

27. If other witnesses say so, would they be saying what was untrue?—I should think so.
28. And they are not to be believed, and you are to be believed?—It is a matter of opinion. I think I have fished more in the river. Three of us fished more in the river than any other fishermen.
29. Would you back your opinion against that of the three witnesses who were in the box this morning?—Yes. I have fished ten times to their one during the last six years.
30. *Mr. Moresby.*] How long is it since you fished at Whitehouse's place?—The summer before last.
31. Is that your general place for fishing?—No; from pretty well the mouth of the river to Whitehouse's. We change about in the river according to the tide.
32. Do you fish outside at all?—Yes, down the coast generally.
33. Have you made any observations on your own account in the river by taking up samples from the bottom?—No. I merely judge because we use poles to fish.
34. You use poles, and not mud-anchors?—No. We might use one or two. We use anchors outside. We do not use poles outside.
35. Do you think there is any difference in the velocity of the tide as it goes out and comes in?—It is according to the wind. In a northerly wind it runs much stronger than the ebb. That is in the summer-time when there is no fresh at all. I know that because we have often to take our nets up on the flood when we can leave them down on the ebb. I am not able to judge the average pace of the tide.
36. *Mr. McVeagh.*] Have you noticed dead fish in the gulf as well as in the river?—I have. We very often get dead fish away down the coast.
37. *The Chairman.*] I suppose these dead fish are not stinking?—Sometimes they are.
38. *Mr. Vickerman.*] Would these dead fish on the coast come from the Thames River?—No, because they are mostly schnapper.

Statement by FREDERICK HAYWARD. (No. 48.)

*Mr. Clendon* asked for and received permission to hand in the following statement by Frederick Hayward, who could not attend the Commission that day: I am a fisherman. Have been fishing for six or seven years. Have fished a good deal in the Thames River, as far up as Whitehouse's. We fish in the river for four or five months, starting in December. The quantity of fish in all the beds is about the same as when I started fishing. Fish has not decreased in Thames River. I do not consider that silting has in any way affected fishing industry on the Thames. The fish we catch in the river are just as healthy as those caught in the gulf, and just as saleable. There is just as much fishing done in the river as when I started. I have not noticed any difference in the channel of the river or at the mouth. There are more fish in the aggregate now, but they are more widely distributed. I earn about £3 a week fishing. My earnings six or seven years ago were about the same as now. I caught as many fish last summer as in previous years. I have found no difference in regard to the bed of the river in late years. It is just as soft as formerly. There are about eighty-four fishing-launches registered on the Thames, but of that number several have ceased fishing. There are about forty launches fishing now. There was never more than that number actually fishing at one time. The average number of men per boat is two. There are about a hundred men fishing. I have caught dead fish in my nets. This is due to the nets not being worked once on the ebb and once on the flow of the tide. If the nets are not lifted before the tide turns, the fish are drowned. Some of the fishermen leave their nets set all the week in one place. I have often found dead fish in the gulf, due to the cause mentioned. Some of the settlers on the river neglect to work their nets, and this is the cause of many fish being drowned.

PAEROA, MONDAY, 30TH MAY, 1910.

*Mr. Mueller:* There was a report by Mr. Perham which has been mentioned previously. I have had a few copies of it made, and, as promised, I now formally hand one in. [Exhibit No. 34.] In connection also with the evidence given by Mr. Niccol, the secretary of the Silting Association, as regards the offer made by Mr. Forrest, Mr. Niccol has just handed me a copy of the *Ohinemuri Gazette* of the 2nd April, 1909, in which the matter is mentioned. The statement reads as follows: "Mr. Forrest referred to the statement made by Mr. Barry that it would cost 5s. per ton to take the tailings out of the river, and said that he would be prepared to move the tailings to the Waihi Plains for 1s. per ton, provided no difficulties were raised by the Waihi Company. The highest price ever given for moving stuff that did not require blasting was 1s. 6d., and for that price it was taken two or three miles, while the price was as low as 9d."

*Mr. McVeagh:* Mr. Chairman and gentlemen,—As you are aware, I am counsel for the Waihi Borough Council, one of the bodies upon which a distinct attack appears to be made by the terms of the Commission which has been addressed to you by the Governor. One of the instructions contained in the Commission is to investigate and report whether a proportion of the cost of carrying out remedial measures should not be a charge against the revenue derived by the local bodies in the vicinity of the rivers from the mines using the watercourses as sludge-channels. Now, there are only two local bodies concerned, the Ohinemuri County Council and the Waihi Borough Council. It is therefore quite clear that a suggestion has come from some source for a diversion of a portion of the revenue which is received by one or both of these local authorities. Therefore the Waihi Borough Council finds itself in the position of appearing before you by its counsel with a view to explaining why this revenue should not be interfered with. Before I proceed to deal