

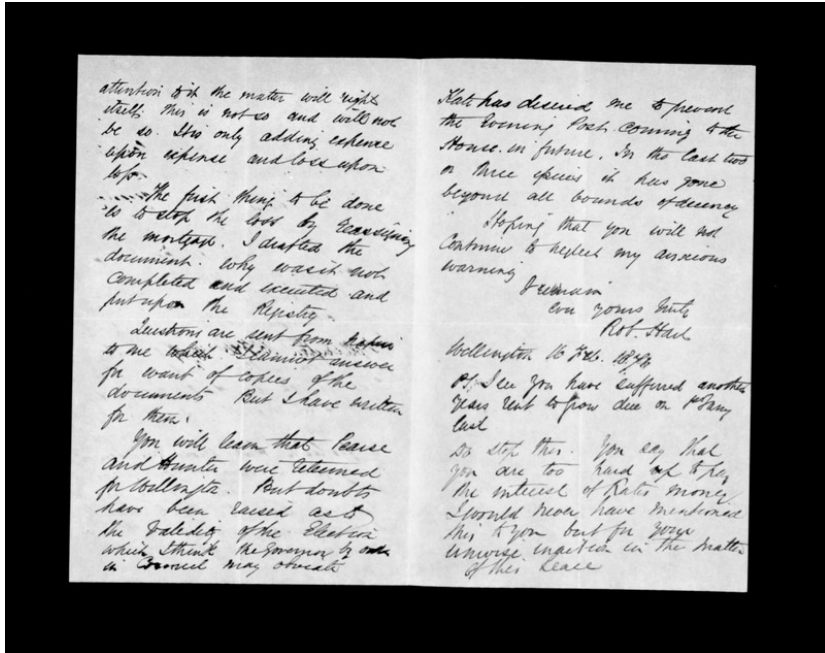
2 pages written 16 Feb 1871 by Robert Hart to Sir Donald McLean in Wellington

[4]  
The Honble  
Donald McLean  
Defence Minister  
2/1/86 (45)

Dear Donald

I wish I could wase you to a  
sense of the need there is that you  
should attend for a short time to  
your own affairs. You cannot do  
by agency what requires your own  
attention and action. It was the  
vain attempt at this which has  
brought the present difficulties  
upon you. But bad as the  
case is it is daily getting worse.  
It is six months since I should  
urged you to surrender or ease up  
the foolish but most mischievous  
mortgage. I warned you what  
it was doing and would do.  
But you seem to think that by  
withdrawing your own attention  
from it and bespeaking other

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attention to the matter will result  
 with this is not so and will not  
 be so. You only adding expense  
 upon expense and loss upon  
 loss.  
 The first thing to be done  
 is to stop the Gov by cancelling  
 the mortgage. I drafted the  
 document. Why wasn't it  
 completed and executed and  
 put upon the Register.  
 Answers are sent from London  
 to me which I did not answer  
 for want of copies of the  
 documents. But I have written  
 for them.  
 You will learn that lease  
 and Anata were returned  
 for Ballantyne. But doubt to  
 have been raised as to  
 the validity of the lease  
 which I think the Governor is  
 in favour may succeed.

Robt has decided me to prevent  
 the recovery of the property to the  
 House in future. In the last test  
 a piece of paper is has gone  
 beyond all bounds of decency  
 Hoping that you will not  
 believe to neglect my anxious  
 warning.  
 ever yours truly  
 Robt. Hart  
 Wellington. 16 Feb. 1871.  
 P.S. See you have suffered another  
 year rent to grow due on 1st May  
 last.  
 Do stop this. You say that  
 you are too hard on it, but  
 the interest of Rates money  
 I would have mentioned  
 this to you but for your  
 unwise neglect in the matter  
 of this lease.