

No. 387.—Petition of JAMES PRESTON and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS, children of the late William Preston, a lunatic, pray that the accounts in the estate of the said William Preston—which was administered by the Public Trustee—may be inquired into, and that a detailed account of all disbursements and receipts may be rendered to petitioners, and that, if any of the disbursements are found to be excessive or erroneous, the charges may be disallowed; and, further, that the charge for maintenance of the said William Preston may be inquired into and a remission made, and for further and other relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the charge for maintenance is excessive. They therefore recommend that a refund to the estate of 15s. per week be made for the first period for which the Resident Magistrate's order was made for 5s., and a further refund of 8s. per week for the remainder of the term during which the late William Preston was actually in the asylum be made. The Committee are further of opinion that, while it does not appear that any charges have been made by the Public Trust Office for the administration of the estate not allowable by the regulations, yet it appears such charges are excessive, and steps should be taken at an early date to alter the law relating thereto.

6th October, 1892.

No. 672.—Petition of HANNAH B. WILSON, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays for a compassionate allowance on account of her late husband's long service in the Public Works Department.

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

6th October, 1892.

No. 494, &c.—Petition of the MOTUEKA ROAD BOARD, and of 317 other Local Bodies.

PETITIONERS pray that no reduction may be made in the amount of the subsidies granted to local bodies.

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

4th October, 1892.

No. 698.—Petition of H. B. MORTON and Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS allege that the mode provided by law for the composition of the Auckland Harbour Board is seriously defective. They pray that an alteration may be made in the mode of electing members of said Board.

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

4th October, 1892.

No. 528.—Petition of GEORGE ROSS, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays for further compensation for loss of office in the Railway Department.

I am directed to report that, after having heard the evidence of Mr. Commissioner Maxwell and petitioner, the Committee are of opinion that—although the latter had not received the official notification of his appointment as foreman till 1886, and as he had been performing the duties of that office, and had been entered on the pay-sheets as foreman since 1879—he is entitled to further compensation from the 14th April, 1879, to the 1st April, 1886, subject to deductions for any sums paid during that period for overtime work. (For evidence, &c., *vide* I.—2A.)

4th October, 1892.

No. 671.—Petition of W. J. W. ROBINSON, of Wellington.

PETITIONER alleges that the Public Petitions Committee recommended that certain sums of money should be paid to him; that the Government have paid the money to the wrong Robinsons; and prays for an inquiry into the matter, and for redress of his grievances.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the Government should cause inquiry to be made as to the sanity of this petitioner.

4th October, 1892.

No. 673.—Petition of DAVID McEWAN and Others.

PETITIONERS, members of the Union Steamship Company's friendly society, pray that the Friendly Societies Acts Amendment Bill may not be passed.

I am directed to report that, as the Bill is now before the House, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

4th October, 1892.