

25. Even if the Maoris claim was entitled to succeed, the whole value of the subject-matter in dispute as at the time of the sale would be only about £550. Although the Mahia Block was estimated to contain 16,000 acres, it was shown on survey to contain only 14,600 acres. If the present claim succeeded, that area of 14,600 acres would have to be reduced again by 3,160 to 11,440. On the basis of the area being 11,440 acres, the price (at £2,000) would have been 3s. 6d. per acre, and 3,160 acres at 3s. 6d. per acre would be just over £550.

26. But, as the result of our inquiry, we find (following the form of the question as set out in the Commission) that it is not “reasonably established that the boundary of the Mahia Block as fixed by survey probably diverged from the boundary thereof as described or intended to be described in the deed of cession.” We have therefore to report accordingly and to say that the Maori claim fails; consequently, the case does not call for any recommendation.

We have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's humble and obedient Servants..

MICHAEL MYERS, Chairman.

A. M. SAMUEL, Member.

H. T. REEDY, Member.

Wellington, 22nd July, 1948.

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