

(MR. T. KELLY, CHAIRMAN.)

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

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1882.
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

(MR. T. KELLY, CHAIRMAN).

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

No. 2.—Petition of COUNTY COUNCILS North of Auckland.

THE petitioners state that they are powerless to carry on the functions for which counties have been constituted, as the sources of revenue placed at their disposal are insufficient; and pray that out of any further loan an appropriation may be made out of the fund and land endowments granted to the above Councils.

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

31st May, 1882.

No. 9.—Petition of HUGH CAMERON and Others, of Southland.

THE petitioners state that two lines of railway were surveyed starting from Kelso and joining the main trunk line at Gore, and pray that your honorable House will resolve that the line *via* Waikaka Township and Okapua Valley is the most direct, beneficial, and cheapest line to be constructed from Kelso to Gore.

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

31st May, 1882.

No. 11.—Petition of E. CAFLER and other Settlers, Whangarei.

THE petitioners pray that funds may be granted for improving the Harbour of Whangarei.

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

1st June, 1882.

No. 24.—Petition of G. J. BRUCE and Settlers of the Township of Fitzherbert.

THE petitioners pray that the sum of £500 be placed on the Estimates for the Fitzherbert Gorge Road.

No. 25.—Petition of JOHN MOULD and other Settlers North of Auckland.

THE petitioners claim to be placed on equal footing with others as to railway construction.

No. 26.—Petition of J. L. WILSON and Settlers North of Auckland.

THE petitioners claim to be placed on an equal footing with others as to railway construction.

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

1st June, 1882.

No. 27.—Petition of WHANGAREI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

THE petitioners pray that they may be placed in a position to increase the number of students and the efficiency of the High School, by having available school-buildings and accommodation for masters and boarders.

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

1st June, 1882.

No. 32.—Petition of DAVID MILLAR, of Roslyn.

THE petitioner states that he petitioned the House relative to a grievance in connection with his son who was an apprentice in the railway workshops, Dunedin, and the Committee recommended the Government to take his case into favourable consideration, which has not been given effect to. He prays that effect may be given to the recommendation of last session.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having reconsidered the case of the apprentice, David Millar, are of opinion that the sum claimed by him for back wages due, namely, £65 4s, be paid.

1st June, 1882.

No. 3.—Petition of J. B. WILSON.

THE petitioner states that he served in the Waikato and Patea District in the war of 1863, and asks for a grant of land.

I am directed to report: It appears that the claim of the petitioner was submitted to the Royal Commission lately appointed to inquire into such claims, and the claim was rejected. The Committee do not consider it desirable to reopen the case, and cannot recommend the prayer of the petition to the favourable consideration of the House.

6th June, 1882.

No. 7.—Petition of JOSEPH KENNERLY, of Auckland.

THE petitioner states that in the year 1878 he prepared and submitted to the Government a scheme for the encouragement of emigration, from England, of tenant-farmers possessed of capital; and that in the year 1879 he was informed that if he went Home, and was successful in inducing tenant-farmers with capital to come to New Zealand, the Government would reward him with an appointment as Sheep Inspector; that in June, 1879, he went Home and remained until May, 1880, engaged almost solely in carrying out the scheme proposed by him at a considerable cost to himself; that his exertions were successful; and that he received a letter of thanks from the Agent-General. He states that, although his success has been acknowledged, he has been deprived of the reward promised.

I am directed to report: After examining the petitioner and Mr. Stout, and having carefully considered the correspondence and report from the Immigration Department on the claims of the petitioner, the Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the Government.

8th June, 1882.

No. 12.—Petition of JOHN LYNCH, Coromandel.

THE petitioner states that in the year 1872 he conveyed a piece of land to the Provincial Government for a courthouse, Mr. Sheehan, on behalf of the Government, promising to make a road from the front of the said courthouse to the road leading from Coromandel Township to the Beach Road; and also to allow petitioner to select certain land from the Awakanae Block; that these conditions have not been fulfilled. He therefore prays for compensation.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having taken the evidence of Mr. Sheehan, are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim whatever on the colony, as he received the full consideration agreed on for the land in question.

8th June, 1882.

No. 15.—Petition of ALEXANDER HAMILTON, of Invercargill.

THE petitioner states that he was employed as railway porter on the Southland Section of the colonial railways; that, while so employed, he sustained injuries which necessitated the amputation of his left leg. He therefore prays for compensation.

I am directed to report: The Committee recommend the Government to make the payment of £50 recommended last session, and would suggest the propriety of an assurance fund being instituted against accident in the Railway Department.

8th June, 1882.

No. 42.—Petition of ROBERT HEFFORD and Settlers North of Auckland.

THE petitioners pray that a trunk line of railway may be constructed.

No. 43.—Petition of J. W. C. SMITH and Others.

THE petitioners pray that a trunk line of railway may be constructed.

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

8th June, 1882.

No. 58.—Petition of A. O'BRIEN and Others, Motueka.

THE petitioners state they are living on the west bank of the Motueka River, quite isolated from the rest of the district, and pray that a suspension horse-bridge may be constructed over the said river at the point known as Major Patton's Bluff.

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

8th June, 1882.

No. 64.—Petition of J. CHURCH and Others, Oamaru.

THE petitioners pray that rates may be levied for the destruction of small birds.

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

8th June, 1882.

No. 49.—Petition of ALFRED ALBERT YATES, Tauranga.

THE petitioner prays that the recommendation of the Public Petitions Committee of last session, "That a sum amounting to £17 17s., for services as Clerk in the District Court, Tauranga, be paid forthwith," be given effect to, and that a sum of £10 be paid him as compensation for loss sustained in consequence of the non-payment of the above sum.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having reconsidered the claim of the petitioner, see on reason to alter its former decision, and recommend the Government to pay the amount claimed, viz., £17 17s.

13th June, 1882.

No. 10.—Petition of WILLIAM BLEWDEN, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was contractor for the formation and drainage of the Newmarket site for workshops, Auckland, and that he sustained a loss of £1,000 on his contract, and prays for relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having made further inquiry into the petitioner's case, see no sufficient reason to alter the decision formerly arrived at.

14th June, 1882.

No. 75.—Petition of R. J. FELTUS, Auckland (No. 1).

THE petitioner states that he is debarred from writing in the law Courts of New Zealand, and prays for relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make to the House on the petitioner's case.

14th June, 1882.

No. 76.—Petition of R. J. FELTUS, Auckland (No. 2).

THE petitioner states that George Petingale died at the lunatic asylum, Auckland, and was buried by petitioner, and that deceased was indebted to him in the sum of £283, of which sum he has not been paid a shilling, and prays for relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee see no reason to alter their former decision on petitioner's case.

14th June, 1882.

No. 79.—Petition of W. A. MOSLEY, of Inch Clutha.

THE petitioner states that he has sustained heavy damages to his property by the peculiar construction of the railway embankment, and prays that his case may be heard by an Arbitration Court; that justice may be done and reasonable compensation made for the damage sustained; also that steps be taken to prevent further loss and damage to Inch Clutha by the Government works now completed on the Balclutha flat.

I am directed to report: It appears the petitioner desires that an Act of a retrospective character be passed to enable him to take advantage of the provisions of section 72 of "The Public Works Act, 1876," although the limit prescribed by that section within which claims for compensation for damage arising out of the execution of public works has been exceeded. The Committee, having considered the petitioner's case, cannot recommend the House to give him a legal position that he does not at present hold.

14th June, 1882.

No. 4.—Petition of THOMAS MCGANN, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was a first class sergeant of the Armed Constabulary; that he has served for nineteen years in the Police Force of New Zealand; that, in consequence of complaints from subordinate members of the force, he resigned his appointment, at the same time applying for compensation, which was refused. He prays that compensation may be granted him, or an inquiry into his case.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having inquired into the case of the petitioner, cannot recommend his claims to the favourable consideration of the House.

15th June, 1882.

No. 36.—Petition of ALEXANDER S. ALLAN, Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he has been Registrar of the Supreme Court at Wellington for many years; that he was appointed Sheriff in the year 1879; that as Sheriff he appointed a bailiff, and the bailiff retained for his services certain poundage fees; that all the poundage fees he received from the bailiff he paid into the Treasury; that poundage fees amounting to £78 1s. 6d. received by the bailiff were kept by the bailiff for his trouble in executing the writs; that the Auditor-General has commenced an action against your petitioner for the said sum of £78 1s. 6d. He prays that relief may be granted to him.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having examined the petitioner, and Controller and Auditor-General, are of opinion that, taking into consideration all the circumstances of the case, they recommend the Government to stop the action, and abandon the claim for a refund of the poundage fees.

15th June, 1882.

No. 59.—Petition of GEORGE J. SPARROW and Others, Takaka, Nelson.

THE petitioners pray that a bridge may be erected over the Takaka River, and that a sum of money may be placed on the Estimates of expenditure for public works for the present year.

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

15th June, 1882.

No. 51.—Petition of J. D. BENTLEY, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was in Her Majesty's 24th Regiment, from which he obtained his discharge for the purpose of settling in New Zealand; he submits his claim for land under the Naval and Military Settlements Act of 1858, and the amended Acts of 1868-69, and states that his claim was acknowledged by the Royal Commission, which sat in Auckland this year, to be good and valid, but too late in application. He begs the House will take his case into favourable consideration.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having inquired into the case of the petitioner, cannot recommend his claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

15th June, 1882.

No. 63.—Petition of JOHN CAREY, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was employed as engineer on board the steam-launch; that he was discharged in 1880 on an alleged charge, which was not investigated; and prays for a reconsideration of his case.

I am directed to report: As no fresh evidence has been submitted, the Committee see no sufficient reason to alter the decision previously arrived at.

15th June, 1882.

No. 91.—Petition of JOHN DUNN, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that, having served for seventeen years in the gaol in Auckland as senior warder, he was compelled through ill health and old age to resign; he prays the House will grant him some relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having reconsidered the case of the petitioner, see no sufficient reason to alter the decision previously arrived at.

15th June, 1882.

No. 102.—Petition of GEORGE MACKAY and Others, Lyttelton.

THE petitioners state that the Licensing Commissioners had refused to grant any extension of publicans' licenses after 10 o'clock. They pray the House will make such amendments in the Licensing Act, as to the hours during which licensed houses can be kept open, as will be most convenient to the public.

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

15th June, 1882.

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

THE petitioner states that he was confined in the Shortland Gaol for three months for debt, six weeks of which he was put to hard labour, contrary to the order, which provides for imprisonment alone. He prays the House will grant him compensation.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having inquired into the case of the petitioner, cannot recommend his claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

16th June, 1882.

No. 72.—Petition of E. B. CARGILL and Others, Dunedin.

THE petitioners state they are members of the Council of the Bible-in-Schools Association. They pray that the House will take into its consideration the provisions of the Education Act, under which the Bible is excluded, and make such alterations in the same as will allow of its introduction into the public schools.

I am directed to report: The Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of this petition.

16th June, 1882.

No. 84.—Petition of MICHAEL EGAN, Coromandel.

THE petitioners states that he was sergeant in the Constabulary, and that whilst on service was injured in the spine, which compelled him to retire from the service in August, 1880, when he received compensation. He states further that he is now totally helpless and unable to provide for his family; and prays that his case may be treated as an exceptional one, and additional compensation granted him.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having considered the petitioner's case, regret that they cannot see their way to make any recommendation to the House.

16th June, 1882.

No. 98.—Petition of EDWIN ARNOLD and Others.

THE petitioners are basket-makers residing in the colony, and state that their trade suffers owing to the competition of the British and intercolonial manufacturer; and pray that their industry may be protected by an *ad valorem* duty of 15 per cent. on importations.

I am directed to report: The subject-matter of this petition being one of public policy, the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House.

16th June, 1882.

No. 46.—Petition of GEORGE ST. GEORGE, New Plymouth.

THE petitioner states that he is an original land claimant of the Plymouth Company of New Zealand 1841, having purchased a rural section of fifty acres, which now forms part of the Township of Waitara; that he has been deprived of his property by the fiat of the Government; that his claim to compensation was recognized by the Government, and arbitrators appointed, when the property was valued in 1855 at £800 and £1,200, and out of the discrepancy no award was made, and the matter fell through. He was afterwards told he had the alternative of taking £100 worth of land, or his claim would lapse. Under the strain of pecuniary difficulties he took the £100 worth of land under protest that it would not compromise his right to the land he originally purchased, or to his claim for compensation for the same, as devoted to public purposes. He prays that his case may be again submitted to arbitration, or compensation granted him.

I am directed to report: The Committee are of opinion that the petitioner is entitled to the sum of £700, being the difference between the value put on his claim by a Government arbitrator in 1855 and the value of the Waitara Town sections given him in 1867.

21st June, 1882.

