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* 1898.

No. 45.—Petition of ALEXANDER MCKAY and 98 Others, of Fairburn, Mangonui.

PETITIONERS pray for a grant of £1,000 for the purpose of carrying on metalling on the Fairburn Road, Mangonui district.

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

25th July, 1899.

No. 39.—Petition of DUNCAN MURCHISON and 44 Others, of Merrivale Estate, Southland.

PETITIONERS pray for a reduction of their rents, and also the abolition of "loading."

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

25th July, 1899.

No. 22.—Petition of CRADDOCK BEAUCHAMP, of Anikiwa, Picton.

PETITIONER, who is lessee of Native reserves in Queen Charlotte Sound, prays that the law may be amended to enable him to surrender the present lease and obtain a new one providing for compensation for improvements, as was done under the West Coast Settlement Reserves Act.

I am directed to report that, as this petition refers to Native lands, the Committee are of opinion it should be referred to the Native Affairs Committee.

25th July, 1899.

No. 30.—Petition of JOHN CAMPBELL and 62 Others, of Dunedin.

PETITIONERS pray that no measure may be passed that would enable the Corporation of the City of Dunedin to stop or close a portion of roadway passing through a public reserve known as Pine Hill Road.

I am directed to report that this petition be referred to the Local Bills Committee.

27th July, 1899.

No. 262, 1898, and No. 61, 1899.—Petitions of S. SOUTHERBY, of Auckland, and D. GOLDIE and 589 Others, of Auckland.

PETITIONERS pray that strict inquiry be made into the case of Mr. Samuel Southerby, with a view to afford such relief as may be deemed meet.