

Letters received by the Commissioner of Crown Lands

Archives NZ Wellington Reference ADXS 19480 LS-W2 (Lands and Survey Wellington)

LS-W2/1 1853/45 T. H. Fitzgerald 03 Mar 1853

The Governor in Chief at the Executive Council this day desired me to communicate his desire to the Commissioner of Crown Lands that Sections Nos 22, 23 and 24 in the Wainuiomata District should be reserved by the Government for the Natives. Annotation by F. D. Bell 05 Mar 1853 – Mr Lewis, Let these Reserves be noted in the Register accordingly.

LS-W2/2 1853/167 Edward Catchpool, Wellington 29 Jun 1853

Sir, In consequence of the misunderstanding respecting my selection of Country Section No.80 Paramatta Point, Porirua Harbour, and which with your concurrence, I have since thrown up, I wish to be informed whether I can revert to my former position and re-select No.22 in the Wainui o Mata, adjoining my other sections, which I find has not been selected by anyone, although, I believe, reserved for the Natives. As I certainly should, but for the misunderstanding alluded to above, have reselected this Section at the time, I trust that you will, if no very valid objection exists, allow me to have a Crown Grant for it. Should it, however, be impossible for you to accede to this request, will you be pleased to convert my Land Order into Scrip. I have the honor to be Sir, Edward Catchpool. Annotation by F. D. Bell 29 Jun 1853: Mr Lewis, Is 22 Wainuiomata free? If so Mr Catchpool may have it, & in that case write to him & register it accordingly in lieu of the Paramatta Section. Annotation 01 Jul 1853 by David Lewis: Instructions from the Governor to reserve for natives - Mr Catchpool informed that his application will be referred to the Governor.

LS-W2/3 1854/61 William Fitzherbert, Wellington 23 Feb 1854

Sir, I beg to be informed at your earliest convenience of the day you may be able to appoint to have the boundaries given me of the land I have lately purchased of Government at the Wainui O Mata, in order that I may be present on the ground or send someone on my behalf.

LS-W2/4 1855/185 John Grace, Wainui O Mata Swamp 21 Apr 1855

Sir, In the list forwarded us by you of Land in Wainui O Mata District we observe under the name George Moor that there is land unsurveyed. Can you oblige us with the quantity.

LS-W2/4 1855/189 John Grace, Wainui O Mata Swamp 21 Apr 1855

Sir, Mr Fitzherbert having furnished the Wainui O Mata Road Commmissioner with the quantities of Land liable to be taken for the repairing and making of Roads I am requested by the board to ask you to be so kind as furnish them with a plan of the District for their guidance & beg at the same time to thank you for the list with which you had furnished them.

LS-W2/5 1856/254 E. Jerningham Wakefield, Wellington 16 Oct 1856

Sir, In depositing with you a Deed of Conveyance of Section No.8 in the Wainuiomata Valley from myself to Mr William Prowse, bearing date the 26th day of September 1856, in order that the Crown grant may be eventually issued to him or his assigns, I hold a Deed of Mortgage of the same property, bearing the same date, from Mr W. Prowse to myself, in order to secure part of the purchase money left unpaid: and I have to request that you will not deliver the Crown Grant to the said William Prowse or to anyone else on his behalf until the said Deed of Mortgage be duly satisfied and cancelled.

LS-W2/5 1856/272 William Fitzherbert, Wellington 04 Nov 1856

Sir, I have been requested by the Board of Wardens for the Wainui Omata road district to apply to you for a nominal list of owners of land in their road district, including purchases made up to this date.

LS-W2/6 1857/299 John Jackson Tai Tai Hotel 20 Aug 1857

Dear Sir, I am anxious to know if it is probable that any steps will be taken by the Government Authorities for surveying the piece of road which leads down to the land upon which I am building my house in the Hutt. The road has been declared to be a Highway District Road, but I was given to understand that it was necessary to ascertain the limits of it accurately before further steps could be taken & there the affair has remained for a long time. As the weather is now improving all parties interested are anxious to commence operations & if no measures are taken by the Government, the proprietors of land seem all inclined to set about the work themselves - indeed a good deal has been already done during the Winter to make the road passable. Will you therefore have the kindness to let me know if there is a probability of the Government making a start in the undertaking; for, if not, I think we had better try what we can do amongst ourselves.

LS-W2/7 1858/271 Richard Prouse Junior, Wellington written 12 Jan 1858, received 10 Jul 1858

I hereby certify that I have this day sold to Mr William Wakeham 33 acres and one third of another acre the Southern third of Section number three in the Wai-nui-o-mata District and request that a Crown Grant may be issued to him for the same accordingly.

LS-W2/7 1858/418 Letter John Jackson, Hutt 17 Oct 1858

Sir, I think it right to inform you that I have today received information that the Maoris have occupied part of the suburban Lots of land purchased by me from the Government at Featherston & have commenced falling the bush - although I cannot vouch for the authenticity of the statement, I consider it best to lay it before you, that you may be able to communicate with the Surveying Officer at Featherston on the subject - I shall send up myself to make enquiries into it as soon as I am able to do so. My land adjoined Hodder's purchase, who asserts he has been kept out of his land for a year by the Maoris.

