

1875. Legislative Council. Petition of Wi Tuku and 141 others. *Presented to the Legislative Council by the Honorable G. R. Johnson, on the 18th August, 1875.*

## **TO THE CHIEFS OF THE PARLIAMENT AT WELLINGTON ASSEMBLED.**

East Coast, 22nd June, 1875.

FRIENDS, SALUTATIONS TO YOU,—

This is a petition from us, the Native Chiefs whose names are subscribed to this paper, praying for the repeal of one of the sections of "The Native Land Act, 1874."

The section we ask to be repealed requires that if we dispose of our lands by lease, or by sale, we must appear before a Resident Magistrate to execute those leases.

Now that law is all very well for some districts where the Magistrates are residing near to Native settlements. The evil of this place is that the Magistrates live at so great a distance; we are unable to leave our settlements, and our wives and children, to go to distant parts; then again, the roads are bad; there are floods and other obstacles in the way.

Here is another thing to say; it appears to us there is no such law applied to our European friends, our fellow-subjects of the Queen.

This law applies to us only.

Friends, you must sympathize with this our petition. We are very much troubled, and are weary with this section of that Act.

WI TUKU,

And 141 others.

## **KI NGA RANGATIRA O TE PARAMETI KEI PONEKE E NOHO HUIHUI ANA.**

Te tai Rawhiti, Hune 22, 1875.

E HOA MA, TENA KOUTOU,—

He petihana tenei na matou no nga Rangatira Maori, e mau nei a matou ingoa ki tenei pukapuka. E inoi atu tenei kia whakarerea tetahi tekiona o te ture mo nga "Whenua Maori, 1874."

Ko te tekiona e mea ana matou kia whakarerea atu, koiane:—

"Ki te tuku atu a matou whenua, hei reti, ki te hoko ranei, me haere rawa matou ki te aroaro o tetahi tino kai whakawa, hei reira tuhituhi ai a matou ingoa ki nga Riiti."

Na, e pai ana taua ture mo etahi atu takiwa e noho tata ana nga Kaiwhakawa ki nga kainga Maori. Ko te he o konei he pa mamaotanga o nga kainga o nga Kaiwhakawa, e kore ai matou e ahei ki te whakarere atu a matou kainga, me a matou wahine, tamariki hoki, ki te haere atu ki nga kainga pa mamao atu. He kino hoki tetahi no nga ara, he waipuke, he aha atu.

Ko tetahi kupu hoki tenei, ki ta matou titiro, kaore rawa penei te ture mo nga hoa pakeha o to tatou Kuini, mo matou anake tenei ture.

E hoa ma! Me aroha mai koutou ki tenei pitihana a matou. He nui rawa ta matou arruraru, me ta matou hoha ki tenei tekiona o taua ture.

WI TUKU,

And 141 others.