

1895.
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS M TO Z COMMITTEE.

MR. MEREDITH, CHAIRMAN.)

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

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1895.
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS M TO Z COMMITTEE.

(MR. MEREDITH, CHAIRMAN.)

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

ORDERS OF REFERENCE.

Extracts from the Journals of the House of Representatives.

FRIDAY, 21ST DAY OF JUNE, 1895.

Ordered, "That a Public Petitions M to Z Committee, consisting of ten members, be appointed to consider all petitions that may be referred to it by the Petitions Classification Committee, to classify and prepare abstracts of such petitions in such manner as shall appear to it best suited to convey to this House all requisite information respecting their contents, and to report the same from time to time to this House, and to have power to report its opinions and observations thereupon to this House; also to have power to call for persons and papers: three to be a quorum. The Committee to consist of Mr. Collins, Mr. Earnshaw, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Lang, Mr. Meredith, Mr. Morrison, Mr. McNab, Mr. E. M. Smith, Mr. Willis, and the mover."—(Hon. Mr. REEVES.)

TUESDAY, 23RD DAY OF JULY, 1895.

Ordered, "That the name of Mr. Earnshaw be discharged from the Public Petitions M to Z Committee, and the name of Mr. G. J. Smith substituted therefor."—(Hon. Mr. REEVES.)

No. 28.—Petition of FREDERICK HERBERT WILSON and 43 Others, of Amuri District.

PETITIONERS pray that the Amuri district be merged into the Christchurch district for the purposes of the Deeds Registration Acts and Land Transfer Acts instead of the Nelson District, as the settlers of Amuri find the present system most inconvenient.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends that the prayer of the petition be granted.

12th July, 1895.

No. 42.—Petition of ROBERT PAGE and 60 Others, of Hokianga County.

PETITIONERS pray that such a sum of money be placed upon the estimates as will open the road from Pakanae Beach to the Waimamaku Valley for wheeled traffic.

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

12th July, 1895.

No. 13.—Petition of BARTHOLOMEW O'ROURKE, of Canterbury.

PETITIONER prays for compensation on account of an injury received while working as a prisoner on Quail Island, at Lyttelton.

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

12th July, 1895.

No. 729, 1894.—Petition of JOHN MILNE and 15 OTHERS, of Southland.

PETITIONERS pray that provision may be made for the construction of the Gore and Kelso Railway.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petition should be referred to the Railways Committee.

16th July, 1895.

Nos. 11, 18, 36, 56, and 60.—Petitions of A. WOTHERSPOON and 72 Others, JAMES QUIGLEY and 48 Others, E. VOERGHE and 63 Others, J. MACAULAY and 200 Others, and D. MORROW and 169 Others, of Canterbury.

PETITIONERS pray that "The Shops and Shop-assistants Act, 1894," may be so amended that firms selling harvesting machinery, or parts thereof, may be allowed to keep their shops open every afternoon in the week during the harvesting season for the sale only of such goods.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that a real and serious grievance is disclosed in the petition of A. Wotherspoon and others, and that the Government be strongly recommended to take such steps as may give the necessary relief.

16th July, 1895.

1—I. 2.

No. 72.—Petition of JOSEPH STEVENSON and 9 Others, of the Pomahaka Downs Estate.
 PETITIONERS pray for a revaluation of the Pomahaka Downs Estate.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petition should be referred to the Waste Lands Committee.

16th July, 1895.

No. 24.—Petition of WILLIAM MCCALLUM and 65 Others, of Waipahi.

PETITIONERS pray for the erection of a traffic-bridge over the Waipahi Stream, at the Township of Waipahi (Clutha County).

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

16th July, 1895.

No. 69.—Petition of ABRAHAM STOTT, of Wellington (No. 1).

PETITIONER states that he was for four and a half years Drill Instructor to the Volunteers in New Zealand, and that he was disabled through an accident while following his occupation. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having carefully considered the evidence submitted to them in connection with this petition, is of opinion that the petitioner has no claim upon the colony.

18th July, 1895.

No. 79.—Petition of E. TOWNLEY and 323 Others, of Gisborne.

PETITIONERS pray that legislation may be passed this session to remove the disabilities which at present hinder women from sitting as members of the Legislature, or from being elected or appointed to any public office or position in the colony, &c.

I am directed to report that, as there is legislation now before Parliament dealing with the subject-matter of the petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

18th July, 1895.

No. 85.—Petition of PONSONBY PEACOCKE and 31 Others, of Tauhoa.

PETITIONERS pray that a sum of £250 may be placed on the estimates to make the Te Pahi Road fit for wheel-traffic.

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

18th July, 1895.

No. 93.—Petition of JAMES MCGONAGLE and 54 Others, of Maruia.

PETITIONERS pray that a sum of money be placed on the estimates for the repair of the Fern Flat to the Maruia Valley horse-track.

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

18th July, 1895.

No. 91.—Petition of HORATIO D. NELSON, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays that an extra duty may be imposed on all packets and boxes of tea under 20lb. weight imported into the colony.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petition should be referred to the Tariff Committee.

