

PETITION

OF

P A O R A T U H A E R E .

PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 21ST SEPTEMBER, 1871, AND
ORDERED TO BE PRINTED.

WELLINGTON.

—
1871.

PETITION OF PAORA TUHAERE.

Akarana, 12 Aperira, 1871.

Ki te Runanga Nui i Poneke, tena koutou, tenei aku whakaaro mo taku whenua mo Taurarua, ka tukua atu ki o koutou aroaro hei tiro-tiro ma to koutou Runanga.

He tino mohio no matou ki ta matou rohenga i te whenua i tukua a tuki te Kawana Hopihona, i te tukunga atu o Akarana ki a ia, ko te tuarua o nga whenua i tukua atu ki a Kawana Hopihona ko Epihama, ko enei whenua kei te taha ki te Hauaru o te ara e maro atu ana i Akarana ki Onehunga ko te whenua tuatahi kua nohoia e te Pakeha, ko Horotiu ko Waiariki, ko Waipapa, he mea noho noa iho kahore ano i utua te whenua, e rangi te kupu whakaae a nga kaumatua mo te Pakeha kia haere mai hei noho i to matou whenua, kahore ano kia hokoa, kahore kia tohutohungia nga rohe o te wahi mo te Pakeha, ko te noho o te Pakeha i taua takiwa he noho noa iho, no te taenga mai o Kawana Hopihona ki tona whare, katahi ka hokona te whenua, ka haere matou ki te whakaatu i nga rohe, ko te Karaka ta matou pakeha, kei te ora matou nga tangata i whakaaturina ai nga rohe, kotahi o matou kua mate tokotoru matou kei te ora, ko te Karaka ka tokowha ai matou.

Ko te Rohe tuatahi he mea timata i te awa i te Koru o Taurarua, tika tonu atu, a taenoa ki te Huarahi e karangatia ko te Tiki e ahu mai ana kia Akarana. Ka poua ta matou rohe he Kohatu, katika tonu i te Huarahi nui e maro atu ana i Akarana ki Onehunga, katika tonu i taua Huarahi taenoa ki te Awa o te Ruareoreo i te Numakete ka mutu mai, katika atu i te Hauaru Tuaraki puta atu ki te awa Opu ka mutu, ko te whenua tuatahi tenei, heoi ano te whakaaturanga o nga rohe, i te ruritanga kahore matou i tikina mai hei whakaatu i nga rohe, ta ratou nei ruri noa atu me ta ratou tuhituhi i te mapi, me te pukapuka i nga korero e mau nei o matou ingoa, tatemea he mahi ke te mahi a nga Pakeha hoko whenua i mua, ara nga kai whakamaori penei me aua kai hoko whenua a te Kawanatanga, e tika ana te wahi i tohutohuria atu ai nga Rohe, i te tuhituhinga o nga rohe ki te Pukapuka, nekehia ketia ana nga rohe he Koru ke, kua kite au i taua mahi a te Kawanatanga i tetahi o aku whenua i tukua ano e matou ki te Kawanatanga o Kerei, ko te whenua ko Waiparera, i tika ano nga rohe i te tohutohunga atu ai, i te tuhituhinga o nga rohe ki te pukapuka hokonga o te whenua, kotiti ke atu ana nga rohe ka riro noa atu taku whenua a Matapipi i te mahi apo, i penei te korero o te pukapuka tango, kote rohe ki te taha ki te Hauaru kei te rohe o te whenua Pakeha, i runga i taua kupu riro katoa taua whenua aku nei, ko te tuarua tenei, ko Taurarua te tuatahi, i peneitia ano me tenei, ko te kupu tango i tuhituhia ki te pukapuka o te hokonga o Akarana nei koia tenei, ko te rohe kei te koru i Orakei, ko ta matou i whakaatu ai kei te koru i te awa o Taurarua, ko nga tikanga tango whenua ra tena o mua, tetahi tikanga o mua ko nga korero o nga pukapuka o nga rohe hokonga o te whenua e kore e korerotia mai, he tuku tonu mai i te pukapuka kia tuhia nga ingoa o nga tangata, no mua enei tikanga a nga kai hoko a te Kawanatanga, no muri iho nei katahi ka pai nga tikanga, ta te mea kua kite nga kanohi kua matau te tangata, waiho te Maori ka kite i te ritenga, a pokake he ritenga ano, ka tangohia ano aku whenua, he mea tohutohu marire nga rohe e au keru rawa nga rua hei rohe mo te whenua i tukua atu ki te Kawanatanga, ko Raupotamaki, i te hokonga e te Kawanatanga i taua whenua ki te Pakeha, hoko ke ana i taku, ko Kumeu te whenua ko 110 eka Karauna Karaati rawa, muri iho i tenei ko Waikoukou e 4 eka he mea penei ano me Kumeu, hokoa atu ki te pakeha Karauna Karati rawa, kawha ai aku whenua i riro i te Kawanatanga, tuatahi ko Taurarua, tuarua ko Matapipi, tuatoru ko Kumeu, tuawha ko Waikoukou, i runga i toku kaha ki te tohe i enei whenua e toru, ka utua mai e te Kawanatanga kia au, ko Taurarua anake kahore ano kia utua mai, no muri nga mea kua rite nei, ko to mua ko Taurarua kahore ano kia utua.

