

thought that to give up Waitara in the face of such a deed was wrong, but the Governor and Ministers thought that, the renunciation having been determined on, it would be wrong not to issue the proclamation. Waitara was afterwards confiscated, and the question as to the ownership came up in the Compensation Court, when the claims of the Natives who had remained loyal were considered. I have been informed that the evidence given on that occasion showed that William King had a good claim to Waitara. Curiously enough it was the interest of the Government to prove that William King's claim was a great one, and that Teira and his people had only an inferior interest; for all William King's land was taken, while Teira had to get his. It seems rather funny that we should formally by proclamation confess that our claim to Waitara through purchase from Teira was bad, and then confiscate the land because William King had resisted our attempt to take it. However, so the matter stands, and we hold Waitara by confiscation. Te Teira and his people have been allotted lands close to the township. How far William King now acquires land I do not know, but since the first war he has made no attempt to disturb the peace.

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[From the *New Zealand Herald*, 28th June.]

THE NATIVE MEETING AT WAITARA.

(By Electric Telegraph. From our Special Correspondent.)

Waitara, Thursday.

PROCEEDINGS were commenced to-day, and were, as will be seen from the report of the speeches, of great interest and importance. During this morning telegrams were sent into New Plymouth, stating that the meeting would be held at 11 o'clock, in the large room of Mr. Pennington's store. A large number of Natives went out from New Plymouth by train, and at several places along the line the numbers were augmented. At Kaipakapa several small kegs of potted birds were put on the train to add to the stock of provisions.

At Waitara the Natives were all in movement. The wind was blowing very hard, but there was not much rain. About noon the people from Parihaka, with the long train of provision carts, entered Waitara. They were received with acclamation, with songs and dances. There were two drivers to each of the fifty carts, and they kept cracking their whips, so that the sound resembled an animated *feusillade*.

Shortly after noon Rewi, accompanied by Te Wetere, Te Taonui, and some of the principal men who had come down with him from the interior, entered the building. Rewi looked somewhat anxious and excited. Rewi and Taonui sat on chairs; the others squatted on the floor. On the other side were Sir George Grey, the Hon. Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Parris; Mr. Kelly, M.H.R.; Mr. Carrington, M.H.R.; Colonel Trimble, Sub-Inspector Kenny, Mr. J. Jones, Karaitiana, Wi Tako, Matene te Whiwhi, and Wi Parata. Very few Europeans had come out from New Plymouth. The many delays which have taken place have tired people, and the bad weather and the fact that the meeting was to be held in a building were also deterring influences. After the Parihaka men had seen the food disposed of the following chiefs came into the building and sat down: Ropata, Ngarongamate te Kahiri, Ruakere Tamahi, Kukatai Raukatanae. The last-named chief is the man well known some years ago as Patara, who was a companion of Kereopa's at the time of the murder of the Rev. Mr. Volkner. All having assembled,

(For remainder of Report, vide *New Zealander*, 29th June).

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[From the *Taranaki Herald*, 22nd June.]

THE NATIVE MEETING AT WAITARA.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

Waitara, Saturday, 1.30 p.m.

THE heavy rain which has fallen this morning has prevented all hope of a meeting being held to-day, although in every other respect all is ready. The ground is thoroughly soaked, and in all probability the Natives will not occupy the sheds which have been erected. Sir George Grey is comfortably accommodated at the house of Mr. Halse, but unfortunately he is to-day not so well. It is to be hoped he will be quite recovered when the meeting takes place on Monday. Rewi, with his people, is now on the north bank of the Waitara. The great chief himself, with his wife and near relatives, is accommodated in a comfortable whare on the top of the rise above the bridge. This morning he was interviewed by several Europeans, whom he received with every courtesy. There are about 200 people with Rewi. There appear to be very few here but Rewi's people and the Maoris of the district. The Hon. Wi Tako, Matene Te Whiwhi, Wi Parata, and other Natives from the south went to Waitara by train this morning, but in all probability they will not meet Rewi till Monday.

The p.s. "Hauraki" entered the Waitara between 12 and 1 o'clock.

There is little doubt but that this meeting will greatly aid in the settlement of the country. Sir George Grey has set his heart on connecting Taranaki with Auckland on the one side and Wellington on the other. Many years ago he travelled over the country between Waitara and Auckland, and looked to see if he could find a good route for a road or railway. The direction then taken by the Maoris led them through very rough country, and Sir George confesses he saw no line by which a railway could easily be constructed. Since that time, however, a good line has been found; and if Sir George Grey and Rewi can come to an agreement there is no reason why the work should not be accomplished, and that at no distant date.

The weather is now clearing up, and there seems no doubt that it will be fine enough to hold the meeting on Monday. Rewi seems in good spirits, although he does not look quite so well as I have seen him. Te Wetere, of Mokau, will probably take an active part in the meeting, as he is deeply interested. No difficulty is anticipated on his part, but, on the contrary, he will give every assistance.

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