

113. Is that not actually what they are; the box containing sixteen or eight tablets according as they are 1oz. or 2oz.?—It is sold by the gross and not by the weight.

114. Are there not others put up twelve to the pound and six to the pound; Rickett's for instance?—I do not know anything about Rickett's.

WILLIAM MONCRIEFF sworn and examined.

115. *Mr. Menteath.*] You have been in the ironmongery trade?—Yes.

116. How long?—Twenty years.

117. In that capacity you know something about a line called Silver Lake sash-cord?—Yes.

118. How is it usually put up?—In 100ft. lengths.

119. Hanks, you would call them, in 100ft. lengths?—Yes.

120. Is there any standard weights for such hanks according to size?—There is an average weight for them.

121. What would the average weight be for No. 8?—2½lb.

122. And for No. 10?—We do not keep No. 10; I have never handled No. 10.

123. Do you find any great variation between these hanks?—No. 8: they might vary one ounce, or two ounces, but nothing more.

124. As to corrugated iron, how many sheets would there be in a case of 26 gauge 7ft. lengths?—About forty-one sheets.

125. A similar case of 8ft. lengths?—Thirty-six sheets.

126. A similar case of 9ft. lengths?—Thirty-two.

127. Have you been engaged in the process of calling back the journal with the order-book?—No.

128. Have you had to check the book sometimes to see if they were correctly posted?—That is generally done in the office; I have nothing to do with that.

129. You have not worked in the office?—No.

130. Suppose you saw an entry where thirty-two sheets of 8ft. lengths of corrugated iron was described as weighing 5cwt. 2qr. 7lb., would you detect anything irregular in that?—It would be rather heavy.

131. What should be the weight of thirty-two sheets of 8ft. lengths? What is the general rule?—About 4cwt. 2qr. 18lb.

132. Therefore you would call it excessive if they were described as 5cwt. 2qr. 7lb.?—Yes, it would be over the weight.

133. And if thirty-two sheets of 9ft. lengths were set down as 6cwt. and 3lb., would that strike you?—Yes.

134. As under or over weight?—As over weight.

135. Will you tell us what your calculation would be, according to the trade rule for thirty-two sheets of 9ft. lengths?—5cwt. and 16lb.

136. Suppose you saw twenty sheets of 7ft. lengths described as 3cwt. and 21lb., what would you think of that?—It would seem heavy also.

137. How would it work out according to your method of calculation?—2½cwt.

138. What is the usual weight of Nixey's blacklead in the trade?—Ounce cakes.

139. Then a dozen of these cakes would weigh?—12oz.

140. Suppose you saw them entered as 2lb.; you would say that that was very heavy?—Yes, it would be heavy at that weight.

141. Do you know the weight of engineers' bolts 2in. by $\frac{5}{16}$ ths? What would a dozen of such bolts weigh?—From 1½lb. to 2lb.

142. If you saw them entered at 7lb. would that attract your attention?—It would be heavy for a dozen.

143. *Mr. Skerrett.*] You said the weight of sash-cord is a proximate, not a standard weight?—It is a proximate weight.

144. With regard to corrugated iron, that is a proximate estimate?—A fair average weight.

145. Proximate, not standard?—Not standard.

146. Different brands weigh differently, do they not?—Yes; very little.

147. Nixey's blacklead is made up in ounce tablets?—Yes.

148. In any other form?—There are not 2oz. tablets; at least I have not seen them.

149. *Mr. G. Hutchison.*] Where are you employed?—By E. W. Mills and Co.

149A. Do you remember any asbestos tape that was supplied?—That is kept in another store.

151. And shackles?—That is kept in another store.

Mr. Skerrett applied for leave to examine a witness who was passing through Wellington, and who would be put to great inconvenience if detained in Wellington. [Leave given.]

Mr. THOMAS BARMBY sworn and examined.

152. *The Chairman.*] Your name is Thomas Barmby?—Yes.

153. You reside at Dunedin?—Yes.

154. *Mr. Skerrett.*] Some years ago you were a member of the firm of Wilkie and Co., wholesale stationers, Dunedin?—Yes.

155. You were a partner in that firm, and James Hendry Jenkins was an employé of the firm?—Yes.

156. Do you see him in the room?—Yes, I see him here.

157. During what period of time was he in the employment of Wilkie and Co.?—I think it is about six years ago.

158. How long was he in that employment?—He was employed in two capacities; first he did some travelling on commission.