

1875.

## NEW ZEALAND.

CLAIMS UPON LANDS TAKEN OVER BY THE PROVINCE OF  
AUCKLAND FROM THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

(FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE RELATING THERETO).

*Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.*

## No. 1.

Mr. JAMES MACKAY to the Hon. the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,—

Auckland, 17th July, 1875.

Referring to my Memorandum of the 7th instant, on Sir George Grey's letter of the 19th May last, addressed to you on the subject of land purchases, I have the honor to transmit herewith a return showing approximately the value of the property held by the proprietors of saw mills within the District of Hauraki. This information has been principally obtained from the mill-owners themselves, who have given me every facility in their power to complete the return. The totals are cost of erecting fifteen saw mills with working plant, £106,855. Payments to Natives for timber, including in some cases cost of survey of the blocks on which it is growing, £42,045. Value of logs in stock, £64,982. Total value of Mills, working plant, standing forest, and logs in stock, £209,732. The annual average production of timber is valued at £120,750. The number of men employed in these mills is 678. Vessels employed in the carrying trade, 27, manned by 82 men.

These figures are slightly different from those mentioned in my memorandum of the 7th instant, that was, however, my own estimate before the return was completed; the alteration is so small as to be hardly worth noticing.

The more I consider the scheme proposed by Sir George Grey, to give compensation to the mill owners for their rights, the more I feel convinced that it is impracticable and detrimental to the best interests of the country. The goldminer is one of the largest consumers of sawn timber, and his industry would be retarded and suffer loss if the sawmills ceased to supply his demands.

I previously drew attention to the fact that supposing the proprietors of sawmills were bought out in the manner suggested by Sir George Grey, the Colony or Province would derive no equivalent advantage, because the system of granting timber licenses, heretofore pursued by the Provincial Government, gave but small receipts, when compared with the value of the privileges granted. In proof of the correctness of my assertion, I enclose herewith a return compiled by Mr Tole, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, showing the amount paid for timber licenses over Crown Lands within the Coromandel Peninsula, and the District of Hauraki, during the fifteen years commencing 1st July, 1860, and ending 30th June, 1875. The total is £192 10s.

I have no hesitation in saying that any mill owners would under other circumstances have paid to the natives for the timber cut on the Mahakirau block alone, four times the total sum shown by Mr. Tole as having been paid to the Crown for licenses over the whole of the blocks specified by him.

I enclose copies of correspondence with the Mercury Bay Saw Mill Company respecting a proposed reduction of the term of years for which they hold the right to cut timber on the Taranoho and Kaimarama blocks.

It has been stated recently that some of the deeds of grant or leases of timber held by sawmill proprietors confer rights other than those required for the cutting and removal of timber from the forests to their mills. If such privileges have in any case been granted by the native owners, they have not been exercised or desired by the lessees or grantees, and would, I believe, be relinquished at once, the on application of the Government. I have discussed the question of ordinary agreements and leases on all their bearings with the principal owners of timber residing here, and am convinced they are willing to make favourable terms with the Crown, and merely desire to be confirmed in their claims to Kauri timber, with necessary easements in the shape of roads and water rights, to enable them to convey it to their mills, with the privilege to cut any other timber or firewood required for their own use. If these rights were secured and confirmed to them, they would be perfectly satisfied; and there would not be the slightest danger of any future misunderstanding arising between them and the mining population, who are the only persons liable to have any conflicting interests, as the land on which Kauri grows is unfit for agricultural purposes and settlement.

I have, &amp;c.,

JAMES MACKAY.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Wellington.

Enclosure 1.

RETURN showing approximately, the VALUE of SAW MILLS and of FORESTS and TIMBER, owned by Saw Mill Proprietors within the District of HAURAKI, on June 30, 1875.

