

SECTION V.

E A S T C A P E.

No. 1.

INSTRUCTIONS TO W. BAKER, ESQ., RESIDENT MAGISTRATE.

Native Secretary's Office,
Auckland, November 8th, 1861.

SIR,—

With reference to your recent appointment under the Resident Magistrates' Courts Ordinance Sess. VII No. 16, I am directed to transmit to you the following instructions.

The district assigned to you for the present is that of the East Cape, comprising the settlements, of the Ngatiporou tribes, and extending from Te Kaha on the North to Whangara on the South; and if necessary it will be extended hereafter down to the Nuhaka river below Table Cape.

It is the wish of the Government that you should ultimately take up your residence at Rangitukia, as the most central point in the district; from which you will be required to visit the various settlements, making frequent periodical circuits for the purpose of holding courts, directing the proceedings of the Native Assessors, and exercising a general supervision over the affairs of the district.

The salary at present attached to your appointment is £250 per annum, to commence from the 22nd September ultimo. You will also be entitled to draw travelling allowance at the rate of 10s. per diem while on circuit. Your passage to the East Cape will be paid by the Government, and a sum of £25 will be granted to you towards meeting expenses of removal from Auckland.

I am directed to request that you will avail yourself of the first opportunity which may occur after receipt hereof to proceed to the East Cape, and make a preliminary circuit of your district for the purpose of communicating with the Chiefs and Assessors: explaining that the object of the Government in acceding to the request of the Ngatiporou tribe, that an European Magistrate should be sent to reside in their district, is to place within their reach those advantages which attend a regular administration of justice, and to aid them in establishing among themselves a system of local self-government under European supervision adapted to their condition and circumstances. You will endeavour to acquaint yourself thoroughly with the feelings and wants of the Natives in the district, in order that you may be able to report fully for the information of the Government upon the best mode of introducing such a system with special reference to the character and requirements of the Ngatiporou tribes. The views of the Government on this subject will be more fully communicated to you for your guidance at an early period. Meanwhile their general scope may be thus far indicated. It is intended to take advantage of the system of Runangas now in operation in most Native districts, and by properly constituting these and investing them with specific functions and authority, to place them on such a footing as will make them efficient instruments in the hands of the Government for establishing and maintaining law and order, and improving the social condition of the Native Race.

You will hold courts where necessary under the Resident Magistrates Courts Ordinance, and take every opportunity of instructing the Native Assessors in the duties of their office. I enclose a list in the margin, of Assessors already appointed in the East Cape District. It will be your duty to recommend to the Government such other appointments as you may consider necessary, specifying in each case the residence, limits of proposed jurisdiction, proposed rate of pay, and other particulars relating to the persons selected for that office, who should be men of influence and intelligence.

Mokena Kohere
Popata Kauri
Hamoira Tamanuitera

The Government will be willing to appropriate for purposes of public utility within the district any fees or fines received there by you. This appropriation will be made in each case upon your suggestion in concurrence with the respective Assessors, and it will be your duty to keep proper accounts and vouchers of such expenditure.

You are especially desired to furnish, for information of the Government, detailed and frequent reports of your proceedings, and of the general state of your district. I am also directed to request that you will keep a journal during your present visit, noting therein all matters of importance, and that you will transmit a copy thereof to this office.

As it is considered desirable that the permanent residence of the European Magistrate should be upon land belonging to the Government, I have to request that you will ascertain upon what