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Colonial Defence Office,
Auckland, 12th December, 1863,

HIS Excellency the Governor directs the publication of the following Despatch from Lieut.-General Cameron, C.B.

THOMAS RUSSELL.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL CAMERON, C.B., TO THE GOVERNOR.

Head Quarters, Ngaruawahia,
9th December, 1863.

SIR,—I have the honor to report to your Excellency that after the action at Rangiriri, I was obliged to wait for the arrival of supplies, and was unable to advance before the 2nd instant, on which day I moved the Camp about a mile above the native village of Paitai.

As the two outlets which run into the river from Lake Waikare between Rangiriri and Paitai were not fordable, the troops with their tents and baggage were conveyed up the river in boats, manned by seamen of the Royal Navy, under command of Captain Phillimore, H.M.S. 'Curagoa.'

The following day the troops again moved on, and encamped abreast of the Island of Taipori, close to which the 'Pioneer' anchored the same day.

I was again delayed waiting for provisions until the 7th instant, when I moved the Camp about 5 miles higher up the river, and met the 'Pioneer,' which had safely passed the last shoal below Ngaruawahia.

On the following morning, I went up the river in the 'Pioneer' with Commodore Sir W. Wiseman as far as Ngaruawahia, which we found deserted.

We immediately returned to the Camp, and having embarked 500 men of the 65th and 40th Regiments on board the 'Pioneer,' again proceeded up the river and landed at

Ngaruawahia, where I have established my Head Quarters.

We have not seen a single armed native since we left Rangiriri.

I have, &c.,

D. A. CAMERON,

Lieut.-General.

His Excellency Sir George Grey, K.C.B.
&c., &c., &c.

Colonial Defence Office,

Auckland, 12th December, 1863,

HIS Excellency the Governor directs the publication of the following Despatch, with its enclosures, from Lieutenant-General Cameron, C.B.

THOMAS RUSSELL.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL CAMERON, C.B. TO THE GOVERNOR.

Head Quarters, Ngaruawahia,
9th December, 1863.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward herewith two letters received from Colonel Carey, Commanding the Thames Expeditionary Force, from which your Excellency will perceive that the object of the expedition has been accomplished, a line of military posts having been established, and the communication opened between the Firth of the Thames and the river Waikato.

It gives me great pleasure to inform your Excellency that Colonel Carey has reported that the services of Captain Daldy and the Auckland Naval Volunteers were most useful, that they were engaged in landing the stores from the ships, and performed this laborious duty with the greatest zeal and good will, the men working day and night.

I have, &c.,

D. A. CAMERON,

Lieut.-General.

His Excellency Sir George Grey, K.C.B.
&c., &c., &c.

Camp Pukorokoro,
November 24th, 1863.

SIR,—I have the honor to report for the information of the Lieut.-General Commanding the Forces, that the troops under my command reached this place at half-past six o'clock last evening, after a very harassing march over a most difficult country, having left Hauraki at eleven o'clock.

The men were all ashore by half-past eight o'clock a.m., and the horses at 10.45,—each horse had to be landed separately.

The boats of the Royal Navy, under command of Captains Jenkins and Hamilton, with the provision cutters, arrived off the mouth of the stream about the same time.

On landing it was found that the natives had recently held the position. The mouth of the river is staked across, and the entrance strongly defended by rifle pits (traversed), and others partially dug: these were at once occupied by Blue Jackets, Royal Marines, and the baggage guard of the troops; and the disembarkation of the camp equipage, &c., &c., commenced, and is now being continued.

On reaching the settlement here, fires were found still alight in the *whares*, boxes locked, furniture, cooking utensils, a bell tent, a bag of bullets, &c., giving evidence of a hurried departure.

A whale-boat, a war canoe, and other canoes were also found in the neighbouring creeks.

Owing to the deep mud, and the impracticability of the creek for ships' boats, except at high water, the landing of the baggage will be very tedious.

I would strongly recommend two flat-bottomed boats of very light draught being sent here at once.

The site for the post has been chosen, and the Redoubt will be commenced as soon as the "*materiel*" is landed, and carried up the hill to the encampment.

The Redoubt will require a small open work on a hill a few hundred yards to the southward, which will command it; but which being very steep and more distant from the landing-place, would not be a suitable site for the Redoubt.

I purpose establishing the Commissariat Store immediately below the Redoubt on a flat spot, round which the creek runs, and on which supplies can be landed by small boats at high tide.

Being commanded by the Redoubt, the Commissariat Stores will merely require a small guard over them.

The s.s. "*Corio*" will return to Auckland to-night for the baggage horses. In the meantime, I purpose reconnoitering the country towards Paparata, and fixing the site of a post, if necessary, midway.

I take this opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Commander of the Forces the very efficient manner in which the disembarkation of the troops and horses was effected by the Royal Navy, under Captains Jenkins and Hamilton, without loss or accident, and beg to testify to their extreme kindness and attention to the wants of the officers

and men during the week of our detention off Waiheki Island, on board the "*Miranda*" and "*Esk*."

