

## ELECTRIC POWER BOARD.

## VISIT TO THE WORKS.

The main object of this review is to give a general synopsis of the constructional work as far as it has progressed. On arrival at Tuatapere the party inspected the Goods Shed which has been constructed by the Board at a cost of £327, plus £33 for painting. The object of this depot is to store material prior to its transit to Monowai. A railway siding is being constructed and the Board will pay £15 as an annual rental. The material from this depot will be transported by traction engines and motor lorries. On leaving Tuatapere the Board were met by a deputation from the Wallace County Council, whose first complaint was that the longitudinal decking of the bridge was worn through. Further on the deputation wanted the Board to widen the road. The road in question has been taken over by the Board for maintenance and not for construction. The Council seems to consider the Board fair game to shoulder responsibilities which should be carried on its own shoulders. It was a decidedly trivial matter, and the Council seem to forget that the Board is forming and maintaining miles of road which are an asset to the country. The Board have taken over this road and it will be handed back again to the Council in five years, time, the Board to return it in good condition. The distance from Tuatapere to Sunnyside is 29 miles and represents the length of road which will have to be kept in effective repair. From the proposed suspension bridge to the headworks will mean approximately another nine miles which is being formed. Of the 29 mile stretch of road, about six miles have been formed and gravelled. A large section of this was practically impassable during a certain period of the year. It is now a good metal road which, when consolidated, will greatly facilitate motor traffic. Of the remaining portion about 18 miles is being maintained and in many places graveling has been heavy. The remaining mileage is in good order just now but will require a good deal of attention when heavy transport begins. At Taylor's Creek there is a fairly steep grade down to the creek which was previously felled. A bridge is being erected across the stream which will have the effect of straightening the road as well as dispensing with the necessity of fording the stream. The bridge is wooden and without going into detail is a decided improvement. Further up the road we came to a bend in the road. At this point there is a gravel pit which has been excavated right up to the boundary line. This pit is a decided danger to traffic and at some time or other will be the cause of an accident. This defect should receive the attention of the Board now, as there is no doubt there will be a great deal of motor traffic on the road. There is a fair sized cutting from the top of the plain down to Sunnyside Flat, on which is situated the depot, consisting of huts, cookhouse, store, blacksmith shop, etc. This depot will remain at its present site for about another five months and will then be situated up to the headworks on completion of the suspension bridge. The huts are very comfortable and portable. The cookhouse is neat and clean, and the men receive a good meal for 1s 4d. At this site the Board have constructed a punt which transports materials across the Waiau. The propelling power is the current, which is fairly strong. Crossing over the Waiau at this point "Diggers' Hill" is reached at a distance of about two miles. The sawmill was designed to cut 5000 feet per day, and in a short time timber will be transported to the works by a tramline which is now being constructed at a cost of about £1000. It is stated that about 60 per cent. of the timber in the bush is totara. Returning to the descent to Sunnyside the road to Monowai turns at an angle to the proposed suspension bridge. If we remember correctly, the span is about 312 feet. The approach to the bridge is a siding on the hillside, and we understand that this is the piece of formation where rock was anticipated and the contractor found soft material. There are no geological indications that hard rock would be struck and in the absence of a geological examination the work was very costly to the Board. It is anticipated that this bridge will be completed in four months' time. The following tenders will give a fair indication as to the work and its cost:

Road metalling, Letter Box, Taylor's Flat to Peg 90, bank of Waiau River, £922 19s.

Road metalling, County Road, new metal, Peg 29 Taylor's Creek and ends at Letter Box, Taylor's Flat, £532.

Road metalling, County Road maintenance, from 21.6 M. to 24 M. Tuatapere-Blackmount Road, £345 12s.

Road metalling, County Road, new metal from gravel on Otatau flats to

14 M. on Tuatapere-Blackmount Road, £490.

County Road, maintenance, graveling Alton Creek-Tuatapere-Blackmount Road, £242.

Road metalling, County Road, new gravel, 14 M. to 15 M. Tuatapere-Blackmount Road, £392.

Forming, etc., main access road, Waiau road, Station 90 to Station 112, to Waiau Bridge, £2045 18s.

Forming, etc., main access road, Waiau River to Monowai, Sections, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, £2179.

Road metalling, County Roads, new work, 15 M. peg to end at Wairaki bridge, Tuatapere Road, £344 6s 8d.

Ironwork for Waiau suspension bridge, Sections 1 and 3 at prop. rate of tender for whole of supply, £1371 1s 7d (approximate).

Ironwork Waiau suspension bridge, Sections 2, and 4, at 7d lb., £478 18s 5d (approximate).

