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Honour the Treaty

neutrality of Belgium.

In the House of Commons Mr Gladstone had this to say,

They are:
1. Equal and exact justice to all citizens regardless of race.

2. Freedom of Religion.
3. Freedom of the person.
4. Freedom of expression.
5. Peace, commerce and friendship with all nations.
6. The support of Government in its whole constitutional vigour.

7. Free election of the Government for the people and by the people.

8. The supremacy of the civil over the military.

9. Preservation of the public faith.

These principles are certain and binding.

When illusions are dispelled, when misconceptions are rectified and when those are elected to govern, search their souls and are consecrated to truth, justice, honesty and duty the ark of the peoples safety will still be discerned in the keeping of those who hold fast to the principles of true democracy.

The Maori people are opposed to a referendum for the obvious reason - they are numerically inferior to the other partner. If taken, the result is a foregone conclusion.

The question as to who is a Maori.

Let me reply by asking who is an Anglo Saxon? Who is a German?

Did not the Normans invade and conquer England. Yet the English are still proud of the fact that they are English in spite of their mixed blood.

Despite the fact there are few fullblooded Maori today, they are still proud to be called Maori regardless of the degree of blood.

At any rate, the legal definition of a Maori is a descendant of a Maori.

I turn now to the question that the treaty is an ancient document, being irrelevant to this day and age, should be scrapped or updated.

I wish to refer to a treaty signed in 1839 by European nations guaranteeing the neutrality of Belgium.

In 1870 a war broke out between France and Germany and Bismark gave a written assurance that Germany and her allies would respect the

disregards it is doomed, and our shame would have rung down through the everlasting ages."

Theodore Roosevelt, a former President of the United States: "It is quite indefensible to make agreements and not live up to them."

Claims supported

I have quoted those distinguished English and American statesmen of yesterday to show that treaties should not be dependant on the whims and fancies of politicians when it suits them, or through timidity, or through a perverted calculation of self interest, or through a paralysis of the sense of honour and duty, to be false to ones word and faithless to one's friends.

These quotations also support Maori assertions and claims that the Treaty of Waitangi is as strong today as it was in 1840 and it is a living document. Neither is it a time warp trap or a scrap of paper. The choice for the Crown - the Government - is quite clear, to honour or dishonour, between treachery and good faith, and that we have at last reached the dividing line which makes or mars a nation worthy of the name.

I wish to say at this juncture that the present Labour Government is the only government in the history of this nation to take the Maori people far along the road to rectifying some of the injustices perpetrated by previous governments.

You have done much not to do more: You have gone far, not to go on towards honouring the treaty, thus restoring the honour of the Crown in the eyes of the Maori people, indeed of all informed New Zealanders.

'The choice for the Crown is quite clear - to honour or dishonour, between treachery and good faith'

I need not, I am certain, assure Government of the depth of our gratitude for its courage and tenacity in spite of threats and opposition from those quidnuncs who are opposing the treaty.

I respectfully suggest to Government that matters will not mend till the statesman-

ship of makeshifts, palliatives, expedients and coercion are abandoned, by enlarging the purpose of your politics and having done so, give due recognition to the status of the treaty.

To some people, including some politicians, the moment the Treaty of Waitangi is mentioned they bid au revoir to common sense and act like tyrants and the fatuity of idiots.

Ambitious political opportunists who see themselves as future messiahs of our people have short memories. For every conflict this nation has participated in, the Maori contribution has been out of all proportion to their numbers in helping their European comrades to rescue our country from the grasping claws of would-be conquerors.

Although the treaty has not yet been ratified, it has been sanctified by the blood of thousands of Maori and Europeans whom neither distinction of colour or race could keep apart on those foreign fields of suffering and death.

If attacks continue on our people, it would be fair to ask: Did they die in vain?

I submit that the Treaty of Waitangi, its terms and principles should be paramount in every law enacted by Parliament so as to give it full, binding, lawful and moral status.

The principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are many and I suggest the real way to deal with them is to stand by them when they are unpopular as well as when they are popular, knowing that their truth will one day manifest itself.

