

great hardship to the Native people here, who have frequently to come into Waipawa at night across the bridge to the station here. Many invalids are put to great trouble and inconvenience on that account. When the flag-station was used it was a very great convenience.

That is a matter that is in the hands of the Railway Commissioners themselves. Application should therefore be made to the Railway Commissioners, who are specially appointed for looking after the railways of the country?—That is satisfactory.

Then, all that the Natives here have decided on is that they approve of the Native Committees, and that the other matters are left in abeyance at present.

*Emeri te Whetu*: Salutations to the Commissioners, who are carrying out their duty under the guidance of Providence! I want to show you a map in reference to the matter that I brought before you yesterday.

*Mr. Carroll*: The Commissioners will recommend that a Commission be appointed to investigate all these matters that are in dispute.

*Hiraka ti Rongo*: The chiefs of Ngatikahungunu have spoken for their own part of the country—the East Coast—and with regard to their own particular grievances. I told the Commissioners yesterday of the injustice that afflicts the Native people of my district. I ask that some scheme should be devised to remedy the evils that have been complained of. I have no bad feeling towards the agents who appear in the Native Land Court. If the Commissioners see anything worth their while to take notice of in what the agents have said, well and good; let it be availed of. What I apply for is that good may be done. My lands are very extensive. The evils that the Ngatikahungunu complain about have not reached my part of the country.

*Mr. Rees*: We have met the people here with a very great deal of pleasure, and we have also listened with pleasure to what they have said, because it was evidently the expression of their own thoughts. Now, we shall have to render a report to the Governor, because the Government have to prepare these new Acts; but, while rendering our report, we will tell the Government that there are communications to come to us from various quarters from the Native chiefs, and that if, when we receive such communications, not only from Te Raŵiti (East Coast), but from other places, we see any reason to alter our report in any way, we shall do so. I do not think we shall alter it, because we have been round among all the Maori tribes, and have also gathered the sense of nearly all the Europeans who know anything about the matter. We have heard from all the great tribes so far, and now that the Hawke's Bay people have spoken we go on to-morrow to meet the Wairarapa Natives, and on Monday to meet the Natives at Otaki; so that we may understand what the Natives complain of generally, what they wish for, and what they think to be advisable. In respect of all the great matters they are wonderfully agreed—both Europeans and Maoris, in fact—on matters of importance; and the things in respect of which we have yet to hear from any of them are only matters of detail. We shall go carefully through the evidence which has been given, so as to get the main principles on which they all agree, and we shall submit them to the Government and to Parliament. In the meantime the Maoris may be certain of this: that the Government and the Parliament are anxious to find out a proper road, and then to walk in that road. Everybody is tired of this long succession of difficulties, and expenses, and troubles, and scandals; and the people at large are determined to go down to the foundation, so as to understand the whole concern, and start afresh. Now, Pene te Ua, and the other chiefs of this district with him, must see that their recommendations are sent to us as soon as possible.

*Pene te Ua*: There are three points on which I want to reply: First, that I think it would be advisable that the Commissioners should direct the Commission of which they have spoken to appear before the Natives. In the second place, I am very pleased to hear Mr. Rees's statement that the Commission will carefully consider the evidence they have taken, and will base their report on it. I express my gratification at that. The third matter I would like to mention is with reference to what Hiraka said to the Commissioners. To that I say there is no separate law for Ngatiwhiti or for Heretaunga.

*Captain Blake*: I may just be permitted, before the Commission adjourns, to mention that the Maoris had made a contract with a private surveyor to survey the Manawakaitoi and Waikopiro Blocks for a sum of £840, this arrangement being made by a number of the people and the Chairman of the Committee. The Government, however, would not grant authority for this, saying that they would undertake the work themselves. They did so, and, as a consequence, the Natives were charged £1,200, while the work was not as well done as it would have been by the private surveyor. I produce the Government plan for the inspection of the Commission. [Survey-plan produced, showing only the external boundaries, and giving no indication as to the internal features of the land.]

GREYTOWN, WAIRARAPA, 8TH MAY, 1891.

In conformity with previous arrangement, the Commission sat in the Foresters' Hall at 9.45 a.m. to meet the Natives of the Wairarapa. Present: Messrs. W. L. Rees, M.H.R. (Chairman), and J. Carroll, M.H.R. There was a fair attendance of Natives.

*Mr. Rees*: The Commission has come here in accordance with a promise that was made to meet the people of this district in their own home. We have now been to all the tribes—from the Ngapuhi down to this part of the Island—from the head of the fish right down to the tail. There is only one other section of the Native people that we have yet to see, and this section is a part of the Ngatiraukawa Tribe, who are at Otaki along with Kemp and Taipua. These people we intend to see next week. After that, the Commission will have been to the whole of the Maori people, and will have seen them face to face. We are aware that a portion of the Committee of this district were sent to Wairoa some time ago to attend the Native meeting there. And we also understand that the resolutions which were arrived at by the Wairoa meeting substantially express the feelings of the people here. Of course you may have some local matters, such as complaints about lands,