

2/1/10

(12)

Opotiki

January 9th 1878.

My dear Sir,

I did not trouble you with any communication about the late subdivision of the Whakatane Causo in which I was concerned with Mr. Halse, because that gentleman left for Auckland immediately the arrangements were completed and I conclude fully reported matters to you. The natives were and continue to be satisfied with the arrangements and the survey is proceeding without difficulty. I go to Whakatane next week to see the surveyor and the natives. The Ngatiawa are now anxious to have their boundary at the township of Whakatane defined, and Mr. Halse promised the Ngatiawa that he would recommend that they should also have a small piece of land adjacent to the sea.

Honani Paururu, who has several times visited this district as an agent from the "King" party has again been here; this time he has brought several letters from Te Kooti, only one of which I have at present been able to get hold of; I enclose this in the original; a

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a copy has also been sent to the Native Office.
Hoare informs me that he had leave from
Government through Major Harris to visit this
district, it seems to be my duty to say however that
I think him a clever and a dangerous man, and
I fear that he is doing much to extend the influence
of the "King" party in this district.

You will be glad to hear that the School
house at Te Kaha is approaching completion and
will I hope be ready for the masters by Feb. 1st.
The Te Kaha natives like most others are anxious for
a married teacher. I hope to make my
half yearly inspection of schools at the end of this
month; I was unable to do so last month on account
of being engaged so long at Whakatane.

In regard to the Urewera tribe a good many
of them attended the late Land Court at Opoiki
and appeared anxious that something should
be done to settle their land disputes, although
no surveys having been made the Court could
not go into them. I also saw a
number of this tribe when I was at Te Eke last
month. They have been very quiet lately and
say they are anxious for road work.

Te Abukaita and Te Putemai have lately
seized a few cattle in the Whakatane district
for trespass. The cattle will I think be returned
without difficulty, but the whole affair, at

present appears to me to have arisen from some disagreement between Mr. W. Kelly and Mr. Swindley, who are both I believe interested in the cattle (or some of them) and in the land on which they are running - As far as I am at present informed I think the parties in what they did were mere "Cats-paws" (if you will excuse the expression); indeed Mr Swindley informed me that the cattle were driven off at his suggestion - You are probably aware that it was the differences between Europeans and their antagonistic influences on the natives which made the division of the Whakatane lands so difficult to effect, and indeed at one time threatened to stop it entirely.

I am sorry to have heard today a report that old Sharara De Hukamans of Ngatiporon is dead. I have not however positive information on the subject -

I remain my dear Sir
Yours very obedient Servant
Herbert W. Swindley

The Hon
Sir Donald McLean Kt. M.S.

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