

Petition of Hiraka Te Aroatua and Others, Complaining of The Sale of Certain Lands in the Province of Hawke's Bay. Ordered by the Legislative Council to be Printed, 24th OCTOBER, 1871. By Authority: George Didsbury, Government Printer, Wellington. 1871.

Waipukurau, Akuhata 29, 1871.

Ki a HENARE RATA,—

E hoa, tenei ta matou pukupuka mau e mau atu ki te Runanga o te Kawanatanga kua hui mai nei ki te Paremete o Poneke.

E hoa ma e te Runanga Nui, tenei ano te mate nui o matou o nga tangata Maori o konei, ka whakaatutia ano e matou ki a koutou ma koutou e titiro iho, notemea he mate nui rawa tenei mate no te Maori, ka maha nga tau e tohe ana ki te Kawanatanga o Nepia, kihai kia whakaaetia mai.

Ko taua whenua no mua i hokona e Hori Nia te Aroatua, i hokona atu ki Poneke, no to matou rongonga kua hokona e Hori a te Umuopua, ka whakahe matou nga mea i noho i te kainga nei.

No te taenga mai o Te Makarini ki te hoko i Porangahau, ka tonoa e matou kia wahia taua whenua i hokona e Hori i Poneke; ka whakaaetia e to Makarini taua tono a matou i Porangahau

I muri iho ka tonoa mai e Te Makarini te kai ruri a Pirihe hei wahi mo taua whenua mo te Umuopua. Ka haere matou ko te kai-ruri ko Pirihe ki te wahi i taua whenua i tonoa ai e matou ki a ai ki a Te Makarini i Porangahau ka wahia taua whenua. Ko te taha ki te Umuopua hei ritenga mo te moni a Hori Nia Te Aroatua i tango ai i Poneke, ko te taha ki Whenuahou ki nga Maori i marama tonu te whakaotinga a te Makarini, kihai i wahia pouritia a te Umuopua hei ritenga mo te moni i tangohia e Hori Niania, kihai i pouri te wehenga i Whenuahou ki nga Maori.

I muri iho i taua wehenga a Te Makarini i te Umuopua ki te pakeha ko Whenuahou ki nga Maori, katahi matou ka tono ki te Kawanatanga o Nepia kia whakaputaia mai e Te Onetini nga moni o te reti o taua whenua i wehea mai mo nga Maori.

Ko nga hipi hoki a Te Onetini e noho ana i runga i taua whenua kai ai i nga tarutaru, ka whakaaetia e Te Makarini ta matou tono ki te moni, ka homai ki a matou te moni o nga tarutaru, e £24l. Ka rua a matou tononga ki te Kawanatanga, me te whakaaetia mai ano e Te Makarini, ko te tono mo te whenua i mua, muri iho ko te tono ki te moni whakaaetia anake e te Kawanatanga o Nepia a matou tononga atu ki a ia, kaore i whakaae pouritia mai a matou tononga atu ki te whenua ki te moni e te Kawanatanga, i mohio tonu atu matou i tonu marama tonu atu matou nga Maori, i whakaae marama tonu mai te Kawanatanga. Kei muri iho i enei tononga a matou ka rua nei katahi ka tohe atu matou ki te Kawanatanga o Nepia ki te Kooti Whenua hoki kia whakatuturutia taua whenua a Whenuahou ki a matou ki nga Maori. Katahi ka kiia mai e taua Kawanatanga, kaore e marama kua riro tena whenua a Whenuahou i to hoko a Hori i Poneke. Ka kiia atu e matou, e tika ana kua whakaritea e matou te hoko a Hori Te Aroatua ki te taha ki te Umuopua. Ko to taha ki Whenuahou mo te Maori kua tukua mai e Te Makarini a Pirihe ki te ruri, wehea ana ko te Umuopua mo te moni a Hori, ko Whenuahou mo te Maori, ana kei nga tari e takoto ana te mapi a Pirihe kei Nepia e takoto ana. Katahi ka kimihia te mapi a Pirihe e te Kawanatanga o Nepia ka kitea i te tari e takoto ana, ka kiia mai e taua Kawanatanga e tika ana te mapi o Pirihe te kai whakahe, he kore ritenga i kiia ki te pukapuka mo te Maori taua whenua a Whenuahou.

