# Collections and Recollections

DAWSON RIVER IRRIGATION SCHEME CASTLE CREEK SECTION TOWNSHIP

QUEENSLAND IRRIGATION COMMISSION.

WATER' REFLECTS ON THE GROWING OF A COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS BY THE WATER RESOURCES RETIREES ASSOCIATION (WRRA)

Page 1 of 141

### ABOUT THE WATER RESOURCES RETIREES ASSOCIATION (WRRA)

The WRRA is a social organisation established in 1985 for persons associated with the former dedicated water resources agencies of the Qld Govt., and any succeeding 'water' agencies. Its Co-Patrons are Sunwater and the Dept of Regional Development., Manufacturing and Water. Membership in March 2024 stood at 207 statewide, comprising colleagues with past association with the Professional (54%); Technical (30%); and Admin (16%) Streams. The WRRA warmly welcomes new members.



https://www.waterysauces.org.au/

### ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

'Collections and Recollections' is proposed to be a living document maintained by the WRRA - it is not an official document. It has arisen out of public domain research undertaken in 2022 for celebrations by the WRRA to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the *Irrigation Act of 1922* and the establishment of the Queensland Irrigation Commission, which was soon after to become the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission (IWSC). The timing of its launch in early 2024 also coincides with the lead-up to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations planned for 28 – 30 June 2024 by Theodore (APPENDIX 2) to commemorate 100 years since the power for the towns electric lighting system was turned on by the wife of 'waters' first IWSC Commissioner (Archibald F Partridge) 'after Governor Nathan had set the engine revolving' in the power house (https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/20752388)

**'Collections and Recollections'** attempts to reflect on the unique role that 'water' played in growing the Castle Ck / Theodore community, where the IWSC acted as its first Council from 1922 until 1958. It is open to further inclusion of material from public domain collections (Part 1 – COLLECTIONS) or better still, of material from any 'water' people who may have had past recollections of (or associations with) the irrigation scheme and Theodore which they may wish to share with the broader community (Part 2 – RECOLLECTIONS).

### PART 1 - COLLECTIONS

In Part 1, 'Water' reflects on material researched mainly through public domain 'Collections' such as:-

- Trove Digitised Newspapers
- State Archives; State Library; Departmental Libraries etc
- Dawson Folk Museum, Theodore

### PART 2 - RECOLLECTIONS

Part 2 has yet to be developed so to enable **'Water'** to reflect in this part of the document, it will rely on material donated by people who may have had some association with development of community; scheme or township at some stage and who may have 'Recollections' of their own to share such as:-

- Old Photos
- Old Tales worthy of sharing
- Personal Recollections of events of interest etc

Being a 'living' document, the WRRA would warmly welcome any further contributions to be submitted to our Secretary at <u>secretary@waterysauces.org.au</u> for consideration for inclusion, particularly in relation to Part 2 - Recollections. The WRRA would further intend that any parties interested in using material as contained within be free to do so, provided that the WRRA is acknowledged as the source.

**MORE READING** 'Watery Sauces – A Peoples History of the Water Resources Commission and its Predecessors 1881 – 1995' contains a section on the early involvement of Commissioner Partridge and the IWSC with Theodore. It is the most valuable resource available about our 'water' community, written by Ian Pullar and his acclaimed historian daughter Dr Margaret Cook. Ian is an esteemed Life Member of our Association.

https://waterysauces.org.au/history/commencement/pullarbook/iws.pdf

### <u>CONTENTS</u>

1883 - 2024	'Water' reflects on its Own Journey	5
1922 - 2024	'Water' reflects on its Castle Ck / Theodore Journey	6
2024	'Water' reflects on the Community that 'Water' grew	7
	PART 1 - COLLECTIONS	~
1914	'Water' reflects on the Early Days of planning Irrigation Townships	9
1919	'Water' reflects on the name Theodore	11
1920	'Water' reflects on putting 'The Dawson' on the map	12
1921	'Water' reflects on the Vacancy of Hydraulic Engineer (Qld)	14
1920's	'Water' reflects on planning of Qld's Model Garden City	15
1920's	'Water' reflects on IWSC Designs of Settlers Cottages	18
Mid 1922	'Water' reflects on Theodore taking a closer look at 'The Dawson'	22
	'Water' reflects on seeds sown to establish the community of Castle Creek	23
	'Water' reflects on Commissioner Partridge getting 'The Nod'	24
	'Water' reflects on Partridge's 1st Assignment - Establish Head Office	25
Late 1922	'Water' reflects on Partridge building the Head Office team	26
	'Water' reflects on Partridge's two Commissions	27
	'Water' reflects on Partridge's backing to build Scheme and Town	28
	'Water' reflects on loosening of purse strings to build the Castle Ck Section	29
	'Water' reflects on Partridge's plan to open up 'The Dawson'	30
	'Water' reflects on setting up Camp at Castle Ck	31
0000	'Water' reflects on setting up the Sawmill at Castle Ck	32
1923	'Water' reflects on attracting Settlers to Castle Ck	33
ľ	'Water' reflects on setting up Offices; Garage and Store at Castle Ck	34
	'Water' reflects on calling tenders for Pump Equipment	35
	'Water' reflects on IWSC 'Camp Kids'	36
Ì		39
	"Water' reflects on the Governors Visit - Official Opening of the Power House	40
1924	'Water' reflects on the Governors Visit - Briefing of the Dignataries	41
	'Water' reflects on Building a Scheme	42
1	'Water' reflects on also looking after 'Municipal Business'	44
	'Water' reflects on reports from The Settlement	45
	'Water' reflects on Partridge making 'The Theodore Call'	50
	'Water' reflects on Partridge's Progress Report	51
	'Water' reflects on the 'Dawson Sling' and that 'What-Model-Ford' Thing	52
1925	'Water' reflects on the Water Tower / Bandstand getting 'Birds Eye Views'	53
	'Water' reflects on the Town Weir getting completed	54
	'Water' reflects on everyone having a good look around	55
	'Water' reflects on the Town getting a new name	56
Ì	'Water' reflects on the First Release Farms getting the new name	57
	'Water' reflects on the First Release Farms going on the market	58
1926	'Water' reflects on Pioneer Settlers purchasing and developing the blocks	59
1	Water' reflects on the 'Aeroplane Sketch' of Theodore Zone under cultivation	60
	'Water' reflects on Brisbane getting a new address	61
	'Water' reflects on Settlers Qualifications: & 1/2 Fare Rail Tickets to Theodore	62
1927	'Water' reflects on the attractions of 'The Town That Water Built'	63
	Water' reflects on the Preliminary Design of Nathan Dam	64

	PART 1 - COLLECTIONS (cont)						
1029	Water' reflects on the IWSC Experimental Farm	65					
1920	'Water' reflects on Theodore getting on 'The Mailing List'	66					
4000	PART 1 - COLLECTIONS (cont) Water' reflects on the IWSC Experimental Farm 'Water' reflects on IWSC Pride in the Fruits of its Labours 'Water' reflects on Oromissioner Partridge 'Water' reflects on one of IWSC's Legends - 'Doc' Knudsen 'Water' reflects on the ITown That Water Built' 'Water' reflects on one of IWSC's Legends - 'Doc' Knudsen 'Water' reflects on the IWSC leasing out its <i>Hotel</i> Water' reflects on the IWSC leasing out its <i>Hotel</i> Water' reflects on the over Architect designing the Hotel's 1st 'Alterations' 'Water' reflects on the gost Architect designing the Hotel's 1st 'Alterations' 'Water' reflects on the gost Architect designing the Hotel's 1st 'Alterations' 'Water' reflects on the seamless upkeep of Departmental and Municipal Assets 'Water' reflects on the seamless upkeep of Departmental and Municipal Assets 'Water' reflects on tenders called for carting timber to Binda Weir Site 'Water' reflects on IMUNICIPAI Business' (Layout of Landing Ground, Theodore' 'Water' reflects on 'Municipal Business' (Layout of Exhibit, Theodore's 1st Show) Water' reflects on 'Municipal Business' (Design of Nathan Dam) 'Water' reflects on 'Municipal Business' (Design of Public Conveniences) 'Water' reflects on 'Municipal Business' (Decumenting Landing Ground Airstrips) 'Water' reflects on 'Municipal Business' (Documenting Hotel Renovations) vater' reflects on 'Municipal Business' (Documenting Room - 'Landing Ground' Water' reflects on 'Municipal Business' (Documenting Town Water Reticulation) 'Water' reflects on construction of IWSC Single Staff Barracks 'Water' reflects on construction of IWSC's Ist Watering Hole 'Water' reflects on calle of IWSC's Ist Watering Hole 'Water' reflects on calle of IWSC's Ist Watering Hole 'Water' reflects on the Perpetual Lease Selection of Gibber Gunyah Water' reflects on the Perpetual Lease Selection of Gibber Gunyah 'Water' reflects on the Perpetual Lease Selection of Gibber Gunyah 'Water' reflects on the Perpetual Lease Selection of Gibber Gunyah Farm	68					
1929	'Water' reflects on Commissioner Partridge	69, 70					
1930	'Water' reflects on 'The Town That Water Built'	71 - 73					
1931	'Water' reflects on one of IWSC's Legends - 'Doc' Knudsen	74					
1932	'Water' reflects on 'The Timber-Crib Era'	75					
1934	Water' reflects on the IWSC leasing out its Hotel	79					
1025	Water' reflects on the Govt Architect designing the Hotel's 1st 'Alterations'	80					
1935	'Water' reflects on the passing of Trail-Blazer Commissioner Partridge	81					
1940	'Water' reflects on the seamless upkeep of Departmental and Municipal Assets	81					
948 to 1950	'Water' reflects on 'IWSC Positions Vacant, Theodore'	82					
949 / 1950	'Water' reflects on tenders called for carting timber to Binda Weir Site	83					
4040	'Water' reflects on 'Municipal Business' (Layout of Landing Ground, Theodore)	84					
1949	'Water' reflects on 'Municipal Business' (Layout of Exhibit, Theodore's 1st Show)	85					
4050	Water' reflects on Municipal Business (Documenting Landing Ground Airstrips)	86					
1950	'Waster' reflects on 'Water Business' (Design of Nathan Dam)	87					
	'Water' reflects on 'Municipal Business' (Design of Public Conveniences)	88					
	'Water' reflects on 'Municipal Business' (Public Engagements)	89					
	'Water' reflects on 'Municipal Business' (Documenting Hotel Renovations)	90					
Early 1950's	'Water' reflects on 'Municipal Business' (Design - Waiting Room - 'Landing Ground'	91					
	'Water' reflects on 'Municipal Business' (Documenting Town Water Reticulation)	92					
	'Water' reflects on 'Water-Joey' Don Hall & his likely BSA and Sidecar Outfit	93					
4050	'Water' reflects on construction of IWSC Single Staff Barracks	94					
1953	'Water' reflects on crossing the Dawson and opening up Gibber Gunyah	95					
	Water' reflects on Calibrating the Pumps at Gibber Gunyah	96					
1953 1954	'Water' reflects on sale of IWSC's 1st Watering Hole	87					
	'Water' reflects on investigations into a bridge over the Dawson	98					
4057	'Water' reflects on the Perpetual Lease Selection of Gibber Gunyah Farms						
1957	'Water' reflects on 'C/O IWSC, Theodore, Queensland'	100					
1985	'Water' reflects on further up 'The Dawson' - The Go-Ahead for Gyranda Weir	101					
1988	'Water' reflects on transfer of Theodore TWS to Banana Shire	102					
2018	'Water' reflects on the Journey from Castle Ck to Corporatisation	103					
	PART 2 - RECOLLECTIONS						
2023	'Water' reflects on a Proud Mural on The Boulevard - 'The Town that Water Built'	106					
		10000					

### APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 - 'THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK'

APPENDIX 2 - PROGRAM OF EVENTS - 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN 'THE TOWN THAT WATER BUILT'

### **GROWTH OF THIS 'LIVING' DOCUMENT**

# The following is a record of the growth of this document since the original version first appeared on our website on 26 January 2024. 'Water' gratefully acknowledges the following sources / contributors:-

	ITEM ADDED	SOURCE / CON	TRIBUTOR
		COLLECTIONS	RECOLLECTIONS
1	1920's - Photos from 3 IWSC Albums	State Archives (14/2/24)	
2	1927 – 'Little Green Book' Superintendant's Letter	Dawson Folk Museum	
Z	1950 – 'Water Business' (Nathan Dam Design)	(1/3/24)	
3	2023 - Photo of Mural – 'The Town that Water Built'		M Irwin (1/3/24)
4	1950's – 'Water-Joey' Don Hall - likely BSA & Sidecar	Public Domain (1/3/24)	
	1926 – 'Aeroplane Sketch' of Theodore Zone		
	1926 – APPENDIX 1 – 'THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK'		
	1927 – Preliminary Design – Nathan Dam		
	1928 – IWSC Experimental Farm		
5	1935 – Designer of Hotel's 1 <sup>st</sup> 'Alterations'	State Archives (20/3/2024)	
	1949 – Layout of 'Landing Ground, Theodore'		
	1949 – IWSC Gazebo Exhibit at 1 <sup>st</sup> Theodore Show		
	1950 – Profile of 'Landing Ground' Airstrips		
	1957 – Perpetual Lease of Gibber Gunvah Farms		

# 1883 to 2024 - 'WATER' REFLECTS

### ON ITS OWN JOURNEY

ON 1/2/1883, the Hydraulic Engineers Dept (within Treasury) was set up by the states first Hydraulic Engineer John Baillie Henderson - 'to supply public roads and stock routes and to attend to the needs of the graziers on the western plains'. It later became the Water Supply Dept which in turn was the predecessor of the 1<sup>st</sup> Irrigation & Water Supply Commission formed in 1922.

In simplistic terms in 2024, the 'water' body could now be considered as having two 'arms':-





COLLECTIONS and RECOLLECTIONS - 1922 to 2024

# **1922 to 2024** - '<u>WATER' REFLECTS</u>

# ON ITS CASTLE CK / THEODORE JOURNEY

	DAV	<b>VSON VALLEY IRRIGAT</b>	ION AREA / SCHEME			C	ASTLE CREEK / THEODORE	
	Water Resource	Mater Becearcher	Scheme Owner	/ Operator	Town Mater	Council for the		8 <u>.</u>
	Manager and Regulator	and Modeller	Headworks	Channels	Supply	Shire / DVIA	Owner of Settlers Accomm House / Hotel	
1922	Birth of t	he Irrigation and Wate	er Supply Commissio	n - passage of th	e Imigation Act o	of 1922		
1926	IWSC	IWSC	IWSC	IWSC		IWSC	<u>IWSC</u> (owner of Settlers Accomm House)	
1929	IWSC	<u>IWSC</u>	IWSC	<u>IWSC</u>		IWSC	<u>IWSC</u> (owner of Hotel Theodore by OIC)	_
1932	IWSC	IWSC	<u>IWSC</u>	IWSC		IWSC	IWSC (leases to Hotel Theodore Co-Op)	_
1951	IWSC	<u>IWSC</u>	IWSC	IWSC	<u>IWSC</u>	IWSC		_
							1954 - Hotel Theodore Co-Operative	
1954	IWSC	IWSC	<u>IWSC</u>	IWSC	IWSC	IWSC	(takes over from IWSC as owner of Hotel	
							Theodore)	
1958	IWSC	IWSC	IWSC	IWSC	IWSC	1958 - <u>Banana</u>		
1988	WR Comm	WR Comm	WR Comm	WR Comm	<u> 1988 - Banana</u>	Shire Council		
0000	Dept of Natural	Dept of Natural			Shire Council	(takes over from		
7000	Resources	Resources	SURIWALE	ouriwater	(takes over	IWSC as the		
	Dent of Natural	Dent of Science.		2018 -	from Water	'Shire Council'		1.11
2018	Resources Mining &	Info Technology	Sunwater	Theodore	Resources	for area defined		_
	Fnerøv	and Innovation		Water (takes	Commission as	by the Dawson		
	10			overfrom	owner	Valley Irrigation		
	Dent of Regional			Sunwater as	operator of	Area		_
	Development.	Department of		owner /	Town Water			_
2024	Manufacturing and	Environment and	Sunwater	operator of the	Supply)			_
	Water	<u>Science</u>		Dawson				
				channels)				
							Ĩ	- 3
	IRRIG & WATER SU	JPPLY / WATER RESOU	RCES COMMUNITY		Ē	HE COMMUNITY OF	FTHEODORE	-
	The state of the s							-

WRRA Co-Patrons Water Resources Retirees Association

# **2024** - '<u>WATER' REFLECTS</u> ON THE COMMUNITY THAT WATER GREW



Many things can be grown with 'water' but the biggest one of them is 'community'. Many examples exist around the state where the ripple effect of 'water' is reflected in growth of community.

