

1924.
NEW ZEALAND.

UREWERA LANDS CONSOLIDATION SCHEME

(REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS AS TO POSITION OF).

Laid on the Table of the House of Representatives by Leave.

Department of Lands and Survey,
District Office, Auckland, 5th June, 1924.

To the Hon. D. H. Guthrie, Minister of Lands, and the Hon. J. G. Coates, Native Minister
Wellington.

SIRS,—

Urewera Lands Consolidation Scheme.

We have the honour to report that, the topographical surveys at Ruatoki referred to in our last report (G.-7, 1923) having been finished, we revisited Ruatoki in October last, and completed matters that had been left in abeyance, adjusting boundary-lines and claims for compensation for abandoned improvements. Following the Chief Judge's decision upon the dividing-line between Parekohe and Whaitiripapa, we were able to dispose of the conflicting Pohue claims, ascertain the ownership, and partition the block.

The decision by the Crown to acquire Oamaru 1c was given effect to, partly by absorption of interests into Urewera lands and partly by cash payments.

The adjourned Ruatahuna meeting was resumed in March and April this year. The legislation passed last session facilitated operations, and we were able to locate all groups except in the case of irreconcilables under the leadership of Pincere Hori and Wharepouri te Amo, who would not submit their claims for our consideration. Some of the people formerly under their influence came into the scheme and had their interests located, and others have been determined by the fixing of the boundaries of adjacent claims. But, despite every inducement and consideration offered and shown by the Commission, the balance of the opposition groups refused to join in the scheme. No reasons were given except that they would prefer the Native Land Court to deal with their claims. We therefore amalgamated their groups and located them in two areas, to include their Tarapounamu and Ruatahuna interests; and one title for both blocks, defining the relative interests, has been prepared, and called Apitihana. The external boundaries of this block, which will include all their houses and cultivations, will be defined by survey, and plans prepared to enable the Native Land Court to subdivide the blocks at a later date.

The groups in this district generally as originally set up were almost entirely abandoned, and a reconsolidation of their interest made to suit their wishes and requirements.

The Maungapohatu and Ohaua series were also revised and amended to provide for the inclusion of interests brought in from the miscellaneous and other groups.

The following lists of names were submitted for any action that may be taken under section 11 of the Native Land Amendment and Native Land Claims Adjustment Act, 1923:

With regard to part of the summit of Maungapohatu Mountain, estimated at about 500 acres, used from ancient times by the Tuhoe Tribe as a burial-place, and regarded by them as sacred:—

Takuaterangi Tutakangahau	Matiore te Parewa	Te Iwiwhiro te Wiremu
Rua Kenana	Tawera Moko	Te Waipatu te Winitana
Te Iwikino Hairuha	Te Kahunui Tupaea	Tane Hauraki
Kamaua te Pou	Paora Rangiaho	Taihakoa Poniwahio
Wiremu Wi	Tupara Kaaho	Taua Rakuraku
Paora Kingi	Taiwera Rawiri	Huræ Puketapu
Te Whetu Parati	Te Amo Kokouri	Eruete Peene
Te Hurinui Apanui	Noho Taratoa	Mika te Tawhao.

For land situated at Ohiro, about 50 acres in Ranga-a-Ruanuku, containing caves used as places of burial :—

Taihakoa Poniwahio	Noho Taratoa	Wari te Whiu
Te Ruahuihui Hami	Morena te Wharetuna	Te Raukaraka Ereata
Matchaere te Waara	Moihi te Reweti	Te Awhena Rcha
Te Pairi Teterangi	Te Wharekiri Paparatu	Tupaea Rapaera
Marata te Hiko	Mere Peura	Hori Hiakita
Ramari Topu	Mika te Tawhao	Maui te Tawhi
Patu Matchaere	Haami Taupo	Moko te Wharetuna
Pita te Tawhi	Te Umu Hukanui	Te Roihi Pakira
Tamehana te Puia	Aknhata te Hiko	Te Arohana te Rewa.

For a reserve of about 400 acres in Kohuru-Tukuroa Block, in which the Natives can catch pigeons :—

Pouwhare te Roau	Hata Waewae	Wiremu Trainor
Rehua te Wao	Pakitu Wharekiri	Tawera Moko
Kohunui Tupaea		

as representatives for their groups.

At a sitting of the Commission at Ruatoki in April last it was stated that a number of the Urewera Natives sold their lands prior to enlisting for the war; those who returned now find themselves landless, and they ask that the Crown give them land so that they may not be a burden on the members of their families. The names given were :—

Paku te Pouwhare	Whinoki te Aare	Mahu Wiremu
Rangitane Mika	Nimi Wi Mutu	Pita Kamureti
Rangiabo Paora	Meihana te Rewa	Tamati Matiu
Piripi Reha	Te Pini Tamehana	Timutimu Tioki
Tangahao Paora	Wikiriwhi te Horohau	Hape Haturini
Te Whitu Turci	Tame te Hare	Karaka Takao
Tame te Whetu	Monu Kahukiwa	Mita Hori
Pa te Amo	Te Tena te Piihi	Wirihana te Pairi
Kawata Tuhoe	Kingi te Whetu	Tawhio te Hare
Rupi Wiremu	Te Hauwaho te Waara	Te Tenei Wi.
Tamaheu Ereata		

This request is submitted for your consideration.

Since our last report the titles to the Waimana and Raroa Blocks have been completed; the necessary surveys of the Hikurangi, Ruatoki, Maungapohatu, and Te Whaiti series are in hand, and will be completed this season; and the survey of the Tarapounamu, Ruatahuna, Waikaremoana, and Ohana groups have been commenced, and we expect will be finished next summer.

The sittings of the Commission are finished, but the Commissioners will have to meet to complete titles when the survey plans are available, and it is anticipated that problems arising out of the Ruatahuna surveys may require attention.

During the work of consolidation the Commission have laid off and made awards for 211 Native blocks, with all necessary succession and trustee orders to bring the titles up to date, and to facilitate operations have purchased ninety-nine interests on behalf of the Crown. The Crown's title cannot be drawn up until the surveys of the Native blocks are completed.

The list of the former owners of Waikaremoana Block, to whom debentures are to be issued in satisfaction of their interests in the block, and the amount to which they are entitled, is now being prepared.

We have, &c.,

R. J. KNIGHT, }
H. CARR, } Urewera Commissioners.

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