

DEAR SIR,— Prime Minister's Office, Wellington, 15th November, 1909.
I am in receipt of your letter of the 26th October, in which you make the suggestion that your case might be completely investigated by the Public Petitions Committee of the Legislative Council. In reply I have to say that the representations you make relative to the matter are noted and will receive consideration.

Yours, &c.,

J. G. WARD.

Joshua Jones, Esq., Zealandia Private Hotel, Clyde Quay, Wellington.

EXHIBIT RR.

No. 995 of 1894.

SIR,—

Wellington, New Zealand, 12th December, 1894.

It would be of advantage to the creditors in this estate that an inquiry should be made into the transactions of the bankrupt with his mortgagees in this country, Messrs. Plimmer and Johnston. The former has received nearly £8,000 and the latter £1,600 from the sale of Mr. Jones's property at Mokau, and I am inclined to think that a sum of between £3,000 and £4,000 may be recovered from them, the amount for which the mortgages were given being to that extent at least in excess of the amounts actually advanced to Mr. Jones.

I am myself his creditor to the extent of about £400, and I should be very glad if a suit for account were instituted against the mortgagees. I am fully conversant with Mr. Jones's affairs, and should be willing to give every assistance in obtaining a proper investigation into his transactions with them. I send this through my agents, Messrs. Flower, Nussey, and Fellowes, for whom I am now acting in relation to the property purchased from the mortgagees.

I am, &c.,

WM. THOS. LOCKE TRAVERS.

The Receiver in the Estate of the Bankrupt Joshua Jones.

EXHIBIT TT.

Wellington, 5th July, 1910.

MY DEAR SIR JOSEPH,—

Re the Mokau Land Case.

Mr. Joshua Jones, who is now in Wellington, informs me that the latest phase of this case is that you were good enough to inform his solicitor, Mr. Treadwell, a short time ago that you would, on or about the 23rd June last, submit a scheme to the Cabinet in the form of purchasing the freehold of this land from the Natives and, under the new Native Land Act, dealing with all parties claiming interests through Mr. Jones in the property, and awarding certain concessions to Mr. Jones, subject to the approval of Parliament, vesting the minerals in him, with defined areas of freehold land for his own occupation, that would enable him to communicate with London in reply to certain offers received by him through cable, of which I understand you are aware, to work the minerals and build a harbour at the river-entrance in accordance with the Government survey plans.

Mr. Jones now states that neither he nor his solicitor has heard anything further about the matter, and he is, as you may know, in great anxiety respecting it. The people of Taranaki are also very desirous of seeing this block of land settled upon. The Taranaki members of the House, with myself, have been urged by our constituents to endeavour to get a settlement of the case. It is proposed that we should take some action in the House, but before I move in the premises I would feel obliged by your informing me at your earliest convenience whether the Cabinet has arrived at any decision and as to what is proposed to be given effect to, in order that this long-standing grievance might be irrevocably terminated.

I am, &c.,

H. OKEY.

To the Right Hon. the Prime Minister.

2nd September, 1910.

NOTE.—I understand that Mr. Okey's letter was not replied to, and Mr. Treadwell informed me three weeks ago that he had seen the Premier the previous day, who then stated that in consequence of my having moved in Parliament through Mr. Okey the Government would do nothing further to meet my requests. But, incidentally, the Premier mentioned that when the Government had dealt with the land there might be some small sum left in hand that might be handed to me.

J. JONES.

SIR,—

25th October, 1910.

I have seen Mr. Joshua Jones regarding the matter of a conference of the various people interested in the Mokau-Mohakatino lands, and he thinks that such a conference would be futile, and therefore declines to take any part in it. Mr. Jones suggests that the best way of settling the matter would be the adoption and the carrying-out by the Government of the proposals submitted in a letter, of which I enclose a copy, from Messrs. Stafford and Treadwell to the Right Hon. the Premier. My client says that the proposals in this letter had been previously approved by the Premier and the Hon. Mr. Carroll.

I have, &c.,

A. H. HINDMARSH.

The Attorney-General, Wellington.