

1878.

NEW ZEALAND.

NATIVE RESERVES, NELSON AND GREYMOUTH

(PAPERS RELATING TO, BY A. MACKAY, WITH STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE).

Laid upon the Table by the Hon. Mr. Sheehan, with the leave of the House.

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

SIR,—

Native Reserves Office, Nelson, 6th August, 1878.

I have the honor to forward herewith the annual statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Nelson and Greymouth Native Reserve Funds for the financial year ending 30th June, 1878.

In accordance with the sixth clause of "The Public Revenues Act, 1877," the moneys collected from the above estates have been paid into the Public Trust Office since the 1st of January last.

The total amount collected on account of the Nelson fund for the aforesaid period, inclusive of the sum of £45 9s. 9d. on hand, computed the sum of £1,642 5s. 3d.; and the expenditure during the same time amounts to £1,268 17s. 1d., leaving a balance of £373 8s. 3d. to the credit of the fund.

With reference to the recommendation contained in my last annual report, of 6th August, 1877, that the fund should be subsidized by a vote of the House to meet the charge on it for the salaries paid to the medical officers, I find, on reference to a report on the subject by Mr. James Mackay, under date 11th July, 1864, that he then recommended that Government should aid the fund with a supplementary grant of £100 or £150 to compensate for the charge on it for the salaries paid to the medical men then appointed. The whole of the recommendations made by Mr. Mackay were approved by the Hon. Mr. Fox, who was then Native Minister; but no subsidy has been paid to the fund in fulfilment of the aforesaid understanding, fourteen years having elapsed since the appointments were made. The fund is now entitled, at the lowest computation, to a sum of £1,400, in accordance with the above-named arrangement.

The receipts of the Greymouth Reserve Fund for the period under review amounted to £4,247 10s. 9d.; this, added to the balance of £1,832 11s. 11d. to the credit of the fund at the termination of the previous financial year, computed totals of £6,080 2s. 8d.

The expenditure during the same time amounts to £4,606 11s. 11d., leaving a balance of £1,473 10s. 9d., consisting of £910 13s. due by the Nelson fund, and an available sum of £562 17s. 9d.

The expenditure comprised £3,490 12s. expended on behalf of the Natives, £315 14s. paid for salaries, and £800 5s. 11d. expended in various other ways. Out of the last-mentioned item, £500 has been expended for river protection at Arahaura, adjacent to the Native village. It was found necessary last winter, in consequence of the continued destruction of the river bank above the protective works previously constructed on the north side of the Arahaura for the protection of the Native village, to extend the work for a distance of 5 chains further up the river; but, before this could be completed, the heavy floods that occurred in October and November last strongly encroached at the upper end of the works, and threatened the destruction of the village from another direction. At the request of the Native owners, who were much alarmed for the safety of their houses, the work was extended for a further distance of 11½ chains, to a point on the river bank beyond where the set of the stream impinged on the bank during floods, so as to prevent as far as possible a recurrence of the encroachments that had previously taken place, and insure the safety of their cultivated land, as well as their village.

I enclose a rough tracing, to illustrate the position of affairs. The part of the property first threatened was between G and D. The cost of the work between these points was borne equally by the County government and the fund, as the former body was interested to the extent of protecting the approaches to the Arahaura Bridge, which had been seriously damaged by a heavy flood that had occurred a short time before the protective works were commenced. The several heavy floods that occurred during the early part of last summer caused serious destruction to the bank at the point marked F, threatening to make a direct course to sea through the Native village if steps were not taken to arrest further encroachment, the set of the stream during floods being from the direction of the dotted line. An additional expenditure had therefore to be incurred to extend the works 11½ chains farther up the river, to a point that offered good natural facilities for protecting the head of the work.

The whole of the work was completed in April last, the entire length constructed being 26½ chains, at a cost to the fund of £1,515 7s.: of this sum, £1,515 7s. does not appear amongst last year's transactions, as the amount was not paid till last month.

