

71. Have you pulled a barge on the river?—I have pulled a boat where there was, roughly speaking, 8 ft. of water in some places, and now cows can walk out and drink there. In the summer-time I believe there was 8 ft. of water once, and I do not believe there is any water at all there now in the summer-time.

72. *Mr. Tunks.*] Is there any depth of water at the bend?—There is a fair depth of water going round the bend.

73. Is not that bend a very sharp bend?—Yes.

74. You only made one attempt to find out what the bottom of the river was like?—That is all.

75. We shall produce evidence to show conclusively that there are practically no tailings at all there. Have you not found the channel alter during the ten years?—Yes, but not at my place.

76. The river has varied from side to side in some places?—Yes.

77. Do you say that the variation in the shallows of the river is greater than it used to be?—Within the last two or three years I have not been able to get down without dragging the bottom—that is, at low tide.

78. *Mr. Clendon.*] The “Waimarie” and “Taniwha” come up at a little better than half-tide?—Yes.

79. Drawing what?—Six feet, I suppose.

80. Have you ever seen them ground in the neighbourhood of your place?—I have seen behind them a darkening of the water as wide as this room.

81. *The Chairman.*] What colour was the water?—It was more like the disturbing of sand.

82. She did not stick, did she?—I have not seen her.

83. *Mr. Clendon.*] How did your creamery cheque for 1909 compare with your cheque for 1910?—My creamery cheque fell very considerably in consequence of the flood.

84. You say you went there about ten years ago?—Yes.

85. What did you pay for your property?—About £4 an acre.

86. What was the Government valuation last year?—£2,696 on the 332 acres.

87. That is about £8 an acre?—Yes.

88. Your land, I think, is for the most part low-lying flat land?—No; I do not think it is any more so than the others’.

89. But it is flat land on the river-bank?—Yes.

90. You told us that you had seen cattle drinking near Wight’s place at low water: when was that?—I believe I have seen them this season.

91. You say your property was under water for five days?—For four or five days.

92. Were all the properties in the vicinity under water for five days too?—I suppose they were.

93. During last summer, I think you milked more cattle than you had milked before?—No; about the same number.

94. This scum that you found over your grass after the five days’ flood—did you test it in any way to see whether it was harmful?—I believe that would be a matter for an expert. I know my cows will not eat it. I do not think it is a fair thing for me to allow them to eat it, and then make butter for people to consume.

95. Have you found whether it affects the cattle injuriously?—The cattle do not look as well as before the silt came there.

96. They have not got the same polish on their coats?—No, and it is not on their ribs either.

97. *Mr. Mueller.*] You have spoken a lot about the shallowing that has taken place in the river?—Yes, and the banks are narrowing.

98. What does that deposit consist of, so far as you can see?—It consists of ground ore—tailings; I believe they are now called “slimes.”

99. If I asked you what, in your opinion, has caused the narrowing or shallowing of the river, what would you say?—I should say tailings.

100. You remember after the last flood there was some deposit of tailings on your land?—Yes.

101. Did you show that to the County Engineer?—Yes: he took some samples for 4 chains back in my place, and I think he considered they were slimes.

102. You have stated that the last Government valuation of your land was about £8 per acre: can you give us any idea as to what you consider the value of that land would be if there were no tailings in the river at all?—I would not take £16 per acre for it.

PAEROA, WEDNESDAY, 25TH MAY, 1910.

ALFRED TETLEY examined. (No. 13.)

1. *Mr. Mueller.*] Your name is Alfred Tetley, and you are a draper carrying on business at Paeroa?—Yes.

2. You are also a farmer, close to Paeroa?—Indirectly a farmer—representing my mother.

3. Your mother, Mary Tetley, owns 200 acres of freehold land, and you look after it for her?—Yes, Piraurahi No. 10, and part of Te Waka-o-tiki, Te Aroha. It adjoins Bertelsen’s. It is between the railway-line and Bertelsen’s.

4. It is agricultural land?—Yes.

5. You have no frontage actually to the river?—No.

6. Your land is subject to floods?—Yes.

7. How much of that 200 acres is actually affected by the deposit of silt?—Pretty well three-quarters, more or less.