

Howick, a distance of about 15 miles from Auckland? A. Certainly not, we supposed the distance would be 5 miles from Auckland.

By the Chairman—

What passage in the Regulations led you to form that belief? A. I so understood the Regulations when they were read to me.

By Mr. Carleton—

Did any pensioner officer refuse to go to his station, on the ground of his house not being ready?

Question put,

Whether the above question be put.

Noes.

Mr. Mackay,

Mr. Taylor,

The Chairman.

Ayes.

Mr. Carleton.

Question not put.

Matthew McCormick—Was private in the 25th Foot. Left the army in 1840. I was enrolled in England for the New Zealand Fencible Corps in 1847, arrived in Auckland in November of that year. Got copy of printed conditions before embarking in England. I was told off to the village of Howick. Did not get my cottage and acre of land. Was put into a weatherboarded shed with my wife and one child. After this I was told off to an acre, where I built a raupo hut at my own expense as my wife was about being confined. Continued to attend Sunday parades for 15 months. After that time I got leave from Major Gray to reside in Auckland and attend the usual parades there, which I did constantly for three years, besides the drill of 12 days each year. After that period Major Kenny got the command, when he gave an order that any man who was four Sundays absent in a quarter should forfeit his acre and cottage as well as pay for the passage of himself wife and family out to the colony. I have been deprived of my cottage and acre of land.

Edward Hynes—I was Serjeant in the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusileers, discharged in November, 1842. Volunteered into the New Zealand Fencible Service in 1849, from Penbroke Dock, S. Wales. Was Staff Drill Serjeant to the Royal Dockyard Battalion, Pembroke. I got 2s. 4d. (two shillings and four pence) a day besides my pension. Was induced to come to New Zealand by circulars from the Horse Guards that I might make a home for myself and my children. Had a wife and three children. I expected my cottage and acre of land. Would not have come otherwise. Arrived in New Zealand in Sept. 1849. Did not get my cottage and acre. There were no cottages built for the company I belonged to, nor land set apart. Was appointed for Onehunga. I applied continually for two and a half years for my cottage and acre. Never got it. The last petition they considered was an insult and on that account they struck me off, and put me under stoppages of my pension. I lived in Auckland the whole time in my own house, at my own expense bought the land and built the house myself. I performed military duties at Onehunga. I had to walk there and back every day on drill days. Was occasionally ill. Was never absent from drill for three successive Sundays for the two and a half years. Discharge produced. Very good character.

By Mr. Carleton—

Q. Were you sometimes absent from parade at Onehunga? A. I was sometimes sick absent.

Q. Had you a sick certificate? A. Yes, I had one signed by Dr. Fox, P. M. O. another from Dr. Matthew.

Q. Were you ever aware of a sick certificate not being sufficient excuse for non-attendance at parade? A. It was always a sufficient excuse.

By Mr. Taylor—

Q. Were you ever offered to be put in possession of your cottage and acre? A. At the end of about two years, on a pension day, Capt. Haultain told me that my cottage was now put up at Onehunga, and that any day I chose to take my family out, I might get the key. Neither flooring nor chimney were in. I told him as soon as the floor and chimney were in I would come. It was never offered me again. I enquired after it, afterwards, but was soon afterwards dismissed.

Question put,

That Col. Gray's evidence be taken.

Lieut.-Col. Gray examined,—I came out in command of the Pensioner Force. I am aware of the Regulations, and that it was one of the conditions that the pensioners should have a cottage and acre of land on arrival, that condition was not fulfilled for a considerable time after their arrival—in no instance. The earliest date at which any of the pensioners received their cottage was about 5 or 6 months after arrival. During the intermediate time they were housed in sheds erected at the expense of Government, weather boarded not shingled, neither wind nor watertight. Their wives