

27. *The Chairman.*] This water is not for the benefit of any company?—No. Yes; we shall derive our benefit by being able to buy water from any company.

28. Is there not a company formed which has applied for the right?—Yes.

29. Will not the water be for the benefit of the company?—It will be of benefit to us through the company.

30. *Mr. Seddon.*] About these petitions: You have seen the petitions going round the Rimu district, and can tell us that they are signed by *bona fide* miners and others interested in the mining industry?—That is so.

31. Have you got any idea of how many signed the petitions?—Every one that I asked in the Rimu district signed.

32. One thousand four hundred and sixty signed altogether, and principally those about Rimu and those interested in the district?—Yes.

33. There was some mention made about a monopoly being created?—The first intimation I got about a monopoly came through Wellington.

34. There was some distrust among the miners; they thought there would be a monopoly. There was some misunderstanding about the charges for the sale of the water?—It has been perfectly understood amongst the miners there that, if the company is floated and water is brought over Rimu Flat, they have to sell the water at a charge understood between the miners and the syndicate.

35. Are you aware whether that is an absolutely binding contract?—Yes. The syndicate has undertaken to bind themselves to sell water at a reasonable price to individual miners. Of course, they have a certain quantity of water they are prepared to sell, and the Rimu miners are satisfied with the charge.

36. Another phase of the monopoly is that this company is taking up the workable area at Rimu: how much can be worked?—Six thousand acres, absolutely proved.

37. How many acres have the company an option over?—Eight hundred.

38. You mentioned about the promise the Government made of £15,000 as a subsidy to any one bringing water on to the Rimu terraces: can you explain the reason of that? Why should they give that to Rimu and not to other districts?—Because they recognised that the development of the mining industry was of such importance in producing revenue.

39. Was it not because of the fact that there was a difficulty in bringing water to those high terraces?—That is another reason.

40. Did any company or person attempt to finance a scheme whereby they could bring water on to the high terraces?—Yes; Mr. Grimmond, of Ross, endeavoured to float a company.

41. You are aware that the Government have given £15,000 to work the Ross area?—Yes.

42. And you believe you had as reasonable a demand as the Ross people?—A far greater demand. It is a far more important mining centre.

43. *The Chairman.*] Have you asked for a subsidy?—No.

44. That is a matter outside of the Water Regulations?—Yes.

45. *Mr. Seddon.*] This association of miners in Rimu had several meetings about the scheme?—Yes.

46. And you are of one opinion as to the necessity of bringing water in?—Yes.

47. And you are of opinion that if you had water the mining industry would revive?—Yes.

48. How many miners are employed there?—Between forty-eight and fifty. I have gone over it.

49. If this water were brought on to the Rimu terraces, three hundred miners would be employed: is that an exaggeration?—No, there would be quite that number. I should say the population could be multiplied by ten.

50. Then, your position here is that of a sympathizer with the company?—Yes, because we must have capital to develop our fields.

51. The miners themselves could not undertake a scheme of such a nature?—No.

52. And you voice really the opinion of the miners in the district?—Yes; I am entirely independent of any company or syndicate.

53. *Mr. Anderson.*] How far will the syndicate's pumping-station be away from their generating-station?—A few miles. I do not know anything about the technicalities.

54. Is the syndicate going to mine, or are they simply generating power for the use of the miners?—They are generating power for 800 acres. There would not be a demand for all the water, and they would use a certain amount themselves. If they brought the water on to Seddon Terrace they would sell what they could, and mine with what they could not sell.

55. You have no guarantee that they would not use the whole of the water themselves?—Yes.

56. You have that guarantee?—Yes.

57. *The Chairman.*] Where is that guarantee?—They are prepared to bind themselves to sell to individual miners water up to a certain amount.

58. Is it not a fact that according to these regulations they must do it, and can only make a maximum charge?—Yes.

59. *Mr. Anderson.*] Are they going to use this power for any other purpose?—I do not know.

60. Have any companies of miners been formed to take up or work these terraces, or will individual miners work the terraces?—I belong to an individual party there, and I hope to be able to buy water. At present if we have a fortnight's fine weather we are idle because we run out of water. We are simply dependent on the water from the heavens now.

61. *Mr. Greenslade.*] What streams do they propose to tap in taking the water?—They propose to take the power from To Aroha Cañon, and lift the water out of the Hokitika River to the terraces.

62. What quantity of water is available? How many heads, approximately, are there in the To Aroha?—Three hundred heads; that is the understanding about that.