

108. At the back of your place there is a long extent of low-lying country!—The Hauraki Plains go into the back. It cannot be so extra low when so many people are balloting for the land. I think those people will be worse off than me. God help the people who are living in the Piako! The men who are balloting do not know what they are doing.

109. Can all your cattle run on your land?—Yes, they used to do well in summer.

110. You have some leaseholds: have you any objection to stating what rentals you pay?—Eighteen pounds a year.

111. What area?—Two hundred and seventy-seven acres. I am now going to throw it up altogether. I have four months to run, and the owner can have it. It is no good to me.

112. I think there is no demand for dairy cattle about this time of year?—You get a good cow, and in good condition, and in calf, and you will get a price for it.

113. Do you say there is as big a demand now as at the beginning of the milking-season?—In the spring—that is the time for the demand.

114. Have you ever seen the Ohinemuri in flood and the Waihou not in flood?—Yes, often.

115. Will you mention any occasions?—This last flood. The Waihou was as low as possible, and the Ohinemuri came down with such force it was simply a torrent, and ran up the Waihou for three miles, and carried some posts up the river three miles, and they are lying there now.

116. *Mr. Vickerman.*] Did you say you had posts carried three miles up the Waihou from the Junction?—Yes, and some cabbage-trees that I had cut down for the cattle were lifted and floated up the river. Mr. Macdonald and the skippers of two small boats could tell you that if they wished to do so.

117. *Mr. McVeagh.*] How do you identify your cabbage-trees?—I am the only man who has been chopping them at the Junction.

118. As a farmer, you know that if a stream of water flows across the ground, and the sun comes out, you have the grass shrivelled and injured—practically scorched?—Yes. The worst flood you can have is in the summer.

119. And the flood of 1907 was a summer flood after the drought in December?—Yes, there was very warm weather.

120. That would account for the damage to your grass?—No: when the sun came out it destroyed the grass in the way I have described.

121. Do you not know that the January 1907 flood was general over the whole province? Do you not know that the Waikato train service was stopped for a fortnight?—It might have been. If it was, it was all fresh water: it was not water dirty with tailings. A little fresh water does nobody any harm: cattle can eat the grass when the water goes off. But with this other stuff on the grass, the cattle cannot eat it.

122. In 1907 are you not aware that cattle died at Hikutaia in consequence of the flood?—They might have done. I know there were a lot of cattle drowned. They died at Netherton. I do not know about Hikutaia. I know some men lost nearly all their milking-cows.

123. *Mr. Mueller.*] This land was not composed of peat?—No, 6 in. of good alluvial, and white clay under the 6 in. of soil.

124. *The Chairman.*] Is that soil peaty?—No.

125. How far does the white clay go down?—I cannot say. The white clay goes down as far as the drain.

126. *Mr. Flatman.*] Do you consider that good soil?—No soil in the Waikato can come up to Netherton if it is left alone.

127. There are some dairymen who supply Waihi and Karangahake: do they not look round for good cows to keep them supplied?—Yes: I was ashamed to own my cattle going to the sale during the last two or three years.

128. What was the amount of reduction in your butter-production after the last March flood?—I have been selling the milking-cows off. There were only six milking, and I am only milking four at the present time.

129. *Mr. Vickerman.*] Does the silt come on to your property from the back of where Bertelsen lives?—No, it strikes where the island is. The Ohinemuri forces the Waihou back, and then the Waihou overflows back of Netherton into the Piako Swamp. There is an overflow of about 2 ft. 6 in. for about seven miles. That goes into the swamp. There is about seventeen miles of overflow.

130. Does the Ohinemuri run from there too?—Certainly; that is how the tailings get on to my property. If it were not for the Ohinemuri there would be no tailings coming down the Waihou.

131. You mean to say that all the tailings that come on your land go up the Waihou channel: they do not go over at the point?—One river backs up the other.

132. Do not make any mistake: because some people say that it goes over at the other place?—No; they do not know anything about it.

133. You reckon that the tailings all go up the channel into the Waihou?—There may be a little, but the major portion goes up the river. The quantity of water coming down the Ohinemuri backs up the Waihou, and then it goes over into the Netherton Plains.

134. *Mr. Mitchelson.*] I think you stated that one of the samples you have handed in was taken about a mile above the Junction?—Yes.

135. Do you consider that that sample is tailings?—It is mining *débris*.

136. You are quite sure that the *débris* did not come from any other place than the Ohinemuri?—Quite sure.

137. It looks like clay to me?—I took the three samples yesterday.

138. *The Chairman.*] You say the Ohinemuri backs up the Waihou River. The colours of the water are distinctive?—Yes, the Waihou is perfectly clear blue water.