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(9)

Apotiki, Bay of Plenty  
August 14<sup>th</sup> 1874

My dear Sir,

I beg leave to forward for your information  
the following items of Native news in this district.

The Waiwera tribe have been very quiet lately.  
You will probably remember that at the Puatohuna  
meeting they presented me for the Government with some  
carved "kahas" of preserved birds. These I proposed  
sending to you and had made arrangements for their  
conveyance, but Mr. Lister arriving at Puatohuna  
after I had left suggested that they should give them  
to him on account of its being much easier to carry  
them out by the Wairoa route; which they accordingly  
did; I conclude therefore that they have reached  
you in due course. Heremā visited me shortly  
after at Apotiki to explain this matter. He  
was accompanied by Te Ahikaitā and a number  
of the island Waiwera. Herewith you will  
receive a letter from the latter asking for the op:

= kōwhiri

The Hon. D. H. Stewart  
&c &c

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of an orderly. I think Government would favor over  
a man who would be useful by granting his request.  
On my last visit to Ruatāhuna I was detained several  
days by a flood at Te Ahikaitia's settlement. And  
he showed us great kindness and hospitality. I fear  
the large party who accompanied me must have made  
serious inroad on his stocks of provisions -

- Subsequently to the Ruatāhuna meeting, Tamakōhā  
called one at Te Waimānua to discuss land leasing, but  
nothing was decided on. Mr. Kelly and Capt Swindley  
are still trying to lease the Waimānua and Ruatōkei  
valleys but have made, I think, but little progress.  
The latter some time since paid a sum of money on  
account to Wipika, Paturāku, Hira Te Pipo and  
others which they took against my advice. However  
when they found that the inland natives would not  
take any part of the money they returned it to Capt.  
Swindley -

Te Wānau and his people I find are constantly  
kept in a state of excitement by the Whivera who visit  
Opotiki and have been telling them particulars (true  
or untrue) of land leasing operations at Te Wairoa  
and Waikaremoana - A letter of Te Wānau on  
the subject is forwarded by this mail to the native  
office -

The Ngātiwā at Whakatane are still engaged in  
building the large carved house and most of the  
tribes on the coast have been to assist. Apanui's  
daughter (Teipari's wife) has come down from the

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Shamir and has brought two tons of flour as a present.

Shamir Te Mukaian has sent invitations to the Whanan Apamui and Ngaetai to attend his meeting at Wharokahika next month. The Ngaetai are doubtful whether they shall go, on account of its having leaked out that the Whanan Apamui intend to discuss there the Tunapahore boundary between them and Ngaetai; the question which you may recollect was withdrawn from the Land Court here at the request of the former. Shamir has also written to me asking me to attend - as it is in Mr. Campbell's district I shall not go unless it is your wish that I should attend.

In regard to the appointment of an assessor for the Wharokahore; this tribe had a meeting on the subject some time since, but could come to no conclusion on the matter - Te Awamui the chief of the Ngaetara hapu is so very dissipated (sic: meaningly, as I fear) that I could not recommend his appointment - The other native assessors are unanimous that Horia Te Poho should be appointed. - I am inclined to think myself that he would be the most suitable, unless you should think his having been so lately a "Hauhau" an objection.

I remain

Yours very respectfully

Herbert W. Drake