

175. *Mr. A. C. Kimbell.*] Is Mr. Johnston a married man?—Yes.
 176. Has he any family?—I did not see any.
 177. Where does he live; on Cottesbrook Run?—His wife is at Outram. He is working on Cottesbrook Run, about forty miles from Outram.
 178. So that he would sleep at Cottesbrook?—He comes home occasionally. He came down on Friday and returned on Monday.
 179. Do you know any more of the Strath-Taieri District than you have told us?—No.

ALFRED CHARLES KIMBELL, examined.

180. *Mr. Haggitt.*] What are you?—A wool-classer.
 181. I want to know whether you attended this sale. First of all, do you know Section 2, Block VI., Strath-Taieri District?—Yes.
 182. Did you attend the sale on the 28th February when this section was offered for sale?—Yes.
 183. Did you bid for that section?—Yes.
 184. And the section was eventually knocked down to Mr. Bradshaw?—Yes.
 185. You questioned, and I believe you to-day question, the right of Mr. Johnston to be accepted as a bidder at that sale?—Yes.
 186. What are your objections, Mr. Kimbell?—Well, before going into that I should like to make a statement.
 187, 188. In the meantime, Mr. Kimbell, you are my witness; after I have done with you you can make your explanations?—My objection to Mr. Johnston getting a license is that I believe he is not a *bonâ fide* settler.
 189. That, I understand, is not the result of your own knowledge, but the result of inquiries which you have instituted?—Yes.
 The Board then adjourned till 2 p.m.
 The Board resumed.

KENNETH WILLIAMSON, examined.

190. *Mr. Haggitt.*] Your name is Kenneth Williamson?—It is.
 191. And I believe you are a shepherd in the employment of Messrs. Smith and Gellibrand?—Yes.
 192. Whereabouts are you employed; on what run?—On the Nenthorne.
 193. Is that part of what is called the Cottesbrook Station?—It is a different run, but belongs to the same firm.
Mr. Stout: It lies in the north.
 194. *Mr. Haggitt.*] Was its manager the same?—The same manager.
 195. That is, who is the manager?—Mr. Pogson.
 196. Do you remember the sale of land in the Strath-Taieri District on the 28th February last?—Yes.
 197. You were not a purchaser at that sale?—I was. Not in the Strath-Taieri District; but on the same day in the Maniototo District.
 198. You did not buy on Smith and Gellibrand's run?—No.
 199. Were you asked to do so?—No, I was not. You mean at that sale?
 200. Yes. Were you asked on any previous occasion to do so?—Well, Mr. Pogson never asked me; but I had it put to me.
 201. When was that?—Some three years ago.
 202. That was when a sale was to take place of some land at Silver Peak?—Yes.
 203. You say that some three years ago you were asked?—It was three years since that land was sold, and some time before the sale came on I was asked. As I understood, I was "felt" whether I would be a purchaser.
 204. That is, you understood you were "sounded" whether you would become a purchaser?—Yes.
 205. If it was not by Mr. Pogson, who was it?—By a man in his employ, a shepherd.
 206. What was his name?—Charles Patterson.
 207. What was it you were actually asked to do?—I was then living on a distant part of the run, set apart as pastoral deferred-payment land. At that time part was supposed to be about to be put up, and I was given to understand that I would have to shift from that part of the run where I was and go to another, or take up this land.
 208. That if you did not take it up you would have to shift?—Yes.
 209. In point of fact to make room for some one else who would take it up?—I do not know.
 210. Did any persons who were in the employment of Smith and Gellibrand purchase sections at that sale of the Silver Peak?—Yes.
 211. Could you name any of them?—I could name one, John Watson.
 212. Is there a man named Higgins?—There were two men of that name; but I do not know whether they were in their employ. One of them was not. Charles and William Higgins were the names of the men who purchased at the Silver Peak sale.
 213. Do you know any other?—A man named Francis.
 214. Do you know any other?—No.
 215. Could you say whether those men have occupied the sections that they took up since?—They have lived upon them.
 216. They have lived upon them ever since?—I do not say ever since.
 217. Well, they have lived upon them. Have they fenced them?—I think there is a fence; here is a sort of a ring-fence round it.
 218. Are there any sheep on that ground?—Yes.