

## REPORTS FROM OFFICERS IN NATIVE DISTRICTS.

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The Hon. the NATIVE MINISTER to OFFICERS in NATIVE DISTRICTS.

SIR,—

Alexandra, 3rd June, 1872.

As the General Assembly is about to meet, I have to request that you will, with the least possible delay, be good enough to furnish a general Report of the Natives in the district in which you are stationed; the state of Native feeling generally; their moral and physical condition; their attention or otherwise to agricultural pursuits; the progress of public works undertaken by the Natives, and any other information which may be interesting to the country.

DONALD M'LEAN.

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### No. 1.

The RESIDENT MAGISTRATE, Mangonui, to the Hon. the NATIVE MINISTER.

Resident Magistrate's Office,

SIR,—

Mangonui, 21st June, 1872.

I have the honor to report that the Natives of this district are quietly and peacefully pursuing their usual avocations; their feeling towards the Government has always been of the most friendly, and indeed, dependent character, for they know perfectly well that their geographical position, as well as their comparative paucity of numbers would compel them to look outside for support, and they appreciate the fact that the Government can and does afford the most trustworthy support. From my first intercourse with them, September, 1848, I have never had occasion to doubt this.

I can venture to report a more favorable state of morality. Very few cases have been brought before the Courts; they seem to live in more friendly intercourse, and with one or two exceptions, which I think are naturally accounted for (about land) no disputes or quarrels have occurred.

I am glad to report upon what may be called enthusiasm, which has seized the people relative to schools; that at Pukepoto continues to afford general satisfaction, the children improve wonderfully. Mr. Masters, I was informed by Colonel Russell, was to receive £20 per annum extra from the Government in lieu of Timoti Puhipi's contribution. At Awanui the children are also getting on well. Colonel Russell informed me that authority was to be given me for £10 for this school, which I have not received. At Ahipara the schoolhouse will be completed in about six weeks. At Parengarenga the Natives have the timber ready (or most of it), and are only waiting to know what the Government will do for them.

The people at Kaitaia and Victoria want to start a school, and are prepared to do as at Ahipara and Parengarenga. I have written on this subject to Colonel Russell. I am not at all sanguine that this enthusiasm will last; I fear the people will fall off in their contributions, and I cannot help regretting that the Native contribution has been dispensed with at Pukepoto, as it will form an example for others to resist or refuse to pay after expense has been incurred in the erection of buildings, &c., &c. The people have been much occupied in kauri gum digging, and though this pursuit is no doubt profitable to them, I fear it is fraught with evil to the races of the North, generating, as it must do, from the exposure and want of proper food, all sorts of disease. This call upon their energies is much greater than in former years; there is more competition, consequently they are induced by the high prices generally ruling to work all through the year, and in the winter months great mortality ensues. I have been often, more particularly of late, urged to represent to the Government the advisability of appointing a medical man to attend them; we are unfortunately circumstanced in that respect, there is not a medical man in the district. Mr. Trimnell, it is true, is farming at Pukepoto, but he will not attend to medical practice except he receives a very high fee, and is very inattentive; consequently, he is beyond the reach of the inhabitants. I am satisfied that if the Government could give a salary of say £150 to a medical officer, that he would make a good income by general practice amongst the Europeans. In agriculture there has been a marked improvement, ploughs, carts, and European implements and style of farming are much adopted. A much larger quantity of wheat has been sown this year than for years back; post and rail fencing, laying down grass, &c., which show a vast improvement in their views on this subject. Many of the young men here have taken contracts to draw timber from the bush with their own bullocks, and show an unmistakable desire to share with the Europeans the profits of industrial pursuits.

With regard to public works, all that have been undertaken by the Road Boards of Ahipara and Mangonui, the Natives have shared in the profits; taking contracts from the Board to form roads, make culverts, &c., and have performed their work well. Under the Provincial Government, money has been spent on the bush road to Victoria Valley, the contracts being almost entirely taken up by the Natives, but the sums spent here have been comparatively very small. Much disappointment is felt throughout the district, by both Europeans and Natives, that no work was undertaken, as was generally understood at the end of last Session would be, by the Public Works Board. Mr. Katene,