

Still somewhat wary, White now made a series of counter-proposals. Finding the government's further clarification and restatements unhelpful he had a personal interview with Ballance in Wellington on 29 June 1885, where he gained useful modifications.³⁸ The £500 bonus would be paid after the printing and publication of the Maori manuscripts had been undertaken and after a literal translation had been prepared. The one guinea payment was authorised on the basis that White had to be in Wellington for the history's translation and printing. Its payment would be terminated without notice, if the translation and publication did not proceed 'satisfactorily and with reasonable speed'. The Director of the Colonial Museum and Geological Survey, Dr Hector, was to act as referee if such a stoppage was made. Payment for the passage of White and his family to and from Auckland was conceded; however the government retained the control and copyright over the manuscripts. Reiterating Ballance's earlier views, Lewis insisted that publication proceed as soon as possible. In a draft retained within the department Lewis wrote that he was glad White preferred to edit everything himself. Again it was made clear his translation would not necessarily be published, but rather might be retained for scientific research from which a more popular edition could be prepared for publication.³⁹

A stubborn and persistent man, White still held out for the bonus, but his desire to undertake the history finally won out over his need for greater financial security.⁴⁰ Appointed on 1 July 1885 White quickly prepared a first instalment for printing as demanded by Ballance. However, in spite of everyone's best intentions it seemed the history was destined for further trouble. An interdepartmental wrangle soon erupted after officials in the Colonial Secretary's Department objected to having to continue paying for a work, and an employee, they did not control. The matter was only resolved after Cabinet confirmed the existing arrangement. White complained that the government had reimbursed only part of the costs of his family's shift to Wellington. On top of all this, the printing itself was delayed due to pressure of work on the Government Printing Office and White's own inability to supply copy fast enough.⁴¹

The next two years saw the publication of the first four volumes of *The Ancient History of the Maori* between August 1887 and February 1888. The first three dealt with what White described as the 'Takitumu' migration. Each volume comprised Maori and English versions of every tradition. A certain amount of the material was derived from earlier publications, acknowledged in the various introductions. The 'Takitumu' traditions were presented roughly in chronological order: beginning with traditions of the Maori *wharekura* (school of knowledge), mythological accounts, a lengthy sequence of traditions concerning Maui, and lastly recounting the migration, settlement and early Maori