

Erection of Telegraph between Umuroa and Warea to be delayed

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1871 Mar 21 Letter: Robert Parris, Civil Commissioner, New Plymouth to The Native Defence Minister, Auckland

Sir, I have the honor to report that after returning from the Mataitawa meeting last week, I went to Parihaka to attend a meeting being held at that place. I started Friday morning the day appointed for the "korero" which was put off for my arrival. Beyond the Natives of the immediate district, very few attended the meeting. On Saturday morning they all assembled to hear Te Whiti's address, which was a very long one, and much of the same character as those delivered at the meetings last year. The best and only praiseworthy part of his addresses is his constant admonition for peace: the rest is a mixture of arrogance and superstition which it is painful to listen to, and worse to engage in controversy, which I had to do the whole of Saturday, for none of our Natives care to face him in an argument. There was only one other Native who spoke at the meeting, and that was the chief Ngatairakaunui of Moutote. He is opposed to roadworks and Public Works generally, but if the road is once carried through the Warea district he will in all probability give way in his own district further south.

I am of opinion that unless the Government is prepared to put down opposition, it would be better not to attempt the erection of the telegraph poles and wire between Umuroa and Warea before the road is carried through, for the stoppage of the erection of the poles and wire might lead to the stoppage of our present communication, which will be very much improved when the telegraph is brought so far as Opunake.

Major Stapp and Surgeon O'Carrol accompanied me to the meeting and were treated with great civility. The latter went professionally, at my request, to see some sick people at Parihaka, which had a very good effect upon them, and he has this day sent them out some medicine.

1871 Mar 25 Letter: Donald McLean, Grahamstown, Thames to Robert Parris, Civil Commissioner, New Plymouth

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, reporting the proceedings of the Native Meeting which you attended at Parihaka and with reference to that portion of your letter respecting the construction of the Telegraph between Umuroa and Warea, have to state that I concur in your opinion that it would be advisable to postpone the extension of the Telegraph between the points referred to.

1871 Mar 25 Letter: Donald McLean, Grahamstown, Thames to the Telegraph Commissioner, Wellington

Sir, I have the honor to forward for your information extract from a letter from the Civil Commissioner at Taranaki respecting the construction of the Telegraph between Umuroa and Warea, and my reply thereto. I quite concur in the opinion expressed by Mr Parris that the Road should precede the Telegraph through that District.

1871 Mar 25 Letter: Donald McLean, Grahamstown, Thames to the Telegraph Commissioner, Wellington

Sir, Referring to my letter of this days date I think it right to state that the suspension of the Telegraph Works is only intended to apply temporarily to the district, about 25 miles in extent between Warea and Umuroa where there are a section of Natives who are as yet indisposed to assent to the carrying out of such works, but who are likely to be induced to do so before any length of time.
