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Sole Southland Agent for

WIZARD LIGHTING SYSTEM.

GAS ENGINEER'S REPORT.

In accordance with your instructions I
have to report having inspected the vari-
ous systems of vertical retorts in opera-
tion or in course of erection in New Zea-
land, which meant visiting Christchurch,
Wellington, Wanganui, Palmerston North,
Napier, Auckland, and Devonport.

At Auckland, vertical retorts have been
in operation for three years in conjunction
with horizontal retorts, and at Devon-
port, a branch business of the Auckland
Co., the whole of the gas has been
made by verticals for six years, the out-
put being about that of our works. At
the Miramar works, Wellington, a similar
plant has been in operation for over three
years, at Wanganui about one half of the
supply has been made for over six years
by vertical retorts, at Napier the plant is
very nearly completed and will displace
the horizontal plant now in operation, at
Palmerston North the material is on the
site for a similar plant to Napier, and at
Christchurch a contract has been let for
the first part of a plant that will eventu-
ally displace the present one, the founda-
tions being nearly completed and a por-
tion of the plant is on its way from Aus-
tralia.

At Wellington, Auckland and Devon-
port the system is known as the "Inter-
mittent Vertical Retort," a charge of
12 cwt. of coal being placed in the retort,
taking twelve hours to carbonize, and the
coke being removed hot in one operation.

I could see nothing to recommend this
in comparison with the continuous retorts,
the labour involved being much greater,
and in Wellington the extension mention-
ed is in the continuous system, in pre-
ference to the one now in use.

At Wanganui, the continuous plant has
been in operation for six years, and has
undoubtedly done great work for the De-
partment. Half the gas supplied is made
by this plant and half by the same sys-
tem in use here, and it certainly is most
convincing to watch the two plants at
work. In the old retort house three
men are continually engaged in laborious
striking work, in addition to which trim-
mers and labourers are employed. In
the vertical house only one man is em-
ployed, whose duties are more those of
a mechanic than anything else. This
plant was recently repaired after six
year's work at a cost of £180, and will
continue for some years before further
repairs will be necessary. A contract
has been let for an extension of this plant,
of twice the capacity of the existing one,
which on completion will make the whole
of the output. The plant at Napier is
also on the continuous system, having
many improvements of the latest design,
and it is easy to appreciate their advan-
tages. In each case the responsible en-
gineers are most enthusiastic on the ad-
vantages and results from these plants,
and it is quite certain that no further
extensions of gas plant of any but the
smallest units will be made on the old
system in New Zealand, all those inter-
ested whom I have met being unanimous
in their opinions.

The control of the quality of gas sup-
plied is made full use of in every case,
and my remarks in the report regarding
the standard of quality are fully confir-
med. The economy in the cost of opera-
tions and the results obtained from these
plants exceed my estimates in all cases,
and I can only say that I have no reason
to amend my figures in any particular,
excepting that the percentage of renewal
fund might be increased for the purpose
of wiping off the capital cost in a shorter
period, consequent by reducing standing
charges in the future. My estimate of
the capital cost of a plant suitable for
our requirements must also stand, as
contracts entered into quite recently for
complete plants confirm the stated
amount. In each case a large portion
of the material and machinery is being
made in New Zealand and Australia, the
portions in which patents are involved
being imported. It is general opinion that
prices for this class of plant will not in-
crease in the future to any great extent.

My experiences and observations dur-
ing my trip of every branch of the gas in-
dustry in New Zealand lead me to the
conclusion that although the coal supply
question is a difficult one at present, the
future of the industry is assured, as the
demand for gas for all purposes is in-
creasing faster than it can be met in most
cases. Electricity is no longer regarded
as a competitor, but as a public neces-
sity, and gas authorities find quite suffi-
cient business in other directions than
lighting and power, and as there is no
reason why this should not apply in In-
vercargill in the future I have no hesita-
tion in recommending the Council to
adopt the most economical methods in our
operations and to favourably consider the
advisability of adopting the system re-
ported on in this and my previous report.

During my trip I have visited eleven
of the principal gasworks, with a consequ-

ent gain in experience in methods of
manufacture and administration, the holi-
day has had the desired effect on my
health, and I beg to thank the Council
for the leave granted.—Yours obediently,
(Signed) E. RABIDGE,
Gas Manager.

