

No. 6.

Copy of a LETTER from UNDER SECRETARY FOR DEFENCE to R. CHILMAN, Esq.

SIR,— Colonial Defence Office, Auckland, 24th October, 1864.

Referring to my letter to you of the 17th instant, No. 2449, enclosing copy of a communication which had been addressed to Lieut.-Colonel Lepper, directing him to relieve from duty the whole of the Colonial Forces at Taranaki with the exception of the military settlers, I have the honor to inform you that, from a letter received from that officer, it appears he has delayed carrying out the instructions he received until he hears again from the Government; and I am now directed by the Minister for Colonial Defence to inform you that instructions have been sent to Lieut.-Colonel Lepper ratifying the previous ones, and that you are not to issue pay for any of the local forces at Taranaki, excepting the military settlers, after the 31st instant.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM SEED.

R. Chilman, Esq., Sub-Treasurer, &c., &c., Taranaki.

No. 7.

Copy of a LETTER from Captain HEMPTON to the Hon. T. RUSSELL.

SIR,— Paymaster's Office, Taranaki Militia, 21st October 1864.

I have the honor to state, that Colonel Warre, the Officer commanding Her Majesty's Forces in this province, having decided that the Bushrangers, Mounted Volunteers to the number of 25 with a Captain, and the Militia at present stationed in four block-houses, are to be kept on duty, the Sub-Treasurer will require an authority to issue the amount required for their pay and allowances.

I have, &c.,

THOMAS HEMPTON, Capt.,
Paymaster Taranaki Militia.The Hon. T. Russell, Minister Colonial Defence,
Defence Office, Auckland.

No. 8.

Copy of a LETTER from UNDER SECRETARY FOR DEFENCE to Capt. HEMPTON.

Colonial Defence Office, Auckland, 24th October, 1864.

SIR,—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, and am directed to inform you in reply that the Government has directed the Sub-Treasurer at New Plymouth not to issue any further pay to the Taranaki Town Militia, Bushrangers, and Volunteers, after the 31st instant.

I have, &c.,

Captain Hempton, Paymaster Taranaki Militia, Taranaki.

WILLIAM SEED.

No. 9.

Copy of a LETTER from CHARLES BROWN, Esq., to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,— Royal Hotel, Auckland, 24th October, 1864.

I have the honor to state that the mail just arrived from Taranaki informs me that orders have been received there to strike the Taranaki Militia and Volunteers off pay and rations and dispense with their services.

I feel it my duty to urge on the consideration of the Government the position of matters at Taranaki, and how it will be affected by the carrying out of the orders referred to.

1. The posts that are held by the Militia are those immediately protecting the open land (of about 10,000 acres). These, as I understand, there are no troops at Taranaki to hold if the Militia are withdrawn from them.

2. The Bushrangers, who partially protect the country inland of the posts above named, and who have for many months been acquiring the useful training that makes them so valuable.

3. The Mounted Corps, which is an efficient body of men, maintained at a less cost than the Colonial Defence Force, and, I believe, fulfilling to a great extent the same duties.

4. The number of militiamen doing duty in town is about 50.

5. The labor market has been supplied with labor imported from the other Provinces at a time when the Government did not see fit to dispense with the services of militiamen; this labor has been and is steadily drifting away, since the Government has allowed militiamen to be struck off pay, rations, and duty at their own request, of which number there are about 260 out of 600 on the militia roll.

6. The Provincial Government has made arrangements to overdraw its account with the Bank of New Zealand for present engagements, and as these arrangements cannot be expanded, the Provincial Government has not the means for the further employment of the population.

The result, therefore, of the Militia and Volunteers being struck off pay and rations must be that the country now occupied, and the occupation of which is extending, must be contracted, and that without their compensation or other means of living, where almost every article of consumption, including fuel, is imported, those who have any means to leave the Province must do so, and those that cannot leave must starve.

If any reduction be made in the Taranaki Militia or Volunteers, I recommend that as far as practicable the reduction commence with the Town Militia and progress outwards to where available protection extends for industrial pursuits.

I have, &c.,

CHARLES BROWN, Superintendent of Taranaki.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.