

1866.

Major Brown,
Evidence, Q. 1042

Major Brown had made a calculation that the sum to be divided among the tribe would be £4,000 for the country between Waingongoro and Kaupukunui, and £2,000 from Kaupukunui to the end of the survey near Oeo: an equal sum was to be paid for *mana* of the chiefs: and the whole was not to exceed £15,000. Some of the money, however, went in quite another way.

Statement. Ap-
pendix B, No. 8.Brown, Evidence,
Q. 1051.*Ibid.*, Q. 1063,
1064.

On going into the expenditure charged against the acquisition of the Plains, the first thing that struck us was the large proportion which contingent expenses bore to the sum paid to the Natives. Out of a total sum of £8,924 which (up to the end of the financial year at 31st March last) had been charged to Waimate, £4,357 appeared as contingent expenses, against only £4,567 received by the Native owners. Out of this latter sum we found that £900 had been received by Titokowaru; but he did not get it in that name. When the first voucher was signed by him, it was returned from the Audit with the intimation that no payment of public money to him would be passed; so a note was attached by the Under-Secretary that "the voucher had better be signed in some other name," which was done, and three different names were used whenever Titokowaru had to get money.

Major Brown,
Evidence, Q. 1066,
1067.*Ibid.*, Evidence,
Q. 1058-60.

But on going further into the several payments, and asking whether sums paid to various chiefs (to the amount altogether of more than £2,500) had all been paid to them as *takoha* for their chiefship *mana*, we were surprised to learn that none of the money had reached the tribe at all; that £900 of it had been paid, not for anything on Waimate Plains, but "towards the expenses of the Waitara meeting" in 1878: moreover, that another sum of £1,000, returned as having been paid to the chief Teira of Waitara and others, was not "a payment on account of any proprietorship in the Waimate Plains, but for food and other expenses incurred at the [same] Waitara meeting;" and that Teira was himself desirous of an "arrangement" by which this money should be so applied. We naturally asked Major Brown "Why he had described this money as *takoha* at all if it was spent for the Waitara meeting?" To which this was the reply: "Mr. Sheehan considered it was one of those items of expenditure which could be properly charged against *takoha*, against the expenditure on this Coast, and in settlement of the question; he considered it would have a beneficial influence; and so it had for the time, till the Natives found out, after a few months, that it [the meeting] had ended in nothing."

Hearing with amazement of such a proceeding, we asked Major Brown what it was, then, that he had got by the payment of all this money to the chiefs? Was he any better than before he paid it? His reply was, "No; and that is why I recommended that *takoha* should cease." "So that when you come to settle the question of the Plains your money will go for nothing?"—"Yes, practically."

Under-Secretary
Land Purchase
Department,
Evidence, Q.
1350, 1352, 1354.
Vouchers, Ap-
pendix D.

We wish we could have stopped here. But by the merest accident our inquiry had to be taken into a far different channel. On thinking over the circumstance that Teira, a Waitara chief of the Ngatiawa tribe, had received a fourth of all the money returned as *takoha* for Waimate Plains, we wondered how it was that he had established rights, over land belonging to the Ngatiruanui tribe, entitling him to £1,000 to spend at pleasure on a Waitara meeting when men like Hone Pihama and Ruakere had only got a couple of hundred. Then the truth came out, not only that the money had not been paid to him as *takoha* on account of any proprietary rights at Waimate, but that the money had never reached his hands at all; and that another £1,000 of the money for which the other chiefs had signed, had never reached theirs either. Where the money had gone had been kept a secret. We called the proper officer of the Land Purchase department before us, and required the vouchers which had passed the Audit to be produced to us: these vouchers, with detailed accounts of the true expenditure which they were meant to hide, are now laid before Your Excellency. It is enough to give a sketch of them to see what, at a time when heavy taxation had to be imposed upon all classes of the settlers, could be done in secret squandering among the Natives at this Waitara meeting. To help that feast, there were not wanting luxuries in the shape of tinned fruits and jam, and fancy biscuits, with mullet and salmon and lobster, plenty of good ale and wines, and "three-star brandy." Nor did the women lack of anything they longed for, in costumes,