

4 pages written 3 Feb 1874 by William Kentish McLean in Napier City

Napier 3rd February 1874

My dear Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 26th ultimo also a copy of Reid's letter giving an account of how things are going on at Akaitio, I am glad to see they are so satisfactory. The flock is smaller than I expected but I suppose a few of the old sheep have died and a good many killed in consequence of the scab. The culling thus effected will however improve the flock and increase the average of next year's clip. I am surprised that Thompson and Snyo have been so backward in the dipping of their sheep. Unless they exert themselves at once it will be too late to do anything until after next shearing. So long as there is scab in the district Capitalists will be deterred from investing in Akaitio - I showed that portion of Reid's letter relating to the scab to Miller at which he was very much pleased. A Mr. Haswell from Oamaru is going outland to Wellington and will call at Akaitio. He is looking out for an investment and may offer to do business. I think, as a warning to Thompson & Snyo you should press your claim

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on Settlement No 6 for compensation. Aid should use every endeavor to get a clean certificate from the Inspector as soon as possible, after that, if any of Thompson & Eui's sheep are found on the run they should be held responsible for the result.

The purchase of land at Okaitia will add, I presume, 4798 Acres to the 20,000 Acres already purchased - Your only course is to draw on Potter Wilson & Co for the requisite funds. You have already valued on them for £4000 against the Clip of 1873/74 and I think you may safely draw £2000 more - There is a probable balance of £400 on the 1872/73 Invercargill Clip besides what will be realized from the sale of 20 Bales shipped to America - In drawing on Potter Wilson & Co for £2000 you will only then have valued on them as against the Clip of 1873/74 a sum of £5600. For future requirements you will shortly be able to negotiate drafts against the 1874/75 Clip. From statements of Kennep & Co's accounts enclosed you will observe that there is a balance at your credit of £1058. 11. 11. but you owe the Union Bank here about £1185. I think you should ask Mr Kennep to discharge this debt - Now that shearing is over Condie will not be drawing many orders - there is therefore no necessity for keeping over £1000 at your credit with Messrs Kennep & Co and at the same time having your account

MANUSCRIPTS & PICTORIAL

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Overdrawn at the Bank. Condie has a credit balance in the Union of £114.3.9. In a few days he will receive from Miller a cheque for £300 for 1000 wethers sold by him to Johnston of Poverty Bay. The open debt to the Wellington Branch of the Union Bank can be liquidated at the proper time from funds accruing from Akatia either by financing with Messrs Bethune Hunter or drawing against the incoming Clp.

Be good enough to take care of Messrs O'Connell's as I shall require them when I get to Wellington.

Your debit at the Bank here is made up as follows.

Reed M ^r James	100.
Yellmache	469. 9. 7
do	315. 5. 9
Wm M ^r Carthy	15 " "
A McLean	100 " "
Kennedy	100 " "
National Bank	60 " "
Siday	10. 10. "
Jilmore	2. 8 "
Interest	13. 6. 2.
	<u>£1185. 19. 6</u>

Reverting to Akatia I notice what you say about grass seed, fencing and other improvements. The flock should certainly be increased. There is feed enough at present for 14000 sheep, but do you not think it desirable to delay all

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but the fencing and sowing (if they can conveniently be proceeded with) until the seed is got rid of. Miller informs me that in offering the Run to Samuels and Russell he has stated clearly that all expenditure incurred after November last will be added to the price of £30000. I enclose Miller's Stock & Station report which gives a fair idea of values ruling at the present time.

Under separate cover you will receive the plans of the new house prepared by Mr. Cooper the Architect. He thinks the building will cost about £400. Comdie has ordered the timber - all but the flooring boards which will be of Kauri.

The Queen of the North arrived yesterday with a large number of immigrants. They are the finest lot I have ever seen landed in the Country.

I hope I shall be able to leave for Wellington next week. I thought of going by way of Ahiti's but as I am pushed for time and everything seems to be going well there I shall travel by Steamer instead. If necessary I may return that way.

I remain
 My Dear Sir
 Most faithfully yours
 W. K. McLean