

1909.
NEW ZEALAND.

MAORI LAND PURCHASE OPERATIONS:

REPORT UNDER "THE MAORI LAND SETTLEMENT ACT, 1905," FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST MARCH, 1909.

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

SIR,—

Department of Lands, Wellington, 8th June, 1909.

In pursuance of the provisions of "The Maori Land Settlement Act, 1905," I append a statement of the limited land-purchase operations carried out under my supervision during the past financial year, together with a statement of accounts.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM C. KENSINGTON,

Under-Secretary for Lands.

Hon. J. Carroll, Minister of Native Affairs, Wellington.

REPORT.

IN the report for 1907-8 a summary was given of the completed transactions up to that date, and also a summary of the average price paid to the Native owners in each land district. This year, owing to the small vote appropriated for Native-land purchases last session, our purchases have necessarily been of a very limited area, the total for the year being only 6,935 acres 3 roods 8 perches, some of which were areas the purchase of which was not completed during the previous year. To complete this area a total sum of £3,995 19s. 7d. was paid during the year.

Summarised, the purchases completed are as follow:—

Auckland	..	..	..	..	..	A.	R.	P.	costing	£
Hawke's Bay	..	..	..	..	..	6,588	2	8	..	3,544
						347	1	0	..	2,430
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	6,935	3	8		5,974

The area purchased in the Auckland District averaged about 11s. per acre, whilst that in Hawke's Bay cost £7 per acre; but, as the latter area was situated near Dannevirke, adjoining the railway-line and main coach-road, the price was not excessive.

CONTINUANCE OF LAND-PURCHASE OPERATIONS.

Should Parliament provide the necessary authorities, it is proposed to continue the purchase of Maori lands where the owners are willing to sell, and place their lands in the hands of the various Maori Land Boards for that purpose. This can be done under the machinery at present existing. In very many cases Maori owners are anxious to sell to the Crown odd areas which cut into Crown awards and are of no use to the owners, having, perhaps, no road of access, or are of such awkward shapes as to be unsuitable for their own use, though falling into line with the Crown areas, and suitable for settlement purposes when amalgamated with such Crown areas. The Maori Land Boards would receive the purchase-moneys, and be responsible for their division amongst the Maori sellers. It is also hoped to acquire during the coming year a considerable area of land suitable for close settlement out of the Moe-rangi Block, on the Raglan and Aotea watershed, and also to acquire an additional area out of Te Akau Block, Raglan County, to supplement the area of 15,000 acres already purchased and now subdivided into suitable areas for close settlement, the opening of which, under the optional clauses of "The Land Act, 1908," has been deferred until early in next spring, so as to allow the formation of roads of access to be well advanced before the selectors are given possession.

LAND-PURCHASE OFFICERS.

The only purchasing-officer employed continuously throughout the past year has been Mr. W. H. Grace. His work has been completed, and his services are therefore no longer required, and he severs his connection with the Department, after having rendered very valuable service in a whole-hearted manner, for which the Department renders its thanks. Mr. W. H. Grace has submitted his report, which is printed and attached.

STATEMENT OF MAORI LAND SETTLEMENT ACCOUNT.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure</i>				
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance in account at 1st April, 1908	4,328	2	5	Salary	365	0	0
Proportion of survey liens repaid	67	7	9	Administration and other expenses	467	6	2
Proportion of purchase-money on account reserves made	1,789	14	5	Purchase-moneys	615	7	1
				Balance at 31st March, 1909	4,737	11	4
Totals	£6,185	4	7	Totals	£6,185	4	7

PURCHASES ON HAND AT THE 31ST MARCH, 1908, COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR.

	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.
Auckland District,—						
Hurakia B, Section 1	125	1	30			
Kopuarahi No. 1A	545	1	32			
Makumaku No. 3A	37	3	24			
Maraeroa B 3A	947	2	37			
Maraeroa A 3A	3,282	3	17			
Marokopa No. 5A	178	0	28			
Puhanga te Uru 1B	201	0	0			
				5,318	2	8

Auckland District,— NEW PURCHASES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR.

Waitakaruru 5B No. 3	1,270	0	0
Total for Auckland District	6,588	2	8
Hawke's Bay District,—			
Manawatu 2B South	347	1	0
Total completed during the year	6,935	3	8

PURCHASE-MONEYS PAID DURING THE YEAR.

	£	s.	d.
To completion of purchases on hand, 1st April, 1908	565	19	7
On new purchases completed	3,430	0	0
On purchases incomplete at 31st March, 1909	686	17	5
Total purchase-moneys paid during the year	4,682	17	0

Purchase-money provided.

Out of Maori Land Settlement Account	615	7	1
„ vote, Lands and Survey, Miscellaneous	4,067	9	11
Total	4,682	17	0

PURCHASES ON HAND INCOMPLETED AT 31ST MARCH, 1909.

