

The following circular was produced by Mr. Lundon, and read out in English and then in Maori:—

*“Circular.”*

*Mr. J. Lundon.*

March 26, 1879.

“Auckland, 6th March, 1879.—Dear Sir,—It is desirable every elector should be on the electoral roll who is in any way connected with the timber, grain, or shipping interests. Enclosed please find blank forms to be filled in for every person in the district, both European and Native, who has the necessary qualification—viz., a householder of any description, lodger, and the owner of lease or freehold to the value of £10. Please fill in and have forms properly attested and deposited in the hands of the Registration Officer of the district on or before the 31st of March, 1879, and oblige.—I have, &c.,

“G. HOLDSHIP.”

“Mr. J. D. Hayes.”

2085. I suppose you give this part of your evidence by way of showing that, politically, Europeans may have as black skins as Maoris, or may do as black things as Maoris?—A thousand times worse. My experience of the Maoris is, that they are thoroughly honest. They do not know how to be otherwise. They are ignorant of the law.

2086. Do you wish to add anything further?—About Mr. Hare's evidence in Whangaroa, I know that he has been objected to twice, and I believe that the claim is as good as any of those now on the roll. The same with the Flavell family, and the same with the Snowden family. I may state that I was invited by Mr. Williams to a meeting at Kawakawa, and I there made the same statement. Men with beards on their faces were called minors, and were not allowed to be put on the roll. The evidence of Mr. White at Mongonui, and his letter, astonished me. I understand the purport and meaning very well; but all the rest of this about “Lundon's friends” was a hint to Mr. Williams to object to all. That is the way I take it.

2087. I would not comment on that if I were you, Mr. Lundon. You had an opportunity of cross-examining Mr. White.—I thought I could go over the evidence.

2088. Yes, where you intend to give rebutting evidence in support of your statement.—I have seen some of the houses, and say there are some of them better than the one Mr. White lived in for the last twenty years. I have seen some good raupo houses, and especially the one owned by Timoti Nopera. The Maoris generally have their houses apart—they have sleeping-places and eating-places away from each other; whereas Europeans build them all under one roof. The evidence of Mr. Von Stürmer I regard as a whole fairly, with the exception of that with regard to the Harris family. I have taken a deal of trouble to place these people on the roll. There is one place in Victoria Valley where the title was individualized. One thousand eight hundred acres was individualized by the Natives themselves in that locality, and yet their names were objected to.

2089. How many individualized?—I cannot say, but you will find out in Percy Smith's office. Mr. White said there was no case on record in his county of Maoris having individualized. This was not the fact. Mr. Von Stürmer said the reason the Harrises were objected to was because their father was returned for Motukaraka. He is not returned as a freeholder, but as a householder.

2090. Was his father at the time the owner of the property?—He was not. The deeds were made to the whole family twelve months before. And Jimmy Harris has a three-roomed wooden house; Nui Harris had a good raupo house; and Anson has a family of seven or eight children by a half-caste wife. He has two or three houses—places for himself and wife, places for his family, and places for cooking—all within a yard or so of each other. Tawhio has had a good wooden house for years, and two good raupo houses as well. He is objected to. Tommy Harris's house is on the roadside at Taheke, and I look upon his as a house within the meaning of the Act. With regard to the evidence of Te Wake, he has boasted here lately to the Chairman of the County Council and the Natives that he will do me all the harm he can. His dislike has arisen this way: I hold a seat in the County Council for Hokianga; and he and others had a contract to make a road for their own accommodation. The half of the money was paid by the Government, and the other half by the County Council. The Government refunded £150 of the money. The land which the road has gone through is Native land, and I advised the Chairman to get five reputed owners to sign a paper to the effect that the road was for the use of the public before the money was paid. That advice was followed. The money was withheld, and Te Wake threatened to do for the County Council or me. He headed a party to Motukaraka, with arms in their hands. That is the only provocation I have ever given him. I am quite certain he will come to trouble, and bring trouble on the district.

2091. You suggested another reason yesterday about the payment of money to Mr. Tole?—He said he would collect the money when he got back, and pay it to me for Mr. Tole. There were other Natives present at the time, and they agreed to subscribe. Hone Mohi has paid £5. I do not know that I have anything further to add.

2092. *Cross-examined by Mr. Williams.*] You stated, Mr. Lundon, in the early part of your evidence that in one year you asked Mr. Cochrane to sign a number of those papers for you?—I asked him to get them signed.

2093. Will you state what year that was?—After Patrick Lundon's were objected to. I think it would be 1875.

2094. And this plan of yours succeeded?—Yes.

2095. That is to say, the names were not objected to?—They were not.

2096. Do you know why?—I believe because the friends of Mr. Williams attested them.

2097. That is your supposition?—Yes.

2098. I should suppose so, for you have imputed motives to almost every transaction I have done?—I had good reason for it.

2099. Do you know of any objections that were made in 1875?—I do not know that there were any at all. There may have been. There was not an election going on, or I would have known more about it. I would have paid more attention to it.

2100. Did you ever hear that I was taken seriously ill about the month of April, 1875?—I might have.