Invercargill, October 7, 1920.

REPATRIATION DEPARTMENT.

PROGRESS RETURN.

There are at the present time 78,350
names on the register of the Repatriation
Department.

EMPLOYMENT:

Since its inception, the Department has
placed 20,018 discharged soldiers in suit-
able employment, and the number on the
"Employment Wanted" register at the
date of this report (20/9/20) is 186. The
majority of these have registered for em-
ployment within the past few days, and
it should be noted that at the present
time not a single discharged soldier is
drawing unemployment allowance, i.e.,
has not been on the books of the De-
partment for more than one week. The
total amount paid out to date as unem-
ployment sustenance is £5,203, an average
expenditure of 1s 3d per demobilised
soldier.

TRAINING:

Vocational training (with sustenance or
subsidy) has been arranged for 5,089 men,
and of these 2,126 have finished courses,
leaving a balance of 2,963 still being
trained in special soldier classes and
technical schools or in the workshops and
factories of private employers. An addi-
tional 1,145 students who are attend-
ing evening classes at universities or com-
mercial colleges, or who are studying by
correspondence with recognised institu-
tions have been assisted with grants to-
wards fees and text books. Officers of the
Department keep in touch with them all
and the latest reports show that the latter
are making excellent progress. This
section of the Department's operations
is showing a slight decrease month by
month and during September 104 men
commenced training and 194 trainees com-
pleted their courses and secured employ-
ment as "skilled" tradesmen. The total
expenditure to date on training facilities,
sustenance of trainees, etc., is £200,667.

AFTER-CARE.

After-care officers are doing good work
by getting into personal touch with num-
bers of seriously disabled men in an en-
deavour to further assist them by arrang-
ing any necessary medical treatment, re-
consideration of pension, placing in more
suitable employment, arranging training,
etc., and up-to-date the branch have
dealt with the cases of 748 tubercular
men, 238 amputees, and 245 men suffer-
ing from other serious disabilities. Dur-
ing the past month after-care officers have
also inspected 151 ex-soldiers whom the
Department is training in various trades
and has supervised the trainees' wages
and general conditions.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

A steady decrease is apparent during
the past few months in the number of
applications received for financial assist-
ance, and a substantial decrease of ex-
penditure in this direction is confidently
anticipated. Up to the 20th Sep-
tember 4,375 loans for the purpose of
acquiring or establishing businesses had
been approved by the Ministerial Board,
involving an expenditure of £992, 44s.
In addition to this 9,248 men have been
granted loans for the purchase of house-
hold furniture, tools, etc., and a further
3,735 have received financial assistance in
other directions, the amount paid to or
on behalf of soldiers under all headings
totalling £1,472,512.

REPAYMENTS.

The amount collected by the Depart-
ment up to 31/8/30 on account of loans
granted was £274,002. Grantors are
in the great majority of cases meeting
their obligations with loyalty and prompt-
itude and less than five per cent. of the
14,156 men who have been granted loans
are in arrears with their payments. In-
stalments amounting to £33,813 were col-
lected during the month of August, a rate
of over £400,000 per annum.

Summary of Assistance Rendered.—

Placed in Employment	20,018
Trained or in Training	6,234
Financially Assisted	17,358

Total

43,610

A van containing 47,000 eggs was stolen
from a London street by a man, who was
afterwards seen driving in a certain direc-
tion. The empty van was subsequently
recovered.

NIBBLES ABOUT FRANCE.

"MY SECOND COUNTRY (FRANCE)."

(By Robert Dell).

There is nothing that most Frenchmen
like so much as to break a law.

Love of money is one of the chief weak-
nesses of the French, at least of the bour-
geois and the peasants.

During the whole of my twelve years'
residence in Paris I have never heard of
a sanitary inspector, much less had a visit
from one.

A Frenchman spends half his life in
signing papers, apparently for no object
but that of providing easy employment
for an army of otherwise useless officials.

French business methods are just about
a century behind the times.

French administration is a centralised
bureaucracy which spreads its tentacles
over the whole country, controls the life
of the people through its agents, dis-
couraging individual initiative and en-
forcing an arid uniformity.

In Paris about 30 per cent. of the chil-
dren are born illegitimate.

Paris is strangely unlike the rest of
France and the Parisian is a type apart,
very different from other Frenchmen. He
that knows only Paris does not know
France.

