

45. You estimate it to be worth about £50 per acre?—Yes, I do.
 46. Have you ever had that offer for it?—No; it is not in the market for sale.
 47. Do you know of any other property that has changed hands at £50 per acre?—There is no other land near mine, except that owned by the Natives.
 48. I want you to explain to the Commissioners how you arrive at that result?—It is what I put on it.
 49. You have told us it is worth £50 per acre because you put that price on it?—I have brought it up to that.

ARTHUR WIGHT examined. (No. 4.)

1. *Mr. Mueller.*] What is your name?—Arthur Wight. I own about 450 acres of land at Komata North, Section No. 1B, mainly lying between the railway-line and the river.
 2. *The Chairman.*] How much frontage to the river have you?—About 90 chains.
 3. *Mr. Mueller.*] About 330 acres of your land lies between the Thames Railway line and the Waihou River?—About 340 acres.
 4. Do the floods come over your land?—Yes, anything up to 18 in.
 5. What effect has that on the vegetation?—If it is any time early in the season it kills the grass, and throws it right back; if it is in the winter it does not do so much harm.
 6. Have you had to remove your stock?—I have had to take them on to higher land, especially the sheep.
 7. How long have you owned that land?—Since about 1893.
 8. *The Chairman.*] Is that freehold?—It was leasehold then; I have since bought it.
 9. Out of the profits you made on the land?—Practically.
 10. *Mr. Mueller.*] In the earlier times you say this land was not affected by floods?—Not at all. I have known land round the Puke at Paeroa to be flooded when mine was not.
 11. In later years how has your land been affected by floods?—It has been flooded for years, at times.
 12. You have outfall drains going into the Waihou: what effect has a flood on these drains?—It fills the mouths of them up with tailings.
 13. Does that cause expense?—Yes, I have to clear them.
 14. Have you to do that time after time?—Whenever it is required. The drains want fixing up a bit after each flood.
 15. *The Chairman.*] How many drains are there along the 90 chains?—Six, I think, and the boundary drain.
 16. How far up the drains do the tailings run?—Not a great distance—just a few chains.
 17. How many days' work to each drain?—I should say about two days' work for each drain.
 18. What do you do with the tailings?—Just shovel them out on the side of the drain.
 19. *Mr. Mueller.*] Are there deposits of silt on the banks of the river on your frontage?—Yes.
 20. What would you say would be the width of the deposits on your land?—On the banks of the river, anything up to half a chain for about 40 chains on my frontage.
 21. And the other part of the frontage, is that a little bit higher than the other?—I think so.
 22. In the river itself, is there a deposit of tailings?—Yes.
 23. On each bank?—On both banks of the river.
 24. During the recent floods, were there fine tailings distributed on your grass?—Yes, the grass was whitewashed with tailings in one or two places.
 25. How do you find that is affected by rain?—It takes several showers of rain to wash it off; I think there is still some there.
 26. Have you known any cattle to be damaged through that?—No.
 27. As regards the river itself, you look upon that as the natural drain of the country: how has that been affected?—I should say the carrying-capacity has been reduced by over one-third.
 28. *The Chairman.*] How is it reduced—in the width, or depth?—In both.
 29. How do you know it is reduced in the depth?—When I went down there first I took down a punt-load of posts, and I judged the river to be about 12 ft. deep at low tide.
 30. Have you any reason to think it has filled up since?—I have seen stock walking across the river at low tide. I judge the river to be about 4 ft. deep at low tide.
 31. Then, how do you account for the water getting away?—It cannot get away anywhere else than through the river.
 32. Does the river run more rapidly now?—About the same, I should think.
 33. *Mr. Cotter.*] Did you know the district at all prior to your buying this land, or leasing it?—Yes.
 34. How long did you know that locality prior to your leasing it?—I should say about ten years.
 35. Then, you have known the land practically for about twenty-five years?—Yes.
 36. Was it not always considered as low-lying land, with a great difficulty of drainage?—No, I do not think so.
 37. Can you tell the Commissioners about what fall there was when you first took it up?—I think there was about 1 ft. of fall in 50 chains.
 38. In some places was not actually the bank of the river higher than the land just inside it?—No; the bank of the river on my place is lower than the land, bar at one place, where it is about level.
 39. Can you give any other instance that supports your deduction about the depth of the river?—We used to swim in the early days, and cross the river in a boat.
 40. And what difference have you found?—The river was then deeper.