

contemplated by you' and the size and cost of the book had been decided Government 'will be prepared to take a certain number of copies for distribution'.<sup>28</sup>

The manuscript, clearly without the due measure of revision which even a preoccupied Minister of the Crown saw to be necessary, must have been sent off in the new year and Kerry-Nicholls's last Auckland weeks before his departure in May were concerned with a visit to Kawau and his participation in the steps leading to the signing of the Blue Ribbon prohibition pledge by Tawhiao and other chiefs before the Maoris' own departure for England a little before that of Nicholls.<sup>29</sup>

Back in London by the end of June he reported to Grey on the activities of the Maori party who had kept their temperance pledges. He could not give them his undivided attention 'being greatly occupied by the revision of my book which should be out in about a week'. One can only marvel at the productivity achievements of author, printers and publishers in a less complicated age. He enquired through the Agent-General, Dillon Bell, about the number of copies required. The prospectus enclosed, a glossy four page folder, showed that this 'New and Important Work on New Zealand and the Maoris', at a guinea would not be cheap, although the high quality of the three illustrations selected was a little out of keeping with the selected prose extracts. It was hardly a year since his Wellington interviews but three ministries since the one by whom he had been given a promise had come and gone. Bell's enquiry duly arrived on the desk of the Colonial Secretary, one (Sir) Patrick Buckley, a shrewd Irish solicitor who had married well.<sup>30</sup> Mr Buckley naturally wanted to see the book before making any recommendation and it was unfortunate that one allegedly given to the Agent-General did not reach its target. Sir Robert Stout, as Premier, in reply to a question in the House by Mr Joyce who had kindly raised the matter on the author's behalf, said that he had heard the book 'well spoken of' but that was it.<sup>31</sup> Whether Stout looked at it after making his own King Country journey six months later is unknown.

Whatever the New Zealand reception English expectations were fulfilled. The first edition sold out on publication and a 'reprint' ('second edition') was undertaken immediately,<sup>32</sup> and as the author reported a month later was also successful, the work being well reviewed. There was sufficient interest to warrant a third edition which was reset with an additional preface dated 3 November. New material was confined to a longish note at the end of the Karioi chapter on how he and Turner managed to live on the journey (p. 257), a new chapter on Maori physical characteristics and customs, and in the appendices, short notes on the canoes of the Maori