LS-W2/7 1858/454 John Grace, Wainui O Mata Valley 29 Nov 1858

Sir, I beg to inform you (thinking you the proper person to whom to apply) that Mr John Cameron has fenced off the road which leads from the Beach to the Wainui Omata Valley, & refuses to let me pass through his land, which I have done for the last five years; and I believe Mr Penny, who was formerly the owner of this property, as well as the Public generally, used the same road for many years previous to my coming to the Colony; Cameron says Mr Bell told him that there was no right of road through his particular section now, I know this to be incorrect as Mr Parks pointed out to me upon the Harbor district plan, when in Wellington not long ago, that a right of road was reserved in all that locality. Now, the course that I at first thought of adopting was to cut down the fence, but on further consideration I determined to do nothing in the matter until I had conferred with you. I think if you could send someone out (as early as possible) with authority to stake out the roads in this particular locality, that it will be the means of ending any further disputes, and will confer a benefit, not upon myself alone, but upon many other settlers who are subject to the same annoyances.

LS-W2/9 1860/289 R. Park, Survey Office 29 Oct 1859 (Note: There are four tracings in this file – Numbers 1 to 4 mentioned)

Sir, In reply to your letter of the 27th August regarding division line between Messrs Sinclair and Dick of the Wai-nuiomata, I have the honor to state as follows:- Crown Grant to John Fairweather for Northern part of Section No.1, Wai-nui-o-mata, shews northern boundary to be 2600 links (see tracing No.1) contents 33 acres. The deed of conveyance shews 2600 links contents 35 acres, the actual contents being by Crown Grant dimensions, 36½ acres nearly, and deducting road 100 links wide and half road at 50 links, the contents would still remain 33¾ acres. Tracing No.2 from “Selection plan of the districts of Lowry Bay, Wai-nui-o-mata, & Orongo-rongo” scale 2 inches to a mile, without date or signature shews by scale the dimensions of No.1, to be 2500 links, instead of 2600 links, but the dimensions given in figures upon the map are the same as the Crown Grant, 2600 links, with a road between parts of Nos 1 & 2, of 100 links, reducing the width to 2550 links, although deeds to D. Dick and others give width 2600 links, and shew no road – a “right of road is reserved one chain wide through any of the sections”. Tracing No.3 from the New Zealand Company’s working map, entitled “Plan of part of the Harbour, Wai-nui-o-mata & Orongo-rongo districts” on a scale of 10 chains to an inch, without signature or date, shews by scale, dimensions of No.1 to be 2500 links, and has a road dotted in and coloured 100 links wide which reduces the width of the greater portion of the section to 2450 links. This is the map which has always been considered the standard, it was made by Mr Tiffen the surveyor of the district, & who marked off the west boundary of No.1 & the east boundary of No.2, at 50 chains apart in 1843 or 1844 for Lansdale and others. Tracing No.4 is from “Map of Lowry Bay and part of Harbour district” shewing a selection by “James Jackson for James Lansdale & others” (no signature or date) the dimensions being by scale apparently 26 chains by 40 chains, but the section is some 2½ chains too far east as will be seen by placing tracing No.3 over it; no roads are shewn, but a right of road is reserved. In December last year when I marked off the division between Nos 1 & 2, seeing the discrepancies existing, I with the consent of the parties themselves, and the approval of the Commissioner, laid off for Section No.1, a general width of 2550 links, same as Crown Grant, and did not make the break 2600 links, at Northern End, thus giving about ¼ acre to No.2, but as before stated Crown Grant to Fairweather shews only 33 acres, yet there is actually nearly 33½ acres after deducting roads and this piece. To make up the deficiency in quantity to No.2, reduced to 94½ acres, Mr Sinclair agreed to take Crown Land to the North of No.2. In Crown Grant to D. Dick, 45 acres is the quantity stated, but dimensions give nearly 46 acres. In Crown Grant to R. Neill, contents 20 acres, while dimensions shew 20½ acres. Signed R. Park. True copy from Mr Parks letter book in Survey Office, Wellington, George F. Swainson, 22 Aug 1860.

LS-W2/10 1861/3 Hugh Sinclair, Wellington 03 Jan 1861

Sir, Having mortgaged my sections numbers 2, 34, 35, 36, 37, and 38 in the Wai-nui-omata District to Mr George Allen you will please deliver the Crown Grant or Grants for the same to him. Yours obediently, Hugh Sinclair. Witness – Hubert Wardell, J.P.

LS-W2/10 1861/27 David Lewis, NZ Company's Land Claims Commissioner to Jonas Woodward, Provincial Treasurer, Wellington 01 Feb 1861

Sir, In accordance with the enclosed Copy of an award of arbitration between the Provincial Government and Mr Hugh Sinclair, I have the honor respectfully to request you will pay to Mr Hugh Sinclair the sum of seventy five pounds sterling.