No enei tikanga a taua Kawanatanga o Nepia, katahi ka mahara ake matou ki nga mahara a taua Kawanatanga kia mohio rawa ratou ki te ritenga a te Maori ki te makutu, ina hoki na taua Kawanatanga ano i ata tono mai a Pirihe ki te wehe i taua whenua ko te Umuopua hei te Pakeha, ko Whenuahou mo te Maori, tonoa atu ana e matou te moni mo to reti o taua wahi i wehea mai mo te Maori, mo Whenuahou, i marama tonu te tononga atu me te homaitanga i te moni i marama tonu. Ne te kinga atu kia whakatuturutia te whenua ki a matou ki nga Maori, katahi nei ano ka makututia mai matou e te Kawanatanga, ka mate matou te patu, mawai ratou te Maori e whakaora i tenei mate kohuru. Kotahi tonu te tangata nana i hoko atu i Poneke tenei whenua, e whakaatu ana tenei i nga mea, i toe mai kei runga kei taua whenua e noho ana, i te wehenga mai i taua whenua mo te Maori,
Ko Hiraka te Aroatua,
Ko Nikora Kahungunu,
Ko Paranihia te ara,
Ko Te Katene Aturangi,

me etahi atu. He nui noa atu nga tangata e tata ana ki tenei kainga ki Whenuahou.

[TRANSLATION.]

Waipukurau, 29th August, 1871.

TO HENRY RUSSELL,—

Friend, we request you to take this our letter to the Council of the Government now assembled a Parliament at Wellington.

Friend, the Members of the General Assembly. We proceed to inform you of a great grievance under which we the Maoris of this place are suffering.

This is indeed a great grievance, and the Maoris have for many years been urging the Government of Hawke's Bay relative to it, but without avail.

That land [not before referred to] was sold long ago by Hori Nia Te Aroatua at Wellington. When we heard that Hori had sold Te Umuopua, we the persons who remained at home protested against it.

When Mr. McLean came to purchase Porangahau, we asked that the land sold by Hori at Wellington might be divided, and Mr. McLean consented to that application of ours at Porangahau.

After this, Mr. McLean sent a surveyor named Pirihe (Pelichet) to divide that land, Te Umuopua.

We accompanied the said Pirihe, surveyor, when he went to divide the land asked for by us from Mr. McLean at Porangahau; and the land was divided accordingly—the Umuopua portion being allowed in consideration of the money received by Hori Nia Te Aroatua in Wellington, and the Whenuahou portion being for the Maoris. The settlement made by Mr. McLean was very clear, there was no concealment about the portion, Umuopua being allowed in consideration of the money received by Hori Nia, or of the portion Whenuahou being cut off for the Maoris.

After that division by Mr. McLean, Umuopua for the Europeans, and Whenuahou for the Maoris we asked the Government of Hawke's Bay to demand from Mr. Johnston rent for the land which had been divided off for the Maoris, Johnston's sheep being on that land eating the herbage, Mr. McLean agreed to our demand, and paid us grass money to the amount of £241.

We made two applications to the Government, which were acceded to by Mr. McLean: First, for the land; second, for the money. Both these requests were complied with by the Government of Hawke's Bay.

The Government did not give an unwilling assent to our demands for the land and the money. The application by the Maoris was straightforward, and it was acceded to clearly. Subsequently to the two applications above referred to, we applied to the Government of Hawke's Bay and to the Native Land Court for a proper title of that land, Te Whenuahou, to be vested in the Maoris. The said Government then replied, "It is not clear: that land, Whenuahou, was sold by Hori at Wellington." We said, "That is correct; but we arranged that Hori's sale should be the Umuopua portion, and that the Whenuahou portion should be for the Maoris. Mr. McLean sent Pirihe to survey it, and Te Umuopua was cut off in consideration of the money received by Hori; Whenuahou being cut off for the Maoris. The plans of Pirihe survey are in the offices at Napier."

The Government of Hawke's Bay then searched for Pirihe's plan. It was found in the office. The Government said Pirihe's plan was correct, but there is no record about Whenuahou being for the Maoris.

On account of these proceedings of the Government of Hawke's Bay, we began to think that they were having recourse to the system of bewitching practised by the Maoris, seeing that the said Government sent Pirihe to divide that land—Umuopua for the Europeans, and Whenuahou for the Maoris—and that we asked for the rent of the said land, and a portion was paid to the Maoris in respect of Whenuahou. Our application, and the mode of payment of the money, were perfectly clear. When, however, we asked for a proper title for the land, the Government bewitched us, and we have been slain. Who is to save us, the Maoris, from this death by murder? Only one man sold the land in Wellington, and these are the people living upon that land when it was divided off for the Maoris; namely,

Hiraka te Aroatua,
Nikora Kahungungu,
Paranihia Te Ara,
Te Katene Aturangi,

and others. There are numbers of persons interested in this place Whenuahou.