

41. When the first water came over your place after you had got into occupation of it, can you give us any idea as to how long it remained?—I should say, probably a day.

42. Was that prior to your drains being cut?—I cut the drains very shortly after I went there. The property was not flooded during the first few years I was there.

43. Do you remember during that period any such fall of water taking place as fell on the occasion of this last flood?—Usually it took about three days to make a flood. I believe this last flood was due to a heavy local fall of rain at Waihi; we had very little.

44. When you had the first flood on your land, did any such heavy fall take place in such a short space of time?—It usually took about three days' heavy rain.

45. Have you thought, yourself, of any remedial measures that might be suggested with regard to improving the river other than stopping it being used as a sludge-channel?—It would be a simpler plan to catch the tailings and pump them away than to dredge them afterwards.

46. Then you have not looked at it from a point of view other than stopping it as a sludge-channel?—No.

47. Have you considered the question of the willows?—Yes.

48. Will you tell the Commissioners are those willows beneficial or otherwise to the navigability of the river?—They are no assistance to the keeping of the river open.

49. Then, in your opinion, it would be advisable that they should be removed?—It depends. If they are taken away between Paeroa and the Junction, then it will let thousands of tons of tailings away that will find a lodging-place further down.

50. Then, you consider that the tailings already on the banks and in the bed of the river should be removed?—Yes—do the whole thing at once.

51. Then, the willows should be removed?—Yes.

52. Have you gone up the Waihou?—As far as the flax-mills—about two or three miles.

53. In your opinion, are the willows there and for that distance a great obstruction to the current of the water?—Yes, they are.

54. Have you sufficient knowledge, or did you make observations as to the difference between what we have called the coarse tailings, as they appear on the river-bank here, and the slimes?—Personally, I have had nothing to do with them.

55. Are you sufficiently acquainted with the subject to tell the Commissioners whether the tailings opposite your place are the coarse tailings or the slimes?—I should say there was about three-quarters coarse tailings and one-quarter fine.

56. Did you make any examination to see to what depth the fine tailings or slimes went?—No.

57. *Mr. Tunks.*] You say that you think the bottom of the river has become shallower: can you say in what way?—The bottom is hard, so that a beast can walk over.

58. Was this land of yours very wet?—Yes; about half of it was swamp.

59. Of course, since you have drained the land there has been a consolidation of it: it has sunk a little, has it not?—Yes.

60. The map here shows something like five little streams on your property: is that so?—They were not streams; they were low gutters.

61. Is there any water there now?—No.

62. If there had been no flood in the river at all, they would back up now, would they not?—Yes.

63. *Mr. (London.)*] You have had a good deal of experience of land in the Piako district, I understand. Is it not a fact that there is a white scum over the whole vegetation in the Piako district?—I should not think so.

64. Have you seen the land after a flood, and have you seen the white scum there?—No, I cannot say I have.

65. Have you noticed it in any other locality?—No.

66. Are we to understand that your land is only flooded by the water that goes up the drains?—The whole lot is flooded, drains and all, sometimes.

67. If you erected three or four flood-gates, would it not keep the water off your property?—No.

68. What area of land is affected by the deposit of white slimy matter?—I should say up to 150 acres.

69. When was this?—This last flood, and the one before.

70. What did you pay for your land in 1893, or when you bought it?—I do not think that is a fair question.

71. What was it worth, say, in 1895?—About £6 per acre.

72. What is its present market value?—Twenty-five pounds per acre.

73. Is it not a fact that land in the immediate locality of that was sold at £4 10s. per acre subsequent to 1895?—I cannot say.

74. *Mr. Mueller.*] Supposing that the river were dredged, the tailings were taken out, the willows cleared, and the silt still allowed to come down the river: if your land flooded, would it be damaged by these fine slimes?—If the fine slimes settled on the grass, it would be injurious to cattle, and I consider we shall have to put down artesian wells for the cattle to drink from. I have already had the wells located on my place.

75. *The Chairman.*] Did the cattle refuse to drink out of the river in times of flood?—They have to drink out of the river.

76. Are they dairy cattle?—No. I fatten cattle.

77. *Mr. Mueller.*] Could the cattle walk over the river in previous years?—They would be bogged in the soft land before they reached the river. Several times I have brought cattle from Netherton, and they have walked back there.