10. It seems only fair and reasonable that the arrangement of the 6th July, 1896, as recorded in the minutes should be carried out as far as is practical. I therefore recommend that legislation be introduced authorizing the Native Land Court, on the application of the East Coast Commissioner or any person interested, to determine in what manner an arrangement or understanding recorded on the 6th July, 1896, in Gisborne Minute-book, Vol. 25, folio 219, on the definition of the Crown's interest in Mangapoike No. 2 Block and its divisions (whereby certain sections of Native owners of some divisions were to account to the owners of another division in respect of the interests purchased by the Crown in various divisions but awarded for convenience' sake in one portion in the Mangapoike No. 2A 4 Block) can best be carried into effect, according to the equities of the case, and to make order or orders accordingly: Provided that any such order shall not prejudicially affect the Crown, or any person claiming under any valid alienation of any land affected by such arrangement.

R. N. JONES, Chief Judge.

The Hon. Native Minister, Wellington.

Native Land Court, Gisborne, 29th April, 1920.

Mangapoike No. 2 Block.

In accordance with your reference under subsection (1), section 34, of the Native Land Amendment and Native Land Claims Adjustment Act, 1919, I inquired into the petition No. 359 of 1919, of Hemi te Ua and others, and that of Arani Kunaiti and others, with regard to an alleged deficiency in the total area of this block, and to alleged wrong surveys of the internal subdivisional boundaries, and beg to report as follows:—

That the petitioners came before the Court and withdrew the allegations as to the incorrectness of the surveys and boundaries. They alleged, however, that they had a grievance, particulars of which are set out in paragraph 11 of the petition.

It appears that the Crown bought interests amounting to 486 acres 3 roods 14 perches in a number of the subdivisions, and it was arranged on definition of its interests that the shares bought should all be located in the one division—viz., 2A—and understood then that the owners of the other divisions from which shares had been purchased were each to proportionately compensate the owners of 2A for the extra area taken from that division. It is alleged that on the subsequent partition of the block before the Validation Court the matter was not adjusted, and consequently that the owners of 2A are about 378 acres short of their area.

There were no minutes before the Native Land Court of the Validation Court proceedings, and consequently I cannot say if any attempt was made before that Court to adjust the matter. Owners of the divisions other than 2A, however, stated on the inquiry that they were quite prepared to pay for the extra land taken from 2A. As I understood this block is vested in the East Coast Commissioner, I would suggest that the matter be left to him to adjust. I have no doubt he has funds in hand that could be used for the purpose.

JAS. W. BROWNE, Judge.

The Chief Judge, Native Land Court, Wellington.

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