the Committee cannot make any special recommendation in his behalf; the Committee are, however, of opinion that, as the engagement of boys nominally as apprentices appears to be loosely conducted, for the future, in such cases, a written agreement be made, defining the terms of service, the conditions, and the rate of pay

5th July, 1881.

No. 12.—Petition of A. McCORMICK and Others, of Auckland.

THE petitioners state that the control and management of the Auckland College and Grammar School was vested by "The Auckland College and Grammar School Act, 1877," in a Board of Governors, and that, in 1880, the constitution of the Board was altered by the addition of three persons, to be elected by the Senate of the University of New Zealand, and the petitioners pray that the power given to the Senate of the University be revoked.

I am directed to report that the prayer of the petitioners appears to be a fair and reasonable one; but, as no evidence has been offered by the petitioners to support their statements, the Committee have no recommendation to make, as they are of opinion that the local representatives in the House should take legislative action if the grievance complained of is widely felt.

7th July, 1881.

No. 46.—Petition from the COUNTY COUNCIL of COLLINGWOOD.

THE petitioners state that the operation of the county system has been seriously curtailed by the withdrawal of the subsidies and 20 per cent. of Land Fund, and pray for a revision of the present system of local finance.

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

8th July, 1881.

No. 57.—Petition of JOHN DUNN, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was senior Warder of the gaol at Auckland, that he served there for seventeen years, and that through failing health he was compelled to resign; and prays that the House will take his case into consideration, and grant him some award.

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

8th July, 1881.

No. 75.—Petition from the WORKING-MEN'S CLUB, of Wellington.

THE petitioners state that the Licensing Bill at present before the House imposes vexatious conditions upon clubs, as license and police supervision, and pray that such may not be brought into operation.

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

8th July, 1881.

No. 110.—A. CLEMENTS and Others.

THE petitioners state that Pukukura has been created an additional licensing district without sufficient grounds for doing so, and pray that the House will inquire into the matter and afford relief.

I am directed to report that sufficient evidence has not been submitted to justify the Committee recommending any interference with the constitution of licensing districts as provided by law; but if the petitioners have suffered any injury, it appears to the Committee from the evidence that the Licensing Bill now before the House will provide a remedy.

8th July, 1881.

No. 117.—Petition from the WORKING-MEN'S CLUB, of Dunedin.

THE petitioners state that they believe that the Licensing Bill now before the House, if passed in its present form, will have the effect of closing working-men's clubs, and that the clause empowering a constable to enter such clubs will do away with the privacy of such institutions; and pray that the House will take the above into its favourable consideration.

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

8th July, 1881.

No. 118.—Petition of the FARMERS CLUB, Opotiki.

THE petitioners state that injustice is done to the maize-growing districts of the North Island by the exemption of maize from an import duty; and pray that the House will impose a duty on imported maize, and thereby place maize-growers on an equal footing with the growers of other cereals.

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

8th July, 1881.

No. 19.—Petition of THOMAS SHORT, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he has suffered loss through the ransacking of his store and hotel by escaped Maori prisoners in the year 1874, and prays the House will take his case into consideration, and grant him relief.

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

20th July, 1881.

No. 59.—Petition of JOHN LAMB and Others, of Auckland.

THE petitioners state that by the Electoral Act of 1879 they are deprived of their right to vote for members of the House of Representatives, and pray that the privilege they formerly enjoyed may be returned.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition being one of public policy, the Committee have no recommendation to make to the House.

20th July, 1881.

No. 68.—Petition of JAMES O'NASH and Others, of Waitaki.

THE petitioners state that they are out of work, and ask for Government employment.

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

20th July, 1881.

No. 69.—Petition of C. GALLAGHER and Others, of Waitaki.

THE petitioners state that they are out of work, and ask for employment by the Government.

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

20th July, 1881.

No. 79.—Petition of DUNCAN MCKENZIE and Others, of Manaiā.

THE petitioners state that they have been deprived of the money allocated to the district by the Council, and request that money may be granted by the House for the maintenance of roads and bridges.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition being one for the County Council of Whangarei to deal with, the Committee have no recommendation to make to the House.

20th July, 1881.

No. 81.—Petition (No. 1) of RICHARD J FELTUS, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that a lunatic, who died in the asylum, was indebted to him in a sum of money, and that he has not been paid, although certain moneys were left by him.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having already inquired into and reported on petitioner's grievance, have no further recommendation to make to the House.

20th July, 1881.

No. 82.—Petition (No. 2) of RICHARD J FELTUS, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was employed as valuer to the New Zealand Government, and that he has only received a portion of the moneys due to him, and prays for redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having already inquired into and reported on petitioner's grievance, have no further recommendation to make to the House.

20th July, 1881.

No. 92.—Petition of FREETHOUGHT ASSOCIATION of Dunedin.

THE petitioners state that they entertain a strong conviction that the excluding of the Bible and other religious books from the Government schools has a beneficial tendency, and pray that the House will refuse to disturb the principle of religious equality now upheld.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition having been already dealt with, the Committee have no further recommendation to make.

20th July, 1881.

No. 119.—Petition of P GORMAN and Others, of Auckland.

THE petitioners state that certain clauses of the Licensing Bill now under consideration would unduly press on the business of licensed victuallers, and pray that several clauses may be expunged, and a clause inserted preventing brewers from selling less than five gallons of beer.

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

20th July, 1881.

No. 121.—Petition of HIGHWAY TRUSTEES of Mangapai.

THE petitioners state that they recognize the necessity of local Government by Highway Boards, and pray that the Rating Act of 1876 be amended, and that power be given to local bodies to decide objections to valuation lists.

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

20th July, 1881.

No. 129.—Petition of RHODES DONALD and Others, of Masterton.

THE petitioners state that the bringing of the Corporation Act into full force in Masterton has proved injurious, and pray that the House will pass some measure to enable the burgesses to dissolve the said borough.

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

20th July, 1881.

No. 130.—Petition of CHURCH OF ENGLAND SYNOD, of Christchurch.

THE petitioners state that State education should contain provisions for grants-in-aid to schools of any religious denomination, and that the Education Act should be amended so that provision might be made

for the communication of religious instruction in State schools, and pray that effect may be given to the foregoing representations.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition being one of public policy, the Committee have no recommendation to make to the House.

20th July, 1881.

No. 22.—Petition of WILLIAM WILSHIRE and Others, of Christchurch.

THE petitioners state that they have to pay a carrier's license, and that contracts for three years were made privately with Heywood and Co., for the conveyance of goods from the Railway-station, Christchurch, which they believe to be prejudicial to the owners of goods and to themselves, and pray that the contract may be cancelled or the valuation cause expunged.

The petitioners are in error in supposing that the contract for delivery of goods was let privately by the Railway Department to Messrs. Heywood and Co., as public tenders were called for in May, 1880.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that, in any future contract made out for the delivery of goods from the Railway-station to consignees, that clause 29 of the conditions, by which the successful tenderer is bound to take over the plant of outgoing contractor, be expunged.

22nd July, 1881.

No. 43.—Petition of ANDREW BLAIR, of Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that he was employed as engineer to the Port Chalmers Graving-dock, and that his services have been dispensed with. He prays that he may receive compensation for loss of appointment, or be reinstated.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that, under the circumstances of the petitioner's employment, he is not entitled to a retiring allowance; and, with respect to the petitioner's claim for reinstatement, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

22nd July, 1881.

No. 109.—Petition of G. STEVENS and Others, of Wellington.

THE petitioners state that labour executed at the printing office in Lyttelton Gaol is competing against free labour, and submit that the contest entered into is of an unjust nature. They pray that the House will afford such relief as it may seem meet.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having considered the prayer of the petitioners, are of opinion that it is not advisable to restrict the employment of prisoners in the direction asked for by the petitioners, as the recognition of such a principle would have to be generally applied to all trades, and thus prevent the employment and improvement of prisoners in gaol.

22nd July, 1881.

No. 47.—Petition of SHIPOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, of Auckland.

THE petitioners pray that, in justice to the shipping interests of the colony, the House will alter the pilotage exemption certificates now in force, and assimilate them to those of the neighbouring colonies of Australia.

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

27th July, 1881.

No. 136.—Petition of SAMUEL STEPHENSON, of the Thames.

THE petitioner states that he resided and held a license as hotelkeeper at Grahamstown, that he deposited with the Collector of Customs in due time the sum of £40 and received his license, and that his house was destroyed by fire; he then purchased the adjoining premises, but was refused the transfer on the ground that the license had been illegally issued. He prays the House to award such compensation for the loss he has sustained as it shall see just.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that the Borough Council of the Thames should refund the license fee of £40, as it appears it was paid for a license which was never given effect to, owing to a doubt as to its legality; and recommend the Government to withhold any money due to the borough until this money is paid to the person entitled to it.

27th July, 1881.

No. 126.—Petition of W A MOSLEY, of Inch Clutha.

THE petitioner states that he has sustained heavy damages upon his property on Inch Clutha, caused by the railway embankment at Balclutha damming back the flood-water of the river, and causing the river in 1878 to overflow his property for eight months, whereby he suffered great loss. He prays that the case may be heard by an Arbitration Court, or by the Law Courts of the land; also that steps be taken to prevent further loss and damage.

