

REPORTS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NATIVE AFFAIRS

ORDERED TO BE PRINTED.

On the Petition of—

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1.

On Petition of 554 Natives of Hawke's Bay, for inquiry into land transactions.

YOUR Committee have the honor to report to the House that, after a careful examination of the allegations contained in the above petition, the following resolution was adopted:—

That, after examining certified copies of some of the grants referred to in the petition, and hearing the statements of Mr. Takamoana with regard to the allegations therein, the Committee are of opinion that no satisfactory inquiry can be made except at Napier or in the neighbourhood, where alone the greater portion of the necessary evidence, whether documentary or oral, can be obtained; and therefore recommend to the House that a Commission shall be appointed, composed of some Europeans and some Natives, none of whom shall be in any way interested in the question to be investigated.

16th August, 1872.

2.

On Petition of 100 Maoris residing in the District of Wanganui, for alteration of the Native Land Laws.

YOUR Committee have the honor to report that, on consideration of the above petition, the following resolution was agreed to:—

That, with regard to all lands which are tied up under the provisions of "The Immigration and Public Works Act, 1871," the Natives should in the first instance offer the land to the Governor; and in the event of the Governor not requiring the same, a notification should be inserted in the *Government Gazette* offering the land for sale, which should be by auction.

19th September, 1872.

3.

On the Petition of Hone Nahe and others, that Lawyers and European Agents may not practise in Native Lands Court.

YOUR Committee have the honor to report that, after careful consideration of the above petition, the following resolutions were agreed to:—

1. That it should be enacted in the Native Lands Act, that no legal practitioner, advocate, or other agent of the European race, should be permitted to take any part in the proceedings of Land Courts, in any cause in which such lawyer or agent is directly or indirectly interested, and that a penalty be provided for in such cases.

2. That it is highly desirable that a notification should be forwarded to the Natives, printed in the Maori language, explaining the nature of the Highway Boards Act; also, to inform them that the cause of their having to pay such rates was principally in consequence of their ignorance of the present existing laws in connection with such Act.

3. Your Committee respectfully recommend to the favourable consideration of the House, the advisability of increased Maori representation in the House of Representatives; and that the subject of