

31. Do you know where that material is coming from?—I have not the remotest idea where it is coming from.

32. Do you think it comes from the tailings of the plants at the Thames?—I do not think so.

33. Do you think it comes from the mullock of the tips?—No.

34. You judge that, I presume, by the colour of the material?—Yes.

35. The bank has not been analysed or separated in any way?—No.

36. *The Chairman.*] How far does this bank run out?—A chain to a chain and a half—gradually tapering. It lies alongshore much more than that. It is underneath the wharf, and crawling round the end.

37. What depth of water have you at the wharf?—About 8 ft., high water ordinary tides. That is where the steamer lies.

38. Has it been dredged at all, or is that natural depth?—That is natural.

39. And outside of that in a straight line does the water deepen quickly?—No; the water recedes from the wharf at spring tides nearly 1,500 ft. That is left bare.

40. Is that hard or soft?—It is hard now for a few chains off the wharf, but outside that it is moderately soft.

41. *Mr. Bruce.*] Previously, used it to be very soft there?—Yes; you could go up to your neck in the mud.

42. Do you consider that the foreshore has raised more rapidly during the last ten or twelve years than formerly?—Yes; I think it has considerably, inshore, from my own observation.

43. What are the prevailing winds at the Thames?—From north-west to south-west.

44. How many fishing-boats are licensed at the Thames?—There are about eighty-two on the register, but they are not all fishing. Some of them have been sold. There are forty-two or forty-three fishing.

45. *Mr. Clendon.*] What is the length of the Thames foreshore from Opani Point to Tararu Point, within harbour limits?—I should think, roughly, four or five miles.

46. How many creeks have you discharging tailings, and *débris*, and sand into that five miles?—There are Tararu Creek, Shellback Creek, Moanataiari Creek, Waitahi Aqueduct and Creek, Karaka Creek, Nokenoke Creek, and Kauaeranga Creek.

47. All these creeks are discharging mining tailings, more or less?—Yes.

48. *The Chairman.*] Are they discharging anything but tailings—mullock and *débris* from the mines?—Yes.

49. And everything that can be brought down from the hills?—Yes.

50. And drainage from the district?—Yes; all the drainage from the town and creeks goes on the foreshore.

51. *Mr. Clendon.*] These creeks rise very rapidly in rainfall, owing to the situation of the hills at the back?—Yes.

52. And bring the water down very rapidly?—Yes.

53. Now, between Kauaeranga and, we will say, Tararu, what is the average depth of tailings and deposit on the foreshore for a distance of half a mile from the beach?—That is difficult to say.

54. Will it be inches?—Yes.

55. Feet?—Yes, in places.

56. Are the tailings coarse or fine in this district?—From Albert Street to Shortland they are all coarse.

57. The effect of a north-westerly wind is to disturb these banks on the foreshore?—Yes, I should think so.

58. Particularly a heavy blow from the north-west?—Yes.

59. In fact, can you contradict the statement that a north-westerly blow takes a lot of tailings and sand to Turua up the river?—I cannot contradict the statement, but I do not believe it, all the same.

60. For instance, is it possible for you or anybody else to say whether that sample you have placed before the Commission is composed of up-country tailings or local tailings?—I do not think it is possible.

61. But your own impression is that it is local?—No; I think it has come down the river. The natural inference is that it has come down the river.

62. Why do you say that if you cannot identify them with up-country materials in any way?—For the simple reason that a heavy blow puts everything over here, and it is not likely to take it out of the main channel and put it on the foreshore.

63. Do not the Piako and Waitakaruru Rivers bring down a very large amount of refuse from the drains?—I have heard so, but I have never seen it.

64. There is a big drainage scheme going on up these rivers, and has been for years?—Yes, since the dredges have been at work.

65. Can you say what percentage of that is distributed over the foreshore?—I have no idea.

66. What is the distance of your fairway buoy from Opani Point, at the mouth of the river?—Roughly, two miles and a half.

67. Will you say that the depth or width of the channel between Opani Point and the fairway buoy has lessened during the last five years, we will say? Taking the depth first, is it less now than it was?—I do not think it is.

68. Is it narrower now than it was?—I do not think so.

69. *The Chairman.*] Then the only difference is that it is harder?—Yes.

70. *Mr. Clendon.*] What disadvantage is it to have a hard bottom instead of a soft bottom?—It is easier for shipping to get stuck instead of dragging through the mud.

71. *The Chairman.*] Is there any greater danger to shipping in a vessel straining itself?—It would be to a loaded vessel.