I am directed to report that there is no satisfactory evidence before the Committee to show that the damage to the petitioner's land has been caused by the railway embankment; but the Committee recommend the Government to make inquiry into the question of whether the railway embankment has the effect of damming back the river when flooded, and if such is found to be the case, that suitable openings be made to relieve the flood-waters, and so prevent, as far as possible, any damage arising in the future.

27th July, 1881.

No. 56.—Petition of J E F COYLE, of Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that in June, 1878, he contracted to survey certain Crown lands in the Provincial District of Canterbury; that having to send in preliminary plans of his work, and alterations made in

many of the applications, and the delay in supplying him with the triangulation of the district, he was compelled to carry on the survey in a much more costly manner, and thereby suffered loss. He prays the House to grant him such relief as may seem meet.

I am directed to report that, the Committee having taken further evidence in the case of the petitioner, it appears that he never made any official application for payment to the Provincial District Surveyor for extra work performed; the Committee consider that, before applying to the House, he should make such claim in the terms of the conditions of the contract.

27th July, 1881.

No. 36.—Petition of JAMES FALCONER and Others, of Waitaki.

THE petitioners pray that the proposals of the Government concerning the Waitaki District should be so modified as to omit the Town of Palmerston, and include the Hekateramea Valley

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

29th July, 1881.

No. 52.—Petition of CHARLES JAMES ALDRIDGE, of Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that he is a barrister and solicitor of Dunedin, and alleges wrongful action on the part of the District Land Registrar of Dunedin, and consequent loss to himself, and prays the House will cause all due inquiries to be made and give him redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony

29th July, 1881.

No. 53.—Petition of WILLIAM MATTHEWS, of Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that he was an Inspector of Railway Works, and that his services were dispensed with on the 31st December last, and prays the House to grant him compensation.

I am directed to report the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner is not entitled to compensation for loss of office.

29th July, 1881.

No. 83.—Petition of HENARE MAUHAURA and Others, of Moeraki.

THE petitioners state that the Ngaitahu Tribe have made applications for the last thirty-seven years in respect of their lands wrongly taken, and that their difficulties have not been settled up to the present day

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

29th July, 1881.

No. 106.—Petition of INIA TUTURU and 2 Others, of Arahura.

THE petitioners state that the Ngaitahu Tribe have made applications for the last thirty-seven years in respect of their lands wrongly taken, and that their difficulties have not been settled up to the present day

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

29th July, 1881.

No. 122.—Petition of F. S. IGOE, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he joined the Police Force in 1879, and that he was dismissed with only four days' notice, and prays the House to grant him relief.

I am directed to report that, from evidence before the Committee, it appears that the petitioner's services have been justly dispensed with, and he has therefore no claim for compensation.

29th July, 1881.

No. 131.—Petition of FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES (No. 1)

THE petitioners suggest alterations in the Fire Prevention and Fire Brigades Bill, and pray the House will give them such consideration as the premises demand.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition having been dealt with by the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

29th July, 1881.

No. 137.—Petition of JOHN McLEAN and Others, of Pukeuri.

THE petitioners state that a railway siding is required on Section 10, Block II, Papakaio District, and pray the House to take the matter into consideration.

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

29th July, 1881.

No. 238.—Petition of J. L. VERCOE, of Tauranga.

THE petitioner states that he is a resident of Tauranga, that in 1868 he leased from the Native owners a block of land in the Maketu District, with a condition that when the land was passed through the Land Court he should purchase what he required of it. That, on the land passing through the Court, he did so purchase. That, subsequently, the agents of the Government negotiated for the said land, but were unable to complete the deed; whereupon he obtained the signatures of the objecting Natives, upon the understanding that the Government would give to him a portion of the said block, equal in value to the money previously paid by him; that the Government has not completed the agreement, and he prays the House to grant him redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the recommendation of the Royal Commissioners, Messrs. Haultain and Williams, in the petitioner's case be given effect to, as a full settlement of all his claims against the colony
29th July, 1881.

No. 54.—Petition of GEORGE MAUNDER, of Rangitikei.

THE petitioner states that he is an owner of land at Rangitikei; that on the 27th day of August, 1879, he was summoned for the highway rates, amounting to £18 15s., to appear on the 8th of the same month; he treated the summons as a nullity, but tendered the amount to the Collector, who refused to take it without the costs; a distress warrant was then issued, and articles of harness and saddlery were taken to Marton, and sold. He prays that the House will grant him redress.

I am directed to report that the difficulty in which the petitioner is placed arose mainly from his own act in not paying the rates when due, and in allowing the period to elapse within which he could have taken action in a Court of law. The Committee are of opinion that, while he may have a claim on his legal adviser, he has none against the colony
3rd August, 1881.

No. 74.—Petition of ARTHUR THOMAS BOTHAMLEY, of Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he was appointed by the representatives of William King, deceased, as their attorney; that he found the land situate at Wanganui occupied by trespassers; that in 1878 he had a case against one David Conchie, for malicious injury to property; the case was to be heard at the Supreme Court, Wanganui; the petitioner was an essential witness; that the General Assembly passed an Act preventing his attendance; the case was adjourned in consequence and eventually lost, at a considerable cost, which he attributes to his not being able to attend. He prays that relief may be granted him.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having made inquiry into the case of the petitioner, are of opinion that he has no claim against the colony for a refund of his legal costs in the matter complained of.

3rd August, 1881.

No. 196.—Petition of JAMES JOHNSTON, of Hampden.

THE petitioner states that he resides in Hampden, that he is a cattle-dealer; that in the year 1878 Eugene O'Connor claimed some cattle belonging to petitioner, and obtained an award for £93 7s. against him; that in January, 1879, O'Connor's lost cattle were found, yet, notwithstanding this fact, judgment was given against the petitioner in the District Court, Westport, for £185, on O'Connor's evidence alone; that there was a malicious prosecution against the petitioner, and he prays that the case may be reopened, or compensation granted.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having reconsidered the case of the petitioner, are of opinion that a gross miscarriage of justice has arisen, owing to the fact that an indictment issued by the Crown Prosecutor, S. M. South, was signed in blank, and the prosecution for perjury broke down. The alleged losses the petitioner has sustained, in consequence, the Committee cannot see its way to admit as any claim against the colony, but recommend that a sum of £50 be paid him to pay his costs in attending the Committee. The Committee direct the attention of the Government to the gross irregularity of the Crown Prosecutor in issuing the indictment.

3rd August, 1881.

No. 17.—Petition of ROBERT STUDHOLME THOMPSON (No. 1).

THE petitioner states that he was Native interpreter under Colonel Roberts; that in pursuance of his duties he was compelled to purchase two horses, and provided forage for the same; his pay was promised to be increased, which promise was not carried out. In 1880 he was dismissed, and no reason stated for his dismissal; he therefore prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, having inquired into the case of the petitioner, the Committee are of opinion that he has no claim against the colony for compensation.

4th August, 1881.

No. 113.—Petition of JAMES HAMBLYN, of New Plymouth.

THE petitioner states that he was a private in the Taranaki Volunteers; that he was wounded in action at Rua Rua, from which it was necessary to amputate his right arm, for which he received a pension of 2s. 2d. per diem, and prays to be allowed a pension of 3s. per diem in lieu thereof.

I am directed to report that, as it appears from evidence before the Committee that the petitioner receives the highest pension allowed in the grade in which he is classed, the Committee cannot recommend a further increase.

4th August, 1881.

No. 114.—Petition of A. EICHARDT and Others, of Christchurch.

THE petitioners pray that no increased fees may be levied under the Licensing Bill before the House.

No. 140.—Petition of WILLIAM WRIGHT and Others, of Christchurch.

THE petitioners pray that bottle licenses be not abolished.

No. 159.—Petition of NEILL AND Co. and Others of Dunedin.

THE petitioners pray that bottle licenses be not abolished.

No. 160.—Petition of C. B. ROBIN and other Good Templars.

THE petitioners pray for local option.

No. 217.—Petition of the BISHOP of CHRISTCHURCH and Others (No. 1)

THE petitioners pray that certain clauses be introduced into the Licensing Bill.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of these petitions having been dealt with by the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

4th August, 1881.

No. 139.—Petition of W A. SUBRITZKY, of Awanui.

THE petitioner states that one of his sons picked up some articles from the "Janus" wrecked at Awanui Heads; that, although he received permission from the captain to do so, and there was no concealment of the goods so picked up, he was proceeded against and fined. He prays that the House will cause an inquiry into the conduct of the Justices, who tried the case in a vindictive spirit, and return him the amount of fine and expenses.

I am directed to report that the Committee find a difficulty in dealing with this case, owing to the impossibility of getting direct evidence during the session, and therefore recommend the Government to make a searching inquiry into the matter, with a view of ascertaining whether the petitioner has been harshly dealt with.

4th August, 1881.

No. 149.—Petition of TRUSTEES of MAUNGAKARAMEA HIGHWAY DISTRICT.

THE petitioners pray for an improved form of local government.

No. 151.—Petition of W EVANS and Others, of Cambridge.

THE petitioners state that they are in favor of the Town Districts Bill.

