

245. Where were they kept and preserved?—Just convenient to the hut; wherever they would be killed.

246. Then you kept a tally at the homestead? Did the skins go there?—They came to the homestead usually.

247. You said just now they kept them at the hut?—Just after killing it was best to leave them just where they were until they got seasoned a little bit. That is the usual way.

248. And then they would be passed into the station?—Yes; they would be counted up, packed, and sent away.

249. Did all the skins pass through your hands, or were they all sent along to the homestead?—They all passed under my knowledge.

250. Do you remember whether McGeorge was carting any skins on Saturday the 15th?—I do not remember.

251. You referred to Mr. McGeorge, I think, as going to Islay on the 18th?—Yes, that is right.

252. How are you able to fix that?—He would require to come to the station with things—sundry skins and what not.

253. How do you fix it for the 18th and the 16th or the 17th?—Because if he came to Islay and went away on the 19th there was no work for him at the homestead. He would therefore come on the 18th, and would start away from the station for Waiholo on the 19th.

254. But you have no recollection yourself of it?—I am certain of it.

255. You are certain that he would be at Islay the day before he started on his journey?—He would come in the night before.

256. You are simply fixing that by what happened on the 19th according to your entry?—I am fixing it by the fact that he would not come in before he was required. We would not keep him doing nothing.

257. If Mr. McGeorge says he went to Mataura on the morning of Monday which we have fixed for the 17th?—That is wrong.

258. How do you know?—I know that he left on the day I left because I passed him on the way down to Mataura.

259. You know that he left on the 19th? How do you know that he did not go away on the 17th?—I know he went away the day I went away because he was on the station the night before I left.

260. Do you know he did not go on the 17th?—I know he could not go away on the 17th and 19th both.

261. But you cannot profess to remember what did happen on the 17th: it is a long time back?—No; but if you can name any particular thing to lead my memory back I am willing to tell you anything you wish.

262. I was asking you about the cultivation of Meikle's property. You say you do not know much about his paddocks?—It is so many years back that I cannot recollect what grass and so on was in any of the paddocks.

263. Do you decline to give even a rough estimate of how many acres was in English grass at the time in question?—No.

264. Were there 200 or 300 acres?—I do not know. It never occurred to my mind.

265. How much of the pre-emptive right was in English grass?—I could not give you the acreages.

266. Was there any?—I do not remember if there was any.

267. Where did you leave the horse on which you rode from Islay to Mataura?—I think there was a man who left Islay with me who took the horse back home again. In fact, I am certain of it.

268. Was it not left with Constable Leece?—I do not remember whether there was a horse left with Constable Leece that day or not. We have several horses.

269. You said, I understood, to Dr. Findlay that the sheep could not get through on to Meikle's land except through the tussock and then on to the ploughed land of Meikle?—They would have to cross the tussock first.

270. Assuming they got on to the tussock?—Well, if you drove them on to the tussock they would be there certainly.

271. You admitted the tussock was not bad at that time of year, and that the turnips were working out?—I did not admit that they would get on to the tussock.

272. They would never wander?—They might.

273. Supposing they got as far as that, might they not wander a little farther down the river-bank and on to the school reserve?—Of course, it is only natural any animal will wander, more especially sheep.

274. Do you remember what was the state of Meikle's country at the southern corner of the school reserve and his land at the Mimihaui? Evidence was given us that there was a panel there which in times of flood might get shifted: do you remember any panel?—No.

275. You are quite clear that to neither Mr. Templeton nor Mr. Mabin did you make any such statement as Dr. Findlay put to you?—Yes.

276. I will remind you it was just about the time you were leaving the company?—What time was that?

277. You could better tell us that. What time did you leave Islay?—It was some time towards the latter end of 1889.

278. I understood that you were leaving, that you had given notice, but had not actually left?—There was no notice in it.

279. You do not know anything about it?—I do not know how you figure it out.

280. Dr. Findlay.] You gave evidence, I think, in all the previous trials of Meikle?—I gave evidence only in the Supreme Court trial, not in the Magistrate's Court.