



NEW ZEALAND  
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE  
(PROVINCE OF NELSON).

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By His Honour's command,

ALFRED DOMETT, Provincial Secretary.

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No. 5.

Provincial Secretary's Office,  
Nelson, February 4, 1858.

**H**IS Honour the Superintendent directs the publication of the following Report, with its inclosures, for general information.

By his Honour's command,  
ALFRED DOMETT,  
Provincial Secretary.

MR. COMMISSIONER McLEAN'S FINAL REPORT ON THE PURCHASE OF NATIVE LANDS IN THE PROVINCE OF NELSON.

To the Honourable the COLONIAL SECRETARY, &c., &c., &c., Auckland.

Land Commissioner's Office,  
Auckland, April 7, 1856.

SIR—I have the satisfaction to report to you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the negotiations entered into—previous to Sir George Grey's departure in 1853—with the Ngatitōa tribe, for the cession of their unextinguished claims over the Nelson and Canterbury Provinces, have at length been brought to a favourable termination.

2. In order that his Excellency may be enabled more easily to form a general view of the whole of the transaction, I may here advert briefly to some of the earlier circumstances connected with the purchase.

3. After repeated meetings and discussions with the Ngatitōa and Ngatitama tribes, who at first intended only to cede a portion of their less valuable land on the West Coast; a deed of sale was executed by them at Wellington, on the tenth of August, 1853—by which they agreed, subject to certain reservations, to relinquish in favour of the Crown, for a sum of five thousand pounds (£5,000), the whole of their claims upon the Middle Island.

4. These reservations consisted of the cultivations and lands required for the subsistence of the natives resident in the district; it being always distinctly understood that Rangitoto, or D'Urville's Island, was excepted from the sale.

5. A first portion of the purchase money, amounting to two thousand pounds (£2,000), was paid at the time of the execution of the deed; the balance of three thousand pounds (£3,000), remained to be discharged in six (6) annual instalments of five hundred pounds (£500) each.

6. In addition to the cash consideration payable to the Natives, which, from the smallness of the sum, they evinced some reluctance to accept; it was further agreed by Sir George Grey that fifteen (15) of the principal chiefs should have scrips awarded to them, representing fifty pounds (£50) each; which should be

available in the purchase of Crown Lands in any part of New Zealand.

7. Twenty-six (26) of the native claimants were also to have two hundred (200) acres each out of the land thus ceded by them, in such places as the Governor might set apart for this purpose; and at such times as the land might be required for their use.

8. The natives have not, as yet, evinced any desire to select this land, which they regard more as a provision for their future wants, than as needed for intermediate occupation. They have, however, applied some of the scrips, before alluded to, in the purchase of land in the Wellington and Nelson Provinces.

9. The above statement embraces the whole of the more important arrangements concluded with the natives, previous to Sir George Grey's departure; it being then fully contemplated, both by his Excellency and by myself, that the further details of this purchase would have been brought to a much earlier termination; but circumstances, which could be neither foreseen nor obviated, have hitherto interfered to prevent this.

10. The conflicting claims of different tribes, residing on both shores of Cook's Strait, to the unpurchased lands in the Nelson Province, occasioned considerable difficulty. For instance, the Ngatitooa tribe of Porirua (with whom the first treaty was concluded) had unquestionably, as the earliest invaders, a prior right to the disposal of the district. This they never had relinquished; although, after the conquest, their leading chiefs partitioned out to the subordinate branches of their own tribe, as well as to the Ngatiawa, a few of whom took part with them in the conquest, the lands which these now occupy in the Nelson Province.

11. The latter parties did not assume to themselves a power of sale, except over the lands they actually occupied; yet some of them, when not confronted by the leading Ngatitooa chiefs, professed to have independent and exclusive rights, while the majority, and even the parties making such assertions, when closely examined, always acknowledged that the general right of alienation vested in the Ngatitooa Chiefs of the Northern Island. In fact, their relative rights through intermarriage, the declining influence of the chiefs, and other causes, had become so entangled, that, without the concurrence both of these occupants and of the remnants of the conquered Rangitane and Ngaitahu tribes, no valid title could have been secured.

12. To arrange, therefore, with the various claimants, as opportunity might offer, was the next duty to be attended to. Accordingly, a section of the Ngatiawa, who had taken part

in the invasion, but had returned to their possessions at Waikanae, Taranaki, and other places in the North Island (intending to migrate from one island to the other as their inclinations led them), were paid a sum of nine hundred pounds (£900) for the extinction of their title, on the dates and in the proportions specified as under:—

March 2, 1854, for Wairau and Arapaoa, £200.