Name of Owner.	Cost of Mill and Plant.	Date of Erection of Saw Mill.	Situation of Timber Purchased.	Date of Purchase of Timber.	Amount paid for Timber, including Surveys of Land.	Value of Logs in Stock in Dush or at Mill.	Estimated present value of Mills, Plant, and Standing Forests.	Total Value of Mills, Plant, Standing Forests & Timber in stock.	Average Number of Men employed in Mills & Forests.	Average Number of Vessels employed in Timber Trade.	Average Number of Men employed in Vessels.	Average Amount of Timber Cut Annually.	Average Annual Value of Timber Cut.	Remarks.
1. Tairua Saw Mill Company	£ 23,000	1864	Tairua ...	1864	£ 3,000	£ 5,500	£ 26,000	£ 31,500	100	3	10	3,000,000	£ 13,500	Forests are extensive, but timber difficult to get out to mill.
2. Mercury Bay Saw Mill Co.	9,000	1863	Mercury Bay ...	1863	5,500	8,666	12,000	20,666	70	2	6	2,500,000	11,250	A good deal of the timber has been cut; but there is work for several years to come.
3. Schapp and Ansonne	4,500	1863	Mercury Bay ...	1863	3,750	5,000	8,000	13,000	35	2	6	1,500,000	6,750	Same as above.
4. C. A. Harris	15,000	1862	Whangapoua ...	1862 to 1870	2,500	15,000	40,000	55,000	125	6	18	5,000,000	22,500	Many years' cutting still in forests; large quantity shipped annually to Middle Island, South Sea Islands, and New Caledonia.
5. C. A. Harris	10,000	1865												
6. Crockshank and Co.	4,500	1863	Kennedy Bay ...	1863	2,600	3,000	5,000	8,000	40	2	6	2,000,000	9,000	Timber will be cut out in a short time.
7. R. Cashmore	5,000	1862	Cabbage Bay ...	1862	2,500	3,400	3,000	6,400	20	1	3	1,000,000	4,500	Forests nearly cut out.
8. Pollard and Co.	2,500	1865	Port Charles ...	1863-64	1,200	2,500	4,000	6,500	30	2	6	1,800,000	8,100	Forests not very extensive; will only last a few years.
9. Charles King	2,700	1859	Coromandel ...	1859	1,000	150	2,000	2,150	4	1	2	500,000	2,250	Mill generally idle; forest being nearly all cut.
10. A. J. Cadman	3,500	1865	Coromandel and Mata-mataharakeke.	1864 and 1872	1,150	1,000	5,000	6,000	20					
11. W. C. Dally	8,000	1865	Waikawa and Mata Rivers and tributaries.	1864	2,500	3,000	7,000	10,000	39	2	6	2,000,000	9,000	Coromandel timber nearly cut out; mill will probably be removed to Mata-mataharakeke.
12. Shortland Saw Mill Co.	9,291	1872	Waiwhakaurangi River and tributaries.	1869	5,427	11,666	15,000	26,666	50	1	3	3,500,000	15,750	Forests extensive; a great deal of timber has been cut.
13. John Gibbons	4,700	1874	Kirikiri, and on bank of Waikou and Ohinemuri Rivers.	1871-72	2,200	4,750	6,000	10,750	65	2	6	1,900,000	8,550	This mill has not hitherto been in full work; timber chiefly consumed at Grahamstown and Shortland; forests extensive; timber difficult to get to mill.
14. Hauraki Saw Mill Co.	3,964	1869	Turua Forest, Waikou or Thames River.	1868	3,843	650	10,000	10,650	60	2	8	2,000,000	6,000	This mill cuts white pine only. A great part is shipped to Foreign Markets, the remainder is consumed at Grahamstown and Shortland; forest extensive.
15. Holdship and Co.	1,200	1868	Otuturu Block ...	1870	850	700	1,750	2,450	20	1	2	500,000	2,250	This mill is situated at Grahamstown, and is connected with window-sash, door-making, and wood-dressing machinery; the product is consumed in the district.
Totals	106,855	...	...	...	42,045	64,982	144,750	208,732	678	27	82	27,500,000	120,750	

## Enclosure 2.

Mr. JAMES MACKAY, to the COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS, Auckland.

SIR,—

Auckland, 12th July, 1875.

