

The result of so much time and thought being bestowed upon the discussion of these land claim is that everything else is neglected, and the people are consequently poorer than they ought to be.

The one gratifying feature in the conduct of the Natives in this province is their habitual temperance. It is remarkable that a people once notorious for their drunkenness should be able to exercise such self-command, and to abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors, because they believe that the abuse of them would be fatal to the success of their scheme for securing further compensation for their land.

The Natives have not escaped the prevailing maladies here. But though many have suffered from low fever and measles, comparatively few have died.

I have afforded relief to several aged people, but in such a manner as to prevent their friends saddling the Government with their entire support.

The attempt to establish a school at Little River has not yet succeeded, a difficulty having again risen as to the site.

The objection raised by various school committees to the reception of Native children into English schools prevents many from being taught who might otherwise be. But the committees can hardly be blamed as long as the Maoris continue to pay so little attention to personal cleanliness.

I am glad to report that the general morality of the people is good, and that they have been entirely free from all crimes of a serious nature during the past year.

JAMES W. STACK.

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