

W. Buller, Esq.

Take, for example, the Kaiapoi (or Tuahini) Reserve, which I have valued at £45,400. As far back as February, 1857, Mr. Hamilton, the Collector of Customs, in writing to the Chief Commissioner, makes the following statement:—"Not less than a sum of £40,000 now represents the value of the Kaiapoi Reserve alone. * * * The timber alone is now selling to sawyers at £35 per acre, and represents a value of £35,000; whilst the land itself cannot be worth less than the Government price of £2. Much of it, however, has positive value of £4, £5, up to £10 per acre, if not higher. At the lowest value of £4, the land itself is worth £10,000." Some allowance, however, must be made on the bush land, the extent of which is much overstated in this estimate.

Mr. Hamilton assured me the other day, and no one is better informed on these matters, that a considerable part of the open land on that Reserve would realize now from £15 to £20 per acre.

It will be observed that I have fixed the average at £48 for the bush and £10 for the open land.

Mr. Hamilton's estimate of £35 for the bush, five years ago, does not include the land on which it stands, but mine does. Timber land, of much the same character, at Rangiora, a few miles from Kaiapoi, has realised more than double the price quoted above.

I have thought it right to enter into these particulars, lest the aggregate estimate given in my Report should be looked upon, if not as extravagant, at least as questionable. At first glance, and without supporting data, the appraisalment of 7000 acres of country land at £67,000 might seem exorbitantly high, but I am satisfied that the details now furnished must at once correct any such impression.

I have, &c.,
WALTER BULLER.

The Native Secretary.

RETURN shewing the extent, position, description, and approximate value of the Native Reserves in the Province of Canterbury, New Zealand.

Locality.		Extent.	Character of Reserve.	Estimated value.	
				£ acre.	Total.
				£	£
1	Kaiapoi - - -	2640	{ 2140 acres open grass land - -	10	21,400
			{ 500 acres bush - - -	48	24,000
2	Kaikarui - - -	5	Open Terrace land - - -	5	25
3	Rapaki - - -	856	Hilly, open, fern land and bush -	2	1712
4	Port Levy - - -	1361	Hilly, open, fern land and bush -	5	6805
5	Purau - - -	10	Open, fern land - - -	10	100
6	Wairewa - - -	400	280 acres of bush, and 120 acres fern and flax land - - -	2	800
7	Wainui - - -	400	Nearly all bush land - - -	3	1200
8	Onuku - - -	400	Nearly all bush land - - -	2	800
9	Taunuitu - - -	80	Open grass land - - -	2	160
10	Arowhenua - - -	580	{ 150 acres bush land - - -	30	4500
			{ 430 acres open grass land - - -	10	4300
11	Timaru - - -	20	Open grass land - - -	20	400
12	Witireia - - -	187	Open grass land - - -	2	374
13	Waiteruati - - -	17	Open grass land - - -	2	34
14	Waimatamate - - -	40	{ 15 acres bush land - - -	15	225
			{ 25 acres open grass land - - -	5	125
15	Old Kaiapoi Pa - -	about 5	Open grass land - - -	10	50
Grand Total		7001			£67,010

Christchurch,
October 17th, 1861.
WALTER BULLER.

No. 17.

OTAGO.

REPORT FROM MR. ASSISTANT NATIVE SECRETARY STRODE.

Otago, 20th December, 1861.

A. C. Stode, Esq.

SIR,—

With reference to your circular letter of the 17th August last, I have the honor to forward to you a list of the different tribes to which the Natives in the Provinces of Otago and Southland