I have, &c.,
GEORGE CAREY,
Colonel Commanding Thames Force.
The Deputy Quartermaster General,
&c., &c., &c.,

Camp, near Paparata,
December 5, 1863.

SIR,—I have the honor to report for the information of the Lieut.-General commanding that the remainder of the force under my command (after establishing posts at Pukorokoro—"Miranda" Redoubt, and at Maiapu, "Esk" Redoubt) reached this yesterday evening, and encamped within a few hundred yards of the Paparata Stockade.

A portion of the force marched to the latter place this afternoon (having been prevented from doing so by heavy rain in the morning), cut down the stockade and set fire to the *whares*, which were capable of holding some 700 Natives.

The enemy must have evacuated the place some time since.

The position is not one suited for a redoubt, being commanded by a hill in rear, with a deep wooded gully intervening; it is likewise out of the direct line of communication from the other Thames posts to the Waikato posts, and not visible from the "*Esk*" Redoubt.

I have therefore decided on building a redoubt on this hill, which commands a fine view of the country as far as Waikari Lake, including the Queen's Redoubt and adjacent posts on the west, and "*Esk*" Redoubt and a portion of the Thames Firth on the east, thus a system of telegraph by signal may be at once established between the Thames and the Waikato.

Subject to the approval of the Commander of the Forces, I have named this redoubt "*Surrey*," having the head quarters of the 70th Regiment encamped here.

As Captain Greaves, Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster-General, is sending you a report of the nature of the defences of the late Paparata stockade, it is needless for me to do so.

The rifle pits I purpose having filled in on Monday next.

I forward to the Deputy-Adjutant General a state showing the present distribution of the Force under my command.

A party of the Defence Force, under Mr. Macdonald, proceed with this mail to the Queen's Redoubt, from whence I have to request some oxen may be sent to this camp, so that the troops may obtain some fresh meat, having been on salt provisions since they left Auckland on the 16th of last month, with the exception of one day's fresh meat procured at Pukorokoro.

I have, &c.,
GEORGE J. CAREY,
Commanding Field Force.
Colonel Gamble,
Dep. Q. M. General,
Head-quarters.

DISEMBARKATION RETURN.

STATE OF AN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE TO THE THAMES 23RD NOVEMBER, 1863.

DISTRIBUTION.	Field Officers.	Captains.	Subalterns.	Staff.	Sergeants.	Drummers.	Rank and File.	REMARKS.
Royal Engineers	1	5	STAFF : Col. Carey, Commanding ; Deputy A. Q.-M. General S. A. Surgeon Alston ; D.A.C.-G. Neill ; D.A.Q.M.-G. Hay.
1B 12th Regiment ... ..	...	2	6	...	9	2	168
70th Regiment	1	3	9	3	21	9	326	
Army Hospital Corps ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
2B 18th Regiment ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Waikato Militia... ..	...	3	4	1	12	1	198
Naval Volunteers ... ..	...	1	2	...	7	...	93
Colonial Defence Force... ..	...	1	2	...	3	...	49
Total	1	11	23	4	52	12	843	

G. J. CAREY,
Colonel Commanding ;HERBERT J. HILL,
Lieut. and Field Adjutant.Colonial Secretary's Office,
Auckland, 15th Dec., 1863.

THE following correspondence relating to the late Public Domains' Board is published for general information.

W. M. FOX.

Public Domains' Board,
Auckland, 5th Dec., 1863.

SIR,—We have the honor to tender to his Excellency the resignation of our seats at the Public Domains' Board.

We have, &c.,

HENRY SEWELL,
E. W. STAFFORD,
DANIEL POLLEN,
F. D. BELL.The Honorable
the Colonial Secretary, Auckland.Colonial Secretary's Office,
Auckland, 10th Dec., 1863.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, in which you tender the resignation of your seats at the Public Domains' Board, and, in reply, to inform you that the Government reluctantly accept such resignation ; and, in doing so, have to return you their thanks for your valuable services in improving the Government Domain at Auckland, and in rendering it so agreeable a place of public resort and recreation.

Every one who remembers the neglected waste which that Domain was three years ago and visits it now will gladly acknowledge

how much the citizens of Auckland are indebted to you for its rapid transformation into a picturesque and healthy promenade.

I have, &c.,

W. M. FOX.

The Hon H. Sewell, and the other
Members of the late
Public Domains' Board.REPORT BY THE PUBLIC DOMAINS
BOARDTO
THE HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.

AUCKLAND, 5TH DECEMBER, 1863.

The existing Public Domain Board have availed themselves of the meeting of the General Assembly, to resign the charge they now hold, with a view to affording the Legislature an opportunity of reconsidering the mode in which the Public Domain should be administered ; and in taking this step they beg to submit the following Report.

The accounts handed to the Auditor of Public Accounts (to the latest date), show the Receipts and Expenditure of the Board.

The particulars of an arrangement for setting apart a portion of the Domain for a Cricket Ground, are set forth in minutes, dated 10th February and 16th April, 1863, copies of which are annexed.

