

settlement; thus, by force of example, inducing the Maoris to improve their positions. The scabby sheep have been boiled down during the past year, with the exception of a few retained by one or two owners who objected to the price offered by Government; but these will probably be destroyed shortly. The Land Court sat here lately, presided over by Judge Heale, at which sitting the balance of the lands being acquired by Captain Porter for the Government passed the Court, and the title for which is now in a fair way of being completed. The schools generally in this district are doing well. The valuable oil springs in the Waiapu Valley remain still untouched; also the warm water springs at Tawhiti.

TAUPO.

The people of this district only require roads being made, on which many of them could be employed, to stimulate them to the further improvement of their lands. The road to Cambridge, also the road from Tapuaeharuru to Tokano, thence on to Wanganui or Feilding or both by Rotoaira and Murimotu, are much required to develop the resources of the district. A road from Taupo *via* Tuhua to meet the Alexandra-Waitara Road would also open up much country.

The school at Tapuaeharuru has not been a success. It is a question whether it would not be better to amalgamate the several schools scattered over the country, and have three or four good schools, well provided, for the whole Island.

The Tuhae or Urewera will, I presume, be reported on from the Bay of Plenty.

I would only remark that, at the late visit of several leading chiefs of that tribe to Napier, they expressed a strong desire to improve the roads into their almost inaccessible country, if assisted in doing so by Government. I would strongly urge that this feeling be fostered, and every assistance, where opportunity offers, be given in that direction.

I have, &c.,

The Under Secretary, Native Department, Wellington.

S. LOCKE.

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