

13. And not from the Waihou River?—No.

14. *Mr. Mueller.*] Did he complete his job?—Yes. Shortly after he completed it another fresh came, and there were more tailings in the drain. I allowed that deposit to remain there last winter. I had already shifted these deposits twice. There is not much fall in that country, and if there is any deposit in the outlet drain the tile drains will not do their work. This deposit in the drain is caused, in my opinion, by the water overflowing the banks above, and also by filling in at the mouth of the drain.

15. Was the water overflowing above and also entering at the mouth of the drain?—Yes.

16. And that is from the creek?—Yes, the creek and these drains form three sides of a square. At one time the area enclosed in that square we considered was some of our best cropping-land.

17. What area was enclosed in the square?—About 50 acres. There was very little apparent risk in cropping it. We had no trouble in harvesting our crops. We very rarely had a flood on it that could do any harm. In January, 1907, 25 acres out of the 50 acres was in oats and potatoes. Nearly the whole of the 25 acres was under water. Twenty acres of the 25 acres was in oats, the remainder in potatoes. The oats were damaged by the water, but the damage was intensified by the deposit of silt lodged in the sheaves. We reckoned we should have about 35 tons of potatoes off the 5 acres. We took about 14 tons; the remainder were rotten. We only sold about 10 tons. We considered we lost about £100 on the potatoes and £150 on the oats.

18. *Mr. Myers.*] Damaged by the flood?—No, the damage by the flood was intensified by the silt. I would like to explain that we had another paddock of oats on the same land, on high ground. It was damaged to some extent. We were able to sell it as chaff. The greater part of the chaff on the area below was unsaleable on account of the silt in the straw.

19. *Mr. Mueller.*] It was whitewashed?—The silt was right through it.

20. Describe the Komata Creek as regards the silting-up?—When we took over the property seventeen years ago it was a beautiful clear stream, with plenty of fish in it. Deep holes abounded in it. The lower sloping bank formed a natural fence in many places.

21. Was the creek 10 ft. down from the bank generally?—Yes, but there was a lower stop-bank of 2 ft. or 3 ft., and a sloping bank of perhaps 8 ft. or 10 ft. The sloping bank always carried good feed. At the present time most of the big holes have been filled up, and the sloping bank of the creek is covered with tailings.

22. Which came down the Komata?—Yes; that is, for about half the distance down our boundary. They might have come from the mouth of the creek, but the slope is too great to allow many to come up the creek.

23. Do you know when Komata was declared a sludge-channel?—It is a query whether it is a sludge-channel.

24. Was it excluded from the original Proclamation?—The intention was to exclude it. I have taken several legal opinions on the subject, and they do not all agree.

25. You say that about half your boundary has been affected in this way?—The lower half.

26. *The Chairman.*] Why was not the upper half affected if it comes down to the river?—There is too much fall from the Komata Reefs battery. I understand there is a fall of about 400 ft.

27. *Mr. Mueller.*] From the road down to the Junction of the creek with the river it is fairly flat?—Yes, and the creek is affected for a distance up by the tide. There are deposits of silt along the creek to where it is affected by the tide. It comes within 20 chains of the road.

28. On account of that you had to fence?—On account of the holes being filled and the sides changing I had to fence.

29. What is the acreage affected by the flood?—About 200 acres.

30. *The Chairman.*] In addition to certain silt on the banks of the creek above—a small amount?—The creek will break over above the railway-line. It does not do any damage; the water gets away because there is plenty of fall.

31. *Mr. Mueller.*] You are suffering from the want of local knowledge on the part of those who drew up the Proclamation?—Yes. At one time very little damage was done by the floods; when there was an overflow from the Komata Creek we very seldom had an overflow from the Waihou.

32. Have you noticed what length of time the water remains on your land compared with what used to happen?—During the January 1907 flood the water remained long enough on a portion of our land to kill all the grass.

33. Had that happened previously?—No, never.

34. Have you noticed any of the slimes or silt on the vegetation?—I noticed it particularly after the last March flood.

35. What effect has that had upon cattle?—I have not noticed any effect on the cattle on the portion of the land I am speaking about, but the cattle would not look at the grass upon which the deposit was lodged until some considerable time afterwards, when the deposit had washed off.

36. Have you had to remove your cattle?—Yes, frequently off the low-lying portions. That is of late years.

37. You carry on dairy-farming as well as cropping?—Yes, generally all-round farming.

38. Have the floods had any particular effect on your dairy receipts?—We are in that position that if the low-lying ground is flooded we can shift the stock on to the high land.

39. You have a considerable area of high land?—Yes.

40. Can you give us any idea as to what effect the flood has upon the value of, say, that 200 acres?—If it were not subject to floods I consider I could make it just as valuable as the high land.

41. And what difference in values is there now, roughly?—I consider that the high land in its present state and the land about the house and the railway-line is worth about £30 per acre.

42. And the other land?—About £10.