

'Hitherto the members of the Cabinet whom we have approached have expressed sympathy but have said that nothing could be done during the period of the war. Now that the war is over we must again press our case and not let the matter rest till we have achieved our end.

### TRANSFER OF LAND TO THE DIOCESE.

I am glad to be able to report that since the last Hui-Topu a considerable number of Church sites have been transferred to the Waiapu Board of Diocesan Trustees. Our Maoris are learning that sites so transferred are not taken from them, but are held in trust for them for all time, and that no property so transferred can be used for any purpose save that for which it was originally given. It secures a continuity that no private trusteeship can secure. I would urge, therefore, that all land given for churches, vicarages, and mission houses should be transferred to the Waiapu Trust Board.

### EDUCATION.

#### 1. Te Aute College.

It will be agreed by all who know something of the inner workings of Te Aute College that the appointment of Mr E. G. Loten as Principal of the College has been fully justified.

We have in Mr Loten a trained organiser, and a good administrator. He is a man who knows his work, knows human nature, and loves the Maori race. He is a disciplinarian, balanced by sound judgment, wide sympathies, and a keen sense of humor. We look with confidence to a great future for the College.

#### The Agricultural Side.

The Trustees have taken over the 600 acres of land at Te Aute, for the agricultural training of the boys. This land was set apart for this purpose.

It is to be remembered that in doing this we are in no way ceasing to deal with the classical side of the boys' training. We encourage promising boys to matriculate and to enter the Civil Service, or the Professions. Indeed we look to Te Aute boys for recruits for the ministry. I want this to be quite clear that Te Aute College can give an education equal to any secondary school in the Dominion. At the same time there are a large number of boys who are not fitted for higher education. It is with these we would deal. After they have been well grounded in general knowledge, it is our purpose to draft them into the agricultural side, and so send them home when their school course is ended lovers of work, and with a good practical knowledge of farming.

#### 2. Hukarere School.

It is not necessary to say much concerning this school. Miss Emily Bulstrode, the head teacher, is now in England on furlough, her place being taken by Miss Hall, who is acting as head in her absence. The school, under her able leadership, maintains its excellent tone and work.

It is not necessary for me to say more. The Inspector's report speaks for itself.

#### 3. Waerenga-a-hika College.

The financial position of the College is in a serious state owing to the great increase in the cost of living. The fees have twice been raised during the last two years, yet in spite of this the overdraft at the bank has now reached over £1000. It may be found necessary to reduce the number of pupils and so reduce the expenditure. This would be a serious step to take, especially in view of the fact of the excellent staff of the College.

I cannot speak too highly of the work done by Mr McGruther, the headmaster, and of Mr Lazaron, assistant master.

#### LAPSING FROM THE FAITH.

I view with great concern a considerable lapsing from the faith on the part of our professing Church people. It means that many who have been baptised and confirmed, and even communicants of our Church, have a very slender grasp of the great truths of Christianity, and cannot stand against the stress of sickness or adversity. This manifests itself frequently in going to a tohunga and this leads to baneful results.

A tohunga may have power or he may not, but whatever power he has, it is the power of the Devil and not the power of God and of His Christ. It means a reverting to heathen superstitions and leads in more cases than some of us are aware of, to demoniacal possession.

I want to make this quite clear—that a man who from lack of faith in Christ visits a tohunga, exposes himself to the inroads of Satan. It often leads to obsession and finally the possession of devils. There are many such cases amongst Maoris who have visited tohungas—cases which correspond identically with those mentioned in Holy Scripture and there described as men "possessed with devils."

Such cases amongst the Maoris are beyond all dispute. They correspond identically with cases known to me in South Africa when men have come under the power of "Witch Doctors." They are common enough in countries where the Cross of Christ has not been preached or where Baptised Christians have reverted to heathen superstitions.

A clear proof to my mind is the fact that by dealing with such cases of demoniacal possession in the power of the names of Jesus of Nazareth, the demons have been cast out.

I want, then, to make myself quite clear on this point. Let me gather it up in a few brief sentences.

The tohunga may have power. Whatever power he has it is the power of Satan.

He is an ally of Satan.

He is the foe of Christ, and "adversary of the Cross of Christ."

To consult with a tohunga is to expose oneself to the inroads of Satan, laying oneself open to disease and "possession," and death.

The cause is the lack of the training of little children in the faith of Christ.

The remedy is in your hands. Gather the little children together at every opportunity. No time is lost time given to teaching Christ's little ones, for it is "not the will of your Heavenly Father that one of these little ones should perish."

I commend then, the care of the little children to your constant attention. The future of the Church of this Province depends upon them. You are responsible for their training. Teach them the great truths of the Gospel of Christ and they will respond. Neglect them and they will imbibe all kinds of error and superstition to their ultimate ruin. Let us take heed that we "despise not one of Christ's little ones."

I commend these thoughts to your earnest consideration to-day, and I pray that God the Holy Spirit may grant us his wisdom and guidance.

### Diocesan Treasurer's Accounts.

St. Hilda's Home.—Anonymous £5, Tolaga Bay £2 3s 7d, Waipukurau £1, Wairoa Sunday School £1 13s, St. John's Cathedral Sunday School £7 18s 4d, Hastings £1, Te Aute College boys £2 15s; total, £21 9s 11d.

Waiapu Maori Mission.—Mrs H. E. Jones £10, Tauranga £9 4s 4d, Wairoa £3 13s 10d, Gisborne Ladies' Guild £5, Clive offertory £2 2s, St. Augustine's Sunday School £5, Dannevirke (gift from Pastor Ries) £4; total, £39 0s 2d.

Provincial Board of Missions.—Otane £4 7s 3d, Havelock North £66 15s 6d, per Miss Davis (Tokomaru) for Miss Smith's Indian Famine Relief Fund £1 14s, Rotorua Ladies' Guild £16 10s, Rotorua boxes £4 5s 9d, Waipukurau £1, Hastings £18 3s 7d; total, £113 1s 1d.

Melanesian Mission.—Subscriptions (per W. T. Williams) £125 4s 6d, Puketapu (W. Shrimpton) £5, G. Bea-muket £3 3s, H. Shield 16s 6d, G. Moore £1, F. Hutchinson £1, Miss