

SESS. II.—1897.
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTS OF RAILWAYS COMMITTEE.

(MR. W. W. TANNER, CHAIRMAN.)

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

ORDERS OF REFERENCE.

Extracts from the Journals of the House of Representatives.

THURSDAY, THE 28TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1897.

Ordered, "That the petitions of Ann Quinn, John McMenamin, and Richard Worthington be referred to the Railways Committee."—(MR. MEREDITH.)

FRIDAY, THE 29TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 1897.

Ordered, "That the petition of Edwin Mitchelson and others be referred to the Railways Committee."—(MR. MEREDITH.)

WEDNESDAY, THE 3RD DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1897.

Ordered, "That the Westport-Ngakawau Railway Extension Act Amendment Bill be referred to the Railways Committee."—(HON. MR. CADMAN.)

FRIDAY, THE 19TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1897.

Ordered, "That Standing Order No. 211 be suspended, and that a Committee, consisting of seventeen members, be appointed to examine into and report upon questions relating to railways, with power to call for persons and papers; five to be a quorum: the Committee to consist of Mr. Carson, Mr. Crowther, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Flatman, Mr. Graham, Hon. Mr. Larnach, Mr. Holland, Mr. Lawry, Mr. Massey, Mr. McLean, Mr. Morrison, Mr. O'Meara, Mr. Tanner, Mr. J. W. Thomson, Mr. Wright, Mr. Taylor, and the mover."—(HON. MR. CADMAN.)

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THE WESTPORT-NGAKAWAU RAILWAY EXTENSION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THE Railways Committee, to whom the above-mentioned Bill was referred for consideration, have the honour to report that they have duly considered the same.

The Committee recommend that the Bill be allowed to proceed as printed.
2nd December, 1897.

No. 215.—Petition of JOHN SCOTT, Sydenham.

PETITIONER states he was a platelayer on the Government railways; that owing to an accident in 1885 he was placed on light Government work up to 1895, when he was finally discharged. He prays for compensation, or further employment on light work.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that, owing to the petitioner having received an injury while in the Government employ, his petition should be referred to Government for consideration.

3rd December, 1897.

No. 212.—Petition of WILLIAM OLIVER, Lyttelton.

PETITIONER states that he was an engine-driver on the Government railways; that he was discharged on the grounds of old age; that he is now eighty-four years of age. He prays for a compassionate allowance.

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

3rd December, 1897.

No. 59.—Petition of ANTHONY AYREY, Christchurch.

PETITIONER states he was a railway servant from 1866 to 1895, when he was discharged. He prays for a compassionate allowance.

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

3rd December, 1897.

No. 146.—Petition of THOMAS WALSH, Waitara.

PETITIONER states he was a railway servant for nineteen years; that owing to an accident he had to retire from the service. He prays for compensation.

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

3rd December, 1897.

No. 76.—Petition of JOHN McMENAMIN, Wellington.

PETITIONER states that in the year 1888 he was badly injured by a fall of earth when working on the Government railways; that in 1891 he was given £200 compensation. He prays for a further grant as he is totally incapacitated from doing any work.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that the Government pay to the petitioner a further sum of £100 in final settlement of all claims.

3rd December, 1897.

No. 67.—Petition of ANN QUINN, Auckland.

PETITIONER states she is the widow of Patrick Quinn, who died from the effects of an injury received in his eyes when working on the Government railways. She prays for a compassionate allowance.

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

3rd December, 1897.

Nos. 193 and 222.—Petitions of W. H. SALES and Others, Totara North, Bay of Islands; and W. F. THOMPSON and Others, Victoria Valley, Bay of Islands.

PETITIONERS pray that the Whangarei-Kawakawa Railway may be completed.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that these two petitions be referred to Government for consideration.

7th December, 1897.

Nos. 147, 170, 180, 158, 159, and 221.—HUGH GOURLEY and Others, Vincent; THOMAS W. KEMPTHORNE, Dunedin; JAMES BROWN and Others, Alexandra; DUNEDIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, Dunedin; RICHARD McDUGALL and Others, Vincent; and CHARLES LAWRENCE and Others, Vincent.

PETITIONERS pray that the construction of the Otago Central Railway may be carried on more vigorously than hitherto.

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

7th December, 1897.

No. 114.—Petition of DANIEL BRISBANE and Others, Karaka.

PETITIONERS pray that a goods-shed and conveniences may be erected at Runciman Station.

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

7th December, 1897.

No. 123.—Petition of G. Ross and Others, Whangarei.

PETITIONERS pray that the Whangarei Railway may be extended to Grahamstown, with a view to providing better wharf-accommodation in deeper water.

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

7th December, 1897.

Nos. 131, 134, and 251.—Petitions of WILLIAM PARNELL and Others, Napier; H. L. DONNELLY and Others, Cricklewood; and D. WHYTE and Others, Napier.

PETITIONERS pray that a line of railway may be constructed between Napier and Gisborne.

I am directed to report that the Committee recommend that these three petitions be referred to the Government for consideration.

7th December, 1897.

No. 121.—Petition of R. G. FREW and Others, Te Tua, Orepuki.

PETITIONERS pray that the railway may be extended from Orepuki to the Wairau River.

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

7th December, 1897.

No. 55.—Petition of ALBERT EVANS and Others, Otago Peninsula.

PETITIONERS pray that a railway may be constructed from Dunedin through the Otago Peninsula.

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

7th December, 1897.

Nos. 87 and 91.—Petitions of HENRY BAILLEE and Others, Roxburgh, Otago; and CHARLES KEARSE and Others, Dunrobin, Otago.

PETITIONERS pray that the railway be extended from Heriot to Roxburgh.

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

7th December, 1897.

No. 203.—Petition of MURDOCH McLEAN and NEIL McLEAN.

PETITIONERS state that they were the contractors for the Makarau Tunnel on the Helensville Northwards line of railway; that they have been heavy losers by the collapse of the said tunnel, which latter they assert was caused by the removal of certain supports by order of the Government Inspector of Works.

I am directed to report that the Committee, having considered the petition, and having taken expert evidence upon the several matters referred to in the said petition, have agreed as follows: That the said petitioners met with unforeseen and serious difficulties in the execution of their contract; that, notwithstanding the difficulties encountered, they completed their work at a loss of at least £7,000; that your Committee, having carefully weighed the evidence, recommend that the sum of £5,000 be paid to the petitioners, in full of all demands, as an equitable settlement between them and the colony.

20th December, 1897.

(For Evidence and Appendices, *vide* I.—10A.)

No. 92.—Petition of EDWIN MITCHELSON and Others.

PETITIONERS state that they are the representatives of the original shareholders of the Kaihu Valley Railway Company: that the said company in the year 1882 contracted with the New Zealand Government to construct said railway: that after the company had completed 16½ miles of the railway difficulties arose with the Government as to the selection of certain lands, and the company were compelled to forfeit the railway to the mortgagee.

I am directed to report that the Committee, not having sufficient time to inquire adequately into the circumstances of the petition, recommend that it be referred to the Government for consideration.

20th December, 1897.

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