The Board have taken a lease of a piece of land, part of Hobson's Park, required for the purpose of forming an approach to the Domain from the head of the St. George's

Bay Road. For this land an annual rent of eight pounds is payable.

A right of road has also been purchased by the Board, with the view of forming approaches to the Domain from the Grafton and Parnell Roads.

Under the Auckland Reserves Act, 1858, certain lands were set apart to be sold, the proceeds to be applied towards the improvement of the Domain and its approaches. Some portions of these Reserves remain unsold, viz. :—

1. The triangular block east of Stanley-street, near the Artillery watering troughs (which troughs are for the present permitted to be placed on part of the Domain).

2. A large block below the Artillery stable, and

3. A corner block, now occupied as a Bowling Green.

There is at present a money balance (on account of the land sold under that Act) in the Colonial Treasury at credit of the Domain Board of £700.

This sum is the unexpended balance of the total price of £7,777 13s. received from the land under the Act above alluded to. It is submitted that the Funds of the Domain ought also to be credited with interest on the sum of £2,098 7s. 5d., temporarily advanced, out of the proceeds of sale of the Domain Reserves, towards defraying the cost of a Resident Magistrate's Court in Auckland.

With regard to the landed property, now available for the improvement of the Public Domain, the Board beg to report—

1. That it will be expedient not to sell the triangular block in Stanley-street, but to throw it into the Domain.

2. That the block used as a Bowling Green should not now be sold, but should, so long as occupied for a Bowling and Archery Ground, be permitted to remain as at present; a small rent being required to show the tenancy.

3. The land on the West and South-west sides of the Grafton Road should be sold from time to time, and the proceeds invested as a permanent Fund for the maintenance and improvement of the Domain.

HENRY SEWELL,
Chairman.

Auckland, Dec. 5th, 1863.

EXTRACT from Minutes of Domain Board as to Cricket Ground in Domain.

10th February, 1863.

The following outline of the Rules for the Management of the Ground was agreed on by the Board :—

1. The President and Secretary of all Clubs numbering at least twenty-two members, whose ordinary place of play is within five miles of the Domain, and who shall intimate to the Board their wish to use the ground,

shall form a Committee of Management for that purpose.

2. Two members of Committee shall be a quorum.

3. The Committee shall frame Rules and submit them to the Board for approval before applying them.

4. The Committee must undertake the whole expense of forming the ground, and the Board shall be in no way responsible for this outlay.

5. The Board are of opinion that the use of the ground should be open to all Cricket Clubs numbering twenty-two members.

The Clerk is instructed to call on the Cricket Clubs, by advertisement, to send in notice to them before Saturday next, at noon, stating the names of the President and Secretary, who are to be members of Committee, and to arrange that a meeting of the Committee be summoned here on that day and hour.

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16th April, 1863.

The Clerk reported that the Cricket Clubs which had taken advantage of the arrangement as to the Domain Cricket Ground made at last meeting were the "United" and "West End" Clubs.

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Colonial Defence Office,
Auckland, 14th Dec., 1863.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the publication of the following Sailing Directions for the Waikato River.

T. RUSSELL.

Sailing Directions for Waikato River, New Zealand.

When near the Waikato, do not shut in Oruarangi Point (a point 3' Southward of the entrance) until the Fairway Beacons are in one, bearing N.E. by E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E. Easterly (magnetic); then proceed over the Bar, with them in line (see view). When just over the Bar, the water will deepen 5 or 6 feet; keep the marks on until a sandy cliff on the South Head is about to shut in, when steer for Putataka. When the Mission House is touching a yellow cliff on the West side of Putataka, see that the small black beacons are still open, to avoid the five-foot bank to Northward of Channel.

If wishing to bring up to the Eastward of Putataka, anchor so as to swing clear of a 4 feet rock, E. by N., 1 cable from the point, and the shoal water to the Northward of the Channel. If vessel is 150 feet long, she must moor, but can lie at single anchor to the North-West of the Point. The tide is less to the Eastward of the Point.

In going out from Putataka, steer down for the mouth of the river, keeping the black beacons open to avoid the 5 feet bank.

Bring the Fairway beacons in line when the Sandy Cliff is about to open itself, and proceed across the bar. Keep the marks on until Oruarangi Point is well open, when you are clear of the breakers at the entrance.

The least water on the Bar with the Fairway Beacons in line is 12 feet 6 inches at low water spring tides; but there is 10 feet a short distance to the Northward, and 11 feet the same to the Southward, so that the marks should not be opened much.

The Beacons when in line are in the middle

of an easily recognised gully, as shown in the view.

The Eastern Beacon is on White-shell summit. The Western one $\frac{1}{4}$ mile S.W. by W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W. from it on a little mound.

The Spits at the entrance appear to have shifted since Capt. Drury surveyed the Waikato, as the present Fairway magnetic bearing differs 4° or nearly half a point from the old one.

JNO. G. BOULTON, R.N.,
Master's Asst., and Asst. Surveyor.

