

# The Maori Record

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE MAORI PEOPLE.

VOL. I., No. 4.

NORMANBY, NEW ZEALAND, OCTOBER, 1905.

[PRICE 3D.]

**NATIVE TRUSTS.**—"These Trusts ought to be dealt with by a private Bill. If the Natives could see that their reserves were removed from outside interference they would feel that what had taken place in the past would not take place again, namely, that by one Act after another the power of retaining these reserves has been set aside. When a Native property is put into the hands of the Public Trustee it should no more be capable of being dealt with by the General Legislature than the property of a private individual."—ROLLESTON.

## NOTIFICATIONS.

### TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The price of the MAORI RECORD is 3d. per copy. It will be published monthly, and the annual subscription for the paper, posted to any address, is 3s. 6d., paid in advance.

All letters to the Editor must be addressed to him, Box 9, Post Office, Normanby, Taranaki.

Subscriptions may be forwarded to Mr. R. S. Thompson, at the same address.

We hope also to place the paper on sale at leading booksellers. Support of the paper is earnestly requested. It is not a commercial speculation. No one is getting paid for its production but the printer, and out of an earnest desire to place the grievances, desires, and aspirations of the Maori people before their European fellow-subjects, some Maori ladies have combined to ensure sufficient capital for supplying subscribers for a year without disappointment. The future lies with the public, and depends upon their support. In order to promote the circulation of the RECORD, and thus assist the Native cause, we shall be glad to receive names of subscribers of £1 per annum, to whom six copies monthly of the paper will be posted.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS ACKNOWLEDGED.

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We have forwarded many copies to individuals who we thought would like to become subscribers. As we cannot supply the paper free for an indefinite period we shall be glad to receive subscriptions from such of these as wish the paper sent to them in the future.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A column will be open to those who have useful suggestions to make in Maori matters. Notes on ancient Maori history, habits, manners and customs will find a place. Communications must be written on one side of the paper only, and be as legible as the writer can make them; typed letters preferred.

### TO OUR READERS.

We must apologise for the delay in the issue of the RECORD this month. The Editor has been sorely ill, is still far from well, and there is no staff. Should our readers approve of our efforts and recommend our paper to their neighbors, we may in time be able to pay an understudy, though we go stipendless. We are by no means disappointed with the encouragement given us. We have received not only a little coin, but literary matter of many degrees of warmth in advocacy of the Maori cause. For the coin we feel like the schoolboy who, thanking his mother for a cake, said: "I thank thee for thy kindness past, and humbly hope for more." For the "copy" we are more thankful than we can express, but we are sorry that some of it is too true for cold print. We know that

the natives are bitter almost to desperation, we have heard the most bloodthirsty aspirations, but we dare not make the public mind uneasy by recording irresponsible threats or prophesying evil days to come. We believe the public wishes the Maori well, and the days of despair for the latter have not yet come.

## The Maori Land Settlement Bill.

The above Bill is called by the natives "Te Pire Mura"—the Confiscation Bill. It gives the Native Minister power to hand over to the Council any native land which in his opinion "is not required or not suitable for occupation by the Maori owners." We conclude that all native lands desired for European occupation will in the opinion of the Minister be "not suitable for occupation by the Maori," for section f of this clause 6 says that lands so declared by the Governor-in-Council to be the estate of the Maori Council in fee simple may be disposed of by the latter Council by way of lease . . . "provided that a definite number of such allotments may be set aside for application in the first instance by the Maori owners of the land." If these lands are "not required or not suitable for occupation by the Maori owners," when the land is theirs by ancestral title, protected by the Treaty of Waitangi, what peculiar factor has made it desirable after it is handed, against their will, to an alien Council? For the Maori Land Councils, which are objected to as being too Pakeha, are by the present Bill made up of three members only, including the Pakeha President, and only one of the other two must be a Maori. What possible good can he do? One against two, and the land his national property! For shame!!

Look through the Opposition papers, most emphatic in their call for the beneficial occupation of native lands, and it will be found that invari-