Kei mea ra koutou e aku hoa e tohe he ana au mo Taurarua, ki taku mohio e tika ana taku tohe, kei mea ano koutou katahi ano au ka timata korero mo tena whenua, he mahi tawhito tena no mua, kua timata mai ano i a Kawana Pitiroi kua whakamaramatia atu kia mohio ia no matou taua whenua, a Taurarua, i te takiwa i tukua ai e Kawana Pitiroi te Pakeha kia hokohoko noa atu i te whenua. Ko te Matenga te pakeha tuatahi kua noho ki Taurarua, i muri iho o te Kawana Pitiroi ko Kawana Kerei, tona taenga mai tangohia ana nga whenua o nga Pakeha me taku hoki me Taurarua, katahi ka kitea e matou te rironga kua nohoia e te minita me te Kura a te Kihiringi. Ka haere atu ano matou kia Kawana Kerei ki te korero no matou taua whenua, ki mai ana haere atu ki a te Karaka. Ka tuhituhia te pukapuka ki a te Karaka, ka ki mai kahore ia e mohio ana, hoiano whakaaro tonu matou ki to matou whenua.

I muri iho i a Kawana Kerei, ko Kawana Paraone, ka tu te Runanga Nui ki Niu Tereni, ara ki Akarana i Kohimarama, i te Tau 1860. Ka whakapuakina nuitia e au kia rongo nga Iwi erua te pakeha me te Maori, whakarongo ana aua Iwi ki te kaha o taku whakapuaki i te kupu mo aua whenua, mo Taurarua, mo Matapipi, ka mutu taua Paramete, i muri iho, kautua e te Kawanatanga tetahi o aua whenua a Matapipi na Makarini i utu mai kia au.

Muri iho i a Paraone ko Kawana Kerei ano, ka mahara hoki au na taua Kawana i tango taua whenua nei a Taurarua, ka haere mau ko te Keene kia Kawana Kerei, ka patai mai a Kerei, kia au, e Paora heaha te korero, ka ki atu au he korero ano mo Taurarua mo te whenua ano kua rongo ra koe i to taenga tuatahi mai. Ka ki mai a Kerei e tika ana e Paora me Pehea koia te tikanga, kaki atu au me utu ra, ka ki mai a Kerei, kua hei taimaha rawa te utu e Paora kia hia nga utu, ka ki atu au kia wha mano pauna, ka ki mai a Kerei, he taimaha rawa tena erangi ki taku me paiheneti he tikanga, ka ki atu au tena ki tau kia hia utu ka kimai a Kerei kia kotahi mano pauna. Ka ki atu au ko te mea ra i ki ai au kia wha mano pauna he whenua i tangohia noatia kua noho ia nei e te pakeha. Ka ki mai ano a