The Dethridge Meter Wheel which sits proudly on The Boulevard reflects prosperity brought by 'water' and where the seeds for the growth of the Castle Creek / Theodore community were proudly sewn by our 'water' forefathers in what started out as the Queensland Irrigation Commission with the states' first Irrigation Commissioner (Archibald Frederick Partridge) at the helm.

Two monuments to the wheel in Australia have special significance – the one above and the one at Griffith in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme in NSW. Schemes surrounding both Theodore and Griffith were the first such irrigation ventures for their respective states.

The story of the invention of the wheel is not unlike that of the Hills Clothes Hoist, as it is proudly Australian and somewhat iconic. It was designed in 1910 by Engineer John Stewart Dethridge, at a time of increasing irrigation development along the east coast of Australia. Dethridge at the time was the Commissioner of the State Water Supply Commission of Victoria. In a day and age when sustainability of water extraction from streams was first being raised, the wheel was the first implement to measure water supplied from state-owned irrigation channels to on-farm subsidiaries, with volume of water delivered being metered relative to number of wheel rotations. It was first used in the Murray / Murrumbidgee in NSW/Victoria & not long after in the Dawson and also found application overseas. As well, a specific early design of diversion weir also bears the Dethridge name.

# PART 1 - COLLECTIONS IS

# **1914 – 'WATER' REFLECTS**

### ON THE EARLY DAYS OF PLANNING IRRIGATION TOWNSHIPS

Two of the first towns in Australia to be planned specifically as centres for servicing surrounding irrigation areas were Griffith and Leeton in NSW, in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area – NSW's first. They were designed by Walter Burley Griffin, the designer of Canberra. A myth has existed that Theodore could have been designed by Griffin but nothing can be found in any 'Collections' so far to support this. However, it could be the case that certain elements of Griffins style could have been incorporated into that of Theodore, if a quick visual comparison of style is anything to go by (ie the 1925 Town Plan of Theodore VS the 1914 Town Plan of Griffith). But this is not an informed observation, and certainly not intended to embellish any myth of Griffins possible involvement.



https://www.griffinsociety.org/major-works/.

As was the case with Theodore being named after a staunch political supporter of the irrigation scheme in Qld, Griffith was to have already set the precedent for an irrigation town having already being named after a politician - Hon. Arthur Griffith, NSW Minister for Public Works (1910 – 1915). (The only irrigation town in Australia to have been named after 'one of the irrigation troops' [ie not a politician] is thought to be Loveday (SA), near what was to become the Loveday Irrig Area around the time the DVIA was being developed. [Ernest Alfred Loveday was a surveyor in the SA Irrig Dept]).

**Was Griffith planned to be NSW'S 'MODEL GARDEN CITY'?** The 'original plan' below paints a picture of tree-lined boulevards and the value of water in transforming a landscape, and of Griffith possibly been seen by the 'landscape architect' in Griffin as becoming NSW's 'Model Garden City'.



FIGURE 1: ORIGINAL PLANS OF GRIFFITH - WALTER AND MARION BURLEY GRIFFIN

Griffin responded to a request from the irrigation community in the Murrumbidgee to write up his considerations for the design of the Township of Griffith in the 'Irrigation Record' of 1 June 1915:-

### https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/96375371

(The Irrigation Record was a fortnightly newspaper published in Leeton from 15 February 1913 to 15 June 1917 by the NSW Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission. Its purpose was to educate new settlers of the Murrumbidgee Irrig Area about agricultural methods, irrigation techniques etc).



# **1919 – '<u>WATER' REFLECTS</u>** ON THE NAME 'THEODORE'

EDWARD GRANVILLE THEODORE was a staunch supporter for opening up the Dawson Valley to irrigation.



After having moved to Queensland in 1906, he worked the mines and prospected for wolfram and tin in the Chillagoe-Irvinebank hinterland of Cairns. He entered politics in 1909 as a member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly for the then seat of Woothakata.

He became involved in the union movement where he was responsible for organising the Amalgamated Workers' Union and was elected President of the Australian Workers Union in 1913.

On 22 October 1919, he became the 28<sup>th</sup> Premier of Queensland, a position he held until 26 February 1925. He also led the Queensland Labor Party during that time.

It was Theodore who introduced the Irrigation Bill into the House and who as Premier saw the Irrigation Act of 1922 assented to on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1922. Amongst other things, this Act held special local government provisions which enabled the Commissioner of Irrigation (appointed the very next day) to exercise executive control over development of the Township of Castle Creek.

https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/blog/100th-anniversary-edward-granville-theodore-becoming-queenslandpremier

https://www.qld.gov.au/about/about-queensland/history/premiers

Theodore was later to enter federal politics and served as Federal Treasurer in the Scullin Labor Govt. He earned the nickname 'Red Ted' because of his confrontational style whilst Treasurer of Queensland.

# **1920 – '<u>WATER' REFLECTS</u>** ON PUTTING 'THE DAWSON' ON THE MAP

**COMMISSIONER PARTRIDGES PREDECESSOR – HYDRAULIC ENGINEER HUGO EKLUND** Some of the groundwork for Commissioner Partridges plan for the Dawson can be attributed to early advice provided to government by his predecessor Hugo Eklund. Swedish-born and NSW-educated, Eklund was appointed in Nov 1916 as an Executive Engineer in the Water Supply Branch of Queensland Treasury, in charge of developing the Inkerman Irrigation Scheme in North Queensland. (Inkerman was where the first construction work for irrigation purposes in Qld was commenced in 1917, in response to an application from residents for formation of a Trust under provisions *of 'The Rights in Water and Water Conservation and Utilisation Act of 1910'*).

In Feb 1920, Eklund was to become the state's third Hydraulic Engineer, filling the position vacated by John Hargreaves. He was active in promoting the importance of irrigation development as an insurance against drought and his widely publicised 1919 Bulletin on Irrigation Activities in Queensland - featuring a section on the Dawson - is acknowledged as foreshadowing the eventual passage of the *Irrigation Act of 1922*.



### https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/20467248/1607302

Location map of irrigation investigations in 1919/1920 in Qld – including the Dawson

(Source: Water Supply Department Report to then Treasurer Fihelly by the states Hydraulic Engineer Hugo Eklund The following extract, penned by Eklund in his report on 'Irrigation Activities for 1919 / 1920', highlights the need for a special Act of Parliament to underpin state development of irrigation schemes, and also highlights the commencement of investigations into the Dawson:-

*"Irrigation proposals to a certain extent are long distance events and cannot be expected to pay at once: therefore such works should come under a special Act, and before any scheme of a national character is instituted, an Irrigation Act on similar lines to those of New South Wales and Victoria is advisable.* 

In June 1919, irrigation investigations were finally launched in Queensland – two properly equipped survey camps starting out, one to a proposed scheme at Mt Edwards on Reynolds Creek, and the other to Three Moon Creek on the North Burnett: former preliminary investigations having determined both as promising localities. Both surveys were completed before the end of the year and one of the camps proceeded in January 1920 to the Condamine River, commencing at Elbow Valley – 16 miles above Warwick. In May, another camp went to the Dawson River below Taroom, a second party starting there in August: and a fourth camp commenced operations on the Severn River in the same month".



Extract from 1918 County Map of Dawson (pre-development)

# **1921 - '<u>WATER' REFLECTS</u>**

### ON THE VACANCY OF HYDRAULIC ENGINEER (QLD)

By April 1921, Hugo Eklund had left the Water Supply Dept to take up the position of Manager of Humes Pipe Factory at Loveday in South Australia, a plant set up to service the SA government's 9,000 acre Loveday Irrigation Scheme. That plant turned out centrifugally-cast concrete water pipes. At the time, this plant was reported in the press as being one of the largest of its kind in the world - if not the largest. **Should Eklund have stayed on in Queensland and landed the job of Irrigation Commissioner,** he would have overseen a workforce in the IWSC at Theodore of around 200 workers and 30 administration staff by 1924 [Source: hoteltheodore.com.au]. To put that into some perspective, **the IWSC Theodore workforce over which he would have presided would have been slightly larger than the Humes Pipes workforce (below**), a workforce he inherited upon taking up his appointment at the Humes Pipe Factory at Loveday.



https://collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/resource/PRG+280/1/33/65

Eklund's link to the state's history was to continue on his return to Queensland before the end of 1923, where he took up a position as Manager of Humes Pipe Factory at West End in Brisbane. At that facility, he not only continued to roll out centrifugally-cast RC pipes for the wider water industry in the state, but also left his mark on another part of the state's history. He overviewed the rolling out of centrifugally-cast bowling-pin railing components which feature prominently in the balustrade of the heritage-listed William Jolly Bridge, Brisbane. As well, he engaged his artistic daughter Karma to design and build the moulds for the bridges grotesques.

Around the time of the departure of Eklund, Engineer Archibald Frederick Partridge (at the time General Manager of the First Mildura Irrigation Trust, Victoria) was recruited by the state government to come to Queensland. Partridge was later to be referred to as 'Acting Commissioner Partridge' in Hansard records of the debates on the Irrigation Bill which Premier Theodore had introduced into the House.

# **Early 1920's – '<u>WATER' REFLECTS</u>** ON PLANNING OF QLD'S MODEL GARDEN CITY

The following is an extract from a Town Planning article in the Brisbane Courier (9 Nov 1922):-

<u>https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/20582606/1615339</u> 'Serious consideration will also require to be given to the control of the growth of new townships which must inevitably come into future existence consequent on the consummation of the extensive irrigation schemes proposed to be established in different parts of the state......We are now asking the public of Queensland to help us carry into effect measures and ideas which will not only benefit us, but be the most valuable legacy which we could possibly hand on to succeeding generations'.

**In terms of Theodore (aka Castle Ck),** it was designed in the early 1920's to be at the centre of the Dawson Valley Irrigation Area, Queensland's first under the provisions of the *Irrigation Act of 1922*. It was named after Edward 'Red Ted' Theodore, former Premier of Queensland and a staunch supporter of the scheme. The vision of Commissioner Partridge of Theodore becoming Queensland's Model Garden City brings to mind a healthy picture of the value of irrigation and water in transforming a landscape, something of which he would have been well aware in his pre-Queensland capacity as General Manager of the First Mildura Irrigation Trust in NW Victoria.

Nothing has yet been discovered by the WRRA as to who designed Theodore or what brief he or she may have been provided with but in all probability the designer could well have been Queensland's Town Planner of the day or his/her delegate. Certainly, Commissioner Partridge's advertisements for his key staff did not include any references to town planning experience, so a conclusion could be drawn that Theodore was not designed by the IWSC either. Precedents for design of irrigation towns did exist in NSW pre-WW1. Various aspects of the town-planning for Theodore were reported in the first few years of the development of the township, but its designer was not identified in any:-

### **CASTLE CREEK – 'LESSON IN TOWN PLANNING'** The Brisbane Courier (1/7/1924)

### https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/20752388

LESSON IN TOWN PLANNING. It is beautifully laid out and prettily situated, and the dicts of the town planners have all been applied to in its construction. As yet there are few outside residents there. There are 200 souls residing in pretty little cottages and in tents, who are all employees of the Cominsision, and the only outsiders are a few shopkeepers; but after December next, when the first 5000 farms will be thrown inhabitants, and those expecting to visit the average village township will get a huge surprise. They will come upon the beginning of a city that has been built according to modern ideas, and which offers advantages that many older towns is cannot. What towns are able to boast of an electric light system and water supply before its real civic life commences? Castle Creek can. Through the centre

### Page 15 of 141

### THEODORE – 'MODEL GARDEN TOWNSHIP'

(The Telegraph [Brisbane] 24/8/1926)

### https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/17771686

. a reasonable supply of water underground.

١.

### GARDEN TOWNSHIP.

"About the centre of the farm areas a model garden township has been laid out, with most of the conveniences of modern suburban residential areas. A wide boulevard runs through it from north to south, and this is crossed at intervals by numberous avenues. These have all been planted with palms and shady trees, which lend a graceful and beautifying effect to the general scheme. The cottages erected for the accommodation of the official staff and others 10 are neat and varied design, and are comfortably situated OR quarter-acre blocks surrounding a central oval. The latter is laid out in lawns dotted here and there with palms. In the centre, a picturesque water tower has been erected, from which the town water supply is reticulated. The lower floor of the tower is arranged as a bandstand.

"Adjacent to the township, an experimental farm of 139 acres has been established on land that was considered of average quality. The farm affords practical demonstration in all matters connected with irrigated farming, and illustrates the suitability of various crops to the class of soil, which should prove of great benefit to new and old settlers A portion of the farm has been alke. planted with various kinds of fruit trees considered suitable to the district. These have made very satisfactory progress, yhilst excellent results have been obtained from cotton, maize, and most of the general fodder crops.

### RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION.

"The construction of that section of



The Model Garden Township (1955)

THEODORE – 'PLANNED ALONG MOST MODERN LINES' (The Darling Downs Gazette [12/5/1927])

https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/253954991

### ling Downs Gazette (Qld.: 1922 - 1933) / Thu 12 May 1927 / F

Theodore has been proclaimed an irrigation area and has been placed under the control of the Commissioner for Irrigation, under whose instructions the town has been laid out. It has been planned on the most modern lines, and the determination of the administration is that nothing will be allowed to mar the beauty of design which the latest town planning methods have made pos-When completed, Thedore will sible. enjoy conveniences at least equal to suburban residential areas around large cities, for the social side of the everyday life has not yet been overlooked, and the residents enjoy their own picture show. Skirting one side of the area on which the township stands are the waters of the Dawson. Traversing the township from north to south there is a spacious garden boulevard, inter, sected at intervals by avenues which have also been planted with palm and shade trees in such a manner as to lend a restful aspect to the general scheme.

