

REPORT OF MOTUEKA SCHOOL.

Motueka,

December 15th, 1856.

SIR,—

In accordance with the request made in your last letter, I beg to forward a report of the Motueka Industrial School for the meeting of the Board in January next.

In the first place, I must thank the Board for its grant of £300 paid into the Bank, to my credit; had not this assistance arrived when it did, I should have felt the responsibility of carrying on the School greater than I should wish to undertake, having had, on my own responsibility, to make advances to meet the current expenses.

In common with our neighbours, we have not realized what we anticipated by our crops, &c.; under this head, therefore, there was a deficit, (independently of the grant which had not been continued as in former years) which tended somewhat to disturb the equilibrium of the finance department.

It is the intention of the Trustees, who have had some communications with your Board, to let as much of the School land as they can with the exception of some fifty or sixty acres in the immediate vicinity of the buildings now in course of erection; they hope by this means to secure a certain and definite fund for carrying on the buildings and other works. The Bishop in conjunction with the Trustees felt it would be better thus to secure a certain income than one dependent upon the sale of produce or the uncertainty of annual grants. These lands have not yet been let, I therefore cannot tell what will be the probable income in the hands of the Trustees from this source.

We have not yet been able to commence the boarding School, but I hope as soon as the buildings are finished at once to begin. We have, however, been carrying on the day School. There have been from fifteen to twenty pupils receiving education in the English language, writing, and arithmetic, and religious instruction.

Our numbers are small, but this is in consequence of the Maories in this Province being few in number, living in groups from twenty to a hundred.

We have not, as at Otaki, Wanganui, or Taranaki, large bodies of Natives living congregated together; the only system therefore that can be adopted with them, if they will avail themselves of the advantage, must be to board them, funds for their support being supplied from the Board and other sources. I think that no Managers of Schools should depend on the boys themselves contributing much towards the support of an institution.

My own experience is that this kind of labour is the dearest you can employ: that is if you take into consideration the implements injured, the work badly and inefficiently performed; but industrial training being part of the system required to be carried on in these Schools they must be employed, otherwise the objects of these institutions would not be attained. I have made this remark in order to impress upon the Board the necessity in making their calculations to set aside altogether the idea, which I believe a fallacious one, of the self-supporting system, by the labour of the boys; we must be content I think to lay the foundation of industrious habits for a future generation to build on and not looking to present pecuniary profit.

It was my intention when I sat down to write this report to have been as brief as possible, having little to say on the present or future prospects of our School more than what I said in my last report. I hope the accounts forwarded by the Bishop, which he intended to lay before the Board, have given satisfaction, and have entered sufficiently into detail.

The Board will observe that those accounts commence from the time that the School was begun. I will by the next half yearly meeting (D.V.) forward a statement of the expenditure of the present and future grant promised for January. I hope by that time we shall have commenced our boarding establishment.

Trusting that the Board will still continue its support until we are in a more efficient state, I shall look with confidence to it for future aid. Sir, in conclusion, I beg again to thank the Board for their aid, and you for the promptness of your communications.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Yours, very faithfully,

T. L. TUDOR.

The Rev. A. Stock,
Honorary Secretary
to the Native Educational Board, Wellington.