

9. That no mere reduction in charges can produce any permanent good effect, because prices soon adjust themselves. What is wanted is a complete change of system.

10. That the stage system is the only plan before the public by which railway rating can be reduced to a scientific system, and the charges made fixed, and the same in every district.

11. That your petitioner says that by adopting the stage system of administration it would be easy to add £1,000,000 per annum to the railway revenue, and that without materially increasing the working-expenses.

12. That ever since the investigation of 1886 your petitioner has been persistently refused a hearing before any of the numerous Railway Committees set up, and consequently has not been able to render the Government and the country the service he has desired to.

13. That your petitioner has never sought any personal, local, or party advantage in this matter, but has always been anxious to assist the Government in power and the country to the very best of his ability.

14. Your petitioner therefore prays that, if any alteration is made in the system of administering our railways, the system proposed by the department may be tried on one section, and that simultaneously the stage system, as designed by your petitioner may be tried on the Auckland Section, so that the community may have an opportunity of judging which system is best adapted to meet its requirements.

And, as in duty bound, your petitioner will ever pray.
Auckland, 22nd June, 1901.

SAMUEL VAILE.

REPORT.

THE Committee recommends that, as the subject of the petition involves a matter of policy, the petition be referred to the Government for consideration ; also, that the evidence taken before the Committee, together with the departmental reports on the petition and evidence, be laid on the table of the House, and be printed.

30th October, 1901.

R. MCKENZIE, Chairman.
