

2/1/10.

(16)

Apotiki.

October 15<sup>th</sup> 1894.

My dear Sir,

It is some time since I had the honor to communicate with you on the state of the natives in this district, but matters have been going on very quietly and nothing has occurred to need further remark than is afforded by ordinary official correspondence. I think you will find that matters are progressing, if slowly amongst the Muriere, and that they are beginning to have confidence in the Government. I forward herewith a letter I received from Tutikauahau one of the "seventy". He sent an application to me for a school at Manuapoulatu, (he says he also applied through Mr. Ferris). I suggested that the whole tribe should have a school and fix the site at some fertile spot on the outside boundary of their country. I hope

Yours,

Sir Donald McLean

cc cc cc

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They will eventually do this.

A meeting on land-leasing has just taken place at Ruatohuna and was attended by deputations from all the hapus - The Uriversa have decided to put to Capt<sup>m</sup> Swindley, (Mr. Kelly being understood a partner in the affair) his proposed lease of the Waumana & Whakatarewa valleys - The "Seventy" have formally received money from him and propose to grant him the lease on the terms he has proposed, provided the Land Court has nothing to do with it and there are no surveys made - E Ahikoiata, who I have just seen informs me that this offer has been made to Capt<sup>m</sup> Swindley, but it has not transpired whether he accepts it - I fear that the Uriversa and other tribes interested will not agree about the division of the rent.

The Uriversa appear just now willing to do road work outside their own boundaries and I think a considerable number are now in favor of a road through their own country.

You will not have failed to remark that the belief in witchcraft by the natives generally has of late been gaining strength. At the late visit of E. Hukemanu and the Ngatiporou to Te Kaha little else was talked of, and the result appears to have been, that in the case of two chiefs, lately deceased, (E. Matenga

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and Raperine) their deaths have in each case  
been attributed to witchcraft. Of the result of  
this at Whakatane, I have sent full report to the  
native office. I consider the revival of such  
superstitions amongst the natives to be mainly  
owing to their belief in the Christian religion dying  
out; and this can hardly be expected to be other-  
wise when as you are aware there is no united  
opinion within this district

I remain my dear Sir  
Yours very obediently  
Hubert W. Danks

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