March 10, 1854, title of Taranaki Natives, £500.

November 24, 1854, for Te Awaiti, £200.

13. In November, of the year 1854, Mr. Brunner, the Government Surveyor, and Mr. Jenkins, the Interpreter at Nelson, were despatched to mark off the boundaries of such reserves as would be required for the resident natives. These officers did their utmost to perform this service; but, owing to the jealousy on the part of some of the natives to the Ngatitooa sale, they were unable (except in a few instances) to effect any permanent adjustment of the reserves and boundaries. The reports of these officers are herewith enclosed.

14. In December of the same year, a large concourse of natives, from different parts of the Nelson Province, were assembled, on one of their periodical visits, at Porirua, to hold a tangi or lamentation over some of their relatives recently deceased. At this meeting there were present so many influential representatives of the various tribes, that it afforded a favourable opportunity for discussing the merits of their respective claims.

15. These meetings resulted in an unanimous desire, on the part of the assembled tribes, to have the second instalment (then due) paid to them at Porirua, instead of at Nelson, as originally intended; and in order that the whole of them might participate in it (which they could not do if one instalment only of five hundred pounds (£500) were paid), they requested that four (4) years' instalments should be handed over to them at once, urging as a reason that some of their chiefs had recently died of the measles epidemic, while two of them who had taken a prominent part in the conquest, though still alive, were in a precarious state of health, and that it was their unanimous desire that this payment should take place in their presence.

16. To this deviation from the original terms I had some difficulty in assenting; however politic it might otherwise have been, in consequence of the understanding that the second payment should be made at Nelson; but the natives from that province were themselves the most urgent in requesting me to forego this intention. My reasons for acceding finally

to their desire have been fully reported in my letter to you of the fifteenth (15) December, 1854, and in one of the same date addressed to Major Richmond, copies of which are herewith enclosed.

17. I should here add, that the two old chiefs who participated in this payment, and who have since both died, expressly charged their surviving relatives to use their utmost influence in assisting the Government to settle this question, and this duty, as a parting request of these chiefs, they have most assiduously and faithfully performed.

18. The instalments now paid, together with one hundred pounds (£100) to one of the Ngatiawa chiefs, at Gore Harbour, completed the sum of five thousand pounds (£5,000) stipulated for in the original Ngatitua deed of sale. As there remained, however, unsettled claims of various resident tribes, I applied for and obtained a further advance of two thousand pounds (£2,000) to complete the purchase.

19. Owing to repeated and most unexpected interruptions, arising from my being obliged to go to Wairarapa and Hawke Bay; thence by the east coast to Auckland, and twice (owing to disturbances there) to Taranaki; disappointed, moreover, in not being able to get the natives of the North Island, from illness, attention to their crops, or other causes, to accompany me; I was unable to pay that attention to the claims of the residents in the Nelson Province, which it was my earnest desire to have done, with a view to the speedier settlement of a most important question, which had been already so long pending, and which the natives, though their patience must have been greatly exhausted by these delays, declined to settle with any other officer except the one who commenced the negotiations.

20. On the thirtieth (30) October, 1855, I was instructed by his Excellency Colonel Gore Browne to accompany him from Taranaki to Nelson, where an opportunity was afforded, from the number of natives assembled there, to effect an arrangement with the Ngatirarua and Ngatitama for their claims, for a sum of six hundred pounds (£600), the receipt of which is acknowledged in the deed executed by them on the tenth (10) and thirteenth (13) of November, 1855.

21. This deed provides that the land exhibited on the plan thereto attached shall be reserved for the natives; it is, together with what they elsewhere possess, of sufficient extent for their present and future requirements even if they have a considerable increase of cattle and horses; it is situated within natural boundaries, requiring no outlay for surveys, and lies on a part of the West Coast, as yet

remote from European settlers, but which the natives were particularly anxious to retain. A Government right of road, should it in future be required, is provided for by a clause to that effect inserted in the deed.

22. In proceeding by the Zingari from Nelson to Wellington, with his Excellency the Governor, on the thirteenth (13) November, 1855, a survey party and interpreter were taken on board, and landed on the way in Queen Charlotte Sound, with instructions to lay off the necessary reserves in that part of the Nelson Province. This duty they were enabled to perform without much opposition on the part of the Maories, and by the fifteenth (15) January in this year the reserves were marked off.

