

qualified?—I know men who have spent years and years at it, and then have not a good general knowledge.

238A. Do you know of any constable having been removed into Wellington on the general election day? Can you remember any country constable being called into Wellington to do duty on these days?—I cannot distinctly bring to my memory whether they have been. They may have been.

239. Do I understand you to say there is no dissatisfaction with regard to unfair promotions?—Nothing really worth consideration.

239A. To put a theoretical case: Supposing a constable is dismissed for drunkenness—a very glaring case, where the offence is committed in a public place—and, after a few months, is reinstated in his old position in the service, forfeiting neither long-service pay, nor rank, nor station, would you consider that likely to encourage other members of the Force who are decently behaved?—No; it has a very bad effect.

240. Take a case where a constable has been convicted by his department of illegally retaining public moneys for his own profit, and has been disrated for a few months and then given charge of a country station again, do you not think that has a disheartening effect on a man in the Force who has behaved himself?—Yes.

241. You are not quite sure that there have been many such occurrences throughout the colony?—I do not know.

242. Do you know of any such cases?—No, I have not heard of them.

243. Have you anything to do with enforcing the licensing law?—Yes, I was selected some time ago to visit hotels on Sundays. We reported several of the hotels, and I think all were convicted and fined £5 each, with an indorsement on their licenses; and on another occasion I reported the Pier Hotel for permitting drunkenness on the premises, and on that ground the police opposed the granting of a license to the proprietor. Yes, I have had some experience of the licensing laws.

244. You have been on duty almost exclusively on the wharves during the last few years?—

Yes.

245. You think the law is now generally observed so far as Sunday trading is concerned?—

Yes.

246. You think it is strictly observed?—Yes.

247. Very strictly? You think it highly improbable that a police officer would get liquor in any of the hotels on Sunday, I mean for his own private consumption?—I can only speak for myself in a matter like that. I never go near a hotel except when I am compelled to do so as a matter of duty. I do not drink myself, and cannot speak for other men.

248. Do not you think you ought to know something about them on duty?—Except what comes under my knowledge. I have not latterly had much to do with them. There are only two hotels on the wharf, the Post Office and the Pier Hotel.

249. You see a good many of the arrivals by the shipping here?—Yes.

250. Do you know whether there are many spieler in Wellington just now? How do you define a spieler?—I should say a man who frequents racecourses, and who lives by games of chance, and runs gambling games on the racecourse. They are generally of the spieler classes.

251. They are a class you can very easily arrest, on the ground that they have no visible means of support?—It is an easy matter to arrest, but very difficult to prove.

252. Do you think there are many in Wellington just now?—Of course, we are never without some spieler here. There are some, but so far as my knowledge goes there are very few.

253. You do not know any of them personally?—Yes.

254. Some of them who are now in Wellington?—Yes.

255. What are the names of any of them?—I know a spieler named McLaughlan.

256. Is he here now?—Yes.

257. Any others?—A man named Reardon. These people very seldom come under my notice. We leave them to the Detective Branch. My particular duties are amongst the shipping classes.

258. Do you know any more?—I cannot think of any just now.

259. But you have a pretty fair general knowledge of the town?—Yes.

260. You know the principal thoroughfares well?—Yes.

261. Do you know of any totalisator-shop in Wellington?—No.

262. Do you know if there have been any?—Yes; there is a conviction on record, and I was here at the time they were prosecuted for having tote-shops in Willis Street.

263. You think there are none in Wellington now?—Not that I am aware of. I know there are "bookies."

264. Where are the bookies?—They follow the occupation of bookies, I suppose. For instance, Patterson has been a well-known bookie in Wellington for years, so far as I know.

265. Do you know if any book-makers keep shops in Wellington?—No.

266. Not keeping shops of any kind?—No.

267. Do you know a man named Shotlander; what is he?—He keeps a shop of general clothing.

268. What does he do besides?—I do not know.

269. You do not know if he is a book-maker?—No. I have not had any transactions. I am not a betting-man.

270. You do not bet?—I had a wager once, and I lost my money.

271. How long is that?—Some time ago.

272. How long ago?—When I was in the Artillery.

273. As long ago as that?—Yes.

274. Never had a bet since?—No.