In addition to the works carried out near the village, it became necessary, owing to the encroachment of the river at the upper point of the property, to undertake the protection of the banks at the place marked A on plan B herewith, reference to which will show the direction which the river threatened to take, as indicated by the strip coloured blue. Had the river once forced its way in that direction it would have resulted in the ultimate destruction of the farms between the creek and the river, comprising an aggregate area of 215 acres. With the consent of the Native owners, works have been carried out there which, it is hoped, will ward off the threatened danger.

Those groins have been thrown out, as indicated on plan C, to deflect the river into its original channel; and it is further proposed to construct a short embankment between the two lower groins. This work has cost £243 14s., inclusive of the sum of £72 12s. 6d. contributed, in the shape of gratuitous labour, by the tenants on the reserve and the owners of the land to the rear of the Native property, whose holdings were jeopardized by the threatened encroachment.

The Arahaura Reserve, owing to it being so much at the mercy of the river, will always prove a very expensive property to conserve; and there is every reason to dread, from the quantity of snow that has fallen on the main ranges during the winter months, that a considerable deal of additional damage will be done to it during the ensuing summer, even if the permanency of the works already constructed is not seriously imperilled.

I have, &c.,

ALEXANDER MACKAY,
Commissioner.

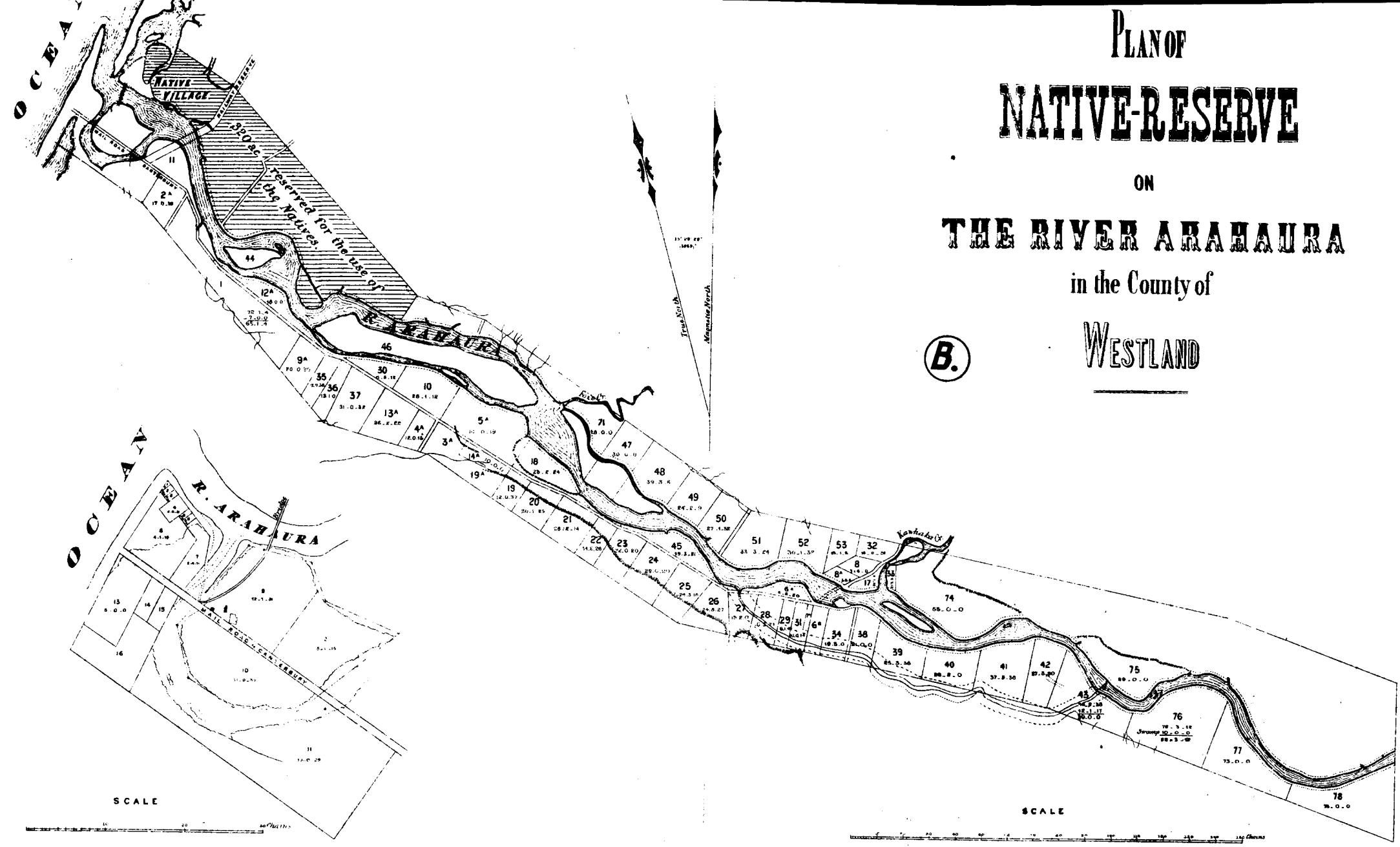
The Under Secretary, Native Department, Wellington.

