

The "Great Native Committee" still sits at Ohinemutu, to hear land claims, but they get through but little business. The Natives in this district continue anxious to work on roads for the Government. They have performed a good deal of labour on the Rotorua and Tauranga Road, and the Rotorua and Maketu Road; they are also shortly to commence other works of a similar nature. The flour-mills at Te Ngae and Rotoiti have been put in repair, assisted to some extent with Government money. The Natives promise to put in large quantities of wheat this year, to grind in them: time will show whether they do so.

During the year a new school has been erected at Ohinemutu, at which over seventy Native children now attend, besides a few European. There are also five other Native schools in this district, which continue to afford the rudiments of education to a considerable number of the Native youth. I have visited each from time to time, and append for your information a tabular statement showing the attendance. I may mention that at each of these schools a supply of simple medicines has been placed by Government for the use of the Natives, and which provision is much valued by them.

3. Opotiki District.

I have visited the Opotiki District twice during the past year, but no question of importance has arisen to oblige me to go there more frequently. The Native population there continue exceptionally industrious and law-abiding.

The flour-mill belonging to the Ngatiawa Tribe at Whakatane, to the cost of which the Government contributed, is now nearly completed.

There are five Native schools now in operation in this district, including a new one at Waiotahi, and they continue to be well attended and successful.

In conclusion, Sir, I may remark that, except in matters affecting their lands, which still cause frequent quarrels, the Maoris in the Bay of Plenty now give but little trouble to Government. Crime is not unknown amongst them, but when detected it is punished by the ordinary laws, which are respected and supported by the bulk of the Native population.

I have, &c.,

HERBERT W. BRABANT, R.M.,
Native Officer, Bay of Plenty.

The Under-Secretary, Native Department,
Wellington.

NATIVE SCHOOLS, BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT.
ABSTRACT showing ATTENDANCE from 1st July, 1879, to 31st March, 1880.

No.	Name of School.	No. on the Books.			Average Attendance.			Remarks.
		Sept. Qr.	Dec. Qr.	March Qr.	Sept. Qr.	Dec. Qr.	March Qr.	
1	Maketu	34	53	55	11	21	18	Eight European children included.
2	Matata	35	44	49	23	31	40	
3	Ohinemutu ... ..	...	...	80	...	...	40	Opened January, 1880.
4	Te Awahou	17	17	19	10	10	10	
5	Te Wairoa (Tarawera)	43	48	40	26	25	22	
6	Rotoiti	24	25	41	15	9	28	
7	Whakatane	47	38	26	23	19	13	Five European children included. Opened October, 1879.
8	Waiotahi ... ..	...	22	28	...	16	20	
9	Torere	35	30	29	22	23	25	
10	Omaio	30	29	30	26	25	26	
11	Te Kaha	29	25	25	19	19	19	
12	Native boarding-house attached to district school at Tauranga	12	12	10	10	11	9	
	Totals... ..	306	343	432	185	209	270	

No. 9.

Mr. R. S. BUSH, R.M., Opotiki, to the UNDER-SECRETARY, Native Department.

SIR,—

Resident Magistrate's Office, Opotiki, 30th April, 1880.

In reply to your circular of March 16th, I have the honor to forward the usual annual report on Native matters in this district.

Condition of the Natives.

Since my arrival here, on the 22nd of February, I have visited nearly the whole of the Natives of the district, except the Urewera, at their own settlements. The Urewera I saw at the meeting held at Whakatane on Good Friday: nearly the whole of this tribe were present on that occasion, even those from Maungapowhatu and Waikaremoana. The object of the meeting was a discussion as to the ownership of a block of land called Raungaihe, situated between the Whakatane and Rangitaiki Rivers.