

The refusal of the Natives to vacate the pas and cultivations led to a compromise; certain of the reserves were conveyed to the Natives respectively, and other lands, to the extent of about 12,205 acres in the Town and Town Belt of Wellington and the rural districts, made over to them in perpetuity. In addition to these the Government purchased several sections of rural land, and handed them over to the Natives for their sole use and benefit.

It thus appears that the Natives received, *outside the scheme of the "tenths,"* as much as 12,509 acres of suburban and rural land.

Under these circumstances the morality of the appropriation of certain of the reserves for charitable trusts in which the Natives would fully participate cannot, I think, be reasonably impugned.

But it is difficult or impossible to cause the Natives to understand that their own act was the occasion of the scheme of reserves being altered. "We never got any of the additional land awarded by Col. McCleverty"—some of them will argue—"others received that land, give us, as you promised, the rents of the reserves at Thorndon and Te Aro."

To very many of the Natives this claim appears just, and in places far beyond the limits of the Wellington Province the misapplication of the reserves has for several years been the subject of discussion and censure.

It may be wise, therefore, for the Government to make a concession—at the present time it could not be considered a sign of weakness.

I would respectfully recommend—

1st. That payment of rent—the amount to be settled by arbitration—should be made by the Government for the reserves used for the Native office and Government stables, and for the site of the barracks at Te Aro.

2nd. And in consideration of the site and endowment land of the civil hospital being original Native reserves, to make provision to secure to the Natives free admission to, and medical assistance at that institution.

If this proposition, or a reasonable modification of it be not agreed to by the Natives, the only course open that I could recommend would be to suffer an appeal from them to the Supreme Court. *

The schedules for the Province of Wellington give the following areas, viz. :—

	A.	R.	P.
Class A. 1—Charitable and Religious Reserves	2,101	3	25
Class A. 1—With a Specified Purpose	8,661	3	33
Class A. 1—Reserves under Native Lands Acts	1,110	0	0
Class B. 1—McCleverty's Awards	18,153	0	23
Class B. 2—General Reserves	37,435	2	8
Class C. 1—Grants with Limitations	105,904	2	25
Total	173,366	3	34

By "A Return giving the names of the tribes in the North Island," presented to General Assembly, 1870, the following appears to be the approximate Native population of the Province of Wellington :—

Otaki District	740
Wairarapa District	850
Rangitikei and Manawata Districts	1091
Whanganui and Upper Whanganui	2641
Total souls	5322

This shows a present reservation of 31½ acres, on the average, per head, for the Native population of the Province of Wellington, independent of purely Native territory.

There have been made the following maps and tracings of Native reserves since the date of the last report :—

	Lithographs.	Maps.	Tracings.
Auckland	15	19	141
Wellington	2	15	...
Hawke's Bay	4	...
	17	38	141—196

The account of receipts and expenditure of the Auckland Native Reserve Trust is made from 15th July, 1871, as on that day the first monies were received by the Trustee.

C. HEAPHY.

5th May, 1871.

* An appeal to the Supreme Court has been for some time threatened by the Natives, who have paid, I am informed, £50 to a solicitor at Wellington for a legal opinion to guide them.