

WILLIAM MOORE examined. (No. 10.)

1. *Mr. Mueller.*] Your name is William Moore, and you own 183 acres of land?—Yes, Sections 4 and 5, Block XI, Waihou Survey District.

2. Your son Frank owns 240 acres, Block X, and another son, Walter, owns 163 acres in the Rangiora Block?—Yes.

3. You speak on behalf of your sons?—Yes.

4. You have all suffered loss?—Yes, very serious loss.

5. Is this a statement showing the particulars of your loss, amounting to £1,657?—Yes, up to the present time that is my loss. I settled at Netherton on the 25th June, 1879. The first flood that caused any damage was on the 15th January, 1907. On that occasion I lost the whole of my crops, also,—

	£	s.	d.
6 head of cattle, value...	36	0	0
12 acres of oats for chaffing, average 3 tons per acre, 36 tons, at £4 per ton ...	144	0	0
12 acres meadow-hay, 24 tons, at £3 per ton ...	72	0	0
183 acres, all laid down in rye-grass and clovers, totally destroyed, requiring ploughing and sowing down afresh, at £2 10s. per acre ...	457	10	0
Loss on cream cheque through having no feed for sixty cows for five months ...	225	0	0
Loss on pigs through having no skim-milk ...	63	0	0
Feed required for sixty cows for five months ...	60	0	0
Loss on first flood, 15th January, 1907 ...	1,057	10	0
Second flood, 4th September, 1909—loss by grass being killed ...	300	0	0
Third flood, 28th March, 1910—similar loss ...	300	0	0
Total ...	£1,657	10	0

Previous to 1907 the farm was let at £100 per year; after 1907 I reduced the rent to £50 per year; and after the 1910 flood the farm was thrown up. [Exhibit No. 8.]

6. Is that your evidence?—Yes, principally.

7. *The Chairman.*] Your complaint is simply of flooding. No *débris* went on to your land. The water only comes from the back?—The whole of the water comes from the Waihou River.

8. *Mr. Mueller.*] Your son Frank rented a farm from you, and he also owned a farm of his own?—Yes.

9. What has Frank had to do in connection with this land?—He has cleared out.

10. Left the farm and thrown up the lease of your land?—He paid £100 a year for five years. After the first flood I reduced the amount by half. Then after the last flood he gave it up.

11. *Mr. Tunks.*] You have given us a statement of your losses. On which piece of land were the sixty cows?—On the 183 acres.

12. Was that the piece you leased to your son?—Yes.

13. When did you lease it to him?—In 1902.

14. And he had it right up to 1907?—Right up to now.

15. This is not a statement of your loss; it is a statement of his loss?—It is all the same, I found him everything.

16. Had you a share in the thing?—The farm belonged to me.

17. But not the cattle?—I gave him some cattle when he started.

18. Have you any suggestions to make to remedy this?—I think that if the Awaiti Creek was cleaned out it would be an improvement. It wants to be made about 30 ft. wide, and deep enough to run out. At present the water is still.

19. Are there willow-trees there?—They have pulled them out, I believe. They ought to widen it considerably.

20. *Mr. Clendon.*] Were you a member of the local authority at the time of the Proclamation in 1895?—No.

21. Were you not one of the advocates of the sludge-channel?—No.

22. Were you an opponent?—Yes.

23. Why?—We had a beautiful clean river, with perpendicular banks, and I knew that when the tailings came into it it would not be clean very long.

24. You knew what the effect would be?—I did.

25. And of course you made your claim for compensation?—No.

26. Why?—What was the good? I should not have got anything. It had not done me any damage at that time.

27. What was the value of the land in 1895?—Twelve pounds an acre, some was sold at.

28. What is its value now?—I will take £20 an acre for it. I might take less if I got a buyer. It has depreciated in value at the present time.

29. Will you sell it at £12 an acre?—Yes.

30. Sixteen hundred pounds is the loss you say you have sustained in three years—the bulk of it in 1907?—Yes.

31. How long have you been in the district?—Thirty-one years.

32. During that thirty-one years have you ever known a flood bigger in this district than the flood of 1907?—I think the last flood was bigger if anything—the flood of 28th March last.

33. On your own property?—No, it was not so bad on my property as the 1907 flood.