

The Hon. the Minister of Lands.

41034/91.

SIR,—

The Mayor's Office, Wellington, 5th September, 1907.

The Wellington Council, being anxious to obtain a little land from Mr. T. K. Macdonald for the purpose of improving Woodward Street, asked him to make an arrangement with the Council. He made what we considered advantageous terms to the Council, and they were completed. They involved the Council applying to the Land Department for the grant of a piece of land adjoining, and, if successful, passing it over to Mr. Macdonald at the valuation put on it. The Department has valued it at what Councillors think a fairly high price, but as it is Mr. Macdonald's affair, no question is raised on that point. I however find that the Council, once acquiring the land, cannot sell it again; but I am also advised that we can ask the Crown, in pursuance of the arrangement, to make the grant to Mr. Macdonald direct, we paying you the purchase-money, and he paying us. The work is one which we hoped to have done last year, as it is somewhat urgent, and will make a great improvement in the way from Lambton Quay to the Terrace.

May I ask you to co-operate with us in carrying out the arrangement.

The Department has already agreed to sell to the Council at a sum fixed. All that we ask is that the grant should be made to Mr. Macdonald on the same terms, he having arranged to give us what we want.

Yours obed'tly,

T. W. HISLOP.

His Worship the Mayor, Wellington.

DEAR SIR,—

Office of the Minister of Lands, Wellington, 6th September, 1907.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of date the 5th instant, in reference to the purchase of land for the improvement of Woodward Street.

In reply, I have the honour to inform you that careful consideration will be given to your request to have the transaction in question completed as between Mr. T. K. Macdonald and the Government.

I hope to be able to advise you of the action Government will take without unnecessary delay.

Yours faithfully,

ROBT. McNAB.

9443/371.

Department of Lands and Survey, District Office, Wellington, 7th September, 1907.

The Town Clerk, Wellington.

Part Section 488, City of Wellington.

In reply to your memo. of the 5th instant, I note what you say, and will await the return at your earliest convenience of the application referred to in my letter of the 28th June last, together with payment of £653.

JOHN STRAUCHON,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Department of Lands, Wellington, 10th September, 1907.

The Hon. the Minister of Lands.

Purchase of Land, Woodward Street.

REFERRING to the letter which you received from His Worship the Mayor of Wellington, under date of the 5th instant, *re* the exchange of land in connection with the improvement of Woodward Street, as Cabinet has already agreed to the proposal, and fixed the price to be paid for the small strip of land in question—namely, £652—if the Wellington City Council pay this amount to the Receiver of Land Revenue to the credit of Mr. T. K. Macdonald, then the Government can grant the area direct to Mr. T. K. Macdonald, instead of the more elaborate process of first issuing a certificate of title to the Wellington City Council, and then the Council conveying to Mr. T. K. Macdonald. If you approve of this course I will instruct the Commissioner of Crown Lands to deal with it in this manner.

WM. C. KENSINGTON, Under-Secretary.

Enclosure: Cabinet authority attached, 78.

Draft letter advising H.W. the Mayor accordingly.—R. McNAB. 11/9/07.

Hon. Minister of Lands—Reply herewith for your signature, if approved.—WM. C. KENSINGTON, Under-Secretary. 13/9/07.

Department of Lands, Wellington, 13th September, 1907.

Commissioner of Crown Lands, Wellington.

Part Section 488, City of Wellington.

REFERRING to your 9443, of the 29th May, as Cabinet have agreed to the sum of £652 being paid by the Wellington City Council for the strip of land required in connection with the improvement of Woodward Street, the Hon. the Minister of Lands has approved of the Wellington City Council paying that amount to the Receiver of Land Revenue in the name of the Hon. T. K. Macdonald, and then you can issue a certificate of title direct to that gentleman, instead of the more elaborate process of first issuing a certificate of title to the Wellington City Council, and then their conveying it to the Hon. T. K. Macdonald. The Minister has himself informed His Worship the Mayor that he has agreed to this course of action.

WM. C. KENSINGTON, Under-Secretary.