If you see nothing but the difficulties where difficulties are so great, you will achieve nothing, for efforts hitherto have been too timid and too politically cautious.

Before we succeed in remedying one evil fresh ones crop up - we are hopelessly in arrears.

The treaty and its promises must be considered on a grand scale' and woe to the generation and government that lacks the courage to undertake the task.

The Crown must be prepared to be bold.

Satisfy wrongs

Let us say now that claims to the Waitangi Tribunal are not because we are materialists,

but to satisfy wrongs committed in the name of the Crown. In our conception of these things we are not materialist.

We are untaunted with the materialists' creed that in both this world and the next the only thing to look for is wealth and cheapness.

Although we are idealist, we live in a world of fact and not in a world of fiction.

I sometimes think the saddest part of politics is that the experience of 148 years of dishonour has no lessons for the peoples of today.

Are those ancient words to be forever true? "If they hear not Moses and the Prophets nether will they be persuaded though one arose from the dead."

Let no man accuse the Maori of deliberate racism for race hatred is an unreasoning passion.

Though bitter is the memory of past and present injustices inflicted upon the Maori, the majority assert there is no thought of revenge whatsoever, but only of justice for the future.

Let me say to Government, by endeavouring to right the wrongs of the past, you are in truth engaged in a noble work - nothing less than championing the weak.

'The Maori is like the rhinoceros - if is a terrible beast itself when attacked'

against the powerful, the afflicted against the prosperous.

In conclusion, since the signing of the treaty our Maori history has been one of continuous struggle against overwhelming odds.

Numerous Maori attempts to find common grounds for reconciliation have foundered on the scylla of Crown indifference and on rare occasions when that indifference has given way to self-interest.

We, the Maori people, have been sustained by the vision of a coming day as we walk through darkness, hopelessness, suffering and oppression when the triumph of our cause is consummated.

May the God of the poor and the oppressed, the God of justice and mercy watch over you and our liberties.

Land claim planned by Muaupokoko

Muaupokoko Maori are to assert their historical ancestral right to Kapiti Island, in a wide ranging land claim being put before the Waitangi Tribunal.

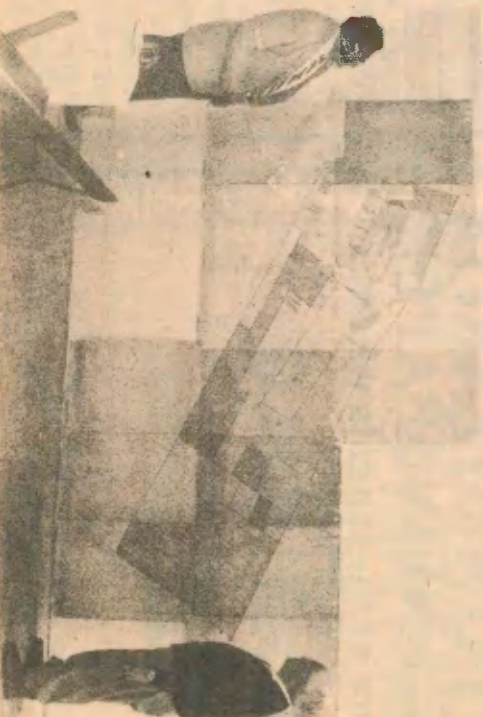
"There is pressure within the tribe for a claim to include an area from Foxton to Pukerua Bay, including the Kapiti Coast and Kapiti Island," said a spokesman for the tribe, Mr Matt McMillan.

On the regional television programme, "Today Tonight" Mr McMillan said that as tan-

people were making the claim and he referred to Te Rauparaha's forays into Muaupokoko ancestral lands.

The Muaupokoko people met to determine the nature the claim will take, regarding land formerly owned by the tribe but now held by the Crown, according to Mr McMillan.

"We've asked the claimants to back and get specific details, so that we can put our



Two Muaupokoko elders (left) James Broughton and Tamihana Tukapua with a map of the Horowhenua block which runs from the sea to the Tararua Ranges. Included in the block are large