

1866.

of ploughing was no such crime under our law as would deprive him or his tribe of the land that had been given back to them by Sir George Grey and Sir Edward Stafford fourteen years ago.

Sir G. Grey, 4th
May 1880; Ap-
pendix A. No. 16.
Hon. Mr. Rich-
mond, 10th Sep-
tember 1866.
P. P. 1879; A.—8,
No. 5.
Parris, Report,
14th May 1867.

At the request of Sir George Grey, we took pains to investigate the facts connected with the Opunake township. The original instructions of Mr. Richmond in 1866 were these: "The Government wish that all the land of Wi Kingi Matakatea, Arama Karaka, and their *hapus* should be left to them, excepting space for a township at Opunake which it is understood they are willing to cede." Accordingly, early in 1867 Mr. Parris held a meeting at Umuroa, when "the Natives began by inquiring what the Government meant to do about Opunake, and whether they meant to send a detachment of militia there as had been done at Warea. I told them," said Mr. Parris, "that Government had reserved a township at Opunake, and some day would send Europeans to live there; but as regarded militia, it would entirely depend on their behaviour. If they interfered with the Natives who were put in possession, the Government might decide to send militia and reoccupy the place; but if they behaved properly it was not likely any militia would be sent. They said they would burn the place, and take the arms and ammunition supplied to the Natives; in reply to which I told them that the land which had been set apart for Matakatea and his people would be taken as payment if any of the arms were lost." No further opposition was then made. In November 1867 Mr. Parris reported that the survey of the external boundaries of the township had been made, containing 1,394 acres; and some time afterwards the plan was sent in to Sir Donald McLean and approved by him. No deed of cession was taken from the Natives. "It was fully explained," Mr. Parris told us, "to all the Natives that in abandoning the Taungatara-Moutoti block, the Government retained the 1,400 acres, which were surveyed at the time without opposition."

Parris, Reports,
18th November
1867, 4th Janu-
ary 1868.
Sir D. McLean,
22nd November
1869.
Parris, Telegram,
29th May 1880.

Sir George Grey (in the same letter to us) also referred to the case of grants which had been made to certain persons out of the Opunake township lands: and as the case has been referred to in Parliament, Your Excellency may desire to know the facts. They are as follows:—

Resolution, H. of
R., 2nd Oct. 1867;
Journals, p. 303.
Minute, Sir E.
Stafford, 15th
February 1868.

Resolution, H. of
R., 15th October
1868; Journals,
p. 257.

Sir E. Stafford,
Minutes, 3rd
November 1868;
15th January
1869.

Minute, Hon.
J. C. Richmond,
18th March 1869.

Minute, Hon.
J. C. Richmond,
26th May 1869.

One of the grantees, Major Brown, had petitioned the House of Representatives in 1866 to grant him the land of his rank as a military settler; but the Government refused to recommend the petition to the House. Next year a Select Committee reported in the petitioner's favour, and on the 2nd October 1867 the House resolved that "Major Brown was entitled to consideration from the Government in regard to his petition for land as a military settler." Sir E. Stafford said the Cabinet could not see how the Government could give effect to the resolution. Next year (1868) the case came on again, and the House passed a resolution that "land as a field officer of military settlers ought to be given to Major Brown, with due consideration to the fact that the Government was no longer in a position to give land to the value which he would have obtained if his application had been granted at first." Sir Edward Stafford decided that there was no doubt the land could be given as a military settler; and said, "I am of opinion that the resolution of the House should be given effect to, to its full extent." On Major Brown then proposing to select at Opunake, Mr. Richmond (Native Minister) considered that it would not be convenient to give the Opunake reserve away in large lots, but rather to encourage settlement near Wi Kingi Matakatea's tribe; and shortly afterwards he said, "I do not think it would be carrying out the representations made to Wi Kingi Matakatea and the late Arama Karaka and their people, to give out 400 acres to satisfy one claim. The representation was, that town and suburban lots would be offered there, and it is best to economize this little block. There will be no difficulty in allotting land to Major Brown on the north-west bank of the Waingongoro, either near the coast or the bush. I should recommend the neighbourhood of Mawhitiwhiti." Major Brown would of course have been very glad to take the land there; but as that could not be done, his selection at Opunake was eventually approved by Sir D. McLean.

Minute, Sir D.
McLean, 7th Sep-
tember 1869.

Minute, Sir D.
McLean, 14th
February 1870.

Captain Hamerton then applied for 300 acres as a former captain of militia, and Sir D. McLean authorized him to select at Opunake. Upon the Secretary of