

In accordance with instructions received in your memo. of the 16th April last, I have the honour to report, for your information, that on the 26th May, 1906, I proceeded to Torere, and had a meeting with the Ngaitai Tribe in reference to the purchase for the Government of the Kapuarangi No. 1 West Block, of 11,474 acres 2 roods. I found the Natives willing to sell, and fixed the price, but had a good many meetings with them before they agreed to go in for incorporation. After that we got no Court to sit until the 28th August, 1906. Everything went very well, and the Court closed on the 30th August. On the 29th September the Committee was elected at Torere. On the 21st January, 1907, I completed the deed at Torere, and commenced to pay out to shareholders. I paid about seventy of them at Torere, and have been making payments in different places ever since, only about thirty being unpaid now, most of them living in places a long way off, and I am arranging to send the money to them. On the 24th September, 1906, I started for Waimana to purchase Waimana Nos. 1B1 of 500 acres, 1B2 of 100 acres, 1C of 3,140 acres, 1D of 1,250 acres, and 1E of 636 acres; Tahora Nos. 2AE No. 1, 2AD, and 2AE3; reached Waimana Settlement that night, and the following day I started inland to Te Wai-iti to see Te Maikoha, the chief of the Waimana people. He declined to sell any land at all, or allow his people to do so. On the 10th October I again proceeded to Waimana, having written to tell them I was coming up to see them about some of the Tahora lands, but found on arrival that my letter had not come to hand. I returned the following morning, having told Tiopira te Maikoha to hold a meeting and inform me of the result, which he did some time afterwards, declining to sell. Too many Europeans have been amongst them trying to get leases of their lands. On the 12th December I started for Whakatane to see what could be done as regards dealing with the Natives for Sections 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32, in the Rangitaiki Parish. All these lands are in the same position as the Waimana land. The Natives decline to sell, having too many Europeans