Enclosure: Award of arbitration between the Provincial Government and Mr Hugh Sinclair, in respect of portion of Section No.2 Wai-nui-o-mata district, given up by Mr Sinclair for the formation of road, and completion of the property of Mr David Dick in terms of his Crown Grant. We the undersigned hereby declare and award, that in order to complete the land granted to the above-named David Dick, and for the formation of a public road through the district, the above-named Hugh Sinclair has been and is hereby required to give up a piece of land on the Western side of his section, measuring thirty four chains in length by one chain in width, and also a piece at the northern end of the said western side measuring six chains in length by one chain in width, making together four acres or thereabouts. We also find that the section of the said Hugh Sinclair had been previously reduced by a piece having been taken off on the same (the western) side of the section, measuring thirty four chains in length by half a chain in width and containing one and three quarter acres or thereabouts. And we therefore declare and award that in consequence of his being deprived of the above described five and three quarters acres of land, that he is entitled to receive the sum of seventy five pounds sterling in lieu and as compensation for the same. J. Woodward and John Ward, Arbitrators.

Enclosure: Hugh Sinclair, Wainui O Mata Valley 18 Dec 1860

Sir, Having agreed to give up to the Board of Wardens for this district & Mr David Dick, nearly six acres of Land belonging to me in Section No.2 – so as to end further dispute about the right of road down the valley in consideration of having done so, I agree to accept the sum of seventy five pounds sterling.

Enclosure: John Grace, Wainui O Mata Valley 17 Dec 1860

Sir, I am requested on the part of the Board of Wardens for this district to represent to you, as Chief Land Commissioner for the Province of Wellington, the case of Mr Hugh Sinclair in his having given up to the Board and Mr David Dick nearly six acres of cleared land included in his Section No.2. It appears that Mr David Dick through some mistake in the Old Survey & for which Mr D. Dick has a Crown Grant of the greater part of the said six acres & no reserve for roads being made. The Board in order to settle with Mr David Dick & to avoid a Law Suit took upon themselves to make the above arrangement which was the only course left open to them, so as to secure a right of road through Mr D. Dick's land. Now the Board trust as Mr Hugh Sinclair has been so good as to allow them to settle with Mr D. Dick, in the manner above mentioned, that you will on the part of Government make him a fair & reasonable compensation which the Board think him legally entitled to & which opinion they believe agrees with Mr Parks ideas, when last out making the Survey of boundaries between the said parties.

LS-W2/11 1862/327 Hugh Sinclair, Wainui Omata 09 Oct 1862

Sir, In the event of Mr Henry Jackson requiring the Services of two men for the purpose of acting as Surveyors men in the Survey of my land as applied for (whether 10s or 5s) in the Wainui Omata district – I undertake to supply him immediately on his demand with two men at the usual rate of wages viz 5s per day.

LS-W2/11 1862/328 W. Wakeham, Wainuiomata 09 Oct 1862 to William Fitzherbert, Esquire, Commissioner of Crown Land

Sir, In the event of Mr Henry Jackson requiring the Services of two men for the purpose of acting as Surveyors men in the Survey of my land as applied for (whether 10s or 5s) in the Wainuiomata district I undertake to supply him immediately on his demand with two men at the usual rate of wages viz 5s per day.

LS-W2/11 1862/329 David Dick, Wainuiomata 09 Oct 1862 to William Fitzherbert, Esquire, Commissioner of Crown Lands

Sir, In the event of Mr Henry Jackson requiring the Services of two men for the purpose of acting as Surveyors men in the Survey of my land as applied for (whether 10s or 5s) in the Wainui Omata district – I undertake to supply him immediately on his demand with two men at the usual rate of Wages viz 5s per day. Signed David Dick (his mark) Witness to mark: Hugh Sinclair.

LS-W2/11 1862/329a W. Prouse, Wainuiomata 09 Oct 1862 to William Fitzherbert, Esquire, Commissioner of Crown Lands

Sir, In the event of Mr Henry Jackson requiring the Services of two men for the purpose of acting as Surveyors men in the Survey of my land as applicant for (whether 10s or 5s) in the Wainuiomata district; I undertake to supply him immediately on his demand with two men at the usual rate of wages viz 5s per day.

LS-W2/11 1862/355 Richard Prouse Jnr, Wainui Omata, 03 Oct 1862 to William Fitzherbert, Commissioner of Crown Lands

Sir, In the event of Mr Henry Jackson requiring the services of two men for the purpose of acting as Surveyors men in the survey of my land as applied for (whether 10s or 5s in the Wainui omata district) I undertake to supply him immediately on his demand with two men, at the usual rate of wages viz 5s a day.

LS-W2/11 1862/372 David Lewis, New Zealand Company's Land Claimants Office, Wellington 14 Oct 1862 to William Fitzherbert, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Wellington

Sir, Having reference to the conversation that passed between us with respect to the simultaneous survey of Company Claimants for Grants with those under purchase from the Crown in the Lowry Bay and Wainuiomata districts I have the honor to enclose a List of all the sections under title from the Company which have not yet been granted. I may also state that I have always considered the Company's survey of the above districts very imperfect and that I do not consider it would be safe to prepare Grants without an actual resurvey of the land claimed.

