

owner, and that the titles thereto must be ascertained, and the Parliament of New Zealand—there is only one Parliament—is supreme over everything else. If you want any grievances redressed, if you are suffering from any wrongs, you should appeal to me, let me, if I can, help you. I will go further than that, I will ask you to appeal to Parliament for relief. You have in that Parliament four of the Native race who are representatives of the Native race. In that Parliament, according to your numbers, according to the number of Natives in the colony, you have more members in the House than the pakehas have got. You also have a representative of the Native race in the Cabinet, and if any ill befalls you it is your own fault, and you will be to blame. I have told you the Government desires to do what is right, Parliament is there for you to appeal to. If you take up a negative position, all I can say is this take the consequences, you yourselves are to blame. There is Her Majesty the Queen, who I have told you has much interest in your welfare, whose wish is to see you prosper the same as her European subjects. You are all one to her. You must therefore obey her laws. There are not two sets of laws in this colony, there is the same law for the Europeans as for the Natives, and if you do not observe these laws then trouble will come upon you. You have one Government and one Parliament. The head of the Government is now speaking to you, and to do that he is travelling very many miles. You said to-day you looked upon me as your father. I have spoken to you to-day as a father would speak to his children, and I am prepared, if you are good children, to do that which will prosper you in this world, and when the Parliament meets I shall be very pleased to be able to tell the Parliament that I have met the representatives of the Native race in different parts of the colony, and that I have had from them good wishes and a hearty welcome, and the assurance that they would do that which was in their own interest and the interest of the colony, and that they would live in friendship, peace, and harmony with their pakeha brothers, and I assure you that it is the wish of the pakehas that you should live in contentment and prosperity. They are grieved to see you passing away. You are the only remnant of a noble race, but that race, when the pakehas were few, when they first came here to your country, were their friends, and now we—the Europeans—desire to be your friends. My last words to you are words of thanks for the kind welcome you have accorded to us and if good results from my visit to you I shall be amply repaid for the trouble I have taken in coming to see you. I will now say good-bye.

On Sunday the Premier and party proceeded, in a heavy downpour of rain, to Ruatoki, the Hon. Mr Seddon and Hon. Mr Carroll visiting Poro Poro for a short time *en route*. On arrival at Ruatoki arrangements were made for a meeting on the following morning, the Premier and Hon. Mr Carroll returning to Mr Gould's station, about three miles back on the road, to spend the night, where they were most hospitably entertained by Mr Grant, the manager. Early the next morning the Premier and party arrived at Ruatoki, and were accorded a most enthusiastic welcome. The meeting was held in the open air on the large terrace upon which the settlement is built.

The Premier opened the proceedings by saying,—Salutations and friendly greetings to all of you! I have come a long distance to see you, and I am pleased to meet you. It is the first time the head of the Government has come to see you, and, when I speak here to-day, I speak on behalf of six hundred thousand people, and their greeting to you through me is friendly. When there are any grievances amongst the pakehas, when they have something that troubles their minds, then the head of the Government speaks to them and asks them to tell him what their grievances are, so that he may be able to remove them. For the first time, therefore, you are now treated the same as the pakehas are treated by the *rangatiras* of the Government. I would therefore, to-day, ask you to speak your mind freely, my ears are open, and you are speaking to one who wishes to be a father to you. The welfare of yourselves—the men, women, and children of these tribes—is in your hands to-day. If you fail to open your minds to me and speak freely to me as a friend, willing and anxious to better your position and do what is in the best interest of you all, I say, if you fail to do this, and disaster should follow, then you have only yourselves to blame, the trouble will have been caused by your own action. I am here to-day to remove troubles, not to make them. Only yesterday we had rain coming down, a mist was over the land. Now, we see the mist has risen, the rain has stopped, and all is bright. It struck me as being typical of the state of your minds. Let me venture to hope that, as the mist has cleared from the earth so it will clear from your minds; and when I leave here, in a very short time, all the troubles that you labour under may be removed, leaving everything bright and cheerful for you. Believe me, this is my earnest hope. These are my words to you now. I will say nothing further at present, but explain our relative positions, and I rely upon you to be true to yourselves to think of those who have gone before you your forefathers, to think of those who come after you, and to assist me to help you to remove your troubles. I am deeply grieved and pained to find you as I find you at the present time. You are really well to do. You ought to be in a much better position—much more comfortable—than I find you, and it was with a view to promote that comfort and prosperity that I have gone through this fatigue and come amongst you to-day. I was told by your enemies,—because they are your enemies,—that I would not be welcome here amongst you, but, from what I have heard from your lips this morning, I shall be able to tell the world I was welcomed, that you were pleased to meet and hear me, and have your grievances adjusted. You have enemies, who desire on the sly and under cover to do you an injury. It is these enemies who made these assertions which are untrue. But when people meet as we meet to-day, face to face, and are reasonable with each other, and when I have heard you and heard your grievances, I hope, when I return, to tell the pakehas that they have been untruthful about you, that you are a good people, desirous of promoting both the interests of yourselves and the Europeans. This is a grand country surely good people of both races should live in peace and contentment side by side, live in this colony so that when the time comes, and we are gathered to our forefathers, we can say we have been good people. I have not come to-day to use empty words. I bring with me in my hand a law which was passed in your favour last session, and I am here to-day to explain to you the provisions of this law, which has been assented to by