# Early 1920'S – 'WATER' REFLECTS

# ON IRRIGATION COMMISSION DESIGNS OF SETTLERS COTTAGES





### **COLLECTIONS** and RECOLLECTIONS – Early 1920's



### **COLLECTIONS** and RECOLLECTIONS – Early 1920's



Source: State Archives (Ref ITM 109419)



# Mid 1922 – '<u>WATER' REFLECTS</u>

### ON THEODORE TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT 'THE DAWSON'

(Source: Daily Mail, Brisbane 30/5/1922 https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/213154989)



Premier Theodore at Camboon Station on mid-1922 visit



Water Supply Dept Officers Eric L Peart (Surveyor); & Bowyer E Shaw (Engineer)

[Nathan Dam Site - Premiers visit] Source: State Archives (EL Peart Surveyor #274 [Ref ITM 321929/30])

Since 1911 the question of water conat ha servation and irrigation on the Dawson has been the subject of several reports. 81 In April of that year Mr. A: Morri-68 811 son, engineering surveyor, reported on is his reconnaissance survey. Later Mr. in Ecklund drew attention to the hydroelectric possibilities of the scheme. ba be As Treasurer and Minister for Works ws the matter came under the notice of mi Mr. Theodore, and he deputed Mr. lin Crowley, a Victorian engineer, to reda port on the hydro-electric aspect of the fre scheme. Mr. Crowley was enthusiastic da from the cheap power that could be Cr generated. He foresaw Central Queensme land transformed into a great manufacturing centre. Other officers of the rai Hydraulic Engineer's Department likeria wise reported favourably. For once at civil engineers found themselves in pre agreement. gal

The next step was the putting in an hand of a contour survey, and the apthe pointment of Mr. Shaw, an engineer with the connected for some years the Yanco Irrigation Scheme. Mr. Shaw is big in charge of the operations now and, with the possible exception of the Prema mier, is the one man who knows most Sile of the inner details of the proposition. The officer / o knows ror' of the actual conditions on the river and the 1 Mr. F. Peate, the irrigable areas is bv chief surveyor, who has been at work there for two years past.

### ON SEEDS SOWN TO ESTABLISH THE COMMUNITY OF CASTLE CK

An Act to make Provision for the Construction, Maintenance, and Management of Works for the Storage and Supply of Water for the purposes of Irrigation, and for other purposes.

[Assented to 18th October, 1922.]

B<sup>E</sup> it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :--

1. This Act may be cited as "The Irrigation Act of 1922."



Commissioner Archibald Frederick Partridge

Commissioner Partridges 1<sup>ST</sup> Term ran for an initial period of twelve months to 30 September 1923. Partridge's 2<sup>nd</sup> Term ran from for 12 months from 1 October 1923 to 30 September 1924 [as per advice dated 12 October 1923]. Reference to a subsequent re-appointment [as per advice dated 22 October 1924] has been found in 'State Archives' but no time period for this 3<sup>rd</sup> Term was able to be located]. The *Irrigation Act of 1922* made provision for reappointments of up to 5 years.

### ON COMMISSIONER PARTRIDGE GETTING 'THE NOD'

(Source: State Archives)

George the Fifth, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, and Emperor of India:-

To Architald Frederick Partridge Esquire.

### Greeting:

Know ye that We, reposing special trust and confidence in your loyalty, integrity, and ability, do, by these presents, in pursuance of the power vested in Us in this behalf, and with the advice of Our Executive Council of Our State of Queensland, hereby appoint you, Archibald Frederick Partridge, to be "The Commissioner of Irrigation" for the purposes of "The Irrigation Act of 1922," from the first day of October, 1922, for a term of twelve months, to have, hold, exercise, and enjoy the said office, subject to the provisions of the said Act, together with all and singular the duties, powers, rights, and privileges belonging to the said Office which are now or at any time hereafter may be imposed or granted by the Laws of Our said State.

In testimony whereof, We have caused this Our Commission to be sealed with the Public Scal of Our said State.

> Witness Gur Bight Trusty and Well-beloved His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, Major on the Retired List of Our Corps of Royal Engineers, having the Brevet Rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in Our Army, Knight Grand Cross of Our Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor of Our State of Queensland and its Dependencies, in the Commonwealth of Australiz, at Government House, Brisbane, this matcher of any of October, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-two and in the thirteenth year of Our Reign.

batthew matha

By His Excellency'sCommand,

Siger (Service of Theory of

Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department.

No. /S page 5-5 nine hundred

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# ON PARTRIDGE'S 1<sup>ST</sup> ASSIGNMENT – ESTABLISH HEAD OFFICE

Commissioner Partridge wasted no time in advertising to fill key staff positions within his new organisation. Governor Nathan's appointment of Commissioner Partridge was retrospective to 1 October 1922, and for an initial term of 12 months.

### https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/62459650/5574722

		OUTENSIAND IRRIGATION COMMISSION	Sheets.
Ŷ	E ⊕ E	APPLICATIONS closing in Reisbarg at poor	Sheets, S
	· · ··································	on Wednesday, November 15, are invited for	Sherts, 5
	$\Theta$	SECRETARY and ACCOUNTANT: Salary,	
	ad the	clerical staff, and supervise the accounts	
	1 KA 1	branch of the Commission. Preference given to applicants having previous experience	
		in departmental administrative work, and	at our B
at	ST.	DESIGNING ENGINEER: Salary range.	(two doo
	C	ledge and practical experience in the design	
		and construction of monolithic, voussoir,	
		ticolarly relating to large arch and gravity	Two
		hydro-electric work is desirable.	
	144 A	SUPERVISING ENGINEER: Salary, £600, Qualifications—Ability to direct and con-	
	w back at ation free	troi field staff on hydraulic surveys; de-	
	Kilds rd.,	and act as general inspecting officer on	-
221	nuay even.	for a knowledge of concrete and masonry	
:01		construction and earthworks.	Bur
		Qualifications-Experience as constructing	(ii)
		crete and earth, and ability to control	
		bedies of workmen. Practical knowledge of the most efficient and labour-saving	
	1.647	machinery and methods of construction,	0
	2/5/7.64	MECHANICAL ENGINEER: Salary range.	411
	wholesome	knowledge of mechanical engineering in	1
	ed speciti-	all its branches, particularly relating to power plants and hydraulies. Experience	·
k,	a CHINA.	d electrical plant necessary, together with	SPECIAL
		tion of mill and factory equipment,	
		MANAGER FOR DEMONSTRATION FARM: Sulary, £450 and residence. Qualifications	1
		-Extensive practical experience in the	
ge	THE NER-	fer demonstration and experimental pur-	1
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	SUCCESS.	of processing and drying desirable, and	
		preference given to applicants experienced	· ·
ıe	T.	advise settlers is desirable.	
	1991 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 -	Applicants must give particulars of their past and present positions, and furnish full details	
		of their experience in support of their candida-	ha
		required in the first instance, and must bear	
		tion applied for. The appointments are exempt	10
	commends	and will be subject to the applicants' ability	
	Australia	to satisfactorily fulfil the duties assigned	
	· troubles.	Envelopes to be endorsed with the position ap-	1
	TLAT.	piter for, and addressed to the Commissioner of Irrigation, The Treasury, Brisbane.	
<b>r</b> 7	S	A. F. PARTRIDGE. Commissioner of Irrigation	
ate	easure in Boutle	Brislane, October 18, 1922.	

Page **25** of **141** 

### ON PARTRIDGE BUILDING THE HEAD OFFICE TEAM

An early newspaper report stated that the applicants whose names appear below had all been appointed to positions in Partridges first organisation. However, only those underlined appeared in the late 1922 photo of the Head Office line-up, with the exception of Mr Halliday who was en-route to Castle Creek.

### https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/62459650/5574722

- Designing Engineer: Mr A.H.Bastow, at the time occupying the position of principal engineer for hydraulic designs and construction, Hydro-Electric Department, Tasmania. He was responsible for a great part of the work carried out by the Tasmanian Government in harnessing lakes and in development of the huge hydro-electric resources of Tasmania. Mr Bastow was also involved in design of large irrigation works in India.
- Supervising Engineer: <u>Mr Bowyer E Shaw</u> who, within the Water Supply Branch of Treasury Queensland, had for some time been engaged on the preliminary engineering surveys of the various irrigation schemes in Queensland, including the Dawson Valley project. Prior to that, Mr Shaw occupied responsible positions with the New South Wales Government on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme (Yanco section).
- Executive Engineer: Mr Alex W Lord, at the time engineer-in-charge of construction of the Hume Dam on the Murray River
- Mechanical Engineer: <u>Mr Colin Douglas</u>, at the time having spent nine years in the position of mechanical engineer in the Water Supply Branch of Treasury Queensland
- Secretary and Accountant: <u>Mr J Grant Thompson</u>, at the time Inspecting Accountant to the Commissioner of Railways, Queensland
- Demonstration Farm Manager: <u>Mr O.E Halliday</u>, at the time Manager of the Berri (South Australia) Irrigation Demonstration Farm. and who was also carrying out work as an Irrigation Experimentalist

The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954) / Fri 5 Jan 1923 / Page 9 / IRRIGATIO

### Ð IRRIGATION. QUEENSLAND ENTERPRISE. BRISBANE, Thursday. Preliminary steps are being taken to give ffect to the provisions of the Irrigation Act. of 1922, which was passed during the last ses-sion of Parliament. The Act provides for of 1922, which was passed during the interview for sion of Parliament. The Act provides for the carrying out of what is known briefly as the Dawson Valley irrigation scheme, an undertaking estimated to cost several mil-lions sterling. A batch of appointments of Half the highly-salaried officers in connection with the beve scheme was announced by the Irrigation Com-Ave Their salaries. aggregate missioner to-day. sted A lot of preliminary work £ 3300 yearly. rughas already been done. and more active operations will be commenced on the site at Castle Creek about March next.\_\_\_\_\_ ding. rlish-

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### ANTARCTIC RECORDS. SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON'S WORK.

### **IWSC HEAD OFFICE**

**Up until 1926**, the IWSC Head Office operated out of rather cramped quarters in Adelaide Street, Brisbane. The Office was within walking distance of Central Station. **In 1926**, the IWSC Head Office moved to the former Stock Institute Building in College Road, adjoining the Brisbane Grammar School at Spring Hill.....Staff at Inkerman, Theodore and Wandoan reported directly to Partridge as Commissioner.

(Source:

https://www.waterysauces.org.au/history/commence ment/pullarbook/iws.pdf)

# Late 1922 – '<u>WATER' REFLECTS</u>

### ON PARTRIDGE'S TWO COMMISSIONS

### **QLD IRRIGATION COMMISSION & IRRIGATION and WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION**

On 19 October 1922 – the day following passage of the *Irrigation Act of 1922* - Archibald Frederick Partridge was appointed as Commissioner of Irrigation as well as Council for the area defined by the Dawson Valley Irrigation Area. Early plans such as the one below bore his signature and contained in their titles the reference 'Queensland Irrigation Commission'.

In late 1922, 'the Water Supply Department was placed under the control of the Commissioner of Irrigation. With the amalgamation of the two Departments, the control of water generally – and the administration of the various Acts – became vested in the one authority, avoiding overlapping of operations and (thereby) obtaining higher efficiency and economy' (Source: First Annual Report of the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, Queensland – 1922 / 23).

Following this 1922 amalgamation of departments and functions, all plans from then on bearing Partridges' signature could have been expected to have the references 'Irrigation & Water Supply Commission' & 'Queensland' in their titles.

For the plan below to bear both the Commissioners signature as well as the name of his new organisation being quoted as 'Queensland Irrigation Commission', it suggests that the plan could have been signed in a relatively tight window late in 1922, and also suggests that a Draft Town Plan for Castle Creek may well have been in existence and waiting for Partridges' signature upon his appointment on 19/10/1922.



### ON PARTRIDGE'S BACKING TO BUILD SCHEME AND TOWN

- The enabling 'Local Government' provisions of the Irrigation Act of 1922

10. Forthwith upon the constitution of an Irrigation Irrigation Area, that Area shall be constituted a Shire within the Area to be a meaning of the Local Authorities Act by the Governor in Council by an Order.

Thereupon the land comprised in such Shire shall be excluded from the Area or Areas of the Local Authority or Local Authorities in which it was formerly included; and every Local Authority formerly having any jurisdiction over any such land comprised within such Shire shall cease to have or exercise any such jurisdiction.

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Local Authorities Act, the Commissioner shall constitute and for all purposes be deemed to be the Council of such Shire and a Local Authority within the meaning of the Local Authorities Act, and, subject to the Minister, shall have and be entitled to, and may exercise such and so many of the powers, authorities, jurisdiction, and immunities of a Local Authority under the Local Authorities Act, including the power to make, levy, and recover rates on land as are declared by the Governor in Council by an Order or Orders:

Provided nevertheless that at any time after the expiration of five years from the date on which the Commissioner has published a notification that he is prepared to supply water in an Irrigation Area any fifty ratepayers of such Area may, by memorial to the Minister, demand that a poll of ratepayers of such Area shall be taken upon the question whether a Shire Council under the Local Authorities Act shall be duly constituted for such Area, and the functions of the Commissioner as such Council shall cease. Whereupon the Commissioner

### ON LOOSENING PURSE STRINGS TO BUILD THE CASTLE CK SECTION

(5.) Notwithstanding anything in this section con-Dawson tained, it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council, <sup>Valley</sup> irrigation. <sup>Valley</sup> without compliance with the provisions of this section or obtaining further or other approval of the Legislative Assembly than is hereby granted, to proceed with the Castle Creek section of the Dawson Valley irrigation proposal and to expend such moneys thereon, as in his

opinion are necessary, to an amount not exceeding sixty thousand pounds; and for all the purposes of this Act the said Castle Creek section and all works constructed under the authority of this subsection shall be deemed to be a part of an irrigation undertaking approved by the Legislative Assembly and established by the Governor in Council, and the Minister shall have all the powers granted by this Act accordingly.



### Source: https://picryl.com/media/statelibqld -2-245125-canal-at-castle-creek-1923-eb6867

### Castle Creek CQ- 'As-Built' Irrigation Channel/Check Structure (IWSC - early 1920's)





Inkerman NQ – Irrigation Channel under construction (L) and Moving of Earth (R) using Steam Shovel (IWSC – late 1920's)

Source: State library [Ref 2 236944; 2 236968])

# **1923 –** '<u>WATER' REFLECTS</u>

### ON PARTRIDGE'S PLAN TO OPEN UP 'THE DAWSON'



Irrig Zones from N to S – Coolibah Zone; Moura Zone; Huon Zone; Castle Ck Zone; Isla Zone & Nathan Dam Site (Source: 1923 / 1924 IWSC Annual Report)

# **1923** – '<u>WATER' REFLECTS</u>

### ON SETTING UP CAMP AT CASTLE CREEK

(Source: State Library Collection, Queensland).

COMMISSION EMPLOYEES <u>https://picryl.com/media/statelibqld-2-245129-early-tent-settlement-at-castle-</u> <u>creek-1923-24e16f</u>



FARM EMPLOYEES <u>https://picryl.com/media/statelibqld-2-245133-farm-employees-tents-used-during-the-development-of-castle-052672</u>



# **1923** – '<u>WATER' REFLECTS</u>

### ON SETTING UP THE SAWMILL AT CASTLE CREEK

(Sources: State Archives – IWSC Photo Albums Ref# ITM 291323 to 291325; and 1<sup>st</sup> IWSC Annual Report 1922-23).



# **1923 – '<u>WATER' REFLECTS</u>** ON ATTRACTING SETTLERS TO CASTLE CK

(Source of both : Dogspike Design and Architecture [previously 'The Grand Section'])).



**Pre-Cottage Castle Ck** - Before building a cottage, settlers lived in canvas tents. The above photo shows a Castle Ck settler using the double fly approach to reduce heat by having a ventilated gap between the roof and ceiling.



**Settlers Cottage** – Four Commission-inspired 'Set Cottage Designs' (ie Types A; B; C; D) were required to be followed by settlers taking up leases. (Type B Cottage is shown above). The Dawson Folk Museum has many photos of the cottages and early IWSC memorabilia.

