

settle up all existing disputes, and to hear any land cases that may be brought before the Court. We are of opinion that a good Judge so appointed could deal with the Land Court work on all the islands in, say, from two to three years, or perhaps more, so that all these land troubles on the islands be settled.

We do not make the request out of want of confidence in our Resident Commissioner, Captain Smith, but in justice to him, for we recognize the great amount of work he has to do outside of Court work, and we trust that the New Zealand Government will favourably consider this, and, should a Judge be appointed, that he shall carry out his office under the Resident Commissioner.

Enough, O Chief Justice,

We remain, your humble servants,

PA ARIKI, of Takitumu (Member of Council).

MAKEA KARIKA ARIKI (Member of Council).

KAINUKU ARIKI (Member of Council).

RANGI MAKEA (representing Makea Ariki).

PHARAOH KOROPUAKA (Member of Council).

TINOMANA ARIKI (Member of Council).

TEARIKI PURI (Member of Council).

TEARIKI TARAARE (Member of Council).

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REPORT OF MEETING AT ARORANGI, RAROTONGA, 20TH JUNE, 1911.

LISTEN, O Chief Judge, listen you who represent the Government of New Zealand, and all who have come with you, listen! This is what we have to say. It is what we the Mataiapos and Rangatiras wish to say. It is also the wish of all the people and also of our Ariki. You have asked us to say what we wish to say and we have written it out, and we hand it over to you. Time will not allow us to read it. You can read it at leisure.

There is another thing we have to say, and that is that there is a feast prepared to you.

There is also something else we wish to place before you. We wish it taken and placed before the New Zealand Parliament. We also want our own Resident Commissioner to see it. It is about a public meeting-house. It has been our public meeting-house from the days of our forefathers. There is now trouble about it. We did not know that we had lost this house—we were unaware of it. It was a place agreed upon as a public meeting-house for all. It has been used for that purpose up to the present. Now we find out that the place is taken from us. We do not know how that came about. The reason why we say this is because it is our public meeting-house where all public meetings take place. It is the place where all the Arikis and chiefs meet to speak together. It was also used as a Courthouse during the time when we had Courts here. It has also been used as a Courthouse during our time. At present we do not know how we stand with regard to that house. We wish this matter placed before you. We place it before you, and we have also placed it before our Resident Commissioner that we may obtain possession of that place. It is a place always used to entertain visitors in. Any one of note who comes here we always entertain there. We want that house to be still used as a public place. That is what I have to say. Greetings to you in the name of God!

There is also something else. You have asked us to say whatever we have to say. I will just say a few words, but I shall hand this over in writing. The greatest trouble in Arorangi is about the election of Arikis. The Mataiapos here take part in it. We elected the Ariki we wanted, and put him in this house. Afterwards a certain man came and told us we had no right to do it—would not recognize our Ariki. I feel sore over the whole thing. There was a lot said at that time, but we will leave it there, as there is no time to go into it any further.

His Honour the Chief Justice.—I greet the Ariki, Mataiapos, Rangatiras, and people of the district. I am glad to see so many pretty-looking young children amongst you. It is by the children that the race will be saved. I hope the children will be educated and live long, and maintain the Rarotongan race with all strength and happiness. Now, I first thank you very sincerely for the handsome presents you have made to us. I take them as a proof of your love to us. I had often heard you were a most kindly people. Since I have come amongst you I have seen many examples of your great kindness and hospitality. You have put into writing your requests to the Government of New Zealand. We shall read them carefully, and we shall bring them before the Government. I do not know what your troubles have been in the past. I do not know about the election of the Arikis and about the buildings of which the last speaker spoke. I have no doubt that anything that can be done to help you will be done by the Government. I am glad to see you have a love for your old places. You are a race that has to live in the past and that has also to live in the future. You have had a noble ancestry, but you must also have a noble future. You must so train your children that they will excel even their fathers. That is how the race gets on. You have a beautiful island, said to be the finest in the Pacific, and you have a fine race of people. You can produce everything necessary for your life. I am sure the people of New Zealand wish you well. They wish you to prosper and be happy. I hope that if we can be of any service to you we shall be able to help you. I again thank you for your kind reception and for your valuable presents.

Mr. Waldegrave.—Chiefs and people of Arorangi, greetings to you all! I have come here to-day with great pleasure to visit you at Arorangi, and to hear what you have to say. It is