Amounts paid to Industrial Suppliers, 1906–7—continued.

Not affected by Flood.

	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£
Alexander, A. K.	47	45	38	43 0 0	35
Morrison, W.	41	35	28	31 0 0	23
1909–10.					
	£	£	£	£ s. d.	£
Fisher Bros.	118	111	74	73 0 0	58
Adamson, F.	36	36	27	22 0 0	15
Moore, W.	74	62	40	32 0 0	10
Robinson, I.	60	52	36	30 0 0	15
Alexander, A. K.	72	61	44	46 0 0	44
Morrison, W.	55	42	30	31 0 0	25
Stock, R.	52	53	35	35 0 0	25
Thomas, J.	44	39	25	23 0 0	17

Total Amounts paid out to Suppliers at Hikutaia Creamery.

Season.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.
	£	£	£	£	£
1906–7	345	260	215	226	208

Falling-off, December–April, £137, or 39 per cent.

,, at Netherton creamery, corresponding period, 78 per cent.

69. *Mr. Myers.*] When you took up your land at Komata, was there much bush in the neighbourhood?—Yes, on the hills.

70. Has much of that bush been felled?—Yes; there is always a quantity being cut.

71. And that process of felling the bush has been going on for the last seventeen years?—Yes, to a greater or less degree.

72. Would you expect that to make any difference to your land?—It is generally understood that if you cut down the bush on the hills the water will come down quicker.

73. You say about 200 acres of your land was affected: how much of that was swamp land when you went there?—I could not give you the exact area.

74. A considerable area has been drained?—Yes.

75. Taking into consideration the felling of the bush and the sinking of the drained swamp land, do you think those two causes would affect your land to any extent?—The area of swamp land I have drained is outside the 200 acres that was flooded. It is not the swamp land that is affected. I consider there is sufficient fall off our place to allow that flood-water to get off if the Waihou water did not back up the Komata water.

76. Your land used to flood—did it not?—before these rivers were proclaimed sludge-channels?—Yes.

77. Are there any willows in the Komata?—Yes, a good number.

78. Do you think they affect the question at all so far as you are concerned?—They do not help the water to get away.

79. Do they not conduce to the accumulation of silt?—Yes; but there is plenty of silt to be found where there are no willows.

80. I suggest to you that they also conduce to the backing-up of the waters?—I admit that is correct.

81. Have you ever taken any steps with a view to having the willows cut down or removed?—Not so far.

82. Do you not think that the cutting-down or removal of the willows would to a considerable extent reduce the injuries of which you complain?—They would to a certain extent.

83. Do you not think the three things I have mentioned have a very great effect in producing the injuries, assuming the injuries to exist?—No.

84. What is it you blame then? What do you say the damage is caused by?—The damage caused by the flood-waters would not be so great if there was not silt with it. The flood-waters of a creek like the Komata would enrich our land if it were not for the silt.

85. Do you not think that if the willows did not cause the accumulation of silt you would not have so much to complain of?—I admitted that before.

86. You have spoken of the falling-off of the receipts of your dairy company between December and April: is there not a natural falling-off between those months?—Yes. Particulars in the figures I have given to the Commission.

87. *Mr. Clendon.*] Did you take any steps to oppose the making of the Komata Stream into a sludge-channel?—At that time I had no interest in the property. It was my father's property.

88. Did your father take any steps to oppose the Komata Stream being declared a sludge-channel?—He was under the impression it was exempted. I remember assisting him to draft a letter asking if it was exempted.

89. When was that?—When the matter was mooted.

90. Did your father make any claim for compensation?—No. He was under the impression that the Komata Stream was exempted.

91. Does not a quantity of *débris* come down the Komata Stream with every flood?—Yes.

92. What is the value of your property at the present time?—Fifteen pounds per acre is what we were asking for it.

93. What was the value of it in 1895?—It would be simply a guess on my part. Approximately it would be from £8 to £10 per acre.