List of Sections in the Lowry Bay and Wainuiomata districts claimed under title from the New Zealand Company

Lowry Bay

David Dick claims sections 2, 7 and part of 8

John & George Wood claims about 9 acres part of section 8

Wainuiomata

Richard Prouse claims about 65 acres of Section 3, and the whole of Section 10

William Wakeham claims about 33 acres of Section 3, and two thirds of 7

David Dick claims about 2 acres of Section 3

Joseph Stayner, Section 4 (Absentee)

James Poulter, Section 6 (Absentee)

William Prouse claims one third of 7 and the whole of 8

Hugh Sinclair claims the whole of section 26

Richard Crawford, Section 27 (Absentee)

LS-W2/12 1863/33 I. E. Featherston, Superintendent's Office, Wellington 16 Feb 1863 Notice of £50 Reward

Whereas some person or persons did on or about the tenth instant, wilfully destroy a certain Trigonometrical Station erected on a place known as "Syke's Hill," situated on the upper side of the Wainuiomata Hill road. Notice is hereby given that the above reward will be paid by the Provincial Government to any person who will give such information as may lead to the conviction of the offender or offenders. Annotation: 50 handbills:- inserted three times in two newspapers say Independent and Spectator and inserted in Gazette. Copies forwarded 17 Sep 1863.

[The Notice, dated 18 Feb 1863, is published in the Wellington Independent 19 Feb 1863 page 2 column 2]

LS-W2/12 1863/89 Journal of Work done by Mr T. W. Downes, Surveyor in the District of Wainuiomata in January 1863
 Rate of Salary £150. Field allowance 5s per diem. Nature of Country: Black Birch Hills, very rough and difficult of access.
 Length of lines: about 500 chains. Computed Quantity of Land Surveyed: As yet not ascertained probably 1500 acres

| Date | Wind | Weather | No. of Men | Rate of Wages | How employed |
|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Jan 01-03 | NW | Fair | 4 | 5s | Traversing & cutting Bush lines |
| Jan 04 | Sunday | | | | |
| Jan 05 | NW | Fair | 4 | 5s | Traversing & cutting Bush lines |
| Jan 06 | SE & NW | Unsettled | 4 | 5s | Traversing & cutting Bush lines |
| Jan 07-10 | NW | Fair | 4 | 5s | Traversing & cutting Bush lines |
| Jan 11 | Sunday | | | | |
| Jan 12 | NW | Fair | 3 | 5s | Shifting Camp |
| Jan 13-17 | NW | Fair | 4 | 5s | Traversing & cutting Bush lines |
| Jan 18 | Sunday | | | | |
| Jan 19 | NW | Fair | 4 | 5s | Shifting Camp |
| Jan 20-24 | NW | Fair | 4 | 5s | Traversing & cutting Bush lines |
| Jan 25 | Sunday | | | | |
| Jan 26-27 | NW | Fair | 4 | 5s | Traversing & cutting Bush lines |
| Jan 28 | SE & NW | Unsettled | 4 | 5s | Traversing & cutting Bush lines |
| Jan 29 | SE | Unsettled | 4 | 5s | Traversing & cutting Bush lines |
| Jan 30 | NW | Fair | 4 | 5s | Traversing & cutting Bush lines |
| Jan 31 | NW | Fair | 4 | 5s | Shifting Camp |
| Total | | | 107 | = £26 15s | |

Henry Jackson, District Surveyor, Wainuiomata. Signed T. W. Downes, Assistant Surveyor, Wainuiomata

 LS-W2/12 1863/345 Henry Jackson, District Surveyor, Hutt 29 Jun 1863 - Schedule of Land surveyed on the East side of the Wainuiomata

| Applicant | No. of Section | Contents in Acres | Total | Remarks |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| John Crowther | 66 | 201 + 10½ | 201 + 10½ | Hill land |
| W. Wakeham | 65 | 201 + 11 | 201 + 11 | Hill land |
| C. Collis | 62 | 80 + 4 | 80 + 4 | Hill land |
| John Grace | 61 | 226 + 12 | | Hill land |
| John Grace | 60 | 219 + 12 | | Hill land |
| John Grace | 59 | 278 + 15 | | Hill land |
| John Grace | 58 | 307½ + 16½ | | Hill land |
| John Grace | 57 | 300 + 16 | | Hill land |
| John Grace | 56 | 320 + 19 | | Hill land |
| John Grace | 55 | 227 + 12 | | Hill land |
| John Grace | 54 | 288 + 16 | | Hill land |
| John Grace | 53 | 208 + 11 | | Hill land |
| John Grace | 52 | 217 + 12 | 2590½ + 140½ | Hill land |
| Total 5s land | | | 3072½ + 166 | Hill land |
| W. Wakeham 10s | 64 | 80 + 4 | 80 + 4 | Mostly hill |
| C. Collis 10s | 63 | 90 + 4½ | 90 + 4½ | Mostly hill |
| Grand Total | | | 3242½ + 174½ | = 3417 acres |

