

We feel sure, however, that the Maoris would sooner either litigate the matter or wait till the end of the lease, if it should be determined the leases were valid, than pay large sums to the mortgagor or mortgagees for the cancellation of any rights they may have over the land. They seem very strong on this point, and we are not surprised, considering how they have been treated, and how little they have obtained during the past twenty-eight years from their land. We may add, of course, that those who have not signed the leases are not bound, and if the land were partitioned it might be discovered that the mortgagors and mortgagees would really be left with land that would be of little service to them.

We have the honour to be,

Your most obedient servants,

ROBERT STOUT, }
JACKSON PALMER, } Commissioners.

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