No. 190.—Petition of A. BROWN and Others, of East Gore.

THE petitioners pray that East Gore may not be constituted a municipality

I am directed to report that, these matters being questions of local-government policy, the Committee refer them to the Government for consideration.

4th August, 1881.

No. 152.—Petition of THOMAS BLACK, of Opotiki.

THE petitioner states that, during the war in 1845, his property was plundered and buildings burnt down by armed bodies of rebel natives, from which he suffered great loss; and prays that his claims may be considered, and compensation granted.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having considered this claim, cannot recommend it to the favorable consideration of the House.

4th August, 1881.

No. 156.—Petition of FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES (No. 2).

THE petitioners pray that amendments may be made in the Fire Brigades and Fire Prevention Bill.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of this petition having been dealt with by the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

4th August, 1881.

No. 187.—Petition of the SYNOD of the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of OTAGO and SOUTHLAND.

THE petitioners pray that the Bible may be re-introduced into the public schools.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having made a recommendation to the House on the subject-matter of this petition, have no further recommendation to make.

4th August, 1881.

No. 192.—Petition of W G. REES and Others.

THE petitioners pray that sheep dogs may not be taxed.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the prayer of the petitioners to the favorable consideration of the House.

4th August, 1881.

No. 193.—Petition of C. H. CANHAM and Others, of Auckland.

THE petitioners pray that no change may be made in the constitution of the Board of Governors of the Auckland College and Grammar School.

I am directed to report that the petition, though purporting to be signed by 1,274 persons, is in the terms of the Standing Orders informal, as there is not a single signature on the petition itself, the signatures being on separate sheets pasted on to the petition. Under these circumstances the Committee cannot entertain the petition.

4th August, 1881.

No. 208.—Petition of the BISHOP of DUNEDIN and Others.

THAT the Gaming and Lotteries Bill may pass.

No. 232.—Petition of GEORGE BROADBENT and other Residents of Dunedin.
In favour of the Gaming and Lotteries Bill.

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 special recommendation.
4th August, 1881.

No. 233.—Petition of EDWARD SMETHURST, of Kaiapoi.

THE petitioner prays that sand, grit, or gravel may be carried on the railways at an uniform rate.

I am directed to report that the Committee refer the petition to the Government for consideration.
4th August, 1881.

No. 100.—Petition of CHRISTIAN BLUCHER, WILLIAM BLUCHER, and GUSTAVE BLUCHER,
of Dairy Flat, Waitemata.

THE petitioners state that they reside at Dairy Flat, Waitemata; that on the 1st August, 1880, William and Gustave Blucher were arrested on suspicion of stealing a bull, and confined in gaol, bail being refused; that after seven days the case was withdrawn, without giving the petitioners the chance to vindicate their honor and good name, and they pray the House to grant them redress.

I am directed to report that, having inquired into the case of the petitioners, and obtained the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown, the Committee find that they have a remedy at law if they can prove that a prosecution was improperly commenced against them for the commission of an indictable offence of which they were innocent. The Committee cannot therefore recommend the prayer of the petition to the favourable consideration of the House.

5th August, 1881.

No. 205.—Petition of STEPHENS AND STEPHENS.

THE petitioners, by their agent Mr. William Hunter Reynolds, state that they petitioned the House last session, asking redress on behalf of the persons interested in the will of the late James Schoefield Douglas; that one Edward Francis Ward, Registrar of the Supreme Court of Dunedin, by order of the Court, was appointed trustee of the estate; that the said trustee left Otago without rendering an account; that the petition was referred to the Public Petitions Committee, and it was reported on as follows:—"That, taking into consideration the fact, that the Registrar of the Supreme Court was appointed trustee without the usual bond for the proper performance of his duty, the Committee are of opinion that the Government cannot divest itself of moral responsibility, and recommend that the Crown Prosecutor be instructed to take action against the said Edward Francis Ward, on behalf of Jane Douglas, to recover the property which appears to be misappropriated." That during the recess the Government have been frequently appealed to to give effect to the above report, which has not yet been done. The petitioner now prays that further action may be taken.

I am directed to report that it appears, from the evidence before the Committee, that money to the amount of at least £1,226 has been received by Edward Francis Ward, as trustee for the estate of the late James Schoefield Douglas, and that no account whatever has been furnished by him to the Supreme Court, as ordered by Mr. Justice Chapman on the 5th day of September, 1873, to be made on or before the 10th August, 1874, and therefore there appears a *prima facie* case of misappropriation of the estate. The Committee are of opinion that it was clearly the duty of the Registrar of the Supreme Court at Dunedin to see that the order of the Court was complied with; this duty not having been performed by their officer, the Government cannot escape responsibility in the matter. The Committee therefore recommend the Government to instruct the Registrar of the Supreme Court at Dunedin to take action against Edward Francis Ward, to cause him to furnish a true account of his administration of the estate of the late James Schoefield Douglas, and that, failing the furnishing of any satisfactory account of his administration, to take such further action as may be deemed advisable in the public interest.

9th August, 1881.

No. 45.—Petition of HECTOR MCNEIL CAMPBELL.

THE petitioner states that he was employed as Sheep Inspector in the Poverty Bay District; that a charge was preferred against him, by Mr. Poynter, of insobriety, upon which he was suspended, and told that if he resigned he would be reappointed in a short time; upon this promise he resigned, and that such promise made twelve months since has not been fulfilled. He prays that the House will inquire into the charge made against him, and make such recommendation as may seem meet.

I am directed to report that, having made inquiry into the petitioner's case, the Committee do not see any sufficient cause to recommend that the decision of the Government be departed from; but as it appears that some promise was made to him, that his application for re-employment would be considered if his conduct for the next twelve months would justify it, the Committee recommend the Government to give such employment when opportunity offers, if the conditions under which the promise was given have been complied with.

9th August, 1881.

No. 141.—Petition of G. KINGE and Others, Dairymen, of Christchurch.

THE petitioners state that a tax is proposed to be imposed upon the dairymen of Christchurch, and pray the House will resist the imposition of the proposed tax, as it will prove ruinous to them.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the House should deal with the subject-matter of the petition during the present session.

11th August, 1881.

No. 155.—Petition of Mrs. ANNIE CLERY

THE petitioner states that she was left a widow with four children, in 1878, totally unprovided for; that her late husband served the colony actively as a military settler from 1861 to 1867, and that in 1874 he was grievously wounded whilst marking at the butts in his capacity of sergeant; that in 1878 he died from the effects of the wound, and she prays for compensation and consideration for her fatherless children.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that, taking into consideration the fact that the petitioner's late husband rendered good service to the colony in the field during the Native disturbances on the West Coast during Tito Kowaru's war, and that he subsequently received a dangerous wound at the rifle butts at the Thames, whilst on duty, the petitioner is entitled to some compassionate allowance, and recommend the Government to place the sum of £100 on the Supplementary Estimates for that purpose.

11th August, 1881.

No. 133.—Petition of WILLIAM WHITE, of Christchurch.

THE petitioner states that he was owner of Lot 98, Timaru; that the said lot was taken in 1876 by the Government for public purposes; that he received no notice of such intention, and had sold the land for £90, but could not give a title. He prays that relief may be given him, as he has suffered loss through no fault of his own.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having made further inquiry into the case of the petitioner, see no sufficient reason to alter the decision arrived at during last session.

11th August, 1881.

No. 58.—Petition of CHARLES FEATHERSTONE MITCHELL, of the Thames.

THE petitioner states that he supplied goods to the Natives in the Thames District, on the authority of Mr. Mackay, the said Natives being the owners of the Piako block of land, and that, on the authority of the Native Minister, Mr. Sheehan, he made further advances to the said Natives, amounting in all to £304, which claim remains unsettled. He prays that the House will make inquiry into the case, and grant him relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having inquired into the case of the petitioner, are of opinion that he has no claim on the Government.

11th August, 1881.

No. 90.—Petition of GEORGE PHIPPS WILLIAMS, of Christchurch.

THE petitioner states that he was in the employ of the Public Works Department as Resident Engineer, and that he temporarily resigned his appointment in 1873, and made application shortly after and was reappointed; that he received notice in June, 1878, without any previous intimation, that his services would be dispensed with after the 30th September of that year. He submits that he is entitled to compensation for removal from his office, and prays the House to grant him compensation.

I am directed to report that, as it appears the petitioner resigned his appointment in 1873, and was afterwards reappointed temporarily and his services subsequently dispensed with on the reduction of the service, the Committee do not consider that the petitioner has any claim for compensation.

11th August, 1881.

No. 210.—Petition of S. W. ALCORN and I. GRAVES, of Wellington.

THE petitioners state that on the representations of Mrs. Nicholas (two of whose children were killed by the accident on the railway at the Rimutaka), they supplied her with mourning to the value of £55 13s. 6d., believing the Government would liquidate the claim, which has not been done. They pray the amount may be placed on the Estimates.

I am directed to report that, having made careful inquiry into the case, the Committee are of opinion that, whatever the merits of any claim of the Nicholas family may be for consideration on account of the Rimutaka accident, the petitioners have no claim on the colony for payment of accounts incurred by Mrs. Nicholas which were not authorized by the Government.

