

Mr. WALTER ALZDORF to Mr. MUNRO.

Wanganui, July 6th, 1875.

SIR,—

I have the honor to inform you that Mr. John Buller arrived at my camp, together with Mr. H. Field, on the 14th February, 1875, and informed me he was anxious to have a block surveyed, offered by Ihimaira Tuao to the General Government. I told him I could not leave Topini Te Mamaku, as any delay might be prejudicial to the completion of the survey, but said I would instruct Mr. Field to commence clearing and erecting stations on the block offered.

After Mr. Field had been on the block about three weeks, Topini Te Mamaku received a letter from Te Kuiti requesting his immediate presence there, and he went accordingly, Ria, his wife, remaining to point out boundaries of his block during his absence. On Mr. Field crossing the Kawautaki Stream with Ihimaira Tuao's boundary, Ria raised an objection to the survey proceeding, I persuaded her not to interfere with the work, but allow the matter to be settled by the Court, she agreed to let the work go on until Topini Te Mamaku's return from Te Kuiti; on his return to Marae Kowhai, I informed Topini that I had completed the survey of Retaruke block, and that I intended to join Mr. Field in completing the survey of Ihimaira Tuao's Block; he raised a very strong objection to this, and stated that Ihimaira had no right to cross the Kawautaki with his boundary, as it was agreed among the principal owners to make that a boundary of a large block, he and others intended offering to the Government for sale. I then recommended him to allow the survey to proceed, and refer the disputed boundary to the Court, or allow it to stand until the arrival of Mr. John Buller; he declined to accede to my suggestions, exhibiting a great deal of annoyance, and sent a letter to Ihimaira to stop work and come down to Marae Kowhai and discuss the question. On Ihimaira's arrival at Marae Kowhai, Topini arose in a very excited state, and, after telling Ihimaira he had no right to cross the Kawautahi Stream, and that the only claim he had there was a small piece near the junction of Kawautahi and Ohuha Streams. (Judging from boundaries as described by Tapanui to me, I should say about 100 acres). Ihimaira made no objection to this, but prevented the survey proceeding, by his not returning to the block and pointing out boundaries. He also told me he should not consent to survey proceeding, until Retaruke and Kirikau had passed the Native Land Court, I then sent to Mr. Field to pay off his men and return to town, as all other work it was possible to proceed with in the Tuhua portion of the district was already completed.

Had the survey of Ihimaira Tuao's been completed, it would contain about 4,000 acres of broken bush country with good soil.

As I had only joined the General Government Survey Staff on proceeding to Tuhua, I was not then aware, as since informed, that I required the authority of the Deputy-Inspector of Surveys, either direct or through yourself, before commencing any fresh survey.

I have, &c.,

WALTER ALZDORF,
Surveyor.

D. H. Munro, Esq.,
District Surveyor, Wanganui.

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