

146. And the same in 1892, 1893, 1894, and 1895?—That is right.

147. Then, up to 1895 was this exclusively enforced?—I expect so.

148. What I want to get at is this: From 1887, or from the time you took charge, up to the 18th March, 1897, or up to the time when the recruiting from the Permanent Artillery broke down, were all the appointments made from the Permanent Force?—That is easily found out, but I cannot answer you straight off. I do not think they were.

149. Would you say whether there were any appointments made from outsiders?—I cannot say without having access to the documents. I think it is answered in one of my reports. In the report for 1891 I state: "This, however, does not debar special enrolments for the police of desirable men who, from previous service in the London or county police in England, the Royal Irish Constabulary, or (for mounted men) in the Imperial cavalry, are likely to prove efficient recruits though they may not have served in the Permanent Militia."

150. Do you remember whether a man named G. H. Nixon was appointed direct to the Force, without having served in the Permanent Artillery?—Yes; I think he is acting-detective now. I think I can tell you without reference to the papers about him. We had very reliable information that the Government Buildings were going to be burned down, and we put Nixon on. He was given to me as a very reliable man. We put him on as night watchman, and I told him when I put him on I would try and do something for him if he carried out his duties satisfactorily. He was there, I think, three months, and then I got the Minister to appoint him to the Force.

151. That was in contravention of the regulations?—Oh, yes.

152. Do you know whether he was secretary to Mr. Lawry's election committee in Parnell in 1893?—I do not know. I know he is a very good acting-detective. As far as I remember that is the exact circumstance. I think he is the man.

153. *The Chairman.*] In what year was he appointed to the Force?—I cannot tell that. He has got about three years' service.

154. *Mr. Taylor.*] In the Police Force?—Yes.

155. I would like to ask whether Nixon, before he was appointed acting-detective, had any experience of constable's work?—I should think not.

156. He went straight on as acting-detective?—Oh, no; he did constable's duty for some time and plain-clothes duty, but that does not affect me. The Inspector runs his own district. I do not tell him, excepting, of course, occasionally; when I know a man has done something very good in another district, I may tell the Inspector. I may say they are not acting-detectives, they are plain-clothes constables.

157. You do not know he was a member of Mr. Lawry's election committee?—No; that is the first I have heard of it.

157A. You do not remember Mr. Lawry recommending him?—No; but that can be ascertained from the form of application.

158. Are there never any other recommendations, excepting those that accompany the application or are attached to the application form?—The man has to be recommended by two respectable people, and he has to show his last five situations.

159. Are there not other persons recommending in addition to the two that fill in this form?—Yes.

160. Are they not kept?—No; returned to the man, unless they are copies.

161. You are quite clear Nixon was appointed on the recommendation of the Minister?—I did not say so. This man was taken on in a peculiar sort of way. If my memory serves me right, we put on two men. I do not remember the name of the other man. He was taken for this night-watchman business, and told if he carried out his duties something would be done for him, because it was a very ticklish business. We had reliable information that arson was going to be tried.

162. You think an inexperienced man was a good man to employ for the purpose of preventing the buildings being burned down?—You do not want a detective to walk round a building to see that it is not burned down.

163. The point I want to get at is that he was appointed in defiance of the regulations?—I would not say so straight off, but I believe so.

164. Did you make any appointments at all during your term of office without consulting the Minister?—I do not think so. I will not be certain. I may have at first, but I do not think so.

165. If that is so, this man must have been discussed with the Minister before he was appointed?—No doubt. When this Government Buildings scare was over I took this man's name to the Minister.

166. *The Chairman.*] You took a special outside man to do this duty?—Yes. I took two men.

167. *Mr. Taylor.*] Why did you not go into your own Force?—I had not got the men to spare.

168. *The Chairman.*] He was an outsider, who came recommended to you to do this duty?—Yes.

169. *Mr. Taylor.*] I would like to know whether the practice could not have been followed of taking some of the artillerymen to do this special duty?—I do not think it could. If my memory serves me right it was about seven o'clock at night when we heard it.

170. And would not the Permanent Militia be available?—No; I do not think it would, as far as I remember.

171. What becomes of them at night?—I am speaking from memory. They may have been up in the Urewera Country.

172. Was it necessary to put a man on in an instant, and was this man the only one on the spot?—I do not say so. It is impossible to tell at this stage what were the exact circumstances.

173. In your evidence you said that you gave in the list of applications for employment the number of men of each religion required. Is the ratio of religion fixed so far as the police is concerned?—No.