18th July, 1895.

No. 61.—Petition of JOHN SCHOLLUM, Jun., and 32 Others, of Puhoi.

PETITIONERS pray for an extension of the Postal Service in the parish of Puhoi and adjoining districts.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of the petition is already being considered by the Government, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

23rd July, 1895.

No. 74.—Petition of ROBERT ROSS, of Hokitika.

PETITIONER states that he was employed in repairing ballast-wagons on the Greymouth-Hokitika Railway for the Public Works Department, and while so employed he sustained a fracture of the thigh-bone, which injury has completely disabled him. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petitioner be granted the full amount to which he is entitled under the regulations of the Public Works Department.

23rd July, 1895.

No. 98.—Petition of ELIZABETH WHITTOCK, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER states that her husband, who was a messenger in the Customs Department at Dunedin, was lost on his way home on the night of the 12th June, 1891, and that she is now in very straitened circumstances. She prays for relief.

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

23rd July, 1895.

No. 83.—Petition of ADAM JOHN McCLUSKEY, of Auckland.

PETITIONER, who has been employed in the Police and Prisons Departments, and who was discharged therefrom, prays that a Committee be allowed to inquire into the charges brought against him, and that he be granted the usual compensation.

I am directed to report that the Committee sees no reason to depart from the decision arrived at last session—viz., that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner has no claim upon the colony.

30th July, 1895.

No. 106.—Petition of A. J. SCHNAKENBERG, President of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of New Zealand, and three Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the Government may take steps to establish "Inebriate Homes" for curative treatment in the great centres of New Zealand.

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

30th July, 1895.

No. 101.—Petition of WILLIAM PARK, Mayor, and Councillors, of Palmerston North, and 650 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that steps be taken to amend the Designation of Districts Act, so as to allow the Borough of Palmerston North to retain its present name.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend that the prayer of the petition be granted, but would recommend that the name of "Manawatu," suggested by the Borough of Palmerston North, should be adopted as the name of that borough.

30th July, 1895.

No. 62.—Petition of FREDERICK W. SHORTLAND, of Onehunga.

PETITIONER prays that a compassionate allowance may be granted to the widow of the late Dr. Edward Shortland on account of his many services rendered in the interests of the New Zealand Government.

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

30th July, 1895.

Nos. 132, 138, and 139.—Petitions of the MALVERN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE, the NAPIER WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION, and the AUCKLAND WOMEN'S POLITICAL LEAGUE (No. 1).

PETITIONERS pray that legislation may be passed this session to remove the disabilities which at present hinder women from sitting as members of the Legislature or from being elected or appointed to any public office or position in the colony, &c.

I am directed to report that, as there is now before Parliament legislation dealing with the subject-matter of these petitions, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

31st July, 1895.

No. 104.—Petition of THOMAS McCONNELL, of Waimate.

PETITIONER states that while employed in the Defence Force of the colony during the Maori War he injured his right hand; that he is now seventy-six years of age, and unable to work for his living; he prays for relief.

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

31st July, 1895.

No. 128.—Petition of A. J. SCHNACKENBERG, President of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of New Zealand, and three Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the age of consent may be raised to twenty-one years.

I am directed to report that, as the matter has already been dealt with by Parliament, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

31st July, 1895.

Nos. 111, 147, and 150.—Petitions of WALTER SPITE and 62 Others, JOHN COPLAND and 1,830 Others, and JAMES NEIL and 32 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the Pharmacy Bill now before Parliament be not passed.

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

31st July, 1895.

No. 133.—Petition of the MALVERN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

PETITIONERS pray for the amendment of the laws of divorce, and the raising of the age of consent to eighteen years.

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

31st July, 1895.

No. 122.—Petition of the CANTERBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

PETITIONERS pray for the amendment of the laws affecting the status of women, &c.

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

31st July, 1895.

No. 163.—Petition of JAMES WILSON and 29 Others, of Ashburton.

PETITIONERS pray that the proposal to dispose of the properties of the Bank of New Zealand Estates Company (Limited) by means of a lottery be not entertained by Parliament.

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

2nd August, 1895.

No. 52.—Petition of JOHN PENNALLIGEN, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that he be granted compensation, or some suitable employment, on account of his late services as caretaker of Admiralty House, Auckland.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner has no claim upon the colony.

2nd August, 1895.

No. 157.—Petition of FREDERICK MALLARD, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER prays that, in the event of a further call being made on the shareholders of the Bank of New Zealand, the proceeds of such call shall be used only for the purpose of providing funds for the winding-up of the affairs of the bank.

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

2nd August, 1895.

No. 129.—Petition of JOHN SINCLAIR and 90 Others, of Wainui and Kaukapakapa.

PETITIONERS pray that the sum of £200 may be placed on the estimates to enable the Waitemata County Council to bridge and culvert the Wainui-Kaukapakapa Railway-station Road.

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

2nd August, 1895.

No. 127.—Petition of the WHANGAREI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

PETITIONERS pray that a grant of £300 be given them to enable them to complete the purchase of a suitable site and buildings thereon.

