

whether, if steamer had called regularly, settlers could have sold their produce. Have none of my own for sale. Have no knowledge whether large profits have been made in trading transactions.

*B. Brown*, special settler (wife and one child): Was promised on arrival here that goods would be supplied at Westport prices; cannot say whether that was carried out or not, as I did not get tickets with goods. Sometimes it would be several weeks after delivery before tickets were given out. Only signed for the goods on receipt of the tickets. Mr. Simpson, the storekeeper, said that he had no time to make the tickets out at the time. Have no complaint to make concerning the insufficiency of work. Have been employed sufficiently to maintain myself comfortably. Some articles have been exceedingly high in Dolphin's store—flour, for instance, has been charged for at 26s. per 100 lbs. Have not purchased any cattle, and have no knowledge of transactions in which others have been concerned. Cannot say whether settlers have suffered inconvenience for want of steamer calling lately.

*D. Line*, special settler (two children): Came here from Westport. Have had a fair share of work since arrival. No complaint to make concerning the price of stores. Live with Brown, and get my supplies with him. Have earned £193. Cannot say whether if a steamer had run regularly that produce could have been sold; it might have enabled us to obtain stores cheaper. Heard that the Government store was about to be sold. Mr. O'Connor explained that no public notice was given that the store was to be sold, simply that the store would be sold at an indefinite date. Have no knowledge of trading transactions.

*J. Heally* (no wife or child): Was not an original settler, but was admitted a special settler. Made application for 100 acres of land on north side of the river, and paid deposit. John Cooper has now got the land. Had made arrangement with brother to come out to occupy jointly with myself. Cannot get another piece of land as good elsewhere. Have not received notice from Waste Lands Board, but have heard it rumoured here that I could not have the land. Have no statement to make in particular concerning the memorial. Have no knowledge of the prices charged elsewhere for stores. Have not received much work, but do not complain about that. Cannot complain about the price of stores, nor cannot say whether large profits have been made. Have not been brought here by either Mr. O'Connor or Mr. Dolphin. Came out as an assisted immigrant, and was sent here by Mr. Elliott, the Immigration Officer at Nelson.

*J. Curtin* (wife and four children): Am an old colonist, but have been admitted as a special settler. Consider I have the same privileges as others. Was charged for passage of wife and family here, also freight of cows. Consider that the charge should be remitted, as all other settlers have been assisted here.

*Mr. O'Connor* explained that Curtin was not an immigrant, and the Provincial Government did not consider that free passages should be given to others but immigrants. This rule, however, has not been enforced, as some of the settlers of Curtin's class came unknown to Government, and their passages were paid. No attempt has been made to recover the expenditure from them.

*Witness*: Have no complaint to make about the work or concerning the store. Purchased two cows here; consider the price (£20) I gave for them very high. Am anxious that a school should be established.

*A. Lineham*, special settler (wife and three children, also one brother, aged 20): Consider that the price paid for some of the goods at the Government store was excessive. Have received tickets of the stores on delivery, but frequently without prices. Would like to have the accounts looked into. Have all the bills, but left them at home. Could not cross the river frequently to the store, owing to the want of a ferry; the settlers had wasted a great deal of time in consequence of this. Was not consulted about choosing the land for settlement; the selection was made by Mr. Rawson, the surveyor. The land we now occupy was opened up about a twelvemonth ago last August. Have received a fair share of work. Self and brother have earned £355, and £26 10s. on the survey since last January. Would prefer to receive payment in cash in place of goods for work done; consider the latter plan very unsatisfactory. Have applied for the land in my occupation, and would like to be assured of the title. Did not hear of sale of store. Think that some articles have been charged very high—for instance, matches, flour, and sugar. Consider that drapery has been high; stockings have been charged 6d. a pair to me higher than to others. Have bought stores recently from Mr. Stitt, of Westport, at the undermentioned rates: Flour (Christchurch), 24s. per 100 lbs.; tea, per box of 12 lbs., 34s., 2s. 9d. per lb.; sugar (Company's), per bag, 6d. per lb. No complaint to make concerning share of labour. If a steamer had called, could have sold some produce. Have some potatoes for sale, but cannot get them down for want of a road. Sold some on the ground at 6s. per bag of 200 lbs. Would occupy three men two days to deliver a ton at the wharf, to bring them by the river. This would add fully 30s. per ton to the cost. If arrangements could be made for regular calling of the steamer, it would confer a great boon on the settlers. Have no remarks to make concerning trading transactions.

*J. Black* (wife and two children): Am an old colonist, but have been admitted as a special settler. Was engaged up the Karamea River, mining, several years before the settlement was established. After the settlers arrived, Mr. O'Connor employed self and mate (D. Grayney) to saw timber, and instruct the settlers how to put up their houses and do other work. Consider that articles of consumption in the Government store were not unreasonable. Tools were rather high, in some cases. Tickets for the stores received were not issued regularly; sometimes two or three would be received together; in many instances the prices of the goods were not filled in. Consider that, if a steamer had called regularly, it would have proved beneficial to settlers, and enable them to procure provisions at cheaper rates. Heard that the store was about to be sold. Provisions have been much higher since; flour has been dear, also kerosene, and many other things. Believe that large profits have been made. Consider that I have cause for dissatisfaction concerning the purchase of two cows bought from Mr. Dolphin. At the time Mr. Scanlon, the overseer, left, his partner (H. Jordan) had £23 to my credit, with which I was desirous to purchase some cows, but, owing to not being able to get the money, was compelled to deal with Dolphin through the store, because £9 of the amount was in Mr. O'Connor's hands, and I could only obtain it through the store; at least that was my impression, and for that reason I did not make application for the amount. Remember a conversation that took