12th August, 1881.

No. 4.—Petition of WILLIAM BLEWDEN, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was contractor for the formation and drainage of the Newmarket sites, Auckland; that he encountered a large quantity of rock, although he and other contractors were informed by the Assistant Engineer that there was no rock whatever; and that he was put to an additional expense of £1,500 in consequence.

I am directed to report the Committee are of opinion that it was the duty of the contractor to examine the ground, and satisfy himself as to its nature before tendering, and therefore he has no claim against the colony for alleged loss sustained in carrying out his contract with the Government.

17th August, 1881.

No. 101.—Petition of JOHN CODLING, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that in June, 1879, the Hon. J. Sheehan, Native Minister, directed him to supply the Native chief Te Wheoro and his friends with board and lodging, and also to supply Rewi and others with a special dinner, and charge the same to the Government; that his account for these expenses, amounting to £74 2s., has not been paid, although repeated applications have been made for payment. He therefore prays the House to grant him relief.

I am directed to report that, having carefully considered all the circumstances connected with this case, the Committee are of opinion that the account should be paid, as it appears the liability was incurred by Major Te Wheoro as an officer of the Government, and approved by the Native Minister, the Hon. Mr. Sheehan.

17th August, 1881.

No. 102.—Petition of JOHN B. BEECHE, of Reefton.

THE petitioner states that in October, 1880, he commenced an action against a mining company at Reefton; that his case had just been opened when the Judge, Mr. Weston, stated his commission would expire on the following day; in consequence his case was adjourned, by which he sustained a loss of £66 18s., having retained counsel and procured witnesses from a long distance. He prays the House to grant him the above sum as compensation.

I am directed to report the Committee are of opinion that, though the petitioner's case appears to be one of some hardship, he has no claim for compensation against the colony

17th August, 1881.

No. 175.—Petition of R. T. DOUGLAS, of the Thames.

THE petitioner states that in October, 1879, Mr. James Mackay, as Government Agent, ordered board and lodging for Natives; that Mr. M. Hayman supplied the same to the extent of £25 4s.; that the petitioner paid to Mr. Hayman, who was leaving for England, the above sum, upon the assurance that upon receipt of authority to collect and order to receive Treasury cheque, the amount would be paid by the Native Department, which has not been done; he therefore prays that the House will cause the said amount to be paid.

I am directed to report the Committee are of opinion that, as this liability was incurred by a Government officer, and certified to him as having been required on the public service of the Native Department, the account should be paid; and the Committee are further of opinion that the power of Government officers to bind the Government to engagements of this character should be more strictly defined for public information.

17th August, 1881.

No. 146.—Petition of WILLIAM SALMOND and Others, of Dunedin.

IN favour of religion being taught in schools.

No. 221.—Petition of the BISHOP of CHRISTCHURCH and Others (No. 2).

IN favour of religious teaching in schools.

I am directed to report that, the subject-matter of these petitions having been dealt with by the Committee, they have no further recommendation to make.

19th August, 1881.

No. 281.—Petition of J. ELMSLIE and Others, of Christchurch.

THE petitioners state that they rejoice that legal steps are proposed to be taken for the suppression of gambling by the Gaming and Lotteries Bill now before the House, and pray that it may become law

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

19th August, 1881.

No. 258.—Petition of the LAW SOCIETY of Taranaki.

THEY pray that apprenticeship be a necessary qualification for a legal practitioner.

No. 267.—Petition of GEORGE HARPER and Others, of Christchurch.

OBJECTING to legal profession being thrown open to anyone without sufficient training.

No. 278.—Petition of GORDON ALLAN and Others, of Wellington.

THAT persons should be trained before admitted as solicitors.

I am directed to report that, the Legislature having already dealt with the subject-matter of these petitions, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

19th August, 1881.

No. 247.—Petition of Mrs. HONORA BOHANNA, of Port Chalmers.

THE petitioner states that she is the only surviving sister and relative of Michael McNamara, and that he died in hospital at Rockhampton, in the Colony of Queensland, unmarried and intestate; that at the time of his death he was possessed of two allotments of land in the Province of Auckland; that the petitioner received a letter from her brother, in which he mentioned that he left her all his property, which letter has been lost. She prays that the House will direct the Crown grants to be delivered to her.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend the prayer of the petitioner to the favourable consideration of the Government.

19th August, 1881.

No. 240.—Petition of R. J. SEDDON and Others, of Westland.

THE petitioners pray that jetty at Jackson's Bay may be completed by the Government.

No. 261.—Petition of J WILSON and Others, of Auckland.

THE petitioners pray that road may be made to Pakiri Block.

No. 257.—Petition of J M. ROBSON and Others, of Ohinemuri.

THE petitioners pray that there may be telegraphic communication through the Township of Paeroa.

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

19th August, 1881.

No. 182.—Petition of SOPHIA KIDD, of Hinton.

THE petitioner states that in 1870 the Provincial Government of Southland owed Thomas McNalty the sum of £36 8s., and that the said debt was made over to her husband, half of which sum was paid to him; that her husband died in 1872; and that the balance of the above amount has not been paid; and she prays that the amount due may be paid forthwith.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion, from the evidence before them, that there is remaining unpaid a balance of the original sum of £36 8s. due to Thomas McNalty, and transferred to John Kidd, £18 4s.; and the Committee recommend the amount be paid to the petitioner, if, after inquiry, she be found entitled to it.

19th August, 1881.

No. 153.—Petition from J E. BOREL, of Tauranga.

THE petitioner states that he resided at Rangiawhia, Waikato in the year 1863, and, in consequence of the Native rebellion, sustained serious pecuniary loss amounting to £850. He prays that his case may receive favourable consideration.

I am directed to report that the subject-matter of this petition appears to be one for the Government to inquire into and to initiate action, if, on prior inquiry, the claims for loss sustained by individuals during the war of 1863 are entitled to consideration.

19th August, 1881.

No. 275.—Petition of F B. LLOYD and Co., of Christchurch.

THE petitioners state that they are saw-millers, coal and timber merchants, at the South Belt, Christchurch, and are the lessees of No. 4 railway siding; that they have extended their premises to property on the opposite side of the road, and wish to extend the railway siding, which has been refused by the Railway Department; and they pray the House to grant them relief.

I am directed to report that it appears, from the evidence before the Committee, that the department is willing to grant an extension of the siding if the petitioners provide a guarantee that not more than 120 trucks a month are required, and that no compensation be granted in the event of the extension being closed by the department. Under these circumstances the Committee consider the application be granted, subject to the conditions above named.

23rd August, 1881.

No. 120.—Petition of JOHN KELLY, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that certain lands in the Waitakerei District were granted to him by the Crown; that 1,118 acres of the said land were claimed by one Allan O'Neill, who commenced an action in the Supreme Court to recover possession of the said land, and judgment was given in favour of the said Allan O'Neill on the ground that it had been previously granted to him; that petitioner then petitioned the House in 1871, and the Public Petitions Committee reported "that the amount of compensation should be ascertained by some impartial person to be appointed by the Government;" that the award so made of £10,658 18s. 6d. was referred to the Public Petitions Committee in 1872, and they reported that he was entitled to the sum of £936; he then petitioned the House in 1873, being dissatisfied with the amount awarded to him, when the Public Petitions Committee reported "that they saw no reason to depart from their recommendation to the House during the last session of Parliament;" that he has made constant applications for payment of the money awarded to him by the Commissioner, but without success; that he has been put to great loss of time and money and has suffered great trouble and anxiety of mind. He prays the House will grant him relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having made further inquiries into the petitioner's case, can see no reason to alter the decision arrived at by the Committee in 1872—viz., that he be awarded £926 as a final settlement of his claim.

5th September, 1881.

No. 325.—Petition of RICHARD DAVID MANEY, of Hawke's Bay

THE petitioner states that he acquired certain interests in lands known as Waihou Block, Ruakitire Block, Taramarama Block, Tukurangi Block, and Hangaroa Block; that an agreement was entered into between himself and Mr. Ormond, the Government Agent, under which he was to assist the Government in negotiating with the Native proprietors for the lease or purchase of the said lands, and to convey and assign to the Government Agent all his interest and goodwill in the said lands, in consideration of which he was to receive from time to time a commission proportionate to the area so leased or conveyed; the sum of £3,000 being fixed as the aggregate amount to be paid to the petitioner if and when the whole of the lands described in the schedules, and consisting of 342,120 acres, shall have been so leased or conveyed to the Government; the Government shall pay to the petitioner the value of any improvement which may have been made by him upon the said lands, also a sum of

£3,000, in consideration of which the Government shall be entitled to the full benefit of all advances made by the petitioner to the Native proprietors. That the sum of £5,500 has been paid to the petitioner, and he claims £1,200 as a final settlement, viz., £500, balance of the £6,000, and £700 for improvements, which amount has been refused him by the Government. He prays the House will grant him compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having carefully considered the petitioner's claim, are of opinion that the sum offered by the Government—namely, £500—is a fair settlement of the petitioner's case.

5th September, 1881.

