

32. How long have you owned the whole of that land?—I have not owned some of it very long—within the last two years.
33. How much of it had you at the time of the 1907 flood?—Two blocks—107 and 98 acres.
34. What is the length of your lease?—Fourteen years for the 70 acres.
35. What is the rental?—£36 a year.
36. At what did you value the 98 acres after the flood of 1907?—The Government valuation was £9 an acre.
37. What is your valuation?—About £15.
38. What do you value it at now?—I would not care to take less.
39. What did you value it at in 1906?—It should have been worth about £18.
40. What was the Government valuation then?—I do not know.
41. Do you honestly suggest that it has decreased £3 per acre in consequence of the 1907 flood?—Yes, because it is only weeds and rubbish now.
42. How many acres has been destroyed, in your opinion?—198 acres, the whole of it.
43. Why did you not put it down at 18 times 198, instead of £400?—(No answer.) [Statement put in, Exhibit No. 17.]
44. *Mr. McVeagh.*] When did you get your launch?—About three years ago.
45. Just before the 1907 flood?—Yes.
46. Do you run her yourself?—Yes.
47. What is her draught?—About 2 ft.
48. Do you carry milk for yourself only, or for others?—I use the launch for pleasure. I take my milk to the creamery by road.
49. You said that the term of one lease was fourteen years: what is the term of the other lease?—Seven years for the 150 acres.
50. Is that at £30 a year?—Fifty pounds.
51. Was the 1907 flood the January flood?—I think it was.
52. *Mr. S. Fisher's* sworn affidavit is that there was a rush of water from the Piako: is that correct?—I cannot say. It may be correct.
53. Do you say there was no water from the Piako at all?—There was no water from the Piako.
54. Did you go out to examine it?—No.
55. Did you go out in the Awaiti direction?—Yes.
56. When?—When the flood was on.
57. When the whole countryside was covered with water?—Yes.
58. I think it was coming from the Waihou River for miles?—Yes.
59. How long have you been at Netherton?—Twenty-one years.
60. You have been frequently at Paeroa?—Yes.
61. You say this is the first flood you have had at Netherton?—Yes, in our district.
62. Do you get floods at Netherton when there are floods at Paeroa?—Not always.
63. Will you tell me why that is?—No, I cannot tell you why that is altogether.
64. If you had floods in the streets at Paeroa, you would have floods at Netherton?—Not always.
65. And you cannot tell why that is?—No.
66. Have there been floods in Paeroa to your knowledge?—Yes, several.
67. How far back have there been floods, in your memory?—I could not answer that.
68. Before the boom commenced?—I could not answer that.
69. Did you take up the second lease after the flood?—Yes, both of them.
70. And your freehold land has been totally destroyed?—The 1907 flood destroyed all the grass I had on it.
71. After that bitter experience why did you take up further land?—To grow flax. I could not grow grass, so I thought I would try and grow some flax.
72. What flax have you made provision for growing?—I can dispose of 40 or 50 tons there now.
73. Are you growing flax there now?—On the 70 acres.
74. What are you growing on the 150 acres?—Nothing; but there is a bit of flax growing on it.
75. Did you put flax there?—No, it is natural.
76. When did you take up those two leases?—Just before Christmas I think it was.
77. And the other one about the same time?—No; that was about twelve months ago.
78. *Mr. Mueller.*] In the 1907 flood you went towards the Awaiti?—Yes.
79. Have you any doubt as to where the waters were coming from in that flood?—No.
80. Where do you say they were coming from?—From the Waihou River.
81. *The Chairman.*] I suppose by the "Waihou River" you mean the upper Waihou?—Yes, above the Junction.
82. *Mr. Mueller.*] The September flood: where did that water come from?—From the same place.
83. And the 1910 flood—last March?—That came from the Puke way. I did not suffer very much from that flood.
84. *The Chairman.*] On which of these sections is your house?—On the 98-acre section, near the school.
85. Were you flooded out of the house?—No; very nearly.
86. Why do you say that the water did not come from the Awaiti?—It came from the Waihou River into the Awaiti Lagoon, and from the lagoon on to my land.
87. *Mr. Vickerman.*] Did not the ridge at Kerepehi cut off the water from your place?—No. There are two ridges there: the water comes down between these two ridges.