

SESS. II.—1897.
NEW ZEALAND.

PACIFIC ISLANDS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BRITISH RESIDENT, RAROTONGA.

[In continuation of Parliamentary Paper A.-3, 1896.]

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

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No. 1.

Mr. F. J. Moss to His Excellency the GOVERNOR.

MY LORD,—

Cook Islands, British Residency, Rarotonga, 19th June, 1896.

Referring to my despatches, No. 15, of the 18th October, 1895, and No. 20, of the 17th December, 1895, in which I informed your Excellency of the dispute respecting a lease of land at Mauke, and the claim made by Charles Franheim, a German subject, in connection therewith, I have now the honour to report that the case was heard by Judge Tepou, in the Arikis' Court at Avarua, on the 16th and 17th instant, by the mutual consent of the claimant and of the Aritus of Atiu and Mauke, who came with their witnesses from Atiu and Mauke for the purpose.

I enclose the report of the hearing as given in the *Torea* newspaper, which is substantially correct. It is only necessary to remark that the lease originally given by Tararo was so far renewable as to be practically a complete alienation of the land, while the present lease is for a period of thirty years. The area of the land is less than ten acres, estimated by some at only eight.

There has been so much and such frequent disputing at Mauke that I thought the opportunity suitable for recalling to mind the position occupied by settlers among the natives. As your Excellency will observe in the report in the *Torea*, Franheim has brought upon himself so much trouble and loss in the past by mixing himself up with the differences among the natives that I think he will be more careful in future, and what threatened to be a very troublesome affair has been satisfactorily ended.

I have, &c.,

F. J. Moss,
British Resident.

His Excellency the Earl of Glasgow, G.C.M.G.,
Governor of New Zealand.

Enclosure.

[From *Te Torea*, Saturday, 20th June, 1896.]

ARIKIS' COURT, AVARUA.

The case of Franheim *v.* Mauke was heard before Judge Tepou, in the Arikis' Court, by consent of both parties, to avoid the delay necessarily attendant on convening the Federal Court. The case