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

8th August, 1895.

No. 178.—Petition of THOMAS USSHER and 53 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that a sum of money be granted sufficient to enable the Waitemata County Council to open and metal the Waikomiti-West coast road through to Piha.

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

8th August, 1895.

No. 187.—Petition of the NORTH AUCKLAND HOSPITAL AND CHARITABLE AID BOARD and Others.

PETITIONERS pray that charitable aid be made a charge on the consolidated revenue of the colony; or, failing such a change, that each County Council be constituted a Board to administer charitable aid within its own boundaries.

I am directed to report that, as there is legislation dealing with the matter pending, the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Government for consideration.

8th August, 1895.

No. 124.—Petition of WILLIAM OLLIVER, of Lyttelton.

PETITIONER states that he was discharged from his employment as engine-driver on the New Zealand Railways on account of advanced age in 1889. He prays that he be granted a compassionate allowance, or some other relief.

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

8th August, 1895.

No. 102.—Petition of LORENZ REISTERER, of Hokianga.

PETITIONER prays that his forfeited deferred-payment section of land may be restored to him, and that he be paid the sum of £504, expenses and loss of time in pleading his case, &c.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petitioner be paid the sum of £50, or such further sum as the Government may deem an equivalent in cash of the land offered by the department to petitioner.

9th August, 1895.

No. 160.—Petition of PIRIPI TE MAARI and 5 Others, of Wairarapa.

PETITIONERS pray that the South Wairarapa River Board be restrained from letting out the waters of Lake Wairarapa, &c.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petition should be referred to the Native Affairs Committee.

9th August, 1895.

No. 179.—Petition of JOHN McFARLANE and 436 Others, of the Provincial District of Otago.

PETITIONERS pray that the Education Act may be amended so as to permit School Committees to sanction the daily reading of the Scripture Lesson-books of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland in the public schools within school-hours.

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

9th August, 1895.

No. 92.—Petition of WILLIAM J. MOORE, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that he served for a period of twelve years and a half in the Armed Constabulary and Defence Departments; that his services were dispensed with on 31st March, 1894; that he applied for the usual retiring-allowance, but was not granted the whole amount of his claim. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that this Committee sees no reason to alter the decision arrived at last session on a petition of a similar nature.

9th August, 1895.

No. 153.—Petition of PAUL STRAKA, of Puhoi.

PETITIONER states that he has suffered pecuniary loss to the extent of £228 17s. 6d. through not being able to obtain his deeds for lands purchased by means of scrip; that he has been compelled to survey his land at his own cost; that he purchased land from a Maori chief, by name Te Hemara, of which he has never obtained possession. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of this petition has been dealt with during the sessions of 1892, 1893, and 1894, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

13th August, 1895.

No. 193.—Petition of MATTHEW WOULDSES, of Hukerenui.

PETITIONER states that he is the occupier of the Village-homestead Section No. 1, Block XI., Hukerenui Survey District; that through an accident he became blind, and, consequently, has not been able to pay his rent. He prays that the arrears of rent and interest may be remitted to him.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Government for favourable consideration, with a view of their placing the amount of petitioner's arrears of rent, &c., on the estimates.

13th August, 1895.

No. 194.—Petition of THOMAS MOORE, of Pukekohe.

PETITIONER states that he leased for ten years from the Public Trustee Lot 83, Suburban Section 2, Pukekohe; that he fenced and otherwise improved the property; that the Public Trustee sold the property for £137 10s., the Government valuation being £70; that petitioner considers he is entitled to £30 on account of the said improvements. He prays for relief.

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

13th August, 1895.

No. 116.—Petition of CHRISTINA GRACE THOMSON, of Arahura.

PETITIONER prays that she be granted a compassionate allowance on account of her late father, who died from injuries received while in the employ of the Government.

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

14th August, 1895.

No. 168.—Petition of B. NOLAN and 68 Others, of Ellerslie.

PETITIONERS pray that "The Contagious Diseases Act, 1869," may be repealed.

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

14th August, 1895.

No. 208.—Petition of ABRAHAM STOTT, of Wellington (No. 2).

PETITIONER prays that he be granted some remuneration on account of his services as Drill Instructor to the Volunteers.

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

14th August, 1895.

No. 171.—Petition of THOMAS WALSH, of Ashburton.

PETITIONER states that he was dismissed from the Government service through a misunderstanding. He prays for re-employment, or that he may be granted compensation.

I am directed to report that, as no fresh evidence has been placed before the Committee, they see no reason to depart from the decision arrived at in 1893—viz., "That the Committee has no recommendation to make."

14th August, 1895.

No. 211.—Petition of MARY LOUISA TUKE, of New Plymouth.

PETITIONER states that she is the widow of the late Major Tuke, who served the colony for upwards of thirty years; that she was left with eleven children, six of whom are now under the age of four-teen years, and that she is unable to maintain them without some assistance. She prays for relief.