23. On the twenty-fourth (24) of that month I crossed the Straits from Wellington to Cloudy Bay, in a small vessel; taking along with me the Ngatitua chiefs Rawiri Puaha, Hohepa Tamaihengia, and others, and was followed by Matene te Whiwhi and Tamihana te Rauparaha in the course of a few days.

24. The left bank of the Wairau river being the southern boundary of the purchase, I held a meeting with the natives of that place, in number about one hundred and twenty (120). They fully assented to the sale, having participated, except a small party of the Rangitane, in the first and second payments made at Porirua.

25. To the Rangitane one hundred pounds (£100) was now paid in full satisfaction of all their claims.

26. The reserves laid off at the Wairau consist of seven hundred and seventy (770) acres on the left bank of that river; a small bay, named White's Bay; and about two hundred (200) acres adjacent thereto; and two (2) sections, of fifty (50) acres each, to the chiefs Wiremu Nera te Kanae and te Tana Pukekohatu. The latter section has been marked out; but the former, in consequence of the absence of Te Kanae, though its general position was defined, had not been surveyed. For these two sections I beg to recommend that individual Crown Grants should be issued to the above-named chiefs.

27. From the Wairau I sailed for Tory Channel and Queen Charlotte's Sound; a portion of the country inhabited chiefly by the Ngatiawa. The people had assembled at Waikawa to meet me; when, after several debates, which lasted for some days, I was enabled to effect a final settlement of their claims for a sum of five hundred pounds (£500), the receipt of which is acknowledged in the deed signed by them on the ninth (9) February, 1856.

28. The unsettled state of the Ngatiawa tribe, and the disposition manifested by them

to return to their former possessions at Taranaki (when their presence could only increase the troubles that already beset the question in that province), rendered the present negotiation with them one of no small delicacy and difficulty, which might, if in any way mismanaged, affect the general tranquillity of the country. I was induced, therefore, to assign to reserves of considerable extent being assigned to them in the various bays they were then inhabiting, with which they appeared to be fully satisfied. A plan, exhibiting these reserves, is herewith furnished for his Excellency's information.

29. To this part of the country, from its past associations, the natives attach great importance, as the scene of many hard-fought battles and of final conquest: the great resort, moreover, in former years, of whale ships from different parts of the world, with whom they carried on a lucrative trade. They could also, at all seasons of the year, resort to its well-sheltered bays and harbours for supplies of fish.

30. As expressive of the national interest felt by them for the place, one of the principal chiefs, Ropoama Te One, the last of several who had spoken, in a most emphatic harangue, in which he alluded to these various circumstances, struck into the ground at my feet a greenstone adze, saying, in their usual style of metaphor, "Now that we have for ever launched this land into the sea, we hereby make over to you, as a lasting evidence of its surrender, this adze, named Paiwhenua, which we have always highly prized from having regained it in battle, after it was used by our enemies to kill two of our most celebrated chiefs, Te Pehi and Pokaitara. Money vanishes and disappears, but this greenstone will endure, as durable a witness of our act, as the land itself, which we have now, under the shining sun of this day, transferred to you for ever." I allude to this incident that it may, if necessary, be referred to hereafter as an evidence of the importance attached by this tribe to the treaty now concluded, and a striking circumstance likely to be long remembered by them.

31. From Queen Charlotte Sound I crossed by the Anakiwa Pass to the Kaituna and Pelorus valleys. At the Kaituna, the extent of reserve which I deemed necessary for the Ngatikaia tribe residing there, was three hundred (300) acres. Out of this extent I have to recommend that an individual crown grant be issued to the chief Hura Kopapa. The position of the reserve has been pointed out in the presence of the natives interested, but I had not then time to have it surveyed.

32. In addition to this reserve, a landing-place for canoes, at a place called Pareuka, was

requested by Kopapa; its extent, as pointed out to me, will not exceed ten (10) acres. A very long pa, occupied by this tribe at a place called Motueka, is likely to be the only site available in that locality for a township. If it should really be required for this purpose, the natives agree to relinquish it; if not, then I would certainly recommend that it be reserved for them. Should a town be laid out there, I would submit that Huea and Manihere ought to receive, by way of compensation, four (4) of the town sections of fair average value. I trust that his Excellency will be pleased to sanction this proposal.

