

No. 1.

MR. PARRIS' REPORTS.

3rd November, 1860.

SIR,—

I herewith transmit Mr. Parris' General Report, referred to by me in reply to Questions Nos. 42, 43, 44, and 45 (p. 25); together with a subsequent Report of Mr. Parris', dated 13th September last: copies of Mr. Parris' daily entries of interviews respecting title have not yet been received, in consequence of his time being fully occupied with other duties.

Ropoama's Letter, referred to in Question 63 (p. 23), has been supplied to the Clerk of Committees.

DONALD McLEAN.

The Honorable E. W. Stafford.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1.

MR. PARRIS TO THE HON. C. W. RICHMOND.

New Plymouth, September 21st, 1859.

DEAR SIR,—

Since I wrote to you on the 9th instant, I have been investigating Teira's question, in order to be able to give an opinion as to the opposition likely to be offered to it, and am sorry to say that I find William King full of his dogged obstinacy, assuming the right to dictate authority over land offered by the rightful owners to the Government. He takes this ground, not being able to refute the claims of Teira and his supporters, who, from all I can gather from disinterested natives, are the rightful owners. William King's son told me a few days since, that if they consented for Teira to sell his land, others would do the same (quite true); they were, therefore, determined not to allow any one to sell, admitting at the same time that they believed the Governor would not buy, so long as there was any opposition.

Teira is emboldened by the justice of his claims. I consequently find it necessary to restrain him in many of his propositions, lest anger should arise, and violence ensue. He offers to cut the line, but at present I decline to give my consent, knowing the opposition he is sure to meet with.

A short time since some natives erected some fencing on his land, whilst he was in town to see me, on my return from Waikato. On his return to Waitara he cut down the fencing, upon which they threatened to burn a canoe of his. He told them he should not attempt to prevent the burning of his canoe, but if they did it, he should at once proceed with a fire stick, and fire the three pas (at the mouth of the river) which they knew were on his land.

Teira's father (Tamati Raru) told William King last week, that it was only stubbornness on his part, to oppose Teira in the sale of the land on the south bank of the river; that his (William King's) land was on the north side; in answer to which William King threatened violent opposition.

The prevailing opinion among the natives is, that Teira's offer will settle the question of the sale of land for a long time; if purchased, more will immediately follow; if not purchased, those who want to sell will be afraid to move in the matter. The most favourable prospect of the whole is, Teira has induced a party of the Ngatiruanui to take a favourable view of the land question. He came to me on the 14th instant, with a native of rank of the Pakakohe tribe, who informed me that he had come with a message from his brother and one hundred supporters, to inform me that they were going to propose the sale of a large block of land (of from fifteen to twenty miles beach frontage,) from a place called Ohangae to the Patea river. The acquisition of such a block of land would be the making of the Province. The land is good, with good sheep runs, and the Patea river much superior to the Waitara. The Ngatiruanui tribe is composed of several petty tribes of which the Pakakohe is one. They occupy the part alluded to, and have also claims between Patea and Waitotara, in conjunction with the Whanganui tribes.

I was hoping Mr. McLean would have returned by this time, for the state of Teira's question is such now, that it is desirable that it should be settled one way or the other before long, for the natives in the district are being kept in constant excitement by it.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT PARRIS.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1.

MR. PARRIS TO CHIEF LAND PURCHASE COMMISSIONER.

New Plymouth, July 16th, 1860.

SIR,—

I have the honor to transmit the following report of occurrences connected with the negotiation for the block of land at Waitara from the time it was first offered to the Government, to the time of attempting the survey of the same.