

1872.

Hon. Mr. Waterhouse, Question, 1st October 1872, *Hansard* xiii., 420.

and took Wi Parata into the Government. That Mr. Waterhouse had understood the intention of Sir E. Stafford only in one way, is evident from the question he had just put in the Legislative Council, whether, after Sir E. Stafford's statement as to the intentions of the Government about the confiscated lands, they still meant to go on with the sale of land then advertised at Patea; when Mr. Sewell said that the land would not be put up for sale. It seemed that at every point, no sooner was some step determined to be taken than it had to be retraced. The one thing that was going steadily on, was the reoccupation by the Natives of the Waimate Plains.

1873.

V.—THE ARRANGEMENTS OF 1873.

Notes of Sir D. McLean's journey, January 1873, 43/6973.

Notes of Meeting at Whanganui, 73/314: Published in *Waka Maori* of 5th February 1873 (corrected by Sir D. McLean).

Sir D. McLean, Instructions, 31st January and 6th February 1873, Appendix A, No. 3. Notes of Meeting at New Plymouth, 15th February 1873, 73/1782 (corrected by Sir D. McLean).

We submit to Your Excellency that it would be hard for any impartial observer to deny, that the whole course of events during the year 1872, the debates in Parliament, and the declarations of the leaders of both parties, united to justify the Natives who had returned to the country north of Waingongoro in believing that they would not again be dispossessed. Yet in the face of the protests which the tribes south of the river had made, it is not less clear that while Sir Donald McLean was still minded not to enforce the confiscation, he did not choose to give it up. Hardly had the Parliament risen, before he took steps to make the Natives throughout the Coast realize their true position. Leaving Wellington on the 8th January 1873, he held successively great meetings at Whanganui, Hawera, and New Plymouth. Major Kemp once more renewed his protest against restoring the land upon the Plains. "My people," he said, "have heard that the land between Waingongoro and Taranaki has been given back; at which they are indignant, because the Taranaki tribes have been treated so well while they have themselves been so heavily punished. I have heard that the land north of Waingongoro has been returned, and I ask you to relieve my people from their distress, as you have done in the case of those north of that river." The Hon. Wi Parata replied that nothing had been done in the Assembly about returning lands to one particular section of Natives, and treating others differently. "The whole of the land," he said, "was taken under the law, and at the same time. Do not think we have cut off land for any particular tribe: we consider that we [the Government] still have the whole of it." Sir Donald McLean said: "In reference to the land north of Waingongoro, I am not aware of its having been given up as you [the Natives] say: no, none of it has." He added: "The question relating to land I will inquire into carefully at another time, and will tell you what is to be done about it." Major Kemp rejoined that he believed the story about the restoration of the land north of Waingongoro: Mete Kingi declared that he had gone with Taurua to Sir Edward Stafford, who told him that lands sold to Europeans could not be interfered with, but that the land not occupied would be restored.

At another meeting on 31st January, Sir Donald announced his decision for the location of Taurua, and the reserves in the Patea district. He then completed his work by issuing two separate orders for the guidance of his officers north and south of Waingongoro. The Hawera settlers he conciliated by at once devoting a large sum to beginning the Mountain Road; and he abrogated Mr. Fox's promise about "no Native fire being lighted," on the plea that although that pledge had been kept so long as Mr. Fox remained at the head of the Ministry, it had been made in a time of danger which had passed away. Going on to New Plymouth, he held another large meeting of the Ngatiruanui, Ngatiawa, and Taranaki tribes, when he advised them to cultivate the arts of peace. "All the lands," he said, "are in the hands of the Government. The other [Patea] side of Waingongoro has already been settled, and we must now arrange about this side. The Government desire to treat you well in the matter." He then went on: "You had better turn to the cultivation of food. Remember your own proverb, 'The fame of the warrior is short-lived, but the fame of a man strong to cultivate is everlasting.' Let us quietly make arrangements about the land. The Government wish to see you settled in a satisfactory way upon it: then only can we consider a permanent peace established. My advice to you is to be strong in cultivating, and to follow agricultural pursuits. Let your future fighting be with the soil. Let your name 'Ngatiruanui' be famous as it was of old. Return to the land, not as strangers but as children of the soil."