

one condition of such arrangement being, that I made myself responsible for the ultimate recovery of all the rents so impounded.

At the recent meetings to which I have alluded, the representatives of the three tribes principally concerned, the Ngatiapa, Ngatiraukawa, and Rangitane, united in a request that, before proceeding to any division or distribution of this money, I should on their behalf receive the rents from the run-holders, and that, when the whole amount had been paid up, I should call a general meeting of the tribes to determine its disposal. As the request was unanimous, and as the course recommended by the Natives seemed likely to prevent a further complication of an already difficult question, I readily assented to the proposal, and in that position the matter now rests.

2. *Reserves.*—In my report of 23rd March I described the position and extent of the reserve at Puketotara, which I had set apart for the Rangitane, and I furnished with that report copy of a memorandum of agreement entered into with Kawana Hunia (the representative chief of the Ngatiapa), whereby I guaranteed to him and his tribe 1000 acres at Papakatea, 500 acres at Tawhirihoë, and 10 acres at Te Awahou.

It will be seen by a reference to my notes of the Parewanui meeting in December last, that Ihakara, the Ngatiraukawa chief, in the interests of peace, and in order to conciliate the Ngatiapa, voluntarily surrendered to Kawana Hunia the right which he had to a reserve at Tawhirihoë, in terms of my pledge that I would not disturb the Ngatiraukawa in any of their existing settlements.

While fully appreciating the motive which had actuated Ihakara in making this large concession to a rival tribe, I regretted that he had done so, and I promised his hapu, who evidently felt the humiliation very keenly, that I would do my utmost to recover possession of Tawhirihoë, and to grant them a reserve there—explaining, however, that this could only be accomplished with the concurrence of the Ngatiapa. I am glad to be able to report that I have made an arrangement with Kawana Hunia which places Tawhirihoë again at my disposal. I attach a copy of a memorandum of agreement on the subject. (Enclosure 1.)

The reserves for the Ngatiraukawa tribe have not yet been defined. I have however promised the chiefs that they shall not be required to relinquish any of their permanent settlements, that their burial places shall be held sacred, and that ample reserves shall be set apart for all the resident hapus.

The non-sellers in that tribe having declined to accept of a reserve to the extent of their claims as admitted by the sellers, I have signified my willingness to refer the question to two arbitrators, in order that the extent and position of their actual claims may be determined, and excluded from the purchase; and failing arbitration, I have stated my readiness to leave the settlement of this question to any two Judges of the Native Land Court who may be selected by the Government for that duty. I append (Enclosure 2) a copy of my memorandum in English and Maori, setting forth the conditions of the proposed arbitration.

I have not yet received from the non-sellers any definite reply to this proposal. There would be no difficulty in furnishing an approximate assessment of the claims of the non-sellers, as required in your letter of the 10th November last; but as I have agreed to go to arbitration on the question, it is obviously unnecessary for me to go further into the subject at present.

For the information of the Government I beg to forward herewith (Enclosure 3) a list of Natives of the Ngatiraukawa tribe, who allege claims to the Rangitikei-Manawatu Block, and who have not signed the deed of cession.

I beg to furnish also (Enclosure 4) a brief sketch, by Mr. Buller, of the migration and conquest upon which the Ngatiraukawa claims chiefly rest.

In conclusion, I have the honor to recommend, that if the non-sellers should reject the proposals I have made to them, His Excellency the Governor should be advised to appoint a special Commission to inquire into the claims of the dissentients, and to determine their extent, in order that they may be excluded from the Government purchase.

The Hon. J. C. Richmond.

I have, &c.,

I. E. FEATHERSTON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 4.

MEMORANDUM.

4th July, 1867.

IN consideration of my getting sole possession of the Pakapakatea Reserve of one thousand acres, I agree to surrender to Mohi Mahi, on behalf of the Ngatiapa tribe, my claim to a reserve of five hundred acres at Tawhirihoë.

Witness—W. BULLER, R.M.

his
KAWANA x HUNIA.
mark

MEMORANDUM.

4th July, 1867.

ON behalf of the Ngatiapa tribe I agree to relinquish the claim to a reserve at Tawhirihoë, save and except ten acres to be selected by Dr. Featherston, in consideration of my receiving from the Government a reserve of five hundred acres at Te Kawau in the Rangitikei-Manawatu Block. his

Witness—W. BULLER, R.M.

MOHI x MAHI.
mark

Note in Explanation.

THE original arrangement with the Ngatiapa was that Kawana Hunia should have 500 acres at Tawhirihoë, and 500 acres at Pakapakatea, and that there should be a tribal reserve of 500 acres adjoining Kawana Hunia's at Pakapakatea. Mohi on behalf of the tribe has lately been anxious exchange the 500 acres at Pakapakatea for a reserve of similar extent at Te Kawau.

The present arrangement is practically this: Kawana Hunia exchanges his personal reserve of 500 acres at Tawhirihoë for the tribal reserve of 500 acres at Pakapakatea, and Mohi, on behalf of the tribe, accepts a reserve of 500 acres at Te Kawau in lieu of the Tawhirihoë Reserve.