

The principal points which I desire to emphasize are (1) education, (2) sanitation and health, (3) agriculture.

As regards the first—that is, education—I find that the attendance of children within a reasonable radius of European or Maori schools is not encouraged as it should be, and I am afraid the Maori Councils have neglected their plain duty in this matter. Until men are placed in power who know how to value education, the Maori children must grow up in ignorance, to be hereafter the prey, perhaps, of designing Europeans. But the members of the Maori Councils are generally elected according to the interest they take in the old Maori custom, and not in the interests of the younger generation.

In the backblocks (assuming sufficient interest can be secured), there are not enough schools. It is intended to shift the Kokako (Waikaremoana) Maori schoolhouse to Ardkeen (near to Frasertown European school). And yet in a pa half a mile from Kokako I counted sixty children of school age. How could these be expected to travel to Ardkeen, more than twenty miles? Is this looking after the educational interests of the Maoris? Perhaps it may be said that when this school was open the Maori children did not attend, and that is so; but the Maoris then were very much under the baneful mana of Rua, whilst now they are decidedly off that personage, and are anxious to see the school reopened. In all the other districts except Te Uhi—a stone's throw from Wairoa—I found matters in a much better way; the parents in the latter case are to blame.

*Sanitation and Public Health.*—On the whole, there has been an improvement in both respects, due to the abolition of whares; but even this has not in some cases been for the benefit of the Maoris. A corrugated-iron or weatherboard building, unlined, perhaps without a floor, and unprovided with windows, is not as warm in winter as the well-constructed whare of olden times. But the Maoris have gone only a part of the way, and need to go a little farther before they even approach the ideal of a sanitary and comfortable dwelling.

Te Uhi, close to Wairoa, is the worst pa in all respects, and has gone back considerably. The site is low, badly drained, and large pools of stagnant water lie within a few feet of the drinking-water supply, in the shape of wells, which are mostly holes for collecting soakage. There is, of course, no closet system of any kind, and I am surprised the pakehas have not made it their business to seek reforms in their own interests, to say nothing about the Maori. The population of Te Uhi is decreasing, not that the Maoris are dying out, I am glad to say, but the young people who have visited other places from time to time are being driven out by insanitary conditions, and seek residence elsewhere; nor can they be to blame for leaving a pa where public health and decency do not count for anything.

At Kihitu I found a great improvement in this respect, also at Mohaka—one of the healthiest pas in the district for grown-up people, but child life is adversely affected by the cold winds from the sea and the scorching westerly winds. The Natives need some instructions as to the kind of break-wind trees that will grow and flourish near the sea.

At Waimako, in the Urewera country, I found the sanitary conditions very good, and the water-supply of the best. The population is increasing, but I saw indications that the girls are allowed to marry too young, some that looked like mere schoolgirls having as many as two children. There may also be too close intermarriage with blood relations, which might account for so many weedy children.

Tangoio Pa I found up to the mark in all respects, and evidently the Maori Council there are alive to their duty, not only in sanitary matters but in education also, there being a large number of children at school on the occasion of my visit.

Te Haroto Pa is a good second in both respects.

*Agriculture.*—Taken, as a whole, the Maoris are well off for crops. Shortness of seed last spring, and holding of *tangis* and *huia*s, will account for them having less to sell this winter. They are perhaps more industrious than in the past, but they are increasingly disinclined to wait twelve months for, say, a crop of maize; they would far sooner lease to the pakeha, and go to work for wages, and perhaps for some the gospel of work is not a bad idea after all. Some of them are farming with more or less success, but the majority have yet a great deal to learn before they can work land profitably.

In conclusion, while the Maori is face to face with difficulties caused by not having their lands individualized there will be some excuse for his want of industry, and I must sympathize with many who would like to rise but cannot do so. I plead for the greater interest of the Maori Council in sanitation and education, and this will pave the way for other reforms in the best interests of the Maori race.

#### *Wairoa County (Part).—Sub-enumerator W. Cooper.*

*Health.*—I found the Maoris in excellent health, with the exception of two male adults and two children, one of the adults being laid up with a complaint which was very much like typhoid fever. In the Mahia district the sites of most of the dwellings were high and dry and well chosen, and most of them are built of sawn timber and wood-floored, with iron roofing. The cooking is generally done in independent buildings with earthen floors. At Nuhaka the sites were generally good, with the exception of part of Tahaenui, which becomes very wet in winter. A swamp in Nuhaka Village would be a source of danger in future. The most of the dwellings are built according to European fashion, the Natives in this locality being more advanced in views and more energetic than those of other localities.

*Whakaki.*—At Whakaki the sites are on very wet ground, which badly needs draining. A few of the buildings are made according to European fashion; the rest are according to Maori style (without wooden floors, &c.). The partition of the Hereheretau Block will cause much activity in building here, as hitherto the want of settled sites has delayed the erection of permanent homes. Already a few thousand feet of timber are stacked on various sites.

*Ewitea.*—Ewitea, though surrounded by swamps, is on open sandy soil, and is dry in the wettest weather. Half of the dwellings are built of sawn timber, floored, &c., and the rest are of a primitive