

2 pages written 31 Aug 1875 by John Stevens in Bulls to Sir Donald McLean in Wellington

John Stevens
Bulls
August 31st 1875
Sir Donald McLean
Wellington
Dear Sir
In accordance with
instructions received in your letter of the 23rd inst
I rode to Parewanui and saw Hemia & Rotoa and
requested them to sign your lease of "Ngataraua"
they complained of not having received any
portion of the rent paid on acc^t of the former lease,
and consequently are asking a bonus of £200 to
sign the present one, I pointed out to them that they
should have asked the other grantees for their fair share
of the money at the time the old lease was in existence,
to which they replied that it was on account of
their good feeling towards the other natives that they
had not done so, that being the case I again
mentioned that it could in no way affect this
lease and that they should still apply to the other
grantees for their fair share of the present rent.
and

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and as they had elected to make the other natives
a present of the former rent you were in no way
responsible for it, as it was their own wish to do so.

Mr Buller has not yet arrived
here, but will probably hear Whangape at a
meeting of the Ngāhāpū which is to be held there
shortly respecting the sale of the "Tāmāhūā
Block" and so will then be able to see him and
Hunua together, and if Hunua still demands
the £200 I will point out to Mr Buller that Hunua
should apply to the other grantee for his share
of the money instead of trying to extort £200
more than the amount of the rent which
evidently must be a fair rental & the nine
other grantees would not have accepted it
especially as they also have solicitors employed
at Napier to watch their interests in such matters.

Hunua also informed me
that he had demanded £200 from you while
at Wellington, how will you replace it as
a great deal to him now, if there is any

proposal you have made if you will either
write or telegraph to me I will ~~lose~~ no time
in communicating to Hunua and will also use
any influence I may have with him in trying
to have the matter settled fairly.

You can depend upon my having
the lease executed properly as I think I have
the 85 section of the 1862 Lands Act off by
heart.

I must thank you for your
warm acknowledgment of the slight
service I have rendered you in this matter.

I am

Yours very Respectfully
John Stevens