

1877.  
NEW ZEALAND.

REPORTING DEBATES COMMITTEE  
(INTERIM REPORT OF THE).

*Report brought up 8th October, 1877, and ordered to be printed.*

THE Committee have the honour to report, that they have compared the proofs of the debate on the Hawke's Bay Land Transactions with *Hansard*, and they beg to submit to the House a copy of certain passages in the speech of the Honorable Mr. Ormond as printed in the original proofs, set forth in parallel columns with the same passages as reported in *Hansard*, showing the alterations made by Mr. Ormond.

October 8th, 1877.

JOHN BALLANCE,  
Chairman.

EXTRACTS FROM THE HON. MR. ORMOND'S SPEECH ON THE 6TH SEPTEMBER, IN THE DEBATE ON  
HAWKE'S BAY LAND PURCHASES.

PROOF COPY.*	HANSARD.†
<p>This land was, as the honorable member for Rangitikei has said, especially suitable for "smiling homesteads." These gentlemen were already members of the landed aristocracy. And, Sir, what did the then Governor do? He offered to assist them by every means in his power. The gentleman to whom I have referred immediately came here, and made arrangements for getting possession of this land. But all of a sudden a difficulty arose with the Governor in regard to the subject. This association of gentlemen suddenly found that it would be difficult to carry out what the Governor had wished them to carry out. They had looked upon this as a splendid investment, and they were greatly disappointed to find a sudden check put upon them. * * * * *</p> <p>He got a share, and an agent was started off to the land in question. It was arranged that this agent should be followed by these introductions and assistance which the Governor could give him. Sir, the Governor at that time was a Governor who had special power over the Natives who lived in outlying districts like Taupo, where the Maoris were shut out from the Europeans and from all European things. The agent went to Napier, and it is fortunate that he did so, because if he had not it is possible that I would not be here to-night to put this matter in the proper light; and the fact of his going to Napier required that letters should be written, and these letters now exist, and can be produced at any moment. What came</p>	<p>This land was <i>the same block</i> as the honorable member for Rangitikei has <i>described as</i> especially suited for "smiling homesteads." These gentlemen were already members of the landed aristocracy; and, Sir, what did the then Governor do? He offered to assist them by every means in his power <i>to obtain more lands</i>. The gentlemen to whom I have referred made arrangements for getting possession of this land. But all of a sudden a difficulty arose with the Governor in regard to the subject. This association of gentlemen suddenly found <i>the Governor cold, and that he had lost interest in the business</i>. They had looked upon this as a splendid investment, and they were greatly disappointed to find a sudden check put upon them. * * * * *</p> <p>He <i>obtained</i> a share, and an agent was <i>employed and</i> started off to <i>secure</i> the land in question. It was arranged that this agent should be followed by introductions <i>to the Native owners of the land from the Governor</i>. Sir, the Governor at that time was a Governor who had special <i>influence</i> over those Natives who lived in outlying districts like Taupo, where the Maoris were shut out from the Europeans and from all European <i>influence</i>. The agent went to Napier; and it is fortunate that he did so, because if he had not, <i>the transactions I am describing would rest on recollection only</i>, but the fact of his going to Napier required that letters should be written, and these letters now exist. What came next? Why, the</p>

\* Words struck out in proof shown by erased type.

† Words inserted and added shown by italics.



PROOF COPY.\*

next? Why, the agent was appointed a director of the association and a member of the Legislative Council, and he was the gentleman who wrote the letters which are now in the next room. I do not want to bring in these letters unless I am challenged to do so.

Sir G. GREY.—Bring them in.

Mr. ORMOND.—I will produce them when I am challenged to do so. Well, as I have said, the agent went to Napier, and the letters that he wrote are of particular interest. One of those letters is especially interesting. It says: "~~Hurry on with this transaction. Go up and scatter a little ground bait.~~" Those were the instructions given by the association with which the Governor was connected.

Sir G. GREY.—Who was the agent?

Mr. ORMOND.—Mr. Locke.

Mr. STOUT.—Name the writer of the letters.

Mr. ORMOND.—The Hon. Mr. Russell, a member of the Legislative Council. I do not want to conceal the name, and if the letters are wanted my friends here will produce them. That was one of the instructions given by the Governor of the Colony, who was a party to this transaction. The next letter that I remember of interest in this matter was—

Mr. REES.—Why do not you get the letters?

