

1877.

NEW ZEALAND.

NATIVE RESERVES, NELSON AND GREYMOUTH.

(REPORT FROM MR. A. MACKAY, WITH STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.)

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

Mr. ALEXANDER MACKAY to the UNDER SECRETARY, Native Department.

SIR,—

Native Reserves Office, Nelson, 6th August, 1877.

I have the honor to forward herewith the annual return of the receipts and expenditure of the Nelson and Greymouth Native Reserve Funds for the financial year ended 30th June, 1876.

The total receipts of the Nelson fund during the aforesaid period amounted to £1,199 1s. 5d., and the expenditure to £1,053 11s. 6d., leaving a balance of £45 9s. 11d. to the credit of the fund.

The flood that occurred in the Motueka District in February last occasioned a considerable loss of landed property to the Trust, the value of which may be roughly estimated at over £3,000. The quantity of land rendered comparatively valueless exceeds 350 acres, causing a reduction in the annual income of over £100—a serious loss to a small fund, the gross income of which was only £1,800 per annum.

In compliance with instructions given by the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer, an investigation of the Native Reserve Accounts of the colony was made in August last, with a view to open a separate account of each fund, the practice previously having been to treat the revenue accruing from the several estates as one common fund. In adjusting the accounts between Nelson and Greymouth, it was found that the former had a debtor balance with the latter of £910 13s. This amount comprised an overdraft of £501 18s., and a sum of £408 15s., being the proportion of salaries chargeable against the fund in the Treasury books, not included in former returns. The debt will have to remain at present as an advance from the Greymouth to the Nelson fund until it can be paid off. This can be done in course of time, so soon as the arrears due to the fund are collected, the amount of which, plus the half-year's rent due to the 30th June last, is more than sufficient to satisfy all claims against it.

The cause of the present deficiency has been brought about by the heavy charges on the fund since the year 1873, and in constructing roads and schools.

In the year 1873 alone the expense incurred for the maintenance of the Natives in Motueka, who lost all their crops by the vicissitudes of the weather, and providing them with seed potatoes, cost the fund £453 12s. 4d., in addition to other expenses. The erection of school buildings at the Wairau and Wakapuaka has cost the fund £617 to the present time, and the construction of roads, £565 19s. 10d., making in all, inclusive of £453 12s. 4d. expended for the Natives, a total of £1,636 12s. 2d., of which £1,182 19s. 10d. may fairly be considered to be outside the purpose for which the fund is properly intended.

The Trust estate would have been in a much better position now to meet the numerous demands upon it had care been taken in the early days to secure for it the full complement of land contemplated by the scheme of the New Zealand Company—namely, one hundred sections each of town, suburban, and rural land. Of the town sections, forty-seven acres were relinquished by the Government in accordance with an arrangement entered into between the New Zealand Company and the original land purchasers with regard to the reduction and concentration of the original Town of Nelson.

The full quantity of suburban land was selected, but its value, as far as a productive estate for the purpose for which it was originally intended, has been seriously curtailed by the appropriation in 1844 of 800 acres of the primest part as occupation land for the Natives then residing in the Motueka District, and in 1853 by a further appropriation of 918 acres as an endowment for an industrial school there.

These reductions and appropriations have caused an approximate loss of fully £1,500 to the annual income of the Trust.

The non-selection of the rural land, owing to a misunderstanding concerning a block of land exempted from sale by the Natives in 1847, caused a loss to the estate of 15,000 acres, as no precaution was taken in 1853, on the final cession of Native claims in that district to the Government, to set apart a sufficiency of land in fulfilment of the original intention. The loss of this portion of the estate at a moderate computation has probably diminished the revenue by £1,500 per annum, as the land laid out as rural sections in the Wairau embraced a large proportion of first-class soil, and had the Trust been fortunate enough to have secured land in that district it would have proved a valuable adjunct to the estate.

It will be seen by the foregoing particulars that a loss of fully £3,000 per annum has occurred owing to the several circumstances that have interfered with the interests of the Trust estate since the commencement of the Nelson settlement.

With reference to the portion appropriated as an endowment for an industrial school at Motueka, it has always been considered that the estate for its size had been denuded of more than a fair proportion of its landed property for educational purposes; but, independent of the loss sustained in that way, a further charge of £160 is now incurred annually for the schools at Wakapuaka and the Wairau.

Besides the last-named sum, the whole of the medical officer's salaries, amounting to £230 per annum, are borne by the fund, a charge that is defrayed in other parts of the colony out of general revenue. Permanent charges of this nature seriously cripple a small fund, and it would be only fair that the income should be subsidized by an annual vote of the House to meet the aforesaid expenses, in consideration of the loss the estate has suffered in various ways.

The annual receipts collected on account of the Greymouth fund during the past year amounted to £3,663 3s. 10d.; this added to the sum of £45 18s. 10d. placed to the credit of the fund in adjusting the account, and the balance of £2,732 15s. 3d., makes a total of £6,441 17s. 11d.

The expenditure for the same period, inclusive of a sum of £342 9s. 8d. for sundry items chargeable against the fund not included in previous returns, amounts to £4,609 6s., leaving a balance of £1,832 11s. 11d., only £921 18s. 11d. of which is at present available, the remainder being a debt due by the Nelson fund.

