

110. Where is the shallow bank?—Abreast of Opani Point.
111. Then what does it become?—It goes into shallow shingle and rough sand.
112. How long has that bank been there, to your knowledge?—Since Captain Cook's day. I have seen his chart, and it is on his chart.
113. Has the position altered at all?—Not in my time.
114. Has the bank increased at all?—That I am not prepared to say, because I have not taken the trouble either to survey or sound it, because there was no necessity to do so.
115. Then we may take it that you have taken no observations?—That is so.
116. Have you taken any actual observations yourself as to the velocity of the current, say, at Kopu?—Yes; we tried it some two years ago, and that was about the average—between two and a half and three and a half knots.
117. At what state of the tide?—The biggest run was about two hours after high water.
118. When did you take your observations?—Right through the whole tide. It is marked on the chart.
119. *The Chairman.*] Who made that chart?—It is a copy, I think, of the original chart of the Lands Department in Auckland.
120. What is the history of it?—I think it is a copy of a chart made by Captain Drury before the Thames was a harbour.
121. *Mr. Moresby.*] Can you tell us what the velocity of the tide is, coming in?—It does not run as high coming in as going out. It runs a knot an hour less.
122. *The Chairman.*] And in times of heavy flood or freshes in the river it would be less still?—Yes.
123. What do you consider is the minimum velocity?—About two knots.
124. *Mr. Moresby.*] Can you tell us how long the tide ebbs at Kopu, say?—It ebbs about seven hours and flows about five hours.
125. Have you from any observations you have made yourself observed tailings from the Thames or the banks coming up the river?—No, I have never noticed it.
126. By "tailings" I mean mullock and *débris* of all kinds?—I do not think it is possible for it to do so. There is a tremendous extent of inside channel, and how it could get across the bar I cannot say.
127. I am referring to when a strong north-west wind is blowing?—But that blows right into Shortland Creek, and not up the Thames River.
128. Have you observed any tailings or *débris* going up in the stretch between the fairway buoy and Opani Point?—No.
129. In fact, you have never seen anything of the sort?—No.
130. And you think it is impossible?—Yes.
131. *The Chairman.*] Have you observed any *débris* coming from the Piako end and sweeping round into the mouth of the river?—No; I have never had occasion to be over there.
132. If people say so would you think it credible?—Oh, yes! I have seen *débris* going out of the fishermen's nets.
133. *Mr. Bruce.*] Is not the place where the principal part of the tailings made at the Thames go, the foreshore between the Goods Wharf and the Kuranui Creek?—Yes.
134. Has the Board done everything to retain these tailings on the foreshore so that they would not pass out to the damage of the channels?—Yes; they have always done so for the last twenty years.
135. What amount of tailings would you say there were in that catchment—a million tons—I would not say a million tons, but a good many hundred thousands.
136. As regards the other creeks that enter the Thames, such as the Hape, the Karaka, or Tararu, there is a very small quantity of tailings going into these?—Yes, comparatively.
137. Has the Borough Council at any time removed any *débris* from the foreshore at the mouth of the Karaka Stream?—It is a yearly performance, so far as I remember.
138. They take a large quantity?—Some hundreds of loads every year.
139. These feed the tailings that are on the foreshore; but would that apply to the catchment-area between the Goods Wharf and Hurunui Creek?—No.
140. There are tailings on other parts of the foreshore?—Yes.
141. Which were placed there a good many years ago?—Yes; twenty years ago.
142. Of late years crushing here, unfortunately, has been small?—Yes.
143. The principal mine crushing here during the last few years has been the Waiotahi?—Yes.
144. Did the Board do anything towards compelling that company to prevent tailings going into the harbour?—Yes.
145. Is the method adopted fairly effective?—Yes.
146. Nothing but a quantity of what are termed "very fine slimes" is escaping into the harbour?—Yes.
147. Your instructions are to prevent any persons turning tailings on to the foreshore until they make provision for their storage?—Yes, I believe so.
148. And you carry that duty out to the best of your ability?—Yes.

THOMAS JACKSON examined. (No. 42.)

1. *Mr. Bruce.*] You are Foreman of Works for the Borough of Thames?—Yes.
2. And have been so for the last four years?—Yes.
3. Prior to that, for twenty years you were carpenter for the borough and the right-hand man of the then Foreman of Works?—Yes.