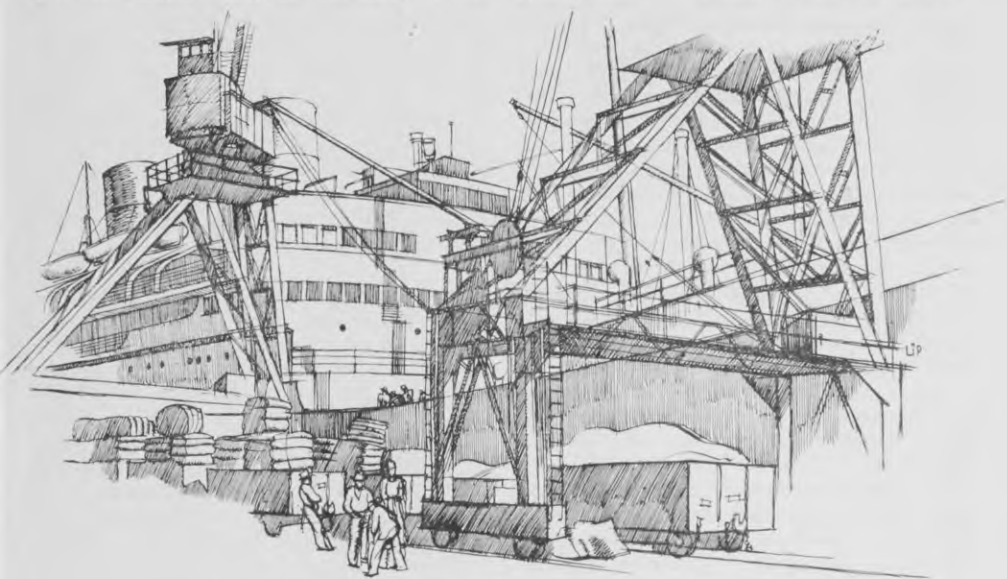


However that may be, Lyttelton has not lagged behind in national savings. At the end of November last, when the latest figures were taken out, it had 769 accounts, equal to approximately one-sixth of the population. The total deposits were £20,103 and the value of bonds sold £13,933, a total average per head of population of £9 os. 10d. "This," the postmaster said, "compares favourably with most other places." The figures do not, of course, include ordinary Post

It is only in Lyttelton that the night has come. The sky is not dark. The sun is still on the tops of the eastern hills and in the bays on the south side of the inlet.

People who live in Diamond Harbour, on the south side opposite Lyttelton, say the port loses two hours of sunshine a day. One of them tells a story about the Diamond Harbour launch sailing out of bright sunshine just outside the breakwaters. "When we landed in the



Loading wool for London.

Office Savings-bank accounts, which, on the whole, are more popular because money can be withdrawn from them at will.

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The early evening dimness in Lyttelton may catch the visitor unawares. It is not that it descends upon the port suddenly; rather it does come slowly, so slowly that by a stranger in the town its approach may not be noticed. Before half past five on any February day there are shadows on the bluff above the oil-tanks and below all the ridges of the western hills. They move down on the town almost imperceptibly, until the houses and trees have become "the dull drowsy figures of a strange mystery."

port five minutes later," he says, "the street lights were on." That may be an exaggeration; but it is true that you can leave Lyttelton by train when the night has begun and arrive in Christchurch seventeen minutes later in sunshine. It's like making a curious little journey back in time.

Once, at this hour every day, a man rode round the port on horseback and with a long pole lit the street gas-lamps. He rode round again at daybreak to put them out. That was a long time ago; perhaps twenty-five years or more. And when the Borough Council lit the streets with electricity, and the houses too, it made one of the comparatively few changes which have had any significant