

Opotiki Bay of Plenty
August 21st 1875.

My dear Sir,

I have just had a visit from Te Ahikaitā and others of the inland Māori. A large meeting attended by all the principal men of the tribe has just taken place at Ruatāhuna. I have been given the following particulars by Te Ahikaitā and Hemi Kaitiā. The meeting was called to discuss the Ahikaitā road and land leasing at Waikaremoana. In regard to the road, considerable discussion took place a great part of which was merely objections to the route which the surveyed road takes and not to the road itself. Paerāu was amused of having consented to Captain Price that the road should be made by Apitiwhāre, but this he denied.

I believe Sir Donald McLean

H. M. P.

cc cc cc

— Eke

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The question was not finally settled. The leasing of land by the Ngatiwharua at Waikaremoana was then discussed and it was arranged that certain of the chiefs should go to Napier to see Mr. Locke on the subject.

The meeting is said to have decided that if any leasing at all took place it should be to Government and not to private parties. This appears to be a contrary opinion to that held by the tribe not long since. I fear the consumption of rum is increasing amongst the Māori; it is much to be regretted that they waste their means in this way, still the result is so far beneficial to the cause of civilization, that their craving for ardent spirits forces them into more frequent intercourse with and dependence on the Europeans.

I think you will like to be informed that a Public Meeting of Europeans has been held here to protest against Natives being allowed to vote in Elections for the E. Coast district. It is a repetition of the same movement in Tauranga and was started here by an old settler, Mr. Black, and as you will suppose met with ready support from the military settler class, who have

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have never been very cordial towards the natives, -
I have told natives who have asked me about
the matter, that they will always have the same
right to vote (when qualified) as the Europeans have,
and that I did not think there was any chance
of the movement being successful.

There has been a considerable accession to
the European population of Opoitiki during the
last few months and I am glad to observe that
the new comers are more inclined than the old
settlers to accord to the natives, the consideration which
their recent behaviour entitles them to.

I was at Whakatane last week holding a
meeting with the natives, about their School in
which they continue to take a very great interest.
You will be interested in hearing that old Opanui
has undertaken the carving of a large house for
Saipari of the Thames, who has sent him £100 on
account. All his men are now hard at work on it.

Te Potika of Maketu, Te Wata and 40
of the Ngatipitiao are at present in Opoitiki.
It appears that their stock of food has run out
owing to the various meetings held at Maketu and
they have come to ask the Bay of Plenty tribes to
lend them some out of their abundance which
they will most of them do. Te Potika speaks in
high terms of Siria Te Popo's generosity.

I remain
Yours very respectfully

Herbert W. Deane