

509. Captain Read said he was a fool for having stood?—Yes.

510. Did he give any reason for saying that?—He said he did not like to be away from his home. He would be then out of his element, and he was a great fool at his time of life to think of mixing up with these sort of things.

511. It had no reference to money matters?—No. He never attended a committee meeting; and even when I told him he was returned, he would not go and return thanks to the electors.

512. Had you given him any accounts before that?—No. There were no accounts sent in for a fortnight after that.

513. *Mr. Stout.*] It seems you merely marked the accounts as correct, and then sent them on to Mr. Read to be paid?—Yes.

514. Why were they marked?—Because it was presumed Captain Read would pay the accounts, and would recoup to the committee any sums of money which they might have advanced. Money was paid out for various purposes; for instance, there was an expenditure of £20 for the purpose of bringing down electors from Tologa Bay, which by the way was a waste of money, for the electors could not get down.

515. You say the committee was to be recouped; you mean money paid out was to be repaid?—Yes.

516. Where did you have your rooms at Gisborne?—At the Masonic Hotel.

517. Did you have any placards, such as "Read's Committee-rooms," posted up?—I think not.

518. Did Mr. Kelly?—No.

519. Did Mr. Morris?—No; I do not think so.

520. There were no placards showing where the various committee-rooms were?—I do not think so.

ROBERT M. CRAPP examined on oath.

521. *Mr. Barton.*] You are a lemonade manufacturer?—Yes.

522. At Gisborne?—Yes.

523. You remember the election at which Captain Read was returned?—Yes.

524. Did you know Mr. Henshaw?—Yes.

525. Have you ever had any conversation with Henshaw respecting his claim against Captain Read?—Yes.

526. In what month did the conversation take place?—Some time after the 6th January; it was in January.

527. What did he say to you?—I met him and asked him what brought him back to Gisborne. He told me he came to borrow some money, and also said that Captain Read owed him over £100, which he had yet to draw. He said there was some difficulty in getting money out of Read, and asked me if I were acquainted with him. I said I was, but I wished to have nothing to do with the matter; but afterwards I did see Captain Read and spoke to him on the subject. He said he would have nothing to do with Henshaw. I told Henshaw this, and he then asked me to come up to his place and write to Read for him. I wrote a letter, which I believe was sent to Mr. Wilson.

528. Did you write any letter which was not sent?—Yes; I believe one letter was destroyed. I am not sure that there were not two destroyed.

529. A letter written by you at the request of Henshaw, demanding money from Captain Read, was destroyed?—Yes.

530. What was in it?—[Mr. Shaw objected to the question, because witness Henshaw had not been interrogated as to the letter, and that before the contents of the letter were sworn to, it must be shown that the letter had been destroyed.]

531. *Mr. Barton.*] What became of the letter?—It was crumpled up and destroyed.

532. Who crumpled it up—Henshaw or yourself?—I think it was Dr. Bertie, who was present, who did so. Henshaw, after the letter was written, asked me what I thought of it: whether it was a proper letter for demanding money. I replied that I thought it was too strong; and then he dictated another, which I wrote, and which was sent.

533. What did this destroyed letter contain?—[Mr. Shaw still objected to the question.]

534. *Mr. Whitaker.*] The letter was not sent, because it did not represent the opinions of your self and Mr. Henshaw?—Yes.

The Committee ruled against Mr. Shaw.

Mr. Barton said he had no desire to press the question.

535. *Mr. Barton.*] Did you have conversations with Mr. Henshaw about this matter at other times?—Yes; he told me at other times he must have the money, and must have a settlement with Captain Read.

WILLIAM DUNAHOO examined on oath.

536. *Mr. Barton.*] What are you, Mr. Dunahoo?—A shipwright.

537. Living at Gisborne?—No, fifty miles from there; at a place called Turangi.

538. Where were you on the day of the election at which Captain Read was returned?—At Poverty Bay.

539. You were an elector, I believe?—Yes.

540. Did you ask Captain Read any question on the day of the election?—I saw Captain Read with Baker. The latter asked me whom I was going to vote for. I said, "I will tell no man for whom I am going to vote."

541. Did you speak to Read?—I cannot remember.

542. Had you any conversation with Captain Morris?—Yes.

543. What did you ask Captain Morris?—Captain Morris asked