I am directed to report that, as the late Major Tuke had been awarded the sum of £700 as compensation for loss of office, and a land-grant of 155 acres 3 roods 8 perches for services rendered, the Committee is of opinion that the petitioner has no claim on the colony.

16th August, 1895.

No. 212.—Petition of R. C. SHEARMAN, of Tauranga.

PETITIONER prays that he be granted some further consideration on account of his late services as Inspector of Police.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having again considered the case of the petitioner, sees no reason to depart from the decisions of former Committees—viz., "That the petitioner has no further claim upon the colony."

21st August, 1895.

No. 173.—Petition of MATTEO DELLA VEDOVA, of Lyell.

PETITIONER prays that he be granted compensation for certain land taken for a new road, which includes a portion of his hotel frontage, and thereby interfering with his cellarage.

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

21st August, 1895.

No. 199.—Petition of JOHN P. YOUNG and 125 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that one Thomas Young may be released from the Auckland Lunatic Asylum.

I am directed to report that, after hearing the evidence of the Inspector of Lunatic Asylums, the Committee are of opinion that the prayer of the petition should not be granted.

21st August, 1895.

No. 238.—Petition of J. TRINNEY and 1,376 Others, of Reefton.

PETITIONERS pray that a sum of money be placed on the estimates to construct a dray-road from Ross's Farm, on the Inangahua River, to the Maruia Hot Springs.

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

21st August, 1895.

No. 253.—Petition of GEORGE TIBBS, of Christchurch.

PETITIONER prays that he be granted a compassionate allowance on account of his work in connection with the fisheries of New Zealand.

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

22nd August, 1895.

No. 254.—Petition of THOMAS TILSON, of Gore.

PETITIONER states that he received a permanent injury to one of his kneecaps through the horse he was riding colliding with a telegraph-post erected on the Main South Road, near Ealing, in the County of Ashburton. He prays for relief.

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

22nd August, 1895.

No. 255.—Petition of FRANK SILVEY and 49 Others, of Moana, Clonmore, and Crooked River.

PETITIONERS pray that a sum of money be granted for the construction of a bridle-track from Bell Hill and No Town to the Crooked River, *via* Moana Township.

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

22nd August, 1895.

No. 235.—Petition of JOHN WIN and 89 Others, of Dovedale.

PETITIONERS pray that a sum of money (£250) be granted for the construction of a wire foot suspension-bridge across the Dove River.

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

22nd August, 1895.

No. 227.—Petition of the CANTERBURY WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

PETITIONERS pray for an amendment of the present divorce laws, that the age of consent be raised, and that women be allowed to sit as members of either branch of the Legislature, &c.

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

28th August, 1895.

Nos. 206 and 207.—Petitions of the AUCKLAND WOMEN'S POLITICAL LEAGUE (No. 2) and the NAPIER WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION (No. 2).

PETITIONERS pray that the divorce laws may be amended, and the age of consent raised, &c.

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

28th August, 1895.

No. 205.—Petition of CAMILLA VON MEYERN, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that in May last she was walking down Cuba Street, and stopped to listen to a preacher who was addressing a number of people; that she was rudely pushed in the back by a policeman, and ordered to clear out; that she was afterwards charged, and fined for obstructing the thoroughfare; that petitioner considers she was very harshly dealt with. She prays for relief.

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

28th August, 1895.

No. 251.—Petition of GEORGE MILLER and 109 Others, of Waikaka.

PETITIONERS pray that the Education Act may be amended so as to permit School Committees to sanction the daily reading of the Scripture Lesson-books of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland in the public schools within school-hours.

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

28th August, 1895.

No. 135.—Petition of ALEXANDER STEWART, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that in the year 1874 he emigrated from Scotland to Dunedin, and applied for and was granted a scrip-certificate under "The Immigrants Land Act, 1873"; that he has never been allotted the land due to him under the said scrip-certificate. He prays for relief.

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

5th September, 1895.

No. 249.—Petition of J. W. McCLARIN and 72 Others, of Raitihi.

PETITIONERS state that the proper outlets for the Waimarino Block are the North Island Main Trunk Railway and a road to Wanganui *via* Parapara, and not the Wanganui River, as stated in the House.

I am directed to report that, as the petition is a copy and not the original, the Committee cannot consider the same.

5th September, 1895.

No. 99.—Petition of the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND, Dunedin.

PETITIONERS state that the income from certain lands vested in the Presbyterian Church Board of Property is devoted to the erection and repairs of churches and manses for the use of the congregations of the Church; that the total net income last year amounted to £3,934 5s. 6d.; that the land- and income-tax assessment on the same was £663 16s. 5d.; that the said Church has a fund for the maintenance of the widows and orphans of its ministers, and also for the maintenance of its aged and infirm ministers; that the said last-mentioned fund is also taxed to the amount of £42 12s. 11d.; that petitioners consider them to be in reality benefit and insurance funds. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, with regard to the income devoted to the repairs of churches and manses, the Committee has no recommendation to make; but, with regard to the income devoted to the maintenance of the widows and orphans of ministers, and the maintenance of its aged and infirm ministers, the Committee recommends that the income used for these purposes should be placed on the same footing as the funds of friendly and benefit societies.

