

No. 235/1915.

TRANSLATION

A P P E A L

TO THE HIGH, THE DEACON & HIGH, MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SITTING ASSEMBLED AT THE EXECUTIVE HOUSE AT WELLINGTON.

GENUINELY:

THE PETITION OF Us, your humble servants, being one of
the hapus of the Whakatohea, whose names are subjoined hereto,

SHUNTI:-

1.--- Our land which was confiscated by the Crown in the year
1865 on account of the occurrences in connection with the Warri wars
of that year in Opotiki District of Bay of Plenty, the boundaries of
the land so taken by the Crown are: Commencing at Tarakeha, thence
by the sea coast of Opotiki to Ohiva, thence still along the sea
coast to Te Horo, this boundary line being 35 miles in length, more
or less; thence it turns westward on to Te Wainui, on to the
boundary (potae) of the Government, thence on a south-easterly direc-
tion along that boundary till it reaches Totara-Whikihike - the
length of this line is 35 miles - thence it turns in a north-
easterly direction and runs by a straight line to Tarakeha, the
starting point. The land enclosed by this boundary is 12 miles
wide, more or less, and equals according to estimation, more than
400 square miles, the total area included within this confiscation
by the Crown approaching nearly 300,000 acres.

2.--- This is our Great pain, that, according to our view, this
is a terrible punishment for our hapus, and is far beyond the
punishment which was fitting for our hapus as we explain below:-

- (a) Because it was not the hapus of Te Whakatohea who
planned the death of Mr. Vellner, which caused the
fight to be at Opotiki, but it was Kereopa, a man of
another hapu, namely the Arawa.
- (b) Because certain of your humble petitioners, that is,
certain members of the Whakatohea tribe - joined the
forces which were upholding the sovereignty of the
Queen in accordance with some of the commands, that is,
the fights with the Hauhaus and Te Kooti also. They
also went in obedience to the command which went to
Kuatahuna and it was due to that command that Kereopa
was seized at Kuatahuna. On account of (their conduct)
in connection with these commands some of your humble
servants received military pensions and medals. We

are therefore of this opinion, that we have thus in a large measure atoned for our original sin when we joined in in the killing of Mr. Volkner, upon which was based the confiscation by the Crown of the lands of the Whakatohea tribe

3.--- There were other tribes of this Island who trampled upon the sovereignty of the Queen by rebellions resembling this, and it was by men like Kereopa that they were beguiled into joining those rebellions, but inasmuch as they afterwards upheld the authority of the Queen, and went in obedience to the commands, just as did the Whakatohea, none of their lands were taken by the Crown.

4.--- The view therefore of your humble servants - the hapus of Whakatohea - is that the land which has been returned to us by the Crown for our subsistence, for the subsistence of all the hapus of the Whakatohea tribe, namely Opape Reserve, 21,000 acres, is exceedingly small. Out of the 300,000 acres confiscated by the Crown, this land, Opape Reserve, has been returned. No other solid block than this has ever been returned to the whole of the hapus of the Whakatohea - apart from the sections distributed among single individuals, but these have been of no benefit to the tribe as a whole.

Therefore we your petitioners pray that your Honourable Assembly will favourably consider this petition of ours concerning this great extinguishment which has been placed upon our lands, and your petitioners pray that, in the light of our explanations given above, your Honourable Assembly will provide for an authoritative Commission to inquire and carefully consider the facts and explanations which have been written above.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS WILL AVAIL THEMSELVES.

GOD SAVE THE KING, THE QUEEN AND ALL THEIR FAMILY.

(Signed) TAKU GORRA

and 210 others.