

9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

Q. Quicker than the Trent?—A. The Trent dries away gradually.

Q. Assuming that the water lies on the land until the middle of June, I do not care whether it be on the Trent or on the Ouse, if it be cleared land, in your opinion would that be a cause of damage?—A. Oh, if it remains that long.

Q. It would be damaged?—A. Yes.

Q. Because it would prevent you from getting any crop?—A. Yes.

Q. And all you could do with it would be to raise hay?—A. And pasture.

Q. You could not even raise hay for a short time?—A. You could raise roots, I suppose.

Q. But eventually the roots would get old and it would become bound up and you would not raise much hay, would you? What would you say to that?—A. It just depends on how the water comes off it.

Q. But if the water remains on until the middle of June?—A. Oh, if it stayed that long.

Q. You would not think it would be of much value except for pasture during the latter part of the season?—A. No.

Q. Well, I suppose you are aware that these different owners whose names I have read over here as being on the Ouse, above the second lot, have claimed that they have been damaged?—A. I understand they have.

Q. And my learned friend referred to some investigation made by the department at Hastings. You know that some of those people were there, don't you?—A. I do not know.

Q. You were not there. You did not hear any of their evidence?—A. No.

Q. Do you know a man by the name of John Breckenridge the elder?—A. Yes.

Q. You know that gentleman, do you?—A. Yes.

Q. How long have you known him?—A. I have known him for over 50 years.

Q. He has been a man of prominence in the community, hasn't he?—A. Yes.

Q. He says in an affidavit he is 81 years of age. He has been justice of the peace since 1863, and has been postmaster for something like a quarter of a century. I won't say anything about his politics, although there is something in the affidavit about that. Now, this man says in his affidavit: 'I have a saw and grist mill on the river Ouse which I operate, and have operated since the year 1865; this mill being located at a point some distance further up the stream than the property owned by G. A. L. Humphries, James Warner, Thomas Davidson and others, who, I am informed, were allowed compensation by the Dominion government for damages to their lands by flooding of the waters of the Trent river.' That is, he says, this mill is further up stream than those lands. Is that true?—A. Yes, his lot is on number 9.

Q. Then he says: 'I have read from *Hansard* the declaration by Henry Humphries in connection with the claims of John Sargent, G. A. L. Humphries, C. A. M. Birdsall, Charles Fox, James Warner, John Breckenridge, jr., Thomas Davidson and M. Breckenridge. The statement made therein by the said Henry Humphries, that no damages from flooding by the waters of the River Trent actually exist to the properties owned by these gentlemen on the River Trent and River Ouse are not truthful; and the said parties have suffered damages by high water by reason of the construction of the Hastings dam on the Trent canal. The statement made by the said Henry Mumphries in paragraph 6 of the said declaration, to the effect that any temporary overflow from the River Ouse that occurs in the springtime is occasioned solely by local conditions along the said stream obstructed by fallen timber, brush and the like, and is wholly without reference to the River Trent, is absolutely untrue.' Now, there seems to be a decided difference between your ideas of that country and Mr. Breckenridge's?—A. I cannot agree with him, not on that point.

Q. From your knowledge of this man do you think he would deliberately tell what he believed to be an untruth?—A. No, I would not say that; but I cannot agree with him.