

gold. I showed that the claimants to the block under adjudication were parties to an agreement to this effect, made with Mr. Mackay in 1868; and I asked, in case of the judgment being in their favour, that a restrictive clause should be added to the certificate, maintaining that agreement; but in case the judgment of the Court should be in favour of the opponents, who were not parties to that agreement, I urged the Court not to make any final order at Ohinemuri, but only to declare its judgment as to ownership of the land, and to adjourn the case to Auckland, where the final order could be prepared, with the aid of the Chief Judge, after due consideration, and with all the information attainable.

The advocates on both sides most vehemently opposed my application, and I had to reply to their objections. The Court, however, in giving judgment in favour of the claimants, directed a certificate of title to be issued to them, with a restrictive clause maintaining the agreement, as I had requested. The adverse party gave notice of their intention to apply for a rehearing.

I think that after a time the great body of the Natives will recognize the equity of the judgment given; but for the present, the anger of the chiefs of the Ngatitamatera is naturally great, and I cannot say that I think the prospect of opening the district is at all near or promising.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Native Minister.

THEOPH. HEALE.

No. 14.

Mr. E. W. PUCKEY to the Hon. D. McLEAN.

SIR,—

Native Agent's Office, Grahamstown, 10th June, 1870.

I have the honor to inform you that the Native Land Court, which commenced its sitting at Ohinemuri on the 16th instant, was yesterday adjourned *sine die*, having the day previously given judgment in the case of the claim of Ngatikoi te Owaharo, in favour of the claimants.

As Mr. Heale has already made you acquainted with what took place in the Court up to the end of the first week, I shall confine my remarks on the present occasion to what took place since your departure for the South.

The case for the counter-claimants was brought to a close on the afternoon of Saturday, 21st, when the Court adjourned until Monday, 23rd, and the case for the claimants proceeded with. Mr. Wilson's witnesses were subjected to a rigid and searching cross-examination by Mr. Mackay, who in his questions, and the contempt evinced by him for the claimants, was not careful to avoid expressions liable to stir up the angry feelings of the stronger against the weaker party.

On Friday, the 27th ultimo, I had to leave Ohinemuri for Shortland, in order to complete a Return of Tribes, for the House of Representatives.

On the same day, Moananui and a party of about twenty men, armed, started for Waihi, for the purpose, as he told me the previous day, of seeing Raharuhi, father of Kepa Raharuhi one of the claimants to Owaharo. They reached Waihi on the following day, but news of their intended visit having preceded them, Raharuhi was concealed by some of the other Natives, and when Moananui and party arrived, he could nowhere be found. However, after a considerable time had been spent in searching, an old man and woman were seen approaching, who proved to be Raharuhi and his wife. They had been out in the cold and wet all the night previous and all that day, and were nearly perished.

Moananui upon seeing Raharuhi, told him to remain quiet and get himself warm and comfortable, and he would talk to him on the following day; but meanwhile the *taua* had all the license in such cases accorded to *tauas*, and looted everything not too heavy for them to carry away. Next morning Raharuhi came to Moananui, and told him, so the story goes, that he himself had nothing to do with the land; the land and people were Meha's; that his children, Kepa and others, in spite of his advice, proceeded to survey the lands, and make application to the Native Land Court.

On Tuesday afternoon I left Shortland, and reached Ohinemuri late in the evening, when I was informed that the case in respect of Owaharo had been completed that day, and that judgment would be given on the morrow.

On Wednesday, at 10, the Court assembled, and the counter-claimants and their partisans, appeared in strong force, but the Ngatikoi appeared by Counsel only, and as judgment was being given in favor of Ngatikoi, evident signs of discontent were evinced by a good many of those present, and mutterings of dissatisfaction could be heard on all sides. This being the case, as soon as judgment was given, Tarapipipi stood up, and expressed it as his wish that the people should not be *pouri*, but that they should behave with decorum.

As it was evident that there was too much excitement for any other case to be proceeded with that day, the Court adjourned till the morrow—but at this time Moananui's party were descried approaching, and a war dance took place; that over, Mr. Mackay proposed that a meeting should take place at Te Moananui's camp, in order to concert measures for the morrow. As I was anxious to know how far the disturbed feelings of Te Hira's party would carry them, I felt it my duty to be present for a time at the meeting. It commenced about 11.30 a.m. The speakers were Tarapipipi, Wi Hopihana, Hohepa Te Rauhihi, Mere Kuru, R. Te Tahua, Riwai Te Kiore, Wi Kingi Te Arawahie, Te Moananui, Mr. Mackay and myself.

Tarapipipi was very much excited, as well at the decision as at the rumoured purchase of Te Aroha by the Provincial Government. Hohepa said he was wearied with trying to maintain peace in the district. He thought he should leave things to take their course. Nevertheless, later in the day, both he and Tarapipipi told us they would continue to act as they had done heretofore, and conduct matters quietly.

Mr. Mackay spoke twice, denouncing the decision of the Court. The Ngatikoi were exceedingly presumptuous in preferring any claim whatsoever to land—they were “*iwi tutua, toenga kainga*,” in fact, he seemed quite at a loss to find terms to express his disgust at the adverse decision of the Court, and the presumption of the Ngatikoi. His second speech was more temperate, urging upon the Natives the prudence of not obstructing the action of the Court. This I supported; the more so, as direct reference was made to myself by Tarapipipi, in reply to Mr. Mackay.

The result of the meeting may be summed up in a few words. The claim of Ngatikoi to Waihi was to be taken through the Court; the lands which had been surveyed for taking through the Court