

# THE HONEY POISONING CASE

(PRESS ASSOCIATION TELEGRAM.)

AUCKLAND, April 30.

The following is another account of the honey poisoning affair near Morrinsville, by which five Maoris lost their lives. A Maori said to be 100 years old, and certainly little, if any, short of that age, feeling unwell, recently, told his friends not to bother about him or to trouble themselves by coming much to the whare, where he lived alone. He said he would find a grave for himself, which they understood to mean that he would probably retire to one of the caves near there and die. Last Friday he was missed, and eight stalwart Maori men started to search for him. Having been unable to find him they retired in the evening to his whare, and in their hunger regaled themselves with honey from one of his hives. They were soon taken very ill, and recognised that they had eaten honey gathered by bees from poisonous tree blossoms. Five of them are dead, and the other three have recovered after fearful sufferings. One of them had his tongue badly mangled as a result of convulsions. A constable has been instructed to destroy the remainder of the honey, except a sample for analysis. The deceased Maoris were intelligent, industrious, upright men, and pleasant neighbours. They were well known in Morrinsville, where they often came with four-horse waggons, bringing flax or other produce. It is but a fortnight since a big feast terminated which had been given by the Watanui natives for the opening of the public hall. On that occasion a large number of Pakeha visitors were cordially entertained day after day. Now it is tangi. Cries of grief could yesterday be sometimes heard for half a mile.

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