

## P A P E R S

RELATIVE TO

## THE COURT HOUSE AT KOHEKOHE.

## No. 1.

## MEMORANDUM.

While the Governor was at the Bay of Islands in November, 1861, Mr. Fenton, who had been Resident Magistrate in the Waikato in 1857-8, was requested to visit that district for the purpose of acquainting the Natives with His Excellency's plan of Native Government. Shortly after the Governor's return from his visit to the Ngapuhi Chiefs in the North, Sir George Grey proceeded to the Waikato, accompanied by the Colonial Secretary, having been invited personally to declare his intentions to the tribes of that district. Meetings were held between His Excellency and the Natives, at Kohanga and Taupiri, on the Lower Waikato, which were attended by a number of Chiefs from the Upper Waikato, representing the adherents of the Maori King party. The speeches of Sir George Grey and the Natives will be found separately printed in Sess. Pap. 1862, E.—No. 8.

Mr. Fenton was then charged with the duty of initiating the Governor's plan of Native Government in the Lower Waikato, on the understanding that Mr. James Armitage, a settler who had resided there for several years, was to be afterwards appointed to the district as Resident Magistrate. The personal communications between Sir George Grey and the Chiefs, and the verbal orders given to Mr. Fenton and Mr. Armitage, made it unnecessary to issue written instructions at that time to those officers. Upon the Lower Waikato District being constituted by Orders in Council under the Native Acts of 1858 (see E.—No. 6, 1862), Mr. Fenton resigned his charge to Mr. Armitage.

## No. 2.

REPORT by JAMES ARMITAGE, Esq., respecting the NGATITIPA RUNANGA.

SIR,—

Kohanga, 21st January, 1862.

I have the honor to forward you, for His Excellency's consideration, the enclosed Resolutions, with my remarks thereon, of the Runanga of Ngatitipa, held at Taupari, on the 20th instant.

I have also the honor to forward you a note from the Assessor, W. Kukutai, signifying his approval of the same.

I also forward you a letter from the same Runanga, addressed to His Excellency, applying for four oxen, and for a medical man and a blacksmith.

I have, &amp;c.,

The Hon. Native Minister.

JAMES ARMITAGE.

*Extract from Proceedings of the Runanga of Ngatitipa.*

Taupari, 20th January, 1862.

Mr. Fenton: I have come by directions of the Governor to arrange all matters which have been agreed upon between you and the Governor. Mr. Armitage has been appointed the Resident Magistrate for the District. Waata Kukutai is your first Native Magistrate, so Tamati will be the second. Ruka Taurua will be President of the Runanga, and head of the Police. I shall first swear in Mr. Armitage and Waata.

Mr. Fenton then publicly administered the oath of allegiance and oath of office as Justice of the Peace to Mr. Armitage and Waata respectively.

Proceedings of the Runanga then commenced. Discussion ensued as to Te Putu being a Kai Whakawa at the Waikato Heads, on account of the long distance from Taupari. This was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. Fenton observed that, in his opinion, it would be very advisable if the Natives at the Kakenga (some two miles from Taupari, but a different tribe) would join the Taupari Runanga, as otherwise constant differences and disputes would arise between the two tribes. He then asked W. Pirata Taukawe and his tribe (the Ngatikahu) to express their views.

W. Pirata Taukawe: I agree to join the Runanga of Ngatitipa, because it will be a means of putting a stop to all troubles (*raruraru*) and disputes between the two tribes. I approve of the Ture, &c., as a good work.

Te Watene: I agree also, and to the Ture.

Rupene: I agree also; let us have one system for both tribes.

Tini Pakete: I agree to Taukawe's views, as he has expressed them. I have no objection to this work.

Te Aria: I do not agree to the Ture. I will remain outside as a Pakeha Maori.

Waata addressed the Ngatikahu, and explained at length the advantages of the Ture, pointing out the benefits that would accrue to both tribes by having one Runanga to arrange all disputes, &c., about their horses, sheep, cattle, pigs, &c.; and, on the part of Ngatitipa, agreed to have one Runanga for both tribes. He then asked Te Taukawe who he wished to have for a Policeman at the Kahenga, to do duty there, but not elsewhere on other lands beyond the jurisdiction of the Runanga.