

5. WAIROA COUNTY.

Nuhaka 2B 2A, area 1,737 acres 1 rood 34 perches: We dealt with this in our report (G.—1, 1907) on Nuhaka and other blocks, wherein we recommended the same to be leased to the highest bidder. Since that report the owners have again approached us and asked that the recommendation be amended, as they had arranged for it to be leased to three Natives named Tutekawa Wyllie, Rihara Wilson, and Wiremu Wilson. We therefore desire to amend our recommendation in the direction asked for, and now recommend that the land be brought under Part II of "The Native Land Settlement Act, 1907," and leased to the three Natives above named.

In connection with lands in the Wairoa County recommended to be leased to Maoris, we have received many letters from tenants specified in our report (G.—1, 1907) on Nuhaka and other blocks asking that other names be added as lessees, or that leases be transferred to other members of such tenants' families. We are of opinion that such details are within the jurisdiction and discretion of the Board.

6. TE UAKI BLOCK.

Counsel on behalf of a European in possession (a Mrs. Hargreaves) of this block brought before us the following facts: He stated the land was sold, and the purchase-money paid, and the conveyance duly executed. The conveyance has, however, been lost, and the conveyance was not registered. The land has, however, been continuously in the possession of the Hargreaves family for thirty years. The persons who are the successors to the original owners were asked to execute a fresh conveyance. This they have refused to do.

The Native Land Court does not seem to us to have jurisdiction to deal with such a case. It is a case, however, in which, in our opinion, the Native Land Court is the proper tribunal to adjudicate between the parties. We recommend that the Native Land Court should be empowered to adjudicate on such cases.

7. WAIPU 2A No. 2 and 1c No. 1.

The areas are 7 acres 2 roods 29 perches, and 18 acres 3 roods 36 perches respectively. We recommended these areas to be reserved for Maori occupation (see G.—1B, 1908, page 12). An exchange has now been proposed of these lands with lands belonging to a European. The terms of the exchange seem to us to be fair. We accordingly amend our recommendation by taking these two pieces of land out of the schedule above mentioned.

We have the honour to be
Your Excellency's most obedient servants,

ROBERT STOUT, }
A. T. NGATA, } Commissioners.

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