

1901.
NEW ZEALAND.

LANDLESS NATIVES IN MIDDLE ISLAND

(REPORT RELATIVE TO SETTING APART LAND FOR).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

Messrs. S. P. SMITH and A. MACKAY to the Hon. the MINISTER of LANDS, Wellington.

SIR,—

Wellington, 20th June, 1901.

We have the honour to furnish a further interim report on the operations connected with the allocation of lands in the Middle Island to the landless Natives of that part.

No progress was made during the year 1899–1900 so far as actual allocation of lands were concerned, as the surveys of the Wairaurahiri Block had not sufficiently advanced to allow of it. But the progress made in the skeleton survey since the date of our last report allowed us, within the last month, to make further allocations at that place, the result being that 1,102 individuals have been awarded 38,321 acres 1 rood 4 perches.

It will be convenient to summarise what has been done to date since the Government placed this matter in our hands. The following figures show the allocations made :—

		Persons.		Acres.
At Tautuku	...	370	...	12,371
Stewart Island	...	239	...	8,725
Marlborough	...	375	...	12,914
Westland	...	129	...	3,660
Heaphy River	...	38	...	1,600
Waiau	...	1,264	...	29,908
Wairaurahiri	...	1,102	...	38,321
Totals	...	3,517	...	107,499

So far as is at present known, there remain about seven hundred persons to be provided for, including those of Kaikoura and Marlborough. The lands available for these people are about 7,600 acres at Stewart Island, and the balance of the land at Wairaurahiri—say, 7,000 acres.

The lands at Wairaurahiri are not yet completely surveyed—*i.e.*, the boundaries of the sections have to be marked out on the ground, after which the people can occupy the land.

We have, &c.,

S. PERCY SMITH.
A. MACKAY.

Hon. the Minister of Lands, Wellington.

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