 LS-W2/12 1863/257 Henry Jackson 29 Jun 1863 (The mentioned tracing is in the file)

My Dear Sir, I send you a tracing of the selection made by Mr D. Dick in the Wainui of 60 acres. I have pegged off the section as denoted by the blue lines & it contains 67 acres – which allowing 5 per cent for roads leaves nett 63½ acres. As Mr Dick has only paid for 60 acres, I propose that he pays the difference, otherwise I shall be obliged to take off 3½ acres of clearing denoted by pencil dashes on the Western side of the Section marked 1110 links. This section as originally intended by Mr Park is shewn by a continuation of my lines, dotted into No.25 Harbour Section & would contain about 90 acres. The section as now laid off by me forms a very good boundary. Will you kindly send the iron pegs as soon as convenient for the Wainui sections, as it will be double work to peg off again without them. The 5s land on the east of the Wainui are ready planned.

LS-W2/12 1863/387 Edward Catchpool, Napier 07 Oct 1863 to William Fitzherbert, Esq., Wellington

Sir, By this Mail I have addressed an Official Letter to you as Commissioner of Crown Lands, together with Copies of certain correspondence relative to an application made by me to be allowed to re-select a section of land in the Wai nui-o-mata, which I had formerly thrown up together with other sections in 1849, when we were allowed to exchange our Country Sections for certain Town or Country Sections which had reverted to the New Zealand Company. I have, unfortunately, after a lapse of many years, and after repeated applications, been unable to obtain an answer from the Government whether the Section could be given to me; and on the Fox Ministry coming into power, I applied through the Secretary for Crown Lands (Crosbie Ward) for compensation for the delay. Had a definite answer been given to Mr Fox's letter of the 6th March 1857, within a reasonable time, although it might not have favoured my wishes, I should have been in a position to have selected certain Town or Suburban Land in this District to the extent of £100; but, fully believing that as there seemed to be so much difficulty in deciding whether the Section in the Wai nui had been reserved for the Natives, it was probable that it could be placed at my disposal; I kept anxiously waiting for a reply, until I was precluded from choosing any other than Rural Land. As Rural Land was selling at 10s per acre, the value of my Land Order was reduced to £50, instead of £100 as heretofore. Mr Fox, when in office, told me that he would take steps to get the matter settled; and when Mr Crosbie Ward was here, we went over the correspondence, and he wished to know my views as to how we were to estimate the amount of compensation; and had Fox remained in office, I fully believe the question would have been set at rest. Mr Domett succeeding Mr Fox, and Mr Crosbie Ward leaving for England, Mr Reader Wood referred the matter to Dillon Bell (who by the by, I believe is no friend to me) who decided against me on the ground that I might have chosen other Country Land. If his argument was to have any weight, he ought to have informed me in 1853 or 1854, that although years might elapse before the Government thought proper to give an answer to my application, and should that answer be unfavourable, I was not to consider myself entitled to compensation for the delay. I have forwarded copies of Letters which are to be found in your Office to save you the trouble of reference, and also to enable you the more readily to understand the whole bearings of the case. Mr Fox's letter of the 6th of March was not before Mr Bell when he formed his decision, as I had not alluded to it in my Letter claiming compensation. If you would particularly draw the attention of the Government to it, I should feel obliged, as it appears to me to be an important one. There was a slight misapprehension on the part of Mr Fox relative to the Section I applied for. There was no doubt of the New Zealand Company having purchased the Land, as it had been given out for selection, and had been previously chosen by myself, although subsequently thrown up for the purpose of selecting either Town or Country Sections instead. The only doubt was, whether Sir George Grey, after I had thrown it up, and before I applied to reselect it, had reserved it for the Natives. Can you inform me whether there is any Land in your Province now open for selection under the Land Order yet unappropriated. The Order itself is in your Office. I should be still willing to take No.22 in the Wai nui, if it be not really reserved, although it would not be so valuable to me as formerly, as I disposed of my other Sections in that Valley to R. Prouse about 16 months ago. Perhaps you will be kind enough to write me privately on the matter.