STATEMENT of the Receipts and Expenditure of the Nelson Native Reserve Fund, from the 1st July, 1877, to the 30th June, 1878.

		<i>Receipts.</i>				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
July, 1877.	To Balance on hand ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	45	9	9
	Rents collected as under,—										
	Nelson ... ..	...	...	...	...	793	7	5		
	Moutere and Motueka ... ..	...	...	...	...	624	15	1		
	Westport ... ..	...	...	...	...	174	5	1		
	Loans repaid ... ..	...	...	...	...	4	8	0		
									1,596	15	6
	Total				£1,642	5	3
		<i>Expenditure.</i>				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
	Amounts expended for Natives,—										
	By Provisions and clothing, &c. ... ..	...	...	...	...	279	9	11		
	Implements, &c. ... ..	...	...	...	...	20	19	0		
	Harness, &c. ... ..	...	...	...	...	26	7	6		
	Funeral expenses ... ..	...	...	...	...	12	5	0		
	Buildings and repairs ... ..	...	...	...	...	77	10	9		
	Passages ... ..	...	...	...	...	72	12	9		
	Fuel and potatoes ... ..	...	...	...	...	21	17	4		
	Medical attendance, &c. ... ..	...	...	...	...	45	15	6		
	Salary, schoolmaster, Wakapuaka school ... ..	...	...	...	...	50	0	0		
	Rent paid to Natives ... ..	...	...	...	...	105	10	0		
									712	7	9
	Plans ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	17	6		
	Commission, collecting rents ... ..	...	...	...	...	58	8	0		
	Printing ... ..	...	...	...	...	12	5	9		
	Stationery ... ..	...	...	...	...	7	18	1		
	Rates ... ..	...	...	...	...	6	18	0		
	Travelling expenses ... ..	...	...	...	...	18	7	6		
	Miscellaneous expenses ... ..	...	...	...	...	27	16	2		
									133	11	0
	Total expenditure out of imprests				845	18	9
	Supplementary amounts paid by Treasury,—										
	By Commissioner's salary, 11 months ... ..	...	...	...	...	206	5	0		
	Secretary " " ... ..	...	...	...	...	37	10	0		
	Interpreter " " ... ..	...	...	...	...	30	0	0		
	Medical Officer, Motueka, " " ... ..	...	...	...	...	37	10	0		
	" Takaka, " " ... ..	...	...	...	...	15	0	0		
	" Queen Charlotte Sound, " " ... ..	...	...	...	...	29	3	4		
	" Wairau, " " ... ..	...	...	...	...	37	10	0		
	Schoolmaster, Wairau, " " ... ..	...	...	...	...	30	0	0		
									422	18	4
	Total expenditure				1,268	17	1
	Balance to credit				373	8	2
									£1,642	5	3