No. 18.—Petition of CHARLES FRANCE, M.R.C.S., Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he was for nineteen years and a half medical attendant at the Mount View Lunatic Asylum, Wellington; that he has received compensation for his services under the General Government, but compensation for his provincial services had been refused by the Government; that he petitioned the House during last session, when his petition was reported on as follows: "The Committee are of opinion that, under the circumstances of the case, the petitioner is entitled to the allowance granted for loss of office under 'The Abolition of Provinces Act, 1875.'" He prays that the sum of £250 may be placed on the Estimates in liquidation of his claim.

I am directed to report: The Committee are of opinion that Dr. France is not entitled to compensation as a provincial officer in the terms of the 13th section of "The Abolition of Provinces Act, 1875," as his retention of office under the General Government till 1881 constituted him a permanent officer of the Government, and as such he received compensation for loss of office in the terms of "The Civil Service Act, 1866." With respect to the equitable claim, the Committee do not consider that there are any special circumstances in the petitioner's case that would warrant them in recommending further compensation, for which the law does not make provision.

21st June, 1882.

No. 34.—Petition of ALEXANDER CLARK, Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that in 1863 he bought sections of land Nos. 5 and 6, Block IV., Otago Peninsula; that the road round the block was disconnected with the district road, thereby leaving no means of access to his property; that the Provincial Government acknowledged their liability to provide a road to the said block, but never made it; and that he has been debarred the use of his land in consequence. He now prays for redress for the loss sustained.

I am directed to report: The Committee cannot recommend the House to grant the compensation asked for by the petitioner.

21st June, 1882.

No. 44.—Petition of JAMES HILL, New Plymouth (No. 1).

THE petitioner states that he was employed for sixteen years in the hospital at New Plymouth; that certain charges (upon which he was tried and acquitted) were made against him; that he resigned his position pending the trial, and that he was not reinstated. He prays the House to grant him compensation for loss of office as a Provincial Government servant.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having considered the petitioner's claim, are of opinion that he is not entitled to compensation as a provincial officer under "The Abolition of Provinces Act, 1875."

22nd June, 1882.

No. 45.—Petition of JAMES HILL, New Plymouth (No. 2).

THE petitioner states that, in his position of Hospital Steward, he had owing to him, on account of the hospital, a sum of £84 6s. 4d. for buildings erected, fowls, garden-produce, and washing; that he applied to the Government and Hospital Board for payment, and only received £29 5s. 7d. as payment for the buildings. He prays the House will inquire into his claim and grant him relief.

I am directed to report: As the subject-matter of this petition has been inquired into and decided on by the Hospital Board at New Plymouth, and as no evidence has been submitted to the Committee to show that the Board came to a wrong decision in the petitioner's case, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

22nd June, 1882.

No. 81.—Petition of WILLIAM FARLEY, Roslyn.

THE petitioner states that he was a candidate for a seat in the Waverley Council, was defeated by one vote, and took action against Arthur Taine for personation; that the Crown Prosecutor abandoned the case without assigning any reason for so doing; and he prays the House to order proceedings to be taken against the accused, Arthur Taine.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make on petitioner's case.
21st June, 1882.

No. 85.—Petition of CROSBIE KIDD, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was lately a sergeant of police stationed at Auckland; that he was dismissed from the police force in April, 1882, for having sent a newspaper, the *Auckland Free Press*, containing an article commenting upon police matters, to another sergeant at Napier. He prays the House will grant him relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee cannot recommend the petitioner's claim to the favourable consideration of the House.
22nd June, 1882.

No. 110.—Petition of JOHN MUNRO and Others, Marsden Point.

THE petitioners state that they are put to great loss, inconvenience, and at times much danger, and that progress of the district is much retarded by the want of a wharf at Marsden Point, Whangarei. They pray that a sum may be placed on the Estimates to build a wharf suitable for the requirements of the district.

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

22nd June, 1882.

No. 28.—Petition of WILLIAM O'CONNELL, Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that he was in the service of the Provincial Government of Otago for seven and a half years; that he was appointed keeper of the Kensington Railway-crossing; that he was removed to Gore, but refused to remain there, and was then told he was no longer wanted. He prays that he may be reinstated on the staff, or that he may receive one month's pay for each year of service.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having considered the petitioner's case, cannot recommend his prayer to the favourable consideration of the House.

23rd June, 1882.

No. 86.—Petition of EDWARD QUINN and C. A. COMES, Ohinemuri.

THE petitioners state that they were making a road between Paeroa and Te Aroha, under contract to the County Council, in 1879; that on account of a survey party having been fired on by the Natives the Native Minister directed them to desist from further work; that the work was stopped for nearly four months at a great loss to themselves. They pray the House will grant them relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having considered the case of the petitioners, are of opinion that they are not entitled to compensation.

23rd June, 1882.

No. 106.—Petition of WILLIAM CROWTHER, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he imported into Auckland from Victoria and Tasmania five carriages to be exclusively used in his business as a cab-proprietor, upon which he paid the sum of £79 10s duty. He prays that the amount may be refunded to him.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having considered the petitioner's case, cannot recommend a refund of the duty.

23rd June, 1882.

No. 111.—Petition of HENRY OLDHAM and W. DE RENZIE TURNER, Auckland.

THE petitioners state that they sustained great loss through the Waikato war of 1863, in having to serve in the Militia, and, in consequence, to abandon large quantities of timber, bark, oxen, &c., in the bush, by which they were completely ruined. They pray that relief may be granted to them.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having considered the case of the petitioners, see no reason to alter the decision arrived at in the session of 1880, viz., "While the Committee recognize that great hardship has been occasioned by such losses, they have no recommendation to make in this special case, as the question is one for the House to deal with."

23rd June, 1882.

No. 114.—Petition of LICENSED VICTUALLERS' ASSOCIATION, Dunedin.

THE petitioners pray that the House will pass an Act for the amendment of "The Licensing Act, 1881."

I am directed to report: 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.

23rd June, 1882.

No. 74.—Petition of W. G. GARRARD, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was standing as a candidate at the election for Auckland West, in

October, 1881. That he was arrested and imprisoned for personation, and that the case was quashed. He prays for compensation.

I am directed to report: The Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petitioner to the favourable consideration of the House.

27th June, 1882.

No. 141.—Petition of DE RENZIE BRETT and Others, of Selwyn.

THE petitioners state that they are suffering great damage from small birds, and pray the House will take legal measures for the mitigation of the evil.

I am directed to report: 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 to the House.

27th June, 1882.

No. 142.—Petition of ALEXANDER BYERS and Others.

THE petitioners pray that a railway may be constructed from Kelso to Gore.

No. 144.—Petition of J. BLACK and Others (No. 1).

THE petitioners pray that the Opunake—Stratford Road may be formed and metalled.

No. 145.—Petition of J. BLACK and Others (No. 2).

THE petitioners pray that a portion of the main South Road between Otakeho and Opunake be metalled.

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

27th June, 1882.

No. 37.—Petition of MADELINE ROBINSON, Waipori.

THE petitioner states that she bought, in the year 1866, a section of land situate at Maungatua, and for nine years had a good road to her property through the adjoining section, a Government reserve; that in June, 1875, the said reserve was sold without a right of road being reserved; that she has applied to the local Board for redress, but without success; that she petitioned the House last session, and now prays the House to grant her redress.

I am directed to report: This matter appears to have been dealt with by the Waste Lands Committee last session; the Committee do not consider it desirable to reopen the case, but refer it to the Government for consideration.

28th June, 1882.

No. 123.—Petition of R. J. SEDDON and Others, Westland.

THE petitioners pray for the construction of a bridge over the Taipo.

No. 133.—Petition of JOHN MCKAY and Others, of the Waipu District.

THE petitioners pray for a road to Marsden Point.

No. 146.—Petition of J. BLACK and Others (No. 3), Opunake.

THE petitioners pray for the construction of a jetty at Opunake.

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

28th June, 1882.

No. 88.—Petition of RICHARD HENRY POLKINGHORNE and ADAM ENRILI, Auckland.

THE petitioners state that in the year 1880 they were residing in the Wade District; that in June, 1881, they were arrested and lodged in prison upon a charge of smuggling, they were tried and found guilty; that the settlers of the district, believing in their innocence, had the case reopened, and on this occasion they were acquitted on all the charges made against them; that they have suffered great loss in time and money, besides the degradation of unjust imprisonment, and that one of them and his family have been reduced to absolute poverty by the proceedings of the Government. They now pray the House to grant them relief.

I am directed to report: That the Committee are of opinion that a sum of £100 each be given to the petitioners, as a compensation for the loss they sustained on account of their imprisonment for an offence of which they were not guilty.

29th June, 1882.

No. 99.—Petition of HENRY TACY KEMP, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he entered the service of the colony in 1840; that he continued in the service up to the year 1865, when his office was abolished, for which he received compensation to the amount of £685 8s. 4d; that in 1865 he entered the service of the Provincial Government of Auckland as Land Purchase Officer, and remained until the latter part of 1869, when land purchasing ceased and he was dispensed with; that in March, 1870, he re-entered the service of the General Government, and had charge of the Civil Commissioner's Office until the end of 1879, when the office was abolished, and he finally left the service and claimed a retiring allowance, when he was informed he was only entitled to compensation. He prays the House will take his case into consideration and grant him relief.

I am directed to report: From the evidence before the Committee it appears the Government have awarded such compensation as the law allows, and the Committee do not see any special reason why the law should be altered to meet the petitioner's case; the Committee cannot therefore recommend his claim for a pension to the favourable consideration of the House.

29th June, 1882.

No. 139.—Petition of ALEXANDER CAIRNS and Others, Dunedin.

THE petitioners state that they are connected and interested in constructive and mechanical trades promoting inventions; they crave an amelioration of the Patents Act in lowering the fees and otherwise simplifying the procuring of patents, by abrogating the necessity of employment of agents, through the use of the post and telegraph offices in assisting both the Patent Officer and applicants for patents; that clause 3 of "Rules and Regulations under 'The Patents Act, 1870,'" be amended in this direction. They pray the House will concede improvements of Patents Act Regulations of last session in this direction.

I am directed to report: The Committee are of opinion that the petition be referred to the Government, with the view of ascertaining whether the prayer of the petitioners could be given effect to, without adding materially to the cost of the administration of the Patent Office, by appointing an officer of the Public Works or other suitable department in the principal towns to receive and forward applications.

7th July, 1882.

No. 104.—Petition of S. C. SCHOFIELD and Others, Thames.

THE petitioners state that they were enrolled and sworn in by Major Murray, Commanding the Thames District, for active service at Parihaka, the period of service to be two months at least, or until lawfully discharged; that they were informed the term of service would be for two months certain; that they were on active service one month, when they were discharged; that they have received one and a half months' pay, and consider the terms upon which they were enrolled have not been carried out in their integrity, and pray for relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having considered fully the petitioners' case, are of opinion that they were engaged for two months' service, and recommend that the balance of the pay due for that period be paid them.

7th July, 1882.

No. 13.—Petition of WILLIAM FRANCE, Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he was sixteen and a half years a member of the Civil Service of New Zealand; that in the early part of the year 1881 his services were dispensed with, for which he received the usual compensation; that during the years 1880 and 1881 a sum of £28 11s. 1d. was deducted from his salary in consequence of the 10-per-cent. reductions; that other officers in the Service have had the amount of the 10-per-cent. reductions refunded to them after their retirement, and he prays for a like consideration.

I am directed to report: Having made inquiry into the petitioner's case, the Committee find that the departmental reasons assigned for not granting the refund was that the practice of making refunds was entirely discontinued in February, 1881, by express instructions from the Premier. On further inquiry, the Committee find that, since February, 1881, at least forty-four officers who have left the Service have had the 10-per-cent. reductions refunded. Under these circumstances, the Committee recommend the Government to refund the amount claimed by the petitioner, namely, £28 11s. 1d.

12th July, 1882.

No. 175.—Petition of the MAYOR of the THAMES.

THE petitioner states that the question of a railway from the Borough of Thames to that of Hamilton has been under the consideration of successive Governments since 1873; that a portion of the line has been completed a distance of eighteen miles. He prays that the House will provide for the construction of the whole line from the Borough of Thames to Hamilton.

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

14th July, 1882.

No. 148.—Petition of W. McADAM and Others.

THE petitioners, residents of the Kowai Road District, pray that means may be taken for the destruction of small birds.

No. 149.—Petition of JAMES BARCLAY and Settlers in Kowai Road District.

THE petitioners pray that means may be taken for the destruction of small birds.

No. 150.—Petition of A. D. GREENWOOD and Others, Kowai Road District.

THE petitioners pray that steps may be taken for the destruction of small birds.

No. 159.—Petition of JOHN COCHRANE and Others, of Waimate.

THE petitioners pray that steps may be taken for the destruction of small birds.

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

14th July, 1882.

