

16. What about the other end?—Carriage again.
17. And the costs are paid by the Department?—Yes.
18. Now, what is the practice in regard to packing of furniture and cartage?—It varies. Sometimes the Department does the packing and sometimes a man from an outside source does it.
19. When the Department does the packing, what happens in respect to the cartage?—The Department pays.
20. If the cartage and packing is done from an outside source, what happens?—If it is a reasonable amount the Department pays it.
21. Can you quote any instance in which the Department has declined to pay out-of-pocket expenses of an officer for carting and packing furniture when supported by receipts showing what he has actually paid?—No, unless when he is under punishment.
22. We have not come to the punishment clause yet?—No.
23. Then the only alteration in connection with the present regulation and the previous regulation is in respect to the limitation of time?—Yes.
24. Well, what happens to the man in private employment or in search of employment who goes from Wellington to Palmerston to take up employment—who pays his expenses?—Himself, I suppose.
25. Then, the Railway men in connection with transfers are getting something which the outside man is not getting?—Not in every case. There are some outside firms that grant the same concessions.
26. But the general practice is for the man to pay?—That is the individual man; but if his firm is shifting or transferring him they pay.
27. Can you tell me of any large firms who pay?—Yes, the Union Company. They carry everything free, and pay expenses as well.
28. Do they pay a man's expenses when he arrives at the other end and while on shore?—Yes; they pay his hotel bill if he is unable to get a house.
29. For how long?—I have not known of any instance where there has been an outrageous time.
30. Have you known of any instance where there has been an outrageous time in connection with the Railway Department?—No, I cannot speak personally on that.
31. Well, what would you call "an outrageous time"?—A matter of five or six weeks.
32. Well, what is your idea of the limit to which the Department should pay those expenses?—Well, if I give you an idea I am simply giving you the personal one.
33. I should like to have it?—I recognize a week is too little, and I should be strongly in favour of not less than fourteen days. That is my personal opinion.
34. Is that fourteen days going to apply to everybody in the service who is transferred?—That I cannot say.
35. Are you going to apply the fourteen days in the case of all transfers?—No, most decidedly not, Mr. McVilly. You misunderstand me. I am speaking of the maximum amount, not the minimum.
36. Supposing you fixed fourteen days as the maximum, what is going to happen?—I do not know what is going to happen.
37. Well, what did happen when the Department paid right up—paid for everything?—I could not say.
38. You are a man of very varied experience; you told us this morning that you have travelled round a good deal, and you are perfectly well aware that there is not a day goes past but what the Railway Department is shifting a number of men—there is a number of Railway men always on the move?—Yes.
39. Then surely you must have some idea of the time the people take?—I could give you some idea of the time I took myself.
40. Well, what was that?—I was shifted from Mataura to Edendale; I was three months living in board and lodging, and the wife and family were in Mataura.
41. That is thirty years ago?—Well, you have been quoting thirty years ago as well.
42. I am glad, because you are admitting that the conditions are not very much different to-day?—Then, again, I can quote you an instance more recent. I was transferred from the Bluff to Queenstown when the boats were taken over. I was three months in Queenstown, and lived in a hotel while the wife and family of seven were living at the Bluff, where I was paying £40 a year for a house, and I could not get a house even of four rooms to put the family in.
43. What expenses did you get?—I got paid three weeks' board and lodging in the hotel out of three months.
44. What were you told when you were paid the three weeks?—I was told that no further allowance could be granted.
45. And that three weeks was the maximum?—Yes.
46. Now, at that particular time can you recall any instance of officers who invariably took the maximum?—No, I cannot; but I have another illustration.
47. Well, what was it?—When I was transferred from Queenstown to Port Chalmers there was a change made with the Chief Clerk as well as the Stationmaster, and we both had to remain in a hotel. I was three weeks and the clerk five weeks with our wives and families.
48. And what expenses did you get?—We got three weeks at that time.