The police are intensely unpopular in
France, even with honest people, and in
many cases people will suffer an injustice
or a wrong rather than resort to them,
such is the suspicion with which they are
regarded.

I do not think that there is an ex-
ample in history of a nation which,
having been forced to go to war in self-
defence, has been content to stop at self-
defence and to end the war when it had
repelled the attack.

Probably in no country is the level of
individual intelligence so high as in
France; certainly in none is the interest
in intellectual matters so widespread.

French conservatism extends to most
of the practical matters of life. No people
is more open to new ideas or more sus-
picious of new methods.

The whole of French literature in the
nineteenth century from Balzac to Anatole
France is filled with examples of the
meanness and avarice produced by small
property, Guy de Maupassant and Emile
Zola have shown us what small property
has done for the character of the peasants,
Octave Mirabeau has exposed with bitter
irony the avidity and hypocrisy to be
found among the bourgeois.

The total ignorance of economic ques-
tions, for example, that one finds even
among French men of high intelligence
and great knowledge is astonishing. No-
where is that ignorance more general
than among politicians; not one of the
most prominent men in French politics
outside the Socialist party, except M.
Caillaux, has any real knowledge of
economics or seems to pay much attention
to them. M. Clemenceau is a case in
point. His greatest admirer would not
venture to say that he ever grasped
even the elementary data of an economic
problem or ever thought it worth while
to try to do so; his attitude towards such
problems is purely romantic and literary.

After thirteen years' experience of
France it is my deliberate conviction that
private property in the means of produc-
tion is even more pernicious when it is
distributed in many hands than when it
is concentrated in a few.

The French public has no confidence
in the administration of justice... its
want of confidence is fully justified. The
French criminal procedure is quite liter-
ally mediaeval—it is, in fact, the system
of the Inquisition almost unchanged. In
theory, French, like English, law pre-
sumes an accused person to be innocent
until he is proved to be guilty; in prac-
tice, French judges assume him to be
guilty until he has proved himself to be
innocent.

Bail is seldom granted in France, and
detention is deliberately used as a means
of pressure on an accused person in the
hope that he will finally inculcate him-
self.

That Anatole France was right in say-
ing that the true France is the France
of Voltaire is my firm conviction. Vol-
taire was the typical Frenchman of the
best kind with the typical French quali-
ties and weaknesses.

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MAPLE LEAF (non-skid), 30 x 3½,

£5 5s.

DOMINION (Letter Tread), 30 x 3½,

£6 19s 6d.

DOMINION (3 Ribbed), 30 x 3½, £5

19s 6d.

DUNLOP (Ford Special), 30 x 3½, £7

4s.

FIRESTONE (non-skid), 30 x 3½, £7

12s.

DUNLOP (Railroad), 30 x 3½, £7 12s

9d.

MICHELIN (R.W.), 30 x 3½, £7 12s

6d.

GOODRICH (non-skid), 30 x 3½, £3

17s.

FORD SPARES, OILS, GREASE,

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All the above makes and all other sizes

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ENGINEER AND MOTOR EXPERT,

DEE STREET, INVERCARGILL.

CLUTHA R. S. A.

The ordinary monthly meeting was held
recently and was attended by Dr J. E.
K. Brown (chairman), and Messrs A. L.
Russell, J. Little, G. Jardine, J. Weir,
C. Parr, R. S. Jordan, S. J. Warren, and
the secretary (Mr A. C. Laing).

Accounts amounting to £27 11s 9d
were passed for payment.

One transfer outward was granted, and

three re-issues of badges were approved

of.

The secretary intimated that he had
received a copy of the amended headquar-
ters' constitution and it would be neces-
sary to revise the rules of the local as-
sociation.—A subcommittee was appointed
to revise the constitution accordingly and
submit same to next meeting.

A circular re-Trentham scholarships
was received.

Mr Parr reported on behalf of the
library subcommittee that arrangements
were complete in as far as establishing
a library was concerned, and it was left
to the library committee to select and pur-
chase books.

The secretary reported that under the
new organisation constitution it was
necessary for this association to unite with
some other association for the purpose of
gaining representation at the annual con-
ference. He pointed out that this in no
way affected the status of the association.
—Resolved to unite with Gore Associa-
tion.