Kerei me whakaae mai koe ki te kotahi mano; ka ki atu au ka pu ta tonu mai ranei tena mano aiane; ka ki mai a Kerei ae kia korero atu au ki taku Runanga hei apopo koe ka hoki mai, hoki ana maua ao ake te ra ka hoki atu maua ka tae atu maua kia Kerei. Ka korero mai a Kerei e Paora tenei taku whakaaro mo ta taua whenua, me rapu koe i te tahi tangata mau kia tokorua, me rapu hoki au i tetahi maku kia tokorua, hei whakawa i ta taua whenua. Ka ki atu au he tikanga ke ano tena au, i ki mai ra koe kia au i nanahi ka puta tonu mai te mano pauna i tenei ra; ka ki mai a Kerei he whakaaro ano ra tenei naku kia whakawakia kia kitea te tikanga, ka ki atu au e pai ana.

Ka tu ta maua whakawa i te tau, 1862. Ko aku kai whakawa ko te Hemara Tauhia ko Aihe-pene Kaihau, ko a Kerei ko Kapene Haimona ko Meiha Whiwhi, ko aku korero me a te Keene mea Apihai te Kawau e tika ana ki te whakarongo aku kai whakawa, ko te wahi i totohe ai nga kai whakawa, a te Kawana me aku, ko te kupu kotahi e ki ana i te pukapuka hokonga o te whenua e ki ana, ko te Rohe kei te koru i Orakei, ko taua Rohe tango whenua nei tenei, ko te tikanga ia kei te koru i Taurarua, i kaha atu aku kai whakawa ia Kerei, ka mutu ta maua whakawa ka tuhituhia atu te pukapuka ki atu kia Kerei whakakaha i ta matou nei taha, kahore a Kerei i utu mai i taua Reta a aku kai whakawa.

Ka mutu to Kerei Kawanatanga ko Kawana Poene, ka tuhituhia atu taku pukapuka whakaatu kia Poene mo to matou whenua mo Taurarua, kia rongu kia mohio na matou taua whenua, kahore taku Reta i utua mai e Kawana Poene. Ka whakaaro ano ahau kua tu a te Makarini hei Minita mo te taha Maori, ka tukua atu ano taku reta me aku whakaaro katoa kia mohiotia ai e te Makarini, kahore i utua mai taku reta. Katahi au ka whakaaro he aha ra tenei ritenga a te Kawanatanga kahore nei e utua mai aku Reta, ta te mea e mohio ana ratou ki taku mahi he mahi tawhito no mua noa atu, ka oti katoa ia au era ritenga hei tiro-tiro ma te Kawanatanga, ka whakaaro ano ahau me panui ki te Kahiti kia whakawakia ki te ritenga o te ture whakawa whenua Maori, kua mea te Kooti e kore e taea e te Kooti te whakawa i tena whenua, he whenua kua oti ki te Karauna Karati, ka mea taku whakaaro me pehea ra he ritenga e puta ai aku whakaaro mo taku whenua, ta te mea ko te Karauna Karati ki taku mahara o taua whenua no muri nei ko te korero whakaatu a matou mo taua whenua no mua, he mea hanga noa taua Karauna Karati i runga i nga tautohetohe mo taua whenua mo Taurarua, i runga i te kupu a te Kooti ka ki atu au ki taku Roia me pehea he tikanga, ka ki mai taku hoa mana e korero kia te Makarini kia rapua he tikanga, ko tana haerenga atu katae ka korero raua ko te kianga mai a Makarini ma te Runanga Nui i Poneke e mahi tena whenua, tae mai taku Roia ka korerotia mai kia au ta raua tikanga, whakaae tonu au, muri iho ka tonoa mai a te Karaka e te Makarini hei korero mai i ana kupu kia au ka ki mai a te Karaka e Pao, e ki ana mai a te Makarini me tuku to whenua ma te Runanga i Poneke e mahi a Taurarua, mea atu ana au ki a ia e pai ana ahau ma te Runanga e mahi taku whenua ta te mea he ngakau mamae kaha rawa noku ki to matou whenua, kei ki koutou e ngaro tena whenua i o matou whakaaro, aha koa mate matou ka ora ko a matou tamariki e kore e utua tena whenua, ka mau tonu ta ratou kupu he mea tango noa a Taurarua, kia rongu koutou ki taku whakaaro e hara i te mea taku e tohe nei mo to matau whenua kia whakahokia mai kia matou, e rangi kia utua mai e te Kawanatanga kia matou, me whai whakaaro hoki te Kawana ki taku pai i te tuatahi, i tukua noatia to matou whenua kia ia i te nohoanga o te pakeha ki Akarana, kahore nei i utua tikatia Akarana, ko nga utu he paraikete, he hate, he tarau, he kohua, he matau, he tupeka, he paipa, kahore he moni, ko te ritenga tena o te hoko whenua a nga Mihinare i mua, kotahi paraikete riro katoa te whenua nui, e riro te whenua mo te toki, mo te kohua, mo te matau, ko te iwi hoki tenei na ratou i whakaako nga tangata Maori kia kuare, ko nga Mihinare, na ratou hoki enei whenua i tango me etahi atu, ko ta ratou kupu me whakapono nga tangata ki te Atua, tukua atu kia titiro nga tangata Maori ki runga, e hokoa ana nga whenua, hoki rawa iho nga kanohi ki raro kua pau nga whenua, waiho ka mohio nga Maori, whakamutua ana ta nga Mihinare hoko whenua, ko tenei e aku hoa, ata whakaaroa mariretia taku whenua, te whenua tupu ake o matou tupuna o matou matua, ki taku whakaaro hoki me whakaora taku ngakau e pouri nei.

