

51. You have told us of Sir Donald McLean's intervention before the land went through the Court, which made you angry. Did he come on the scene again, and, if so, when?—I will go back to the time of the burning of the houses. After that McLean came into the district. Kawana Hunia was summoned to Wellington in consequence of the burning of the houses, and I think McDonald accompanied him. I was at that time at Wanganui. When I heard he had been arrested and taken to Wellington I went myself. I heard that Hunia was in prison. When I got to Wellington he had been released on bail by a Ngatiraukawa chief. When I got there some of the Ngatiraukawa were there; there were Horomona Toremi, Te Puke, Watene ti Waewae, Matene te Whiwhi, and others. They had gone there to sell land. I went to the Native Office and met McLean. He said, "You had better come to my house and have some dinner with me," and I went. After we had finished our dinner McLean said to me, "The reason I asked you to come here to talk to me was that I want you give me a piece of Horowhenua."

52. Did he say what for?—I then said, "Why should I give you a piece of land?" He did not answer my question at first, but said, "Did you not speak a word to Pomare?" I thought to myself, "Pomare has been speaking to McLean, and that is the reason he has asked me to come here." I said, "Yes, I did speak to Pomare in 1872. You want me to give you a piece of land in consequence of what I said to Pomare?" I thought Pomare was a very crafty man. I said, "Pomare is a crafty man." What I said to him I said as to a gentleman, and I wanted him to act as such to me. McLean then said, "I want you to give me some land." I said, "How much do you want? I will give you 1,200 acres, and that, added on to the other hundred, would make 1,300 acres."

53. What was this other hundred acres?—That was a piece of land awarded by the Land Court, which was sitting at Foxton in 1873.

54. Where did that Court first sit in 1872?—At Foxton, also.

55. What did McLean say to that?—That he thought it might have been more, but he was content to accept that. He said, "We will have an agreement between us."

56. Who wrote the agreement?—McLean had it drawn up. When the agreement was being drawn up McLean said to me, "To whom shall we give this land?" I said, "To the descendants of Te Whatanui." After the agreement was drawn up he said, "Now we had better go to the office and read it out." McLean told me that Horomona and Te Puke had already been asking for money on the lands in Horowhenua within the boundaries. I said, "Don't let them have any money within the boundaries—it is mine; but you can lend them money on their own land outside the block." Then McLean went away to his office. I knew the Ngatiraukawa were with him, and when I went there the place was filled with them. After they had finished their business with McLean, I went in. There were Matene, Watene, Matene's wife, Caroline, and others there. McLean said, "This is the agreement that Major Kemp is going to sign." The agreement was read over, so that they could hear it, down to where I had mentioned about the descendants of Te Whatanui. After it had been read over, Watene got up and said, "Well, you had better put my name in the agreement too." I said, "No; I will not agree to that. This land belongs to me, but he is of the Ngatiraukawa tribe." Then Watene said, "That is quite true, as Major Kemp has said." He assented at once, being a chief, knowing that I was right. That is all about that. The reason for this was that I had gone up to Auckland in 1873; it was also in consequence of McLean sending for me.

57. What about that visit to Auckland?—When I got to Auckland I saw Pomare. (This was before the Court sat.) I saw him at a Native Office there. I said, "If I win my case at Horowhenua, I will consider the words spoken by my ancestor, Taueki. He was one of the big chiefs of the Muaupoko." I said, "If I do not succeed in winning, I still will do the best I can to keep my head above water, and swim till I get ashore." Pomare then said, "Well, if that is how it is to be, I will not be present at the Court when it sits; but do not cease to remember the words spoken by our old men." Then, afterwards, when the Court sat on the land, when the case was over, I wrote to Pomare to come to me, but Pomare never answered my letter. I wrote to him a second time, but got no answer to that letter.

58. That conversation was what you understood McLean to refer to when he spoke of your word to Pomare?—Yes, I understood to what McLean referred: that Pomare repeated all that had passed between us to McLean.

59. The Ngatiraukawa left town after the agreement was signed?—Yes; we all came back. The last words of this chief, Te Whatanui, were these: When Te Whatanui arrived here at Horowhenua he came to Taueki and said, "I have come to live with you—to make peace." Taueki said, "Are you going to be a rata tree that will shade me?" Whatanui said to Taueki, "All that you will see will be the stars that are shining in heaven above us; all that will descend on you will be the rain drops that fall from above." Taueki considered that he would give him this piece of land. Then he gave him an eel-weir named Raumatangi, and a piece of land called Mauri; it was a clump of kahikatea bush.

60. Was this the father of the present Taueki?—Yes.

61. That trouble was settled in Wellington by your signing the agreement?—Yes. The next thing was just before 1886. McDonald went up to see me at Wanganui. He said, "I want you to let me have some totara, to make sleepers for the railways." I said, "There is no totara at Horowhenua; the totara trees are small and unfit for the purpose." McDonald said, "Let me have those, or any other timber suitable for the purpose." I then went to Wellington, in company with Wiki and Wirihana, and my wife, who was then very sick, and with Mr. McDonald. We got to Wellington, and put up at some hotel near Te Aro. McDonald said to me, "Would it not be a good thing to put this land to some use, instead of leaving it lie idle?" I said, "I must wait until I see the tribe, and speak to them." Mr. McDonald said, "We can arrange matters here, and see the tribe after; you had better make some arrangement about this land while you are alive and in health,