

*Rora Ponske.*

18th Nov., 1879.

340. Did Mr. Sutton, the lawyer, or the interpreter put themselves against the door to prevent you from going out?—No.

341. It was stated in evidence that you were “entrapped into the office.” What do you mean by the term “entrapped”?—What I would gather from that is this: the fact of Mr. Sutton coming to me and asking me to go to a certain place, and not telling me what we were going for. My children were with me, and my friend (husband) was not.

342. There was no violence or cajolery that led you into the office?—What was simply done was this: Mr. Sutton seized me by the arm and said, “Rora, come along;” and I went with him. If I were in Napier I could point out the different spots exactly—where he came to me, and where we went.

343. I suppose if you had been unwilling to go with Mr. Sutton there would have been no compulsion?—Perhaps if I had refused to go violence might have been used, for aught I know. At first when I went into this place I did not feel afraid. It was when I had been there an hour or two that I began to get frightened, and I told my children, as soon as the door should be opened by any one outside, to take advantage of it and to escape.

344. Did you endeavour to get out of the office at any time?—In my mind I wished to get away, but there was no way of doing so.

345. Did you make any attempt at all to get out?—Yes; when somebody knocked from the outside my children managed to get out; then I got out. Mr. Sutton was talking to some European outside. Harawira was looking for me.

346. Then you were not prevented from going?—Mr. Sutton said, “Don’t go yet. Wait till we have finished our talk.” I would not listen.

347. Was Mr. Sutton in the room or outside?—Mr. Sutton was on the one side of the door, and the European on the outside.

348. Did Mr. Sutton resist you going out, or did he ask you to stop?—He was at the door; he was holding the door. He said, “Don’t go just yet. Wait until we have finished our talk.”

349. Then you were able to get out when you tried?—Yes; I was able to go out. As soon as I got out I went straight to the Spit and off to the steamer.

350. Did you go into the office of your own free will, and leave of your own free will?—It was not upon my own inclination that I went into that office. I was asked by Mr. Sutton to go.

351. What about your leaving?—I desired to get out of the office because I was afraid, and the door was shut.

352. Did you not say just now that you left when you chose?—Yes; I got outside, and went away.

353. Did you sign the deed on the night that Mr. Sutton and Worgan were at your pa?—That is the part I am not clear about; it is a thing my mind is confused upon: I could not say. If the document were here and I saw the signature, then I could tell.

354. Was your father of unsound mind at that time?—Yes.

355. How long?—It came on that year.

356. Was he of unsound mind when he signed the power of attorney for Davie?—He was not always in that state. At times his reasoning came back to him, and he was well. On the occasion when he signed the power of attorney, Martyn Hamlin was the interpreter.

357. You have said that your father was of unsound mind, and also that you would have had to sign for him? Have you often signed his name?—I have written letters to different places. I always wrote for him.

358. Have you ever signed his name to deeds?—Before that?

359. At any time?—In other blocks, but not in this block—the Awa-o-te-Atua. All his accounts which he owed to Europeans, I always signed them when necessary.

360. *Mr. Henare Tomoana.*] When Mr. Sutton went out to your place, where were you then?—We were at Korongata.

361. Was Paora living at that time?—Paora was living, but was ill.

362. In what year was it that Paora was in the hands of Sir Donald McLean. Was it before that?—It was after the visit to our place that Paora was in the charge of Sir Donald McLean.

363. But his illness had commenced about that time?—Yes.

364. Was that the only time that ever Mr. Sutton and Mr. Worgan went out to your place at Korongata?—That was the only time I ever saw them there. They may have gone there afterwards.

365. *Mr. Sutton.*] Are you quite sure that it was very late at night, or, rather, are you quite certain that the sun was down when we got to your place?—It was about midnight; it was late.

366. Have you had any conversation with Mr. Davie lately on this matter?—Not lately. It was some time ago that we had some conversation on this matter.

367. Within the last week or two?—No. We have had no conversation.

368. Did Davie tell you what to say on this occasion. Has not a great deal of your evidence been inspired by Davie?—No; my evidence is my own.

369. You have said that Paora did not sign. Do you know whether Paora could write his name? I do not think you said that he did not make his mark?—I did not see him make a cross.

370. In reference to the purchase-money, you said that the purchase-money was £15, and an agreement for 350 acres. Is that correct?—Yes, that is correct.

371. Did you never receive any more in the shape of goods or cash?—That is true. That was about the time of the mortgage that you gave me goods.

372. To what amount, do you remember?—I do not know to what amount; but the cash was £10.

373. I might tell you that a few minutes ago you said £15?—That £15 was given on that night when the 350 acres were promised to be set apart.

374. You never heard anything about £250 agreed to be paid to Paoro and the 350 acres reserve?—No; I did not hear of that. Probably that might have been when I was in Turanga.

375. You say that, although this transaction was in 1870, you never petitioned the House, nor did anything in the Courts, until 1879?—Because I had always been under the impression that the