No. 180.—Petition of C. H. LONDON, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that she is a Native schoolteacher; that in 1876 herself and sister were appointed as teachers to the Lower Waihou School; they arrived at Hokianga in December of that year, where they were kept five months waiting for instructions; that the school was not opened until May, 1877; that she did not receive salary from the period of her appointment and the opening of the school (seven months), and was not allowed the expenses usually allowed in such cases; that no salary was sent for her sister, therefore she refused to take her own; that she applied to be removed to another school, which was assented to, but was requested to continue three months longer at the Lower Waihou School, which she consented to do; that a severe fever broke out in the school, when it was closed in consequence. That another teacher was appointed and she removed from the school, believing that, as three new schools were being erected, herself and sister would get one, but after a time these vacancies were filled up, and she has not received another appointment; that she will suffer loss, as she had purchased a property, intending to pay for it by monthly instalments. She therefore prays the House will take a favourable view of her case.

I am directed to report that, having carefully considered the evidence bearing on the case, the Committee are of opinion the petitioner and her sister are entitled to the following sums, namely: For back pay up to May, 1877, £50; cost of buildings erected, £6 11s. 6d.; travelling expenses from Auckland to Hokianga and back, and boat-hire, £8 10s.; compensation in lieu of official notice of services being dispensed with, £50: total, £115 1s. 6d.

The Committee are of opinion that, in the event of any suitable vacancies arising in any public school under the control of the Government, the claim of the petitioner and her sister to be reappointed should receive favourable consideration. The Committee also express their most decided opinion that very great carelessness has been shown by the Native School Department in connection with the appointment of these teachers, and recommend that all communications affecting the position of any employé under the Government should be in writing direct to them.

7th September, 1881.

No. 290.—Petition of VINCENT COUNTY COUNCIL.

THE petitioners state that, under "The Financial Arrangements Act, 1876," certain revenues were secured to counties; that, relying on the authority of this Act, the Vincent County Council undertook large public works; that subsequently "The Financial Arrangements Amendment Act, 1880," deprived the counties of subsidies and land fund, which renders them unable to complete the erection of a bridge over the Molyneux at Alexandra, the contract for which was entered into in 1878; that the bridge, which will cost about £20,000, would never have been undertaken had any idea existed that they would have been deprived of the subsidy and land fund; that a sum of £3,000 is required to complete the structure; and they pray the House to take the matter into its favourable consideration and grant them relief.

I am directed to report that, although admitting that the general policy of the Legislature has to some extent disturbed the financial arrangements of the Vincent County Council, in common with other counties and boroughs throughout the colony, the Committee cannot recommend any special aid in this case which cannot be extended to all other local bodies similarly situated; and, as it appears that the Local-Government Bills now before the House have been introduced by the Government to deal with such cases, the Committee recommend that special power be given to the county to borrow, failing the passing of the Local-Government Bills.

7th September, 1881.

No. 263.—Petition of CHARLES MACK, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that in 1868 he was wrongfully imprisoned on a charge of smuggling tobacco; that he has several times petitioned the House; and now prays for redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee see no reason to alter former decision in this case.

8th September, 1881.

No. 309.—Petition of J. R. KIDD and Others, of Invercargill.

THE petitioners pray that the House will favourably consider the desirableness of constructing the proposed line of railway from Invercargill *via* the Seaward Bush to the Toitoto.

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

8th September, 1881.

No. 26.—Petition of DAVID MILLAR, of Roslyn, Dunedin.

(Referred back to the Committee by resolution of the House, 22nd July, 1881.)

THE petitioner states that his son, William, entered the Government Railway Workshops, Dunedin, in January, 1877, as an apprentice; that no indentures were prepared, although often applied for; that

new rules were put in force in 1880, which provided that apprentices who pass the Junior Service Examination shall be taken into the draughtsman's office as cadets; that petitioner always considered his son under the rules of apprenticeship existing at the time of his entering the service, and that his son had always conformed to such rules and regulations, but has been unable to obtain his indentures; and prays that his case may receive favourable consideration.

I am directed to report that there is evidence before the Committee that the department intended to take the petitioner's son as an apprentice; that with this understanding the lad entered the workshops, and in that capacity has continued there. The Committee therefore recommend that the Government take the petitioner's case into favourable consideration.

8th September, 1881.

No. 251.—Petition of JOHN McLEAN, of Wellington.

THE petitioner states that in June, 1878, the Patea County Council called for tenders for work to be performed on the Mountain Road; that he obtained a contract, and performed extra work, amounting to £500, which the Council refused to pay; that he took an action in the District Court, when a verdict was given for the Council. He therefore prays the House will inquire into his case, and grant him relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion the petitioner has no claim for compensation against the colony

8th September, 1881.

No. 161.—Petition of J NEWELL and Others, of Waikato.

THE petitioners state that the bridge over the Waikato River is a great boon and advantage to the four Counties of Waikato, Waipa, Raglan, and Piako; that heavy tolls are levied thereon; that the bridge cost £10,000, out of which Government paid £3,000; and they pray that the sum of £7,000 may be placed on the estimates to free the bridge from tolls.

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

8th September, 1881.

No. 167.—Petition of GEORGE LENDRUM and Others, of Auckland.

THE petitioners state that they are cabmen, of Auckland, and suffer great annoyance from the by-laws passed by the Corporation; and pray for relief.

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

8th September, 1881.

No. 154.—Petition of WILLIAM REID, of Wanganui.

THE petitioner states that he was under the necessity of proceeding against John Belk in the Resident Magistrate's Court at Palmerston for possession of a small piece of land at Feilding, and complains that Mr. Ward, R.M., accepted as sureties two men who were notoriously without means, which resulted in a loss to him of not less than £200, including £130 costs. He prays the House will grant him relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee can see no sufficient reason to alter the decision arrived at during the last session, when the petitioner's case was fully considered.

9th September, 1881.

No. 265.—Petition of JOHN MACKAY, of Mount Stuart.

THE petitioner states that in 1871 he was deprived of his appointment as Inspector of Depasturing Licenses on the gold fields of Otago, and prays that compensation may be granted him.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion the petitioner has no claim on the colony for compensation.

9th September, 1881.

No. 189.—Petition of FRANCIS WALLACE MACKENZIE.

THE petitioner states that he is a landowner in Otago; that he agreed to give the portion of land owned by him and required for the Tapanui-Waipahi Railway, believing the land would be fenced and no necessary damage permitted. He complains that his fencing was destroyed, in consequence of which he sustained damage and annoyance, and that the contractors have not acted up to their contract in the matter of fencing. He therefore prays the House will take his case into consideration, and grant him relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion, after fully considering all the circumstances of the case, that the petitioner has no claim for compensation against the colony

9th September, 1881.

No. 284.—Petition of THOMAS BUTLER, of Nelson.

THAT in the year 1877 he petitioned the House on the ground of being wrongfully unlawfully, and clandestinely evicted from the Civil Service. Since then he has addressed petition after petition to the House without success, and he now prays the House to cause a strict inquiry to be made into the whole matter.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that there is no further necessity to make inquiry into petitioner's case, as the matter has already been fully inquired into and finally dealt with by the Committee.

9th September, 1881.

No. 215.—Petition of JAMES DAVIDSON DAVIS, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he is an undergraduate of the New Zealand University; that being engaged in earning a livelihood during the day, he pursues the required course of study at night, and made application for the necessary exemption from attendance, which is expressly provided for in section 2 of regulation for B.A. degree; that the Chancellor refused to grant your petitioner's application, and thus made it compulsory on all undergraduates to come to the University for tuition. He prays that exemption from attendance at lectures be granted him on the ground of his being engaged in earning a livelihood during the day, so that after the lapse of the stipulated period of time there may be no bar to his taking the degree of B.A.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner's case be referred to the Government for immediate and favourable consideration.

9th September, 1881.

No. 312.—Petition of CHARLES FRANCE, M.R.C.S., Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he was appointed Medical Officer to the Wellington Lunatic Asylum by the Superintendent of the province in November, 1861; that on the abolition of the provinces he wished to take his compensation, but was retained in office; that his office was abolished in June, 1881, by the appointment of a Resident Medical Superintendent, when, on application for compensation, he was informed "compensation would only be granted for his services under the General Government," although he had previously been informed "he would be continued in office, and that his services would be continuous." He therefore prays that compensation may be granted to him.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that under the circumstances the petitioner is entitled to the allowance granted for loss of office under "The Abolition of Provinces Act, 1875."

13th September, 1881.

No. 188.—Petition of A. B. JACKSON, of Greytown.

THE petitioner states that on the 11th September, 1880, he was a passenger by the Government railway from Greytown to Wellington, and, when ascending the Rimutaka incline, the carriage containing himself and others was thrown off the line into the gully below, by which he was seriously injured and bruised; that he was for sometime confined to his bed, and for a still further period unable to work at his trade as a saddler; that he still suffers to a great extent, and is incapable of supporting his family as hitherto; that the Government paid him £20, but that such an amount is totally inadequate to the injury received. He prays for compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion the petitioner is entitled to the amount claimed from the Government, namely, £147 7s. 8d., in addition to the sum already paid as compensation, in full of all claims against the colony on account of injuries received at the Rimutaka railway accident.

