

No. 7.

INSTRUCTIONS by Sir DONALD McLEAN, as Native Minister, to Major BROWN.

SIR,—

Native Office, Wellington, 12th April, 1876.

I have the honor to enclose for your information a copy of a memorandum by myself, drawn up for the guidance of Mr. Parris on the 20th January, 1872, in reference to the settlement of the confiscated lands on the West Coast. I desire to draw your attention to the paragraph which treats of lands north of the Waingongoro as far as Stoney River, in which Mr. Parris was authorized to compensate the Native owners for all lands they might relinquish, at rates not exceeding 5s. per acre. Since then, the Government have become fully aware of the extravagant views held by the Natives as to the value of the lands alluded to, as well as to the fact that they have failed to recognize the reality of confiscation.

These circumstances in all probability may render it very difficult, if not impossible, for you to conclude terms with the Natives within the limits of the sum above mentioned. You are, therefore, authorized at your own discretion to offer such annuities to the chiefs, or others interested in the sale, as may in the aggregate amount to 2s. 6d. per acre more than the 5s. already mentioned.

It must, however, be borne in mind, that everything like extravagant concession in the matter of confiscated lands should be carefully avoided, otherwise it may lead to dissatisfaction amongst the Waikato and Bay of Plenty Natives, as well as those of the West Coast who have lost lands south of the Waingongoro.

The Government feel satisfied that you have the ability and discretion to deal with this difficult question, and authorize you to make arrangements with the Natives on the basis of these general instructions. As opportunities are frequently lost by delay in concluding negotiations with the Natives, the Government will leave you unfettered, and dispense with the necessity for referring every particular case for special authorization.

In making payments to Natives, it is much to be desired the disbursements should extend over a number of years.

Should any case arise which has not been provided for by these instructions, you will be good enough to refer the matter to the Government for consideration and approval.

The importance of acquiring these valuable Plains for settlement is so manifest, that I feel sure you will use every effort to do so.

I have, &c.,

DONALD McLEAN.

Major Brown, Civil Commissioner, Taranaki.

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