

The Railway Reserve, extending from the Patea to the Waitotara Rivers, lies in the centre of the settled district; it is admirably suited for farming purposes, and, from the superior quality of the land and advantages of position, affords an opportunity to persons of moderate means desirous of making a home, hardly to be equalled in any other part of New Zealand.

The sections, laid out in convenient blocks averaging about 300 acres, have frontage to an excellent road—the main line between Wellington and New Plymouth. Some smaller sections have been laid out opposite the rising township of Wairoa, to meet the requirements of that place.

The rural sections scattered throughout the Okotuku District, amongst those in actual occupation of private persons, and in blocks of sizes to suit all classes of settlers, differ in value, and have been priced accordingly.

Plans may be inspected at the office of the Secretary for Crown Lands, Wellington; at the Survey Office, Patea; and at Mr. Finimore's office, Wanganui.

Regulations for the sale of the land may be seen in the *New Zealand Gazette* of the 1st June, 1871, and all required information obtained at this office.

Patea, 21st May, 1873.

C. A. WRAY,  
In charge of Confiscated Lands, West Coast.

#### No. 45.

MR. C. E. HAUGHTON to MR. C. A. WRAY.

(No. 13c.)

SIR,— General Crown Lands Office, Wellington, 10th June, 1873.  
Mr. Wray, of Patea, is informed, by direction of the Hon. the Native Minister, in reply to his letter of the 21st ultimo, that Mr. W. Wilson is to be allowed to purchase section No. 350, Okotuku, at the upset price of £2 per acre, under clause 23 of the Confiscated Lands Regulations.

C. A. Wray, Esq., Patea.

C. E. HAUGHTON,  
Under Secretary for Crown Lands.

#### No. 46.

MR. C. A. WRAY to the Hon. D. McLEAN.

(No. 230.)

SIR,— Confiscated Lands Office, Patea, 7th June, 1873.  
I have the honor to forward application made by Messrs. Livingstone and McMichael to purchase about 300 acres in the Railway Reserve, and offering, should their request be granted, to surrender any claim they may have under original tender to lease.

The applicants have purchased from Major Noake his interest in a certain tender, made in 1868, to lease sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 of the Railway Reserve, containing 1,825 acres; have occupied portions of the lease, and own property adjacent to the piece which they wish to purchase, where they have made considerable improvements.

The main line of road fronting their property has been diverted by the Public Works Department into the Railway Reserve, thereby cutting off their frontage; and they apply to purchase the narrow strip as shown in the annexed tracing, containing about 100 acres, at 20s. per acre, and the remainder of the section, containing 210 acres, part of which is slightly inferior to the average land, at 30s. per acre.

By acceding to this arrangement there would be left out of the lease 1,515 acres available for sale, and considerable irritation and opposition would be removed, with little pecuniary loss to the Government. I therefore recommend that Messrs. Livingstone and McMichael be allowed to purchase the land (310 acres) at the price stipulated under clause 23 of the Confiscated Lands Regulations,—they on their own and Major Noake's part surrendering all claims under tender to lease sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8.

The Hon. D. McLean, Wellington.

I have, &c.,  
C. A. WRAY.

#### Enclosure in No. 46.

MESSRS. LIVINGSTONE and McMICHAEL to MR. C. A. WRAY.

SIR,— Wanganui, 3rd June, 1873.  
Referring to our claim for leases of sections Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8, Patea Railway Reserve, we have the honor to inform you that we will waive our claim upon the reserve if we are allowed to purchase the strip of land between the old and new roads, being portions of sections Nos. 6, 7, and 8, extending between the Waihi and Waingongoro Rivers, at the price of £1 per acre; also the remaining portion of No. 6 at the price of £1 10s. per acre. We make this offer without prejudice to our claim in any future issue, should the Government decline to accede to our proposal.

We have already informed you of the nature of our permanent improvements on the reserve, and that we have entered into a contract with parties to erect four miles of fencing upon the sections for which tenders for lease were accepted.

An early reply will confer a great favour on us, as we would erect the fences to the best advantage upon the land in question in conjunction with our other property.

C. A. Wray, Esq., Commissioner of Confiscated  
Lands, Patea.

We have, &c.,  
LIVINGSTONE and McMICHAEL,  
(per James Livingstone).