14th September, 1881.

No. 230.—Petition of ELIZABETH PYE, of Wellington.

THE petitioner states that she sustained severe bodily injury and considerable loss and damage to her furniture by the railway accident at the Rimutaka; that she made a claim against the Government for £30, and received a cheque for £5; at the same time was informed that it was all that would be given her. She prays that the House will grant her the compensation applied for.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to the amount claimed, namely, £37, less £5 already paid.

14th September, 1881.

No. 231.—Petition of HENRY HARDINGTON, of Onehunga.

THE petitioner states that on very many occasions during a period of thirty-eight years, both as a private colonist and military officer, he has been of great service to the Government, and prays the House will take his case into favourable consideration and grant him relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having read the petition with much interest, are gratified to find that the petitioner has performed so many valuable services for the colony, but the Committee cannot see their way to recommend the granting of any special reward for such services.

14th September, 1881.

No. 260.—Petition of ROBERT HARE, of Masterton.

THE petitioner states that on the 10th September, 1880, he was a passenger from Featherston to Wellington by the railway train which met with a severe accident at the Rimutaka incline; that he was seriously injured, and, in consequence, suffered pecuniary losses and privations. He prays the House will take his case into consideration and grant him relief.

I am directed to report that the petitioner is entitled to the sum of £80, in full of all claims against the colony, on account of injuries received at the Rimutaka railway accident.

14th September, 1881.

No. 276.—Petition of H. SCOTT and Others, of Dunedin.

THE petitioners pray that the House will sanction the passing into law of the Gaming and Lotteries Bill.

No. 282.—Petition of W WILSON and Others, of Canterbury.

THE petitioners pray that the House will be pleased to reject the clauses in The Gaming and Lotteries Bill with reference to the suppression of consultations on racing events.

I am directed to report that, the House having already dealt with the subject-matter of these petitions, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

14th September, 1881.

No. 285.—Petition of R. J. FELTUS, of Auckland (No. 3)

THE petitioner states that the Bank of New Zealand, through the Mercantile Association of the said institution, has been endeavouring to stop the poorer classes and others from acquiring land. He prays the House to grant relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion the petition is one of a character that ought not to have been received by the House.

14th September, 1881.

No. 345.—Petition of R. J. FELTUS, of Auckland (No. 4)

THE petitioner states that land is virtually given away, whilst the sons of old colonists have not an acre. He prays for relief.

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

14th September, 1881.

No. 354.—Petition of C. C. GRAHAM and Others, of Karori.

THE petitioners pray that they may not be separated from the county which has hitherto formed the Wellington Country Electoral District, but continue to be part of the same electoral district as at present constituted.

No. 339.—Petition of WILLIAM FLESHER and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the House will extend the boundary of the Stanmore District so as to include Sections 325, 182, 197, and the eastern portion of Section 41, in the Avon District, in the County of Selwyn.

I am directed to report that, the Representation Bill having passed the House, these petitions should be referred to the Government for immediate consideration.

14th September, 1881.

No. 337.—Petition of J. E. F. COYLE, of Dunedin (No. 2).

THE petitioner states that he presented to the House during its present session a petition having reference to certain claims arising out of survey contract No. 13, Canterbury Provincial District; that he has now made application for payment in accordance with the provisions of the contract, but the Surveyor-General has declined to recognize his claim. He prays, therefore, the House will consider his claim and afford him relief.

I am directed to report that, as it appears the petitioner has a claim against the Government, such claim should be submitted to arbitration in the usual way

15th September, 1881.

No. 341.—Petition of ROBERT KING and Others, of Bay of Plenty

THE petitioners pray that the subsidy hitherto paid to the s.s. "Staffa," plying between Opotiki, Whakatane, Tauranga and other ports, may be continued.

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

15th September, 1881.

No. 297.—Petition of MATAKOHE and Other ROAD BOARDS.

THE petitioners pray that "The Counties Act, 1876," be abolished in Road Board districts, and that "The Rating Act, 1876," be amended by giving ratepayers at their annual meetings the option of rating by acreage or valuation.

I am directed to report that, as the petition refers to a matter of public policy, it should be referred to the Government for their consideration in any alterations they may contemplate in the Local-Government Acts.

15th September, 1881.

No. 313.—Petition of R. C. REID and Others, of Hokitika.

THE petitioners state that they have heard the Government do not intend to subsidize a monthly steam service between Hokitika and Jackson's Bay, and pray the House will direct that a monthly steam service be subsidized between Hokitika and Jackson's Bay

I am directed to report that the petition be referred to the Government.

15th September, 1881.

No. 316.—Petition of JAMES GAMMACK and Others, of Canterbury

THE petitioners pray that an Act may be passed by the House enabling Road Boards to levy a rate for the destruction of small birds.

I am directed to report that, the matter to which the petitioner refers having been dealt with by the House, the Committee do not think it necessary to make any recommendation.

15th September, 1881.

No. 300.—Petition of WILLIAM SCOTT and Others, of Otago.

THE petitioners pray that sheep-dogs may be exempt from the dog-tax.

No. 301.—Petition of R. A. PATTEN and Others, of Otago.

THE petitioners pray that sheep-dogs may be exempt from the dog-tax.

I am directed to report that, the subject to which these petitions refer being now under consideration by the House, the Committee do not think it necessary to make any recommendation.

15th September, 1881.

No. 317.—Petition of ALEXANDER ROBERT LIVINGSTON, of Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that he is Chairman of the School Committee of the City of Dunedin; that, as the present method of electing School Committees is highly unsatisfactory, he prays the House will amend the Education Act so that School Committees may be elected in the same manner as Town Councils.

I am directed to report that, as the matter is one affecting public policy, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

15th September, 1881.

No. 321.—Petition of PETER AITCHISON, of Awamoko.

THE petitioner states that the Waikoura Stream (which is a public drain within the meaning of "The Public Works Act, 1876") flows through the petitioner's land; that he has been annually subjected to great loss through the drain not being improved, which the Waitaki County Council refuse to do. He therefore prays that the law may be amended so as to compel County Councils to do this work.

I am directed to report that the subject-matter of this petition has been dealt with by the House, and a remedy provided by the Drainage Bill for such cases as those of the petitioner.

15th September, 1881.

No. 328.—Petition of JOSEPH TAYLOR and Others, of Brunnerton.

THE petitioners pray that a telegraph station, post office, savings bank, money-order office, and postal delivery may be established at Brunnerton; that the toll on the railway bridge may be abolished; that fares on the railway may be reduced; and that a site may be reserved for a cemetery.

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

16th September, 1881.

No. 330.—Petition of T F FOUNTAIN and Others, of Woodville.

THE petitioners state that the people of the district are suffering great hardship, inconvenience, and loss on account of the difficulty of crossing the Manawatu River at the lower ferry; they pray that the House will cause a sum to be placed on the estimates for building a bridge over the Manawatu at the lower ferry.

I am directed to report that the Committee refer the case of the petitioners to the favourable consideration of the Government.

16th September, 1881.

No. 331.—Petition of A. J. RENNER.

THE petitioner states that he was employed by the New Zealand Government for seven years as telegraph operator; that he, in conjunction with ninety-two other operators, struck work, in consequence of which his services were dispensed with; that he went to the Australian Colonies and sought employment in Queensland and New South Wales as a telegraphist, but was refused employment in consequence of information given to the other colonies by the New Zealand Government. He prays the House to grant him relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim for compensation, as the loss he has sustained has been brought about by his own act; but, as he has expressed regret for his conduct, the Committee think he should be reappointed on the conditions offered by the department, when any vacancy occurs.

16th September, 1881.

No. 132.—Petition of WILLIAM WEEDON, of Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that he was about fourteen years in the Government service; that having been afflicted with cancer in the tongue he has been incapacitated for duty. He prays for some consideration for long and faithful service.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petitioner be paid an additional six months' half-pay.

16th September, 1881.

No. 323.—Petition of E. MCCARTHY, of Waitara.

THE petitioner states that he was captain of the "Hannah Mokau" when she was seized and sold by the Government; that at the time there was due to the petitioner the sum of £70 sterling as salary, and, although he applied to the Collector of Customs, the officer appointed to seize the vessel, and was informed that his claim would be considered, he has not yet been paid, although the vessel was seized in 1880.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to the amount due to him for salary as captain of the "Hannah Mokau," and recommend that the money be paid.

16th September, 1881.

No. 306.—Petition of WANGANUI HARBOUR BOARD.

THE petitioners state that the Corporation of Wanganui purchased from the Provincial Government of Wellington the Wanganui Bridge, with the wharf and foreshore; that the Harbour Board took over the responsibility from the Corporation; and that the Government had taken the foreshore for railway purposes, notwithstanding the wharf and foreshore were pledged to the holders of debentures issued by the Corporation of Wanganui to pay for the bridge; that the Board has received no compensation from the Government. They pray the House for redress.

I am directed to report that the equitable claims of the petitioners to the value of the foreshore taken for railway purposes be referred to arbitration, the arbitrators to take into consideration the benefit received by the Harbour Board by the construction of the wharf, the profits of which are received by the Board.

16th September, 1881.

No. 327.—Petition of JOHN SMART, of Wellington.