E ki na hoki te pukapuka a Paora ki te Hunga o Roma, i te 7 o nga upoko i te 24 o nga rarangi, "Aue te mate ia ahau mawai ahau e whakaora i te tinana o tenei mate."

Heoi ano e aku Hoa nga kupu, tena ra koutou.

Na to koutou Hoa,
Na PAORA TUHAERE.

[TRANSLATION.]

Unto the House of Representatives of New Zealand in Parliament assembled,

The Petition of Paora Tuhaere, of Orakei, near the City of Auckland, in the Colony of New Zealand, an Aboriginal Native Chief, of New Zealand aforesaid:

HUMBLY SHOWETH,—

That the subject of this petition presented to your honorable Assembly is the claim of your petitioner to compensation for a piece of land situated near the City of Auckland, in the Province of Auckland, in the Colony of New Zealand, containing by admeasurement two hundred and fifty-two acres one rood (more or less), and called or known by the name of Taurarua, shown on the plan hereto annexed.

That your petitioner and the chiefs of his tribe know how the boundaries of the lands that were sold to the parties acting on behalf of the Government of this Colony were defined. The pieces of land first sold to the same Government are all on the south-westerly side of the road extending from Auckland to Onehunga, and the first piece of land occupied by the Europeans was called Horotiu.

That at the time the Europeans lived on the lands called Waiariki (Official Bay) and Waipapa (Mechanics Bay), they did not own those lands, as they had not then been purchased by the said Government; but it was agreed by the chiefs, the owners of the lands, that the Europeans should occupy the lands.

That the boundaries of those lands were not then defined. The occupancy by the Europeans was simply occupancy without ownership, as the lands were not purchased till some time afterwards.

That it was not till Governor Hobson arrived in this Colony that any lands were sold to the Government by the Maoris, and it was then your petitioner and the other chiefs pointed out the boundaries of the lands that were sold to the Government.