5th September, 1895.

No. 230.—Petition of GEORGE SHEAT and 27 Others, of Dunsandel.

PETITIONERS pray that "The Shops and Shop-assistants Act, 1894," may be so amended that firms selling harvesting machinery, or parts thereof, may be allowed to keep their shops open every afternoon in the week during the harvesting season for the sale only of such goods.

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion that a real and serious grievance is disclosed in this petition, and strongly recommends the Government to take such steps as may give the necessary relief.

5th September, 1895.

No. 263.—Petition of MASEFIELD BROTHERS and 10 Others, of Bay of Islands.

PETITIONERS pray that the proposal to admit to New Zealand Canadian canned salmon duty free be not entertained by the House.

I am directed to report that, as there is legislation before Parliament dealing with the subject-matter of this petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

13th September, 1895.

No. 281.—Petition of W. H. MARTIN and 1,256 Others, of Auckland (No. 1).

PETITIONERS pray that legislation may be passed prohibiting property-owners from planting trees near the boundaries of their respective properties, &c.

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

13th September, 1895.

No. 223.—Petition of HENRY R. L. WILY and 22 Others, of Waiuku.

PETITIONERS pray for a grant of £500 for the purpose of draining the Akaaka Swamp.

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

13th September, 1895.

No. 268.—Petition of MALCOLM NICOLL and 47 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS state that foreign vessels are not subject to the same stringent regulations as British ships in regard to manning and loading, and are consequently able to carry much larger cargoes in proportion to their tonnage, and at much less cost than British ships. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, as the facts set out in this petition disclose a real grievance on the part of the Auckland shipowners in respect of the competition of foreign vessels, the Committee is of opinion that the question should receive the early consideration of Parliament.

13th September, 1895.

No. 336.—Petition of M. MORTON, of Owaka.

PETITIONER states that he took up a deferred-payment section near Hyde; that he afterwards bought it right out at £3 per acre; that through a continuation of bad seasons he had to mortgage the section; that subsequently the mortgagee foreclosed, and he lost everything. He prays that he be granted a bush section of land.

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

13th September, 1895.

No. 279.—Petition of W. G. WINSTONE and 40 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray for an amendment of "The Public Works Act, 1894," in respect to the licensing of vehicles by Borough Councils.

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

13th September, 1895.

No. 244.—Petition of J. TOWNLEY and 50 Others, of Gisborne.

PETITIONERS pray for a grant of money to construct a road through the Tauwhareparae Block to the Government Block, "Huiarua," a distance of ten miles.

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

13th September, 1895.

No. 296.—Petition of MICHAEL MALONE and 78 Others, of Maunganui Bluff.

PETITIONERS pray that the Government may purchase the Maunganui Bluff Swamp, to be used for the purpose of gum-digging by the settlers of the district at a royalty.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petition be granted.

13th September, 1895.

No. 316.—Petition of ALEXANDER MACKAY, of Ohinemuri.

PETITIONER prays that he be rewarded for the discovery of payable gold at Owaharoa, Waihi, and Waitekauri.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petition should be referred to the Goldfields and Mines Committee.

13th September, 1895.

Nos. 261 and 403.—Petitions of MICHAEL MULLOOLY, of Tolago Bay (Nos. 1 and 2).

PETITIONER prays that certain decrees made by the Validation Court, in connection with the Tuawhatu Blocks Nos. 1b, 2, and 4, and the Kirikiriroa Block, be not confirmed.

I am directed to report that, as the petitioner does not appear to have exhausted his legal remedy, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

13th September, 1895.

No. 332.—Petition of FRANCIS TRASK and 332 Others, of Nelson.

PETITIONERS pray that bottle licenses may not be abolished, as proposed in the Licensing Bill now before Parliament.

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

13th September, 1895.

Nos. 259 and 260.—Petitions of DAVID E. O'NEILL and HENRY O'NEILL, of Hawke's Bay.

PETITIONERS pray for a reduction of the rent paid by them for the Grazing-runs Nos. 67 and 66 respectively.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitions should be referred to the Waste Lands Committee.

13th September, 1895.

No. 394.—Petition of JOHN METCALF and 3 Others, of North of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray for the extension of the North of Auckland Railway to Whangarei.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petition should be referred to the Railways Committee.

17th September, 1895.

No. 386.—Petition of the OAMARU HARBOUR BOARD, of Oamaru.

PETITIONERS pray that steps may be taken to put a stop to unfair competition on the part of the Government railways.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petition should be referred to the Railways Committee.

17th September, 1895.

No. 240.—Petition of SAMUEL MORRELL, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that he applied for a patent of a sash-fastener; that he was under the impression that he had twelve months in which to complete the specification; but, on discovering that the period was for nine months only, he had to pay a fine of £6 before an extension of time could be granted him. He prays that the fine of £6 may be remitted.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petition be granted.

17th September, 1895.

No. 198.—Petition of JEREMIAH MCCARTHY, of Waihao Flat.