No. 178.—Petition of JAMES PRESTON and Others, in the Otago Provincial District.

No. 188.—Petition of W. J. WILLIS and Others, in the County of Rangitikei.

THE petitioners state that they believe that an overwhelming majority of the people of the colony desire the introduction of the Bible into the public schools. They pray the House to devise some means of arriving at the mind of the electors in this matter.

I am directed to report: The Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

14th July, 1882.

No 167.—Petition of W. C. J. KORTEGAST and other Brewers of Westland.

THE petitioners state that they are brewers in the Provincial District of Westland; that the beer-tax is oppressive and detrimental to the interests of the farmer, the cooper, and many others engaged in local industries. They pray the House will abolish the duty on beer manufactured in the colony.

I am directed to report: The subject-matter of this petition being one of public policy, the Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House.

14th July, 1882.

No. 179.—Petition of TARANAKI LICENSED VICTUALLERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE petitioners pray that the Licensing Act of 1881 may be amended.

I am directed to report: 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.

14th July, 1882.

No. 166.—Petition of STEPHENS and STEPHENS.

THE petitioners are the solicitors of persons resident in England, who are interested in the will of the late J. S. Douglas, and appear by their agent, the Hon. W. H. Reynolds. They represent that the widow of the late J. S. Douglas is left in a state of destitution in consequence of the estate having been misappropriated by the trustee appointed by the Supreme Court. They pray for redress. This case has been inquired into and dealt with on two occasions by the Committee during the session of 1881. The Committee reported as follows, after examining the late Registrar of the Supreme Court, Mr. E. ff. Ward: "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 of 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 interests." From the evidence given by the Hon. Mr. Reynolds this session, it appears that nothing has been done by the Government to carry out the recommendations of the Committee.

I am directed to report: The Committee regret that, after their report of last session on this case, the Government not did not take immediate action against Edward Francis Ward for the misappropriation of the estate intrusted to him by the late Mr. Justice Chapman; but, as it appears the said E. ff. Ward has left the colony, the Committee are of opinion that the Government should at once make inquiry into the present condition of the estate of the late J. S. Douglas, and that any deficiency that may appear to have arisen in consequence of the misappropriation of the funds of the estate by Edward Francis Ward be made good out of the public revenue.

19th July, 1882.

No. 105.—Petition of THOMAS TELFORD, Wellington.

THE petitioner states that in July, 1868, he was appointed an Inspector of Sheep for Wairarapa, and continued to hold the appointment until the 30th September, 1881, at which date, without any previous notice, he was informed that Mr. Sutton would relieve him of his duties. He is not aware of anything that could justify such harshness. He elected to take compensation for loss of office, being under the impression that his provincial service would count. He states that he has received compensation for his services under the General Government, and now prays that compensation may be granted for his provincial service.

I am directed to report: Having inquired into and considered the case of the petitioner, the Committee are of opinion that he was rather harshly dealt with in being removed from office without any sufficient reason to justify such removal. The Committee cannot recommend that payment be made for loss of office for the term during which he was a provincial officer, as it appears he continued in the Government service from 1875 to 1881, and thus virtually became a General Government officer and entitled to the usual compensation authorized by law, which he received. The Committee desire to draw the attention of the Government to the organization of the Stock Branch of the Colonial Secretary's Department. It appears, from the evidence before the Committee, that this branch is not in a satisfactory state of organization: no permanent officer appears to be at the head of it. Nominally the Superintending Inspector is at the head, but practically he is not so, as the office work is under the control of another officer, who appears to have no defined official position, and is not responsible to the Superintending Inspector or even to the permanent Under-Secretary. The appointment of Sheep

Inspectors also appears to have been made in two cases without the recommendation or knowledge of the Superintending Inspector, who could therefore have no opportunity to ascertain their fitness for the special work that they had to perform. Considering the important interests involved in properly administering the Sheep Department, which now includes the administration of the Rabbit Nuisance Act, the Committee strongly recommend that it be placed forthwith under the control of one qualified officer, responsible to the Minister in charge, and that he be allowed such assistance as will enable him to conduct the business of the office when absent from Wellington.

20th July, 1882.

No. 89.—Petition of FRANK HEDGES, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that a gun was stolen from the office of the Kaipara Steamship Company, Auckland, about March, 1880; that in May following a police officer came on board the steamer, of which petitioner was master, and took possession of a gun belonging to him; that, although he proved to the satisfaction of the police that the gun was his property, he was arrested and brought before the Resident Magistrate at Auckland in June of the same year for stealing a gun, when the case was heard and dismissed; that he was put to great inconvenience and expense amounting to £30. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make, as it is one for the Government to consider and deal with.

21st July, 1882.

No. 17.—Petition of KATE HEAPHY, late of Wellington.

THE petitioner states that she is the widow of the late Major Heaphy, and that he died after having had a pension granted him a few months before his death. She prays that under the circumstances she may be awarded a year's salary, £600.

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

21st July, 1882.

No. 173.—Petition of JOHN LEAF WILSON, Christchurch.

THE petitioner states that, through an error in transmitting a telegram, he was put to great trouble, annoyance, and expense, and lost £164, and prays the House for relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee are of opinion that the petitioner has no claim against the colony for compensation on account of loss sustained by mistakes in sending a telegram.

21st July, 1882.

No. 93.—Petition of G. D. MOORE and Others, Winton.

THE petitioners pray that a line of railway may be constructed from Winton to Nightcaps.

No. 165.—Petition of CHARLES BELL and Others, Lower Waikato.

THE petitioners pray that wharfage charges at Mercer Bay be abolished.

No. 210.—Petition of JAMES TURNBULL and Others, Wairiri Valley.

THE petitioners pray for a railway from Oxford to Temuka.

No. 213.—Petition of CHARLES HOOD and Others, Waikouaiti.

THE petitioners pray for a breakwater at Waikouaiti Bay.

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

25th July, 1882.

No. 241.—Petition of H. HOUNSELL and Others, Nelson.

THE petitioners pray that a central line of railway may be constructed.

No. 275.—Petition of J. G. CAMPBELL and Others, Waipu.

THE petitioners pray for a tramway to Whangarei Harbour.

No. 280.—Petition of JOHN GIDDY and Others, Tarururangi District.

THE petitioners pray for aid in metalling district road.

No. 289.—Petition of HERBERT LANGFORD and Others, Dovedale.

THE petitioners pray that £500 be granted for road repairs.

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

25th July, 1882.

No. 215.—Petition of MICHAEL MCCARTHY and Others, Heriot Hundreds

THE petitioners pray that a railway may be constructed from Kelso to Heriot Burn.

No. 216.—Petition of A. E. MANSFORD and Others, Miners, Otago.

THE petitioners pray for a bridge over the Molyneux, at Ettrick.

No. 227.—Petition of A. W. HURST and Others, Woodville.

THE petitioners pray for a bridge at the Gorge, and another over the Manawatu, at the Upper Ferry.

No. 233.—Petition of T. J. COMPTON and Others, Auckland.

THE petitioners pray for a wharf at Waiwera Bay.

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

25th July, 1882.

No. 208.—Petition of G. F. RITSO and Others, Taranaki.

THE petitioners pray that a bonus of £5,000 be granted to the producers of the first 1,000 tons of iron in the colony.

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

25th July, 1882.

No. 269.—Petition of W. McLEAN and Others, Lyell.

THE petitioners pray that a bridge may be constructed over the Buller River, at Lyell.

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

25th July, 1882.

Nos. 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, and 204.—Petitions of JOHN HOOD and Others, W. H. BENTLEY and Others, ANDREW ALLAN and Others, JOSEPH CUFF and Others, WILLIAM HALLY and Others, JOHN GRAHAM and Others, JAMES SMITH and Others, Settlers in Otago.

THE petitioners pray that the Bible may be read in the public schools of the colony.

I am directed to report: The Committee do not consider it necessary to offer any opinion to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

25th July, 1882.

No. 158.—Petition of JAMES WILSON, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he is employed in the occupation of canning fish found in the New Zealand waters.

I am directed to report: The petitioner, by his own showing, appears to be engaged in the very laudable occupation of canning fish; but, as he asks for nothing, the Committee have no recommendation to make to the House.

26th July, 1882.

No. 66.—Petition of J. McC. CLARK and Others, Auckland.

THE petitioners state that buildings and grounds will be immediately required for the University College, and such buildings and grounds should be situated in the City of Auckland; that the buildings and grounds known as Government House are admirably suited for College purposes. They pray that the House will sanction the transfer of the said house and grounds to the Auckland University College Council to be constituted under the Auckland University College Bill.

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

26th July, 1882.

No. 39.—Petition of WALTER SHRIMPTON, of Hawke's Bay.

THE petitioner states that he is one of the copartners in the firm of Rich and Shrimpton; that they are copartners with regard to all freehold and leasehold interests acquired in certain blocks of Native land, viz., Rotoatara, Matipiri, Te Matuku, and Awapourua. That the Chief Judge of the Native Land Court assessed the duty upon £20,000, being the full total of the moneys paid to the various holders of the Block Matapiri. That they entered an action against Chief Judge Fenton in the Supreme Court to recover the amount of duty which they contend was wrongly demanded of them, amounting to over £1,100; the judgment of the Court was that the defendant was not liable to be personally sued, but that he had erroneously assessed the duty, which ought to have been assessed upon the value of the land at the time of the first transaction. Your petitioner therefore prays that the House will cause an inquiry to be made into the above circumstances, and grant to your petitioner's said firm relief.

I am directed to report: That the Committee, having carefully considered the matter referred to in the petition, and having taken evidence and perused the documents in relation thereto, are of opinion that the Government should afford the petitioner facilities for obtaining the judgment of the Court of Appeal upon the following questions only: Was the duty correctly assessed by the Chief Judge Fenton? If it was incorrectly assessed, what was the duty legally payable by the petitioner? That, should the Court decide the assessment was higher than the petitioner was entitled to pay, the amount so overpaid be at once refunded.

26th July, 1882.

No. 5.—Petition of SAMUEL CRICKETT, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was entitled, with his son, Samuel, to two ten-acre allotments of land under the land regulations, of which they took possession; that his son, Samuel, died before he was entitled to the Crown grant of his land; that he erected a dwellinghouse on the said land, under the conviction that his title would be good; that the Government sold the said allotment. He therefore prays for relief.

I am directed to report: As it appears the section on which the petitioner built was subsequently

sold to petitioner's son at a low rate, the Committee are of opinion that the Government have dealt liberally in the matter, and cannot recommend the petitioner's claim to the House.

27th July, 1882.

No. 302.—Petition of THOMAS GREEN and Others, Gore District.

THE petitioners pray that amendments may be made in "The Town Districts Act, 1881."

I am directed to report: The subject-matter of this petition being one of public policy, as affecting local government, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation to the House.

27th July, 1882.

No. 243.—Petition of GERMANS, Ohaupo.

THE petitioners pray that the money paid for letters of naturalization may be refunded to them.

I am directed to report: The Committee cannot recommend the House to refund money paid to secure letters of naturalization.

27th July, 1882.

No. 279.—Petition of PENINSULA ROAD BOARD, Dunedin.

THE petitioners pray that an Act to alter the boundaries of the Peninsula Road District and the Portobello Road District may not be allowed to pass into law.

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

27th July, 1882.

No. 56.—Petition of THOMAS GIBBONS, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was employed as a labourer on the Auckland-Waikato Railway, and that in July, 1881, while loading a truck he met with an accident which resulted in the loss of two fingers and serious injury to his hand. He states he was under the doctor's hands six months, during which time he received 3s. per diem at first, and afterwards 1s. 6d. per diem, which is now discontinued. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report: That the Committee have no recommendation to make on the petitioner's case.

28th July, 1882.

No. 176.—Petition of LICENSED VICTUALLERS, Auckland.

THE petitioners pray that "The Licensing Act, 1881," may be amended.

No. 242.—Petition of DAVID CHALMERS and Others.

THE petitioners pray that "The Licensing Act, 1881," may receive a fair trial, and remain for a time unaltered.

No. 245.—Petition of JAMES TREADWELL and Others, Wanganui.

THE petitioners pray that "The Licensing Act, 1881," be not amended.

No. 194.—Petition of F. W. EVANS and Others, Wanganui.

THE petitioners pray that "The Licensing Act, 1881," may be amended.

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

28th July, 1882.

No. 225.—Petition of the BREWERS of AUCKLAND.

THE petitioners state that great injustice has been done to them through the imposition of the duty on beer. They pray the House to relieve them of the burden complained of.

No. 246.—Petition of MARSHALL, COPELAND, and Co., and Others, Otago (No. 2).

THE petitioners pray that the House will repeal the beer-tax.

No. 182.—Petition of the BREWERS of NELSON.

THE petitioners pray that the House will repeal "The Beer Duty Act, 1880."

