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Hon. Mr. Bryce.

Taonui-Ahuaturanga Land.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to provide for the Revision of one of the Title.
Boundary Lines of the Ahuaturanga Block of
Land in the Upper Manawatu District.

WHEREAS in a certain deed of conveyance, dated the twenty- Preamble.
third day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand
eight hundred and sixty-four, whereby the Native owners thereof
conveyed and surrendered to Her Majesty all that block of land
5 generally known as the Ahuaturanga Block, situate in the Upper
Manawatu District and the Provincial District of Wellington, one
of the boundary lines of the said block, being the western boundary,
is described as follows:—"From Te Rua Puha the line strikes inland
10 the Oroua River, and the second-named place on or near the Taonui
River:

And whereas the Native owners aforesaid have always complained,
and do still complain, that the aforesaid boundary line is wrongly de-
scribed, and that the boundary line should follow the course of the
15 Taonui River from or near the place hereinabove secondly named to
the source of the said river, and thence run to the place hereinabove
first named, and that it never was their intention to convey to Her
Majesty the land comprised between the aforesaid Taonui River and
the boundary line described in the aforesaid deed, and which land,
20 generally known as the Taonui Block, comprises an area of about three
thousand acres, more or less:

And whereas, in the year one thousand eight hundred and
seventy-four, the then Native Minister, the late Sir Donald McLean,
by letter, promised the Natives aforesaid in manner following:

No. 16—1.

“That the boundary should commence at Te Waikuku, and follow the course of the river up to the Rua Puha Road but not to cross the road, the junction of that road with the Rua Puha to be as shown on the plan then in their possession :”

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And the said Minister, about the same time, recommended to the then Superintendent of Wellington the adoption of the boundary line lastly herein described, so as to avoid all future disputes in reference to the Ahuaturanga purchase, and the then Superintendent assented thereto :

And whereas it is expedient that the aforesaid promise should be fulfilled, which may best be done by a grant to the Natives of the aforesaid three thousand acres, except as hereinafter mentioned, comprised within the disputed boundaries :

BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

Short Title.

1. The Short Title of this Act is “The Taonui-Ahuaturanga Land Act, 1880.”

Native Land Court may investigate title to Taonui Block.

2. It shall be lawful for the Native Land Court, at any time, on request of the Governor, to investigate the title of all Natives who at the present time would be entitled to any portion of the lands described in the Schedule hereto, in the same manner as if the said lands had never been conveyed to Her Majesty, and the Native title thereto had not been extinguished.

Court may recommend persons to have Crown grants thereof.

3. The said Court shall report the result of its investigation to the Governor, naming in such report the persons found to be entitled to the said lands or any portion thereof, and may recommend to the Governor the persons to whom, or on whose behalf respectively, Crown grants for any portion of such lands should be issued, and the terms and conditions upon which any of the said grants should respectively be made.

Governor may issue grants accordingly.

4. The Governor, at any time thereafter, may issue Crown grants for any of the land aforesaid to the persons found entitled thereto, in manner as the said Court shall recommend :

Provided always that the Governor in Council may modify or vary the conditions or restrictions recommended in respect of any such grant, in manner as he shall think fit.

Cost of investigation to be a lien upon the land.

5. The costs and charges incident to the aforesaid investigation by the Native Land Court, and the expenses of any survey in connection therewith shall be a lien upon the land ; and the said Court may direct in what manner such costs shall be paid, or may exclude from its award so much of the said land as it shall think equivalent in value to the amount of the said costs, charges, and expenses.

The land so excluded as aforesaid shall be deemed to be and shall be Crown lands over which the Native title has been extinguished.

Schedule.

SCHEDULE.

ALL that parcel of land containing by admeasurement three thousand and seventy (3,070) acres, more or less, being portion of the Ahuaturanga or Upper Manawatu Block, in the Wellington Provincial District. Bounded towards the North-west by a right line from Te Rua Puha towards Waikuku till it strikes the Taonui River ; towards the South-east by that river and by lines, three thousand two hundred (3200) links and five thousand seven hundred and nineteen (5719) links ; and towards the North-east by a public road, about five thousand two hundred (5200) links, to Te Rua Puha, the commencing point. Excepting a public road three (3) chains wide, and another public road one (1) chain wide, which intersect the said parcel of land ; as the same is more particularly delineated upon the plan in this office marked A, and authenticated by the signature of the Chief Surveyor.

Schedule examined and certified :

Survey Office,
Wellington, 10th July, 1879.

J. W. A. MARCHANT,
Chief Surveyor.