

the £130 10s., it would not be right for me to get more. I then said, "Very well, I agree to accept the £130 10s." He then asked me to state what amount I would like placed on the several cheques. I said, "Give me one cheque for £110, another for £7, another for £7, and one for £6 10s." That made the £130 10s. Mr. Lundon then went to see Mr. Millar, and to interview him. He returned, and together with Robert Cochrane and myself, and a Justice of the Peace called Clark, also an hotelkeeper named J. Flood, we went to the post-office; and documents were then held out for me to sign. They were not ordinary documents. It was not explained to me at the time I was signing what money I was to receive. I supposed that I was signing for the £130 10s., and Robert Cochrane did not explain the matter to me. He never read over any deed of sale. That man is now in attendance. He is here. I then signed, and Mr. Millar laid the cheques down upon the table, and Mr. Lundon took them.

1. *Hon. Mr. Carroll.*] How many many cheques were there?—I suppose there were four, but I did not count them. He said, "When we get to the hotel I will pay you the money." I supposed that in acting in this way he was carrying out the laws of the Government, and that it would be necessary for him to take them to Flood's place, and then hand them back.

2. *Hon. Mr. Mitchelson.*] Is that an hotel?—Yes. We went to the hotel, and he gave me four cheques for the amounts I have stated. I went and placed the £110 in the bank. I believe that I endorsed the cheques. I received them from Mr. Millar.

3. *Hon. Mr. Carroll.*] You endorsed them in the bank?—Yes, I think it was when I took the £110 to the bank that I endorsed the cheques. I returned to my place the same night; and our steamer landed at John Webster's residence, and there I changed the two £7 cheques. I then came right on to my own home. Next morning I went on to Dargaville, where I changed the last cheque, £6 10s., after endorsing the same. Mr. Pope then came to my settlement to arrange about a school-site. On going to the railway-station at Opanaki I saw Mr. Lundon.

*Mr. Lundon:* I believe that this has nothing to do with the case. It does not refer to it at all.

*Witness:* I think it refers to the case. Mr. Lundon explained that Raiha Tamaho had received £108 15s.

*Mr. Lundon:* All this has nothing to do with the matter at all.

*Witness:* I have to bring this in to show why we petitioned the House. I had a dispute with Mr. Lundon on this matter. I was incensed with Mr. Lundon, and showed him that I was angry. Mr. Lundon came to Auckland. Herewini te Toko then came to Opanaki, and told me that he had quarrelled with Mr. Lundon, as he was then aware we had not got all the money. I had a very angry discussion with Lundon because I found that, as Raiha Tamaho had received a further sum of money from the Government, we also were entitled to further moneys for our land. We then—Herewini and myself—wrote to the Government, asking for the balance of our money; and this is the reply we received:—

[Reply read.]

[Translation of Exhibit marked A.]

"FRIENDS,—

"Native Office, Wellington, 26th April, 1892.

"Salutations to you two. Your letter of the 4th of this month demanding payment for the balance of your shares in the Kaitaia Block to hand.

"Now I wish to state for your information that Mr. Millar, the Postmaster at Rawene, has already paid each one of you the full value of your shares in Kaitaia, amounting to £217 10s. per share. That money was paid in the month of December last. There is therefore no balance of money owing to you two at the present time. Sufficient.

"To Wi Rikihana and Herewini te Toko, Opanaki, Hokianga."

"SHERIDAN.

I then became aware that Mr. Lundon had come to deceive us; that he had befooled us, and that there was a balance of our money still due. I then wrote to Mr. Lundon in Auckland, and asked him to explain where the trouble was; whether the balance was in his hands, or in the hands of Mr. Millar, and asking that this money be paid to us. We did not get any intelligible reply from him. It was not a sensible reply.

4. *Mr. Houston.*] Have you got that reply?—I did not have time to go to my house to get it. I have got it in my box at home. I had no time to go back to get it. I wished the Government to consider this question. I believe that all the owners of the Kaiatai Block received £130 10s., but Timoti Puhipi is the man who lost most, because he had two shares in the block. At the Waitangi meeting I saw Mr. Lundon. I told him that he had been doing wrong, and accused him of deceiving the Maoris—that is, the chiefs. He replied that there was no living person more honest than himself; that he was prepared to take an oath as to the justness of his work. I replied that he would be prepared to take an oath whether his work was good or bad. He then said that if I liked to go to Auckland in connection with the affair he would pay me for doing so. I did not consent because I was angry with him. I have finished.

5. *Mr. T. Parata.*] The cheques you received: were they in payment of your own individual share?—For my own share.

6. *Hon. Mr. Mitchelson.*] I should like to ask the witness whether he understood that he was selling the land to Mr. Lundon as agent for the Government?—I was selling the land to the Government, and not to Mr. Lundon.

7. Well, then, when Mr. Millar was paying you, why did not you yourself receive the cheques, instead of allowing Mr. Lundon to receive them?—Because Mr. Lundon took them first.

8. And were you not aware before signing the deed that the cheques contained a larger amount than that afterwards paid by Mr. Lundon?—I was not aware that the Government was paying more than the sum I received.

9. Then you did not know that you were giving a receipt to the Crown for a larger amount than you were actually receiving?—I did not know because the thing was never explained to me by the interpreter.