No. 189.—Petition of MARSHALL, COPELAND and Co., and Others, Otago (No. 1).

THE petitioners pray that the House will repeal the beer-tax.

No. 206.—Petition of J. J. BLACKMORE and Co., and Others, Greymouth.

THE petitioners pray that the House will repeal "The Beer Duty Act, 1880."

I am directed to report: The subject-matter of these petitions being one of public policy, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation to the House.

28th July, 1882.

No. 168.—Petition of JAMES FLOOD and Others, Port Underwood (No. 1).

THE petitioners state that there is a want of communication between Waikawa and Hakahaka Bay, and pray the House to grant them relief.

No. 187.—Petition of WHAINGAROA and Other HIGHWAY BOARDS.

THE petitioners state that the Raglan and Waipa Road requires many alterations to render it safe for traffic, and pray the House to grant them assistance in making it safe for wheel-traffic.

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

28th July, 1882.

No. 163.—Petition of JOHN CULLEN and T. H. MAY, of the Buller.

THE petitioners state that they contracted with the Government for the construction of a piece of road known as the Matiri contract, on the main road from Nelson to Westport and Greymouth; that various portions of the work were from time to time passed; that numerous slips occurred on portions of the road which had been completed; that they expended the sum of £496 4s. 6d. in their removal; that numerous errors were discovered in the plan: At peg 13 a cutting was shown in place of a filling, which cost them £35; at peg 31 the plan shows a side-cutting where a filling was required, which error cost them £55; at pegs 64, 65, and 66 the plan shows a cutting averaging about 9 feet 8 inches in depth, instead of which a cutting had to be made averaging 18 feet in depth, which error cost them £30; that after a large portion of the metalling was done Mr. Poulson, the overseer in charge, altered the formation for a length of 55 chains by filling up the sides, which cost them £74 5s.; that in consequence of these slips and errors their contract was not finished in the contract time, upon which the Government imposed penalties. They now pray the House for relief.

I am directed to report: That, in consideration of the removal of slips, the Government forego the penalties incurred by Cullen and May, as offered by the Government in telegram of the 3rd December, 1881, and that they be paid at schedule prices for any extra filling at peg 13, any extra filling at peg 31, any extra rock-cutting at pegs 64, 65, and 66, and for any extra work in filling up formation to the level of crown of road as ordered by Mr. Poulson.

28th July, 1882.

No. 252.—Petition of R. J. FELTUS, Auckland (No. 3).

THE petitioner states that he is entitled to sixty acres of land for services rendered to the Government in war-time, but his claim was not recognized by the Royal Commission. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make to the House on this petition.

28th July, 1882.

No. 197.—Petition of SARGOOD, SON, and EWEN, and Others, Dunedin.

THE petitioners state that it is proposed by the Harbour Board of Dunedin to alter the method of levying dues from tonnage to an *ad valorem* rate. They pray that it may not be given effect to.

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

28th July, 1882.

No. 301.—Petition of JOSSEPH ROGERS and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the Kingston Riding, in the Lake County, may be included in the Southland County.

I am directed to report: As the Counties Act makes provision for the redress of the grievances complained of by the petitioners, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

28th July, 1882.

No. 238.—Petition of ANDREW THOMPSON, of Waikouaiti.

THE petitioner states that in 1861 he bought six sections of land in the Town of Hawkesbury, upon the understanding that Government would build a jetty in Waikouaiti Bay. He prays that he may be indemnified for losses sustained through the non-erection of the jetty.

I am directed to report: The Committee cannot recommend that compensation be granted to the petitioner.

28th July, 1882.

No. 196.—Petition of J. F. MASON, Auckland.

THE petitioner prays that his name may be added to the petition of the sons of old colonists.

I am directed to report: The Committee recommend that the prayer of the petitioner be granted.

28th July, 1882.

No. 190.—Petition of COUNCILS of LAW SOCIETIES.

THE petitioners, representing the Law Societies of Wellington, Canterbury, Otago, and Southland, state that they have considered the provisions of a Bill intituled "The Law Practitioners Act, 1882," under consideration of the House, and pray that the House may be pleased not to pass the Bill.

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

28th July, 1882.

No. 237.—Petition of H. I. HALL and Others, of Selwyn County.

THE petitioners pray that an Act may be passed empowering the several Road Boards in the Canterbury Provincial District to expend an amount, not exceeding $\frac{1}{4}$ d. in the pound on the rateable value of the property within their respective districts, for the suppression of the small-birds nuisance.

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

28th July, 1882.

No. 164.—Petition of DUNEDIN FREE-THOUGHT ASSOCIATION.

THE petitioners pray that no alteration be made in the present unsectarian system of education in the public schools.

I am directed to report: The Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation to the House on the subject-matter of this petition.

28th July, 1882.

No. 306.—Petition of ROBERT F. BOLTON, Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that he resigned his appointment as a Government Insurance Agent of Otago, at the instigation of Mr. Knight, the Actuary, whereby he suffered great loss, and that he received £50 compensation. He prays that more adequate remuneration for the loss he has sustained through his resignation not having been more promptly accepted may be granted to him.

I am directed to report: The Committee are of opinion that the Government have dealt very generously with the petitioner, and cannot therefore recommend his claim to the favourable consideration of the House. The Committee recommend the Government to institute a more prompt audit of the accounts of agents of the Insurance Department.

1st August, 1882.

No. 137.—Petition of GEORGE LUMB, Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that he was a revenue officer in the service of the Government; that when he left the service there was a sum owing to him of £180, expenses of assistants; that the money was expended under the directions of the Superintendent of the Province, James Macandrew, Esq., who promised he should be reimbursed, which up to the present time has not been done. He now prays for relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee cannot recommend the claim of the petitioner, as there is no evidence before the Committee to justify such a recommendation. It also appears that no application has been made to the Government.

1st August, 1882.

No. 307.—Petition of THOMAS HARVEY and Others, Macetown, Otago.

THE petitioners pray that a telegraph line be established in connection with the Arrow office.

No. 310.—Petition of R. MACKINNON and Others, County Wallace, Southland.

THE petitioners pray that the present time-table to the Nightcaps may be altered; that a telegraph and post office be established in the Nightcaps Township.

No. 338.—Petition of John JEBSON and Others, North of Christchurch.

THE petitioners pray that the railway from Oxford to Sheffield may be completed.

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

2nd August, 1882.

No. 309.—Petition of NEILL and Co. and Others, Dunedin.

THE petitioners pray that further borrowing powers may be granted to the Otago Harbour Board to the extent of £200,000; that power be given to increase the rates by 1s. per ton; and that all wharves in the port of Otago be under the control of the Board.

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

2nd August, 1882.

No. 268.—Petition of the VINCENT COUNTY COUNCIL, Otago.

THE petitioners state that the Council has been deprived of sources of revenue assured to it by "The Financial Arrangements Act, 1876;" that the bridge at Alexandra is now completed, but the Council is unable to complete the necessary payments, unable to perform its ordinary duties of maintaining the county roads in repair, and saddled with an overdraft of about £5,000. They pray for relief.

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

2nd August, 1882.

No. 180.—Petition of WILLIAM INNES and Others, Port Chalmers.

THE petitioners pray that the House will limit any borrowing powers that may be granted to the Otago Harbour Board to the sum of £100,000, and that the expenditure be controlled by the Empowering Statute; that measures be taken to reconstruct the Harbour Board, and that the wharves at Port Chalmers may not be handed over to the Board.

I am directed to report: The subject-matter of this petition being now before the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make to the House.

2nd August, 1882.

No. 336.—Petition of E. GRIFFITHS and Others, Orari, South Canterbury.

THE petitioners pray that the Bible may be read in the schools of the colony.

I am directed to report: The Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation to the House on the subject-matter of this petition.

2nd August, 1882.

No. 305.—Petition of **CANTERBURY FARMERS' ASSOCIATION**.

THE petitioners complain of the high rate charged on the railway for the carriage of farm produce. They pray for a substantial reduction.

No. 312.—Petition of **GEORGE BRADFORD and Others**, County of Selwyn.

THE petitioners complain of the present high rate of tariff charges on the Canterbury railways for the carriage of grain. They pray that a reduction may be made in the same.

I am directed to report: The subject-matter of these petitions being one of public policy, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation to the House.

2nd August, 1882.

No. 321.—Petition of **DAVID McMILLAN and Others**, County of Selwyn.

THE petitioners state that they consider the present tariff rates on the Canterbury Railways are vexatiously burdensome, and pray that they may be reduced.

No. 326.—Petition of **MEMBERS of the CORN EXCHANGE and Others**, Christchurch.

THE petitioners state that they consider that the present unprecedented and excessively high rates on the lines of railways throughout New Zealand should be reduced to the extent of one-third. They pray the House to give effect to such a reduction.

I am directed to report: The subject-matter of these petitions being one of public policy, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation to the House.

2nd August, 1882.

Nos. 313, 316, 317, 335.—Petitions of **J. L. LEWIS and Others**, New Zealand; **GAVIN MENZIES and Others**, Oamaru; **J. C. BURFORD and Others**, Nelson; **C. S. TOTTON and Others**, Rangitata.

THE petitioners pray that the Bible may be read in the public schools of the colony.

I am directed to report: The Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation to the House on the subject-matter of these petitions.

2nd August, 1882.

Nos. 67, 228, and 229.—Petitions of **THOMAS SPENCER**, Thames; **JOHN FLETT**, Thames; and **PHILLIP JAMES PERRY**, Thames.

THE petitioners state that waterworks have been constructed to supply the inhabitants of the Thames with water by diverting the Waikiekie Stream, running through their lands, such waterworks having been handed over to the Thames Borough Council; that the said Council granted them, in lieu of their rights, the water flowing through an inch-pipe from the main; they enjoyed such supply for several years, but have been deprived of their rights by an Act of the Legislature. They now pray for relief.

I am directed to report: It appears, from the evidence before the Committee, that the petitioners have been deprived of their riparian rights, without compensation, by Acts of the Legislature, intituled "The Thames Water Supply Act, 1876," and "The Thames Water Supply Transfer Act, 1880." The Committee are of opinion that the Borough Council of the Thames be invited to consider the claims of the petitioners on equitable grounds, and, failing any favourable compromise being come to, the Committee recommend the Government to invite the Legislature to pass an Act to restore the rights of the petitioners.

3rd August, 1882.

No. 244.—Petition of **THOMAS GRAHAM**, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was a Volunteer from the Thames to Parihaka; he claims back pay amounting to £6 7s. 6d., and prays for relief.

I am directed to report: That, as the Committee have already dealt with the petition of the Thames Volunteers, and recommended two months' pay be granted them, it is not necessary to make any recommendation in the petitioner's case.

3rd August, 1882.

No. 329.—Petition of **W. FRASER and Others**, County of Waimate.

THE petitioners pray that the Ridings of Waihao and Hakateramea may be excluded from the Timaru Harbour Board Rating District.

No. 314.—Petition of **GEORGE TURNBULL and Others**, North-East Harbour District.

THE petitioners pray that the Portobello Enabling Bill may pass into law.

No. 315.—Petition of **GEORGE ANDERSON and Others**, Broad Bay.

THE petitioners pray that the Portobello Enabling Bill may pass into law.

No. 340.—Petition of **J. WHITE and Others**, Peninsula Road District.

THE petitioners pray that the Portobello Enabling Bill may not pass into law.

I am directed to report: The subject-matter of these petitions being before the House, the Committee have no recommendation to make.

3rd August, 1882.

No. 131.—Petition of JAMES DUROSS, Coromandel.

THE petitioner claims land as an old soldier and military settler.

I am directed to report: As the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into claims of this character has reported against this claim, the Committee do not consider it desirable to reopen the case.

4th August, 1882.

No. 265.—Petition of JAMES HUME, Dunedin.

THE petitioner claims compensation for service under the Provincial Government of Otago, as Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, Dunedin.

I am directed to report: The Committee are of opinion that, as the petitioner accepted service under the General Government on the abolition of the provinces, and continued in such service till the end of 1881, he is only entitled to compensation for loss of office as a General Government officer, in the terms of "The Civil Service Act, 1866."

4th August, 1882.

No. 54.—Petition of ROBERT RIDLING, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he has resided for some years on Cox's Creek, upon land which he purchased for the purpose of a building-yard, on account of the convenience of the creek; that his trade has been totally destroyed by the erection of a bridge over the creek. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having inquired into the case of the petitioner, find that the bridge in question confers a great benefit on the district, and cannot therefore recommend his claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

4th August, 1882.

No. 95.—Petition of JOHN MCCARTHY, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was employed in the railway workshops at Auckland at the wages of 18s. per week; that other apprentices received 24s. per week. He prays that he may receive 6s. per week as back pay.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having considered the petitioner's case, find from the evidence that a special arrangement was made by him with the department, which has been given effect to; the Committee cannot, therefore, recommend the claim of the petitioner to the favourable consideration of the House.

