

Petition of Maori
April 7, 1884

The Petition of the Maori race of New Zealand
(sent) to England. (9)

New Zealand.

April 7, 1884.

To the leaders and the members chosen by the
Nation for the Parliament of England now assembled
to direct the affairs of the Kingdom of Britain & Ireland
& of the Islands of the Ocean.

Salutations.

This is a prayer of the Maori race that you, ^{Parliament} should
regard the ^{causes} ^{herein} ^{with} ^{the} ^{subjoined}.

1. Clause to restore the portions of the ~~the~~ Treaty
of Waitangi which have been broken.
2. Clause relating to the seashores, fisheries & gathering
shellfish.
3. Clause relating to the wrongful purchase of land
in former times.
4. Clause relating to the Native Land Court.
5. Clause relating to the imprisonment of Te Tohi.
6. Clause relating to an alteration in the Parliament
of New Zealand.

7. Clause relating to the law of the Government confiscating
the land - the ancestral grounds
8. Clause relating to the non payment of taxes on ^{the ancestral} grounds.

Explanation.

1. Clause to restore the provisions of the Treaty of Waitangi:
which have been broken

- (1). Inasmuch as New Zealand has been ceded to England.
- (2) Inasmuch as the preemptive right of purchase by the Queen has been wrongly used by those who exercised it since the Treaty of Waitangi
- (3) because that the Government (of N.Z.) have set aside its provisions.
- (4.) Because it has trampled on the law for the Treaty of Waitangi is the law of New Zealand.

2. Clause relating to the seashores. The gathering of shellfish & the fisheries.

- (1) That the rights of such places should be restored to the Maoris.
- (2) As it was in Hone Heke's time

- (3) Clause relating to the wrongful purchase of land in former times.

- (1). Surreptitious purchase of land.
- (2). Arbitrary boundaries
- (3). Intrusive land surveys. without the aid of a guide ^{or director}.

4. Clause relating to the Native Lands Court,

(1) To abolish the Native Lands Court.

(2) To give effect to the Treaty of Waitangi, as a law by which to our Native lands & causes may be judged.

(3) That the Native Lands Court being the destroyer of the Treaty of Waitangi should be abolished.

5. Clause relating to the wrongful imprisonment of Te Whiti

1. That he was not tried in accordance with law.

6. Clause relating to changing the parliament of N.Z.

1. That the parliament be divided & one established for the Maoris & another for the Europeans.

2. because that the Europeans have the entire framing of the law

3. That the power of assenting to & rejecting be equal

4. That both should have equal rights in framing laws.

7. Clause relating to the law of the Government about ^{the} confiscation of the lands.

1. Of Waitara & other such like lands which have been confiscated.

2. That they should be returned to the Maoris.

3. That there was nothing said in the Treaty of Waitangi about these lands taken under this law.

8. Clause relating to the non payment of taxes on ancestral lands. (i.e. to pay taxes)

1. That this law be abolished.

2. This law is not in accordance with the Treaty of Waitangi.

3. That these taxes be altogether abolished.

4. We are not willing that money raised by taxes should be given by the Government to the Councils (Land & Road Boards)

This seems to be the principal part of Mr. Kater's
petition - the language of which is somewhat
involved & ambiguous - there is more
but I do not think it worth translating as
there is no point in it -

John Spencer.