

response, addressed to the head of the Colonial Secretary's Department, C. S. Cooper, was almost as swift as Tregear's, but was hedged with caution. White wanted to be paid £200 a year, with a further sum of 10s 6d a day while working in Wellington, and for the government to meet the costs of moving himself and his family to Wellington and back to Auckland.<sup>28</sup>

The Native Department, whose plans had been proceeding smoothly so far, now backed away from these demands which were considered excessive. Alternatives were discussed. Initially it was suggested that the manuscripts be sent to White in Auckland. However, between 17 and 20 January 1885, the Native Department decided to dispense with him altogether, the decision apparently being conveyed to White at an interview with Lewis.<sup>29</sup> No replacement appears to have been suggested and the dumping of White may have been a precipitate reaction to the financial costs involved.

About a month later, in the last week of February, White again wrote to Cooper, outlining various plans for the history's publication. Clearly this was part of a bid by White to keep his interest in the history project before the Colonial Secretary's Department, and to prompt it into some kind of action that might counter plans being made in the Native Department. As a result Cooper and the Government Printer, George Didsbury, discussed publishing a version of the history. Their discussions, however, were terminated by the irascible Buckley who again sent the matter to the Native Department.<sup>30</sup> The Department immediately instructed that all of White's papers be brought together in Wellington, accompanied by his explanation of their organisation.<sup>31</sup>

Yet unbeknown to White the situation was turning in his favour. Lewis now submitted to his Minister certain alterations to his earlier plans for the history's publication. Tregear, he reported, could not begin work till the Maori manuscripts were translated, neither did he know enough Maori either to translate or even understand the language used in the manuscripts. Other translation requirements meant the department's own interpreters would take a long time to complete the history's translation. He also noted White's explanation of the manuscript organisation which would require some rearrangement of existing material. To resolve these problems Lewis recommended that White make the translation either under the original terms of his appointment or under a new arrangement. Subsequent editing and publication of material would be left to the government. Ballance agreed, with the proviso that the history should be issued in parts.<sup>32</sup>

Ignorant of these developments, White put a final desperate case before Cooper. Writing in March 1885 he begged to supervise the history's publication, adding that such was his intense and lifelong interest in Maori history he was even willing to modify his terms for shifting to Wellington. Cooper proved unsympathetic. He informed