

1873. Legislative Council. Petition Relative to the Timber Floating Bill.

(Presented by the Honourable Mr. NGATATA.)

Ordered by the Honourable the Legislative Council to be printed, 5th September, 1873.

To the Honourable the Speaker of the Legislative Council of New Zealand.

FRIEND, accept our greeting. We send you these remarks relative to the rules in the Floatage of Timber Bill. We have nothing to say regarding those streams which have been sold to pakehas, as they have the entire control over their own properties, but do not permit the pakeha to wrest from us the control of the streams in our own possession.

It has been distinctly understood by the entire population of this island, that the Queen entered into a most solemn compact, at her Treaty of Waitangi, by the Proclamation that the rights and titles of lands, forests, streams and fishing grounds would thereby be permanently secured to the Maori people, and that the Queen would protect them for us and for our future descendants. This was Her law for New Zealand, so that our rights should not be. extinguished by the different nations inhabiting this globe.

We have, in consequence (of this treaty) written down these remarks; because, if this Bill be passed, rules will be imposed upon us which will annihilate our privileges granted to us by the Queen in the above-mentioned treaty.

Of course it is not possible to collect all the evils of this Bill into an ordinary letter like this, and therefore we leave you to carefully consider the evil consequences of water-dams, logs of timber grounding upon our cultivations or levelling our fences; the workmen trampling down our crops; the breaking of our weirs, or perhaps the sending of our eel-baskets adrift. Of course you are aware of these being our means of subsistence.

We do therefore beseech you to diligently look over these remarks which we have made.

From RENATA KAWEPO, and 16 others.

Ki te Tumuaki o te Runanga Kaumatua.

E HOA tena koe.

He kupu atu tenei na matou mo nga tikanga o te pire whakarewa rakau ekore maton e whai korero mo nga awa kua hokoa, ki te pakeha ki a ia ano te mana o tona wahi engari kaua rawa e whaka ae ma te pakeha e tango i te mana o nga awa ia matou.

Kua tino rongo hoki te motu katoa nei, I whakaoatitia e te Kuini i tana Tiriti ki Waitangi i te whakapuakanga ka pumau tonu te mana o nga tangata Maori ki o ratou whenua me nga Ngahere here me nga awa me nga tauranga ika a ka tiakina e te Kuini mo matou me o matou uri i muri ake i a matou ko tana Ture tenei mo Nuitireni ki a kore ai e whakangaromia to matou mana e nga iwi ke e noho nei i te ao.

Koia matou i tuhi tuhi atu ai i enei kupu no te mea ka puta taua pire ka eke mai he tikanga whakakore i to matou mana i tukua mai e te Kuini i taua Tiriti e kore hoki tae nga kino katoa o tenei pire te a miki ki ki te pukapuka penei awa iho engari ma koutou e ata Whakaaro i nga putanga mate a nga Whakapuni Wai o nga poro rakau e eke ana ki o matou maara e Turaki ana i o matou Taiepa nga takahanga waewae ranei a nga kai mahi i o matou kai, te pakarutanga o a matou pa ika me te rironga ranei o a matou hinaki Tuna he oranga nei hoki tenei no matou

Koia matou ka inoi ki a koe mau e a ta titiro mai ki a matou kupu e whakaatu atu nei.

NA RENATA KAWEPO, and 16 others.