# **1923** – <u>'WATER' REFLECTS</u>

### ON SETTING UP OFFICES, GARAGE & STORE AT CASTLE CK

(Source: State Archives)





**1923** – <u>'WATER' REFLECTS</u>

### ON CALLING TENDERS FOR PUMP EQUIPMENT

(Source: The Sydney Morning Herald – 3/2/1923) https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/16033654





Steam Pumps – the pump shown is a vintage boiler-fed Worthington and Simpson Steam Pump, believed to be of the same design as those purchased by the Commission. The design is duplex, in that it basically comprises two doubleacting pumps placed side-byside in the one pumping unit. Two slightly larger units (capable of pumping 4,500 GPH each) were installed at Castle Ck.

(Sources: https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/558d01782162f11ab0b88de1 and

The Morning Bulletin [Rockhampton] 12/7/1924)

**1924** – 'WATER' REFLECTS

### ON IWSC 'CAMP KIDS'

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Extract from the 1924 Admissions Register for Castle Ck SS. Of the 10 children whose names appear above, 8 have been deduced as being 'IWSC Camp Kids' based on their parents stated IWSC-related occupations.

(Source: State Archives [Ref ITM 979270])
#### IWSC 'CAMP KIDS'

The term **'CAMP KIDS'** in the irrigation and water supply/water resources community refers to those children of IWSC employees whose childhood was spent to varying degrees living in construction camps around the state. In many cases - particularly from the early 1950's onwards - their parents moved from site to site working for the IWSC in the development of dams and irrigation areas during the 'dam-building' days. For the children who lived in the IWSC Camp at Castle Creek, this camp would have been the only one where they spent part of their childhood as children of IWSC employees but nonetheless, the experiences living on site at Castle Creek would arguably have been no different than living in the next camp some 30 years or so later, which was set up for the development of Tinaroo Falls Dam and the Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Area.

So the Admissions Register for Castle Creek SS provides a healthy source of information not just on the IWSC 'Camp Kids' but also on their parents, so an attempt has been made to deduce some demographics from it.

**IN RELATION TO THE GRAPH BELOW:-** Apart from the admissions for its opening year, the graph is not a yearby-year school admissions record but rather a 'to-date' comparison between numbers of children in two groups as they passed through the Castle Creek /Theodore State School between its opening day on 6 May 1924 and the end of 1930. This period reflected significant involvement by the IWSC in the development of both the township and the irrigation scheme, and with the associated employment both brought to the area.



#### **'TO-DATE' TOTALS OF TWO GROUPS OF CHILDREN PASSING THROUGH CASTLE CREEK / THEODORE SS** – COVERING THE PERIOD 1924 to 1930

**IWSC 'CAMP KIDS'** – This group in the graph is made up of children whose parents have been deduced as having been employed either directly or indirectly by the IWSC. This group comprised just over 140 children in total who had passed through the school by the end of 1930.

**'OTHER KIDS'** – This group is made up of children whose parents have been deduced as having been either self-employed or having had an employer other than the IWSC. This group comprised just over 100 children in total by the end of 1930.

**SOME OBSERVATIONS** - If the relative increases in numbers of children in the two groups in the graph is anything to go by, the graph paints a picture of a significant involvement by the IWSC as an employer of parents of 'Camp Kids' (particularly during the first half of this period), and also a significant rise in numbers of parents of 'Other Kids' both as 'settler' parents took up blocks as the irrigation scheme developed around the township, and as the other kids parents became pioneers of Theodore setting up service businesses to serve an ever-increasing population in the township (particularly during the second half of this period).

**SOME DEDUCTIONS MADE FROM THE ADMISSIONS REGISTER** – Data for the production of the graph was obtained from the Admissions Register for the Castle Ck/Theodore State School covering the period 1924 – 1930. (Source: State Archives Ref ITM 979270)

In relation to the relative occupations of parents as stated on the Admission Register, the following deductions have been applied:-

IWSC 'CAMP KIDS' PARENTS	<b>OTHER KIDS' PARENTS</b>					
Engineers	Farmers					
Labourers	Motor Mechanics					
Contractors	Fruiterer					
Motor Drivers	Station Stockmen					
Carpenters, Bridge Workers	Motor Agent & General Courier					
Painters	Plumber					
Sawmill Manager, Sawmill Hands	Cotton Pickers					
Ambulance Officer	Graziers					
Teamsters, Dray Man	Station Hands					
Authorised Surveyor	Butchers					
Timber Haulers	Storekeeper					
Well Borers	Selectors					
Riggers	Settlers					



Theodore State School Pupils (IWSC 'CAMP KIDS' + 'OTHER KIDS')

(Source: The Queenslander 4/6/1931 – Caravanning Through Qld)

https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/2373262

### ON THE GOVERNORS VISIT – OFFICIAL OPENING OF POWER HOUSE

(Source: State Archives IWSC Photo Albums Ref # ITM 291323 to 291325; Brisbane Courier <u>https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/20752388</u>)



## **1924** – 'WATE<u>R' REFLECTS</u>

### ON THE GOVERNORS VISIT – OFFICIAL OPENING OF POWER HOUSE GOVERNOR NATHAN SMILES & WAITS TO SPEAK; DORIS and AGGIE WON'T ANSWER MUM

(Source: The Brisbane Courier – 10/7/1924)

https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/20756388)

The Brisbane Courier (Old.: 1864 - 1933) / Thu 10 Jul 1924 / Page 6 / WAITED FOR DORIS AND AGGIE.

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#### DORIS AND AGGIE - IWSC 'CAMP KIDS'!

Based on the deductions made in identifying parents of IWSC 'Camp Kids', a plausible explanation exists that the mother of the two children in the press article was Blanche Ford (married to an IWSC labourer) and that her recalcitrant children on the day were in fact her IWSC 'Camp Kids' daughters Doris Kelly (then aged 12yrs 11mths) and Agnes Ford (then aged 3yrs 8mths).

Blanche Ford is recorded as 'Housewife' and mother of Doris Kelly on Doris' enrolment on day 1 at the Castle Ck SS on 6 May 1924, and Thomas Ford is recorded as 'Labourer' and father of Agnes Ford on Agnes' enrolment at the Castle Ck SS on 25 January 1926.

Doris is recorded as having been born on 17/6/1911, and Agnes on 30/9/1920.

#### (Source: The Brisbane Courier 9/7/1924)

https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/20760458/1624919



#### **GOVERNOR NATHAN'S SPEECH**

A transcript of Sir Matthew Nathan's speech at the opening of the pump and power house was reported in the Brisbane Courier of 1 July 1924.

#### https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/art icle/20752388

(Source: State Archives [IWSC Photo Albums Ref # ITM 291323 to 291325])

### ON THE GOVERNORS VISIT – BRIEFING OF THE DIGNATARIES



IWSC Commissioner Partridge (R) with Governor Sir Matthew Nathan (C) – location unknown



IWSC Engineer Shaw (2<sup>nd</sup> R) briefing a dignitary [possibly Qld Premier Theodore (L)] – outside IWSC Offices on The Boulevard



IWSC Engineer Shaw (L) briefing a dignitary in the Official Party

(Source: State Archives [IWSC Photo Albums Ref # ITM 291323 to 291325])

# **1924** (to late 1920's) – '<u>WATER' REFLECTS</u>

### ON BUILDING A SCHEME



Excavating drains and channels using a 'BUCYRUS' Steam Shovel



Installing 'Check-and-Drop' structures to control flow



'Metalling' of access roads beside channels



Continuing of channel water flow over watercourses (installation of timber-planked fluming)

Source: State Archives 9IWSC Photo Albums Ref # ITM 291323 to 291325)

## **1924 (to late 1920's)** – <u>'WATER' REFLECTS</u> ON BUILDING A SCHEME



The challenges of the 1920's in undertaking drilling investigations for the proposed Nathan Dam

Source: State Archives (IWSC Photo Albums Ref # ITM 291323 to 291325)

### ON ALSO LOOKING AFTER 'MUNICIPAL BUSINESS'



## IRRIGATION AND WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

CASTLE CREEK WORKS.

RANNES 18th September 1924

NOTICE.

PLEASE NOTE : - <u>STANDARD EARTH CLOSETS</u> must be provided on all selected TOWNSHIP LOTS. A charge of SIXPENCE (6d) PER NEEK is to be levied for Sanitary Services.

Closet to be placed on back corner of allotments so that the sanitary cart can attend to two (2) allotments for the one stop.

This matter must be given immediate attention to so

that the hot season will not bring epidemics.

7. Mound

Exective Engineer

Possibly one of the earliest 'By-Laws' of the First Council of Castle Creek / Theodore

(Source: Dawson Folk Museum, Theodore)

### ON REPORTS FROM THE SETTLEMENT

(Source: Morning Bulletin [Rockhampton] 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July 1924).

https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/54279665

https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/54279889

#### THE NEW TOWNSHIP

The houses of the administrative staff have been built facing a road a chain and a half wide running round an oval in the nature of a small park. In the centre of the oval an immense tower supply tank in connection with a town water scheme is being constructed. It will be 50 ft. in height and have a capacity 50,000 gallons, capable of being increased to 100,000 gallons. Provision is being made for tree planting in the main avenue of the township of ornamental trees and flowering shrubs such as the Cocos Palm, Jacaranda, Flowering Eucalyptus, Poinciana, Flame Tree and Weeping Fig. With this object in view, a boulevard has been left in the centre 25 ft. wide for the reception of the trees. The roadway on either side of the street has been made 25 ft. wide and the footpaths 12 ft. each. This beautiful idea will be in keeping with the surrounding of a city in the centre of a vast irrigation area. The township itself has been divided into a number of sections being kept distinct from the business and factory sections. Some supervision is also to be exercised over the class and style of buildings to be erected in the various sections. The plans for an Accommodation House to be erected at the western end of the township have already been prepared and the building of same will soon be put in hand.

Residential allotments may be secured on a perpetual lease tenure, but none are to be less than one acre in area. An endeavour is to be made to prevent any question of progression of increment cropping up in the value of allotments or irrigation farms. Provision is to be made to restrict the sale price of the land for the amount previously paid for it with, of course, the agreed value of any improvements afterwards made being added.

#### THE PUMPING AND ELECTRIC LIGHTING PLANT

The pump-house is situated right on the bank of the Dawson River, a distance of only about a quarter of a mile from the big supply tank now in course of erection. The pumping plant consists of the new type of duplicate Worthington-Simpson pumps of a capacity of 4,500 gallons per minute each or a total of 9,000 gallons per minute.

On the immense fly wheel is a Goodyear seven-ply rubber and chord belt, costing £120. These pumps can either be worked separately or conjointly, and they are fitted with steam ejectors, forcing the air out of the suction pipes so as to start the pumps. The suction pipes are at present 4 ft. 3 in. below the present level of the river, but it is intended to lower them another 2 ft. or 3 ft. The pumping chamber is about 30 ft from the river intake. A small motor-driven turbine pump of 18,000 gallons per hour capacity for irrigation, or 3000 gallons for town supply, is also provided, and extra suction pipes have been put in so as to make provision for more pumps if required. The hole in the Dawson River from which the water is being pumped is not a small one, as it is six and a half miles long by 130 ft. wide and about 20 ft. in depth but in order to increase the storage capacity, it is intended to put a weir across it below the intake. The pumps are housed in a 35 ft. reinforced concrete well, with walls 1 ft. in thickness.

The electric lighting and power engines are a Belliss & Morcom Steam Dynamo set of 21.5 kilowatts.





*STEAM POWER* – **Bellis and Morcom Steam Dynamo** as exhibited in a museum. One component of a 2-unit electric power-plant reported as being installed by IWSC to service both low & high power demands of the township & scheme. (Sources: IWSC Annual Report 1924/25 & Morning Bulletin)

The engine room is 38 ft. square and the first 3 ft. of the walls are constructed of reinforced concrete, the balance being of corrugated iron. In the boiler-house adjoining are two Babcock double-drum boilers, which work at 200 lb. of steam. Sufficient space has been left in the boiler-house for additional boilers if required. The funnel of the boiler-house is 110 ft. in height and has a diameter of 3 ft. 9 in. By means of a steam condenser, the water for the boilers can be used over and over again. The river water is at times very muddy, but it is all filtered before use and makes good boiler water. Here it may be mentioned that the firing used for the boilers consists of the timber saved from the land --about 1000 acres--cleared on the area. With commendable foresight all the suitable timber was preserved instead of being burnt off as is usually the case, cut into the right lengths for use, and carted in and stacked handy to the boilers, a small rail track being laid down, upon which a truck runs, bringing the firing from the immense pile as required.

Adjacent to the power house is the workshop, 36 ft. by20 ft., with a concrete floor and sides of hardwood and iron. It is fitted with a lathe, drilling machine etc. The power is obtained from a Fielding and Platts gas engine (converted to oil), which can be used for either gas or oil. There is also a Champion drilling machine and a cutting and grinding machine.

#### THE GARAGE

The garage, which is close to the power-house, is a building 45 ft. by 55 ft., with a concrete floor and built of iron. It houses three Leyland motor lorries, two Ford tourers, a Utility Ford car, a one-ton Ford truck, and a Dodge tourer. None of these motor vehicles remain idle for long, for they are in almost constant use. The Leyland motor lorries and a Foden steam lorry are kept particularly busy. All loading has to be conveyed at present from Rannes, via Banana, to Castle Creek, a distance of 66 miles, about 30 miles of the latter part of it being over a very indifferent road, which a fall of an inch or two of rain converts into a veritable glue pot. The Leylands weigh 3 tons and carry a load of 5 tons, and the Foden weighs 5 tons and carries 6 ton, and when any of them stick in the mud they take some shifting. The introduction of these big lorries marked a new era in the advance of the settlement so far as costs of transport are concerned. Under the old system, with horse or bullock teams, the conveyance of loading cost £5 per ton, but the use of the four big lorries has reduced the cost to £1 17s. 6d. per ton, which represents an enormous saving. Mr. R. Halliday, of Leyland Motors, Brisbane, who so ably supervised the transport arrangements in connection with the visit of the Governor and party to Castle Creek, has reason to be proud of the good work performed by his company's cars.



*STEAM POWER* – **5-Ton Foden Steam Motor Lorry**, the type IWSC is reported as having purchased – carried 6 Ton, cheaper delivery than bullock teams. Took some shifting when bogged.

#### THE DEMONSTRATION FARM

The experimental and demonstration farm is to be a feature of the settlement. Mr OE Halliday from the Berri Experimental Farm in South Australia is in charge, and brings great enthusiasm into his work. The general run of the soil appears to be somewhat similar to the rich black soil of the Darling Downs but by analysis, it has been shown that whilst it contains high percentages of those other constituents required for prolific plant food growth, it carries also a big percentage of humus. Such crops as cotton, lucerne, corn, tobacco, cane etc which are now being experimented with, should be a success and give a big return. Rice, which it is also intended to cultivate, should do well and meet with a ready sale and a good market. Cotton has already been tried but of course, without irrigation. Two varieties were grown – Durango and Deltatype. The former, which was planted late, has given a small return. The latter, of which a short row was planted a month earlier than the Durango, has given two good pickings and at the time of my visit the plants were again heavy with a third picking.

