

21. Have not the increased prices increased the production of butter and cheese?—There has been a considerable increase in cheese.

22. *Mr. J. R. Hamilton.*] You heard Mr. Jamieson giving his evidence?—Yes.

32. Do you think that is a typical case of a dairy-farmer?—Yes, there are thousands of such cases.

24. And if a dairy-farmer is worth any money to-day it is only because he has exercised a tremendous amount of hard work, energy, and thrift?—Yes, that is so. Of course, working on a farm is not all hard work. There is a great deal of pleasure on a farm.

25. And is it not a fact that the ordinary dairy-farmer does not really know what he is making?—There is no doubt about that.

SAMUEL KNIGHT examined. (No. 14.)

1. *The Chairman.*] What are you?—A farmer at Ongarue.

2. You have not sent any statement to the Committee in regard to the cost of production of butterfat?—No, but I have a written statement in regard to my receipts and expenditure, as follows:—

Butterfat returns, average 290 lb., twenty cows, at	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1s. 7d.	459	3	4			
Pigs and calves	460	0	0			
				919	3	4
319 acres, at £2 5s. purchase, balance mortgage						
£500: interest	35	0	0			
General store account, clothing, groceries, boots, cheese	320	10	2			
Calls on shares	10	0	0			
Cow-covers, separator-oil (proportion)	17	18	0			
Insurance and rates	26	4	4			
Hay, salt, bran, and pollard	124	1	6			
Interest on cow-shed	9	16	0			
Manure and harrowing 60 acres	53	5	6			
Working and grassing turnip land, 25 acres	78	7	8			
Winter feed, roots, carrots, and turnips	91	14	3			
Butter purchased	20	0	0			
(Labour of four hands not charged).				786	17	5
Balance				£132	5	11

3. You are not farming land worth from £100 to £150?—No, I am not. I am unaffected by the inflated prices. I have been a farmer all my life, and when the bank pinches me I shift on to another farm. When I feel that I am going bankrupt I go to another farm. When I have been squeezed and found it difficult to make both ends meet I move on.

4. *Mr. Kellett.*] You move on and leave the worry to some one else?—Yes, it seems so, and they appear to get on. I started in the Hutt Valley and then went to Rongotea, then to Auckland, and now I am in the King-country farming there. I work as long as any farmer in the room. I have tried to work eighteen hours a day.

5. You have not thought of retiring?—I thought of doing so two years ago, but I found it did not suit so well, so I returned to the farm. My two sons are crying to get out amongst the workers. They receive nothing in the shape of wages, and have never done so. I think the time has come when the farmers should raise their voice. I can remember when we used to get 2s. 6d. for our butter in the Hutt Valley some years ago, and £100 an acre was given for the land forty-five years ago, but it is now used for bullocks. There is more money in pasturing on some of the first-class land, and the land is not going back. It will never go back in New Zealand. I am a pedigree breeder of cattle now.

6. *The Chairman.*] According to your statement you have 319 acres?—Yes.

7. Is it all clear?—It is open country, but not all cleared. It is in process of being cleared. It cost me £2 5s. per acre unimproved. I have a mortgage on it of £500, and have to pay interest to the extent of £35, which is 7 per cent. On the working of the farm for the year I find we are £132 5s. 11d. to the good.

8. How many has that £132 to keep?—There are eight of us. There is one son twenty-seven and another twenty-three, and then there is my wife, who works as hard as I do.

9. Do you mean to say that you have all to exist on that £132?—Yes, so far as concerns the statement.

10. Do you think you would be better off working down in Wellington?—That is what my boys want to do, but I wanted to keep the place together. We go out to any other work we can get in the district. We cart anything we can get, and the boys earn a few shillings in that way for pocket-money.

11. Are you in a position to retire to-day?—Yes, I am, but the boys would not be in a position to carry on. I have taken a very deep interest in the development of the industry, having gone into the various companies, such as dairy, bacon, co-operative, saleyards, and freezing shares, and bought pretty heavily so that we might have cool storage.

12. *Mr. Kellett.*] How can you afford to do that?—Simply by working.

13. You told the Committee you only made £132 a year profit and that had to keep the family?—That is for the last year. I start work at 5 o'clock in the morning and do not knock off till 11 o'clock at night.

14. *Mr. Poudrell.*] How many hours do you and your sons average in the business a day?—I reckon twelve hours. We do not rest at meal-times. We take on as light work as possible in the daytime or we would break down.

15. *The Chairman.*] You do not confine your efforts to the farm alone?—Two of us do.