4th August, 1882.

No. 80.—Petition of THOMAS ROACH.

THE petitioner states that in the year 1865 he met with an accident whilst employed by the Railway Department in Canterbury, and has since been unable to follow his trade. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make in the case of the petitioner.

4th August, 1882.

No. 319.—Petition of W. HALL, Otago.

THE petitioner claims compensation for provincial service as bailiff to the Resident Magistrates' and Wardens' Courts on the Otago Gold Fields.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having inquired into the petitioner's case, are of opinion he is not entitled to compensation for his term of service as a provincial officer, as, on abolition of the provinces, he accepted office in the General Government service, and continued in such service for some years, and received such compensation as "The Civil Service Act, 1866," provides for loss of office.

4th August, 1882.

No. 55.—Petition of RICHARD SANKEY and Others, Matakana District.

THE petitioners complain that, after enjoying for nearly thirty years the privilege of using a landing-place belonging to the Government on the west branch of the Matakana River, also a road leading thereto, they have been deprived of the same through the action of the Road Board. They pray the House to grant them relief.

I am directed to report: It appears from the evidence before the Committee that the Road Board has been remiss in not maintaining the public rights as regards the road in question; but, failing the action of the Board, the Committee consider that, as it is possible the petitioners can enforce their rights in the law Courts, the Committee can make no special recommendations in their case.

4th August, 1882.

No. 118.—Petition of ALEXANDER STITT, Westport.

THE petitioner states that in the year 1874 he contracted with the Government for forming and metalling portions of the Westport and Reefton Road; that in consequence of slips he sustained great loss; an arbitrator was appointed, who decided that £800 should be awarded him, which the Government refused to abide by. He petitioned the House in 1877, and the Public Petitions Committee recommended the above sum should be paid; that in 1879 the Government paid him £620 and refused to pay him any more. He now prays for relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make to the House in the case of the petitioner, as the Government appear to have paid him the fair compensation for the loss incurred.

4th August, 1882.

No. 373.—Petition of JOHN HOSKYNs, Christchurch.

THE petitioner requests an inquiry into the causes which have led to his dismissal from the office of Staff Surveyor in the District of Canterbury; he states he is anxious to undergo any reasonable test as to his ability, and that such test may be made under any other officer than Chief Surveyor Baker.

I am directed to report: After full inquiry into this case, the Committee do not consider that the petitioner has been unfairly dealt with by the Chief Surveyor of Canterbury; but, under all the circumstances of the case, the Committee recommend the Government to give the petitioner the opportunity of being examined in Wellington by some competent person appointed by the Surveyor-General.

8th August, 1882.

No. 119.—Petition of JAMES WILSON and Others, Kaitoke.

THE petitioners state that, in consequence of the northern side of the railway in the vicinity of Kaitoke being unfenced, great loss is occasioned to them by their cattle being killed by passing trains. They pray the House will take such measures as will prevent a recurrence of these casualties.

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

9th August, 1882.

No. 78.—Petition of GEORGE MCGAVIN, Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that he sustained loss through the action of the officers of the Public Works Department supervising his contract for the erection of Waitaki Bridge, which occasioned delay in the completion of his work, and the imposition of a penalty of £500. He prays that compensation may be granted him for his losses and the remission of the fine.

I am directed to report: The Committee are of opinion that the petitioner was not entitled to compensation for the loss on the contract. The Committee recommend that the petitioner be paid the money held back as penalties, if the Government are satisfied that the work has been completed in a proper manner.

9th August, 1882.

Nos. 134 and 294.—Petitions of J. B. FISHER and Others, Wellington; W. C. SMITH and Others, Dunedin.

THE petitioners protest against skilled trades being taught in the gaols of the Colony of New Zealand, as such a system competes with and lessens the demand for free labour, besides reducing the social status of a large section of the people of the colony. They pray the House will grant them relief.

I am directed to report: These petitions are signed by all classes of working-men, and therefore are entitled to consideration. The lists of the petitioners comprise labourers, carpenters, carters, barmen, publicans, masons, printers, saddlers, &c. The petitioners were represented by a deputation of intelligent workmen, who were introduced by Mr. W. Hutchison, M.H.R., also by Mr. Bracken, M.H.R., who made a powerful appeal to the Committee in support of the prayer of the petitioners. On the examination of the members of the deputation, it appeared that they were not at all in accord as to the object to be obtained: some objected to youths being trained to skilled labour in the gaols; others appeared to desire that the product of work done in gaol should not be disposed of outside, so as to cause competition with free labour; others thought that prison-labour might be utilized in making ordinary articles of consumption, such as boots and shoes, for general use in all Government departments, from a policeman or volunteer to a member of the General Assembly; but that farming, flax-dressing, sugar-refining, and quarrying and dressing stone should be the general direction in which Government should utilize prison-labour, as interfering least with free labour. It was pointed out that flax-dressing and agriculture were carried on by free labour, and that the classes thus employed would also naturally object in having to compete with prison-labour. With respect to one of the new sources of employment suggested by the deputation, in which prison-labour could be economically employed, it was pointed out that a sugar-refinery was about to be established in Auckland. It appeared clear that each trade objected to any competition with the product of prison-labour, but had no objection to the prisoners being engaged in work for the gaol department only. That, having carefully considered the subject-matter of these petitions, and the special suggestions made by the deputation, the Committee are of opinion that the question is one which involves large considerations of public policy, which the House should deal with at the invitation of the Government. The Committee therefore recommend the petitions to the serious consideration of the Government, to take such action as may be deemed necessary in the interest of the colony generally.

9th August, 1882.

No. 128.—Petition of WILLIAM CONNOLLY and Others.

THE petitioners ask that some recognition of the service they rendered to the colony in 1868 and 1869, at Patea, may be granted them.

I am directed to report: While the Committee recognize the services the petitioners rendered to the district in 1868, the Committee do not see their way to make any special recommendation.

9th August, 1882.

No. 112.—Petition of J. W. NOMAN, Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he was committed for trial for perjury by the Resident Magistrate of Wellington in October, 1881; that the Grand Jury threw out the Bill, but he was put to considerable expense in obtaining his witnesses and legal expenses preparatory to trial, amounting to £68 9s., which he considers arose through the action of the Resident Magistrate in not binding over the principal

witness against him to prosecute. He prays that a sum of money may be placed on the estimates to reimburse him the losses he has sustained.

I am directed to report: That the Committee, having considered the case of the petitioner, have no recommendation to make to the House.

9th August, 1882.

Nos. 380, 381, and 382.—Petitions of W. H. WILLIAMS, JOSEPH PRESTON and THOMAS MUIR, JAMES DRYSDALE and Others.

THE petitioners pray for separation of the Waihemo County from the Waikouaiti County.

I am directed to report: That these petitions be laid on the table of the House with the other documents relative to the proposed new County of Waihemo.

9th August, 1882.

No. 376.—Petition of the MAYOR of Christchurch and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the Christchurch Drainage Bill may pass.

No. 377.—Petition of the RATEPAYERS of Christchurch.

THE petitioners pray that the Christchurch Drainage Bill may not pass into law.

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

9th August, 1882.

No. 172.—Petition of JAMES H. PALMER, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he is a carriage-proprietor, and that he imported, for the purposes of his trade, a new carriage from England, upon which he had to pay the Customs duty. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report: That, as it appears from the evidence of the Collector of Customs, Auckland, that the petitioner did not bring the carriage with him from England for the purpose of using in his trade as a cab-proprietor, the Committee cannot recommend his claim to the consideration of the House.

11th August, 1882.

No. 304.—Petition of J. W. TWENTYMAN and Others, Christchurch.

THE petitioners pray for an inquiry into the dismissal of John Hoskyns, late a surveyor in the employ of the Government, at Christchurch.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make on this petition, having already reported on Mr. Hoskyn's case.

11th August, 1882.

No. 301.—Petition of JOSEPH ROGERS and Others, Kingston Riding.

THE petitioners pray that a portion of the Kingston Riding may be withdrawn from the Lake County, and added to the County of Southland.

I am directed to report: As the Government propose to bring in a County Amendment Act, the Committee are of opinion that the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

15th August, 1882.

No. 16.—Petition of CORNELIUS O'HARA, Invercargill.

THE petitioner states that he has sustained a loss of £100, at least, through damage done to his land by excavations made, under the directions of the officers of the Provincial Government, for the purposes connected with the maintenance of the Bluff Harbour and Invercargill Railway. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report: There is no evidence before the Committee to show that the petitioner is entitled to any compensation; the Committee therefore recommend the Government to make inquiry, and award to him fair compensation, if it is shown that he is entitled to any.

15th August, 1882.

No. 240.—Petition of STEPHEN NEWPORT, Nelson.

THE petitioner prays the House to grant him compensation for losses sustained through war and being compelled to serve in the Militia.

I am directed to report: The Committee, while sympathizing with the loss the petitioner has sustained by the Native war, can make no special recommendation in his case, as they consider the whole of the persons who have sustained loss should be dealt with under a general system.

15th August, 1882.

No. 181.—Petition of W. HARRIS, Wellington.

THE petitioner states that in 1879 he petitioned the House for relief in consequence of being discharged from the police force in Wellington. He now prays that his case may be reheard.

I am directed to report: The Committee see no reason to alter the decision arrived at in 1879 on the case of the petitioner.

15th August, 1882.

No. 171.—Petition of JOSEPH L. WORMS, Auckland (No. 1).

THE petitioner states that he was injured by hard work while in gaol, and prays for relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make to the House on petitioner's case.

15th August, 1882.

No. 154.—Petition of A. JAMESON and Others, Pukekohe.

THE petitioners pray that portions of the Auckland-Mercer (Te Awamutu) line of railway may be fenced.

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

15th August 1882.

No. 276.—Petition of W. WOOD and Others, Coromandel.

THE petitioners ask for the completion of the Thames-Waikato Railway.

No. 370.—Petition of W. R. BROWNLEE and Others, Havelock.

THE petitioners ask for the construction of a better wharf, and that the channel be marked with beacons.

No. 392.—Petition of ALEXANDER BOYLE and Others, Otaio, South Canterbury.

THE petitioners pray for the erection of a goods shed at the Otaio Railway-station.

No. 407.—Petition of M. McLEOD and Others, Waipu.

THE petitioners pray that the road between Waipu and Whangarei may be completed.

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

No. 396, 397, and 398.—Petitions of W. JENNER and Others, Otago; JOHN C. ARBUCKLE and Others; JOHN ANDREW and Others.

THE petitioners pray for the establishment of a School of Agriculture in Otago.

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

16th August, 1882.

No. 186.—Petition of CORNELIUS LITTLE.

THE petitioner asks for compensation for the loss of his son, a member of the Defence Force, who died from the effect of a wound received at Rangiawhia in 1864.

I am directed to report: The Committee do not consider that the petitioner is entitled to relief from the colony under the circumstances stated in his petition.

16th August, 1882.

No. 345.—Petition of H. DODSON and Others, of Marlborough.

THE petitioners pray for the repeal of the beer-tax.

I am directed to report: The subject-matter of this petition being one of public policy, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation to the House.

16th August, 1882.

No. 6.—Petition of Dr. H. DIVER, Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he is Surgeon to the Wellington Naval Brigade; that prior to the departure of the Volunteers for active service at Parihaka he was asked by the officers of the several companies to examine the men who were about to proceed to the front; he did so, and claims the sum of £77, being at the rate of 5s. per man, which sum the Government has refused to pay. He now prays for relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having fully considered the petitioner's case, cannot recommend his claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

18th August, 1882.

Nos. 61 and 409.—Petitions of THOMAS BUTLER, Nelson.

THE petitioner states that he was Superintendent and Clerk of the Nelson Lunatic Asylum; that in 1876 he was removed from office by the Provincial Executive; that a Royal Commission investigated his case in 1877; that for several years he has made application to be heard, but up to the present time this has been refused. He now prays to be heard, and asks to be allowed to resume the duties of his office.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having examined the petitioner, and fully considered the case, cannot recommend his prayer to the favourable consideration of the House.

18th August, 1882.

No. 428.—Petition of C. REDWOOD and Others, of the Marlborough District.

THE petitioners state that they are sheepfarmers in the Provincial District of Marlborough; that, owing to the mountainous and rough character of the land, and the difficulties of fencing the same, they find a great difficulty in eradicating the scab upon some of their runs; that the power vested in Inspectors by section 23 of "The Sheep Act, 1878," to determine arbitrarily whether or not reasonable exertions

have been made by the owners to clean infected sheep, operates harshly upon many of the occupiers of the aforesaid land; they suggest the discretion so vested should be vested in the Court hearing the information, and not leave in the hands of the Inspector the almost absolute power of saying whether or not the said persons should be fined. They pray the House will grant them relief.

