

**Letter: William Jenkins to Superintendent of Nelson**  
Archives NZ Wellington Reference NP 7/12 1864/904

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William JENKINS, Bridge Street, Nelson 16 Dec 1864

Sir, I beg to acknowledge the receipt of a Copy of a Letter from Mr Alexander Mackay with a statement made by Wirape (a native) reflecting on my conduct with regard to a grant of money made by the Commissioners of Native Reserves for his (Wirape) use on certain conditions the particulars whereof are as follows.

Some time in 1859 Wirape's Hut was destroyed by fire with all... he made application for relief his case having been taken before Mr Domett - one of the Commissioners... Gentleman after consulting Mr Brunner on the subject agreed to allow the sum of ten pounds for the purpose of assisting him in building a new house.

The money was paid over to me, in his presence I believe, with instructions to hold the same until some guarantee should be given by Te Manu, or some responsible person, for the fulfilment of the required conditions.

Te Manu refused to take any responsibility with reference to the erection of a house. Wirape there stated that he would get one built by & by - at the same time requesting that the money be paid over to him forthwith.

I proceeded in company with Wirape to Mr Dommett who, in hearing that Wirape had lost all his clothing, authorized me to give him five pounds of the money granted, for the purpose of buying clothing. I was to release the balance until a proper house should be either built or guaranteed by the parties above referred to. Wirape afterwards frequently asked me for the balance, but as he had not fulfilled the required conditions I refused to comply with his wishes.

It had been... by Mr Domett that either a Mud or Wooden house should be built with a chimney of suitable materials to prevent the recurrence of a similar accident as it would be improper to waste the funds. This granted - in the erection of a Mere Maori Hut.

Sometime afterwards Wirape told me that he had built himself a hut but there was no chimney to it, and on making enquiry from several other natives I found it was... mere Maori hut, similar to the one which had been destroyed.

I again refused to pay him the balance until he could show that a chimney of the required materials was either erected or guaranteed and I retained that balance, according to my instructions received at the time above mentioned.

I believe Wirape asked me once or twice, subsequently, for the said balance - but as the conditions remained unfulfilled I refused to comply with his request.

The balance of five pounds has been retained by me, in accordance with my instructions, until this day. I have now considered it proper, under the circumstances, to hand over the said sum to Mr Catley - the Secretary to the ... and have done so accordingly.

I have the honor to be Sir, Your Honour Obt Servt, W. Jenkins  
Native Interpreter.