

180. Would you consider that a fair average taking one year with another?—Yes.

181. For the last ten years, for instance?—No. Of course, the roads are getting better and the capacity of the sections are getting better. I would not say for ten years, but possibly for six or seven years.

182. You must be aware that wool and sheep are at exceptionally high prices just now?—Yes.

183. Are you basing your calculation upon present prices?—On the prices for the last two or three years.

184. Do the people fatten lambs there?—No, mostly stores. Of course, they get away a few fats.

185. Do you know the country well within, say, ten miles of Mangaweka?—Yes.

186. How long have you been there?—About five years.

187. What proportion of the country approximately would be suitable for dairying within, say, ten miles of Mangaweka?—A very small portion of it in comparison with the whole—an infinitesimal portion.

188. You said there was less population in the district than before the railway went there, and you also said the land was occupied as fully as you think it could be occupied. It is difficult to reconcile those two statements. Do you adhere to the statement that there is less population than when the railway went through?—Yes, rural population. That accounts for the small sections being given up.

189. Were these small sections given up because it was found by experience that men could not make a living out of them?—Yes; they were forced out of it.

190. What area of the Te Kapua land do you reckon a man requires to make a living?—About 500 or 600 acres.

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