

925. It was rumoured?—Yes.

926. *Mr. McKenzie.*] Did you or your father tell Mr. Sowry that he would pay him for his trouble if he went in for it—any trouble that Mr. Sowry might be put to?—Oh, yes!

927. Can you recollect what the words were he used?—He said any expense he was put to at all he would pay.

928. You do not know why your father paid the deposit?—Only that he told me before he went in that he had one more marked cheque, and that he would get some one more to go in for him. He had just come out of the bank previous to this, and we were walking along.

929. How many applications had your family in? had you any more than your father and yourself?—There was another brother and a sister, I fancy, and mother, but I would not be certain. I think there were all the family over seventeen or eighteen years of age.

930. *Mr. Kerr.*] You never heard that your father had offered £100 to any one that got the section?—No. It was rumoured about town that he would give any one £50, but I never heard it from him.

931. *Mr. Whyte.*] Are you under the impression that Mr. Sowry's deposit was paid by means of a marked cheque of your father's?—Yes.

APPENDIX.

Copy of Telegram.

Commissioner of Crown Lands, Auckland.

30th June, 1890.

STATE generally your opinion what proportion of settlement lands was disposed of during the past year in your district for *bonâ fide* settlement, and, as far as you can judge, how much was dummed or acquired for speculation (if any), and under what system this was most prevalent. What proportion was disposed of by ballot as against single applications? Give general statements, not actual figures.

H. J. H. ELIOTT, Under-Secretary.

Re your wire on dummyism: The intention of the Act is evaded, I think, by a man and wife making separate applications for the maximum area, thus practically the man holding 4,000 acres. We had one case about six months ago, and, again, the case of unsurveyed land thrown open to-day, in Raglan County at, 9 a.m., by two persons, without question man and wife, which swept off 4,000 acres of the best. As the law now stands for perpetual lease there is no preventing it.

Auckland, 18th July, 1890.

THOMAS HUMPHRIES, Chief Surveyor.

REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS to 31st March, 1890.

Auckland.—Not aware of a single selection made for speculation. All *bonâ fide*, except a few kauri sections, bought for sake of the timber. One-tenth of whole selections went to ballot.

Taranaki.—Speculation and dummyism almost *nil*. Only 9 selections out of 229 supposed speculative; only two actual dummies. In cases where supposed dummies have been put in only two have been successful.

Hawke's Bay.—Considers all settlement lands were for *bonâ fide* settlement; probably about 1,000 acres bought for cash or speculation. No balloting in district, except for five small holdings near a village settlement. Single applications only received.

Wellington.—Not aware what was taken up by dummies, but believes a vast proportion taken up for settlement. Probably the perpetual-lease system would favour dummyism. About one-fourth the area disposed of was balloted for.

Nelson.—None taken up for speculative purposes.

Marlborough.—None taken up for speculative purposes. Proportion—one-fourth by ballot, three-fourths by single applications.

Canterbury.—About three-fourths of land selected was for *bonâ fide* settlement, and out of the other one-fourth a large area of stony land not fit for small settlers was taken up by large holders. As showing that there is land open for settlement, 14,000 acres stony land south of the Hinds still open at reduced prices. So far as can be judged, about 2,700 acres were dummed under cash applications.

Otago.—All taken up for *bonâ fide* settlement. Proportion—about four-fifths by ballot.

Southland.—So far as he can judge, all taken up for *bonâ fide* settlement, except small percentage for bush, flax, &c. Proportion nearly equal. Little or no balloting during the year.

Westland.—All selected for *bonâ fide* settlement. All cases were by single applications no balloting.

[*Approximate Cost of Paper.*—Preparation, nil; printing (1,300 copies), £28.]

By Authority: GEORGE DIDSBURY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1890.