

645. What was he doing?—Walking about. I saw him at different hotels. I saw him in the hotel addressing the people from the verandah. Then he came down, and they all followed him on the understanding he was going to give them something to drink. He quietly cleared out of the room though, and left them there. I myself was one of the victims.

646. You thought he was going to “shout”?—Most decidedly.

647. Did he “shout” for you at any time during the day?—As I have said before, I was with him once; but I cannot say whether he “shouted” for me, or I “shouted” for him.

648. Did you see him “shout” for anybody else?—I never saw him “shout” for anybody.

649. Was he in more than one public-house?—Yes.

650. When you were in the public-house with him, was anything said about voting?—Nothing particular. I knew he was trying to get me.

651. He did not get you?—No.

652. *Mr. Curtis.*] Did you receive any money from any one at all for your vote?—Not a sixpence.

653. *The Chairman.*] You told Baker that Captain Read was your bitter enemy. Why then did you vote for him?—Because I felt that if I had voted against him I should have voted against the best interests of the place.

654. Why was Captain Read your enemy?—I was working for him for years, and built several vessels for him. When I left his employ, he told me he would not give me employment again, because I had said I once knew a man fail for £85,000, although everybody thought he was very wealthy. Captain Read seemed to think I intended it for himself.

655. He thought it was an insinuation against his solvency?—Yes.

656. When you laid your information against Captain Morris, did any professional man appear for you?—Yes.

657. *Mr. Stout.*] I asked that question and you said “No”?—When you asked me if any one appeared for me, I thought you meant a witness.

658. Who appeared for you?—Mr. Wilson.

659. Did you go to Mr. Wilson, or did he come to you?—Wright came to me and asked me to go and see Mr. Wilson, who wanted to see me. I went, and Mr. Wilson asked me what I knew about the bribery.

660. You did not pay Mr. Wilson any fee?—No; I had paid quite enough in leaving my home.

661. You left Captain Read’s committee to pay that?—I was not going to pay it.

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WEDNESDAY, 16TH AUGUST, 1876.

Captain MORRIS examined on oath.

662. *Mr. Shaw.*] Your name, Captain Morris?—George Bentham Morris.

663. You are petitioner?—Yes.

664. You have heard the evidence of the last witness, Dunahoo, who says you offered him £1 for his vote, and £1 for every vote you could get him. What do you say to that evidence?—I say it is not true. I did not offer him any money. I did not speak to him on such a subject.

665. You deny his statement absolutely?—Yes.

666. Did you see him after the election?—I was summoned to Poverty Bay, to answer a charge of bribery made by a man named Wright; and after this charge had been disposed of, I saw Dunahoo. He came to me and said, “If you will drop all this affair, I won’t swear anything against you; but, mind, I must have my expenses.”

667. What did you understand him to mean by “this affair”?—I understood him to mean the actions against Pitt and Read; in fact, all actions arising out of the bribery. He repeated the offer several times, but I said, “If you want money, you had better go to Captain Read: he is the man for your money.”

668. Did you ever have a conversation with Read about Pitt?—[Question objected to, and not pressed.]

669. *Mr. Barton.*] Have you ever communicated with Captain Read about this petition?—Not that I am aware of.

670. Not by Mr. Macfarlane, who is a member of the House?—No.

671. Nor by any other member of the House?—No.

672. Have you seen Captain Read since the petition has been under consideration?—I have seen him every day since I have been down here.

673. Have you spoken to him about this petition?—Yes.

674. Have you not told him it was not you but the people of Tauranga who brought the matter before the House and forced you to go on with it?—No; I think I said that I had not originally started the petition against him. That it was started by the Tauranga people while I was away at Poverty Bay.

675. Did you say to him, “If you will call no more witnesses, but resign at the end of the Session, I will withdraw the petition”?—No.

676. You will swear that?—I am on my oath now.

677. Did you say, “If you get me into the Upper House I will withdraw the petition”?—No.

678. Did you say anything of the kind?—What I said was this: “The only way in which the petition could possibly be withdrawn was my taking a seat in the Upper House.”

679. Did you not say, “I shall have to show the people that I have done something for the money I have spent; and if you pay my expenses and resign at the end of the Session, or get me put into the Upper House, the petition shall be withdrawn”?—No.