Enclosure: Edward Catchpool, Napier ... Oct 1863 to Commissioner of Crown Lands

Sir, In consequence of a Letter, dated 24th November 1852, received by me from Mr F. D. Bell, the Commissioner of Crown Lands in Wellington, I applied on the 29th June 1853 to be allowed to re-select No.22 Section in the Valley of the Wai-nui-o-mata provided it had not in the meantime been reserved by Sir George Grey for the Natives. On the following day I received a private note from Mr Bell stating that he would try and get the Governor to place the Section at my disposal. A considerable period having elapsed without any further communications being made to me, I again, on the 24th November 1854, addressed Mr Bell requesting to be informed whether I was to consider that a Crown Grant for the Land would be issued to me. In reply, Mr Bell, in his Letter of the 11th December following, informed me that he had written to Sir George Grey upon the subject, but that having received no answer, he must decline to place the Section in question at my disposal. Being anxious if possible to have this Land, as it adjoined other Sections of mine in the same valley, I, on the arrival of the Governor Browne at Wellington in December 1855, wrote to him to request that he would be pleased to allow a Crown Grant to be issued to me provided it had not absolutely been appointed as a Reserve for the Natives. On the following day I received a Letter from His Excellency's Private Secretary stating that the matter should be immediately enquired into, and that I should be informed of the result without delay. After several verbal enquiries at the Land Office, Wellington, I, on the 6th of March 1857, before finally leaving Wellington for Napier, made another application at your Office to learn whether any steps had been taken by the Government to settle the question. Mr Fox, the Commissioner of Crown Lands at that time, informed me that he would write that day to Auckland upon the subject, I subsequently learnt that he had done so; and that he had received a Memorandum from Mr McLean dated 30th March 1857, to the effect "That he was not in possession of any information upon the subject." I would particularly call your attention to Mr Fox's letter of the 6th March, as it placed my wishes and position fully before the Government; and I then confidently relied that I should be kept no longer in suspense than was absolutely necessary to ascertain the fact whether the Land in question was open for selection, or had been reserved for the Natives. Upwards of four years passed without any further notice being taken of my application; and finding the Land Order reduced in value as I was then precluded from selecting Town or Suburban Land to the extent of £100, as I had hitherto been in a position to do; on the 27th August 1861, I addressed the Secretary of Crown Lands in Auckland; and submitted that I considered I was entitled to compensation from the Government in consequence of the loss I sustained through the delay in giving me a definite answer as to whether, I could, or could not, have the Land in Question. The matter having been lately referred by the Secretary for Crown Lands to Mr F. D. Bell, that Gentleman was of opinion that I was entitled to no compensation because, I might in the meantime have chosen other Land open for Selection, which I most assuredly should have done, had I contemplated for one moment, that so many years would pass without my receiving any definite answer from the Government. In conclusion Mr Bell stated that the question could only be settled by a reference to the Commissioner of Crown Lands in Wellington. In accordance with that opinion I have the honour to lay before you the correspondence attached, and to request that you will be good enough to bring the subject again before the Government, not doubting, but that you will see the justice of my claim for compensation.

LS-W2/13 1864/113 James McEwen, Contractor, The Hutt 26 Mar 1864

Specifications for the supply of labor to cut and measure the Bush and other lines in the Harbour and Wainui-omata Districts.

1st The Contractor to supply all the labor usually required in the performance of a survey and to carry out all instructions given to him by the Government Surveyor.

2nd The amount of lines to be cut and chained through bush or otherwise to comprise any traverse or section lines in the Harbour and Wainui-omata districts bounded as follows; South from Cameron's house in Goldings Valley towards the North as far as the Lowry Bay district; East and West by the Beach and the sections of the Wainui-omata Valley respectively. The same to be performed under the immediate direction of a Surveyor.

3rd The traverse lines to be cut 2½ feet in width and if possible to give a clear sight of not less than 5 chains from flag to flag. The section lines require all trees to be cut down in their direction. All impediments in the way of chaining to be removed.

4th The Contractor to supply pegs 18 inches long and 3 inches square to be placed at every change of bearing in the traverse lines or otherwise as the Surveyor may direct, and of 2 feet long and 4 inches square for the corners of sections. He is also to carry the iron section pegs from Cameron's house to their respective positions. All wooden pegs to be made of the best procurable wood in the vicinity.

5th The Contractor is required to supply two men in addition to himself for the performance of the work.

6th After the commencement of the work, the contractor engages not to delay the Surveyor by reason of want of labor or otherwise, until its completion.

7th The Contractor to consent to any unavoidable delay on the part of the Surveyor, and especially in the following instance viz delay occurring in the calculation of the work at the various stages of the survey.

8th Axes and billhooks to be supplied for the work by the Contractor.

9th The Contractor after the due performance of the work to receive from Government one shilling and four pence for every chain cut and measured according to the Field Book of the Surveyor.

10th The Contractor is to be prepared to commence his work at 48 hours notice.

Witness on behalf of Government – Henry Jackson, District Surveyor.

I agree to fulfil the above specifications – James McEwen, Contractor for the above mentioned work.

Additional Clause – Subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, the Contractor is to be entitled to claim payment at the rate of 75 per cent on the work performed at the end of every month. Signed James McEwen. Witness on behalf of Government: Henry Jackson, District Surveyor.

LS-W2/13 1864/201 John and Frederick K. Crowther 30 April 1864

We hereby authorise E. Daniell Esq., to receive the Grant to be issued in our favour for Section No.66 in the Wai nui o-mata district... Signed John Crowther for self and Fred. K. Crowther. Witness: A. de B. Brandon.

LS-W2/13 1864/275 T. W. Downes, The Hutt 05 Jul 1864 to William Fitzherbert, Esq., Commissioner of Crown Lands

Sir, I have the honor to report that in accordance with my instructions, I started for Paikakariki on Monday the 27th ult., and arrived there on Tuesday forenoon, and was engaged with Mr Hughes in the inspection of pegs for six days. I have the honor to enclose herewith a tracing on which all corners of grants requiring Iron pegs are shewn by a circle coloured red. The places at which Mr Hughes has placed Iron pegs are marked by having a blue circle around the red. The places marked only red are those at which from the nature of the ground access is at present impracticable. Places marked with red cross are doubtful as from the nature of the ground (loose sand or shingle) they could not be found. Places marked with a blue cross are those at which though practicable Iron pegs have not been placed.

