

Waiaua,
Omarumutu,
Opotiki.

June 1923.

To
The Hon. the Native Minister,
WELLINGTON.

Friend, the Minister, greeting.

This is a Petition from us, the Whakatohea tribe, to you with regard to our lands which were confiscated by the Government of New Zealand in 1865 for certain deeds which were done at Opotiki by the Hauhaus. You will remember that we petitioned Parliament on account of the heavy sufferings we had undergone through the confiscation of the greater part of our lands. The petition was referred by Parliament to the Government and after some years of waiting on account of the great War a Royal Commission was appointed. This Commission sat at Opotiki heard all our case, and also the case for the Crown, and after due consideration of all the papers, maps, arguments and evidence, reported that the Whakatohea tribe had been too heavily punished for the sins they may have committed in those days when the Hauhaus were inflaming and exciting the Maori people and that too much of the Whakatohea lands had been confiscated and too little returned to them.

Friend, the Minister, we are grateful to the Government for appointing the Royal Commission to inquire into our grievance. We now pray you to consider in what way your Government can assist us and give us back some of the land which was not justly taken from us. We also pray to you that you will set up some tribunal to inquire as to who are the proper persons to receive any relief which the Government may see its way to afford to us. The old people will presently all be separated from us and we desire that the inquiry should be made while a remnant of them is still living. Again there are many Maoris in New Zealand who are connected with the Whakatohea

tribe by whakapapa but who are not properly members of the Whakatohea tribe and who have no rights to Whakatohea lands. Neither they nor their branches had any part in the works or fights or doings of the Whakatohea tribe. These people may set up claims to participate in any relief which may be granted by the Government to the Whakatohea tribe, so we ask you O Native Minister to hold the inquiry as speedily as possible.

Our requests are two:-

1. That the Government will give effect to the report of the Royal Commission and return to us some of our land.
2. That a speedy inquiry be held to find the persons who are entitled to receive any relief granted by the Government.

That is all.

From your loving friends, from all the hapus of the Whakatohea tribe.

(Sgd) Hari Hari Ranapia and others.