THE petitioner states that in January, 1878, whilst working as a navvy on the Mungaroa-Rimutaka section of the Wellington-Masterton Railway, he was knocked down by a ballast-engine, and sustained serious damage, and has since had his leg amputated, which has incapacitated him from earning his livelihood as heretofore. He prays the House will grant him relief.

I am directed to report that the petitioner's case be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

16th September, 1881.

No. 329.—Petition of JAMES LINTON and Others.

THE petitioners state there is great danger and inconvenience to the passenger traffic on the South side of the Manawatu and the Borough of Palmerston North, also from Wairarapa and Napier, and great danger in driving stock on the main lines of road which converge at the Manawatu River. They pray the House will place a sum on the estimates which will be sufficient to construct the line of road.

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

16th September, 1881.

No. 239.—Petition of W. M. THOMSON and Others, of Normanby

THE petitioners state that the Government have not placed the railway station on the extension site granted for that purpose, but have placed it on a site far distant from the Normanby extension, and have thereby caused the petitioners serious loss. They pray the House to cause inquiry to be made, and grant them relief.

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

16th September, 1881.

No. 311.—Petition of JOHN QUIGLEY, of Masterton.

THE petitioner states that in 1877 the Inspector of Police delivered into his charge a child of the name of Laffin, with instructions to clothe and feed the child, for which he was to receive 10s. per week, which sum was paid until January, 1879, when notice was given to petitioner that the amount would be 7s. 6d. per week, to be paid by the Wellington Benevolent Society, which amount was paid up to December, 1879; that he has since applied to the Wairarapa West County Council for maintenance, but was refused on the ground that the Council has no available funds for the purpose. He therefore prays the House to make some provision for the maintenance of the child from the 31st December, 1879, and for its future maintenance.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the Government should make a fair payment for the maintenance of the child to date, and that for the future the child should be maintained at the expense of the State, if there is no local body that can be made legally liable.

17th September, 1881.

No. 108.—Petition of A. McCausland, of Hamilton.

THE petitioner states that he was a railway porter in January, 1877, and continued in such service until April, 1879; that on the 29th April of that year he sustained a severe accident at the Invercargill Station when on duty, the engine having knocked him down and passed over his body, through which he had to have one leg amputated; that he has a family, and is now unfit for employment; and prays the House to grant him relief.

I am directed to report that it appears, from the evidence before the Committee, that the petitioner has been offered the position of a point-keeper at 32s. per week, which has been declined; the Committee recommend that the offer be again made if such a position is open; failing the acceptance of this, that the petitioner be paid £50 in full of all claims against the Government.

17th September, 1881.

No. 360.—Petition of JOHN BERRY, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that in 1877 he was employed to assess and value properties in the Ararimu Highway District, and that he has applied to the Treasury for payment of the amount due to him, namely, £11 2s. 4d., and also to the county. The latter refuse payment on the ground that the work was done previous to the Council being gazetted. He prays the House will grant him relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner's claim for services rendered be paid.

17th September, 1881.

No. 225.—Petition of LAVINIA BROWN, of Waitara.

THE petitioner states that her late husband was in the service of the Government; that he insured his life in the Government Assurance Office, in August, 1879; that her late husband left the service in October, 1880, when there was an amount due to him by the Government, and that his life policy would be considered as paid up until the amount so owing was exhausted; that your petitioner's husband having died without being able to communicate with the Insurance Commissioner the said policy was treated as lapsed; that she is left with three children, and utterly destitute. She prays the House to grant her relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee regret that the subject-matter of this petition is one with which it cannot interfere.

17th September, 1881.

No. 178.—Petition of JOHN HENRY SHAW, of Wellington.

THE petitioner states that in 1878, whilst in Melbourne, where he had just been admitted to the Victorian Bar, and was about to proceed to the degree of Doctor of Laws, after some correspondence with the Government, he was induced to come over to New Zealand, and was appointed on his arrival in Wellington, in January, 1879, a Commissioner under "The Reprint of Statutes Act, 1878," at a salary of £250 a year, to be computed from the 1st day of January, 1879, until the completion of the work under the said Act; that at the same time he held the appointment of Assistant Officer; that in 1879 a Bill repealing the above statute was passed, intitled "The Revision of Statutes Act, 1879," which rendered necessary a new Commission; and that when he was absent on leave a new Commission was issued from which he was excluded, the Government stating "that this change arises from no want of appreciation of the services already rendered by you, for which I beg to convey to you the thanks of the Government, but that it is undesirable to weaken the strength of the Crown Law Office." He therefore resigned his appointment of Assistant Law Officer, and preferred a petition of right in the Supreme Court against the colony, claiming damages for a breach of agreement. He further states that judgment was given against him. He also states that the Government has done a grievous wrong to him in his feelings, his professional character, and prospects, and prays the House to grant him redress.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having considered the petitioner's case, are of opinion that he has no claim for compensation against the colony

17th September, 1881.

No. 67.—Petition of ALEXANDER BROGDEN, M.P., HENRY BROGDEN, and JAMES BROGDEN, of the City of Westminster, in England.

THE petitioners claim compensation for losses sustained in connection with the immigration contract entered into by them with the New Zealand Government, and dated the 27th June, 1872, and prays the House will consider their case, and that they may be compensated for the loss they have sustained. For Petition and Evidence, see I-1A.

In dealing with the petitioner's case the Committee have availed themselves of the evidence taken by the Public Works and Immigration Committee of 1873. The Committee have also obtained documentary evidence from the Public Works Department, and fully examined such witnesses as have been submitted for examination by the petitioners. After carefully considering the evidence, and giving due weight to the circumstances under which the immigration contract was entered into, I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioners have no claim against the colony

15th September, 1881.

No. 177.—Petition of JAMES MENNIE, of Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that he was employed on the railway works at Oamaru, and that on the 4th January, 1876, he received an injury to his spine, through which he is incapacitated from any kind of manual labour requiring bodily strength. He states he is unable to perform the duties of gatekeeper or any other light work, and prays that relief may be granted to him.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petitioner be employed at some light work in the Railway Department, when a vacancy occurs.

19th September, 1881.

No. 359.—Petition of GRACE C. HODGE, of Lyttelton.

THE petitioner states that she purchased a piece of land at Lyttelton, and sold a portion, when the Registrar refused to issue the title, which caused a fresh survey, whereby she was put to an expense of £19 18s. 9d., and prays the House to grant her compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner is equitably entitled to the sum of £19 18s. 9d., and recommend that it be paid.

19th September, 1881.

No. 376.—Petition of JUDITH WATKINS, of New Plymouth.

THE petitioner states that her late husband was employed as Accountant to the Land Board and Crown Lands Office of Taranaki; that in May, 1876, he was appointed Deputy-Commissioner of Crown Lands, which he held till the day of his death; that in 1880 his health failed, and in May, 1881, he was allowed six months' leave, on full pay; that he died on the 11th June, 1881, after receiving one month's pay. She has since applied for his provincial service, which has been refused. She therefore prays that compensation may be granted for her late husband's provincial service, and payment made of the unexpired term of sick leave.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the petitioner be paid £100 as an allowance for the term of provincial service, and for the leave of absence on full pay, of which it appears only one month had been paid, to which the petitioner's late husband was entitled.

19th September, 1881.

No. 115.—Petition of JAMES PATERSON, of Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that he was, until the 4th January, 1881, in the employ of the Railway Department, in which service he had been continually for three years; that on the above date his services were dispensed with. He therefore prays that inquiries may be made into the circumstances of his case, and that the House will grant him relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner's grievance is one of a departmental character, with which the Committee do not consider it would be desirable to interfere; but would point out to the Government the necessity of stopping the practice of giving certificates of competency to officers who have been dismissed because they have not performed their duties satisfactorily.

20th September, 1881.

No. 226.—Petition of E. FITZPATRICK and Others.

THE petitioners state that a ferry has been established across the Waipa River at Ngaruawahia, and pray that the road may be opened through the district by bridging the creeks or doing other necessary work.

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

20th September, 1881.

No. 256.—Petition of WILLIAM CARPENTER and Others (No. 2).

THE petitioners pray that the record of the proceedings of the Committee on the Christchurch Election be erased from the Journals of the House.

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

20th September, 1881.

No. 264.—Petition of E. F. JENKINS and Others, of Christchurch.

THE petitioners pray for an inquiry into the existing state of affairs with regard to the Canterbury Engineer Volunteers.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petition be referred to the Government in order that the inquiry the petitioners pray for may be made.

20th September, 1881.

No. 268.—Petition of J. A. O. GIBBES.

THE petitioner states that he was lately an Assistant-Engineer in the Public Works Department; that he joined the service in 1874; and that in November, 1880, he received intimation that his services would be dispensed with after the 31st January, 1881; and that his services were so dispensed with on the ground "of reductions in every possible direction." He prays the House will grant him relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim for loss of office.

20th September, 1881.

No. 189.—Petition of F. C. DEANS and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the Highway District of Parawai be incorporated into and form a ward of the Borough of Thames.

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

20th September, 1881.

No. 296.—Petition of COUNTY COUNCIL and Others, of Amuri.