LS-W2/14 1865/83 T. W. Downes, Hutt, 06 Mar 1865 to William Holmes, Crown Lands Office, Wellington

Sir, In reply to your letter of the 4th instant I beg to state for the information of the Commissioner of Crown Lands that the smaller block is one which can be easily surveyed and is as desirable as line for fencing as any other obtainable enclosing the same amount of Ground but I do not consider it is one that could be called a good natural boundary. Enclosure: Plan showing Sections 2, 26-27, 34, and 66

LS-W2/14 1865/165 Henry Jackson, District Surveyor, The Hutt, 16 May 1865 to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Wellington

Sir, I have the honor to forward a reply that I have received from Mr T. W. Downes, regarding the time still required to complete his present work in the Wainuiomata and Harbour Districts.

Enclosure: Thomas William Downes, Government Surveyor, The Hutt 13 May 1865 to Henry Jackson, Esq., District Surveyor

Sir, In reply to your letter of this date forwarding letter from Crown Lands Office I have honor to state that where I am now immediately employed (Harbor District near Lighthouse) I have about thirty corners of sections to ascertain and mark on Ground and that this will most probably occupy me some three weeks or a month should the weather be unfavourable. This is independent of some fortnight or three weeks work in the Wainui Omata District.

LS-W2/14 1865/293 Henry Jackson, Wellington 22 Aug 1865 to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Wellington

Sir, I have the honor to inform you that the land applied for by J. McIlvride in the Wainuiomata District 17 Nov 1864 contains 72½ acres gross and as such has been marked in the Plan of the Wainuiomata District.

LS-W2/15 1866/213 George F. Swainson, Native Reserves Office, Wellington 23 May 1866 to Crown Lands Commissioner, Wellington
Sir, I have the honor to request that you will be good enough at your earliest convenience to affix a number to a Reserve in the Wai-nui Block W. D., known as the Mataituka Reserve. It has been sold, and a part is required to be made out as soon as possible. Pegs are in on the Western Boundary and angles, and North and South Boundary lines are partially cut (see Hughes Map). The following dimensions give the requisite area of 210 acres (Bounded towards the North by Sections 15 & 14 and by Crown land – 7050 links, towards the East by Crown Land - 2980 links, towards the South by Crown Land and by Section No.18 – 7050 links and towards the West by Sections 7 & 17 – 2980 links).

LS-W2/15 1866/312 A. Follett Halcombe, Provincial Secretary's Office, Wellington 17 May 1866 to William Fitzherbert, Commissioner of Crown Lands
Sir, His Honor the Superintendent having consented to the division of the Wainuiomata Highways District into two separate Districts to be called respectively the Upper and Lower Wainuiomata: I have the honor to request that I may be furnished with a map on a small scale and a correct verbal description of the boundaries of each of the proposed divisions in accordance with the enclosed plan for the purpose of their proclamation.

LS-W2/17 1867/554 Richard Prouse 06 Dec 1867
I hereby authorize by son Mr Richard Prouse the younger to receive the Grant from the Crown for Section Number 11 in the Wainuiomata District. Signed by the said Richard Prouse in the presence of James Kelham, Justice of the Peace. [Crown Grant 2629]

LS-W2/17 1867/583 A. de B. Brandon, Wellington 21 Dec 1867 to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Wellington
I hereby withdraw the notice given by me for the delivery of the Grant for sections 2, 34, 35, 36, 37 & 38 Wainuiomata District the Mortgage from Mr Sinclair to Mr Allen having been paid off.

LS-W2/18 1868/285 George Wood, Wainuiomata 05 Aug 1868
I hereby authorise Thomas Mason of the Taita to receive the deed of Grant in my favour for Section No.81 Wainui-o-mata. Signed George Wood. Witnessed by John Grace, Justice of the Peace. [Grant 2680]

LS-W2/18 1868/328 John Crowther, Wai Nui Omata, 28 Aug 1868 to the Commissioner of Crown Lands
Please give Fred. Kershaw Crowther the Crown Grant for 5s land purchased in the Wai Nui Omata in the names of John Crowther and Frederick Kershaw Crowther. [Crown Grant 2634]

LS-W2/19 1869/206 G. S. Cooper, Under Secretary, Native Office, Wellington 26 May 1869 to J. G. Holdsworth, Deputy Commissioner Crown Lands
Sir, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant asking me whether Section No.40 in the Wainuiomata District is still a Native Reserve. In reply I have the honour to inform you that on the index map in this office it appears that Section No.22 in the above named District, which is now a Native Reserve was taken in exchange by Sir George Grey for section No.39 (not 40) but I can find no record of the transaction in this office. It is to be presumed therefore that if Section No.22 was at the time of the exchange Crown Lands, Section No.39 which was given for it, is now the property of the public.