That Mr. George Clark, senior, at present residing at the Bay of Islands, in the said Province of Auckland, and formerly Lands Purchase Commissioner, was the European who acted in the matter of the purchase of the lands from your petitioner and the other chiefs, and we, the chiefs who pointed out the boundaries, are all living but one. The man who died is Te Reweti.

That the first boundary of the lands sold to the Europeans begins at Taurarua Bay, going in a straight line to the Native road called Te Tiki (which line is edged red and the Native road coloured green on the said plan). The continuation of the road from Auckland to Newmarket till it meets the Ruareoreo Stream, which road is coloured yellow on the said plan, constitute the eastern boundary of the land sold to the Europeans. The boundary then continued in a south-westerly direction to Opu River (now called Cox's Creek), there ending, and Taurarua, the land for which your petitioner now claims compensation, was not included in any lands then sold to the Government, although the Government now hold possession of the said land, and claim to have purchased it, as the only lands then sold were to the west of the said road coloured yellow, and the said boundary line edged red.

That your petitioner, and the other chiefs who accompanied the said George Clarke, senior, when the boundaries of the said lands were defined, placed a large stone in the ground as a landmark. The position of the said stone is at the junction of the said boundary line with the said Native road Te Tiki, and is shown on the said plan, and is coloured pink.

That all the lands sold were to the west of that stone, and those were the only boundaries pointed out.

That your petitioner and the said chiefs were not aware that the lands were surveyed, nor were they ever informed that the Government intended to survey the said lands. Your petitioner and the said chiefs were not asked to point out the boundaries of the said lands to the surveyor; nor did they know, until afterwards, that the Government intended to claim any other lands than those then sold.

That your petitioner and the said chiefs, when they signed the deed conveying the said lands to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, were not aware that they had conveyed Taurarua, as the true purport of the deed was never correctly explained to your petitioner and the said chiefs, they having agreed to sell the lands to the west of Taurarua only.

That in the said deed the boundary of the said land is described as the Bay of Orakei, but the bay pointed out by your petitioner and the said chiefs was the bay of the Taurarua Stream, and the Government, taking advantage of that sentence in the said deed, have included Taurarua, which was never sold; nor was the name Taurarua even mentioned in the said deed, nor has your petitioner ever been paid for that piece of land.

That your petitioner and the said chiefs, when they signed the said deed, were not aware that the Government intended to include Taurarua in the lands sold. Had the said George Clarke, senior, stated that the deed included Taurarua, your petitioner and his ancestor Apihai Te Kawau, the owners of Taurarua, would not have given their consent or signed the said deed, for the matter of the purchase of the said land. Taurarua was never mentioned, nor have your petitioner and the said Apihai Te Kawau ever received payment for the said land.

That other lands of your petitioner, namely, Matapipi, Kumeu, and Waikoukou, situated in the Kaipara district, were taken more recently by the Government in the same manner as Taurarua; but for these pieces of land your petitioner has received compensation; for lands were formerly purchased by the Commissioners on behalf of the Government without the deeds describing the lands being properly read over and explained to the Natives before they were executed, and lands not intended by the Native owners to be sold were often, through error, inserted in the deeds.

That your petitioner humbly begs that your honorable Assembly will not consider his claim for compensation for Taurarua is unjust, or that it has only now been advanced; for your petitioner, in the time of Governor Fitzroy, preferred his claim for compensation to the Government.

That, during the time of Governor Fitzroy, the Europeans had permission to purchase land from the Native proprietors without restrictions; and Sir William Martin, on account of the love your petitioner and the said Apihai Te Kawau bore to him, was allowed to live at Taurarua.

That Sir George Grey succeeded the said Governor Fitzroy as Governor of the said Colony; and immediately after the arrival of the said Sir George Grey, the lands acquired by the Europeans from the Natives were taken from them, and Taurarua was taken by your petitioner.

That your petitioner did not know that the Government had asserted any right of ownership to Taurarua until the erection of Mr. Kissling's school house on the said land, and the occupation of the said land by a minister of the English Church.

