

Secondly, as to the utility of my office.—The enclosed statement will show that at the very lowest estimate the General Government have on the West Coast an estate of 200,000 acres, which may be indefinitely increased by purchases which Mr. Worgan and Mr. Parris are authorized to make. The same reasons which two years ago rendered it necessary to employ some one to manage it locally,* still exist, but with increasing force, as the Native claims which have hitherto so hampered all my proceedings are being rapidly extinguished. At the same time the surveys have approached a stage at which they will become reproductive, and a host of small but, to the persons affected by them, important questions, are constantly being settled in consequence. In short, if this office is abolished, the old state of confusion will again occur; what is done will not be done either well or quickly, and much of what has been done will be wasted.

In my opinion, the true way to effect a saving is to give me larger powers than I have at present, to settle each question as it arises. To save the salaries of myself and clerk, and other contingent expenses connected with this office, amounting in the whole to less than £550 per annum, is very false economy unless it can be shown that what is done in this office can be better done elsewhere. While saying this, I am fully aware that very much more might be done with the lands under my charge than has been done, but for this I am not responsible, as will be proved by reference to my reports, &c., noted in the margin, and by the whole course of my correspondence with the Government. Looking at the subject as impartially as I can, I fail to see that any advantage would arise from making a change in the management of the confiscated lands of this district, unless it be in the direction indicated in my letter of the 24th of January, 1872, and fully discussed with the Secretary for Crown Lands, who is in possession of my ideas on the whole land question.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT PHARAZYN,

Commissioner of Confiscated Lands.

P.S.—Most of my minutes are in Crown Lands Office Records.—R. P.

Memorandum on Area of the Confiscated Lands, West Coast District.

	Acres.
Between Waitotara and Wairoa Streams, seaward of military settlers' land, surveyed ready for sectional survey. Mr. Worgan proposes to satisfy floating Native claims out of this if necessary	9,000
Between Wairoa Stream and the Whenuakura. (Of this 2,500 is surveyed for Hawke's Bay military settlers; this was selected at my office on 1st May.)	8,000
Whenuakura Block, in course of survey and partly divided into sections	8,000
Railway Reserve, kept for Immigration purposes	12,000
By scaling new map, there is in the Province of Wellington, inland of military settlements, bush land	35,000
Ditto, Province of Taranaki to the Waingongoro River, bush chiefly	140,000
Total	212,000

ROBERT PHARAZYN,

Commissioner of Confiscated Lands.

Confiscated Lands Office, Wanganui,
28th May, 1872.

No. 25.

Mr. R. PHARAZYN to the SECRETARY for CROWN LANDS.

(No. 193-72.)

SIR,—

Confiscated Lands Office, Wanganui, 8th June, 1872.

I have had an application from a Mr. Wells, a settler at Patea, for "protection" in the event of his discovering coal in that district; and he also wishes to know if the Government is prepared to offer a "bonus" for any such discovery. I informed Mr. Wells that I have no power under the regulations to grant the protection asked for, and I am not aware that any bonus can be claimed, but that I would refer the matter to the Government. From the geological formation of the district, there is every probability that coal exists in it, and I have reason to believe that a large quantity of brown coal or lignite has actually been found by Mr. Wells, or persons with whom he is associated.

Under these circumstances I would suggest that I be empowered to promise Mr. Wells a right of purchase (on terms similar to the provisions contained in clause 23 of the Regulations) over 100 acres of land, if within twelve months from the date at which he claims protection on the score of having discovered coal or any similar deposit, he produces not less than 100 tons of marketable fuel.

In view of the railway which is likely to be constructed between New Plymouth and Wanganui, and of the whole question connected with the Immigration and Public Works policy, the subject is one which is well worthy the consideration of the Government.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT PHARAZYN,

Commissioner of Confiscated Lands.

The Secretary for Crown Lands, Wellington.

* See Mr. Fox's memorandum for the Colonial Secretary, 6th April, 1870, offering me the appointment of Commissioner of Confiscated Lands.—R. PHARAZYN.