33. From Kaituna the next visit was paid to the Hoiere, or Pelorus river, to fix the reserves and cultivations for the natives residing there. When these had been decided on, as shown in the plan herewith furnished, the Ngatikain, formerly the owners of the beautiful and fertile valleys of the Hoere and Kaituna, now reduced in number to about fifty (50) souls, were paid one hundred pounds (£100) in extinction of their title, with which sum they appeared well satisfied, it being the first time, since the conquest, that their claims had in any way been recognized.

34. I next proceeded to the Croixelles harbour, but I found that the chief of that place had preceded me to Nelson; where I afterwards decided the reserves to be allotted to himself and his people, the Ngatikoata, and paid them a sum of one hundred pounds (£100) for all their claims.

35. Before going to Nelson I called at Wakapuaka, where a section of the Ngatitama live. These declined to give up any portion of the land held by them at that place; as they considered it not more than sufficient for their own subsistence: they object also to its being sold, without their consent, by their relations in the North Island; and as the land they hold is not of much greater extent than they would really require as a revenue, I did not deem it prudent at present to urge a settlement of this particular question upon them.

36. The only tribe having claims upon this purchase, whom it was impossible for me to visit, are a small remnant of the Ngaitaha, about twenty-five (25) in number, residing at Arahura, on the West Coast, a remote, and, as yet, almost inaccessible part of the country. From a settlement of their claim I do not apprehend any difficulty; but, as a matter of justice, if the district is occupied by Europeans, a revenue of three hundred (300) or four hundred (400) acres should be secured to them; together with a small amount of compensation for their claims.

37. In conducting this purchase through its several stages, involving the interests of so many different and differently disposed tribes;

and altogether the most complicated, as it was also the last, in the Middle Island; I found the limited time at my disposal so fully occupied with the necessary "koreros" or debates attending it, that I was unable to see some of the surveys completed to my satisfaction. I would gladly have done this myself, in order to prevent any possible questions being raised hereafter about the boundaries. These details, however, can be easily arranged by the Government Surveyor, under the direction of Major Richmond, in whom the natives place implicit confidence; and to whom, besides the memoranda already furnished, I shall communicate additional information respecting these surveys.

38. In the meantime, even these unfinished details are so fully understood by the natives, that I am not aware that there can be any objection to the land being now handed over to the Crown Commissioner, preparatory to its being disposed of in the usual manner.

39. In a separate communication, I shall hereafter detail the steps taken by Major Richmond and myself, to adjust some disputed rights to land comprised within the limits of Mr. Commissioner Spain's award.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) DONALD M'LEAN,  
Chief Commissioner.

[Enclosures referred to].

Land Commissioner's Office,  
Wellington, 15th December, 1857.

SIR—In reference to the arrangement concluded with the Ngatitōa natives previous to the departure of his Excellency Sir G. Grey in August, 1853, by which they undertook to dispose of their claims by right of conquest, and to settle those of other tribes living on the spot, to the whole of the districts in the northern and western portions of the Middle Island, in consideration of the sum of five thousand pounds (£5,000), of which two thousand (£2,000) was paid at the time, and the balance of three thousand pounds (£3,000) was to be paid in six (6) annual instalments of five hundred pounds (£500) each; and on which arrangement I reported fully to the Civil Secretary at the time:

I have now the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, that the principal chiefs of the Ngatitōa tribe residing on the southern shore of Cook's Strait, having crossed over to this side, and Taiaroa, the chief of the aboriginal tribes in the Middle Island, together with several chiefs of other tribes inhabiting the Nelson province, being in Wellington, I took advantage of the opportunity afforded by the presence of so many of the parties interested, to call a meeting at Porirua (the principal residence of the Ngatitōa in this

neighbourhood), for the purpose of discussing the whole question.

The chiefs were exceedingly anxious that a final settlement of all their claims in the Middle Island should take place at once; urging as a principal reason, that so many of their leading chiefs had died since the conclusion of the first arrangement, and those who survive had become so weak from recent illness, that their existence for any length of time could not be depended upon; and further, that a sum so small as five hundred pounds (£500) being divided once a year among such a number of claimants, afforded so trifling an amount to each, that there was every probability of the natives becoming dissatisfied with their bargain before its conclusion; when difficulties, hitherto unforeseen, might be thrown in the way of the settlement of the district.