That immediately your petitioner ascertained that the Government had taken possession of the said land, your petitioner, with other chiefs of his tribe, waited upon His Excellency the said Sir George Grey, and informed him that the land was your petitioner's. The said Sir George

Grey informed us we had better see the said George Clarke, senior; and your petitioner wrote a letter to the said George Clarke, senior, and was informed by the said George Clarke, senior, in reply, that he knew nothing of the matter.

That at the conference of the Native chiefs held at Kohimaramara, near the said city of Auckland, on the 10th day of July, 1860, His Excellency Thomas Gore Browne, who succeeded the said Sir George Grey as Governor of the said Colony, stated in the eleventh paragraph of his address to the chiefs there assembled:—"Your lands have remained in your possession or have been bought by the Government at your desire." And in the twelfth paragraph of the said address: "It is your adoption by Her Majesty as her subjects which makes it impossible that the Maori people should be unjustly dispossessed of their lands or property." "Every Maori is a member of the British nation; he is protected by the same law as his English fellow-subject."

That your petitioner, in his reply to the said address of the said Thomas Gore Browne stated that he had found something wrong in the eleventh paragraph of the said address, which your petitioner stated read thus: "Your lands have remained in your possession, or have been bought by the Government at your own desire:" and your petitioner then continued as follows:—"My words now are in disapproval of those expressions of the Governor. Listen all of you! The Government has got possession of Taurarua, and I have not yet seen the payment. The land is occupied by Bishops, and Judges, and great people, but I am not paid for it. I applied to the first Governor for redress, and to the second, the third, and fourth, without obtaining it. Matapipi has also been taken from me. I did not receive any payment for it. I am continually urging payment for those pieces of land. Had these lands belonged to some people, they would have made it a greater cause for war than that which originated the present one" (namely the Taranaki War, that was at that time being carried on). "I content myself with constantly asking for satisfaction. Now, listen all of you! If the matter is not arranged on this occasion, and if life is spared to me for two or three years, I shall go to England to the Queen about it."

That nothing was stated by the representatives of the Government in answer to the claim then made by your petitioner.

That Sir George Grey returned to the Colony as Governor in place of the said Thomas Gore Browne, and your petitioner knowing that it was in the time of the said Sir George Grey that your petitioner's land had been taken away, waited upon the said Sir George Grey, accompanied by Te Keene Tangaroa. The said Sir George Grey asked your petitioner what he had to say. Your petitioner replied, "I have come to converse about Taurarua, the land you heard of at the time of your first arrival in the Colony as Governor." Sir George Grey replied, "That is correct, Paul; but what is to be done in the matter?" Your petitioner replied, "I want payment for that piece of land." Sir George Grey said, "Paul, don't demand too heavy a payment. How much do you require?" Your petitioner replied, "Four thousand pounds." Sir George Grey said, "That is far too much. You had better compromise it." Your petitioner replied, "Now, according to your idea, how much should it be?" Sir George Grey said, "One thousand pounds." Your petitioner replied, "The reason I ask four thousand pounds is that my land was taken away for no reason, and without my consent." Sir George Grey said, "Agree to take the one thousand pounds." Your petitioner replied, "Will the one thousand pounds be paid at once?" Sir George Grey said he would speak to his Council, and he asked your petitioner to return on the following day.

That your petitioner and the said Te Keene Tangaroa attended on the following day upon the said Sir George Grey, and your petitioner was then informed that in the opinion of the said Sir George Grey it would be better to decide your petitioner's claim to compensation for the said land by arbitration.

That your petitioner replied, "O! my friends, this is a new idea of yours! It was never mentioned yesterday, when you said I should receive the one thousand pounds on this day, and thus made me agree to that sum." Sir George Grey replied that he considered the best course to adopt would be to hold an inquiry, so that the whole matter could be investigated. Your petitioner assented to this proposal, and the investigation took place in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two.

