

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the Government should take the necessary steps to convey to the petitioner the property claimed by him in this petition.

17th August, 1888.

No. 432.—Petition of DANIEL BATE and 71 Others, Riwaka.

THE petitioners pray that a road be made through their settlement at Riwaka, with a view to opening up a larger tract of country.

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

17th August, 1888.

No. 385.—Petition of JOHN CAMBRIDGE and 105 Others.

THE petitioners pray that the road through Section No. 119, Block XI., Leaning Rock District, be closed; that an inquiry be held as to certain surveys in said block; that full compensation be allowed for formation and maintenance of road during past years.

I am directed to report that the Committee have no recommendation to make.

17th August, 1888.

No. 111, Sess. I., 1887.—Petition of the WELLINGTON AND MANAWATU RAILWAY COMPANY.

THE petitioners state that in the year 1882 a contract was made between the Government of New Zealand and themselves for the construction, working, and maintenance of a line of railway between Wellington and Longburn; that by clause 11 of the said contract it was agreed that in the event of the Government acquiring certain lands within a period of five years from the date of the said contract such lands or a proportionate part of the same should be granted to the company; that petitioners have reason to believe that the Government have acquired a portion of the lands referred to in clause 11 of the contract. Petitioners pray that effect be given to the object and intent of clauses 11 and 12 of the said contract or to the alternative claim of the petitioners.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the company have no equitable claim upon the Government. (For evidence, &c., *vide* I.—5B.)

17th August, 1888.

No. 484.—Petition of CHARLES L. PEMBERTON and 41 Others.

THE petitioners state that they are members of the Pemberton Association; that their secretary, Dudley Eyre, has absconded with a large sum of money intrusted to him by them for payment to the Receiver of Land Revenue; that if their sections, owing to said defalcations, become forfeited many of the petitioners will be absolutely ruined. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioners have no claim on the colony; but the Committee recommend that, under the circumstances of the heavy losses the petitioners have suffered through the defalcations of their secretary, they receive reasonable consideration in the matter of survey charges; that petitioners be recommended to capitalise their payments; and that the Government be requested to exercise every possible leniency in dealing with these unfortunate settlers.

21st August, 1888.

Nos. 479, 480, and 485.—Petitions of THOMAS CAMERON, ANGUS CAMERON, and RICHARD LOWRY.

THE petitioners state that they served in the Colonial Volunteer Forces during the Maori war. They pray that in return for their services they may be given grants of land.

I am directed to report as follows: That, in the opinion of the Committee, these three petitions should be referred to the Government for consideration.

21st August, 1888.

No. 497.—Petition of JOHN LUNDON (No. 3).

THE petitioner states that when acting as agent for the Government he placed one hundred settlers on the Herekino Block, in the years 1886–87; that at the time of so placing these settlers he promised them that a road would be made through the block; that in 1887 the Minister of Lands promised a vote for the formation of the road would be placed on the estimates. He prays that the money be now granted, and the road made through the Herekino Block from Kawakawa to Hokoronui.

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

28th August, 1888.

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