

60. *Mr. Montgomery.*] Can you not tell the amount?—One item read originally “Best scrim, 448 yards, at 3½d.—£6 10s. 8d.” Then, there is a note that the first lot was returned owing to bad quality. The second lot sent contained two bolts, of 50 yards each (100 yards), at 3½d.—£1 9s. 2d. I think I can explain the matter. Jenkins says, in his evidence, he charged the scrim at per square yard, which was, of course, a mistake. The correct charge would have been £1 12s. 8d., instead of £6 10s. 8d.; but the stuff was returned altogether and a new line got.

61. *Mr. T. Mackenzie.*] Who invoiced it?—Jenkins.

62. It is usually about 6ft. wide?—Yes. There is another small item corrected—thirteen sash-hold rings, charged at 5s. 6d. per dozen, instead of 3s. 6d., and the charge is reduced from 6s. 3d. to 3s. 10d. There are two items further on that Jenkins gave evidence on.

63. *Mr. Reid.*] Have you done with that voucher?—No, it is not done with. Jenkins gave further evidence later on.

64. What are the other items you have a note of *re* Jenkins's evidence?—The sheet zinc.

65. *Mr. Skerrett.*] Twelve sheets, No. 11 sheet zinc, charged at 2cwt. 1qr. 21lb., and reduced by the Engineer to 1cwt. 3qr. 14lb. The difference in price is?—£2 18s. 6d. originally, and £2 5s. in the voucher as certified.

66. *Mr. Reid.*] The next item is?—It is on the 5lb. sheet lead, charged originally as 1cwt. 2qr. 14lb., reduced to 1cwt. and 12lb., and the money from £1 4s. 5d. to 16s. 7d. [Voucher with correspondence attached put in.] The correspondence was on account of the fact that the weight of the sash-cord was so largely reduced, and the accountant thought the difference was too great, and sent it back to know if it had been weighed, and the Engineer said it was weighed in his presence. The contractors were not asked about it, and their attention was not specially drawn to the reduction.

67. The next item is sash-line delivered to the workshops?—I believe Jenkins said this was before he was in the firm; it was a precedent of how he had to invoice the sash-line.

68. The next item is sheet lead for the Porirua Asylum?—Yes, Public Works voucher 660; Mr. Jenkins stated this was entered in the journal as 1cwt. 2qr. 14lb., and ought to have weighed 1cwt. and 14lb. It was only charged as 1cwt. and 14lb., which was the correct weight, and it was paid; voucher is in Jenkins's handwriting.

69. *Mr. Reid.*] Bolts for Porirua Asylum—Public Works voucher 656. What are these charged at?—Twenty holding-down bolts, 9 x ½in. diameter, 1qr. 14lb.

70. Is that paid?—Yes.

71. Sent to the Porirua Asylum?—Yes; they were weighed, or similar bolts have since been weighed, and the Engineer will give evidence that they weigh 27lb. The overcharge would be 2s. in that case.

72. Jumpers and cleaners for the Survey Department?—Land and Survey Department, voucher 17477; this is not in the handwriting of Briscoe, MacNeil, and Co.'s clerk; three jumpers 1 by 9, and three 1 by 12, and eight cleaners, charged as 300lb. This weight does not agree with either Robertson's invoice or Briscoe's book. It clearly shows an effort made by the department to check the weight. This was delivered at an out-of-the-way locality, and I expect they sent to the local storekeeper to have it weighed, but I do not know that of my own knowledge.

73. It is 48lb. less. It is greater than Robertson's invoice, but less than Briscoe's original voucher. The next item is Public Works voucher 2207. One piece of sheet lead of 5lb., Departmental Buildings, charged as 7cwt. and 8lb., but reduced by the Engineer to 6cwt. 2qr. 8lb., and reduced weight paid for. The next are three or four small charges. (Voucher 16193.) One bar of milled steel, ½in., charged as weighing 27lb. and paid for at that weight. Next, bar cast-steel, charged as weighing 17lb. and paid for at that weight.

74. Sash cord?—One hank “Silver Lake” sash-cord, 7½lb., and paid for at that weight.

75. Who did they go to, direct or to the Inspector?—All the articles on this voucher were for the Defence Department. I asked the Defence Inspector, and he said the goods were all delivered on to the works, but he could not say anything as to the weights. There was another item—engineers' bolts, one dozen ½in. bolts by 1½in., charged at 7lb., and paid for at that weight.

76. *Mr. Montgomery.*] I would like to see the 17lb. and the 27lb. Were they separate charges, and was that correct?—We have no knowledge. Jenkins says it is not correct; but we have no knowledge.

77. *Mr. Reid.*] At this distance of time you could not state that?—No; and besides, they were sent on to the works.

78. Corrugated iron for the State Farm?—That was supplied direct to the State Farm on their own requisition and without applying to the Public Works Department (voucher 10436). The first entry referred to thirty-two sheets “Pyramid” corrugated iron, 8ft., 26 gauge, charged 5cwt. 2qr. 7lb., and paid for at that weight. Next entry, thirty-two sheets same, 9ft., charged 6cwt. and 3lb., and paid for at that weight. Then twenty sheets 7ft., charged 3cwt. and 21lb., and paid for at that weight; also, one 4in. jaw tail-vice, 2qr. 24lb., and paid for at that weight. I have made inquiries as to this weight, and find it was not weighed, the State Farm authorities having no appliance for weighing. Next, composition pipe for Workshops (voucher 318), 20ft. composition pipe ¾in., 30ft. ¼in.; charged as weighing 1qr. 9lb., and paid for at that weight.

79. *Mr. Montgomery.*] As to this iron for the State Farm, have you any evidence?—I have none. These were supplied without the intervention of the Public Works Department.

80. Treasury voucher 64831?—Forty sheets of “Pyramid” iron, 6ft., 26 gauge, 3cwt. 3qr. 14lb.; there can be no doubt that that iron weighed more than that.

81. How do you arrive at that?—The rule of the department is 2lb. to the foot run for 26 gauge iron; and you will find at that rate that the weight should be 4cwt. 1qr. 4lb., so there is an undercharge of a half hundredweight: on the same voucher there are thirteen sheets of same, 7ft., 26 gauge, charged as 1cwt. 3qr. 14lb.; this weight by the same rule of computation is one-quarter too heavy, so that on the whole there is an undercharge of a quarter of a hundredweight.