Of the amount expended, £2,692 11s. 11d. was expended on behalf of the Natives, £306 5s. for salaries, and £1,224 4s. 5d. for various other purposes. One of the last-mentioned items, £541 7s. 9d., has been expended in protecting the river banks at the Arahaura portion of the estate. This has proved a very expensive portion of the property, hitherto it having cost nearly one-half the income collected from it for protective works, and a further sum of £800 or probably £1,000 is still needed for this same purpose.

I enclose herewith detailed statements of the receipt and expenditure of both funds, to facilitate the examination and identification of the various items comprised in the several totals.

I have, &c.,

ALEXANDER MACKAY,
Commissioner.

The Under Secretary, Native Department, Wellington.

STATEMENT of the Receipts and Expenditure of the Nelson Native Reserve Fund, from the 1st July, 1876, to the 30th June, 1877.

<i>Receipts.</i>		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Rents collected and paid to Public Account,—			
Nelson		577 7 0	
Moutere and Motueka		477 18 5	
Aorere		17 16 0	
Westport		126 0 0	
		1,199 1 5	
Total ... ..		...	£1,199 1 5
<i>Expenditure.</i>		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<i>Amounts expended on behalf of the Natives,—</i>			
By Medical attendance		50 7 2	
Passages		77 17 0	
Provisions and clothing		152 14 5	
Allowance for rent		52 10 0	
Agricultural implements, &c.		65 11 4	
		398 19 11	
Salaries		58 6 8	
Sundries		11 9 9	
Commission, collecting rent		18 14 0	
Building materials		11 1 2	
		99 11 7	
Total expended out of imprests ... ..		...	498 11 6
<i>Supplementary charges paid direct from the Treasury,—</i>			
By Commissioner's salary, 12 months		225 0 0	
Secretary " 12 "		50 0 0	
Interpreter " 12 "		40 0 0	
Medical Officer, Nelson, 9 "		37 10 0	
" Takaka, 12 "		30 0 0	
" Queen Charlotte Sound, 12 "		50 0 0	
" Wairau, 12 "		50 0 0	
		482 10 0	
Schoolmaster's salary, Wairau, 12 months		60 0 0	
One-fourth cost of rectifying Native Reserves Accounts		12 10 0	
		72 10 0	
Total expenditure ... ..		...	£1,053 11 6
Balance ... ..		...	45 9 11
			£1,199 1 5

STATEMENT of the Receipts and Expenditure of the Greymouth Native Reserve Fund, from the 1st July, 1876, to the 30th June, 1877.

<i>Receipts.</i>						£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amounts collected and paid to Public Account as under, viz.,—											
Greymouth	...	...	...	...	...	3,461	5	10			
Teremakau	...	...	...	...	...	11	7	6			
Kaiata	...	...	...	...	...	50	0	0			
Arnold	...	...	...	...	...	4	7	6			
Hokitika	...	...	...	...	...	16	17	6			
Arahaura	...	...	...	...	...	119	5	6			
									3,663	3	10
Balance to credit, as per statement of 30th June, 1876						...	...	...	2,732	15	3
Additional amount placed to credit of fund as per adjustment						...	...	...	45	18	10
Total receipts						...	...	...	<u>£6,441</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>11</u>
<i>Expenditure.</i>											
Amounts expended on behalf of the Natives,—						£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Allowance for rent	...	...	...	...	...	1,754	10	0			
Medical attendance	...	...	...	...	...	59	5	6			
Road rate	...	...	...	...	...	18	15	0			
Passages	...	...	...	...	...	48	5	0			
Miscellaneous expenses	...	...	...	...	...	501	17	3			
Building materials, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	60	4	8			
Loans	...	...	...	...	...	37	4	6			
Salaries	...	...	...	...	...	212	10	0			
									2,692	11	11
Protective works	...	...	...	...	...	541	7	9			
Forming streets	...	...	...	...	...	150	0	0			
Surveys and plans	...	...	...	...	...	103	6	0			
Printing	...	...	...	...	...	12	2	6			
Commission, collecting rents	...	...	...	...	...	283	0	9			
Travelling expenses	...	...	...	...	...	82	2	6			
Sundries	...	...	...	...	...	52	4	11			
									1,224	4	5
Total expended out of imprests						...	...	...	3,916	16	4
Amounts paid direct by Treasury,—											
Commissioner's salary, 9 months	...	...	...	...	...	168	15	0			
Interpreter's " 12 "	...	...	...	...	...	50	0	0			
Schoolmaster's " 12 "	...	...	...	...	...	75	0	0			
One-fourth cost of adjusting Native Reserves Accounts	...	...	...	...	...	12	10	0			
									306	5	0
Total expenditure						...	...	...	4,323	1	4
Minus 3 months' salary paid Commissioner, transferred to Nelson Native Reserves Account						...	...	...	56	5	0
Additional amount chargeable against fund, as per Adjustment Account...						...	...	...	342	9	8
									4,609	6	0
Overdraft due by Nelson Native Reserve Fund, as per adjustment...						...	...	...	910	13	0
Available balance to 30th June, 1877						...	...	...	921	18	11
									<u>£6,441</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>11</u>

By Authority: GEORGE DIDSBUY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1877.