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

23rd August, 1882.

No. 343.—Petition of JAMES FLOOD and Others, Settlers of Port Underwood (No. 2).

THE petitioners request that the House will not comply with the application of certain petitioners resident in Picton, that a sum of money be placed on the estimates for making a road from Picton to Port Underwood, as it is neither desirable nor practicable, as there is already a sufficient track for driving cattle, and regular communication with Blenheim, Wellington, and Picton by water.

I am directed to report: The Committee strongly recommend the request of the petitioners to the favourable consideration of the House.

24th August, 1882.

No. 177.—Petition of MARY ANN DORAN, Wellington.

THE petitioner states that she is the widow of John Doran, late of Wellington police; that her husband entered the force in 1861, and remained therein until the reductions which took place in 1880; that he received one year's pay as compensation for such reduction; that her late husband died in October, 1880, leaving her with six children dependent on her. She prays that, in consideration of the nineteen years' faithful service of the late John Doran, further compensation may be granted to her.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make to the House in the case of the petitioner.

24th August, 1882.

No. 226.—Petition of SAMUEL STEVENSON, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he erected a large house for an hotel, and applied for a license to the Onehunga Licensing Bench; that the license was refused on the plea that a new Licensing Act was to become law. He prays that the new Act will make some provision for compensation for loss sustained in his case, and that he may apply again for his license before the expiration of three years.

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

24th August, 1882.

No. 388.—Petition of JOHN JOSEPH O'BRIEN, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he contracted with the Government for the Southland Railway and Reclamation contract; that when carrying it out the Native owners insisted on compensation for material taken from the hills, which cost him £150; that owing to bad weather and the encroachments of the sea he suffered great loss. He now prays for relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having considered all the circumstances of the case, cannot recommend any compensation, but recommend remission of penalties if the Government is satisfied with the execution of the work.

25th August, 1882.

No. 346.—Petition of WILLIAM LITTLEJOHN and Others, Ohinemuri.

THE petitioners pray that certain lands may be taken for the completion of the road to Paeroa.

I am directed to report: As local authorities have power under the Public Works Act to take land for a public road, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any special recommendation in this case.

28th August, 1882.

No. 437.—Petition of KILBIRNIE HIGHWAY BOARD.

THE petitioners pray that the Karori-Makara Riding of the Hutt County may be divided into two ridings, to be called the Karori Riding and the Kilbirnie Riding.

I am directed to report: The Committee are of opinion that the Counties Act provides for the division of ridings, but if the provisions are not satisfactory there is an amending Act before the House; the alterations can be made with the consent of the House.

28th August, 1882.

No. 415.—Petition of MICHAEL FLANAGAN and Others, Charleston.

THE petitioners ask for assistance in aiding them to obtain—what they consider their just rights under existing laws—a water supply for mining purposes.

No. 416.—Petition of CHARLES WOODHEAD and Others, Charleston.

THE petitioners ask for the assistance of the Government in meeting the heavy demand upon them for damages and law costs in the matter of a water-supply for the miners of Croninville.

I am directed to report: The Committee are of opinion that the subject-matter of these petitions is one to be considered and dealt with by the House.

28th August, 1882.

No. 408.—Petition of ARCHIBALD MCKAY and Others, Portobello Road District.

THE petitioners protest against the passing a Bill for the alteration of the present boundaries of the Portobello Road District.

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

28th August, 1882.

No. 361.—Petition of K. B. FERGUSON and Others, District of Blueskin.

THE petitioners pray that a Bill to be brought before the House, intituled "An Act to enable the Dunedin Suburban Water-works Company (Limited) to supply Maori Hill, Roslyn, and Mornington with Water, by diverting and impounding Waitaki River," may not pass into law.

I am directed to report: As the Bill referred to by the petitioners has not been brought before the House, the Committee do not consider it necessary to make any recommendation.

28th August, 1882.

No. 446.—Petition of WILLIAM FANE DE SALIS, London.

THE petitioner prays that "The Land Claims Settlement Act, 1878," may be amended so as to enable his claim to be heard.

I am directed to report: The Committee consider the claim of the petitioner—if any ever existed against the colony—has lapsed. The Committee cannot therefore recommend the claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

28th August, 1882.

No. 443.—Petition of MAYOR and COUNCILLORS of PARNELL.

THE petitioners object to clause 226 of "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1876," which limits arrangements made for a water-supply from outside of boroughs to a period of three years. They pray that the period may be extended.

No. 450.—Petition of JOSEPH LOWNES and Others, Auckland.

THE petitioners state they view with alarm the action of the Government in their effort to force "The Fisheries Act, 1882," through the House at the close of the present session, as it gives unfair advantage to the Maori population. They pray it may not pass.

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

28th August, 1882.

No. 339.—Petition of ALEXANDER CLARK and Others, Invercargill and Bluff.

THE petitioners pray that the railway line between Invercargill and Bluff may be fenced.

No. 413.—Petition of W. H. THORP and Others, Wairoa.

THE petitioners pray for assistance in repairing road.

No. 449.—Petition of S. JOHNSTON and Others, Woodville.

THE petitioners pray for a bridge being erected near Masterton.

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

28th August, 1882.

No. 441.—Petition of JAMES LEYS and Others.

THE petitioners pray that a telephone may be erected at Totaranui in the interests of the shipping passing through Cook Strait.

No. 435.—Petition of JOHN SHARP and Others.

THE petitioners pray for a railway siding at Ladbroke.

No. 442.—Petition of ASHLEY ROAD BOARD and Others.

THE petitioners ask that a bridge may be erected across the Ashley River at or near Rangiora.

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

29th August, 1882.

No. 330.—The MAYOR of RIVERTON and Others.

THE petitioners ask that the Harbour of Riverton may be improved and deepened, and pray for an endowment of £20,000 for that purpose.

No. 429.—J. BURTON and Others, Borough of Roxburgh.

THE petitioners ask that a suspension bridge may be erected over the Clutha River at Roxburgh.

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

29th August, 1882.

No. 365.—Petition of the RAGLAN RIFLE CLUB.

THE petitioners pray that new rifles may be issued to the members of the club, the ones in use being of bad quality and almost unfit for use.

No. 274.—Petition of D. H. McKENZIE and Others, Shipowners, Auckland.

THE petitioners pray that the pilotage exemption certificates in use in the colony may be assimilated to those of New South Wales.

I am directed to report: That these petitions be referred to the Government for consideration.
29th August, 1882.

No. 383.—Petition of J. CHURCH and Others, Otago and Southland.

THE petitioners pray that a School of Agriculture may be established in Otago and Southland, and that 2,000 acres of Crown lands may be reserved for that purpose. That the House will grant unto the University Council of Otago a subsidy of £10,000, or an endowment of land to meet the expenses of erecting the necessary buildings, &c.

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

29th August, 1882.

No. 295.—Petition of J. D. HUNTER and Others, Gordon Town District.

THE petitioners pray that "The Town Districts Act, 1881," may be amended.

I am directed to report: The subject-matter of this petition being one of public policy affecting local government, the Committee refer it to the Government for consideration.

29th August, 1882.

No. 350.—Petition of ROBERT GRAHAM, of Rotorua (No. 2).

THE petitioner states that he has been engaged in planting large areas at Tararu, Thames, with forest trees, also on a considerable scale at Ellerslie, with the object of obtaining the benefits to be derived under "The Forest Trees Planting Encouragement Act, 1871." He prays the House will take his case into consideration, and grant him relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee cannot make any recommendation to the House in the case of the petitioner, but refer it to the Government for consideration.

30th August, 1882.

No. 193.—Petition of Mrs. E. MIERS and Others, Widows, of the Kaitangata Relief Fund.

THE petitioners state they are widows, sufferers from the late Kaitangata disaster, and beneficiaries under the Kaitangata Relief Fund. They pray that a Committee may be appointed to inquire into the administration of the Kaitangata Relief Fund.

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

30th August, 1882.

No. 264.—Petition of ROBERT ATKINSON, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was dismissed, after twelve years' service, from the Customs Department; that he has petitioned the House for several sessions endeavouring to prove his innocence of the charges for which he was dismissed. He now requests the House will grant him an investigation into the charges brought against him, and favourably consider his claim to compensation for loss of office.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make to the House in the case of the petitioner.

30th August, 1882.

No. 234.—Petition of GEORGE MULLENGER, Auckland.

THE petitioner asks for an inquiry into his dismissal from his appointment as Inspector of Permanent-way, Auckland Railways, in April, 1882. He states he claims £500 for loss of office.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make in the case of the petitioner.

30th August, 1882.

No. 344.—Petition of W. T. WYATT and Others, Kaiwarra.

THE petitioners state they are residents about Wellington, Kaiwarra, Johnsonville, Ohariu, Porirua, and [neighbourhood]; that they petitioned the Hutt Council to abolish the toll-gate, which petition was not entertained by the Council. They now pray the House will take steps for abolishing the Kaiwarra Toll-gate.

I am directed to report: As the Committee are of opinion this is a matter for the County Council to deal with, they have no recommendation to make to the House.

30th August, 1882.

No. 390.—Petition of JAMES FARRELL, Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he was twenty years in the Armed Constabulary without any charge of misconduct or disobedience being brought against him; that in May, 1882, he struck a man named Fraser, in self-defence, for which he was fined by the Resident Magistrate at the Thames, and afterwards dismissed the Government service. He prays that he may be reinstated in his former position as detective at the Thames.

I am directed to report: Having carefully considered the case of the petitioner, the Committee are of opinion that he has some claim for consideration, and recommend, if he cannot be reinstated in the police force, that on account of long service and previous good conduct, he receive employment in some other department of the public service for which he is suitable.

30th August, 1882.

No. 66.—JOHN ALEXANDER WILSON, Tauranga.

THE petitioner states that he was Judge of the Native Land Court and Royal Commissioner under "The Tauranga District Land Act, 1867;" that he has been deprived of his appointment as a Judge of the Native Land Court, although it was understood this appointment was to be a permanent one, and in consideration of which he withdrew a money claim on account of commission on Native lands purchased on account of the Government; that he had to remove to Tauranga, which cost him over £500; that he has been put to heavy expenses upon the faith of an understanding which has been broken by the authorities; and that his summary dismissal as a Judge has seriously injured him. He prays the House will cause full inquiry into his case and such relief to be afforded him as may seem meet.

I am directed to report: The Committee are of opinion that the petitioner is not entitled to the compensation claimed for the purchase of Native lands, as such claim was abandoned on his appointment of Judge of the Native Land Court. With respect to the claim for consideration for loss of office, the Committee are of opinion that, owing to a want of harmony between the Chief Judge and the petitioner, it is not expedient in the public interest that he be reappointed a Judge of the Native Land Court; but the Committee recommend that some other appointment in the public service, for which he is suitable, be offered him.

31st August, 1882.

No. 455.—Petition of W. A. LOWE and Others, Nelson.

THE petitioners pray that a Royal Commission may be appointed to inquire into the best line to be adopted for connecting the present northern extremity of the Southern Trunk Railway with the Port of Picton on Cook Strait.

No. 457.—Petition of JOHN ASPINALL and Others, Shotover

THE petitioners pray that a telephone may be granted them at Skippers, and promise to give the usual guarantee.

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

31st August, 1882.

No. 460.—Petition of JAMES TIPPING and Others, Seventy-Mile Bush.

THE petitioners ask that the railway-station may be erected at Danevirke.

No. 470.—Petition of B. DOHERTY and Others, Jackson's Bay.

THE petitioners pray for more frequent communication with other parts of New Zealand.

No. 471.—Petition of WILLIAM DUNCAN and Others, Raglan District.

THE petitioners pray for telegraph communication with other parts of the colony.

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

31st August, 1882.

No. 352.—Petition of ARTHUR HORNE and Others, Thames.

THE petitioners pray that the House will inquire into the nature and circumstances of James Farrell's case, with a view to reinstating him in his former position in the Armed Constabulary.

No. 454.—Petition of J. C. DAVIS and Others.

THE petitioners ask that the Proclamation that County Cook be a Native Licensing District under "The Licensing Act, 1881," be withdrawn.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make on the subject-matter of these petitions.

31st August, 1882.

No. 162.—Petition of the NEW ZEALAND LOAN and MERCANTILE AGENCY COMPANY.

