

began before nine out of ten of the parties fighting were born. The sooner all these old men are dead the better. There are not many left, and the younger men are beginning at last to see the advantages of getting their land claims settled finally in a legal manner, and, indeed, I may say, are almost unanimously anxious to do so. But when once blood has been shed the old warrior pride brings them under the sway of these old cut-throats. I know all the parties well, and, indeed, all the particulars of their feuds and old animosities, but of course know nothing, as Judge of the Lands Court, but what comes before me in a regular manner.

I am very unwell, and write in haste, post leaving, but hope by taking care of myself to be able to attend the Waimate Court, as advertised, though I fear the fighting will hinder work in a certain degree. Two grantees and one claimant are shot.

Yours faithfully,
F. E. MANING.