Our opinion is that the Board has done good work. The first sod was turned in May last and good progress has been made. The Board, in making good lines of communication, have acted wisely, and money spent in this direction is well spent. In addition to the commitments already enumerated, contracts have been let for the following:—Poles, hardwood, £70,057 10s; pole ironworks, £2250; cross arms, plain, £3924 1s 7d; cross arms, rata bored, 30,000 sup. feet, at 52s 6d per 100ft, £787 10s; insulators and pins, £11849; wood stave pipe (including construction and steel work), £37,064.

These figures make a total of £143,832 17s 3d, so the ratepayers will see that they are well into the scheme. This total cannot represent the total commitments as we have no record of the cost of erection of sawmill at Diggers' Hill, punt, huts, blacksmith's shop, and various other items. Then there is the cost of offices, about £11,000, motor cars, salaries, commissions, etc. We were unable to get to Monowai owing to the short time at our disposal. The following table gives the wages paid to staff:—

Ganger in charge of earthworks, 18s; ganger in charge of concrete works, 18s; ganger in charge of bridge work, 18s; general blacksmith, 18s; carpenter, 18s; traction engine driver, 18s; wagon driver, 18s; leading bushman, 18s; sawyer, 18s; stationary engine driver, 2nd class, 16s; driver three horse dray, 16s; motor lorry driver, 16s; shoeman, 16s; second bushman, 16s; sniper, 16s; tracker, 16s; trolleyman, 16s; tailor, 16s; skiddy, 15s; slabby, 15s; general labourers, 15s; blacksmith's striker, 15s; carpenter's labourers, 15s; concrete workers, 15s; fireman on traction engine, 15s; tallyman, graveling contracts, 15s; storeman, 15s; road maintenance man, 15s.

## TRANSPORTATION.

Statement by Messrs Hay and Vicker-man, showing the comparative costs of the different methods of transportation of supplies, machinery, etc., from railhead at Tuatapere to the Headworks.

## CONSTRUCTION EXPENSES.

To allow any method of transport to be adopted and to provide access, expenses for construction of necessary works are involved as tabulated below:—

—From Tuatapere.—

	Trac. Motor Horse	Boat. tion. lorry. wag'n.	eng.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Improving County road, 27m.	4000	6000	6000	4000			
Maintenance County road, 27m.	1000	3000	3000	1500			
Bridge across Waiau River	5000	5000	5000	5000			
New road, Taylor's Flat to p.h.	3000	3000	3000	3000			
Maintenance do. S.M.	—	600	600	300			
Railway, Tuatapere-River	3500	—	—	—			
Wharves and Cranes, Tuatapere & Power House	750	—	—	—			
Wire Ropes and Maintenance of Channel Slipway	1000	—	—	—			
Improvement of river channel	2500	—	—	—			
Road at Power House landing	600	—	—	—			
Total	21350	17600	17600	13800			

—From Sawmill.—

	Tramway. Boat.	£.	£.
Tramway, three miles	1800		
Wharf and crane at sawmill	350		
Total	1800	350	

## TRANSPORT BY RIVER (WAIU).

The annual charge per boat would be,

## FURNITURE.

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W. STRANG & CO.,  
THE LOCAL FURNITURE FIRM,  
ESK & KELVIN STREETS, INVERCARGILL.

## MARKET NOTES.

## BRAY BROS. REPORT.

Invercargill, November 3, 1920.

Messrs Bray Bros., Ltd., Auctioneers and Fruit Salesmen, Dee street, Invercargill, report as follows for week ending to-day:—

PRODUCE.—Potatoes: The inquiry for table potatoes is slow and prices are nominal, prime to 5s per cwt; other quality from 4s to 6s per bag. Seed Potatoes: The demand is slow and only guaranteed quality are wanted. Onions to 35s per cwt. Oats, 15s to 24s per bag. Chaff, 3s to 4s per bag. Meggitt's Calf Food, 2/6 6d per bag. Bran, 11s 6d per 100lb bag. Pollard, 15s 100lb bag. Farro Food, 12s per bag. Molasses, 12s 6d per tin. Mutton Birds, 1s 1d per bird. Fruit.—Supplies are very scarce, particularly good Stummers. Stummers, 10s 6d to 13s 6d per case; Rokewood, to 12s 6d per case, choice quality; other from 9s to 10s 6d per case according to grade and variety. Cooking Apples.—Prime quality to 10s 6d per case. Pears are very scarce and prices rule high. Vegetables, etc.—Cabbage to 10s sack; Swedes, 4s 6d per bag; Carrots, 4s per bag, Parsnips, 2d lb; Rhubarb, 2d to 3d per lb; Asparagus, 8d to 1s bundle. Cucumbers to 18s per doz; Walnuts to 1s 5d per lb.

