

## REPORT ON EVIDENCE ADDUCED BEFORE

Mr. F. A. Whitaker.  
2nd September, 1869.

I, *Edward Davis*, of Coromandel, in the Province of Auckland, Native interpreter, do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows, that is to say,—

1. I did faithfully interpret, in the Maori language, the within deed to Wirimu Kingi, Anaru Te Poroa, and Teritui Kingi, named therein before the execution of the said deed by them.
2. My translation of the said deed was correct, and was understood by the said Wirimu Kingi, Anaru Te Poroa, and Teritui Kingi.
3. The said deed was executed by the said Wirimu Kingi, Anaru Te Poroa, and Teritui Kingi, in the presence of Frederick Alexander Whitaker, and of me this declarant.
4. The name "E. Davis," set and subscribed as that of one of the attesting witnesses of the due execution of the said deed, is of my proper handwriting; and I hold a certificate authorizing me to act as an interpreter under "The Native Lands Act, 1865," and "The Native Lands Act, 1867," which said certificate is in full force and effect.
5. The name "Frederick A. Whitaker," set and subscribed as one of the witnesses attesting the due execution of the said deed, is of the proper handwriting of the said Frederick Alexander Whitaker, and the said Frederick Alexander Whitaker is a male adult.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the said several Acts, and by virtue of an Act of the General Assembly of New Zealand, intituled "The Justices of the Peace Act, 1866."

E. DAVIS.

Made and declared at Shortland, New Zealand, this fifteenth day of February, 1869, before me,

HENRY GOLDSMITH, J.P.

(D. 2-1, 650 D.)

Thursday, 4th March, 1869.—Received for registration at 11.15 a.m.

JOSIAH BUTTRESS,  
Deputy Registrar.

Auckland, 27th February, 1869.

I hereby certify that the duties payable under the Native Lands Acts on the within lease amount to two pounds one shilling and one penny.

JOSIAH BUTTRESS,  
Deputy Registrar.

(No. 69-34.)

I have received this sum of two pounds one shilling and one penny above mentioned.

DANIEL POLLEN,  
Sub-Treasurer.

I will now proceed further to explain the whole matter in reference to that deed. The title to that piece of land, which is therein etched red, is not in dispute either by Mr. Lundon or myself. I do not believe it was originally included in No. 24; but whether it was or not, the piece of land which I dispute is included in the small piece. This has been a subject of controversy in the newspapers, and I stated that I had no claim to the land, and should be most happy to hand the land over to Mr. De Hirsch at once. In reference to the facts connected with the signing of this deed, I am very sorry to have to differ from Mr. de Hirsch very materially on that point. About the time that the deed was executed I was engaged in many speculations upon the Thames Gold Fields, and I was not very frequently in our office. I recollect now, my attention having been drawn to it, that, running up one day into my office, Mr. de Hirsch and a number of Natives were standing there, and one of the clerks called me and requested me to attest the deed, which I accordingly did. That I read it or assisted in any way in drawing the deed, is absolutely not the fact. I was called in and I attested the deed. Mr. de Hirsch came to me afterwards, as he relates. Immediately after that I sent up to the Registry Office in Auckland, Mr. J. C. Young, Native Interpreter, to search the Registry Office and see what deeds for Mr. de Hirsch had been drawn in our office, for at that time the deed in question had almost escaped my memory, as it was drawn by one of the clerks. Mr. Macdonald said that he had not drawn it, but probably the chief clerk had done so. Mr. Young brought me down word that there was one deed only, which was for a small portion outside of No. 24, and was not included in the demise which I proposed to obtain from the Natives. I then went to Mr. Macdonald, and questioned him very closely in reference to Mr. de Hirsch's leases, as to when they were prepared. He informed me that they were prepared in June, before I came to New Zealand, in a small office in Pollen Street; that the only deed which had been prepared was for the small portion of land; and that I need not consider myself implicated in any way in the transactions with Mr. de Hirsch. I then proceeded to get the land. Some time after this a letter appeared in the newspapers, signed by Mr. de Hirsch, setting forth the very same facts which he has now set forth in this declaration, in reference to my having had deeds in my possession as the title of land which I afterwards sought to appropriate for myself. This letter was signed by Mr. de Hirsch, as "Unfortunately once a client of Mr. Whitaker, junior." All my friends came round me, and I told the same thing which I now tell the Committee; and I put the same story into print in answer to his letter, stating that I never saw Mr. de Hirsch's title-deeds, because since I joined Mr. Macdonald they were removed from our office and were drawn by Mr. McCaul. I was not aware of the deed, and never saw the others, or could be supposed to know anything about them. I mentioned also that there was some little dispute about that small piece; that I laid no claim to it; and that if it were included he had only to mention it, and I would at once have handed the land over to him. At the same time there appeared a letter from another client of mine of the name of Burke, who stated that he found it hard to believe what Mr. de Hirsch had said, as I had acted in the most honorable way, and had assigned to him a valuable piece of land at Graham's Town because the deeds had passed through our office. Mr. Lundon is here to prove that