Four systems of irrigation are to be experimented with, namely seeding, spraying, furrowing and subterranean. The water is delivered in shallow channels up to 4 feet wide and 3 feet deep. What are called sluices are being used to conduct the water from the channels to the seed beds. These are small galvanised pipes, about 4 feet in length and 3 inch in diameter, with a small sliding shutter at one end so as to regulate the flow of water or cut it off all together. They are forced through the bank of the channel and placed about 8 feet apart and this means any given area can be evenly and quickly irrigated. As an experiment, four and a quarter acres are to be set apart for the spray system, revolving



spindles being used as supplied by the Aerial Irrigation Spray Company. A flue implement shed is to be found on the farm and all agricultural machinery is carefully housed when not in use.

Two Fordson tractors find a home in the shed and are doing good work, also a great variety of ploughs, comprising single furrow set ploughs, light three horse three furrow Oliver ploughs, with three disc coulters, and heavy Wizard single furrow set ploughs. These latter ploughs, with the assistance of four horses, make the distribution drains. Another fine plough is the International ten furrow arched cultivator disc plough, cutting deep in the centre and shallow at the sides, especially suitable for cultivating between rows of plants where the lateral roots have to be avoided. An International seed planter also finds a place on the farm, as also do a number of International spring tooth harrows.

Order and system prevail on the farm. A tool room has been provided with a well arranged cabinet, containing the smaller tools in use. A good checking system of tools issued and returned is in use and in the oil store adjoining small cups made out of jam tins are hung on the taps of the oil drums, thus saving waste and making for cleanliness.

Weather and records are kept by more instruments than would be used on a sick American millionaire. In addition to the ordinary rain gauge, there is an aneroid barometer, a solar maximum to record the maximum sun's rays, a shade maximum and minimum, a wet and dry bulb, showing the humidity of the atmosphere, a ground maximum and minimum showing the temperature of the soil at ground level, and a similar gauge to show the temperature of the soil at various depths now being used at 2 foot 6 inches where the temperature is found to vary from 62 to 80 degrees. The direction of the winds and clouds are also recorded daily. The Commonwealth Meteorologist is supplied with these records.

#### COMMISSION BRAND



**Registered by the Commission** [reqt under Brands Act of 1915] A large eight stall stable has been provided for the farm horses in use and a harness room adjoining contains the neatly arranged harness of each horse hanging on the wall.. The general stables only a short walk from the farm, shelter about 60 horses, there being a stall for each horse. A novel idea is an identification disc around each horse's neck, making it very easy for a stranger to pick out any particular horse, it being far easier to pick say, a bay horse No 39 than a bay horse of no particular description, especially as **most of the settlement horses bear the same brand, namely a broad arrow over QIC.** 

#### THE BUILDING PROGRAM

At the present time, only the farm managers residence has been erected on the farm but plans have been prepared for farm quarters for the hands and the building will soon be completed.

A students school for the education of the sons of farmers will also find a place on the settlement map. The homes erected for the administration staff are built on high blocks and constructed of hardwood, with the exception of the walls under verandas. These are composed of fibro cement. The block of land on which each house is situated, is neatly fenced around with a swan hardwood one rail fence, painted white carrying one plain wire. The main avenue has been formed and the formation of cross avenues is being carried out. The street electric lighting has been completed and a separate system for house lighting is now being erected. Both lighting systems will be extended as increased settlement warrants. Handsome electric light poles 30 feet in length have been made out of worn-out useless 8 inch, 6 inch and 4 inch bore casings which have been connected, bolted together and painted.

Several railway stations will be required to service an area of 200,000 acres which is, in other words, a little over 300 square miles. It is not proposed to bring the railway right into the centre of the present

pretty little settlement. A site is being reserved for same about two miles out at the terminus and the railway will be extended as settlement increases.

#### SOCIAL LIFE IN THE SETTLEMENT

The social life of the settlement is not being neglected. A band has been formed under the leadership of Mr ET Morgan. There are 11 instrumentalists and, although only recently formed, acquitted themselves well, playing some pleasing selections on the occasion of the Governors recent visit. **The band lacks a bass drum but by the kindness of the Commission, this defect is to be shortly remedied.** Tennis is a popular game at Castle Creek, there being no less than six tennis courts by the devotees of this pleasant sociable game. A racecourse has also been established, whilst football and cricket both have warm supporters in their respective codes.

The settlement is without the services of either a lawyer or a doctor, but with regard to the latter the ambulance centre, in charge of Bearer C Knudsen, does good work in tendering first aid and transporting the sick and suffering to where they can obtain medical attention. When one remembers that only a little over twelve months has passed since the site of the present settlement was mostly standing scrub, it is marvellous what a change has been wrought.

#### **COMPLIMENTS TO THE COMMISSIONER AND STAFF**

His Excellency, when introducing Mrs Partridge – the wife of the Commissioner - to the watching crowd just prior to the ceremony performed by her of turning on the electric light, voiced that sentiments of most folks when he observed that the credit of the splendid work that had been performed rightly belonged to the Commissioner and his staff of executive officers.

At an informal social gathering later, when the Commissioner and most of the administrative staff were present, many complimentary things were said of the good work that had been done and the Commissioner himself with an air of 'something accomplished, something done' which one thought was amply justified. The Commissioner bore testimony to the loyalty of his officers and said that the little bit that they had been able to do was only an earnest of the great, grand work ahead of them waiting to be performed. The administrative officers comprise Mr J Grant-Thompson, Secretary; Mr F McCormack, Executive Engineer; Mr RS Philp, Assistant Engineer; Mr C Douglas, Chief Mechanical Engineer; Mr I Hutcheon, Assistant Mechanical Engineer; Mr S Burns, Assistant Engineer; and Mr W Firth, Chief Electrician. Mr AF Henry, Confidential Clerk to the Commissioner, was present at the celebrations and proved himself a capable organiser and personally attended to the comforts of those of the guests who were accommodated at the visiting officers quarters.





DAWSON CHANNELS - Main Channel 'E' (Theodore-Cracow Rd) – 1930 vs 2012 (Source: Dawson Folk Museum, Theodore)

### ON PARTRIDGE MAKING 'THE THEODORE CALL'



Unlike the name of the 'water' organisation which built the Township of Castle Creek, the name of the township itself has only changed once in 100 years. Castle Ck was gazetted as 'Theodore' on 1/12/1926 but the very first official reference in IWSC to a Township named 'Theodore' appeared on the plan above on 1/9/1925, as did the proud claim of it being 'Queensland's Model Garden City'. On that particular date, the 1924 / 25 IWSC Annual Report was presented to the Hon William McCormack who at the time was Secretary for Lands but who - by the middle of the following month - was to become Premier of Queensland.

It was not until 1/12/1926 that the name of Theodore was officially gazetted.

**PARTRIDGES RECOMMENDATION** Such was the support given by the Member for Chillagoe to the development of the Dawson River Irrigation Scheme that Commissioner Partridge, in his IWSC 1924 / 1925 Annual Report to Parliament, made the following recommendation:-

The central township of the Castle Creek zone, formerly known as Castle Creek from its situation, has reached the stage of development calling for a name more in keeping with present and future conditions. It was considered that it would be a graceful acknowledgment of the work of the Hon. E. G. Theodore, late Premier of Queensland, who by his consistent advocacy of the Dawson Valley Scheme made that project possible, if the first model garden town designed in the scheme were named after him. Mr. Theodore consented to the suggestion, and as soon as the necessary formalities are completed the town will be officially called Theodore.

## **1925** – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON PARTRIDGE'S PROGRESS REPORT (Source: IWSC Annual Report 1924 / 25)



CASTLE CREEK STATE SCHOOL

\*\* RETURNED SAILORS & SOLDIERS IMPERIAL LEAGUE OF AUST (later to become the RSL)

### ON 'THE DAWSON SLING' and THAT 'WHAT-MODEL-FORD' THING

(Source: IWSC Annual Report 1924 / 25)



Crossing The Dawson by Cableway.

### ON THE DEMONSTRATION FARM GETTING RESULTS

(Source: IWSC Annual Report 1924 / 25)



### ON THE WATER TOWER / BANDSTAND GETTING 'BIRDS-EYE VIEWS'

(Source: IWSC Annual Report 1924 / 25)



Part of The Central Town of Theodore (from the Water Tower).



### ON THE TOWN WEIR GETTING COMPLETED

(Source: IWSC Annual Report 1924 / 25)

The Dawson River (Township) Weir, completed during the year, is situate below the junction of Castle Creek, impounding 1,000 acre feet, and raising the river level 8 feet above normal summer level for a length of six miles. This low-level weir is of simple overshot design—a timber and earth structure. Two rows of 12-inch diameter piles are driven at 6-foot centres across the river, the rows being 11 feet apart. Vertical sheathing of 8-inch by 4-inch sawn timber, secured to the piles by waling pieces, was driven to clay in the river bed. The space between the two lines of piling was filled with clay, consolidated, and planked over to form a spillway, in addition acting as a vehicular crossing. The apron consists of heavy sawn timber splashboards, placed at the original summer level, and extending up the slope of the banks on both sides to the spillway ends. The total cost of the weir was £1,763, of which £278 was caused through flood damage during construction.



## ON EVERYONE HAVING A GOOD LOOK AROUND





Photographs of Castle Ck, taken by IWSC Surveyor Eric Leighton Peart

Source: State Archives EL Peart - Surveyor #274 [Ref ITM 321927]

## **1926** – **'<u>WATER' REFLECTS</u> ON THE TOWN GETTING A NEW NAME**

Daily Mercury (Mackay, Qld.: 1906 - 1954) / Sat 13 Nov 1926 / Page 2 / TOWN OF THEODORE.



https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/169837338

#### THE BOULEVARD LOOKING SOUTH



### ON THE FIRST RELEASE FARMS GETTING THE NEW NAME



Page 57 of 141

### ON THE FIRST RELEASE FARMS GOING ON THE MARKET

### DAWSON VALLEY IRRIGATION AREA. THEODORE ZONE.

2

SCHEDULE OF IRRIGATED FARMS-SECTION B.

Rear	ARRAS IN ACRES.			ANNUAL CHANGE.			Farm	AN	ARRAS IN ACRES.		ANNUAL CHARGE.		
No.	Total.	Irrig'ble	Dry.	Irrigabie.	Dry	Total.	otal. No.	Total.	Irrig'hle	Dry,	Irrigable.	Dry.	Total.
				s e d	8 0. 1.	5 1. 1.					£ a, d.	£ s. d.	5
1	11	11	See.	16 10 0		16 10 0	54	134	131		20 8 0		20 5
2	112	114		17 12 6		17 12 6	55	134	134	7.2	19 17 6	30	19 10
3	133	13	1-1	19 17 6		19 17 6	57	121	128	100	19 2 6		19 2
4	132	141	**	91 7 6		21 7 6	58	81	81		13 2 0	14	13 2
6	121	121		18 7 6		18 7 6	59	121	121		18 7 6		18 7
7	111	112	**	16 17 6		16 17 6	60	124	121		18 15 0		19 10
8	12	12		18 0 0		19 10 0	60	101	124	1.1	19 2 6		19 2
10	13	13	**	18 7 6	4.4	18 7 6	63	13	13		19 10 0		19 10
11	69	6		10 2 6		10 2 6	64	13	13		19 10 0	1.4	19 10
12	61	61		10 2 6		10 2 6	65	131	134		16 2 6		16 2
13	7	7		10 10 0	- 12°	10 10 0	67	124	121		18 7 6		18 7
15	24	01		9 7 6	1	9 7 6	68	16	15	22	22 10 0		22 10
16	7	7	1	10 10 0	++	10 10 0	69	141	141		21 15 0		21 15
17	93	91		13 17 6	5.7	13 17 6	70	141	144		21 7 0		20 12
18	5	51		8 12 6	**	9 0 0	72	11	11		16 10 0		16 10
19	0 45	6	1.00	9 0 0	2.8	9 0 0	73	121	123		18 15 0		18 15
21	6	6	1.1.	9 0 0	22	900	74	121	122		19 2 6		19 2
22	6	6		9 0 0		9 0 0	78	19	10:	28	10 9 6	0 0 0	19 2
23	5	5		8 12 6		8 12 6	77	121	122		19 2 6		19 2
25	5			8 12 6		8 12 6	78	121	12	4.8	18 15 0		18 15
26	5	51	1.	8 12 6		8 12 6	79	121	124		18 15 0		18 10
27	6	1 61		976		9 0 0	81	131	131		19 17 6	1.12	10 17
28	0	0		9 0 0	1 3	9 0 0	82	13	13		19 10 0		19 10
30	8	6		9 0 0	++	9 0 0	83	132	133		20 12 6	1.0	20 12
31	6	6		900	7.5	9 0 0	84	142	144		21 10 0	1.4	21 10
32	5	02		8 12 0		8 12 6	86	151	151		23 12 6	3	23 12
34	0		10.00	8 12 6	E The .	8 12 6	87	15	151		23 5 0		23 5
35	5	51	35	7 17 6	1 4 4 4 4 4	7 17 6	88	144	144		21 15 0		21 15
36	6	6		9 0 0		14 5 0	90	137	132		16 10 0		16 10
37	19	121	1.0	19 17 6	1	19 17 6	91	528	144	381	21 15 0	3 16 6	25 11
39	13	13	04	19 10 0	0 1 0	19 11 0	92	283	13	151	19 10 0	1 11 6	21 1
40	17	12	5	18 0 0	0 10 0	18 10 0	93	13	13		19 10 0	4 7 4	19 10
41	11	117	+ +	17 12 0		17 12 6	95	474	12	351	18 0 0	3 11 0	21 11
42	11:	114	01	23 5 0	0 1 0	23 6 0	96	11	11	and a	16 10 0		18 10
44	94	1 91	03	14 12 6		14 12 6	97	48	01	381	14 5 0	3 17 0	18 2
45	10	101		15 7 6		15 7 6	98	14	193	201	19 2 6	9 19 6	21 15
46	10	10		15 15 0		18 15 0	100	124	121	202	18 7 6		18 7
47	12	120		18 15 0		18 15 0	101	141	144		21 15 0		21 15
49	19	12		18 15 0		18 15 0	102	544	144	40	21 15 0	400	23 10
50	12	12		18 15 0	0 0 0	18 15 0	103	74	134	411	20 5 0	6 2 6	28 7
51	12	111	12	16 17 6	0 2 0	10 10 0	105	26	19	7	28 10 0	0 14 0	29 4
52	13	13	370	10 10 0		20 5 0	106	294	18	114	27 0 0	1 3 0	28 3

In these Schedules the areas mentioned are given to the nearest quarter-acre.

In each case the amount given in the "total" column is the full charge for land rent, irrigation water, and road and channel maintainance; no other charges are levied, and no Land Tax is payable.

A. F. PARTRIDGE,

mmissioner of Irrigation and Water Supply.

#### SUMMARY of 373 FIRST RELEASE FARMS (1 Nov 1926) (THEODORE ZONE)

Section B(Irrigated - schedule attached)106Section C(Dry)177;Section D(Dry)52Section E(Dry)38

(Source: Dawson Folk Museum, Theodore)

8 of 141

## **1926** (onwards) – '<u>water' reflects</u>

### ON PIONEER SETTLERS PURCHASING & DEVELOPING THE BLOCKS





Two examples of development of irrigated blocks undertaken by the early settlers in Theodore Zone [Section B] (Source: State Archives IWSC Photo Albums Ref # ITM 291323 to 291325)

## **1926** (onwards) – '<u>water' reflects</u>

### ON THE 'AEROPLANE SKETCH' OF THEODORE ZONE UNDER CULTIVATION

(Source: 'The Little Green Book' – State Archives Ref# PR 314333)



Page 60 of 141

## **1926** – '<u>WATER' REFLECTS</u> ON 'BRISBANE' GETTING A NEW ADDRESS

**In 1926**, Commissioner Partridge moved the IWSC Head Office from cramped headquarters in the CBD (Adelaide St) to more roomier accommodation in the former Stock Institute Building in College Rd., adjoining the Brisbane Grammar School at Spring Hill on the 'fringe' of the CBD (photo below).