THE petitioners state that in 1871 they secured an allotment of land contiguous to the railway-station of Lyttelton by public tender and erected a store thereon, and fitted dumping plant therein, at a cost of £8,000; that at the end of three years the Provincial Government exercised its option of determining the agreement for occupation (twenty-one years), repaying to your petitioners the sum of £3,000; that subsequently the Provincial Government leased the said store to them at a rental of £240 per annum, the said lease to expire on the 30th September, 1876; that they continued to occupy the said store until July, 1877, when the General Government put up the store for lease by public tender; that they accepted a lease of the said store, together with the adjoining stores, for the yearly rentals of £1,635 and £1,365, and then the Government entered into storage competition at reduced rates; that in March, 1879, your petitioners surrendered the latter store, which is now used by Government for storage; that they then arranged to erect a store at Officers' Point, to which they were promised a railway siding; that they then gave notice of their intention to surrender the lease of the store held at the rental of £1,635, in September, 1879; that they commenced erecting a building on Officers' Point, but, owing to the difficulties with respect to the siding, it was suspended; it was then arranged that they should have a new lease of the Government store for twenty-one years, seven years certain, and thereafter subject to six months' notice, expiring at the end of any third year, if required for railway purposes, the company to pay arrears of rent and forego any claim for a siding at Officers' Point; that on the 29th day of September, 1880, they accepted a notice to quit on the 15th October of that year, at very great loss and inconvenience, finding it impossible to pay the rental

demand by Government of £1,200 a year and carry out the arrangements made with its customers; that £1,246 was demanded from them as rent from the 30th September, 1879, to the 15th October, 1880. They pray that the House will cause inquiry to be made and afford them relief.

I am directed to report: Having carefully considered the case of the petitioners, the Committee recommend that the petition, together with the evidence thereon, and the draft summary submitted by the Chairman to the Committee, be forwarded to the Government for consideration.

1st September, 1882.

No. 337.—Petition of MARGARET MILLS and Others, Timaru.

THE petitioner, Mrs. Mills, states that her late husband entered the Government service in June, 1866, and remained in it until the day of his death, which took place on the 14th May, 1882, whilst in the discharge of his duties, trying to save the "City of Perth," wrecked at Timaru. The petitioners pray that a sum of money may be granted to the said Margaret Mills by way of compassionate relief and compensation for the loss of her husband.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make in the case of the petitioners.

1st September, 1882.

No. 327.—Petition of CHARLES MACK, Newton, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that he was illegally imprisoned in 1868, on a charge of smuggling tobacco, by which he has sustained actual loss to the extent of £325. He prays the House will grant him relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having previously dealt with this case, have no recommendation to make to the House.

4th September, 1882.

No. 217.—Petition of ANN ROBERTSON, Rotorua.

THE petitioner states that in February, 1880, she entered into possession of the Ohinemutu Hotel; that soon after taking possession she was forcibly ejected from the said premises. She prays that a Commission may issue to inquire into the said matter, and grant her relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having previously dealt with this case, have no recommendation to make to the House.

4th September, 1882.

No. 218.—Petition of WILLIAM KERWIN and Others, Rotorua.

THE petitioners ask that the prayer of the petition of Ann Robertson may be accorded to her, and that the House will direct that a Commission may issue to inquire into her case.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having previously dealt with this case, have no recommendation to make to the House.

4th September, 1882.

No. 447.—Petition of PATRICK CONNELL, Alexandra, Auckland.

THE petitioner complains of the forced closing of his hotel (through instructions from Mr. Bryce) during a Native meeting, by which he lost £180. He prays the House to grant him relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee consider that the action taken by the Defence Minister was a proper exercise of authority; but if the petitioner thinks that he has been illegally dealt with the Courts of law are open to him to obtain redress.

4th September, 1882.

No. 308.—Petition of GEORGE WHITE, Westport.

THE petitioner states that the Buller towing-track has been kept in repair for the last four years at some considerable cost to himself. He prays the House will cause inquiry to be made, and make such order as may seem meet.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make to the House on the petitioner's case.

4th September, 1882.

No. 452.—Petition of HENRY ROBERTS, Tararu, Thames.

THE petitioner states that he was discharged in 1853 from Her Majesty's 58th Regiment in Auckland; that he was unable to take advantage of the law which gave him the right to select sixty acres of land; that he was prevented from having his claim included in the report of the Royal Commission. He prays the House will grant him relief.

I am directed to report: It appears, from the evidence before the Committee, that the petitioner could have selected land as a discharged soldier if he had complied with the conditions, but he failed to do so. He also failed to make an application to the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into such cases until the Royal Commission closed, and the Chairman of the Commission states that it is doubtful whether the claims could have been granted. The Committee cannot therefore recommend his claim.

4th September, 1882.

No. 433.—Petition of WILLIAM PICKETT, Onehunga.

THE petitioner states that he was in the employ of the Government for a period of seven years; that he was suddenly dismissed without an inquiry. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make to the House in the case of the petitioner.

5th September, 1882.

No. 270.—Petition of GEORGE JERVIS, Westport.

THE petitioner prays for a further recognition of his services rendered in the matter of the murders committed on the Maungatapu Mountain Road in June, 1866.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make to the House in the case of the petitioner.

5th September, 1882.

No. 157.—Petition of ANDREW and JOHN THOMSON.

THE petitioners state that they supplied W. Strachan, who contracted with the Government for a portion of the Dunedin-Moeraki Railway, with material to the amount of £106 14s. 2d.; that the said W. Strachan became bankrupt, and the contract was completed by Allen and Kingstreet, at a saving to the Government of £4,713; that the said money owing to them has never been paid. They pray that, as the material supplied by them was used in the contract, they may be paid out of the savings.

I am directed to report: As it appears, from the evidence before the Committee, that the Government has, on the whole, suffered loss on its contracts with Mr. Strachan, the Committee cannot recommend the Government to pay this claim.

5th September, 1882.

No. 444.—Petition of ALEXANDER AITKEN (No. 1).

THE petitioner states that he had charge of the Thames Water-race for the Government until it was transferred to the Thames County Council in December, 1878; that he received no salary for the months of October, November, and December of that year. He prays the House will grant him relief.

I am directed to report: From the evidence submitted to the Committee, it appears the petitioner has received liberal treatment from the Public Works Department, by being allowed to hold the office of Engineer to the Thames County at £300, in addition to the office of Government Engineer at £450, for the period of one year and three-quarters, and cannot therefore recommend his claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

5th September, 1882.

No. 311.—Petition of THOMAS BRAY, Newton, Auckland.

THE petitioner prays that the House will be pleased to take such steps as shall result in his being compensated for being deprived of his property and unable to obtain redress in the Supreme Court.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make to the House in the case of the petitioner.

5th September, 1882.

No. 222.—Petition of ALEXANDER SHAND, Chatham Islands.

THE petitioner states that he was summoned as a witness to the Supreme Court at Christchurch, for which he received 8s. per diem.

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

5th September, 1882.

No. 342.—Petition of Messrs. MACE and BASSETT, Patea.

THE petitioners state that they were the contractors for the Normanby-Hawera section of the New Plymouth Railway; that they discovered a gravel-pit, which cost them £360 in laying down sleepers and rails; that on completion of their contract the Government took over the said line to the gravel-pit, and the Resident Engineer promised he would recommend the payment of £182 8s. in consideration of the same. They pray the House will inquire into their case and grant them some consideration.

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

5th September, 1882.

No. 436.—Petition of ROBERT WEISS, Dunedin.

THE petitioner states that he registered himself as an applicant for the purchase of land under "The Immigrants Land Act, 1873," but was debarred from making a fresh application through his certificate not having been returned to him; that he has sustained loss through the neglect of the Under-Secretary. He prays for compensation.

I am directed to report: The Committee cannot recommend any compensation in the case of the petitioner, as it appears it was in consequence of his own neglect that the land to which he was entitled was not purchased for him.

5th September, 1882.

No. 281.—Petition of JERMYN SYMONDS, Auckland.

THE petitioner prays that the House will take his case into its favourable consideration, and grant him an increase to his pension or some monetary compensation in consideration of his services rendered to the colony.

I am directed to report: As it appears the petitioner has received the pension he was by law entitled to when he retired in 1869, it does not appear to the Committee any reason for increasing such pension that the petitioner was subsequently employed on fair salary as a Judge of the Native Land Court.

5th September, 1882.

No. 14.—Petition of PATEA HARBOUR BOARD.

THE Board pray that land in the district may be granted to it as an equivalent for land taken for railway purposes, which land so taken formed part of the security for a loan of £10,000 borrowed in 1879.

I am directed to report: The Committee are of opinion that lands given to local bodies on the security of which money has been borrowed should not be taken for railway purposes without fair compensation, and recommend the Government to submit the claims of the petitioners to arbitration in the usual way, in order to ascertain the value of the land taken, deductions being made for any increased value the land may have acquired by the construction of the railway.

6th September, 1882.

No. 445.—Petition of ALEXANDER AITKEN (No. 2).

THE petitioner states that he was Resident Engineer under the late Provincial Government at Coromandel; that in 1878 his services were dispensed with, and that he did not receive the same consideration as other provincial officers.

I am directed to report: It appears, from the evidence before the Committee, that the petitioner did not retire at the date of the abolition of the provinces from the service, but continued in the employ of the General Government, and of the Thames County Council. The Committee do not therefore consider that he is now entitled to compensation as a provincial officer for loss of office.

6th September, 1882.

No. 427.—Petition of BOROUGH of ST. KILDA.

THE petitioners state that the Forbury Park Land Company wish to acquire the freehold of a road which runs through their property from the Ocean Beach to Caversham; that the public interest will not be conserved by so doing. They pray that no issue of a grant to the land be made to the company.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make to the House in the case of the petitioners.

6th September, 1882.

No. 406.—Petition of WILLIAM GARRICK, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that when on active duty in 1863 he received a severe wound on the head, for which he petitioned the House in 1878, and received an award of £75. He further states that the injury is permanent, and prays the House will grant him a reinvestigation into his case.

I am directed to report: Having, during a previous session, finally dealt with the case of the petitioner, the Committee cannot consent to reopen it.

6th September, 1882.

No. 472.—Petition of JAMES MORRISON, Kaiwaka.

THE petitioner states that about eight acres of his land, being part of Lot 45, Parish of Kaiwaka, was taken in April, 1882, by the Minister for Public Works for a road; that he claims £54 for the same, but has been offered £16 10s., which he refused to accept; that no course is open for the recovery of compensation under "The Public Works Act, 1876," therefore he requests the House will cause the full amount of his claim to be paid to him.

I am directed to report: As it appears from the evidence before the Committee that the petitioner can have his claim heard and dealt with by a Compensation Court under "The Public Works Act, 1876," the Committee cannot therefore make any recommendation to the House in the case of the petitioner.

7th September, 1882.

No. 422.—Petition of Colonel HENRY HORATIO KITCHENER.

THE petitioner states that he is owner of Section 39, Dunback Survey District, Otago; that in 1871 the Provincial Government of Otago abandoned the old main line of road up Shag Valley, and in lieu thereof made a road through his section, for which he claimed compensation, and that such claim remains unsettled. He prays the House will take his case into consideration, and grant him relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having considered the claims of the petitioner, are of opinion that the petition be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

7th September, 1882.

No. 360.—Petition of WILLIAM HILL and Others.

THE petitioners are drivers and firemen of the Hurunui-Bluff section of the New Zealand Railways. They complain of a number of grievances under which they are suffering as a body, and ask for an impartial and independent Court of inquiry as their only protection. They pray the House will take their heavy grievances into consideration, and grant them some relief.

I am directed to report: Having carefully considered the petitioners' statements, and the admissions made by Mr. Maxwell, the General Manager of the New Zealand Railways, the Committee are of opinion that the petitioners have shown sufficient cause for inquiry into the grievances complained of, and recommend that the petition and evidence taken be forwarded to the Government with a view of a fair and impartial inquiry being instituted by competent persons, not being members of the Civil Service, and any reasonable cause of complaint removed.

7th September, 1882.

No. 451.—Petition of JAMES JOSEPH MILLOCK, Auckland.

THE petitioner prays that his case may receive favourable consideration, as he considers the evidence brought against him was not sufficient to cause his dismissal from his appointment of Warder in Mount Eden Gaol.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make to the House in the case of the petitioner.

8th September, 1882.

No. 477.—Petition of J. CATTELL and Others, Wellington.

THE petitioners state they are purchasers of reclaimed land, sold by order of the Government in Wellington in 1879; that the auctioneer, after consultation with the Colonial Secretary, who was present, stated the Government would make, metal, and complete the public streets abutting upon the said land; that, relying upon this statement, they purchased several allotments, and that the roads still remain unmetalled and not completed. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report: Having taken the evidence of Sir G. Whitmore, who was at the time of the land sale Colonial Secretary, and also the evidence of other gentlemen who were present at the sale, the Committee are of opinion that the Government has carried out in a liberal manner what appears to have been authorized with reference to the formation of the streets on the reclaimed land.

8th September, 1882.

No. 387.—Petition of GEORGE KING, Christchurch.

