

22. Q—What proportion is engaged in agriculture? A—I cannot say, but those engaged in pastoral pursuits are not numerous being confined to the neighbourhood of Auckland.

By Mr. Crompton :—

23. Q—Has not one object of purchasing lands between the West Coast and Waipa been to complete the communication between the two Provinces? A—Such was one object.

24. Have you had communication with the chiefs in these districts about purchase of land? A—Yes certainly.

25. Are they under the impression that no difficulty will arise in making purchases? A—They are under the impression that no difficulty will arise.

26. Q—With respect to land in Nelson and Canterbury still unpurchased, do the Natives expect an immediate completion of the purchase? A—They do.

27. Q—Is it desirable that you should have the funds ready for these purchases? A—It is most desirable.

28. Q—Has not the time been protracted within which it ought to have been completed? A—Yes, various unforeseen difficulties have arisen to prevent my going to Nelson to conclude arrangements with the Natives resident there.

29. Q—Are you aware that there is great anxiety amongst the Europeans to obtain possession of this land? A—I hear there is.

30. Q—You have no funds at your disposal for this purpose? A—No.

31. On the whole you consider it highly impolitic to check Native purchases even to the extent of the estimated contracts? A—I do.

32. Has Dr. Knight had any conversation with you on the subject of funds for the purchase of native lands? A—None whatever.

33. Have you received any intimation from Government that land purchases are likely to be checked? A—No; nothing officially.

34. Q—Should you in the absence of such official intimation have proceeded with land purchases? A—I consider it my duty to continue negotiating until I receive instructions to the contrary.

35. In account No. 2, I see a number of instalments in which under the head of "amount to be paid" the words "not stated" are placed. What may the meaning of these words be? A—I have already explained that matter, it is in consequence of the surveys not having been completed.

36. Q—In your statement of sums required in the present year, do you include what may become due or only new transactions? A—There ought to be that sum available for new transactions.

By Mr. Brown :—

37. Are the general instructions under which you act in writing? A—They are.

38. Q—Will you furnish a copy of these instructions? They may be had by applying to the Colonial Secretary.

39. Q—Do the Sub-Commissioners also receive instructions? A—Yes.

40. Q—Are they in writing and from you? A—They are.

By Mr. Hart :—

41. Q—Do they receive in any cases instructions from the Government direct? A—Yes, in some they do.

By Mr. Brown ;—

42. Are the purchases at Wangarei according to instructions direct from you? A—Those prior to my coming to Auckland were not from me.

43. Q—In one case in May last was the purchase of the block of land called Monaia at Wangarei according to instructions from you? A—This purchase has been completed since I commenced to issue instructions to Sub-Commissioners. The instructions I issue are of a general nature.

44. Q—Did you issue the instructions authorising this purchase? A—I have only given general instructions; no particular ones about this purchase.

45. Q—Do you know any particulars about this block? A—I have recently received a communication from the Commissioner stating that he had completed the purchase of the block, and I believe in his Report he informs me of its having been completed in consequence of a selection made by a Mr. Mair.

46. Q—Did you know of any Crown Grant existing previously? A—No.