Around that same time in 1926, construction started on the Store for the Brisbane Courier newspaper on the corner of William and Margaret Streets in the Brisbane CBD (photo below), directly behind 'Harris Court' on George St. 'The Mansions' and attached Stables (the latter demolished in the 1970's) can be seen in the background. (The Brisbane Courier was to become the Courier Mail in 1933, following its merger with The Daily Mail).



Little did Commissioner Partridge know in 1926 that this particular building, because of its more central CBD location, would less than 30 years later become the IWSC Head Office address of at least three other Commissioners (namely Dr William Nimmo, Fred Haigh MBE, and Frank Learmonth).

https://picryl.com/media/statelibqld-1-152803-store-for-the-brisbane-courier-newspaper-underconstruction-31582f

#### ON SETTLERS QUALIFICATIONS; & THEIR ½ FARE RAIL TICKETS TO THEODORE

IRRIGATION AND WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION,

#### QUEENSLAND.

COLLEGE ROAD, BRISBANE .

Ref. L.S. - 106

7th April, 1927.

Dear Sir,

#### DAWSON VALLEY IRRIGATION AREA.

Enclosed herewith please find Booklet, describing the Dawson Valley Irrigation Scheme. The Booklet shows fully the opportunities presented to settlers by this great Scheme, situated in a rich and rapidly growing State opportunities which no other similar project can offer, owing to the natural advantages of the Areas.

The first section of the Theodore Zone, which comprises 264 irrigated farms together with 109 dry farms, is now open for settlement.

Applicants for farms are first required to furnish satisfactory evidence to the Qualifications Board that they have sufficient capital; they should also supply full particulars with regard to their experience. This may be done by letter, but it is advisable when possible to call personally at the offices of the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, College Road, Brisbane.

Qualification Certificates are issued to suitable applicants, which will entitle them to half-fare railway rates in travelling to the Area for the purpose of inspection, and also to concession rates at the Accommodation House, and free insport in the Commissioner's inspection cars on the Area. Farms allotted according to priority of application.

'THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK' (See APPENDIX 1)



Yours faithfully,

red, these will gladly be furnished on application.

Harland

Superintendent of Settlement.

Should any further details or information be

### ON THE ATTRACTIONS OF 'THE TOWN THAT WATER BUILT'



### The 1927 Visit to Theodore by the Rockhampton Automobile Club

(Source: State Archives IWSC Photo Albums Ref # ITM 291323 to 291325)

### ON THE PRELIMINARY DESIGN OF NATHAN DAM

(Source: State Archives Ref# PR 809524)



### ON THE IWSC EXPERIMENTAL FARM

(Source: State Archives Ref# PR 809685)



### ON THEODORE GETTING ON 'THE MAILING LIST'

The extract on the next page is from the **1928/29 Edition of the Queensland Post Office Directory** which was the first edition to record the name of the Township of Theodore for the very first time, as well as to record the names of **118** out of its inhabitants at the time. (Source: State Library, Southbank Brisbane). The first Directory to record the name of the then Township of Castle Creek was the **1926 / 27** Edition and it contained only one entry. (The State Library website points out that residents & businesses had to pay to have their names included in directories so the directories do not provide a complete list of residents).

What is known is that by 1928 / 29 the following IWSC personnel, as referenced in the Theodore Area Staff-Chart below, were among the inhabitants of Theodore who sought to have their names listed in the 'Queensland Towns' section of the directory:-

Burns SM, Executive Engineer; Fairfields Mrs C, lessee of the IWSC Settlers Accommodation House; Firth W, Chief Electrician; Halliday OE, Farm Manager; Knudsen P, Ambulance Officer and Watermaster; Newell FB, Accountant; St John AP, Public Servant and Land Settlement Officer.

It is quite possible that the following residents of Theodore who also appeared in that directory may also have had some association with developing the Dawson by way of professional connection with the IWSC:-

Bond JD, Farm Overseer; Brodie J, Engineer; Case EW, Public Servant; Gralow, SH, Leveller; Grant GW, Surveyor; Hack HE, Public Servant; Mayne RE, Mechanical Engineer; Peart EL, Surveyor; Sparkes TG, Civil Engineer

What is also known is that a significant workforce also became employed by the IWSC. By 1924, some 200 workers and 30 administration staff were reported as being employed (Source: hoteltheodore.com.au). Among them were the following three farmers who are mentioned in *'Watery Sauces – A Peoples History of the Water Resources Commission and its Predecessors 1881 – 1995 '* (*Ian Pullar; Dr Margaret Cook*)

Hickey JM, listed as a Farmer (but who was in fact the IWSC Chief Clerk and Accountant, as IWSC employees were allowed to take up blocks); Walker F, Farmer (Fred, who along with his brother Don, became Water Supervisors and covered many miles on their pushbikes patrolling the channels during irrigation periods, adjusting the channel checks and controlling the flow of water)



(https://www.waterysauces.org.au/history/commencement/pullarbook/iws.pdf)

Extract from 1928 / 1929 Queensland Post Office Directory - 'Queensland Towns' (P 469)

THEODORE, LEICH-HARDT DISTRICT, 148 m by rl from Rockhampton Acason W, farmer Addis F, farmer Ansermet A, irmr Auliff Mrs M, farmer Bennett L G, caretaker Bond J D, farm overseer Bourke C, farmer Bowman J A, farmer Brodie J, engar Burgess E H, farmer Burgess E H, farmer Burne S M, executive engr Cannard A, farmer Carter W, farmer Case E W, public servant Christopher O, farmer Coney G B, farmer Cronin G, frmr Devine H T, farmer Doelle C H, farmer Fairfields Mrs C, lasses acc Fairfields Mrs C, lesses accom house Farrell D O, farmer Feltham M E K, farmer Feltham T, farmer Fennessy J, farmer Firth W, electn Firth W, electn Fitzsimons E H, farmer Figsimons E H, farmer Francis G, frmr Freeman J E, farmer Gardiner T, farmer Gasche L, farmer Gooda Mrs L, farmer Gooda Mrs L, farmer Gralow S H, leveller Grant G W, surveyor Gresham H S, farmer Gunn H, farmer Greeham H S, farmer Gunn H, farmer Hack H E, public servant Hahn O, farmer Halliday O E, farm mgr Harrison W, farmer Hauton W H, farmer Herminjard M, farmer Herriott A G, farmer Hickey J M, farmer Hogan T, farmer Holmes D G, storekpr Holmes W G H, storekpr Horton F J, frunr House C, grazier

Extract from 1926 / 1927 Qld PO Directory

#### CASTLE CREEK,

LEICHHARDT DIST. 440 m by rl fr Bris to Rannes; thence coach 40 m Martin Mrs E, etrkpr

#### Castle Vale, see Springeure

Caves, see Yaamba

Howe J H, farmer Howell J C, farmer Howell T W, farmer Hunt R W, farmer Hursthouse S P, chorekpr Hursthouse & P, etorekpr Ivory J R, farmer Johnson P W, farmer Kenniff G J, farmer Kersnovske T, farmer Kimmins W C, farmer Kinman A H, frmr Knudsen, P, ambulance offer Leed R A, farmer McCarthy D M, farmer McCarthy R J, farmer McCarthy R J, farmer McGregor Mrs C E, farmer McNamee Mrs L H, farmer Manning J, farmer McNamee Mrs L H, farr Manning J, farmer Martin J, storekpr Mayne R E, mech engr Medew R S, farmer Minogue E, postmäster Moorhead W, butcher Morria W P, farmer Mortimer F, farmer Myler V H, farmer Nester J, farmer Newell F B, acct Orme C E, farmer Owens H E, farmer Owens H E, farmer Parkes J H, farmer Parsons F, farmer Parsons M, storekpr Peak A R, farmer Peart E L, surveyor Porterfield W, farmer Price T farmer Price T, farmer Ravenswood G A, farmer Robinson T, farmer Robinson T, farmer St John A P, public servant Scantlebury D J, farmer Scantlebury W, farmer Scholfield C M, farmer Scholfield C M, farmer Scholfield J A. farmer Schubert E H. farmer Sleep A E, farmer Sleep E, farmer Sleep V H, farmer Smyth S, cordl facty Sorenson J, farmer Sparkes T G, oivil engr Stewart F M G, farmer Stewart H E, farmer Stirling R W, farmer Thomson C, farmer Thornton R J, storekpr Tucker H C, frmr Van Bael C, frmr Van Bael J, farmer Walter B Walker F, farmer Waller H E, storekpr Warby J, storekpr Weston A, farmer, Theodore White R, farmer Widt T F C, farmer Wilmott R E, farmer Wolff H, farmer Wood W G, farmer

### ON IWSC PRIDE IN THE FRUITS OF ITS LABOURS



IWSC EXHIBIT AT ROCKHMAPTON SHOW (mid 1929) DISPLAYING A RANGE OF PRODUCE FROM FARMS IN THE 'THEODORE ZONE' OF THE DVIA (Source: State Archives IWSC Photo Albums Ref# ITM 291323 to 291325)

### ON COMMISSIONER PARTRIDGE

- FOR BUILDING A TOWNSHIP

(Source: The Capricornian 20/6/1929)

https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72050952

The Commissioner (Mr. A. F. Partridge), to whom the district is as a creature of his own brain, takes pride in the fact that every stick of timber used in the township is local, cut and shaped by the Commission's own mill. Back of the township, and 45 ft. below the tops of the banks, moves the sluggish Dawson. We threw sticks into the river but could detect no current. In 1928 it was timed to run at three miles per hour in full flood. The new weir, will raise the water by about 15 ft.

#### - FOR HIS INTUITION

#### (Source: IWSC Annual Report)

The wisdom of building towns equipped with the conveniences of a city before settlement of the surrounding irrigation area takes place may be questioned by some, but I am firmly convinced that if settlement on the land is to be carried out successfully, the settler and his family should have the opportunity of enjoying some of the conveniences and amenities of life, which under the conditions of the past could only be obtained by crowding into an already overcrowded metropolis. My ideas are not Utopian in this respect, but are based on the plain business principle that a contented and satisfied settler and family are more valuable assets to the State than the farmer and his dependents who have to work out their existence without an opportunity of social intercourse and community recreation.

### **ON COMMISSIONER PARTRIDGE**

- FOR BUILDING A SCHEME

(Source: Dawson Folk Museum, Theodore)



- FOR BUILDING A COMMUNITY



### ON 'THE TOWN THAT WATER BUILT'



#### **TOWN CENTRE**

(Source: State Library, Queensland)

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:StateLibQld 1 136190 Palm tree lined boulevard in Theodore, ca.1930.jpg



#### **BOULEVARD LOOKING NORTH**

(Source: State Library, Queensland) https://eisdocs.dsdip.qld.gov.au/Surat%20Basin%20Rail/EIS/Appendices/AppK\_European\_History.pdf

## **1930 – '<u>WATER' REFLECTS</u>** ON 'THE TOWN THAT WATER BUILT'



**IWSC-OWNED HOTEL THEODORE** (built by IWSC in 1926 as Settlers Accommodation House)



#### IWSC AMBULANCE OFFICER PETER (DOC) KNUDSEN and THE QATB DISPENSARY

(Source: The Queenslander – 'Caravanning through Queensland')

https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/2373261 https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/2373262
# ON 'THE TOWN THAT WATER BUILT'



**IWSC OFFICES ON THE BOULEVARD** 



#### SHOPS ON FOURTH AVENUE

Page **73** of **141** 

#### ON ONE OF IWSC'S LEGENDS - 'DOC' KNUDSEN

#### "A World on Its Own."

GLANCE at the map reveals the fact that Tneodore, though linked with the world by railway, is semiiso.ated. Traveilers describe it as world on its own." There is no doctor here, nor a chemist's snop. Usually the absence of a medico is regarded as a tremendous drawback to a settlement, but the residents of Theodore are fortunate. Among their number is one "Doc." Knudsen, an ambulance man who served right through the Boer war and the Great War, and from what I have seen of his work since we have been here I am inclined to doubt whether Theodore could be better served from a medical point of view. As in the case where branches of the Q.A.T.B. exist, and there is no medical officer, exceptionally severe cases are conveyed by motor-rail-ambulance to the Baralaba or Mount Morgan hospitals, but such cases are few.

One instance of the service given by this branch of the Q.A.T.B. may be interesting. Just before we arrived a young fellow riding a motor cycle charged into a barbed wire fence, the wire catching him round the neck which was shockingly lacerated. With a knowledge of surgery gained in two wars, "Doc." Knudsen not only saved his life but put eighteen stitches into a gaping wound in his throat. To-day the young fellow is at work again. As

Source: The Queenslander 4/6/1931

https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/23139794/2373235

'Doc' Knudsen was the Commission's ambulance officer who also served as a guide.

He was employed in March 1924 to replace J Oliver who had resigned. Described as a rugged character with tough walrus cast of appearance, a man of many parts, well skilled in his ambulance duties but also a farmer in his own right.

'Doc' had leased his dairy farm to work for the Commission. 'Doc' was later employed as the Health Inspector, Water Master and Inspector of Stock.

Source: Watery Sauces – A Peoples History of the Water Resources Commission and its Predecessors 1881 – 1995 [I. Pullar; M. Cook])

https://waterysauces.org.au/history/c ommencement/pullarbook/iws.pdf



#### ON 'THE TIMBER-CRIB ERA'



Theodore Weir (under construction - late 1920's)



**Orange Creek Weir** (under construction – completed 1932)

#### FRED BAXTER REFLECTS ON THE BUILDING OF ORANGE CREEK WEIR

(Sources: Dawson Folk Museum Theodore [Text]; State Archives [Photos])

The Commission of Irrigation and Water Supply built Orange Creek Weir as part of the Theodore Irrigation Scheme, and the man in charge was Mr Parry.

Wages paid by the Commission were at the rate of twelve shillings a day to a married man, and ten shillings a day to a single man. Parry applied for permission from Brisbane to pay me twelve shillings a day as a bonus for the work I did with the broadaxe.

Don Hall and I had just come in from possum shooting and set up camp on the riverbank under a big Ironbark, when Mr Shaw from the Commission came down and sent us out to set up camp. The Commission supplied tents, and a camp was set up for the workers. Mr Shaw was a nice man, very tall and was called 'Daddy' Shaw. Most of the men were married and they brought their families with them. I camped with Dick McNamee until his wife arrived and being a bachelor, I then moved to a tent by myself. Charlie Van Bael established a grocery store at the camp also.

They picked men who were on 'Relief' in Rockhampton – now known as the Dole –and sent them out on the train to Theodore, where we met them with the truck and took them out to the camp at Orange Creek. Next morning we lined up for work and when they seen the pick and shovels Parry had with him said 'Do we have to use them?' Parry said 'Yes'. Some of them replied 'We're not using them, we can get our relief money in Rocky without working'. So we had to take them back in to Theodore. Those of the men that stayed were good workers. Joe Rossiter – a carpenter by trade – was one who stayed. He had a small business on Stanley Street in Rockhampton, which his wife managed while he was away.

