

155. *His Honour.*] That was when you got——?—The letter with the account for £400 odd for rabbiting.

156. You went over to Mr. Henderson and told him something about it looking serious?—I pointed out that it looked very serious, and asked him what he was going to do. He said he could do nothing in the meantime.

157. *Mr. Chapman.*] Yes?—I think it was at that time he said they might put a bailiff in my house.

158. *Mr. Solomon.*] That was Mr. Henderson?—Yes. Perhaps I said they might put a bailiff in my house. I am not sure who said it, but I said, “I will have no bailiff in my house.”

159. *His Honour.*] Yes?—He then inquired how I was situated as regards the settlement of my furniture.

160. Yes?—I said that it was not settled on anybody; that it was not settled in my wife’s name at all, although I thought that my previous trustees had given me instructions to do so—the trustees when I was bankrupt some years ago.

161. Yes?—I again told him that I was not going to do anything “crooked.”

162. *Mr. Chapman.*] Is that all?—He suggested that I should see Mr. Denniston and Mr. Hazlett as to the position of my furniture, but I did not do so.

163. Who were they?—They were trustees in my estate in bankruptcy.

164. Was that under deed of arrangement?—No, it was a bankruptcy under the old Act some years ago.

165. Have you had any conversations with Mr. Ritchie?—I met Mr. Ritchie in the street one day when there was a lull in the proceedings. I was standing on the pavement, and said, “I suppose that matter is all over now.” I did not catch very clearly what he said, but I thought he said something about not stepping out to meet the devil half-way, or something of that sort. He said it in a jocular way.

166. Do you know when that was?—It would be before I got this rabbiting business. It was just previous to the final rabbit notices with the big bill.

167. After you had paid the fine, and before you got the final rabbit demands?—Yes.

168. What was the next matter? You met a gentlemen named Brown in the street one day? Yes, and he said,—“I have a warrant to arrest you.”

169. Well, we need not go through the process; you were arrested, and you ultimately got clear of that?—Yes.

170. Did you see either Mr. Ritchie or Mr. Henderson after that?—After I got out of gaol?

171. Yes?—Yes, I saw Mr. Henderson.

172. What passed?—I said “Well, this is a nice mess you have got me into,” and I asked him what he was going to do, and he said, “We are certainly not going to pay the money.” I then told him that I had seen a telegram which Mr. Ritchie had sent to you, my solicitor; and I expressed to him my surprise at Mr. Ritchie sending such a telegram.

173. Was that this telegram, set out in the statement of claim: “Have nothing to do with Scott whatever. Have paid him in full for such use as we got of his run?”—Yes.

174. You referred to that?—Yes.

175. You told Mr. Henderson you had seen the telegram from Mr. Ritchie to your solicitors, and what else?—And I said I was very much surprised at his sending such a telegram.

176. What did he say?—I said, further, “It has been suggested to me that the telegram was sent for the purpose of not letting the Government know through the telegraph-office.” That had been suggested to me, and I asked him if he thought so, and he said, “Perhaps so.”

177. Yes; did anything more pass?—Nothing more passed. Ah! yes, one thing he said, “We never contemplated this.” I do not remember the exact words, but he gave me to understand that they had contemplated my having to go bankrupt, but had never contemplated my being put into such a position as I was put in.

178. Now, Mr. Scott, as to your position: in general terms, are you a pauper?—No; I have always had enough to keep me going for the past three years.

179. About what income do you make?—£500.

Cross-examined by Mr. HAGGITT.

180. *Mr. Haggitt.*] Now, I understand you to say, Mr. Scott, that this was about the first business transaction you had had with the company?—Which was the first business?

181. This particular one?—No; there was one previously, in January.

182. Which came to nothing; and this was the next?—Yes.

183. You had had a similar transaction, we may say, in January, which came to nothing, and you got paid a guinea for what you did in the matter, and there was an end of that?—Yes.

184. And this was the next transaction?—Yes.

185. With regard to that first transaction, you did not see Mr. Ritchie at all?—I do not think so.

186. You have not mentioned it, and you have told us all that took place between yourself and Mr. Henderson with regard to that transaction?—As far as I can remember.

187. Mr. Henderson said “We want to take up a run in your name,” or to make use of your name in taking up a run, and if the run was not bought you were to get a guinea, and if they did buy the run you were to get £10?—Yes.

188. That was all that took place?—Yes.

189. You assented, and shortly afterwards the run was put up. They did not get the run, and you were paid a guinea?—Yes.

190. You made no remonstrance at all?—No.

191. And there was nothing said about indemnity?—No.