

1880.

## NEW ZEALAND.

## SPECIAL SETTLEMENT ON THE TE PUKE BLOCK

(CORRESPONDENCE RELATIVE TO THE).

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

## No. 1.

Mr. RICHARD BLAKE and Others to the Hon. the NATIVE MINISTER.

SIR,— Tauranga Working-men's Land Association, 9th April, 1878.

We, the undersigned, being empowered by the Tauranga Working-men's Land Association to write to your Honor the following:—

A number of families having formed themselves into an association for the purpose of special settlement, about eight months ago we applied to the Waste Lands Board for a portion of the Te Puke Block. The reply of the Board was, that as soon as the land mentioned came into their hands they would favourably consider our application.

Having heard that private parties are making overtures to the Government for this block, we would urge your Honor to use your influence to reserve this land for small settlers under the deferred-payment system or the Homestead Act (the latter preferred)

There are upwards of forty families in our Association, numbering about two hundred souls, the majority of whom are agriculturists, ready to settle and cultivate as soon as the land is made available.

We would beg to remind your Honor that this block is the most suitable of any in the Tauranga District for small holdings.

We have, &amp;c.,

RICHARD BLAKE, Chairman.

FRANCIS ANQUETIL, Secretary.

THOS. ALLELY

The Hon. the Native Minister, Wellington.

## Enclosure in No. 1.

## PETITION of the TAURANGA WORKING-MEN'S LAND ASSOCIATION

THIS Association was started in January, 1877, amongst the working-men of this district, for the purpose of acquiring a block of land from the Government to form a special settlement.

The Te Puke Block being well adapted for small holdings, it was decided that a portion of the said block should be applied for; and a petition, signed by forty-eight applicants, was forwarded to the Waste Lands Board for 4,000 acres under the deferred-payment system.

The reply of the Board was, that as soon as the land mentioned came into their hands for disposal our petition should receive favourable consideration. Since the first application of forty-eight settlers, the Association has doubled its numbers, and it was thought necessary to apply for a larger area than at first, and a petition signed by between seventy and eighty members has been forwarded to the Hon. the Minister of Lands, urging the Government to reserve 10,000 acres for the purpose of a settlement under the deferred-payment system, to which they are anxiously awaiting an answer. The applicants are mostly agriculturists, well able to manage the land if they can get it, and also to fulfil the requirements of the Land Act, but not able to purchase land at public auction.

The applicants would be glad to get a favourable answer from the Minister of Lands.

## No. 2.

The UNDER-SECRETARY for CROWN LANDS to Mr. RICHARD BLAKE.

SIR,— General Crown Lands Office, Wellington, 27th September, 1878.

Your letter of the 9th April last, addressed to the Hon. the Native Minister, asking for the Te Puke Block to be set aside for sale under the deferred-payment system, having been

1—D. 6.