

192. Then, you made no stipulation about being indemnified at that time at all, and they said nothing about it?—Not at that time; I do not think anything was said.

193. Now, the next time Mr. Henderson saw you, you say, was towards the end of February?—Yes.

194. And then it was in regard to this particular transaction?—Yes.

195. Now, you were sent for to go to Mr. Henderson's office?—Yes.

196. And you go there. That was the first of it?—Yes.

197. Do not you recollect meeting Mr. Henderson in the street, and having a talk with him?—No.

198. No recollection at all of that?—No, I have not.

199. On the day that you went over to their office, do not you remember meeting Mr. Henderson in Bond Street?—No, I cannot say I do.

200. About 2 o'clock?—I cannot remember it. I will not deny it, but I cannot remember it.

201. Do you remember him telling you that Mr. Ritchie wanted to speak to you at that interview?—No, I do not.

202. Do you remember his telling you that Mr. Ritchie wanted you to take up an outlying run about Lake Ohau—that he only wanted the country for six months, after which the company would have no further use for it, and that if you were prepared to take up the country he would find the first half-year's rent, and would give you £15 or £20 for yourself?—I do not remember that.

203. You do not remember that as having taken place either in the street or in Mr. Henderson's office?—No.

204. Do you remember his giving as a reason for Mr. Ritchie wanting you to take it up that, on account of the rabbits, Mr. Ritchie would not have anything to do with it on the part of the company?—I remember him saying in one interview that Mr. Ritchie was very frightened of the rabbits, but I did not understand what he meant.

205. You remember his saying at one interview that Mr. Ritchie was very frightened of the rabbits, but you do not know whether it was on this occasion when he spoke to you in the street?—No.

206. Of course you do not remember saying, then, that you would have to face that, and that you were quite prepared to take the risk?—I do not remember saying that at all, and there was no question of risk mentioned.

207. Then, you say that, as far as you recollect, you were sent for to go to Mr. Henderson's office?—I think so.

208. And that Mr. Henderson commenced the conversation by saying that he wanted to go in for another run?—Yes; something of that sort.

209. That is how the conversation commenced—"I want to go in for another run"?—I could not say those were the exact words; something to that effect.

210. Did he give you any further information than that about it?—He pointed out to me on the map where the run was on one occasion, and I understood it was up at the Beach Forest.

211. Oh, you knew it was on Lake Ohau. How far is Beach Forest from Lake Ohau?—I really do not know.

212. Were you not a cadet on a run yourself once?—Yes.

213. Whereabouts?—At Hawkdun Station.

214. Whereabouts is that?—Near St. Bathans.

215. And is that the only place?—That is the only station, except that of Mr. W. A. Tolmie, at Clifton.

216. But did you not tell Mr. Henderson that you had been a cadet on this run, or near this run, and that you knew the country well?—No, I did not. I will tell you what I told Mr. Henderson. I remember the conversation. I told Mr. Henderson, when he alluded to Lake Ohau, that on the station I was on they were in the habit of going up—that several fellows had gone up to Lake Ohau. I had never been further than Omarama myself in my life, so I do not think I could have told Mr. Henderson I had been a cadet there. I was on Pareora Station, too, as a cadet once.

217. Whereabouts is that?—Near Tinaru; this side of St. Andrew's.

218. Then, you never led Mr. Henderson to believe you had been a cadet on a run in the neighbourhood of Lake Ohau; at least, you never meant to if you did?—I never meant to.

219. Tell us the conversation as it occurred. You say you were sent for, and went to Mr. Henderson's office. How did the conversation commence?—I really could not remember at this distance of time. I did not anticipate any trouble, and had no reason to take notes.

220. Cannot you tell us anything of the conversation at all?—The conversation I carried away with me—what I understood was that they wanted to take up a run in my name. The reason he explained to me at that time, or at some other time, was that the Government would "go for" a company for not killing the rabbits, whereas they would not "go for" a private individual.

221. Am I to understand that that is all you recollect of the conversation?—Yes, it is.

222. That you were sent for to speak to Mr. Henderson, and when you went you found Mr. Henderson wanting to speak to you about taking up a run in your own name; that you did not know where the run was; and that either at that interview or at some other time you understood that they wanted you to take it up in your own name, because they thought the Government would come down upon a company when they would not upon a private individual?—Yes, quite so.

223. That is all you recollect of the conversation?—Yes.

224. Is that really so?—Yes.

225. You can tell us no more than that?—No, I cannot, really.

226. Now, Mr. Scott, did you on that occasion—the occasion when you were sent for to go and see Mr. Henderson—go into Mr. Ritchie's room and have an interview with him?—No; Mr.