Station in Lake County, as per return herewith. There has been neither increase nor decrease of the Natives within my district since the last census was taken, and I have no remarks to offer beyond stating that the two men mentioned were in good health. I return unused books and forms herewith. No expense has been incurred. I have, &c.,

The Under-Secretary, Native Office, Wellington.

J. Hickson, Inspector of Police and Census Enumerator.

No. 25.

Inspector Emerson, Hokitika, to the Under-Secretary, Native Department.

Sir,— Police Office, Hokitika, 1st April, 1886.

As directed by your circular, dated the 30th December, 1885, herewith returned, I have had the census taken of the Maori population in the Counties of Buller, Inangahua, Grey, and Westland.

I enclose a summary of same, and also the returns from the various Sub-enumerators, from which it will be seen that the Maori population in this district is at present 100, all told; it was 99 in 1881, and is therefore almost equal with last census.

There has been no serious illness amongst the Maoris; they are all well to do, living in good houses in almost European style, receiving large annual rentals from reserves leased to Europeans at Greymouth and elsewhere.

One leading member of them, Ihaia Tainui, committed suicide at Arahura last October, otherwise there is nothing particular to report; none of them are much addicted to drink, and most of them are total abstainers. They are all healthy, and seem happy and content.

I have, &c.,

The Under-Secretary, Native Department, Wellington.

John Emerson, Inspector A.C., and Census Enumerator.

Maori Census, 1886.—Comparative Return.

—	Total Males, 1881.	Total Females, 1881.	Total Males and Females, 1881.	Total Males, 1886.	Total Females, 1886.	Total Males and Females, 1886.	Decrease.
North Island	23,183	18,729	41,912	21,676	17,711	39,387	2,525
Middle Island*	1,121	940	2,061†	1,089	956	2,045	16
Totals	24,304	19,669	43,973	22,765	18,667	41,432	2,541

* Exclusive of Chatham Islands, the population of which was in 1881, 126.
† Exclusive of 310 northern Natives in prison in the Middle Island, which are in this return included in the North Island.

Note.—The population of the Chatham Islands is not included, as the returns for the census of 1886 have not been received.

Recapitulation.

Population, 1886	41,432
" 1881	43,973
Decrease	2,541