PLAN OF NATIVE-RESERVE

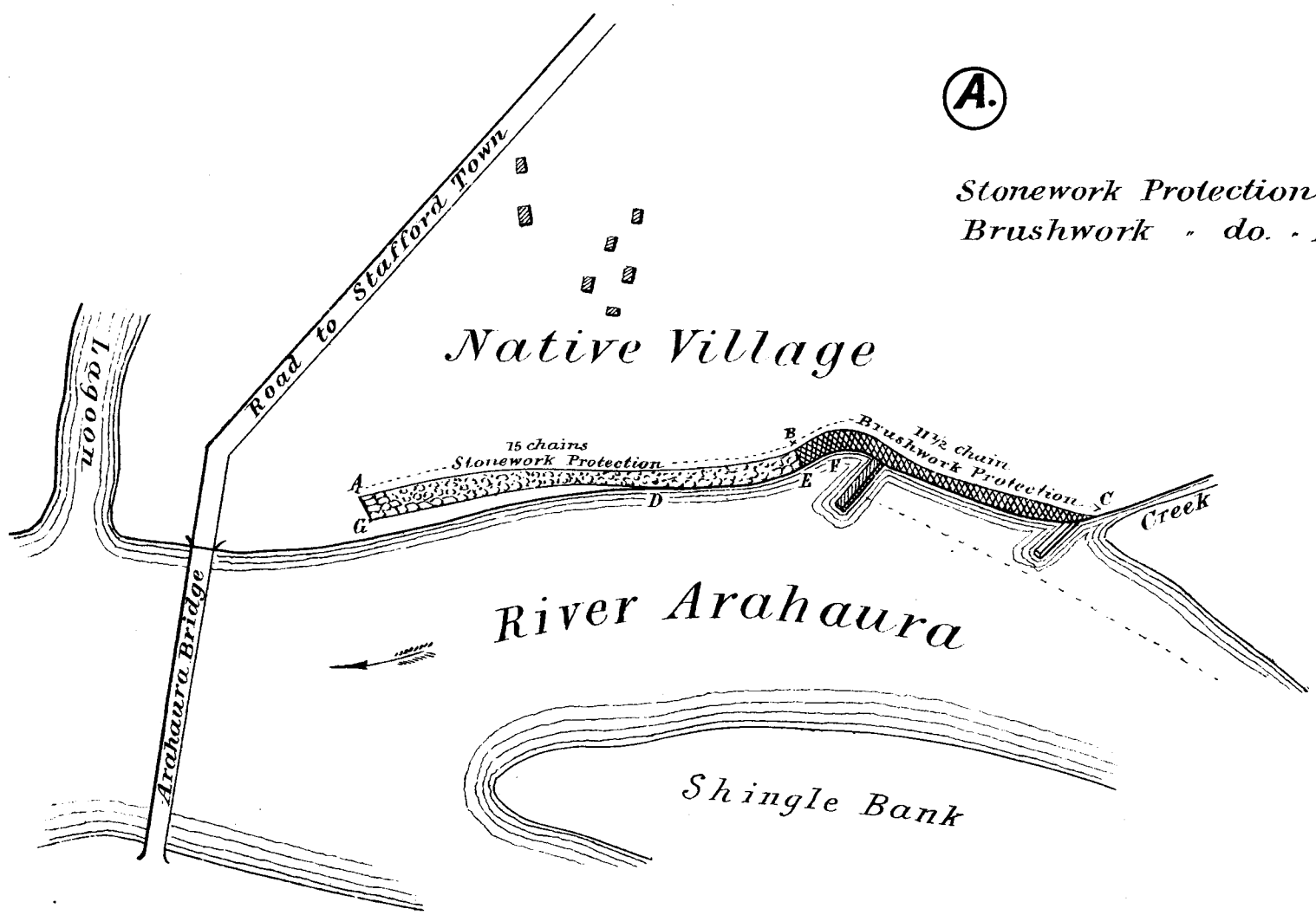
ON
THE RIVER ARAHAURA
in the County of
WESTLAND



(B.)

(A.)

Stonework Protection 15 chains
Brushwork - do. - 11½ do.



(C.)

