

*Extract from a Speech made by the Prime Minister (Hon. J. G. Coates) on the Second Reading of the Native Land Amendment and Native Land Claims Adjustment Bill, on Monday, the 28th September, 1925, re Proposal to set up a Royal Commission to investigate Confiscated Lands.*

“THE Native tribes of the northern part of New Zealand have for many years given expression in various ways to a general sense on their part of unjust treatment in the confiscation of large parts of their territories following upon the Maori wars. In some cases that expression has been by representations to His Majesty's Government in England, and in a larger number of cases by petitions to the New Zealand Parliament. Their appeals to His Majesty's Government have been necessarily met by the reply in each case that the matters complained of were entirely within the authority and jurisdiction of the New Zealand Government and Parliament. But that recognition by His Majesty's Government of our exclusive authority upon the subject has long appeared to me to involve a duty upon this Government to afford opportunity to the Natives to ventilate the grievances they allege before some tribunal willing to give a patient hearing and qualified to offer recommendations to the Government and Parliament from that point of view which we have long been willing to adopt where the rights of our Maori fellow-subjects are affected. Since (after the retirement of Sir William Herries) I became Minister of Native Affairs, I have felt a personal responsibility in this matter. The difficulties of selecting persons to constitute such a tribunal, and the even greater difficulties of precise determinations of the order of reference have been obvious; but I cannot reconcile myself to further delay. It is the intention of the Government to appoint a Royal Commission, constituted as I have indicated, directed to allow the Natives the fullest possible hearing, and to make recommendations to the Government and to Parliament.

“The failure to obtain consideration in the past has been due largely to the ill-advised attempts by the Natives' advisers to rely on the terms of the Treaty of Waitangi. The obvious answer to that claim is that such reliance is propounded on behalf of men who repudiated the Treaty, and with the Treaty the cession of sovereignty to the Crown, which was the basis of the Treaty. But the Treaty is in no sense an element in benevolent consideration of the question whether the extent of the territorial confiscation was just and fair under the circumstances of the warfare and the action taken by Natives and by Europeans. That question can be temperately and fairly considered after the long lapse of years since the confiscations. There is a minor but important part which in some cases constitutes a fully admitted grievance, efforts to remedy which have been made from time to time under special legislation. That part of the subject is the inclusion of the property of loyal Natives within the confiscated areas, a necessary result of the intricate relation of individual to tribal rights under Native customs. That part also it will be the function of the Commission to attempt to deal with fully and satisfactorily. The intention of the Government is to enable a complete investigation of the whole subject, and thereby to ascertain what injustice (if any) had been done in the past, and then to provide such remedies as will remove the sense of grievance from the Native mind.”

#### *Subsidies to Public Libraries in Country Districts.*

Education Department,  
Wellington, 25th September, 1925.

NOTICE is hereby given that the sum of £3,000 has been voted by Parliament for distribution to public libraries in country districts.

The distribution will take place about the 1st March, 1926, and no claim will be entitled to consideration that is not sent in in due form and received by the Secretary, Education Department, Wellington, on or before the 25th January, 1926.

1. A library to be entitled to a subsidy must be public in the sense of belonging to the public, and of not being under the control of an association, society, or club whose membership is composed of a section of the community only; and if it is within a borough a reading-room where the books may be read, and containing newspapers and periodicals, must be provided for the public free of charge; in addition, it must not be situated in a borough, town, or town district the population of which exceeds fifteen hundred. The receipts for the year from subscriptions, donations, and voluntary contributions must not have been less than £2, exclusive of moneys received from endowments, or from Government, or from Borough or County Councils, or for special building purposes, or as rent, hire, or consideration for the use of any room, or building, or land belonging to the institution, in respect of none of which will subsidy be allowed. The net proceeds of concerts, lectures, or other entertainments on behalf of the

current expenses of the library will be regarded as voluntary contributions. The number of members subscribing to the library during the year must not have been less than eight, each of whom must have paid the subscription for at least six months. Libraries established during 1925 may make applications for a grant, and each case will be considered on its merits. A subsidy will not be given to more than one library in the same town.

2. In the distribution of the vote a nominal addition of £25 will be made to the amount of the income of each library derived from subscriptions, donations, and rates, and the vote will be divided according to the amounts thus augmented; but no library will receive credit for a larger income than £25—that is, in no case will the augmented amount on which distribution is based exceed £50.

3. The whole of the subsidy must be expended without delay in the purchase or loan of books for the library.

4. It is particularly enjoined upon the authorities in charge of the public libraries concerned that a due proportion of the books purchased shall be books having a permanent value—that is, books of more than merely passing interest.

5. Application to share in the distribution must be by means of a statutory declaration by the Chairman, or Secretary, or Treasurer of the institution on behalf of which it is made, and must be accompanied by a statement of the receipts and payments of the institution for the year ending on the 31st day of December, 1925, and such declaration must be on the form provided for the purpose.

6. Copies of the form of application may be obtained from the Secretary, Education Department, Wellington.

C. J. PARR, Minister of Education.

*Sitting of the Native Land Court at Opotiki on the 19th October, 1925.*

Registrar's Office,  
Rotorua, 19th September, 1925.

NOTICE is hereby given that the matters mentioned in the Schedule hereunder written will be heard by the Native Land Court sitting at Opotiki on the 19th day of October, 1925, or as soon thereafter as the business of the Court will allow.

[Waiariki, 1925-17.]

T. ANARU, Registrar.

#### SCHEDULE.

##### APPLICATION FOR ASSESSMENT OF COMPENSATION.

No. 31. Name of applicant: Minister of Public Works. Name of land: Opape 6c, 6h, and 6i. Nature of application: Assessment of compensation for land taken for a road.

No. 32. Name of applicant: Minister of Public Works. Name of land: Opape 5d, 4d 3, and 4b. Nature of application: Assessment of compensation for land taken for a road.

#### CROWN LANDS NOTICES.

##### *Land in Nelson Land District forfeited.*

Department of Lands and Survey,  
Wellington, 23rd September, 1925.

NOTICE is hereby given that the lease of the under-mentioned land having been declared forfeited by resolution of the Nelson Land Board, the said land has thereby reverted to the Crown, under the provisions of the Land Act, 1924.

#### SCHEDULE.

##### NELSON LAND DISTRICT.

LEASE No. R.L. 800, Section 7, Block VI, Kongahu Survey District. Formerly held by Catherine Christina Adamson (deceased). Reason for forfeiture: Non-compliance with conditions of lease.

A. D. McLEOD, Minister of Lands.

*Timber in North Auckland Land District for Sale by Public Tender.*

North Auckland District Lands and Survey Office,  
Auckland, 23rd September, 1925.

NOTICE is hereby given that written tenders for the purchase of the undermentioned milling-timber will be received at the North Auckland District Lands and Survey Office, Auckland, up to 4 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday, 4th