

# The Maori Record

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE MAORI PEOPLE.

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## NOTIFICATIONS.

By a misunderstanding the first issue of the Record was numbered "2." The July number was "1." This is number "2" for August.

### TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The price of the MAORI RECORD is 3d. per copy. It will be published monthly, and the annual subscription for the paper, posted to any address, is 3s. 6d., paid in advance.

All letters to the Editor must be addressed to him, Box 9, Post Office, Normanby, Taranaki.

Subscriptions may be forwarded to Mr. R. S. Thompson, at the same address.

We hope also to place the paper on sale at leading booksellers. Support of the paper is earnestly requested. It is not a commercial speculation. No one is getting paid for its production but the printer, and out of an earnest desire to place the grievances, desires, and aspirations of the Maori people before their European fellow-subjects, some Maori ladies have combined to ensure sufficient capital for supplying subscribers for a year without disappointment. The future lies with the public, and depends upon their support. In order to promote the circulation of the RECORD, and thus assist the Native cause, we shall be glad to receive names of subscribers of £1 per annum, to whom six copies monthly of the paper will be posted.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A column will be open to those who have useful suggestions to make in Maori matters. Notes on ancient Maori history, habits, manners and customs will find a place. Communications must be written on one side of the paper only, and be as legible as the writer can make them; typed letters preferred.

### NATIVE TRUSTS.

*"These Trusts ought to be dealt with by a private Bill. If the Natives could see that their reserves were removed from outside interference they would feel that what had taken place in the past would not take place again, namely, that by one Act after another the power of retaining these reserves has been set aside."*—ROLANDSTON.

## Land Tenure for Maoris.

At a time when the total unalienated landed estate of the Maoris has been calculated at 5,000,000 acres, and it is proposed, in the interest of settlement, to bring this area into occupation, making ample provision for an agricultural, pastoral, industrial and resident Maori people, as well as throw open for beneficial European occupation the overplus, it is necessary to enquire what security of tenure has been extended to the Maori on the reserves made for him on his own lands in the past. Compensation Awards, being alienable by consent of the Governor-in-Council, have almost entirely passed into European occupation. Compensation Awards, of which the Crown Grants were not yet issued, were, on the West Coast, merged in the West Coast Settlement Reserves. Compensation awards were awarded to loyal natives whose lands had been confiscated. There has, we believe, been no such investigation of the position of the Compensation Awards on the East Coast, and in Waikato, as was made by Sir Dillon Bell and Sir William Fox, in the early eighties, on the West Coast. Hence we are driven to the latter for object lessons. Of Compensation Awards for what are called absentees, those not present in the wars which led to confiscation, 10,160 acres were gazetted by recommendations of the Commissioners above alluded to as reserves to "satisfy the Government Absentee Awards." We believe these lands have been sold by the Government, and the proceeds added to the land revenue of the colony. A Commission ordered by the House of Representatives in the session of 1903 sat in New Plymouth to enquire in June last as to what had become of the 3000 acres set aside for the Ngatinutunga absentees. The report has not yet been laid before Parliament, but evidence tended to show that the lands had been sold on account of pressure brought to bear by the local governing body. We have a detailed list of sections sold by the Government on the lands set aside for the Taranaki absentees, and we believe that those set apart for Ngatiawa natives have also been so alienated. These two blocks total 5800 acres. (Parliamentary Papers, 1884. A—5B.) An investigation into the fate of the 1,192,000 acres, nominally confiscated on the West Coast, will give us an idea as to what will become of the

only five million acres left to be dealt with in New Zealand should similar lines be followed. And after these are operated upon there are no lands left from which to justify the favourable verdict of the world as to the righteousness of our dealings with the Maori people in respect to their lands. Of the 1,192,000 acres on the West Coast, by recommendation of the Commissioners 201,395 were granted to the people of the tribes, 5289 individually named, by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, for themselves and their children for ever. Of these lands the Public Trustee has in his hands approximately 180,000 acres. Individual reserves and special reserves may make up the discrepancy between his figures and those of the Commissioner's report. Of the 180,000 acres, 128,000 acres have been let to Europeans on a perpetual right of renewal; 20,000 acres have been made subject to licenses to occupy by natives; and 30,000 acres may be alienated at any time if the ruthless work is not stopped. There is a gleam of light in the Premier's Rotorua speech. In making the reserves the Commissioners aimed at fulfilling the statutory requirement of 50 acres per capita. They were not able to do so. Subsequent statutory power given to the Public Trustee disregarded this law, which forbids any alienation of a native's land unless he or she has 50 acres left for maintenance. On an average, on the occupation-license land, the natives have not four acres, and that they are obliged to pay rent for. The security of their tenure even of this lies in the will of the Public Trustee, and we have not one word to say against the individual. To demonstrate the position we have devoted this number of the RECORD. And this is the more necessary on account of the scheme to take away the native freehold and give it to their lessees. The rest of the 1,192,000 being occupied by Europeans, there is no land from which to add to the miserable areas to which the natives have been reduced by the granting to Europeans of perpetual right of renewal of their leases.

## Maori Land Councils.

### OHOTU BLOCK.

It is proposed that if the reserves for native occupation to be made on the five million acres, said to be left of the Maori estate, are not to be administered by the Public Trustee, they shall be operated by the Maori Land Councils. The