Price Morris had a contract with the Commission to provide the timber and was paid for each load delivered. He used two teams of bullocks to cart the timber – some of which belonged to Charlie Haeydon. One of the wagons used was one which Price obtained off 'Kinnoul Station'. It was sitting under a tree and deteriorating when Price seen it. He borrowed some bullocks off Jack Clarris and they took it back to Taroom where they repaired it. The back wheels of the wagon were 6 feet in diameter on a 3-inch axle. They cut the wheels down to 5 inches and made the tyres 5 inches wide. In the wet weather you could see the dirt being pushed in front of these tyres, making it very heavy going so Price changed it to a 2 inch axle and smaller tyres.



I was responsible for cutting the timber. Nearby, nearly all Blue Gum and Ironbark was used to construct the weir and I had Don Hall, Harry Otto and Dick McNamee working with me. All of the timber except for the 42 foot piles for the weir was cut up river to Gyranda Homestead. We left the camp early in the morning and returned after dark. Sometimes walking 5 or 6 miles before we reached camp.

Page **76** of **141** 



There was some big timber cut. The first log that was too big to fit through the breaking-down saw which had a 6 foot cutting width - I took 12 inches off this log with the broadaxe before it would fit through the saw. We cut some big timber, this was split in half by George Campbell – he was a powder monkey who used to work in the Mount Morgan mine. George used to come out from the camp, he would bore a number of holes down the centre of the log and fill them with powder, then light the fuses – and we'd all run for cover and the log would be split right down the middle. These logs could not be loaded the same way as the others and instead of rolling them onto the wagon, Price had to use slides to load them.

I had to dress the timber after it was cut – this included trimming, removing the sap and cutting to the required length. Logs that were placed over the concrete at the sides of the weir had to be trimmed to an even 10 inches for the entire length. This I did with the broadaxe.

The 42-foot piles were cut from Spotted Gum trees in Isla Gorge, from the right hand branch where Hewitt's Valley comes in. They could not be loaded where they were cut and had to be snug out. These logs were 16 inches tapering to 8 inches.





came from Theodore – it had been used to drive the sawmill. Port Smith and myself used 'The Leyland' to bring it to Orange Creek. Jack Sinclair was the man in charge of the sawmill. Bill Robertson from Rockhampton operated the 'Steam Donkey' engine. The tongue-and-groove sheeting for the weir was cut at the mill.

When they were driving the sheeting, Jack Brady (a very hairy man) was on the hammer using the stem when the hose burst, scalding him and taking all the hair and skin off his chest. He was taken to the hospital in Mount Morgan. Another engine driver from Rocky was Bill Jensen.

The truck used for carting the stone-fill for the weir was a Chev 6, which the Commission had bought from Les Widt. Port Smith and I made and installed the body and tip on it. Sam Cleary and Arthur Zinger – a Hindu from India – picked up and carted the stone-fill.

A chap by the name of Tucker used to come out from Rockhampton and take photos. He was one of the owners of a drapery store 'Tucker & Tucker' in Rockhampton.

During this time a surveyor and his wife and daughter arrived with a letter from Brisbane which he presented to Parry . (He had a funny name which I think was Mr Drescher). The letter requested that Parry release me from my work to help with the surveying of a route for the pipeline from the pump station opposite Gyranda Homestead, through to Cracow. I objected to his saying that I did not know the country well enough. While this was under discussion, Fred Horn rode up and I said 'Here's your man' as Fred knew the country well. It took us three days to survey the route and the surveyor's daughter followed us all the way – on foot.

The first water over the weir was the flood of 1934



'The Leyland' IWSC Motor Lorry used on the Rannes to Castle Ck Run (Source: IWSC Annual Report 1922/23)

Used by Fred Baxter and Eric Waller to transport the Vertical Breaking Saw and 'Steam Donkey' from Theodore to establish the Sawmill on the river bank at Orange Creek Weir

# 1934 – 'WATER' REFLECTS ON THE IWSC LEASING OUT ITS HOTEL

LIQUOR.

25 GEO. V. No. 7, 1934. Hotel Theodore Lease Enabling Act.

#### LIQUOR.

An Act to Enable the Commissioner of Irrigation <sup>25</sup> Geo. V. No. 7. and Water Supply to Lease the Hotel known as "The Hotel Theodore," to Provide that the Lessee thereof shall be a Licensed Victualler Act of 1934. under the Liquor Acts, and for other purposes.

THE HOTEL THEODORE LEASE ENABLING

15175

#### [Assented to 11th October, 1934.]

WHEREAS pursuant to paragraph (i.) of subclause Preamble. five of clause thirteen of Part I. of the Schedule to the Water Acts it is, *inter alia*, enacted that wherever in the opinion of the Commissioner of Irrigation and Water Supply it is expedient for the execution of such Act, and facilitating the execution and management of the works and business of the Commissioner or the successful working of an undertaking, he may construct, establish, acquire, purchase, contract for the use of, work, maintain, control, regulate, and manage any hotel, accommodationhouse, or other premises for the use and accommodation of the public, and carry on therein the business of the sale and supply of spirituous and fermented liquors :

And whereas pursuant to \*" The Irrigation and Water Supply Acts Amendment Act of 1931" the Land Administration Board was constituted as the Commissioner of Irrigation and Water Supply for the purposes of the Irrigation Acts and the Water Acts :

And whereas pursuant to the above powers the Commissioner of Irrigation and Water Supply has established, managed, and conducted an Hotel known as "The Hotel Theodore" and situated within the Dawson Valley Irrigation Area:

And whereas it is desirable that the Commissioner of Irrigation and Water Supply be empowered to lease the said Hotel, to provide that the lessee thereof shall be a licensed victualler under the Liquor Acts, and to provide for certain other matters-

Be it therefore enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :---

1. This Act may be cited as "The Hotel Theodore Short title and Lease Enabling Act of 1934." construction.

<sup>\* 22</sup> Geo. V. No. 44, supra, page 14029.

# ON THE GOVT ARCHITECT DESIGNING THE HOTEL'S 1<sup>ST</sup> 'ALTERATIONS'

(Source: State Archives Ref# PR 809674)





#### ON THE PASSING OF TRAIL-BLAZER COMMISSIONER PARTRIDGE

Of the eight Irrigation Commissioners to have served the state, Archibald Frederick Partridge was possibly the youngest of the eight to pass at the relatively young age of 56 on 2 April 1935.

(Source: State News in Brief [The Queenslander] April 1935)

AF Partridge is buried in the Mt Thompson Memorial Gardens, Holland Park West, Brisbane.

(The eight Irrigation Commissioners who served the state were Archibald Partridge; John Lang; Dr William Nimmo; Fred Haigh MBE; Frank Learmonth; Don Beattie; Tom Fenwick; and Peter Bevin. Peter is the last surviving of the eight, being long-retired; a proud elder of our IWS/WR community and much valued WRRA member).



Brisbane, collapsed and died while carrying out his duties at the Cannon Hill saleyards last week.

Mr. A. F. Partridge Dead.—The death of Mr. A. F. Partridge occurred in Brisbane last week at the age of 56 years. Deceased was formerly Irrigation Commissioner in Queensland, and at one time was appointed by the Government to control the Dawson River undertaking.

145,000 for Bank Assets.—Subject to confirmation by the shareholders, the committee of inspection and advice



# **1940** – '<u>WATER' REFLECTS</u>

#### ON THE UPKEEP OF SEAMLESS DEPARTMENTAL & MUNICIPAL ASSETS

The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld.: 1933 - 1954) / Sat 17 Feb 1940 / Page 16 / Advertising



# **1948 to 1950** – '<u>WATER' REFLECTS</u>

ON 'IWSC POSITIONS VACANT, THEODORE'



# **1949 / 1950** – '<u>WATER' REFLECTS</u>

#### ON TENDERS CALLED FOR CARTING TIMBER TO BINDA WEIR SITE

#### Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton, Qld.: 1878 - 1954) / Sat 24 Dec 1949 /

? Yappoon,	hampton.	Bolsover La
in ho in the	IRRIGATION AND WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION THEODORE	Drawn und G. Martin,
N C. v n- ri X he	TENDERS are invited for carting of approximately 200 tons of sawn bridge timber	TRANSMI Real Prope
taken to n d t C st- t he t pt iscon. GOUGH.	up to 25 ft lengths and ap- proximately 240 piles from 15 ft to 40 ft long from Theodore Railway Station to Binda Weir approximately 25 miles up- stream from Theodore on the Dawson River. All material to be lifted from rail within 24	NOTICE application for the regimission of hereinafter ticulars of given below desiring to
NEY and Clifton wish to r thanks Matron of Tan- heir kind deceased r George	hours of delivery. Tenders addressed to District Engineer, Theodore, and en- dorsed tenders for cartage will be received up to 15th Janu- ary, 1950. Lowest or any ten- der not necessarily accepted. DISTRICT ENGINEER, Theodore.	by lodging fore the d Office of th in Rockhar Name of tor: WILL EPH WINS Lily, near Date of

#### ON 'MUNICIPAL BUSINESS' (IWSC DOCUMENTING OF 'LANDING GROUND' LAYOUT)

(Source: State Archives Ref # ITM 809675)



#### ON 'MUNICIPAL BUSINESS' (IWSC GAZEBO EXHIBIT – THEODORE'S FIRST SHOW)

(Source: State Archives Ref# ITM 809679)



# **1950** – 'WATER' REFLECTS

#### ON 'MUNICIPAL BUSINESS' (IWSC DOCUMENTING OF 'LANDING GROUND' AIRSTRIPS)

(Source: State Archives Ref# PR 809678)



#### ON 'WATER BUSINESS' (IWSC DESIGN OF NATHAN DAM)

(Source: Dawson Folk Museum, Theodore)



# Early 1950's – 'WATER' REFLECTS

### ON 'MUNICIPAL BUSINESS' (IWSC DESIGN OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES)

(Source: State Archives [Ref PR 809682])



# Early 1950's – 'WATER' REFLECTS

#### ON 'MUNICIPAL BUSINESS' (IWSC PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS)

(Source: <u>https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/56942227</u>)

Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton, Qld.: 1878 - 1954) / Sat 6 May 1950 / Page 4 /

# Official Opening Theodore Show

THEODORE, May 5. — The Theodore Show was officially opened today by the Commissioner for Irrigation (Mr Nimmo) who said he could see great prospects for the district. What irrigation had done in the south also could be done at Theodore and he intended to keep things moving.

The president of the Theo dore Agricultural and Pastoral nd Society (Mr D. Hamilton) inhe troduced Mr Nimmo. He thanked the women of Theodore for their response to the appeal to assist in catering at LTYthe show. He said the society an had been unable to do all the an things promised last year owing to scarcity of material and Labour, but had made a few improvements and would continue to do so.

Mr J. E. Freeman also spoke and thanked Mr Nimmo for attending

Mr W. A. G. Holmes then spoke of the cooperative or community hotel, the only one of its kind in Queensland. Mr Nimmo had promised great improvements and intended to bring this hotel right up to standard and, in fact, make it the model hotel in Queensland. Shares could now be bought by anyone eligible to hold them.



Dr William Nimmo Irrigation and Water Supply Commissioner (1949 – 1955)

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# Early 1950's - 'WATER' REFLECTS

#### ON 'MUNICIPAL BUSINESS' (IWSC DOCUMENTING OF HOTEL RENOVATIONS)

(Source: State Archives [Ref PR 809672])



Commissioner

# Early 1950's - 'WATER' REFLECTS

# ON 'MUNICIPAL BUSINESS' (IWSC DESIGN OF WAITING ROOM AT 'LANDING GROUND')

(Source: State Archives [Ref PR 809676])



# Early 1950's - 'WATER' REFLECTS

#### ON 'MUNICIPAL BUSINESS' (IWSC DOCUMENTING OF TOWN WATER RETICULATION)

(Source: State Archives [Ref PR 809680])



# Early 1950's – 'WATER' REFLECTS

#### ON 'WATER-JOEY' DON HALL - HIS LIKELY BSA & SIDECAR OUTFIT

Recollections from childhoods spent in Theodore in the 1950's suggest that a 'water-joey' named Don Hall used to get around in a BSA and Sidecar Outfit, complete with shovels and other tools-of-trade with which Water Officers (affectionately called 'water-joeys') used to adjust channel-checks for water distribution. No photos have been found at State Archives of this sidecar outfit and despite requests to WRRA membership for any such photos which could be tucked away in bottom drawers somewhere, none have yet come to light.

So to give some idea of what such an outfit could have looked like, our research has come across the 1936 advertisement by the Birmingham Small Arms company (below) of their range of motorcycles suitable for sidecar work at the time. Three of the models are further described as being suitable for performing 'Heavy Sidecar Duty', so a conclusion could be drawn that Don's machine – because of the duty it would have been required to perform on the channels - could well have been one of these three. The presence of a 1936 machine in the 1950's is based on an assumption that unlike motorcycle models in today's day-and-age, these models would likely have been around for a good few years following this advertisement (particularly given WW2) and this fits comfortably with the timeframe that has been recalled.



(Source: Public Domain Website)

# ON CONSTRUCTION OF IWSC SINGLE STAFF BARRACKS

The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld.: 1933 - 1954) / Sat 9 May 1953 / Page 13 / Advertising

0	Idine	Browse articles
	<b>€</b>	1
*		IRRIGATION AND WATER SUPPLY
	Late	COMMISSION, QUEENSLAND.
	🔀 jeens-	TRUDER ANTING A STATE
	<b>EDNA</b>	TENDERS-SINGLE STAFF BAR-
	C treet.	THEODORE
	to pr of	
	enst min	Tenders, closing at Noon on Wed.
	stad the	needay, 10th July, 1953 are invited
э.	1059	for the Supply and Erection of Single
	YWELL	Staff Barracks and Conventences at
	Town	Theodore.
	TINN	NOTE:-All corrugated iron roof
	Chucen	sheeting can be supplied by the Com-IC
1.1	e queen	mission.
	TIMANN	Tenders, suitably endorsed, should lo
1	Rowen	be addressed to the Secretary Irriga. Ie
	tate of	tion and Water Supply Commission Id
le	plicants;	corner William and Margaret Streets
ıt	ANN. of	Brisbane.
	the said	Plans and Specifications may be t
	S NOR-	inspected or obtained for £11 each 8
	a Street.	at the office of the Commissioner.
:n	d State.	Brisbane, and at the offices of the
	of the	District Engineers, Theodore and
;a	TR AD-	Rockhampton.
222	ro Codi-	The lowest or any tender not
ts.	rly the	necessarily accepted.
,	934. the	D. F. ERICKSON.
-	935. and	Secretary to the Commissioner of
	ecem ber	Irrigation and Water Supply.
ite	AVER	Car. William and Margaret Streets,
	Nicholas	Brisbane. 8th May, 1963.

# 1953 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

#### ON CROSSING THE DAWSON AND OPENING UP GIBBER GUNYAH

Queensland Country Life (Qld.: 1900 - 1954) / Thu 10 Sep 1953 / Page 1 / 20 Ne

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#### ON CALIBRATING THE PUMPS AT GIBBER GUNYAH



#### ON THE SALE OF IWSC's 1<sup>st</sup> WATERING HOLE

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8 ELIS. IL No. 5.

THE HOTEL

THEODORE SALE ACT OF 1954. LIQUOR.

Hotel Theodore Sale Act. 3 ELIZ. II No. 5,

#### LIQUOR.

#### An Act Relating to the Sale of the Hotel situated at Theodore in the Dawson Valley Irrigation Area and known as the Hotel Theodore.

[ASSENTED TO 27TH APRIL, 1954.]

B<sup>E</sup> it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Short title. 1. This Act may be cited as "The Hotel Theodore Sale Act of 1954."