PETITIONER states that in January last he was arrested for the murder of one Thomas Sullivan; that the Stipendiary Magistrate committed him for trial; but on the case coming before the Grand Jury his Honour the Judge directed the jury to throw out the bill, and petitioner was released from custody; that petitioner incurred expenses amounting to £100 in connection with the same. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that this Committee is of opinion the callousness exhibited by petitioner towards the deceased whilst lying on the road-side in an evidently unsound state of mind and body contributed in a large degree to create in the minds of the police the suspicion which led to his arrest; therefore the Committee has no recommendation to make in regard to the petition. (*Vide* also H.—37.)

20th September, 1895.

No. 276.—Petition of SAMUEL MORRISON, of Dunedin.

PETITIONER prays for compensation for loss of office as warder in the prison at Dunedin.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioner was very properly dismissed from the service, and therefore has no claim upon the colony.

27th September, 1895.

Nos. 252 and 299.—Petitions of C. F. MITCHELL and 371 Others, and HENRY MARDEN and 355 Others, of Waihi and District.

PETITIONERS state that one Charles Harley was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment for attempting to dissuade certain persons from giving evidence in an assault case at Paeroa, and ordered to pay the cost of the prosecution. As petitioners think he did not mean to commit a breach of the law, they consider the sentence a heavy one. They pray that relief may be granted him.

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

27th September, 1895.

No. 389.—Petition of JOHN MCKEAGUE, of Rangitata.

PETITIONER prays that he may be refunded certain expenses incurred by him as Returning Officer in connection with the local-option poll held for the district of Ashburton in March, 1894.

I am directed to report that, as the case has been adjudicated upon by a Stipendiary Magistrate, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

1st October, 1895.

No. 280.—Petition of GEORGE THORP, of Auckland.

PETITIONER prays that an inquiry may be made into the conduct of Dr. Hooper, one of the visiting officers of the Auckland Hospital and Charitable Aid Board, in not properly attending to one of his children when called upon to do so.

I am directed to report that, as there is not sufficient evidence before the Committee to show culpable neglect on the part of Dr. Hooper, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

1st October, 1895.

Nos. 382 and 430.—Petitions of W. H. TUCKER (Nos. 1 and 2).

PETITIONER prays for redress in connection with the Crown grant and the subdividing of the Makauri, Poututu, and other blocks of Native Lands.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommends the petitions be referred to the Native Affairs Committee.

1st October, 1895.

Nos. 431 and 432.—Petitions of THOMAS NUTSFORD and 2 Others, and JOHN MCCARROLL and 2 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the Helensville Northwards Railway may be completed.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitions should be referred to the Railways Committee.

1st October, 1895.

No. 436.—Petition of W. WHITE and 166 Others, of Canterbury.

PETITIONERS pray that the construction of the Midland Railway may be proceeded with, in order to find employment for the unemployed.

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

1st October, 1895.

No. 284.—Petition of JAMES McCULLUM, of Okato.

PETITIONER states that he leased certain lands in Rahotu from the Natives, erected buildings thereon, and greatly improved the land; that the Public Trustee, under "The West Coast Settlement Reserves Act, 1892," ousted petitioner from his occupation of the said land, whereby he has suffered a loss of £285. He prays for relief.

I am directed to report that the Committee desires to express its sympathy with the petitioner in the loss of his property, but is unable to make any recommendation which will grant him relief. The Committee, however, is of opinion that on the motion of the Public Trustee the sanction of the Court might have been obtained to the granting of a lease to the petitioner which would have conserved the interests of the Natives, and at the same time have kept within the legal powers of trustees.

1st October, 1895.

No. 354.—Petition of ROBERT MCCARROLL and 273 Others, of Otamatea and Whangarei.

PETITIONERS pray for a grant of money to complete the road from Pahi to Waikiekie and Whangarei.

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

1st October, 1895.

No. 371.—Petition of E. B. OSTLER and 50 Others, of Cashmere.

PETITIONERS pray that the Alcoholic Liquors Sale Control Act Amendment Bill may not be passed in its present form.

I am directed to report that, as there is legislation now before Parliament dealing with the matter, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

1st October, 1895.

No. 347.—Petition of PETER MURPHY, of Maheno.

PETITIONER states that on New Year's Day, 1888, one John Clark knocked him down and seriously injured him, thereby incapacitating him from following his business. He prays for relief.

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

1st October, 1895.

No. 387.—Petition of GERALD MORRIS and 20 Others, of Duntroon.

PETITIONERS pray that County Councils may be placed on the same footing as Borough Councils in respect of compelling proper drainage, &c.

I am directed to report that, as there is legislation now before Parliament dealing with the matter, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

1st October, 1895.

No. 397.—Petition of D. NICOLSON and 53 Others, of Central Otago.

PETITIONERS state that they are occupiers of certain small grazing-runs in Central Otago; that owing to the very severe winter just past they have lost the greater part of their stock, &c. They pray that the next twelve months' rent may be remitted by the Government.

I am directed to report that, as the circumstances set out in this petition are of an exceptional character, the Committee recommends the petition be referred to the Government for favourable consideration.

