

# MANUSCRIPTS & PICTORIAL

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### THE POSITION OF THE KING PARTY.

*[From one of our correspondents.]*  
 Te Awamutu, Tawhiao.  
**REWS'S OPINION OF MR. BRUCE.**  
 SECRETARY OF THE ACTIVE MINISTRY, REWI  
 said: Mr. Bruce is straightforward in speech, and one gets to know what he means. I appreciate a man who acts thus. I am pleased with Mr. Bruce. I find, in reading the report of the interview, that my utterances are faithfully given, and Mr. Bruce's also. There are certain misstatements relating to my avowed allegiance to the King movement and my perfect communion with the same subject an omitted also, so that I ought not to complain, as both sides are silent on that subject in the report.

**WIFE'S LETTER.**  
 Rewi, in speaking of Weta's, said: I did not see the letter that was published in the Herald on the Mokai issue. I know nothing whatever of such a letter being written, although it was dated from my place, Kihikihi. I had none on this subject, that it should be dragged into a dispute about which I have nothing to say. My land beyond Mokai, but the land referred to in the letter was with Weta's, who has gone to Mokai to demand an inquiry. I hold Weta's letter, now in my hand, and I impounded Mr. Grace, saying to him: "How could you send a letter of this nature, dated from my place, Kihikihi, and keep me in ignorance of the matter. I cannot come to any decision at present regarding my innocence or the innocence of Tawhiao and Mr. C. O. Davis. I must suspend my judgment until I know the whole of what has been said, and if I find that Tawhiao and Mr. Davis have acted wrongly in regard to their correspondence, then I will turn upon them both, and ensure their sentence, but if I find that their line of conduct upon you (Mr. Grace), whose action has been an aggression, and Weta will suffer with you."

**COPPER, GOLD, AND COAL IN THE KING COUNTRY.**  
 Rewi said: Many years ago a European who planted the mines you see yonder, informed me that in digging at Kakepuku mountain, he discovered copper, but I paid no heed to it, and I am equally indifferent about it now. Regarding the gold, I had specimens in my own hands from the Tairāwhiti country, but in consequence of no money coming to look at them, I threw them into the river, and I have no desire whatever that the gold in that country should be touched. There let it lie. As to the coal at Mokai, I recommended that the coal should be used by the Europeans, if required; that the land should not be sold, but if necessary, it could be leased, and as it is known there are quantities of it there, it may be leased to account for the advantage of both parties.

**NO MORE SHOOTING.**  
 Rewi said: The King movement was initiated by Te Hahi of Tupo, consequently all responsibility devolved on him to defend the system he had set up. I had no wish to see any of Purutu's shooting war-riors, but I do not think I shall be in the line of fire of the King party, but one of the fools of the air, i.e., oppose the Europeans if proposition of trying our strength with the Europeans, and I would not see our people led the heels one of them went into the fight, and I followed, saying, "Now, let everyone cessation of hostilities I said, 'No, let us allow my opinion, and I say with Tawhiao have made up my mind that no more fighting shall take place unless you Europeans drag us into hostilities."

**REWI ON THE PROPOSED BRIDGE ACROSS THE WAIPA.**  
 In speaking of the Rewi said: Tawhiao acted in concert with me as to the erection of the proposed bridge across the Waipa. Beyond that point I did not assent to any proposition, as to townships, roads, railways, &c.

**TAWHIAO AND HIS ADVISERS.**  
 Rewi said: "It is not our rule that Tawhiao should act independently of his Council—the chief of the King party, act with great caution, and when his advisers act independently of him they are not in the same line of conduct as his advisers, whose does not act without first consulting his Council, nor the members of his Council. This statement of my previous report, i.e., 'I have a Parliament at Whaitohu.'"

**SOLDIERS' GRAVE AT TE AWAMUTU.**  
 I visited the graves of those who fell in the fight at Orakau and Rangarua, and were buried at Te Awamutu, and regretted to see the decayed wooden slabs placed over the graves of those who fell in action. Some of the slabs are lying on the ground rotting—the others on some being almost obliterated, and before long all record of the soldiers buried here will be lost. Surely the Government of the country will not allow the monuments of those who fell in the Maori war to pass away, when a few pennies only would replace them and simple headstones.

**TAIRĀWHITI MOUNTAIN.**  
 Reference has been made to this mountain in a previous part of this report. Taupiri is a prominent mountain, and is in Taupiri, Tawhiao's grandfather. When passing the mountain on my return to Auckland, I was followed by a party of Maori, with Maori legends, who gave me a long time in following being the first few lines—

*It is a long story  
 He has a long story as I found it  
 The name of it is Tawhiao's name  
 To stand on it Tawhiao's name  
 It is a long story to tell you  
 (Tawhiao's name)  
 The whole of the story is told from the South  
 And I am a long story to tell you  
 From my story—coming in the distance  
 From my story—coming in the distance  
 For this my constant story.*

**OPINIONS OF THE KINGITES AS TO THE MURDERERS.**  
 Several prominent chiefs assert that the Maoris almost universally consider that Te Koro is not a murderer, nor Parakatu, between the two. Waiata's case, however, is on a different basis, and they have nothing to say in justification of his act. To send a captive into the King country is an attempt on the part of the Government to show hostilities. One leading chief said:—"If you capture these men on your side of the boundary, your act will not be questioned by us, but if you cross over to our country matter." I cannot conclude these letters without expressing my indebtedness to Mr. C. O. Davis, who was present during the interview with Tawhiao and Rewi, and gave me much information as to the history and and subsequent affairs of the King party, and his knowledge of how to deal with Maori, are invaluable. With Europeans generally the natives are more or less reticent, but they speak to Mr. Davis as frankly as amongst themselves.

*John Robert Papers*