

94. *The Chairman.*] You say your uniform was under a state of repair when it was returned?—I have never had my uniform away from my hands unless it has been under a state of repair.

95. Do I understand you had it in your own possession when you came down here?—Yes.

96. Why did you not come down with your own corps?—Because I had handed in my resignation.

97. You considered you were out of the corps?—Yes, because my resignation was accepted.

98. You went to Christchurch with the Volunteers, to a review there?—Yes.

99. Do you remember Captain Dunk speaking to you about being in uniform in the streets of Wellington?—No.

100. Which ship did you go to Christchurch in?—By the "Upolu."

101. What did you come back to Wellington in?—The "Mararoa."

102. Do you know whether Captain Dunk came by the same boat or by a different one?—He came by the same boat.

103. Did he not speak to you on the way up or down?—Not that I know of; I have no recollection of it.

104. Did you not tell him that you had borrowed the uniform?—He may be referring to an overcoat I had, because I had borrowed an overcoat.

105. Had you a military overcoat on?—Yes.

106. Captain Dunk speaks of a uniform?—It was an overcoat.

107. You are quite sure you had never returned that uniform to your quartermaster-sergeant?—I had never returned it.

108. Do you know to whom uniforms are returned in the Manawatu Mounted Rifles when members are leaving?—Usually to the quartermaster-sergeant.

109. Do you not know who the man was to whom you said, "You are making fools of yourselves"?—No, I do not remember. I do not know that I had seen his face before. There were two of them walking together.

110. Can you say whether the men taking part in the procession were mounted or infantry?—There were some mounted men and some infantry.

111. Do you not know any of the mounted men?—No.

112. You had an overcoat on here in the street that day when your name was taken?—No, I had no overcoat on at all.

113. What time of the day was it?—It must have been close on to 4 o'clock.

114. Was it raining?—I could not tell you; I did not take that much notice of it. It had been raining off and on all the time.

115. You think you would not be wearing an overcoat?—No.

116. Did you get a telegram from me yesterday?—Not yesterday. I must have left by the time that was sent. When I received the first telegram I came.

Sergeant-Major WILLIAM GEORGE ASHWORTH examined. (No. 19.)

117. *The Chairman.*] What is the name of your corps?—The Hunterville Mounted Rifles.

118. That is a new corps?—Yes.

119. Did your corps take part in the camp at Newtown Park?—Yes.

120. How many of you went into camp?—Sixty-eight strong altogether, including three officers and two buglers.

121. How many tents had you?—Eight.

122. Including the officers' tent?—No; one for the officers.

123. Had you plenty of straw?—Yes.

124. What about the rations?—They were very badly cooked. That was our chief complaint.

125. Had you sufficient if they had been properly cooked: take the meat, for instance?—Yes.

126. What was the bread like?—Very good.

127. And the butter?—Excellent.

128. What about the potatoes?—We only got them once.

129. Had you any other vegetables?—No.

130. When you say the meat was badly cooked, in what way do you mean?—It was not sufficiently cooked.

131. What meat had you?—Beef principally.

132. Had you also mutton?—Yes, I think we had.

133. Had you any sausages, and chops, and steaks?—We had sausages.

134. Were they cooked?—Yes.

135. Had you any chops?—I do not remember.

136. And the fodder for your horses: was that sufficient?—On one day we had to buy two sacks.

137. With that exception had you sufficient?—With that exception we had as much as we required.

138. Where did you get it from?—Our quartermaster-sergeant used to draw it from the stores.

139. Did you see it drawn?—No.

140. Then, you do not know personally where it was got?—No.

141. Did you see the cooking-places?—I was there once or twice.

142. What were you doing there?—I went up to see why the orderly was so long in returning.

143. What did you see when you got there?—There were two companies in front of us, and there were no non-commissioned officers in charge of them. They were "barracking" with the cooks.