

1911.
NEW ZEALAND.

MOKAU-MOHAKATINO BLOCK

(STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF THE.)

Laid on the Table by Leave.

[Extract from *Lyttelton Times* (Christchurch), *Otago Daily Times* (Dunedin), *Evening Post* (Wellington), *Dominion* (Wellington), of 20th July, 1911.]

(By Telegraph.—Press Association.)

[MR. MASSEY'S ADDRESS AT AUCKLAND, ON 19TH JULY, 1911.]

Mr. Massey then spoke at length on the Mokau lands case. He said the lawyers who acted for the individual who owned the mortgage and who was purchasing from the Natives were Findlay, Dalziel, & Co.; the gentleman who signed the Order in Council was Sir James Carroll, Acting Prime Minister; and the chairman of the syndicate which secured the land was an ex-Minister of Lands with strong leasehold proclivities—Mr. R. McNab. He (Mr. Massey) wanted to see the Native lands occupied, but what he wanted to know was, why was not sufficient land reserved for the Native people, and why did not the Government insist on that sale being under the limitation clause, with the optional tenure, so that no man could have secured more than the limit? Or why did not the Government purchase the land and utilize it for European settlers? He was going to call for an inquiry in the House of Representatives. He wanted to know why 50,000 acres had been allowed to pass into the hands of a gang of speculators instead of the hands of *bona fide* settlers. "Sir James Carroll says," added Mr. Massey, "that I know nothing of Native lands." Thank God, I do not know as much as he does. I never trafficked in an acre of Native land, nor has any member of the Opposition, but I know quite a number on the Government side who have been interested in Native lands. I am going to force the thing to a division.

[Extract from the *New Zealand Herald*, Thursday, 20th July, 1911.]

A DEAL IN MAORI LAND.—THE MOKAU ESTATE.—A BIG PURCHASE.—WHERE WAS THE LIMITATION CLAUSE?—MR. MASSEY SEEKS AN INQUIRY.

During his reference to the Native-land question at his meeting last night, Mr. W. F. Massey dealt with some recent transactions in connection with the famous Mokau Estate. He described the block as being about 50,000 acres, fairly good pastoral land, and a lot of it fit for dairying. Upon it were coal and limestone; it had a large water frontage to a navigable river. It was leased to a European, and he went home to raise money to work the estate. While there he got into financial difficulties. There was a covenant in the lease compelling him to spend at least £3,000 a year on the development of the land, but as time went on his difficulties increased, he did not comply with that covenant, and at last he mortgaged his interest in the estate and came out. A Royal Commission, consisting of Sir Robert Stout (Chief Justice), Mr. Jackson Palmer (Chief Judge of the Native Land Court), was set up, considered the conditions of the lease, and found it had not been complied with. Therefore they found it void, so that the land again became Native land. They recommended the Government to deal with it, and to set apart a part of it for the Native owners and open the rest for settlement. But the interest of the mortgagees in the estate was sold in Wellington for a nominal sum, and the individual who purchased it set to work to approach the congregated Native owners, and offered them a price, which they declined.