THE petitioners ask that a sum may be placed on the estimates to provide for the construction of a bridge across the River Wairau at a point known as the Upper Ferry.

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

20th September, 1881.

No. 310.—Petition of WILLIAM FRASER, of Tararua.

THE petitioner states that in June, 1879, he was accused of unfair card-playing at the Northern Club Auckland; that in consequence he resigned his appointment as Warden and Resident Magistrate for Thames and Coromandel Districts. He has since asked for an inquiry into this matter, in order that he might be restored to his position in the Civil Service, and that no inquiry has been made. He prays the House will grant him an inquiry or grant him relief.

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

20th September, 1881.

No. 318.—Petition of A. R. GUINNESS and Others, of Greymouth.

THE petitioners pray that a bridge may be erected across the Grey River, connecting Greymouth with the Town of Cobden and the District of Coal Creek.

I am directed to report that the petition be referred to the Government.
20th September, 1881.

No. 322.—Petition of JOHN CHISHOLM and Others.

THE petitioners ask that a bridge may be erected over the Mataura River, opposite Strong Creek, and suggest that a competent engineer, unbiassed by local considerations, should be appointed to report on the merits of the sites of Mandeville and Strong Creek.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the matter be referred to the Government.
20th September, 1881.

No. 333.—Petition of WILLIAM HUME, of Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he was a clerk in the Public Works Department from August, 1879, until 30th June, 1881, when his services were dispensed with without notice; and prays that the same notice and compensation for loss of office may be granted to him, and that the 10 per cent. deducted from his salary may be refunded to him, as has been done in similar cases.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion the petitioner is equitably entitled to a refund of the 10 per cent. deducted from his salary, but do not consider that he is entitled to compensation for loss of office.

20th September, 1881.

No. 336.—Petition of JAMES SAWYER, of Wellington.

THE petitioner states that in 1855 he was appointed coxswain of the Customs boat, and served in different capacities for a period of seventeen years. He prays that his case may be taken into consideration and relief afforded him.

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

20th September, 1881.

No. 343.—Petition of CHARLES O'MALLEY, Christchurch.

THE petitioner states that he was in the Civil Service from 1861 until the year 1876, when his services were dispensed with. He prays for compensation or relief.

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

20th September, 1881.

No. 346.—Petition of BRIDGET BURGESS.

THE petitioner states that in 1873 her late husband, Eugene Sweeney, was killed on the railway at Pukekahi, that at the time of his death he owned seventeen acres of land at Pukekahi; that she has been living on the land for the last nine years; and prays that a Crown grant may be issued to her, or her children, for the said land, as she has been unable to find any living relative of the said Eugene Sweeney.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of opinion that the petition be referred to the Government for inquiry, with a view of ascertaining whether the petitioner is equitably entitled to the land, and, if so, that it be granted to her.

20th September, 1881.

No. 347.—Petition of F SAVAGE and Others, of Raglan.

THE petitioners pray that a sum may be placed on the estimates for the purpose of building a bridge and opening a road through the Kopua Reserve, the bridge to be erected over Opokiru Creek, and so connect the District of Karioi with the Town of Raglan Highway District.

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

20th September, 1881.

No. 350.—Petition of RICHARD DAVIS, of Christchurch.

THE petitioner states that he entered the office of the Supreme Court at Canterbury, as clerk, on the 8th March, 1862; that he gradually rose in the office until he was appointed Deputy-Registrar and Deputy-Sheriff; that in October, 1879, he was accused of receiving and filing documents without stamps; he requested an inquiry, but was summoned to the Resident Magistrate's Court, when fines to the amount of £90 were inflicted he was then deprived of his office. He prays for an inquiry into his case.

I am directed to report that inquiry into petitioner's case discloses the fact that the system followed in connection with the stamping and custody of public documents provides no efficient check, and seems to be otherwise an exceedingly careless one. The Committee therefore recommend that the petitioner's request for an inquiry be granted.

20th September, 1881.

No. 351.—Petition of J KERR and Others, of Tuapeka.

THE petitioners ask for an extension of the line of railway to Roxburgh.

No. 352.—G. WALKER and Others, of Tuapeka.

THE petitioners ask for the extension of the Lawrence line of railway

I am directed to report that the Committee refer these petitions to the Government.

24th September, 1881.

No. 362.—Petition of F E. HAMLIN.

The petitioner claims that his services may be recognized by the House, and states that the law in its present state will not admit of his services being recognized by a land grant.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having considered the case of the petitioner, adhere to the decision arrived at in 1877

24th September, 1881.

No. 365.—Petition of JUSTIN McSWEENEY.

THE petitioner complains that the administration of justice at Napier by Mr. Kenny has been marked by arbitrary and unfair decisions, and prays that the Government will inquire into the matter.

I am directed to report that the Government make inquiry into the statement made by the petitioner.

24th September, 1881.

No. 366.—Petition of C. H. WITHERBY, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he receives a pension of 1s. per day, having been wounded in action at the Bald Hills; that he is unable to get a living at his employment of engineer; and prays that a sum may be granted to him to take him to his son in Victoria.

I am directed to report that, taking into consideration the fact that the petitioner was wounded in the service of the colony in the field, the Committee recommend the payment of the petitioner's passage to Victoria, as prayed for by him.

24th September, 1881.

No. 367.—Petition of GREYTOWN TOWN COUNCIL and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the House will take steps to have the Greytown Police Station reopened, and a resident constable again stationed there.

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

24th September, 1881.

No. 370.—Petition of H. CRISPE and Others, of Pukekohe.

THE petitioners pray that the road from Pukekohe West, through Waiuku, may be drained, formed, and metalled throughout.

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

24th September, 1881.

No. 380.—Petition of CANTERBURY FARMERS' CORN EXCHANGE.

THE petitioners state that the present railway tariff rates in this colony are, in their opinion, in some cases prohibitory, and that, if reduced, the lines would be utilized more, and in all probability yield a much larger net return annually. They pray that a substantial reduction may be made in the present railway rates.

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

24th September, 1881.

Paper 209.—Petition of PIERRE DARMANDARITZ (referred by the Government).

THE petitioner states that, in the year 1840, he purchased of Tahero, chief of the Bay of Otago, land situate on the west side of the Bay, having an extent of sixteen miles of surface; that he has constantly endeavoured to obtain a recognition of his claim, but without effect. He prays the House will decree that his claim may be referred to a Select Committee, and grant him relief.

I am directed to report that it appears, from the documentary evidence before the Committee, that the petitioner purchased the land referred to subsequent to the issue of a Proclamation by His Excellency Sir George Gipps, dated 14th January, 1840, forbidding the acquirement of land in New Zealand from the Natives by individuals. This purchase being therefore made contrary to law, the Committee cannot recommend the petitioner's case to the favourable consideration of the House.

24th September, 1881.

No. 381.—Petition of THOMAS BRUCE and Others.

THE petitioners complain of the ravages of small birds, and pray the House will pass an Act to enable Road Boards to levy a rate for the suppression of the small birds nuisance.

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

24th September, 1881.

No. 374.—Petition of N JOHNSTON and Others, of Invercargill.

THE petitioners ask that an inquiry be made into the matter of the disrating of Henry Jeffreys from the post of engine-driver.

No. 378.—Petition of J TWENTYMAN and Others, of Christchurch.

THE petitioners ask that an inquiry may be held into the cause of the dismissal of John Hoskyns' surveyor.

I am directed to report that, as the grievances complained of have not been suffered by the petitioners, but by some other persons, the Committee do not consider that they are cases for the House to deal with.

24th September, 1881.

No. 375.—Petition of HORACE ROWLANDS, of Waipu.

THE petitioner states that he has been a school teacher since the 1st July, 1877, until the present time; that failing health will prevent him from attending his duties for some considerable time; and prays the House will grant him relief.

I am directed to report that, the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner's case is one for the Auckland Education Board to deal with.

24th September, 1881.

No. 379.—Petition of T. HUTCHISON, of Wellington.

THE petitioner prays that the House will cause inquiry to be made into his case, in the interests of the pure administration of justice, and into the manner in which justice is administered by Mr. H. S. Wardell.

I am directed to report that, this petition being brought up for consideration on the last day of the session precludes the possibility of making full inquiry; the Committee have, therefore, no recommendation to make.

24th September, 1881.

No. 364.—Petition of the NEW PLYMOUTH HARBOUR BOARD.

THE petitioners ask that further inquiries may be made into the capabilities of the proposed harbour.

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

24th September, 1881.

No. 357.—Petition of JOHN BLAIN, of the Thames.

THE petitioner states that he has made repeated applications to the Government for the payment of a sum of money due to him on account of services rendered in connection with the Pukeanga outrage, and prays the House to cause an inquiry to be made, and grant him relief.

I am directed to report that there has been no evidence submitted to justify the Committee in making a report.

24th September, 1881.

No. 355.—Petition of THOMAS BRAY, of Newton.

THE petitioner makes certain charges against Mr. Justice Richmond, and prays that the House will inquire into the charges, and, if proved, that an address be presented to Her Majesty, praying her to remove the said Mr. Justice Richmond from his office of a Judge of the Supreme Court.

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

24th September, 1881.