GENERAL.—Leep Salt Lick 2s 3d per brick. Cow Covers, 22s 6d to 30s each. Horse Covers, £2 15s to £3 each. Discs (8ft), £20. Black Wire (No. 8), 38s per cwt. Tea in chests, half chests, 10 and 5lb packets, 2s 6d to 3s 3d per lb. Honey in 10lb tins, 11s tin. Tanza, a preparation stopping blight in potatoes, 2s per packet.

FURNITURE.—Our Warehouse in Spey street have a complete stock of Furnishing lines. We manufacture Oak and Rimu furniture to any desired design. We also have a number of Pianos and Sewing Machines on view. Your inspection invited.

LAND DEPARTMENT.—A nicely situated six-roomed house within ten minutes walk of the Post Office, Invercargill. The owner is leaving the district and immediate possession can be arranged. Price only £600 cash. This is absolutely a bargain, Bray Bros., Ltd., Dee street.

## SOUTHLAND MARKET REPORT.

The local demand for oats for seed purposes is now about over, though there is still an occasional inquiry for feed purposes. Amongst users there is the usual continuous demand, and as some merchants are availing themselves of the opportunity afforded for shipping oats to England, stocks in store will be considerably reduced.

Chaff still maintains recent high rates of £7 10s, and even £7 12s 6d on trucks at handy sidings for prime quality. The demand somewhat exceeds the supply, but as green feed becomes more available the price, which is undoubtedly high, is likely to recede to an appreciable extent.

With the strong local demand for ryegrass for seed purposes, merchants' stocks are getting into small compass, and it is only the continual small offerings from the country that enable some merchants to continue their quotations. The basis of wholesale values may be taken as 10s per bushel for dressed 30lb seed.

During the past week prices for stock have remained practically the same. At last Wallacetown sale there was a very heavy yarding of good fat cattle, £48 being realised for an extra prime bullock, which is a record for the yard for some time past. There was also a fairly heavy yarding of store cattle, and these met with a ready sale. Well-bred aged cattle sold well, but inferior yearlings and two-year-olds were very hard to quit. Store sheep remained unchanged, prices being the same as given last week. The following prices may be regarded as approximate:—

Fat Cattle.—Extra prime steers, £48; prime, £22 to £25; unfinished, down to

## STILL THIRSTY!



OH! YOU NAUGHTY CHILD!!!  
WHAT WILL MR. BAXTER SAY!!!

£15 10s; extra prime cows, £16 to £18; prime, £14 to £15 10s; unfinished, £10; extra prime heifers, £16 to £18; prime, £13 10s to £14 10s; unfinished, £9 to £10.

Store Cattle.—Yearlings steers, £3 10s to £4 5s; two-year-olds, £7 5s to £8 15s; three-year-olds, in forward condition, £11 10s to £13 10s; average, £10 10s to £11; dairy cows, extra good, £18 to £20; average, £16 to £17 10s; inferior, down to £8.

Fat Sheep.—Extra prime weaners, 46s to 52s 6d; prime, 42s to 45s; unfinished, down to 38s; extra prime ewes, 38s to 40s; prime, 34s to 36s; unfinished, down to 30s.

Store Sheep.—Four, six and eight-tooth ewes, with lambs at foot, all counted, 20s to 22s 6d; inferior, down to 17s; full and failing-mouthed ewes, with lambs at foot, 17s to 19s; extra good hoggets, 24s to 26s; average, 22s to 23s; inferior, down to 18s; two-tooth wethers, 30s to 32s; average, 28s; four and six-tooth wethers, 30s to 38s; average, 35s; inferior, down to 31s.

## SOUTHLAND LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION.

At the meeting of the Association held on 28th inst, great discussion eventuated over the grading of players to allow of their competing in both Saturday and Wednesday competitions. With the half holiday split as it is, the great question will always crop up and all sports bodies should combine in their endeavour to have the one universal day. It was decided that players may be included in teams on both days, clubs to use their own discretion in the grading.

A player cannot, of course, be included in the 1st and 2nd grade teams competing on the one day.

The club matches start this week, when on Saturday, in the 1st grade, Gore play Y.M.C.A., at Gore, and Winton meet Invercargill in Invercargill, while on Wednesday, Invercargill meet Wyndham, at Wyndham, and Bluff meet Winton, at Invercargill. Several 2nd grade matches are also to be played on both days. All clubs have been putting in good practice, consequently, close, keenly contested matches should be the result.

It was decided to hold the Southland Championship Meeting at Christmas, and a committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements. It is to be hoped that every possible support will be given to the tournament by the affiliated clubs, and with the enthusiasm at present prevailing among the players an exceedingly successful tournament should result, especially with the prospect of many entries from our immediate northern association.

A special committee has been appointed to go into the matter of schools' tennis, as the Association is desirous of furthering the game throughout the schools of Southland.

The number of union workers in the diamond industry in Belgium reported to be out of work is 6500, out of a total of 12,000.