

Re Technical School Costs.

An account for £83 came to hand for instruction of the Electrical Engineers and Engine-drivers of the Artillery Volunteers in Auckland. Captain Knyvett, with three others, shared in this. No authority had been obtained from either the Council of Defence or the Officer Commanding District.

If officers of corps are to carry out any idea they may have, and then ask for authority afterwards, in matters of visits and administration, where is it to end? And, as in the case of Captain Knyvett, when called on to explain same, to retaliate in public abuse of senior officers whose duty it is to control such matters, will all discipline end?

File re Promotion to Major

Shows Captain Knyvett joined New Zealand Forces in 1905; resented not being promoted to Major, and in public expressed his intention of resigning, though every consideration was given him, even to agreeing to count-in South African service for time he might have been an officer in such service, although not in a New Zealand contingent.

The whole affair shows that Captain Knyvett has at all times been given every consideration, and treated with leniency.

A. W. ROBIN, Colonel.

No. 41.

The Right Hon. the MINISTER of DEFENCE to the ADJUTANT-GENERAL, New Zealand Defence Forces.

Prime Minister's Office, Wellington,
20th January, 1910.

Memorandum for the Adjutant-General.
I SEND you herewith the file of the Knyvett papers in order that you may ascertain from the President of the Court whether the statement made by the deputation [see Appendix No. 6] that waited upon me yesterday is correct—viz., that the evidence upon which you made your recommendation to the Government is incomplete. I also send you a copy of the evidence [see Appendix No. 7] which the deputation declared had been taken by a Court shorthand-writer, and certified to by him to them as correct, in which evidence they pointed out that the President of the Court is alleged to have stopped Captain Knyvett from calling further witnesses upon the ground that the Court was satisfied that it was unnecessary, and from this Captain Knyvett is alleged to have concluded that the charges against him were not proven, and it was unnecessary for him to proceed further. On receipt of the President's reply I shall be glad if you will fully consider the matter and report to me as soon as possible.

J. G. WARD,
Minister of Defence.

No. 42.

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL, New Zealand Defence Forces, Wellington, to the PRESIDENT, Court of Inquiry.

Wellington, 25th January, 1910.

I BEG to forward herewith a memorandum received from the Right Hon. the Minister of Defence requiring, in connection with the Court recently held in Auckland, information on the following points,—viz., (1) Whether the evidence recorded by the Court and on which I made my recommendation to the Government was complete; (2) Whether you, as President of the Court stopped Captain Knyvett from calling further evidence, on the ground that it was considered unnecessary, and from which Captain Knyvett is alleged to have concluded that the charges against him were not proven, and it was unnecessary for him to proceed further.

The file in connection with the case is forwarded, together with a copy of the evidence taken down by a shorthand writer.

H. D. TUSON, Colonel, Adjutant-General.

No. 43.

The PRESIDENT, Court of Inquiry, to the ADJUTANT-GENERAL, New Zealand Defence Forces.

Wellington, 28th January, 1910.

REPORT, by Court of Inquiry, on points raised by you in your letter of the 25th instant is attached.

E. W. C. CHAYTOR, Lieut.-Col.,

President, Court of Inquiry.

[Enclosure in No. 43.]

1. PROCEEDINGS OF COURT OF INQUIRY reassembled at Headquarters, Wellington, at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, 27th January, 1910, to report on certain Points in Connection with the Court of Inquiry, which sat at Auckland, on the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd December, 1909, to investigate certain Charges against Captain Frank Berners Knyvett.
2. THE order convening the reassembling of the Court was read.
3. The letter from the Adjutant-General dated 25th January, 1910, was read.
4. The typewritten report of proceedings of the Court held at Auckland, handed in by the deputation was read.
5. The Court has to report as follows on the questions contained in the Adjutant-General's letter above referred to, viz.:—
6. Question 1.—“Whether the evidence recorded by the Court, and on which I made my recommendation to the Government, was complete.”