

second, Rungatia the third, Mohi the fourth, and then Hori fell. Mohi took his place and fought gun to gun. Mohi at length fell. The number killed now was twenty-four; the remaining twenty-seven continued fighting till it was dark. At the hour of eight the soldiers fled. The payment obtained for the death of Hori and Mohi is one hundred and forty soldiers. These fell into the very hands of the Whanganui people, and their guns to the number also of 140. These guns are now in the Guard House of Te Tahaua Turoa.

The Pakehas were buried by them; the twenty four Maoris also were buried by the Maoris. (This account is) by Tahaua Rangitaurira.

From PEHI TUROA,
Indeed from all the Runanga.

Enclosure 6.

Ihakara Tukumarū's Oral Report of the "Tainui meeting" at Otaki on Friday the 12th June, 1863.

I went to the great King meeting at Pukekarakā, by Mr. Buller's request to watch the proceedings and to ask questions.

Here is my account a faithful one.

The people assembled there were principally Ngatiraukawa, and Ngatiawa, but there were also representatives from the Ngatikahungunu, Muaupoko, Ngatiwhakaterere, and Rangitane.

Their whole number was Two hundred twice told (400). About twenty of these belong to the Government: all the rest are Kingites.

The object of this meeting was to decide about Tataraimaka, and the fighting.

Three plans were discussed. Heremia proposed the first. Wi Hapi the second. Wi Tako the third. The opinion of the people was divided.

Heremia spoke first. He said—"When there was fighting at Waitara, I wanted to go, my desire is unchanged. There is fighting now at Tataraimaka. I want to go with all my tribe, to fight the Pakeha. Let us start for Tataraimaka."

A part of the meeting responded "Ae," (yes), a part "Kahore." (no.)

Wi Hapi then spoke. He said—"This is my plan. Let us not decide in haste. Let us wait and see what the Governor's intentions are. If the Governor brings more troops to Taranaki, then we shall know that he intends to fight all New Zealand. If so, let us adopt Heremia's plan. Let all the tribe go to Tataraimaka. But if the Governor will be satisfied with punishing Ngatiruanui, let us remain quiet."

Then Wi Tako rose; and these were his words,—“Listen Ngatiraukawa. I do not consent to go to Tataraimaka. There are soldiers at Whanganui, at Wellington, and at Ahuriri! when all these soldiers have gone to Taranaki, then I shall go.

“While the soldiers remain at these places I shall remain at mine, lest after I am gone they attack my place and destroy it.”

Some consented to one plan, and some to another.

Then I (Ihakara) stood up and spoke.—“Listen all ye people! There are three plans proposed. It appears to me that those of Wi Hapi and Wi Tako are the same. I have only one word, don't go to Tataraimaka. In my opinion if we don't provoke the Governor the war will not spread.”

After this I put my questions. Here are my questions and the answers:—

Ihakara: Wi Hapi, answer me; Did you consent to the murders?

Wi Hapi: I sent to the Ngatiruanui saying—Hold Tataraimaka fast in payment for Waitara.

Ihakara: Wi Tako, did you tell the Ngatiruanui to murder Pakehas?

Wi Tako: No, my message was, give back Tataraimaka to the Governor, for the Pakeha's goods have paid for it.

Ihakara: Ngatikahungunu, did you consent?

Matiaha: I told the Ngatiruanui to hold Tataraimaka fast as payment for the land at Waitara, held by the Governor.

Ihakara: Tell me, Heremia, what your advice to the Ngatiruanui was when you lately visited Taranaki?

Heremia: The same. Hold Tataraimaka. When the Governor gives up Waitara, then give back Tataraimaka.

Ihakara: Did you tell them to murder the Pakehas?

Heremia: They have done no murder; fighting commenced at Waitara.—It is now going on at Tataraimaka. The Pakehas were killed fairly.

Ihakara: Make yourself clear. If you go to Tataraimaka, will you fight for the boundary?

Heremia: No. My plan is to fight across the boundary into the very midst of the Pakehas, and to drive them into the sea, so that Pakehas may disappear from this Island.

Ihakara: Peace was made after the Waitara fighting. Hapurona consented that the Governor should hold the blockhouses, and Rewi agreed to this.

Heremia: That is all false, Rewi did not consent.

Ihakara: It is true, for I asked Parokorou the other day.

Heremia: I never heard it before.

Ihakara: What about the Pakehas between here and Rangitikei?

Heremia: We won't disturb them unless the Governor puts soldiers on the coast.

All the meeting heard these questions and these answers. There were many speeches. All agreed that Rewi had brought on this trouble, but the thoughts were divided about going to Taranaki. Te Peiua (of Ohau) made the final speech. He said,—“Ngatiraukawa and Ngatiawa listen! Let those who will go to Tataraimaka. For my part I shall stand by the Flagstaff. If the Governor brings fighting here, then I am willing to fight. If I die, I shall die near my flagstaff. When our 'tupuna,' the Ngatiraukawa went to Tauranga to avenge the death of Otehiwi, they returned to Maungatautari to find that the Ngatimaru had invaded their homes in their absence, destroyed their Pas and killed their women and children. If I go to Tataraimaka I may find on my return that the soldiers have played 'Ngatimaru' here, and that all my women and children are killed.”