

43. Subsequently to January, 1907, did you suffer damage by floods on your farm?—Not to the same extent, because it came at a different time of the year.

44. Are there other lands in the vicinity of yours that are similarly affected?—Yes, nearer Paeroa, and the Natives' land on the northern side of the creek.

45. Have you anything further to say with regard to your own personal damage?—No; I am not making out a case for compensation or anything like that.

46. You have been here seventeen years, and during that time you have taken an interest generally, and latterly particularly, in connection with this question?—Yes.

47. What observations do you wish to make in connection with the matter?—I consider that the fact of the river being silted up is depreciating the value of our property very considerably.

48. Are you speaking for yourself only or for the district?—For the district generally.

49. You have had an intimate knowledge of several other cases besides your own?—I am familiar with most places about here, especially about Paeroa, that are affected.

50. In what way were you interested in those other places: did you do any work on them?—When we first came here we had the only mowing-machine and reaper-and-binder in the district, and all the farmers used to get us to cut their crops. I usually did that work myself. For about nine years previous to 1893 I was in the habit of cutting the crops of Messrs. Buchanan, Cock, Bertelsen, and other farmers. I came from Mangere, just outside of Auckland, which is considered a good farming district, but I found the crops down here were much better than they were at Mangere. Mangere is a highly cultivated farming district.

51. Do you remember the nature of the land right adjoining the river?—At that time most of the cleared paddocks about here were on the river-beds, and they grew grass right down to the water's edge.

52. Did you also cut at Mr. A. J. Thorp's?—Yes.

53. And now what is the position?—In company with Mr. Buchanan I visited a lot of these paddocks subsequent to the flood of March last. On one of Buchanan's paddocks where I formerly cut hay there was after the flood a depth of tailings extending for about 4 square chains, the deposit being from 6 in. to 18 in. deep. I also visited Barrett's paddock adjoining Buchanan's. There was an area there of 3 chains by 12 chains, the deposit being 3 in. and in places 2 ft. deep. These visits were made on the 4th April. At A. J. Thorp's place on the Te Aroha Road we found a good deal of silt in the middle of a big paddock we used to cut. The deposit varied from 1 in. to 9 in. in depth. It would be very hard to give the area, because there was a slight deposit of silt over most of the paddock. There were 12 or 15 acres in the paddock. At George Crosbie's, opposite Bertelsen's, a little lower down, I found a deposit extending over about 2 acres, but the whole farm seemed to me to be affected with the deposit. At Mr. Bertelsen's place, at the back of the house, there was a deposit to the depth of from 2 in. to 24 in. In one place Bertelsen dug down about 2 ft. 6 in. At the same date we took a deposit from the floor of an old shop in the township. These samples have been sent to Mr. Pond for analysis.

54. Does the land about here require draining before it is worked?—You want to go in for intensified farming, and drain it thoroughly. It is heavy land. By "intensified" I mean it wants to be drained thoroughly, and the drains kept open. It is different to rolling country. When it is in grass it does not want any more attention.

55. Is it land that will stand cropping to a great extent?—I have seen paddocks in the Netherton district, and they told me that they had taken nine crops of oats off them in succession without manure. I have taken three crops, and I have found the third one every bit as good as the first one. We never have to put artificial manure on the land for our white or straw crops here. They grow too rank as it is without manure.

56. What is the position now as regards cropping at Netherton?—The experience of the Netherton people after the 1907 flood was that it was not safe to crop their land.

57. What effect has that had financially upon the farmers?—They stand a great risk of losing the whole of their crops, and it also interferes with what you might call scientific farming—that is, carrying on a rotation of crops.

58. What effect has that upon the selling-value of the properties?—There seems to me to be a boom in farming land all over the Dominion just now with the exception of this district.

59. How does it compare with adjoining districts?—The chairman of directors of another dairy company has given me some of their experience. About October last they took over another company's business. That company had about thirty certain suppliers. Since then six of those people have sold their properties.

60. Out of thirty freeholders at Manawaru there were six sales, and on this side there were only three sales in the same period?—Yes.

61. You live only a few miles from the Township of Paeroa?—Yes, about three miles.

62. You are often in the township?—Yes.

63. Which was the highest flood as far as Paeroa Township is concerned?—Either 1907 or that of March last.

64. When did you take the silt from the floor of the shop in the township?—On the 4th April, after the March flood.

65. Was your attention then drawn to other premises in the township?—Yes, to those of Jones, the saddler, where they shovelled the silt out at the back door. I was also shown a deposit over the tennis-courts in the domain. I think the heap is down there now if the members of the Commission wish to measure it. The deposit was about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep, distributed quite evenly over the whole of the courts.

66. Did other portions of the township come under your notice?—Yes, various portions.

67. What effect has that had upon the value of property in the township?—I do not know that that flood had any particular effect on the value of property, but the continual flooding I am