THE petitioner states that in 1878 he purchased from W. A. Brown the whole of his season's wheat crop; that in March and April of that year Brown delivered to the railway authorities at Chertsey 2,485 sacks of wheat, for which he obtained receipts, and which the railway authorities undertook to deliver to petitioner at Christchurch. Upon the 8th May your petitioner discovered that the wheat delivered by the railway authorities to him was 227 sacks short. On inquiry, he was told by the Railway Manager at Christchurch that if he would pay Brown upon the receipts, and the wheat was not forthcoming, it would be paid for by the Department. He paid Brown, but up to the present time, although he has made repeated applications, his claim remains unsettled. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report: It appears from the evidence submitted to the Committee that the petitioner can seek redress from the Government in the law Courts for the loss complained of. The Committee cannot therefore deal with the case until his legal remedy has been exhausted.

8th September, 1882.

No. 368.—Petition of W. C. WALKER, Ashburton.

THE petitioner is Chairman of the Ashburton County Council, asking, on behalf of the ratepayers, for a reduction of the railway tariff for freight.

No. 400.—Petition of J. P. JAMESON, Christchurch.

THE petitioner is President of the Christchurch Industrial Association, asking that the tariff charges on the New Zealand Railways may be revised, as the charges are in many instances excessive.

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

8th September, 1882.

No. 480.—Petition of JOHN A. MCLLRAITH and Others, South Malvern.

THE petitioners are residents of South Malvern, Selwyn County, asking for a reduction on the charges for goods, freight, and passenger traffic on the Canterbury railways.

No. 473.—Petition of MORGAN HAYES and Others.

THE petitioners state they are ratepayers in the Wallace County, requesting that a railway siding and station be granted them on the south side of river at Riverton.

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

8th September, 1882.

No. 438.—Petition of JOHN BIDGOOD and Others, Gisborne.

THE petitioners urgently call for the immediate establishment of telephone communication between the Township of Ormond and the Borough of Gisborne, and a branch Post Office at Ormond, under the supervision of a Government officer.

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

8th September, 1882.

No. 120 of 1881.—Petition of JOHN KELLY, Auckland.

REFERRED to the Public Petitions Committee by order of reference dated 23rd August, 1882. The Public Petitions Committee reported in 1872 that the petitioner was entitled to the sum of £936; he then petitioned the House in the following year, being dissatisfied with the amount awarded him, when the Committee reported "they saw no reason to depart from their recommendation to the House during the last session." He again petitioned the House in 1881, and the Committee reported "they saw no reason to alter the decision arrived at in 1872." He now agrees to accept the amount, but asks that interest may be allowed him on the same from the year 1872.

I am directed to report: The Committee, having considered the claim of John Kelly, and the correspondence thereon with the Government, are of opinion that the sum recommended by the Com-

mittee during former sessions—namely, £936, be paid him. The Committee decline to recommend the Government to pay him any interest on that sum from the date on which the first recommendation was made, as the delay in making the payment has arisen from Mr. Kelly's own action in declining to accept it.

8th September, 1882.

No. 440.—Petition of REBECCA BRINKLEY, Tauranga.

THE petitioner states that in 1872 she acquired Section 141, being an allotment of land situate in Wharf Street, Westport, which land was taken by the Government for railway purposes, by which she states she has lost £100. She prays that a Commission may be appointed to inquire into her case and grant her relief.

I am directed to report: As it appears from the evidence before the Committee the petitioner received compensation in full of all claims, the Committee cannot recommend the claim to the favourable consideration of the House.

8th September, 1882.

No. 486.—Petition of the BOROUGH COUNCIL of SOUTH DUNEDIN.

THE petitioners ask for a railway-siding at the Kensington railway crossing.

No. 488.—Petition of CORPORATION of CAVERSHAM.

THE petitioners state that the necessity of a railway-siding at the Kensington Station is seriously felt and urgently required. They pray the House will grant the possession of such a siding.

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

9th September, 1882.

No. 363.—Petition of Mrs. E. MCCOLL, Wellington.

THE petitioner states she is widow of the late Librarian of the General Assembly; that he held that position for fifteen years, and she believes that his unremitting discharge of duty was one of the chief causes of the illness which, in his case, terminated fatally; that she was left with a family of seven children, four of whom are unable to provide for themselves; that she has received one year's salary, and asks that she may be granted a further sum.

I am directed to report: That the Committee are of opinion that a sum of £50 be granted to Mrs. McColl as a compassionate allowance.

9th September, 1882.

No. 195.—Petition of JAMES NEWELL, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that in January, 1879, he was a member of the Waikato Cavalry Volunteers; that the troop was ordered out for target practice, and that he was ordered to mark; that while marking a small piece of bullet struck him in the right eye, by which he has almost lost the sight of the eye; that he has paid £20 for medical treatment in endeavouring to regain the sight of the injured eye. He prays for relief.

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

9th September, 1882.

No. 320.—Petition of PATRICK O'HARA, Auckland.

THE petitioner states that his son was charged at the Police Court, Auckland, with having committed an assault upon a Chinaman; was fined £1, with costs—£5 11s. 6d. It was afterwards proved that his son was at a funeral at the time the assault took place; that he has applied to the Minister of Justice praying that the costs and fine might be remitted, and has received as a reply "the Minister of Justice was unable to interfere." He prays for relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee are of opinion that the Government should make inquiry into the petitioner's case, and, if satisfied that he was unjustly punished, that the fine and costs be refunded him.

9th September, 1882.

No. 209.—Petition of MARY ANN ROEBUCK, New Plymouth.

THE petitioner states that her late husband belonged to No. 9 Company of Military Settlers; was shot by a man belonging to the same company, leaving her a widow with six children; that she has no means of support, being paralyzed in her right hand. She prays that a pension or some aid may be granted her.

I am directed to report: The Committee recommend the Government to pay the sum of £50 to her as a compassionate allowance.

9th September, 1882.

No. 375.—Petition of PETER LAWSON and Others, Inch Clutha.

THE petitioners state that their lands have been much injured by floods which they believe was largely owing to the railway embankment at Balclutha. They pray for relief.

No. 405.—Petition of J. W. THOMSON and Others, Inch Clutha.

THE petitioners ask for the removal of the railway embankment at Balclutha, and that protective works in the nature of a groin be constructed at Inch Clutha, where the Clutha River divides into the Koau and Matau branches.

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

9th September, 1882.

No. 357.—Petition of ROBERT GRAHAM (No. 7), Rotorua.

THE petitioner states that, in the year 1863, he agreed to grant to the Government the site for the Ellerslie Railway-station without monetary consideration, but upon the express condition that the station should be erected on the north side of the line; that it was erected on the south side notwithstanding his protests, and by which he has suffered much loss and damage. He prays for relief.

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

9th September, 1882.

No. 479.—Petition of W. H. BEETHAM and Others, Masterton.

THE petitioners express great sympathy with a person of the name of Walter Essex Cross, on account of his having been proceeded against by the Customs authorities for having in his possession a portion of an illicit still. That the case fell through, but the said W. E. Cross was put to the expense of £15 in defending himself, which the petitioners urge should be refunded to him.

I am directed to report: The petitioners, consisting of 100 persons, express great sympathy with W. E. Cross in consequence of his being compelled to pay £15 in defending himself against a charge brought against him by the Customs authorities for having in his possession a portion of an illicit still, which charge proved on trial to be unfounded, and they pray that the costs be paid by the colony. The Committee find that if an average payment of 3s. each was made by the petitioners as a practical illustration of their sympathy, Mr. Cross would be refunded his costs without the necessity of any appeal to the sympathy of the House; and the Committee recommend the petitioners to adopt this means of redress.

9th September, 1882.

No. 478.—W. W. TAYLOR and THOMAS MASON, Wellington.

THE petitioners state they are two of the executors and trustees of the will of the late William Barnard Rhodes, and pray that they may be heard in opposition to the Bill intituled "The Rhodes' Estate Duty Act, 1882."

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

9th September, 1882.

No. 448.—JAMES GORRIE, Nelson.

THE petitioner states that he was a contractor for forming the road from Havelock to Wairau River; that, owing to continual wet weather, he sustained heavy loss and was much delayed in time of finishing. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report: The Government having remitted the penalties incurred by the petitioner through non-completion of his contract within the specified time, the Committee see no special reason why he should receive additional consideration over the contract price.

9th September, 1882.

No. 420.—Petition of DAVID HUTCHISON.

THE petitioner states that he was a lieutenant in the Volunteer Cavalry, in which he served during the Waikato war in 1863 at serious loss to himself; that the late Colonel Nixon held out promises that they would receive grants of land; that the Royal Commission reported, "That the Government are not called upon to fulfil such promises, as there is no documentary evidence to show he had any authority for making such promises." He prays the House will grant him redress.

I am directed to report: As it appears that the petitioner's case came before the Royal Commission appointed to deal finally with land claims for military service, and has been dealt with by it, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

9th September, 1882.

No. 485.—Petition of DICKESON J. BURNETT and Others, Waikato District.

THE petitioners pray that the House will take the matter of their petition into consideration, and take such steps for the repeal of the beer-tax as the House may think proper.

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

9th September, 1882.

No. 474.—Petition of JOSIAH TUTCHEN and Others, Gisborne.

THE petitioners state that in 1880 the police reported a forgery, and they undertook to prosecute, which was stopped for further instruction, the case was then abandoned. They ask that steps may be taken as will lead to even-handed justice and impartial treatment by the police of all men.

I am directed to report: From the evidence before the Committee it appears that a charge of forgery was made against the person referred to in the petition, but the case was dismissed by the Resident Magistrate before whom it was heard; subsequent action was proposed to be taken by the police of uttering a deed knowingly to be forged, but as the former case broke down the Government did not think it advisable to take the responsibility of instituting fresh proceedings. The Committee have no recommendation to make to the House in the case.

11th September, 1882.

No. 495.—Petition of JOSEPH LEWIS WORMS, Auckland. (No. 2.)

THE petitioner states that he was promised land for serving in the Auckland Militia and Volunteers, which he has not received.

I am directed to report: The House having recommended, and the Government having appointed, a Royal Commission to inquire into and deal finally with the land claims for military service, the Committee do not consider it desirable to reopen such claims, and have no recommendation to make to the House in the petitioner's case.

11th September, 1882.

No. 496.—Petition of E. A. FROST and Others, Settlers, Wade, Auckland.

THE petitioners state they were put to great expense in the matter of the prosecution for smuggling instituted against Emerle and Polkinghorne, and pray for relief.

I am directed to report: Having read the evidence taken during the trials, and considered the petitioners' claim, the Committee are of opinion that they acted with great discretion in securing the best legal advice obtainable. The Committee have no recommendation to make to the House in the case of the petitioners.

11th September, 1882.

No. 418.—Petition of EBENEZER BAKER, Wellington.

THE petitioner states that he was for a period of thirteen years Clerk to the Resident Magistrate and District Courts, during which period he was charged with the receipt of fees of Court and suitors' funds; that after he retired from the office in 1879, claims were made upon him under surcharges of £111 9s. 2d., which he paid; that in September, 1875, he paid the sum of £92 18s. 3d. into the Treasury, being surplus moneys unclaimed, which he considers should be placed to his credit against the surcharges. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make to the House in the matter of this petition.

11th September, 1882.

No. 490.—Petition of WILLIAM CRUIKSHANK and Others.

THE petitioners pray that the Bible may be read in the public schools of the colony.

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

11th September, 1882.

No. 489.—Petition of CORPORATION of MORNINGTON.

THE petitioners pray for modifications in the Rating Bill now before the House.

I am directed to report: The subject-matter of this petition having been dealt with by the House, the Committee do not deem it necessary to make any recommendation.

11th September, 1882.

No. 425.—Petition of RHODES DONALD, Masterton.

THE petitioner states that in February, 1881, a fire, caused by the locomotive engine attached to the afternoon train from Masterton, destroyed an orchard, about twelve chains of hedges, and fifteen chains of fencing, besides other damage; that in March of the same year another fire from the same cause did him considerable damage. He claims £500 compensation.

I am directed to report: The Committee have no recommendation to make to the House on the subject-matter of this petition, as there is no evidence before the Committee to prove that the fire was caused by sparks from the engine.

11th September, 1882.

No. 494.—Petition of ALFRED E. SCHULTZE.

THE petitioner states that he was compelled to resign his appointment in the Civil Service. He prays that he may either be reinstated or placed in an equally responsible position of trust.

I am directed to report: The Committee are of opinion that the petition be referred to the Government with a view of an inquiry being made into the cause of the petitioner's enforced resignation, and also into the truth of the charge made by him against a railway official of misappropriation of Government property.

11th September, 1882.

No. 487.—Petition of JOHN DUNN and Others, Otago and Southland.

THE petitioners ask for the establishment of a School of Agriculture in Otago, with an endowment of 2,000 acres of land and a subsidy of £10,000.

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

11th September, 1882.