1st October, 1895.

No. 356.—Petition of A. PLUMMER, of Ormondville.

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted compensation for loss sustained in connection with a contract entered into to supply the Maori prisoners at the Chatham Islands in the year 1868.

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

1st October, 1895.

Nos. 348, 349, 350, 364, 396, and 447.—Petitions of Rev. WILLIAM WILLIS and 39 Others, ELIZABETH HOOPER and 34 Others, SAMUEL HOWARD and 21 Others, CHARLES HUNTER and 24 Others, CHARLES AITKENHEAD and 26 Others, and Mrs. HAM and 9 Others.

PETITIONERS pray that the proposed amendment of the laws of divorce may not be passed, except such as will place husband and wife on the same footing in regard to the dissolution of the marriage-tie.

I am directed to report that, as there is legislation now before Parliament dealing with the matter, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

1st October, 1895.

No. 97.—Petition of JOHN JAMES MEIKLE, of Southland.

PETITIONER states that in the year 1887 he was charged with the larceny of twenty-seven sheep belonging to the New Zealand Mortgage and Investment Association (Limited), and convicted on the evidence of one William Lambert; that he, on his release, after serving his term of imprisonment, instituted proceedings against the said William Lambert for perjury, who, after trial, was convicted, and sentenced to four years' imprisonment for perjury in his evidence against petitioner when on his trial for sheep-stealing; that petitioner and his family have been caused pecuniary loss and mental suffering through the said imprisonment. He prays that his name may be removed from the prison records of the colony, and that he be granted £10,000 as compensation for false imprisonment and financial loss sustained by him.

I am directed to report that the Committee are of an opinion that, after eliminating Lambert's evidence, who has since been convicted, and is now serving a sentence for perjury, there was not sufficient evidence adduced at petitioner's trial to warrant his conviction on the charge preferred against him.

The Committee are also of an opinion that the request of petitioner to have his name removed from the prison records of the colony merits the serious consideration of the Crown.

The Committee recommends the Government to make provision on the supplementary estimates for the payment to petitioner of a sum of money by way of compensation for the loss he has sustained in connection with his business, the legal costs incurred in defending the charge preferred against him, and in securing the conviction of Lambert for perjury, and also by way of compensation for the imprisonment he has suffered.

9th October, 1895.

Nos. 459, 460, and 461.—Petitions of C. F. GRIFFITHS and 409 Others, C. W. STEWART and 313 Others, and S. H. MATHEWS and 11 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that legislation may be passed prohibiting property-owners from planting, &c., *Pinus insignis*, cypress, and macrocarpa trees within 60ft. of the boundaries of their respective properties.

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

9th October, 1895.

No. 290.—Petition of GEORGE JOHNSTON SMALL, of Wanganui.

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted the New Zealand Cross for an act of bravery performed at an attack on the Taurangaika Pa in the year 1868.

I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make, as the regulations for granting the New Zealand Cross have not been complied with; but recommends that a copy of the departmental reports, dated the 2nd September and 1st October, 1895, be forwarded to the petitioner.

9th October, 1895.

No. 427.—Petition of GEORGE PRITCHARD, of Danevirke.

PETITIONER prays that he may be re-employed in the Railway Department, or some other branch of the public service.

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

11th October, 1895.

No. 454.—Petition of the NORTH OTAGO AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL ASSOCIATION, of Oamaru.

PETITIONERS pray for a reduction of the duty on binder-twine.

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

11th October, 1895.

No. 426.—Petition of JOHN NOONE and 5 Others, of Otago.

PETITIONERS pray that a reduction may be made in the rents of their small grazing-runs.

I am directed to report that, as there is legislation now before Parliament dealing with the subject-matter of the petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

11th October, 1895.

No. 401.—Petition of JOHN McDONALD and 29 Others, of Waiotu and Hukerenui.

PETITIONERS pray that a sum of £250 may be granted for the purpose of erecting a bridge across the Waiotu River.

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

11th October, 1895.

No. 440.—Petition of HENRY CHARLES YOUNG, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays that the recommendation of the Committee during last session in connection with his late property, called "Middleton," may be given effect to, or that he may be allowed to be heard at the bar of the House in support of his petition.

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

11th October, 1895.

No. 417.—Petition of FANNY BEALES WRAY, of Waitara.

PETITIONER prays that the recommendation of the Committee last year in reference to her lease under "The West Coast Settlement Reserves Act, 1892," may be given effect to.

I am directed to report that the Committee sees no reason to depart from the decision arrived at last session on a similar petition—namely, "That the Committee regards the case as one of great hardship, and is of opinion that clause 8, section 3, subsection (1), of 'The West Coast Settlement Reserves Act, 1892,' should be amended so as to provide for the valuation of improvements as at the date of the lessee's application, instead of the later date mentioned in the said subsection (1), and that the Governor in Council be recommended to prescribe regulations for the Public Trustee in connection with all improvements"; and that the Committee regrets nothing has been done in the matter.

11th October, 1895.

