

EDWARD STEPHEN COCK examined. (No. 16.)

1. *Mr. Mueller.*] Your name is Edward Stephen Cock, and you are a son of Mr. Frederick Cock, a previous witness?—Yes.
2. You have resided on your father's land practically all your life?—Yes.
3. You are managing the farm for your father now?—Yes.
4. You have had to do with the cattle, horses, cows, and calves on this farm all your life?—Yes.
5. The last flood you lost several calves?—We lost one in the last flood, and we lost five calves, one mare, and two cows in the last three years.
6. The mare and the cow were lost through getting bogged and being drowned?—Yes.
7. What happened to the calves?—The first three that died we did not know what happened to, but we examined the last two. The first one we opened was full of coarse grasses mixed with silt. That substance was inside the two we opened.
8. Was that not a hard cake?—Yes, in a sort of a ball.
9. Did you break it to examine it?—Yes; it was coarse stuff with silt all through it.
10. In one of these calves did you find more than one of these lumps?—Yes, there were four in one of the animals.
11. What size would these balls be?—The biggest would be a little bigger than my fist.
12. Have you any doubt of the cause of death of these animals?—No doubt at all. Stoppage caused by this accumulation of stuff.
13. Have you noticed any of the cows when they have been brought in to milk with this stuff adhering to their mouths?—Yes, in a regular cake; and the horses' hair round their mouths had little balls rolled up in it.
14. Have you yourself taken that stuff off?—Yes.
15. For how long past have you noticed this accumulation of stuff in the animals' mouths?—Just this last big flood I noticed it particularly. I refer to the March flood.
16. Previous to five or six years ago did you notice any of that accumulation round the mouths of your cows?—No.
17. *Mr. Clendon.*] How many other calves had you at the time these calves died?—About a dozen.
18. Only two of them were affected?—We only opened two. We opened them directly they died.
19. In what part of the body did you find the lumps?—In the stomach or bowels.
20. What was the composition of it?—Coarse grass, and silt mixed with it.
21. Any slimes?—It is what is deposited there at present.
22. Was there anything injurious in the lumps, as far as you know?—I could not say that.
23. How do you know what caused the death of those calves?—I reckoned it was stoppage caused by these lumps.
24. Did you notice any signs of inflammation about the bowels?—They did not have the use of their bowels. We tried to doctor the last one that died.
25. There has been silt on your land for some years?—Yes.
26. Why has it not affected your cattle in previous years?—We have lost some in previous years, but we have never examined them.
27. Have you heard of any other people losing cattle from the same cause?—No.
28. *Mr. Mueller.*] You have noticed the horses and cows have had this stuff deposited around their mouths, as well as the young stock?—Yes.

STEPHEN FISHER examined. (No. 17.)

1. *Mr. Mueller.*] Your name is Stephen Fisher, and you are a dairy-farmer residing at Netherton?—Yes.
2. You own 344 acres of land?—Yes; part of the Te Arawakapekapeka Block Nos. 1 and 2, and part of Kaikahu No. 4. It is below the creamery.
3. That is all agricultural land?—Yes.
4. You supply milk to the Netherton creamery?—Yes.
5. Of that 344 acres, how much has been flooded?—The whole of it was flooded in 1907 except 2 acres.
6. How long have you been in the district?—Sixteen years.
7. And previous to 1907 was that land subject to floods?—Not in my time.
8. In January, 1907, there was a large flood?—Yes.
9. The water remained on your land for how long?—For about three weeks.
10. In September of last year there was another flood?—Yes.
11. How much land did that flood cover?—About 250 acres of my land, and it remained on the land for about a week.
12. The damage in the 1907 flood—did that destroy grass on your land?—Yes, it destroyed the whole of the grass that was under water. It left nothing alive.
13. Did you lose stock through starvation in consequence of that flood?—Yes, following on the flood.
14. About how much value of stock?—I should think about 50 pounds' worth of stock.
15. Did you dispose of any of your stock after that flood?—There was no sale for cattle after that flood in this district.
16. Did you replough and resow the land after that flood?—About 150 acres, and I surface-sowed another 100 acres.
17. About how much an acre did that cost you?—Quite £2 an acre. Grass-seed was very dear at the time. The reploughing and resowing cost about £400.