

REPORTS

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON NATIVE AFFAIRS.

ORDERED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO BE PRINTED.

WELLINGTON.

—
1872.

REPORTS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NATIVE AFFAIRS

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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

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Native representation in Provincial Councils should be brought under the consideration of the Superintendents of the various Provinces.

4. That all deeds for the conveyance or leasing of land made by Maoris to Europeans, should, in all cases where the Maori conveyancer or lessor does not know the English language, be written in the Maori tongue, with a duly-authenticated English translation attached thereto.

19th September, 1872.

4.

On Petition of Te Hata and other Natives for payment for military services.

IN reference to the above petition, your Committee have the honor to report the following resolution, unanimously agreed to:—

That your Committee, after careful consideration of the claim made by the petitioners, and the evidence adduced, are of opinion that their prayer should be complied with.

20th September, 1872.

5.

On Petition of Henare Pukuatua and 135 others, on various subjects.

YOUR Committee have the honor to report that they have agreed to the following resolution:—

That inasmuch as questions are raised in this petition which affect the Native people generally throughout the Islands as well as the petitioners, and also matters relating to proceedings, which have been taken under existing laws, the Committee recommend that the Government should cause full inquiry to be made into all the circumstances before any disturbance of the Land Courts or grants of land should be authorized.

24th September, 1872.

6.

On Petition of Keke (Mrs. Cowell), for restoration of Confiscated Land.

YOUR Committee have the honor to report the following resolution:—

That your Committee are of opinion that Mr. Mackay's recommendation should be submitted to the Government for favourable consideration, as it appears, under all the circumstances, that 100 acres of land given to the petitioner would be a fair final settlement of the matter. Such land to be granted so that it should be inalienable.

24th September, 1872.

7.

On Petition of Pehimana Tahua and 32 others, for restoration of Confiscated Land.

YOUR Committee have the honor to report that the following resolution was agreed to:—

That your Committee do not feel at liberty to recommend the House to interfere in the matter of the prayer of the petition in the direction proposed.

The Committee are of opinion, nevertheless, that, where it is found to be the case that tribes have not been actively engaged in warfare against the Queen, or having been engaged have returned to their loyalty, the lands which have been taken from them, if not otherwise disposed of, should be restored to the Native owners.

25th September, 1872.

8.

On Petition of Eruru Te Ngahu and 21 others, relative to the shooting of Pahu by McAskill.

YOUR Committee have the honor to report to the House that the following resolution was agreed to:—

That the letters addressed to Wi Parata, bearing date 19th July, 1872, and 8th July, 1872, which have been referred to your Committee, not being in the form of petitions to the House, your Committee do not feel justified in taking any action upon them, but have nevertheless advised Mr. Parata, who is a Member of the House, to bring the matter before the House in the form of a resolution.

25th September, 1872.

9.

On Petition of 513 Natives of Hawke's Bay, for inquiring into working of Native Land Laws.

YOUR Committee have the honor to report that the following resolution was agreed to, namely:—

That with reference to the grievances complained of in this petition, and which affect the Native people generally throughout the Islands, as well as the petitioners, as also other matters relating to proceedings which have been taken under existing laws, your Committee recommend that the Government should cause full inquiry to be made by a duly appointed Commission into all the circumstances before any disturbance of the Land Courts or grants of land should be authorized.

11th October, 1872.

10.

On Petition of Tikawenga and 171 other Natives of Wairarapa and Hawke's Bay, that the Native Lands Court be abolished.

YOUR Committee have the honor to report to the House that the following resolution was agreed to, namely:—

“That the Committee are of opinion that the petitioners’ prayer for the privilege to elect a committee from among themselves should be granted. With respect to other questions raised in the petition, the Committee do not consider it expedient for them to make any further recommendation than that all such matters, being questions of policy, should be left to the consideration of the Government of the Colony.

11th October, 1872.

11.

On Petition of 18 Natives of the Ngatiraukawa Tribe, for liberty to deal with their own lands.

Your Committee have the honor to report to the House, that the following resolution was agreed to, viz. :—

That as the question raised in the letter has been already considered by the Committee in the matter of the petition of several Natives of the Wanganui district, they have no further recommendation to offer than that which was given in the before-mentioned case.

11th October, 1872.

12.

On Petition of Five Natives of the Thames District, for repeal of Section 33 of “The Native Lands Act, 1867.”

Your Committee have the honor to report to the House the following resolution adopted, namely :—

That the Maori owner or owners of land, desirous to sell, the same, should offer such land in the first instance to the Government at a fair and reasonable price; and should the Government not require the land for settlement or other public purpose, and refuse to purchase the same, that the Maori owner or owners should be at liberty to sell or dispose of the land to such persons or in such manner as he or they may think fit.

18th October, 1872.

13.

On Petition of Mokena Kohere and Mohi Turei, that the Firearms in the hands of Natives in Waipu District may be collected.

Your Committee have the honor to report to the House the following resolution, namely :—

That the request contained in the petition should receive immediate attention from the Government.

18th October, 1872.

14.

On Petition of 28 Natives of Wanganui, for restoration of Confiscated Land.

Your Committee have the honor to report to the House that the following resolution was agreed to, namely :—

The Committee are of opinion that the Government should at once take steps to settle the difference existing between themselves and the Natives with regard to the lands referred to in the petition.

23rd October, 1872.

15.

On Petition of Ranohe Rangaika, for restoration of his land formerly sold at Poverty Bay.

Your Committee have the honor to report to the House that the following resolution was agreed to, namely :—

The Committee are of opinion that the Government should take steps to ascertain whether or not the petitioner was the owner of the land referred to in the petition; and, if so, to grant him such relief as the Government may deem equitable and advisable.

23rd October, 1872.

16.

On Petition of Manihera Rangiaikawaho, for restoration of land in Castle Point District.

Your Committee have the honor to report the following resolution agreed to, namely :—

The period of the Session being so far advanced, your Committee cannot give the attention requisite to the prayer of the petitioner, and therefore recommend the same to the consideration of the Government during the recess.

24th October, 1872.

17.

On Petition of Henare Tomoana and Renata, for compensation for military service.

Your Committee have the honor to report to the House the following resolution, adopted, namely :—

It has been shown by Mr. Ormond and Mr. Cooper’s evidence that the petitioners received £1,248 5s., instead of £888, as stated in the petition, as payment of the Taupo expedition, in full of all demands; and that a receipt to that effect was taken when the last instalment of £500 was paid. Your Committee are therefore of opinion that there has been no evidence submitted to show that the petitioners are entitled to any further remuneration.

24th October, 1872.

