

would it be less absurd or dishonest to allege for a moment that Te Whiti was not, in point of fact, fully led to believe that, subject to his own good behaviour, exactly the same thing would be done for him as for the people on Waimate Plains. For every fair purpose, the promise made to one tribe must be held to have been made to the other.

Major Brown,  
Evid. 1044.

*Ibid.* Evid.  
1047, 1048.

Nor were we left only to conjecture on this point. In his evidence before us, Major Brown said: "Mr. Sheehan told me he had considered the question of giving to Te Whiti the portion of the coast situated between the two blocks which were given back to the Ngamahanga and Wi Kingi Matakatea, but had come to the conclusion that it would be paying too heavily for Te Whiti's having kept the peace. After the surveyors were removed, Sir George Grey, when he was at New Plymouth with His Excellency the Governor, said to me, 'You are aware, I suppose, that we intend to give back the piece of coast that includes Parihaka?' I said, 'No, I was not aware of it; in fact I had been led to understand by Mr. Sheehan that the whole of it would not be given back.' Sir George Grey repeated 'Yes, we had fully decided it, and I thought you were aware of it.'"

Sir G. Grey,  
4 June 1880,  
Appendix A.  
No. 16.

This statement alone, therefore, seemed to us fully to warrant our opinion that in making the recommendation we did to Your Excellency about the Parihaka Question, we were asking you to give effect to the intentions of your Ministers in 1879. But on sending Major Brown's evidence to Sir George Grey, we received this reply from the late Prime Minister: "Major Brown must have altogether misunderstood me. I have asked all my fellow-Ministers who are here, and they agree with me that we never decided upon returning any particular block of land to the Natives. Certain lands had been promised to be returned by our predecessors. By those promises we were necessarily bound." Upon receiving this answer, it seemed to us that the question was left in an unsatisfactory position by such conflicting statements: and therefore we asked Mr. Sheehan whether he would have any objection to telling us what his own intentions were, as the Native Minister at the time, with regard to provision for the Parihaka people. With great courtesy he at once gave us a full explanation, which we have added to the Appendices of our Second Report. Its substance we reproduce here for Your Excellency's consideration.

Hon. Mr. Sheehan,  
27 July  
1880, Appendix  
A, Part II.

"For a long time," Mr. Sheehan says, "before the turning off of the surveyors, I had frequently discussed with Major Brown what action should be taken with regard to the confiscated land between the northern boundary of the Waimate Plains Block and the southern boundary of the Hangatahua [Stoney River] Block. It is impossible for me to recollect exactly what took place during these conversations, but they amounted in substance to this:—

"(a.) If the Waimate Plains were allowed to be dealt with without obstruction on the part of the Natives, we should make ample provision on that block for the original owners.

"(b.) The small block north of the Waimate Plains Block, up to the boundary of the Opunake Block, was to be dealt with in the same way.

"(c.) The Opunake Block was regarded as given back to Wi Kingi [Matakatea] and his people.

"(d.) The Hangatahua [Stoney River] Block, north of Parihaka, was looked upon as being in the same position.

"As to the Parihaka Block, I expressed my opinion that Te Whiti had done good work for years on the coast in preserving the public peace, and that I was disposed, in the event of his pursuing a similar line of conduct in the future, to recommend to my colleagues the restoration of the Parihaka Block to the original owners: that is to say, the whole of the country known as the Parihaka Block extending down to the sea. This restoration was to be entirely dependent on good behaviour.

"3. On several occasions in Wellington, the question of what would be done with the confiscated lands outside the Waimate Plains was mentioned in Cabinet, both before and after the interruption of the survey. I maintained generally the view which I had expressed when discussing the question with my colleagues.