Auckland District.—Kopua 1s, Section 2B; Moerangi; Puhanga-te-uru 3B; Rangitoto A No. 3B; Rangitoto A 18A, Section 2; Rangitoto A 22; Rangitoto-Tuhua 77E; Taharoa A; Te Akau B and D; Waitakaruru 5c. About 30,000 acres will be completed out of above-mentioned blocks.

APPENDIX.

SIR,—

Department of Lands, Kihikihi, 6th May, 1909.

Re the purchase of Maori lands in my district, I have the honour to report as follows:—

Since my last report sent you and dated 30th May, 1908, I have to state that no further purchases have been made, owing to the vote set apart for the purpose having become exhausted; in consequence of which you advise me to close further operations, and to proceed in the Native Land Court for the cutting-out of all interests in the various blocks acquired by the Crown, with the object of having the same defined, and vested in the name of His Majesty the King. The above was done as set out in my report sent you on the 30th May last, from which it will be seen that at that date 164,403 acres were dealt with in the Native Land Court, and vested in the name of the Crown, there being only a few blocks not dealt with, the names of which I give as follows: Hurakia B; Maraeroa A No. 3; Maraeroa B No. 3; Rangitoto-Tuhua No. 77E; Marokopa No. 5; Taharoa A; Rangitoto A No. 22; Kopua No. 1s, Section 2B. The interests of the Crown in the first three blocks have since been dealt with by the Native Land Court, and vested in the name of His Majesty.

HURAKIA B. (Area, 1,895 acres.)

Vested in Crown, 125 acres 1 rood 30 perches, called "Hurakia B, Section 1." Residue for non-sellers, called "Hurakia B, Section 2."

MARAEROA A No. 3. (Area, 5,873 acres.)

Vested in Crown, 3,282 acres 3 roods 17 perches, called "Maraeroa A, Section 3A." Residue for non-sellers, called "Maraeroa A, Section 3B."

MARAEROA B, Section 3. (Area, 4,056 acres.)

Vested in Crown, 947 acres 2 roods 37 perches, called "Maraeroa B, Section 3A." Residue for non-sellers, called "Maraeroa B, Section 3B."

RANGITOTO-TUHUA 77E BLOCK.

The Crown's interest in this block still remains undefined. In April, 1908, this case, with many others, was set down for hearing by the Native Land Court, but had to be adjourned. When the case again came before the Native Land Court, in October last, His Honour Judge Palmer presiding, the case had to be again adjourned indefinitely.

KOPUA No. 1S, SECTION 2B, BLOCK.

The interest of the Crown in this block still stands undefined. The area has to be adjusted, and I understand the same is now being attended to. I may state that the area of block on which I purchased is correct, and therefore the Crown will lose nothing, the area required being 50 acres.

MARAKOPA No. 5 BLOCK.

The interest of the Crown in this block amounts to 178 acres and 28 perches; but, owing to an error in the Court subdivisions of this block being made in the absence of any one representing the Crown, only 133 acres 2 roods 21 perches were awarded to His Majesty.

The matter has since been rectified by an amendment of the order by the Chief Judge, under section 39 of "The Native Land Court Act, 1894."

TAHAROA A BLOCK.

You will remember this block was subdivided by Judge Gilfedder in Kawhia about the 1st February, 1908, without the Crown being represented. The case was set down for hearing at Otorohanga, not Kawhia, with the result that you appealed against the award, as the Crown's interest was cut out in a very bad part of the block. Your appeal came before the Appellate Court at Otorohanga in August last, the Crown being awarded 183 acres 1 rood, to which will have to be added hereafter another 44 acres, but this cannot be done until the orders have been drawn up and matters adjusted. When in Auckland the other day I found that up to the present the Appellate Court has been unable to make any final orders.

RANGITOTO A No. 22 BLOCK.

This block is a very small one, containing 47 acres. The Crown has acquired one interest, representing 11 acres 3 roods. This block was held over at the time the Court sat in October last, with the view of buying out the remaining interests, held by two persons, which represent 35 acres 1 rood; but nothing has been done, as the interests unacquired are held by minors, and the trustees would not sell, and, to make matters worse, both trustees have lately died, so that nothing can be done until new trustees are appointed.

RANGITOTO-TUHUA No. 35I, BLOCK.

To the area already purchased, and vested in His Majesty, another 240 acres will have to be added, which have recently been acquired, which can be done at a future sitting of the Native Land Court in this district.

Before concluding I may state that the Maoris in my district—that is, a large number of them—are still desirous of selling more land to the Crown. I receive letters continuously asking whether it is intended to resume the purchase of Native land or not.

As my services as Land Purchase Officer terminate at the end of next month, I wish to convey to you my sincere thanks for the kindness and courtesy shown me by you and other members of your staff during the term I have worked under you. *Heoi ra tena koutu katoa.*

I have, &c.,

W. H. GRACE,

Native Land Purchase Officer.

Wm. C. Kensington, Esq., Under-Secretary for Lands, Wellington.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (1,500 copies), £2 3s.

By Authority: JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1909.

Price 3d.]

