

grant was altogether incommensurate with the services which Te Puni had rendered, but it was a complimentary record of the esteem in which he was always held by the early colonists and by all who knew him.

The long delay which had occurred in the fulfilment of the promise of this grant, and a few others of a similar character, was the subject of special remark by the Commissioners of 1880 in their Second Report, page xxxviii. I am glad to be able to state that the whole of those cases have been dealt with by me, and allocations of excellent land been found for them where they were appropriate for tribal and other reasons. The Crown grants of the whole have also been issued in conformity with my recommendation, and, I have reason to believe, to the entire satisfaction of the recipients.

New Plymouth, 6th June, 1883.

WILLIAM FOX,  
West Coast Commissioner.

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## APPENDIX VII.—MEMORANDUM ON THE FINAL PAYMENTS OF “TAKOHA.”

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### No. 1.

Hon. Sir W. Fox, West Coast Commissioner, to the Hon. the NATIVE MINISTER.

SIR,—

West Coast Commission Office, New Plymouth, 7th June, 1883.

I have the honour to enclose a memorandum on the present position of the “takoha” question as affecting the confiscated territory, and shall be obliged by your laying it before His Excellency the Governor for his information.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM FOX,  
West Coast Commissioner.

Hon. J. Bryce, M.H.R., Native Minister.

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### Enclosure.

#### *Memorandum on the present Position of the “Takoha” System.*

THE second report of the Commissioners of 1880 contains a chapter on “takoha,” the perusal of which impressed on the minds of its readers much of the “amazement” with which the Commissioners were struck when the facts recorded by them came to their knowledge. The remarkable story and its details occupy many pages of the Reports and appendix. The present Commissioner has no desire to reopen the subject, but he wishes to say a few words which may make it clear that within the West Coast confiscated territory the system is absolutely at an end.

It may be gathered from the report that “takoha” was a thing the character of which varied with circumstances. Sometimes it was a legitimate payment in the nature of purchase-money, and which gave the Crown quiet possession of the land in respect of which it was paid. Sometimes it was in the nature of “ground-bait,” scattered here and there to excite an appetite which might lead to a future sale, but for which at the time no specific return was made. Sometimes it was mere “black-mail,” intended to prevent obstruction, physical or otherwise, on the part of individual chiefs with whose tribes it was desired to negotiate for the cession of land. And sometimes it was merely a convenient method of obtaining money for some purpose for which none had been appropriated by the Legislature, and which had no relation, or only the most remote, towards the extinction of Native title in the districts against which it was improperly charged in the accounts of the Land Purchase Department.

It became the duty of the Commissioner in October last to make some payments in the nature of takoha to the amount altogether of £1,135 16s. 6d. To prevent any misapprehension, he is desirous of stating the circumstances which led to these payments:—

1. Two of them, amounting to £300, were specific balances due to some of the previous owners of the Moumahaki Block, the title to which had been extinguished by Major Brown, Civil Commissioner, in 1878; and they were undoubtedly in the nature of purchase-money for land which at that time became, and is now, the property of the Crown.

2. £500 were part of a similar payment in respect of the extinction of Native title in the Patea-Waingongoro Block, which had, at the request of the Natives, been kept back by Major Brown for the purpose of purchasing a fishing-station on the Crown-granted property of a European settler, but which proving impracticable the money was paid to the Natives, to whom it rightly belonged.

3. £200 were the balance of compensation for the Patea-Waingongoro Block, having been held back when the first payments were made, as the proper claimants were absent.

4. £135 16s. 6d. were paid to the Opunake Natives under a promise made to them by the Government in 1867 that they should receive 5 per centum of the proceeds of the town sections at Opunake whenever sold by the Government, which this amount represented. These Natives will, in the Commissioner's opinion, be entitled to a similar percentage on the sale of the remaining portions of the town.