

SESS. II.—1879.
NEW ZEALAND.

NATIVE DISTURBANCE AT OTAUA, HOKIANGA

(PAPERS RELATING TO A).

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by command of His Excellency.

No. 1.

Mr. VICKERS to the UNDER SECRETARY, Native Department.

(Telegram.)

Auckland, 4th September, 1879.

HAVE received telegram from Mr. Kemp, who is at Bay of Islands, relative to an affray between Natives at a place called Otatau, near Hokianga. Dispute was about a survey. Mr. Kemp says, this morning: "Further particulars connected with Native affair. There are two killed and two wounded on one side, and one killed and two wounded on the other. It is purely a Native question." Von Stürmer, R.M., in whose district this has occurred, has just arrived by steamer from Sydney, and is on his way over. Marsh Brown and Hone Mohi will report direct to Native Minister. It has no political significance.

T. W. Lewis, Esq., Under Secretary,
Native Department, Wellington.

S. C. E. VICKERS,
Chief Clerk.

No. 2.

Mr. S. VON STÜRMER to the UNDER SECRETARY, Native Department.

(Telegram.)

Russell, 4th September, 1879.

JUST returned. Shall be in Hokianga to-morrow.
Under Secretary, Native Office,
Government Buildings, Wellington.

SPENCER VON STÜRMER.

No. 3.

Mr. WEBSTER to the Hon. the NATIVE MINISTER.

SIR,—

Hokianga, 4th September, 1879.

In reference to my telegram of 2nd instant, *re* Native disturbance at Otatau, I have the honor to inform you that I proceeded there yesterday, and, on inquiry, was informed that Wi Pou, a Native chief of Otatau, and his party had gone to cut lines in a block of land lying between Otatau and Mataraua, with the intention, on completing the lines, to have it surveyed. The Natives at Mataraua were asked to join in clearing the lines, that their boundaries might be settled. They objected altogether to have the land surveyed. On the 1st instant Wi Pou and his party proceeded to clear the lines, and while resting to cook food about noon they were fired upon by a party from Mataraua, killing two of their party and wounding two (one dangerously). The remainder ran away for guns they had in the bush and returned the fire, killing two of the Mataraua party and wounding one slightly. Each party dispersed, and next day some friendly Natives brought the dead to the settlement. I am assured by Wi Pou and party that they have no intention of renewing the conflict, as they acted in self-defence; they also promise that they will not proceed to clear the lines again until the matter is investigated. While at Otatau a deputation of friendly Natives arrived from the Mataraua party, and assured me that there will be no renewal of the conflict; so the disturbance will end for the present. No doubt that Wi Pou and party had a good claim to the land they were clearing, and the other party had also a claim for an adjoining block. Te Huehue was shared between both parties at last Native Land Court. There has been a very bad feeling between both tribes for many years on land disputes.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM WEBSTER,
District Officer.

The Hon. the Native Minister, Wellington.