Mr. ORMOND.—Oh, I do not want them. The next letter said this: "You must not delay any longer. Go on. We are urgent in this matter, and enclosed in my letter are those letters of introduction which the Governor promised; ~~these are the letters that will enable you to go up and get possession of the country. The Governor's influence is great, and these letters are now sent to the Natives.~~" Sir, the House will well understand that the influence of the Governor in those days was very different to what it is now among the Native people. ~~And it would be greater if the Governor himself had been personally acquainted with the individuals, which was the case in this instance. The agent got these letters. Another curious thing took place. A letter went written by Mr. Russell to Mr. Locke, saying, "Still go on—urgent. Go on with this business, but for State reasons do not let the name of the Governor appear."~~ These are absolutely the words used: "~~Do not let the name of the Governor appear for State reasons.~~" And so the correspondence went on. ~~The agent went up there. I have correctly described the transaction, and what I say can be verified by an honorable member of this House (Mr. Cox), and I may also name the Hon. Colonel Whitmore and the Hon. Mr. Russell, who was another party to it. There were other gentlemen, but I need not name them, as they are not here. The letters and the statements made to me show me that everything I have stated here to night is true. I will now read to the House what took place in this House in reference to such transactions as these to which I have alluded.~~

I say this was done by one who had the power in his hands, and that he prostituted his position in being a party to such a transaction. I say distinctly and absolutely that I have the letters which describe what I have stated—which show that the statements are true, and the honorable member for Waipa years ago told me of this transaction.

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\* Words struck out in proof shown by erased type.

HANSARD.†

agent was communicated with by the director of the association, who was and is a member of the Legislative Council; and he was the gentleman who wrote the letters which are now in the next room. I do not want to bring in these letters unless I am challenged to do so.

Sir G. GREY.—Bring them in.

Mr. ORMOND.—I will produce them when the accuracy of my statements is challenged. Well, as I have said, the agent went to Napier, and the letters he received are of particular interest. One of those letters is especially interesting. There is a passage like this: "*Could you not go up again and use your influence on the spot? We must be prepared to sow some ground-bait, I suppose, and you must use your discretion as to this, and I shall at once provide the needful.*" Those were the instructions given by the director of the association with which the Governor was connected.

Sir G. GREY.—Who was the agent?

Mr. ORMOND.—Mr. Locke.

Mr. STOUT.—Name the writer of the letters.

Mr. ORMOND.—The Hon. Mr. Russell, as member of the Legislative Council. I do not want to conceal the names, and if the letters are wanted my friends can produce them. That was one of the instructions given. The next letter that I remember of interest in this matter was—

Mr. REES.—Why do not you get the letters.

Mr. ORMOND.—Oh, I do not want them. *I recollect their purport.* The next letter said something like this: "You must not delay any longer. Go on; we are urgent in this matter, and enclosed in my letter are those letters of introduction which the Governor promised." Sir, the House will well understand that the influence of the Governor in those days was very different from what it is now among the Native people. The Governor himself was then personally acquainted with the individual Natives, which was the case in this instance. Another letter written by Mr. Russell to Mr. Locke *I remember, which says: "I have written to Whitmore on the subject, and it is agreed now to take him into the whole concern, the Governor, for reasons of State, thinking it better at present that he should not be in the concern. Another moneyed man will be in his place, however. Cox has letters from the Governor."* These are absolutely the words used, and so the correspondence went on. I have described the transaction *as I have heard it, and what I say can be verified by an honorable member of this House (Mr. Cox). I may also name the Hon. Colonel Whitmore and the Hon. Mr. Russell as having been members of the company, and there were also other gentlemen. That is, as nearly as I can remember, a correct account of the letters and the statements made to me on this subject.* I will now read to the House what took place in this House last session in reference to the transactions to which I have alluded. \* \* \* \* \*

I say this was done by one who had the power from his position, and that he prostituted his position in being a party to such transactions. I say distinctly and absolutely that the letters *I have referred to confirm* what I have stated; that the statements are true, and that the honorable member for Waipa told me of these transactions. \* \* \* \* \*

† Words inserted and added shown by italics.