As I am procuring, for the information of the General Government, a return respecting the timber trade of this Province, I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to supply me with a return showing the number of timber licenses issued within the limits of the Coromandel Peninsula and District of Hauraki from the 1st July, 1860, to the 30th June, 1875, showing the block for which such license was issued, and the fees received in respect thereof, with the name of the person in the favour of whom it was granted.

I have, &c.,

JAMES MACKAY,

Agent General Government.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands, Auckland.

## Enclosure 3.

The COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS, Auckland, to Mr. MACKAY.

SIR,—

Crown Lands Office, Auckland, 13th July, 1875.

In compliance with the request contained in your letter of yesterday's date, I have the honour to enclose a return showing the number of timber licenses issued within the limits of the Coromandel Peninsula and District of Hauraki, from the 1st July, 1860, to the 30th June, 1875, together with the name of the block for which such license was issued, the fees received in respect thereof, and the names of the persons in favour of whom such licenses were issued.

I have, &c.,

D. A. TOLE,

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

James Mackay, Jun., Esq.,

Agent General Government, Auckland.

## Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure 3.

RETURN showing the number of TIMBER LICENSES issued within the limits of the Coromandel Peninsula and District of Hauraki, from the 1st July, 1860, to the 30th June, 1875, together with the name of the Block for which such license was issued, the fees received in respect thereof, and the names of the persons in favour of whom such Licenses were issued—

Total amount of Licenses issued.	Name of Block for which License was issued.	Fees received in respect of License.	Name of Person to whom License was issued.
Nineteen (19).	Awakanae ... ..	£ s. d. 5 0 0	Heron Andrews and Matthews
	Hoho ... ..	2 10 0	Thomas Carina
	Ditto ... ..	5 0 0	Ditto
	Purangi ... ..	2 10 0	Neill and Savage
	Mercury Bay ... ..	2 10 0	Vincent De Moitch
	Purangi ... ..	5 0 0	Neill and Savage
	Whenuakite ... ..	5 0 0	Paraneha
	Mahakirau ... ..	5 0 0	George Strong
	Hoho ... ..	5 0 0	Joseph Baker
	Whenuakite ... ..	5 0 0	Archibald Smith
	Mahakirau ... ..	50 0 0	Thomas Sullivan
	Hoho ... ..	5 0 0	John H. Graham
	Te Kauri ... ..	5 0 0	Thomas Carina
	Ditto ... ..	5 0 0	George William White
	Purangi ... ..	2 10 0	Thomas Carina
	Te Kauri ... ..	2 10 0	John F. Connolly
	Mahakirau ... ..	25 0 0	Thomas Sullivan
	Ditto ... ..	50 0 0	Ditto
	Hoho ... ..	5 0 0	Antonio Joseph
		£192 10 0	

D. A. TOLE,

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Crown Lands Office, Auckland, 13th July, 1875.

## Enclosure 4.

Mr. JAMES MACKAY, to the SECRETARY, MERCURY BAY SAW MILL COMPANY.

SIR,—

Auckland 5th July, 1875.

Referring to the conversation I had with you some months ago respecting a proposed modification of the conditions of the timber leases held by the Mercury Bay Saw Mill Company, over the Taranoho and Kaimarama Blocks in the Mercury Bay District, by reducing the term of the leases from ninety-nine years to twenty-one.

I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to inform me whether the Company are willing to make the proposed alteration.

I have, &c.,

JAMES MACKAY,

Agent General Government.

The Secretary, Mercury Bay Saw Mill Company,  
Auckland.

## Enclosure 5.

The SECRETARY MERCURY BAY SAW MILL COMPANY to Mr. MACKAY.

SIR,—

Custom House Street, Auckland, 13th July, 1875.

In reply to your communication of 5th instant, and conversation held between ourselves, *re* leases of Kauri held by this Company, I am directed by the Directors of this Company to inform you that they have agreed to recommend to the Shareholders that the lease of the Kaimarama Block be reduced to twenty-one years and the Turanoho Block to forty years. A meeting of Shareholders will shortly be held, the result of which I will inform you of.

I have, &c.,

BENJ. GILMORE, Secretary.

James Mackay, Esq., Agent General Government.

*Price 3d ]*