Annotation by William Holmes 28 May 1869: I have seen Mr Cooper relative to this letter. He produced the "Index Map", signed by Mr Swainson as Commissioner for Native Reserves, on which Section 40 Wainuiomata is described as Section 39. Mr Cooper's letter may therefore, I presume, be taken as applying to Section 40 Wainuiomata, as laid down on Mr Jackson's map of the district.

Annotation 28 Jul 1869: Mr Jackson will be good enough to see the Map in the Native Office and suggest the correction of the Number.

Annotation by Henry Jackson 10 Aug 1869: I have examined the maps in the Native Office to find that Section No.40 (as marked upon one plan) were number 39. I correct the erroneous number to No.40

Annotation 18 Aug 1869: The unsold section withheld from sale can be included in the first Proclamation and thrown open.

LS-W2/19 1869/99 Charles Collis Jnr 26 Apr 1869 to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Wellington

I hereby authorize Mr George Collis of the Wainuiomata Farmer to receive the Grant to be issued for Section Number 63 Wainuiomata. Dated this twenty sixth day of April 1869. Witness: A. de B. Brandon.

LS-W2/19 1869/178 A. de B. Brandon to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Wellington

I hereby authorize Mr William Prouse to receive the Grant to Section No.6 Wainuiomata. Dated this 12th July 1869.

LS-W2/19 1869/308 Hugh Sinclair, Wainuiomata 16 Nov 1869 to J. G. Holdsworth, Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands

Sir, Opposite the sections Nos 29 & 30 Moores Valley, there is Crown Land to the extent of two sections, containing 265 and 236, total 501 acres. As I understand your tracing the remainder of the Government is opposite John Crowther's land. The hills are Black Birch ground, Government gives nothing towards roads now, and the land is dear at 5s per acre. As all our land is taxed very heavily to maintain the roads I cannot possibly offer you more than 5s per acre for the two sections mentioned above.

LS-W2/20 1870/23 Charles Swanson Wai nui o mata 17 Feb 1870 to Mr W. Homes

Dear Sir, Will you be so kind as to alter my name from Charles Swenson to Charles Swanson as I made a mistake in spelling my name when I purchased my land in the upper Mongarua.

LS-W2/20 1870/50 Hugh Sinclair, Wainui-o-mata, 25 Nov 1869 to J. G. Holdsworth, Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands

Sir, I am aware that the laws of the Waste Lands board, require the sum of 640 acres to be applied for, but that I believe is for unsurveyed land. The land I have applied for opposite sections 29 and 30 has been surveyed for some time. My reason for wishing to purchase it is to save unnecessary fencing. The land as I have already told you is poor Black birch hills. So I can still only offer you 5s per acre for those two sections opposite 29 and 30 as stated before.

LS-W2/25 1874/59 James Johnson, Wellington 06 Aug 1869 by his attorney ...

I hereby authorise William Mowbray to receive the deed of Grant for one hundred acres of land in the Makatiki Valley being the land available under receipt Number 354 under the name of William Holmes the receiver of land revenue for the Province of Wellington bearing date the eleventh day of December 1866. Witness Charles D... Solicitor of the Supreme Court

LS-W2/29 1877/333 J. G. Holdsworth, Crown Lands Office, Wellington Feb 1877 to James Johnson, Mungarua, Hutt – Sections 53 & 54 Mungarua

Sir, I have the honor to inform you that a Grant in your favour (4787) has been executed by His Excellency the Governor, and is now ready for delivery. A fee of Sixpence is chargeable under "The Crown Grants Act, 1866," on every Grant, for each month it is left in this Office, or the custody of Government, after the expiration of three months from the date of the Notice in the Government Gazette that such Grant is ready for delivery. There is now owing by to Government on account of Fees the sum of £1 15s 6d

LS-W2/30 1877/656 James Johnson, White Mans Valley 22 Aug 1877 to J. G. Holdsworth

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge that I have this day received my Crown Grant.

LS-W2/33 1879/399 J. & D. Sinclair, Wainuiomata Saw Mills 10 Jul 1879 to Mr J. G. Holdsworth, Crown Land Commissioner, Wellington

Sir, Land which was purchased by the late Hugh Sinclair 12 April 1867 1000 acres is still unsurveyed (in Wainuiomata). Also 640 acres purchased by J. & D. Sinclair on the 10th February 1874 (Wainuiomata). Will you kindly have his matter placed in hand at your earliest convenience and oblige.

LS-W2/33 1879/426 J. Marchant, Chief Surveyor 17 Jul 1879 to Commissioner of Crown Lands

Mr Snowden who has resumed Mr Mackenzies work will be instructed to attend to the Wainuiomata Surveys indicated by your letter of 14th instant.

LS-W2/33 1879/373 H. J. H. Short, General Crown Lands Office, Wellington 15 Jul 1879 to Commissioner of Crown Lands
I hereby draw your attention to Gazette No.73 of the 10th inst in which appears a notification withdrawing from sale 6500 acres in the Wainuiomata District. It is intended to reserve this area for the supply of water to this city.
