

275. Has no one ever complained to you about your betting on the wharf in Wellington?—
No. I never had a wager. I might say "I would bet a shilling," for fun.
276. Never had a bet of a shilling?—No.
277. All your bets have been for fun?—Yes.
278. You have bet with no one on the wharf?—No.
279. Do you know any of the billiard-rooms in Wellington?—No, I know there are billiard-rooms.
280. Never in one?—No.
281. You do not know whether any of the spielers have their headquarters in billiard-rooms in Wellington?—No.
282. You never knew of any political influence being invoked in connection with the Police Force?—No.
283. *Mr. Poynton.*] Do you know anything about a supposed jealousy between the Police Force and the Detective Force. There is no jealousy, so far as I know. I can only speak for myself. The detectives have always assisted me, and I make it a point to assist them.
284. It has been said that there is jealousy on account of the best cases being given to the detectives, and that the other men feel aggrieved: apart from yourself, do you know of any other policeman who had a grievance against them for that reason?—No.
285. *The Chairman.*] Is there any feeling in the Force between the uniform men and the detectives arising from a feeling of jealousy?—There has been the very best feeling between the two Forces ever since I have been here.
286. I want you to tell me if what I am about to read to you expresses the true view of the feeling existing in the Force: "I may state there is no love lost between the uniform men and the Detective Branch. They look down on us; and we, knowing what frauds they are, look down on them." Is that prevalent?—No.
287. Again, "When a detective comes to a country station on a case he takes full charge, and we, the uniform men, are subordinate to his orders. He is supposed to possess extra brain-power, and, as a rule, assumes an air of mystery and pooh-poohs any suggestion made by the local police, and thinks Vidocq and Sherlock Holmes mere novices compared to him." You are not aware of any such feeling existing between the uniform men and the Detective Branch?—No, certainly not.
288. *Mr. Tunbridge.*] In regard to the supposititious case put to you by Mr. Taylor about a constable after being six months in the service being sent out to take charge of a country station: do you know of any such case?—No.
289. Is it not a fact that, before a constable is sent out to a country station, he has to be many years in the service?—Many years.
290. Do you not know that the constables stationed at the Upper Hutt, Lower Hutt, and Johnsonville came into town yesterday for duty at the election?—Yes.
291. These men were called into town yesterday from their own districts?—Yes.
292. If there had been a general election yesterday these men would have been disfranchised?—Yes.
293. Now, as regards spielers: do you know if any of these spielers in Wellington have committed offences in Wellington for which they could be arrested?—No.
294. Are spielers as a rule in possession of money in pretty considerable amounts?—You might arrest them and not find a penny-piece on them.
295. As a police-officer, do you not know that if a man has money in his possession that is considered as a visible means of support by the Magistrate, and you cannot sustain a charge?—Yes, undoubtedly.
296. And is it not a rule that spielers are generally supplied with money?—They have a great deal of money.
297. Well, now, as regards the men Beardon and McLaughlan, you say they are book-makers?—They are what I call spielers. I do not always call a book-maker a spieler.
298. Do these men, as far as you know, commit any offence against the law?—No.
299. And unless they do, can the police interfere with them?—No, they have no legal right to.
300. Do you know if Patterson has committed any offence against the law?—No.
301. Does Shotlander commit any offence against the law?—He is a shopkeeper. That is not an offence against the law.
302. *Mr. Taylor.*] As a rule, when a spieler is arrested you do not find a shilling on him?—A spieler of the class I refer to is McLaughlan. He is not a bookie.
303. I think you said a spieler's occupation was to follow race meetings, and play games of chance and what else?—If he has got a show, to use "cronk" dice in gambling.
304. Is it not within your experience in all the large centres of population that the spieling classes are arrested on a charge of having no visible means of support and forced to leave the town?—Yes.
305. And you call Reardon and McLaughlan spielers of that class?—McLaughlan has been convicted as a vagrant.
306. And is he in Wellington now?—I have not seen him for about a week or ten days.
307. Have you never known them to be ordered out of the colony by the Magistrate?—I know of a case where a man has applied for an opportunity to leave the colony, and that has been accorded to him. Under those circumstances the warrant was held back to give him an opportunity to leave, but he was not ordered to leave.
308. And it is about ten days since you saw McLaughlan?—I think so.
309. How long is it since you saw Reardon?—About the same time.
310. Where were they?—Near the old *Evening Post* Office, at the corner of Willis Street.