

case of the Ngatimanawa, who contest your right. Your mere assertion of ownership does not entitle you to the land. That is the reason why the Premier has laid it down that you should appeal to the law and get the law to determine the boundary of your land. Distinctly understand that the Government has this in its own hands—the power to complete the survey. Under the laws the Government can, in its own way, make a topographical survey. The Government wish the law to be carried out step by step in regard to Tuhoe, and hope that they will follow the right course. The survey, if carried on by the Government, would not be an expensive undertaking, and if a topographical survey is to be undertaken by the Government the owners may be fixed upon and the title to the land ascertained. It is quite true, that with the increasing population the country requires necessary steps to be taken with regard to the lands. There is but one thing, and one thing alone, that can preserve you, and that is, to go to the Government and the law. Do you yourselves give this matter your consideration? What results from the boundary you are claiming as the boundary of your land? Does any advantage result to you at all? How is it you are not able to get employment from the Europeans? Is it not because you allow your land to lie in idleness and be unproductive? It is not that the Government has any desire on its part to take possession of your land. What the Government wishes is to see you firmly established upon your own property. The means by which this can be done cannot be reached by Maori committees, because the committees are not supported by the law. The only committee that can firmly establish you in the possession is the *ture*—i.e., the Native Land Court. If there is anything that injuriously affects you in connection with the Native Land Court, let it be pointed out so that it may be remedied. I know that there is an anxious feeling among the Natives throughout the colony in regard to their lands, but let the cause of the anxiety be so held up to view that it may be plainly seen by the Government, and then the Government will be in a position to see the wrongs that need to be redressed. My colleague has said that the evils of the past should be wiped away. He also said let us now take a new departure. In the new law that has been clearly explained to you no injury can befall you. If you wish to rent or lease, a majority of yourselves will decide. If you wish, a committee can be appointed to do that. Also, if you desire, the Government will act as your bankers. You can deposit your money with the Government, who will take charge of it, and pay you interest, so that you can always depend on receiving it regularly, and there will be something left for the support of your offspring when you are gone. But all these things can only be done by acting in conformity with the law. That is the only point of difference between you and me. You think these things can be done by your own Maori laws. I say they cannot be done in that way. They must be done according to the laws of the Parliament. You are seeking for prosperity for yourselves, and for your land to be successfully employed. The Government are also seeking out the course whereby you yourselves may become prosperous and your land made valuable. Your anxiety is lest your lands may be dealt with wrongly. Who will deal improperly with your lands? If you think it is the Government who will deal wrongly with you, I tell you the Government will do no such thing. If it be this, that you are afraid private individuals may act or deal wrongly with you, I tell you the Government will not give them an opportunity to do so—the law will provide against that. The Government has decided that they will not allow private individuals to interfere with the Natives. If there is a dispute amongst yourselves the Court will determine the ownership according to your own customs. What is it, then, that you are really afraid of? Perhaps it is that you are really afraid of yourselves. Some seem to be afraid of the Court, others of the survey. Perhaps you are afraid the land may pass away from you altogether. Hence it is, perhaps, that you came to the resolutions arrived at at your late meeting. If these are the causes of your anxiety, what I have to say to you is—Attach yourselves at once to the Government. The Government will be as a parent protecting each and every child. The Government can deal with your lands if you have had them surveyed and the titles determined. If you act in a contrary direction, you will yourselves be responsible for what befalls you. I will repeat what I have already said: Will you point out what evil results from surveys. If you think that the expenses attending the surveys will absorb a great deal of the land, I tell you, as I have already said, that these expenses shall be lightened. The cost of having the land brought before the Court will also be made much lighter. Do not be blind, deaf, or forgetful of the fact that we are living in an age of progress, and live with the spirit of the age. It is not as if you were a people living under great tribulation or difficulty. This illustration as to the Europeans swarming into the country is quite correct. Another matter referred to was that you object to roads going through your lands. What is the objection to having roads? If the roads were only for the Europeans there might be some reason in your objection, but do not you yourselves use the roads equally with the Europeans? If the roads were absorbing all the land it might be wrong. If the construction of roads resulted in your power over your lands being taken from you there might be some sense in the objection. But what is seen in reference to the roads is that highways are given to the people, Natives and Europeans alike, by which travelling from one part of the country to another is greatly simplified. But the question of roads is not really the main point to be discussed. The two main points settled at your meeting were in regard to the lands and the committees. Now, with respect to the proceedings at this meeting, all that has been said by both parties will be laid before the Government, and placed before Parliament. Therefore you should give your careful consideration to all that has been said to you to-day by the Premier. We know that you are living in an isolated position, and are not as well informed as many of the tribes living in other parts of the colony. Hence it is that you should carefully weigh and ponder well over what has been said to you. Do not let the utterances of to-day be cast aside when we have gone away. Think well over what has been said, and give every point your earnest consideration. These are the words I have to say to you, O Tuhoe! Look carefully into what has already been said to you, carefully weigh it all, and it may be possible that a happy union of both parties will take place that will prove a source of happiness, prosperity, and delight to you hereafter. Let not what has been said to-day be rejected. I say emphatically