

33. And you showed him the letter?—I showed him the envelope.

34. What was the use of delivering an empty envelope?—Well, if an envelope is addressed—anything that bears the address of a person and has a stamp on it would be delivered to that address.

35. Whether empty or not?—I take it so.

36. Did he instruct you to put on “Received without contents”?—He told me to endorse it “Received without contents.”

37. And you delivered it?—Yes.

38. Did you have other circulars of the same sort to deliver on that morning?—That I could not say.

39. These circulars which had the same endorsement, “If unclaimed within seven days please return to box 912”?—I may have had. I did not notice the request. My attention in putting up my round was in regard to the addresses on the envelopes.

40. Did you not notice when delivering the letter to Mr. Mackrell that it had those words on?—No.

41. And you did not notice whether others which you had to deliver had the same notice on?—No.

BERTRAM RICHARD SWAYNE, Letter-carrier, Devonport, examined.

1. *Mr. Gray.*] What is your name?—Bertram Richard Swayne.

2. What are you?—Letter-carrier, Devonport.

3. How long have you been there?—I have been in the service close on two years; letter-carrier three months.

4. Do you remember delivering a letter to Mr. Lowe?—I have no recollection whatever.

5. Mr. Lowe has told us that he received an empty envelope. Are you the only letter-carrier at Devonport?—No; there are five others.

6. Do you know Mr. Lowe’s place of business?—Yes; I serve it morning and afternoon.

7. You are the man whose duty it is to deliver letters to Mr. Lowe?—Yes, if addressed to his shop; if addressed to his house another boy delivers them.

8. Did you at any time take anything out of an envelope addressed to Mr. Lowe?—No; nor any other envelope.

*Mr. Ostler:* No questions.

HENRY LEONARD WEBB, Letter-carrier, Auckland, examined.

1. *Mr. Gray.*] What is your name?—Henry Leonard Webb.

2. You are a letter-carrier in the Auckland Post-office?—Yes.

3. How long have you been a letter-carrier?—Five years.

4. Do you remember delivering a letter to Mr. Bertie Smith, plumber, Mount Eden, in the first week of July?—I cannot remember any special letter.

5. Would you be the proper person to deliver letters to Mr. Smith, the plumber, at Mount Eden?—Does he live at Croydon Road?

6. Yes?—I would be delivering to him at that time.

7. Between the 1st and 12th July?—Yes.

8. Have you any recollection of delivering to him any letter with an empty envelope?—No.

9. It is hardly necessary to ask you, but if you delivered to Mr. Smith any envelope like this [produced], did you ever take the trouble to see whether the contents were in or not?—If it were open like that?

10. Yes; suppose the flap were turned in like that?—It would be impossible to examine, I think.

11. How many letters do you carry out, on an average, in the morning?—It would depend upon what mails were in.

12. Can you not tell on an average?—About three hundred, I suppose, on an ordinary day—that is, for one delivery.

13. Would you have time to examine every letter in delivering and see whether what looked like a circular envelope had its contents?—Well, we had a big English mail and troop mail that particular day.

14. Which day?—At the time those letters were delivered.

15. We do not know the exact date Mr. Smith got his letter. Leave out the question of the English mail and troop mail. You say the average number would be about three hundred: would you have time to examine every letter and see whether an open unsealed envelope had anything in it or not?—No.

16. *Mr. Ostler.*] I suppose you are not prepared to deny that you did deliver an empty envelope at Mr. Smith’s house if the lady who works at the house is prepared to say that you did? Would you be prepared to deny what she says?—No; I do not suppose I could.

MARTIN TURNER, Letter-carriers’ Sorter, Auckland, examined.

1. *Mr. Gray.*] What is your name?—Martin Turner.

2. You are one of the letter-carriers’ sorters in the Auckland Post-office?—Yes.

3. How long have you been engaged in that duty?—About eleven years.

4. You went on duty, I think, on the morning of the 5th July: perhaps you want to verify it by the book?—Yes.

5. At what time did you go on?—Five o’clock.