

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

John Stevens  
Bulls  
August 31<sup>st</sup> 1875  
Sir Donald McLean  
Wellington  
Dear Sir  
In accordance with  
instructions received in your letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst  
I rode to Parewanui and saw Huna & Rotoa and  
requested them to sign your lease of "Ngataraua"  
they complained of not having received any  
portion of the rent paid on acc<sup>t</sup> 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