Taking these reasons into consideration, as well as the fact that so good an opportunity of discussing the question in the presence of the principal chiefs of so many different tribes (including those of the conquerors, as well as those of the remnants of the conquered and original possessors of the soil), might not again occur. Considering the great influence possessed by Te Rangihaeata and the other Ngatitōa chiefs, not only over their own followers, but extending to the other tribes inhabiting the Middle Island; looking to the great advantage to be derived from the immediate acquisition of this land for settlement; and having received the assurances of the chiefs that they would accompany me as soon as my duties in this province would permit of my crossing to the Middle Island, for the purpose of using their influence in settling with the natives of their own and other tribes resident there, and that, as soon as proper and sufficient reserves were marked out for their use, they would give up peaceable possession of the country, I deemed it advisable to accede to their wishes, and accordingly paid them, on the 13th instant, the sum of two thousand pounds (£2,000), taking a receipt from them for the amount, a translation of which, as well as of the original deed of August, 1853, I do myself the honour to enclose herewith.

This sum, and that paid last year, amount together to four thousand pounds (£4,000), leaving one thousand pounds (£1,000) of the sum originally agreed upon. Of this one thousand pounds (£1,000), however, I have already paid seven hundred pounds (£700) to the Ngatiawa tribe in Taranaki for their claims, so that three hundred pounds (£300) only remain unappropriated. This sum, I feel it my duty to report, will not be sufficient to extinguish the remaining claims of the natives resident upon the territory now ceded, which is the most populous portion of the Middle Island, and the area of which may be estimated

at about eight millions (8,000,000) of acres. As soon, however, as I shall have had an opportunity of visiting the spot, and discussing the question with the resident natives, I will lose no time in making, for his Excellency's consideration, a report of the amount for which this extensive and valuable district can be finally purchased; the cost, under any circumstances, is not likely to amount to the rate of one farthing per acre.

I have been engaged during the greater part of the present and past weeks in discussing fully the claims of the different tribes, and other questions affecting this transaction, and I have much pleasure in stating that the division of the two thousand pounds (£2,000) was effected with the most perfect fairness, and gave general satisfaction to the parties concerned; a sum of two hundred pounds (£200) being paid to Te Rangihaeata as the principal conqueror of the country and leading chief of the tribe; the remainder of the money being paid to the other chiefs in amounts corresponding to their interest, and the number of their relatives and followers.

His Excellency will be glad to learn that the aged chief Te Rangihaeata, who has always been a determined opponent to the sale of any land, took a prominent part in this discussion, exerting all his influence in inducing his followers to bring the negotiation to a satisfactory conclusion, and in restraining the exorbitant demands of some of the chiefs. He came forward without hesitation, and affixed his name to the deed of sale, being the first time within my knowledge that Te Rangihaeata has voluntarily done so.

I venture to hope that the course which I have adopted on this occasion may meet with his Excellency's approval, as it has finally settled all questions between the Government and the Ngaitoa tribe as regards an extensive and valuable tract of land, rich in coal, copper, and other minerals, and will, through their influence, materially facilitate the negotiations with the other tribes possessing claims there.

I have the honour to enclose, for his Excellency's information, the copy of a letter which I have addressed to the Commissioner of Crown lands at Nelson in reference to this subject.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) DONALD M'LEAN,  
Land Commissioner.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary,  
Auckland.

Land Commissioner's Office,  
Wellington, December 15, 1854.

SIR—I have the honour to inform you that I have taken advantage of the arrival here and at Porirua of the principal chiefs from the Middle Island, including Wiremu te Kanae and his followers from Wairau; Taiaroa, the

principal aboriginal chief of the island; Pukekohatu, and several others; to effect a final arrangement with them, as well as with all the chiefs on this island, for their several claims to the Middle Island, for which the first instalment was paid before Sir George Grey left here in August, 1853.

I should have preferred carrying out this arrangement (as previously intended) at Nelson, after the surveys of the native reserves were further progressed; but, after due reflection, I found that it would be impossible for me to get such a collection of influential chiefs together at Nelson as have assembled here. Taking also into consideration the urgent necessity for hastening an adjustment of the question, so as to throw the land open for colonization, I have, on the assurance of the chiefs that they will, as soon as their reserves are marked off, give peaceable possession of the whole of that portion of the island, paid them a sum of two thousand pounds (£2,000), as acknowledged in a deed receipt, the translation of which is herewith furnished for your information.

I am aware that, although the chiefs from the Middle Island have fully entered into this arrangement, there will be some questions to settle with a few minor tribes residing at Wakapuaka, Queen Charlotte's Sound, and other portions of the island; but these, I feel satisfied, can be duly adjusted by the principal chiefs to this arrangement, who have undertaken to accompany me, when my duties here will admit of my going over to Nelson, to settle with their respective tribes and followers resident at the Middle Island.