That the arbitrators appointed by the Government were John Jermyn Symonds, the Resident Magistrate of Onehunga, and Major Charles Heaphy; and the arbitrators appointed by your petitioner were Te Hemara Tauhia and Aihepena Kaihau, two Native Assessors.

That the said Te Hemara Tawhia and Aihepena Kaihau considered the evidence adduced by your petitioner and the chiefs who pointed out the boundaries of the lands sold to the Government in the time of Governor Hobson, conclusive proof that Taurarua aforesaid had not been included in the lands then sold; but the said John Jermyn Symonds and Charles Heaphy considered the sentence in the deed, "that the boundary of the land is at Orakei," a proof that the lands had been sold, but at the same time the said John Jermyn Symonds and Charles Heaphy stated that the descriptions of the lands in the said deed, and the boundaries of the same, were very vague, and did not clearly define the said lands and boundaries.

That the said arbitrators consequently could not agree, and no decision was given respecting any claim to Taurarua aforesaid.

That your petitioner not being able to obtain any satisfaction in respect of his said claim, wrote to the said Sir George Grey informing him that your petitioner intended to fence in Taurarua aforesaid; but to that letter your petitioner received no reply.

That on the arrival of His Excellency Sir George Ferguson Bowen, as Governor of this

Colony, your petitioner addressed a letter to the said Sir George Ferguson Bowen, praying him to satisfy your petitioner's claim in respect of Taurarua aforesaid ; but to that letter your petitioner received no reply.

That your petitioner then resolved to apply to the Native Land Court for a certificate of title under the Native Lands Acts for the said land ; but, on consulting his solicitor, your petitioner was informed that, as Crown grants had been issued for portions of the said land, the Native Land Court would not investigate your petitioner's claim.

That your petitioner was then informed that his only available remedy would be to apply to your honorable Assembly for compensation for the loss of his said land.

That your petitioner assented to this proceeding, as he was exceedingly sad and grieved about the loss of his land ; for your petitioner and his descendants will always maintain that they did not receive payment for the said land, and that the same was unjustly taken away.

That your petitioner does not wish your honorable Assembly to restore Taurarua aforesaid to him, as Europeans are now inhabiting the land, and Crown grants have been issued for portions of the same, but he wishes to obtain compensation for the loss of his said land.

That your petitioner would most respectfully remind your honorable Assembly that in the early times of this Colony the Government obtained lands for little or no payment, and the Maoris were glad to receive the Europeans among them, and the Europeans were allowed to acquire large tracts of valuable land for a few blankets and articles of clothing. Even the missionaries pursued this plan of acquiring land, giving in exchange a few axes, iron pots, or fish-hooks ; telling the Maoris to believe in God, engaging their attention heavenwards, and whilst they were in that position, ere the eye had turned to the earth, bought the land and none remained. When the Maoris were wiser, the missionaries ceased to buy land.

That your petitioner would most respectfully remind your honorable Assembly that he has never allowed his claim to rest. The claim is not a new idea in the heart of your petitioner, for from the time of Governor Fitzroy to the present day your petitioner has always urged his claim in respect of the said land.

That your petitioner would most humbly and respectfully remind your honorable Assembly that he has always been a faithful and loyal subject of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, and that your petitioner has been the constant friend of the Europeans since their arrival in Auckland.

That your petitioner would most respectfully remind your honorable House that Taurarua aforesaid is now of immense value.

That your petitioner most respectfully prays that your honorable House will carefully consider your petitioner's claim to the said land, for it is the birth-place of his forefathers ; and your petitioner respectfully submits that his aggrieved heart should be comforted. The Epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Romans, 7th chapter and 24th verse, says, " O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death."

Your petitioner therefore humbly prays that your honorable House will be pleased to grant him such relief as the justice of the case justly entitles him to and your honorable House shall think fit.

And your petitioner will ever pray, &c.

PAORA TUHAERE.

Interpreted by me to Paora Tuhaere.

JOHN WHITE, J.P.,
Late R.M. of Central Whanganui.
