

No. 56.—Petition of SAMUEL ALEXANDER, of the Thames, Miner.

PETITIONER prays that some consideration be extended to him on account of the services he rendered the colony in 1867 by directing attention to the fact that the Thames was a quartz-mining rather than an alluvial goldfield, and in developing the quartz-mining industry on that field.

The Committee, having carefully considered the facts embodied in the petition of Samuel Alexander, recommend that the Government pay to petitioner a small compassionate allowance in recognition of the services he has rendered in the development of the Thames Goldfield.

10th July, 1896.

No. 110.—Petition of SIMON FRASER, of Mangatapu, Whangarei, Settler.

PETITIONER prays that a reward may be granted to him for the discovery of new goldfields.

The Committee, having had under consideration the matters involved in the petition of Simon Fraser, have the honour to report that, having dealt with the claims of petitioner during last session, they have now no recommendation to make.

16th July, 1896.

No. 106.—Petition of the WESTPORT-CARDIFF COAL COMPANY, and WILLIAM HENRY HARGREAVES, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the said Company.

PETITIONERS pray that the deficiency clauses of "The Westport-Ngakawau Railway Extension Act, 1890," may be repealed, and that they may be relieved from liability for payment of accrued rates thereunder.

The Committee, having had the petition of the Westport-Cardiff Company under consideration, have the honour to recommend that it be referred to the Railways Committee.

17th July, 1896.

No. 54.—Petition of the CITY OF GISBORNE GOLD-MINING COMPANY.

PETITIONERS claim the right to be allowed to mine on the lands held by the Kauri Timber Company, and pray for the substantial assistance of the Crown in seeking to enforce that right.

The Committee, having given their best consideration to the matters involved in the petition of the City of Gisborne Gold-mining Company, have the honour to report that they have no recommendation to make.

21st July, 1896.

THE COAL-MINES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THE Goldfields and Mines Committee, to whom was referred the above-mentioned Bill, have the honour to report that they are of opinion the proposed amendment of the Coal-mines Act will not be serviceable to all classes of coal-mines, and therefore they recommend that the said Bill be not allowed to proceed. The Committee further recommend that the question of the classification of bituminous and brown coal mines be referred to the Minister, with a view to the introduction of legislation applicable to these two classes of mines separately.

23rd July, 1896.

No. 123.—Petition of JAMES COLLINS and 120 Others, Miners, of Charleston and Brighton.

PETITIONERS pray that the Main Totara River, the Branch Totara River, the Nile River, and the Four-mile River may be proclaimed sludge-channels, in order that the gold-mining industry may be fostered and encouraged in their districts.

The Committee, having considered the matters involved in the petition of James Collins and others, have the honour to recommend that the Government issue the usual *Gazette* notices in regard to the proclamation of the Rivers Main Totara, Branch Totara, Nile, and Four-mile, as referred to in the prayer of your petitioners.

30th July, 1896.

No. 96.—Petition of ISAAC CHAPMAN, of Larrikin's, Westland, Storekeeper and Gardener.

PETITIONER prays that compensation may be granted to him for damage done to his property through the deviation of a road.

The Committee, having bestowed careful attention upon the subject embraced in the petition of Isaac Chapman, have the honour to report that in their judgment the matter which forms the subject of petitioner's complaint lies between the petitioner and the Westland County Council. The Committee, therefore, have no recommendation to make.

30th July, 1896.

No. 205.—Petition of S. L. MOFFITT and 43 Others, Miners, Residents, and Settlers, of Karamea.

PETITIONERS pray that for the encouragement of the mining industry in their district the Mangapeka River may be proclaimed a sludge-channel.

The Committee have the honour to report that, as the Government appear now to have the matter of the proclamation of the Mangapeka River as a sludge-channel in hand, they have no recommendation to make.

30th July, 1896.