

1885.

VICTORIA.

## REGINALD GREEN.

*Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 15th September, 1885.*

## PETITION.

TO THE HONORABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA, IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The humble Petition of Reginald Green, late Superintendent in the Police Force :

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH—

Your Petitioner in the month of March, 1883, obtained a month's leave of absence, and on the 19th of that month wrote a memorandum to the Chief Commissioner of Police, complaining of junior officers being placed above him without any cause being assigned, and referring him to repeated correspondence which had passed between your Petitioner and himself but which was never acknowledged or replied to, at the same time asking to be allowed an inquiry into the matter before the expiration of the leave, as your Petitioner was under orders to take charge of the "Hamilton" Police District.

Your Petitioner received no reply to the application until the day before the leave expired, when a private note, dated the 28th March, 1883, from the Chief Commissioner of Police reached your Petitioner, requesting your Petitioner to call upon the Chief Commissioner at his office, which your Petitioner did.

During the interview the Chief Commissioner of Police threatened your Petitioner that if he persisted in asking him to forward your Petitioner's complaint of junior officers being placed above your Petitioner to the Government, which reflected upon himself, he would report your Petitioner from the records of his office for occurrences which had taken place between your Petitioner and Captain Standish many years before, and which had been inquired into by a Committee of the Legislative Assembly, and from which he had been exonerated.

After further conversation, and with the distinct understanding that on your Petitioner making another application (which would not reflect upon himself), your Petitioner should be allowed an inquiry, your Petitioner accordingly, under pressure, withdrew his memo. of the 19th March, and on the 12th April following wrote another, but obtaining no reply, was sent for by the Honorable the Chief Secretary, who, in the presence of the Commissioner of Police, severely censured your Petitioner for having asked for an inquiry, and threatened your Petitioner with dismissal if he persisted in doing so.

Your Petitioner being almost driven to despair with the treatment he was receiving, and seeing no hope for redress, applied for six months' leave, which, after considerable opposition, was granted.

At the expiration of the said six months' leave, your Petitioner was told to present himself before the Police Medical Board, which he did, being then in perfect health, both physical and mental.

After being present about five minutes, without any examination further than a few questions being asked, your Petitioner was told to withdraw, and at once reported himself to the Chief Commissioner of Police, who informed him he was to take charge of the "Stawell" Police District.

A few hours later on the same day, your Petitioner received intimation from the Chief Commissioner of Police that the Medical Board had recommended your Petitioner should be superannuated on account of ill-health.

As your Petitioner was in perfect health, both physical and mental, before the Board, and had so recently been conversing with the Chief Commissioner of Police, who had actually informed him where he was to do duty, your Petitioner wrote immediately, protesting against such an unfair proceeding, and urging further inquiry.

Under the circumstances, your Petitioner contends he has not been fairly dealt with in being compelled to be superannuated before reaching the usual age (being only in his 53 year) for the sole reason that he applied for an inquiry into an act of injustice.

This application for an inquiry was made at the time of the occurrence and in accordance with the regulations of the Service, and was not an old complaint, as has been misrepresented.

Your Petitioner maintains that, as the officer who had served the longest in the Police Force, he was fully justified in asking for an inquiry into the circumstances above mentioned, which have brought about the complete ruin of your Petitioner and family, after 31 years' faithful service.

Believing in the justice of his case, and all along hitherto having placed implicit reliance in eventually receiving justice from the Government, your Petitioner has never ceased to use every proper and legitimate effort to have his position restored.

Your Petitioner humbly submits that on the 16th January, 1884, he was thoroughly examined by the Honorable G. Beaney, M.L.C., who has given a certificate declaring your Petitioner to be of sound physical health, and in every way fit and able to discharge the duties of a Superintendent of Police.

Also one, on the same date, from Dr. John Blair, who says that, after personal examination, "I consider your Petitioner is now fit to perform the duties of his office."

And, finally, on the 23rd January, 1884, one from Dr. J. H. Webb, which says, "I have examined your Petitioner thoroughly, and pronounce him to be strong and in perfect health, and I doubt if he has ever been in finer physical condition or better able to undertake police duties than he is at present."

Your Petitioner's efforts, however, otherwise to set himself right having been proved futile, he now appeals to your Honorable House to take his case into consideration, and prays that such steps may be adopted and such relief afforded him as to your Honorable House shall seem fit.

And your Petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

REGINALD GREEN.