

him take two papers from it. He put them away and took them with him. They took the newspaper I had on the mantelpiece as well. The Inspector asked me to go with him to show him the road, for it was dark. I went down with him as far as the gate. I saw them the next morning; I think it was Sunday the next morning, if I am not mistaken. They came up for the gun. They asked me some questions about the gun—when I fired it last. I told them it was a few days ago that I fired it at some quail. I showed them where I fired it, about forty yards from the house. They asked me how many I got. I said, two once, and two on another morning. I said to them, "I wish to goodness you had taken it before; why didn't you take it last night, for I don't like to be suspected for a thing like this." They said it did not matter, and then left me. I believe it was on the 5th of June I was working in front of the store in Kaiwarra. I was "picking up" the road before spreading the metal on it. All at once I heard a voice. I think it was Benjamin's, saying "Louis, we want you." I turned round, and the first thing I saw was two of them. He said, "Come here, we have a warrant to arrest you." I asked, "What for?" He said, "For that affair of Hawkings's." "Oh," I said. They took me inside, into a shop, and read the warrant for me. After reading the warrant I said to them, "I wish you would let me go home and put some better clothes on." I had bad clothes on, dirty pants and an old coat. "No," they said, "we won't be in time for the train; we won't let you go any more." I had to submit, of course. They brought me to the lock-up. From there I was taken before the bench. From before the bench I was put back again into the lock-up. Then Mr. Devine came to me. He asked me if I could get bail. I said, "Yes." He next said, "Who will stand bail for you?" I said that Mr. W. Fitzherbert, or Mr. Burgin would. He said, "Would they?" I said, "I am sure they would." He said, "All right." He then went to the Court; but I cannot say where he went, but he went away. He came back in about ten minutes, and told me they would accept no bail. In about a few hours after I was brought up here to this place. After being a few hours here Dr. Cahill came in here. He asked me in front of Mr. Garvey and a gaol-warder to strip off, which I did. He looked all over me. Then he started to ask me questions. He asked me, Where did I get them bullets from? I believe I told him that I got them from a fellow in Kaiwarra. I had a little bit of a scratch in the leg from having rubbed my leg against the step of a door. It was a mere bit of a scratch. He asked me, where I got that. I told him. He asked me different other questions. He asked me if I had seen a lawyer that morning. I said that Mr. Devine came here. He said, "What business has a lawyer to come to see you already?" I said I had never sent for him; that he came himself. Then Dr. Cahill said, "I must keep this coat of yours. I see some spots on it." I said, "All right." He kept the coat. Mr. Garvey sent me a coat by one of the warders. I put it on. Will you go any further, gentlemen?

2. *The Chairman.*] How long were you living in Kaiwarra?—I landed in this place in 1877. I was working in Petone for two years on the road, and for Mr. Fitzherbert. Mr. Fitzherbert said I could manage a piece of road to myself. He gave me a piece of road to keep—from the Junction Brewery to Ngauranga. I was working on that job from 1879.

3. Who were you working for?—For the Hutt County Council.

4. Had you saved money at all from your working?—Yes.

5. What amount?—I had close on £100 in the house or in bank. I had at one time over £100 in the bank; but I built a house. I had £80 in 1884.

6. Had you money in the house or in the bank at the time of the murder?—Yes.

7. Can you say what amount?—I could not say exactly; my missus used to bank it. I could not say.

8. Were you keeping a milk-walk, as we call it, for any length of time?—Not very long; I do not think it was two years altogether.

9. Used you to remain at home after going home from your work every night?—Yes, Sir, very seldom I used to go out. In summer I might take a walk when I had nothing to do, once in a way; but in winter I had plenty to do.

10. Did you remain away from your home for a night at any time?—No; once in a month or once in two months I might go out.

11. But I mean, away from your home all night?—No; I never did.

12. In your evidence, in reply to a question from Detective Benjamin, you said you did not know if your wife had washed your clothes that day: can you explain that to the Committee?—Did I say that myself?

13. Benjamin said to you, "Did your wife wash these clothes that day?" You said you did not know?—The clothes she washed were children's clothes—these were the only clothes. He asked me, and I said I did not know whether she did or not; but it was not my own clothes.

14. When did you last see Hawkings alive?—He passed me; I had to clear out from him; he passed me going into town.

15. Upon what terms were you with Hawkings at that time?—I was on pretty friendly terms with him.

16. What had been the result of your last meeting with him—did you settle matters in any way?—Yes, we did settle it; it was a dispute we had about children. Some of his children, I was told, struck one of mine. As he was going home one evening I said to him, "Look here, Hawkings, if you have anything to say, take it out of me, and don't put it on the children." He said, "My children never struck your children; it was another little girl that was staying in the house with me; she struck your children right enough; it was not my little girl. He asked different questions—if I was working, and that. At last we parted good friends, and said to each other, "Good night."

17. Did you have any conversation with him relative to the case that was heard at the Supreme Court?—No, I never did.

17A. Not on that day?—Not on that day.

18. If the judgment had been given against you what was the amount of money that you would