Wiremu te Kanae will facilitate the surveys of the necessary reserves for the natives at the Hoiere and Kaituna districts, whenever Mr. Brunner is prepared to proceed with the surveys in that neighbourhood.

His Honour the Superintendent mentioned to me (when last at Nelson), that he was anxious to obtain a portion of a native reserve at the Wairau in exchange for other land, as the place alluded to would be very desirable as a site for a ferry.

I have spoken to Kanae on this subject, who agrees to give up any portion of a reserve that may be requisite for the above purpose.

Pokekohatu, or Te Tana, from Motueka, has received two hundred pounds (£200) as his share out of the two thousand pounds (£2,000) recently paid to the natives. In addition to this sum, he is to receive for himself and his tribe a further sum of four hundred pounds (£400), which, with another sum of one hundred pounds for the people of Wakapuaka, he has agreed to accept; and, in the meantime, he intends to deposit with you, until he and his tribe are finally settled with,

the sum of two hundred pounds (£200), which has been paid to him out of this instalment.

I find that it would be impossible to effect a final and amicable adjustment of the land comprised within this purchase, which may be estimated at eight millions of acres, for the sum originally stipulated in the deed of sale, more especially as so many more natives from different tribes (including those tribes who claim by right of conquest as well as the remnants of those who originally owned the country) are resident in that portion of the Middle Island than in any other part of it; and, as no arrangement with them could be binding without the full concurrence and sanction of the principal conquering chiefs resident on this island, I think you will agree with me that the best course was finally to dispose of the latter claims, when such a favourable opportunity for doing so, in connection with the chiefs of the Middle Island, presented itself.

I have, &c.,  
 (Signed) DONALD M'LEAN,  
 Land Commissioner.  
 The Commissioner of Crown Lands,  
 Nelson.

Auckland, June 25, 1856.

SIR—We have the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that in settling the Nelson land question we found it necessary to pay the natives a sum of three hundred and twenty pounds (£320) for lands included in Mr. Spain's award in favour of the New Zealand Company, and which additional payment had not been foreseen in making the general purchase of the Nelson province.

In the map signed by Mr. Commissioner Spain, it appears that certain lands were included, such as Separation Point, the cession of which to the Company has never been acknowledged by the natives; and the claimants to this land stated to us, at a public meeting at Nelson, that the land had never been sold; that they had never signed any document transferring it; and, if such document existed, they requested that it might be produced, when they would, on the production of any deed or receipt to which their names are attached, relinquish all claims.

We could not trace out any deed or other evidence of this land having been sold by the natives; consequently, after full investigation of the subject, we deemed it advisable to make a payment of one hundred and fifty pounds

(£150) for the Separation Point district, to prevent all further difficulties or disputes respecting it.

At Motupipi and Takaka a dispute had existed since the date of Mr. Spain's award, partly in consequence of some of the claimants not having received a share of the money awarded by Mr. Spain, and partly of their reserves not having been properly defined. This difficulty was overcome by making necessary reservations, and paying a sum of sixty pounds (£60).

A similar difficulty occurred at Aorere, in the Massacre Bay district; and it was deemed advisable that these outstanding claims should be definitively settled, in order that Europeans might obtain undisputed possession of sections they had purchased in these districts, and on which, in some cases, gold had been discovered, rendering the speedy settlement of the native claims a matter of urgent importance. A payment of one hundred and ten pounds (£110) was made accordingly to settle this question.

The total sum expended to make good the whole of the disputed land included in Mr. Spain's award, amounts to three hundred and twenty pounds (£320). Three hundred pounds (£300) of this amount was verbally authorized by his Excellency when at Nelson in November last; and we have now the honour to request that this amount, together with the additional sum of twenty pounds (£20) which we found it expedient to pay, be submitted for the approval of his Excellency.

We have, &c.,  
 (Signed) M. RICHMOND, C.C.L.  
 D. M'LEAN, Commissioner.  
 The Private Secretary,  
 &c., &c., &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
 Auckland, October 3, 1856.

GENTLEMEN—With reference to your letter of the 25th June last, reporting that you had found it necessary, in settling the Nelson Land Question, to pay an unforeseen sum of three hundred and twenty pounds (£320) to the natives concerned:

I am desired by his Excellency's Government to convey to you, under the circumstances stated by you, the necessary authority for that expenditure.

I have, &c.,  
 (Signed) W. GISBORNE,  
 Under-Secretary.  
 Messrs. Richmond and M'Lean,  
 Commissioners.