

any conversation, either with regard to the present or the future, with Gellibrand and Co., or Pogson, or any person, respecting running sheep on the land?—No; only as to paying my instalments and giving me money to put up a house.

644. Who is to pay the other instalments?—I suppose I shall be able to get more money from him. I think I shall be able to get some money myself.

645. You know Charles Webb?—Yes.

646. Is his land near yours?—Several blocks away.

647. Whose sheep are on his land?—Some of the station sheep I suppose. It is all one piece of land.

648. Do you know the land bought by the Youngs?—I know all the country there.

649. To what use is it being put at the present time?—There are station sheep on it.

650. It is all within a ring-fence?—There are fences all through it.

651. What is the land in the ring-fence, then?—My section, Pearsall's I think, and part of Webb's. I do not know whose else.

652. *Mr. J. McKenzie.*] You applied to the Supreme Court for a *mandamus* to compel the Board to issue your license?—Yes.

653. Who were your solicitors?—Chapman and Strode.

654. Did you give them instructions yourself?—I sent a letter, and saw them personally afterwards.

655. Did you provide funds for them to proceed in the Supreme Court?—No.

656. Who did?—I do not know I am sure.

657. Do you think these lawyers would take such an interest in your affairs as to take up your case without knowing where they would get the funds?—I suppose the company would do it.

658. You never took the matter into consideration where the funds were to come from?—No.

659. Did Chapman and Strode ask you for any funds?—No.

660. *The Chairman.*] Who wrote the letter you sent to them?—They sent me a letter, to which I put my name.

661. Who delivered the letter to you to sign?—It came by post.

662. *Mr. J. McKenzie.*] Did their letter state they were instructed by any person to apply to you on the subject?—No.

663. Did you not think it strange that lawyers were going to take such an interest in your affairs as to work for you without your instructions?—[No answer.]

664. *Mr. Fulton.*] Was there any letter of instructions to you with the letter you were to sign?—No.

665. Did you sign the letter without knowing anything at all further about it?—Yes; I just took it and signed it, not knowing whether I did wrong or not.

666. Did you know what was in it?—I sort of looked over it, and put my name to it.

667. Had you any conversation with any member of the firm about this letter?—No; I saw no one at the time.

668. Had you previously?—I believe I had seen Mr. Pogson.

669. What did he say?—He said there was a letter up at the house for me.

670. Did he say anything more?—No.

671. Did he ask you to sign it?—He said I would have to look over it and put my name to it.

672. Then you did have a conversation with some member of the firm previous to signing the letter?—Yes; I did have two or three words about it.

673. *The Chairman.*] Did Pogson tell you what the letter was about?—No.

674. Then Pogson informed you that the letter was lying at the stationhouse, and told you to read and sign it?—Yes.

675. *Mr. Stevens.*] Previous to the purchase of the land, had you any conversation with Pogson about a proposed purchase of it?—Yes; I told Mr. Pogson I would like to get a bit of land, and he said he would advance me the money.

676. Upon what conditions?—None whatever were named.

677. Did he not stipulate the interest?—No.

678. Or what consideration?—No.

679. Did you think that a wise arrangement to make without any terms whatever? Would you make such an arrangement with me?—It is a rather queer one, I believe; but when a man is agreeable to lend you money I think you can take it.

680. Who instructed the agent in Dunedin to buy the land for you?—Mr. Pogson.

681. Who brought the authority to the agent to you for signature?—Mr. Pogson.

682. Did you not sign a declaration that the land was for your own use and benefit, and not for the benefit of any one else?—I did.

683. Pogson paid for the land without any arrangement as to interest from you, so are you aware now what interest you have in the land?—I do not think I have much right to it.

684. Do you not think the firm have the greatest right to it when they paid the money and their sheep have been running on the land ever since? Is it not for their use and benefit?—They have in a way; but, if I was to get enough money lent me to carry on for a year or two, I think I could manage to get round. There is ground I could cultivate, and make a lot of money out of in that way.

685. Had you any arrangement with Pogson to the effect that you would allow his stock to run on the land after it was bought in your name?—No.

686. Then, did he not make any proposal to that effect?—Not yet.

687. You signed no agreement?—No.

688. Did you go to Pogson about the solicitors in Dunedin taking action, or did he come to you first?—I believe I went to him.