No. 365.—Petition of ALLAN WARD and 3 others, of Wellington.

PETITIONERS pray that the immigration of Chinese may be restricted.

I am directed to report that, as there is a Bill now before Parliament dealing with the subject-matter of the petition, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

15th October, 1895.

No. 293.—Petition of HORATIO NELSON WARNER, of Auckland.

PETITIONER states that he was in the service of the Colonial Government of New Zealand from the year 1844 to the year 1854, and then in the Provincial Government of Auckland from 1855 to 1867, and again in the General Government from 1870 to 1875, making in all a service of nearly thirty years. He prays that he may be granted a pension, or compensation, &c.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the evidence submitted to them is insufficient to establish the claim of the petitioner.

23rd October, 1895.

No. 390.—Petition of ALEXANDER SMITH, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays that the Inspector in charge of the Alfredton-Weber Road contract be replaced.

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

25th October, 1895.

No. 475.—Petition of JOHN WATT, of Balclutha.

PETITIONER prays that a bonus may be granted for the production of mineral oil, and gas manufactured therefrom.

I am directed to report that, in the absence of more specific information on the subject, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

25th October, 1895.

Nos. 491 and 497.—Petitions of A. K. KANE and 39 Others, and G. WATSON and 30 Others, of Dunedin.

PETITIONERS pray that the action of the Dunedin City Council in seeking to erect abattoirs on a site within half a mile of the nearest boundary of the Borough of Caversham may not be legalised by any alteration of "The Abattoirs and Slaughterhouses Act, 1894."

I am directed to report that the Committee is of opinion it is inadvisable that any amendment be made to "The Abattoirs and Slaughterhouses Act, 1894," which would enable any abattoir or slaughterhouse to be erected within the limits prescribed in clause 3 of the said Act.

25th October, 1895.

No. 445.—Petition of W. NABBS and J. J. DALEY, of Te Awamutu.

PETITIONERS state that they are the occupiers of a section of land in the County of Waipa; that there is no surveyed road to the said section; that they have had to pay the cost of taking the land necessary for the required road; that they consider the Government should have provided a road when the land was surveyed. They pray for relief.

I am directed to report that, in the opinion of the Committee, the petitioners are entitled to claim the actual cost of acquiring the freehold of the road through Section No. 272.

25th October, 1895.

No. 501.—Petition of JOSEPH SCARFF, of Wellington.

PETITIONER prays that he may be granted a compassionate allowance, on account of his late services as messenger, &c.

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

25th October, 1895.

No. 415.—Petition of W. J. McCUBBIN, of Denniston.

PETITIONER prays for a refund of £20, stolen from the postal mail-bag at Denniston on the 5th of August last.

I am directed to report that, as the subject-matter of the petition is under the favourable consideration of the Postal Department, the Committee has no recommendation to make.

26th October, 1895.

No. 458.—Petition of W. H. MARTIN and 175 Others, of Mount Albert, Auckland (No. 2).

PETITIONERS pray that the Railway Department and the local bodies may be restrained from removing scoria ash from the Mount Albert quarry, on account of the disfigurement of the Mount caused thereby.

I am directed to report that the Committee cannot recommend the prayer of the petition be granted.

26th October, 1895.

No. 495.—Petition of Z. M. READ.

PETITIONER prays that she may be granted a compassionate allowance, on account of her late husband, who died when employed as night watchman at the General Post Office, Wellington.

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

26th October, 1895.

No. 468.—Petition of JOHN G. RICHARDS, of Wellington.

PETITIONER states that he was employed by the Government as Inspector of Works at the erection of the Lyell Bridge; that, on the removal of the Inspector in charge of the cylinder sinking, he undertook that work in addition to his already arduous duties without any extra consideration. He prays that he may be granted some extra pay on that account.

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

26th October, 1895.

FINAL REPORT.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Committee has held forty meetings, and the attendance of the members thereof is as follows: Mr. Meredith (Chairman), 40; Mr. Collins, 34; Mr. Willis, 31; Mr. McNab, 30; Mr. E. M. Smith, 25; Mr. Fraser, 21; Mr. Lang, 17; Mr. G. J. Smith, 16; Mr. Morrison, 12; and the Hon. Mr. Reeves, 2. Mr. G. J. Smith became a member of the Committee as from the 23rd of July, taking the place of Mr. Earnshaw, who up to that date made no attendance.

Number of Petitions referred to the Committee	...	...	...	203
Number of Petitions dealt with by the Committee	...	...	...	202
Number of Petitions held over	...	...	...	1
Number of Reports presented to the House	...	...	...	114
Number of specific recommendations made therein	...	...	...	12
Number referred to Government for favourable consideration	...	...	...	8
Number referred to Government for consideration	...	...	...	28
No recommendation, &c.	...	...	...	66

I am directed by resolution of the Committee to further report that they desire to express their appreciation of the assiduous and able manner in which the Chairman has conducted the business of the Committee.

That a vote of thanks was passed for the efficient way in which the Clerk carried out his duties during the past session.

26th October, 1895.

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