

PAPERS RELATIVE TO CERTAIN DISALLOWED ACCOUNTS OF THE RESIDENT
MAGISTRATE, MANAWATU.

No. 1.

The NATIVE SECRETARY to W. B. D. MANTELL, Esq.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Native Department,
Auckland, 21st December, 1863.

SIR,—

I am directed by the Hon. W. Fox to enclose the copies of correspondence between yourself,* the late Native Minister, and Mr. Buller, relative to the transmission by Mr. Buller to the late Native Minister, for approval, of an abstract for an expenditure disapproved by you, as late Member of the Executive Council, Wellington.

* See post.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD SHORTLAND,
Native Secretary.

W. B. D. Mantell, Esq., Wellington.

No. 2.

Mr. BULLER to the Hon. W. B. D. MANTELL.

Manawatu, Monday Evening, 22nd June, 1863.

SIR,—

Enclosed is copy of a letter I have just received from Dr. Hewson, of Otaki.

I have thought it so important that its contents should at once be communicated to the police, that I have felt no hesitation in engaging an express to start with this at daylight to-morrow.

In connection with the events which it has been my duty within the last week to report specially upon, the information furnished by Dr. Hewson is important, and demands the immediate attention of the town authorities.

I have, &c.,

WALTER BULLER, R.M.

Enclosure to No. 2.

DR. HEWSON to WALTER BULLER, Esq., R.M.

MY DEAR SIR,—

Otaki, 22nd June, 1863.

I have just heard from a neighbour, of undoubted authority, that many of the Natives here are procuring ammunition in Wellington to a large extent—powder, caps, lead, &c. We hear that they are taking in horses, &c., to procure more.

The matter appears to us so serious, and admits of so little delay, that I was requested to call your attention to the subject without delay.

I do not think that Mr. Edwards is at home, and the district is under your surveillance.

I am, &c.,

CHAS. GEO. HEWSON.

Walter Buller, Esq., R.M., Manawatu.

No. 3.

MEMORANDUM by Mr. BULLER, forwarding Account to NATIVE MINISTER for approval.

I have no authority to engage special messengers, and I do so only in cases of pressing importance. In the present instance information had reached me that the Otaki Natives were obtaining large supplies of ammunition from Wellington. (*Vide* my report of June, 1863.) I lost not a moment in sending express to Wellington to put the police authorities on the alert. The inquiry thus set on foot led to the apprehension of George Waters, who has been committed for trial in the Supreme Court.

Manawatu, 23rd July, 1863.

W. BULLER, R.M.

NOTES by Mr. MANTELL on the above.

This was a case in which personal investigation was alone of pressing importance.—DR. HEWSON.

The express, useless as it was, arrived at 3 p.m. on 24th, bringing Mr. Buller's letter of the 22nd. Twelve hours should bring an express from Manawatu to Wellington.

The inquiry only began after the second express, of which, though badly managed, I allowed the expense.

REPLY by Mr. BULLER to Mr. MANTELL's Notes.

With reference to the Hon. Mr. Mantell's marginal notes on my memorandum, I desire to state:

1. "Personal investigation" on the spot could not have intercepted the fresh supplies spoken of.
2. Dr. Hewson's letter reached me after dark on the 22nd. I at once proceeded to the Awahou settlement, and engaged Natana to start at daylight. The distance from Manawatu to Wellington is considered seventy-five (75) miles.