2. Section seven of \*" The Hotel Theodore Lease Enabling Act of 1934" is repealed.

3. Subject to this Act, The Commissioner of Irrigation and Water Supply under and within the meaning of †"The Irrigation and Water Supply Commission Acts, 1946 to 1949," may sell to the Hotel Theodore Co-operative Association Limited, a society formed and registered under ‡"The Co-operative Societies Acts, 1946 to 1951," the licensed premises under and within the meaning of §"The Liquor Acts, 1912 to 1952," known as the Hotel Theodore and comprising the land described in the Schedule to this Act together with the buildings, erections and improvements thereon and fixtures and fittings the property of the said Commissioner therein or thereupon.

The sale shall be at such price and upon such terms and conditions as are agreed upon by the aforesaid parties and approved by the Governor in Council.

Repeal of s. 7. of 25 Geo. V. No. 7. Sale of the Hotel Theodore

authorised.

# 1954 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

### ON INVESTIGATIONS INTO A BRIDGE OVER THE DAWSON



RIVER CROSSING BELOW THE HIGH BANK (mid 1900's) -**CREST OF THEODORE WEIR** (Source: Nat Film / Screen Archives Contribution by W.A.G Holmes)

**RIVER CROSSING ABOVE THE HIGH BANK** (2024) -DOWNSTREAM OF THEODORE WEIR (Source: Public Domain Contribution by L. Fowler)

#### (Rockhampton, Qld.: 1878 - 1954) / Sat 20 Nov 1954 /

available."

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# Dawson Bridge Investigations

BRISBANE, November 19 Investigations had been made nd Irrigation and Water by the Supply Commission during the od year in conjunction with the res Main Roads Department into ily the provision of a bridge across the Dawson River at Theodore

This was stated in the Commission's annual report, prealc sented in Parliament today. 325

The report stated the present crossing along les crest of the Theodore weir in untrafficable for considerable periods during the year. vision of this improved access d-b ential in conjunction Was with the extension of irrigation in the Gibber-Gunyah area.



#### ON THE PERPETUAL LEASE SELECTION OF GIBBER-GUNYAH FARMS



(Source: State Archives Ref# ITM 3615306)

# ON 'C/- Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, Theodore, Qld'

(Source: Commonwealth Gazette #22 <u>https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/240891712</u>)

			CERTIF	FICATES	OF NATURALIZATION-continue	ed.				
Name.				Address.					Date of Certificate.	
Konig, Sebastian					Jarrah Creek, via Tully, Queensland	·" •	÷.,	••		22.7.5
Kropanin, Boris Victorovitch		75 Chancellor-street, Sherwood, Brisbane, Queensland					4.7.57			
Ksiazek Stefan	па	•••	1.1		C/o Irrigation and Water Supply Com	mission 7	Theodore	Quee	nsland	12.9.5
Kulich, Jaroslav					99 Merthyr-road, New Farm, Brisbane	e. Oueensl	and	Queen		4.10.5
Lapunow, Wassily					11 Argyle-street, Red Hill, Brisbane, O	Jueensland	i			21.8.5
La Spina, Vito			22		Up River, Home Hill, Queensland					18.9.5
Leoni, Giancarla	**			10.12	Gordonvale, via Cairns, Queensland					7.10.5
Liseo, Ignazio					Babinda, Queensland					7.10.5
Lombardo, Carmelo					Meerawa, via Aloomba, Queensland					7.10.5
Lombardo, Salvatore					Corner Sheppard and Mill-streets, Gon	rdonville,	Queensla	nd		7.10.5

WHAT'S BEHIND 'C/- Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, Theodore, Queensland' ? This address would have meant many things to Stefan Ksiazek as he wrote it in his application to become a Naturalised Australian. Above all, it would have meant 'home' and stood for a whole new

life away from the one he remembered from war-torn Poland as Stefan - along with countless immigrants who migrated to Australia post-WW2 - sought to carve out a better life. There are many such stories of refugees 'going bush' in search of what they sought and valued most and where the IWSC was to play a significant part in both their re-settlement and their lives in the longer term.

Not only would the address have meant job security with the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission, it would also have represented a happier life for Stefan in peaceful surroundings in 'the town that water built' surrounded by the two close-knit communities of water and farming.

Other examples of IWSC 'home' addresses also existed eg 'C/- IWSC Tinaroo Falls, Queensland'

	Dominik, Pawel				68 Bayford-street, Oxley, Queensland	24.1.58
Ð	Dorfer, Claus				New Hospital, Hughenden, Queensland	20.12.57
	Dragoilo, Marko				Mullins-road, Millaa Millaa, Queensland	27.11.57
	Duda, Edward	••	••	••	Care Irrigation Water Supply Commission, Tinaroo Falls,	27.1.58
	Duda, Helena	••		••	Queensiand Care Irrigation Water Supply Commission, Tinaroo Falls, Queensland	27.1.58
$\sim$	Durl Adolf				New Hospital, Hughenden, Queensland.	20.12.57
5	Dzera Wasyl				Venus Farm, Gowan-road, Runcorn, Queensland	24.1.58
	Fl-Ahmed, Mohamad Kazer	n			121 Melbourne-street, South Brisbane, Queensland	24.1.58
	Englert, Theresa		••	••	48 Balfour-street, Darra, Queensland	24.1.58

# 1958 – <u>'WATER' REFLECTS</u>

on THEODORE'S INCORPORATION INTO BANANA SHIRE & THE CESSATION OF MUNICIPAL OVERSIGHT BY 'WATER'

#### Page **100** of **141**

#### ON FURTHER UP THE DAWSON - THE GO-AHEAD FOR GYRANDA WEIR

(Source: Archives-Search Qld Govt Website)

CONFIDENTIAL 20 CABINET NIHUTE Copy No. Brisbane, 22nd Januarv, 1985 Decision No. 45122 Submission No. 40594 TITLE: Construction of Gyranda Weir on the Dawson River. CABINET decided:-That approval be given for the construction of Gyranda Weir at 284.5 km on the Dawson River, to proceed. CIRCULATION: Queensland Mater Resources Commission and copy to Minister. Premier's Department and copy to Premier and Treasurer. Treasury Department and copy to Deputy Premier and Minister Assisting the Treasurer. Department of Primary Industries and copy to Minister. Department of The Arts, Maticnal Parks and Sport and copy to Minister. National Parks and Mildlife Service. Department of Community Services and copy to Minister. All other Ministers for perusal and return. Certified Trut Secr

#### ON TRANSFER of THEODORE TWS to BANANA SHIRE

(Source: State Archives [Ref # ITM 962148])

CONFIDENTIAL

CABINET MINUTE

Brisbane, 14th November, 1988

Decision No. 55502

Submission No. 50022

TITLE: Water Resources Commission -Transfer of Theodore Town Water Supply Scheme to Banana Shire Council

CABINET decided:-

That subject to further discussions on access, the approval of the Governor in Council be sought for the transfer of the Theodore urban water supply scheme from the Commissioner of Water Resources to the Banana Shire Council on the terms indicated in the Submission.

CIRCULATION:

Water Resources Commission and copy to Minister. Premier's Department and copy to Premier and Treasurer. Department of Primary Industries and copy to Minister. Department of Local Government and copy to Minister. All other Ministers for perusal and return.

and Certified True Copy Secretary to Cabinet

# 2018 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

# ON THE JOURNEY FROM CASTLE CK TO CORPORATISATION The transfer of the Theodore Channel Irrigation Scheme from SUNWATER to THEODORE WATER



**Typical IWSC Investigation Survey assessing a possible Channel Route** (Source: State Archives Ref # ITM 809541)

#### **IRRIGATION ACT OF 1922**





#### **CORPORATISATION – 1 OCTOBER 2018**

Theodore Water Pty Ltd operates the Theodore Channel Irrigation Scheme which provides irrigation water to 44 allocation holders, covering 3000 ha land located on either side of the Dawson River.

Theodore Water Pty Ltd is owned by the scheme's allocation holders and is managed by an experienced and committed team of water delivery specialists. Oversight is provided by a six-member Board comprised of local and independent representatives.

The company's vision is to provide cost effective and efficient water delivery services to the Theodore region by a local team that's committed to customer service, community engagement and growing the regional economy.

Local ownership only relates to assets associated with the channel distribution scheme such as channels, pipes and drains. Bulk water supply assets such as rivers and dams are not included and remain owned and managed by SunWater. SunWater continues to deliver bulk water to the channel system while Theodore Water Pty Ltd is responsible for its delivery to allocation holders.

(Source: <a href="http://www.theodorewater.com.au/">http://www.theodorewater.com.au/</a>)

#### **COLLECTIONS and RECOLLECTIONS**

# PART 2 - RECOLLECTIONS

It is hoped that this part of the document will be developed over time through the generosity of interested parties making personal contributions for the enjoyment of others in the broader community.

So the Water Resources Retirees Association cordially invites anyone who may have had any past 'water' association with the irrigation scheme, the township of Theodore or its community, to make such a valued contribution.

Any such contributions would be gratefully received by our Secretary at <u>secretary@waterysauces.org.au</u>

# 2023 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

#### ON A PROUD MURAL ON THE BOULEVARD

#### 'Theodore - The Town that Water Built'

(Contributor: M Irwin)



#### **COLLECTIONS and RECOLLECTIONS**

# APPENDICES

**NOTE:** APPENDIX 1 IS A REPRODUCTION

(DOC Ref# PR 314333 - State Archives)

#### **'THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK'**




# Queensland's Great Agricultural Project.

## FOREWORD.



The first 30,000 acres of what ultimately will be a 300,000-acre project have been prepared for settlement, and 373 irrigated and dry farm areas are . . now available for allotment . .

#### **POINTS FOR SETTLERS**

- 1. Land tenure is perpetual leasehold, no cash being required to purchase land. Furthermore, no land tax is payable
- 2. Perpetual leasehold means possession of the land by settlers and their heirs forever, providing conditions of lease are fulfilled. Leaseholds and improvements thereon may be transferred in the same manner as freehold property
- 3. Farms may be selected on the following liberal conditions:

<u>Upon application</u> – One year's charges (as per schedule) to be lodged with application

First year – Amount lodged with application to be accepted as first year's charges

Second year - One-third of charges only to be paid

<u>Third year</u> – Two-thirds of charges only to be paid

*Fourth year and thereafter* – Payment in full of charges as per schedule

- 4. The annual charge scheduled includes land rental, irrigation water rates, shire rates, and roads and channel maintenance
- 5. Regular rotational periods of irrigation for farms
- 6. Main and feeder roads throughout the area, connected directly by rail to seaboard cities
- 7. Assistance to settlers to build homes, improve and stock their farms, on  $\pounds$  for  $\pounds$  basis.
- 8. Commissioner's Demonstration Farm within the area
- 9. Factories built and operated by Commissioner as products become available from farmers



No other State in Australia offers to the settler so much as does Queensland. Already in proportion to population the wealthiest section of the Commonwealth; teeming with natural resources practically untouched; capable of immense development; young, virile, progressive; with every advantage the South can boast, and many more which are peculiarly its own – truly, it is the Land of Opportunity, the Golden State.

From every part of the British Empire seekers of a new life in a new land have made Queensland their home. They came in search of larger opportunity, of better, happier ways of living; they stayed because they found them.

These pioneers have proved that this great, rich, swiftly growing State offers a better chance to get ahead. They realised that here, as elsewhere, hard work is the price of success. They found, too, that in Queensland the rewards of working, planning and saving are sure and lasting. South of the Equator there is not a country of greater potentialities. Tens of thousands of acres of glorious land lie in idleness awaiting the day when agriculture will rouse them into fruitful activity. And, as the land is conquered, wealth and population will surely follow.

The California of the Commonwealth in point of climate, of promise of a splendid future, of possibilities of expansion, it holds out both hands to the settler.

Are you willing to grow with Queensland? Your chance is here, and the purpose of this pamphlet is to show what is offered in connection with one of the most important schemes of closer settlement which Queensland

is now developing. Learn of the opportunity awaiting settlers in the Dawson Valley, destined a decade hence to be the heart of rural Queensland. The project is one in which agriculture and energy will combine to bring a huge area to such a point of production that the reward of the pioneer will be worthy of his enterprise.



The Township Weir, Theodore

## HARNESSING A GREAT RIVER

There is no public or private question of such importance to the State as the reclamation and irrigation of arid and semi-arid lands. In Queensland, this form of development has not in the past received the attention which has been devoted to it elsewhere, and so it may be said that the Dawson Valley scheme marks a definite step forward, a chapter that will be one of the most notable in the history of the State.

Farming is economic only when crops can be grown during periods of drought as well as those of normal or abnormal rainfall. Realising this, the Government of Queensland has set about an adjustment of the balance in rural industries, and the Dawson Valley Irrigation Scheme is the outcome. Almost since the earliest years of settlement in Queensland, the preponderance of attention of the man in the dry interior has been in the direction of stock-raising or wool-growing. But it has become evident that the uncertainty of the seasons in our inland areas is distant about 134 miles from Theodore, the central township of the first of the irrigation zones now available for settlement.



An Irrigation Canal at Theodore

Is an ever-present obstacle to steady progress from an agricultural point of view, and this has caused a swing of opinion towards conserving the waters of the great river systems, and thus making available vast areas of land that need only the life-giving water to make them generously productive.

Ultimately, there should be at least 5,000 irrigated farms and 2,000 attached dry areas in the Dawson Valley, each one immune from any fear of drought by reason of the enormous storage of water that will be available. At a conservative estimate the population of the townships and the agricultural areas will be not less than 50,000; so the importance to the State of this great project can be readily understood.

#### WHAT AND WHERE IS THE DAWSON VALLEY?

The Dawson River rises in the Great Dividing Range and flows through a tract of country situated in what is known as the Central District. Rockhampton, apart from Brisbane the most thriving city on the eastern seaboard,



Present Rail-Head, Dawson Valley Line

The Dawson Valley railway, now approaching completion, serves the whole of the irrigation areas, and good feeder roads provide facilities for travel and transport by the modern method of the motor. Travelling by motor from Brisbane, via Toowoomba and Dalby, Theodore is 350 miles from Brisbane.

As is the case of Southern California prior to the advent of irrigation, this district hitherto has been devoted almost entirely to cattle-raising. There are miles of rich river flats, soil tests from which have revealed good capillarity, ample humus, and liberal amounts of all plant foods. The vegetation is light and capable of easy removal. Above the river flats are higher lands which include scrub areas, plain country with scattered clumps of timber, and rolling downs. The soil is very fertile on all these higher lands, the growth of grass after adequate rainfall is prolific, and their suitability for the pasturage of stock is unquestioned. Apart from this, with irrigation by means of pumping from the lower-level canals, they can be made to produce seasonal crops in great quantity and under profitable conditions.

It is in truth a Valley of Promise; a land in which any farmer worthy of the name should make good.

In the matter of climate the Dawson Valley has many advantages. It is sufficiently distant from the coast to escape the humidity associated with summer heat in that part of the State, and to participate in the cool nights peculiar to inland Queensland near the Tropic of Capricorn. During the winter frosts are light and few in number, and in summer it is seldom that there is a day when the heat is not tempered by a gentle breeze.

There is an average annual rainfall of 27 inches, most of which falls in the four summer months, December to March.

#### A MAGNIFICENT PROJECT

It is impossible to contemplate the scheme by which it is proposed to convert the Dawson Valley from an unproductive and sparsely populated area into a prosperous countryside, without visualising at the same time the stupendous nature of the project.

All great engineering feats have their romantic side, for there is something about the immensity of them, the victory of human skill and ingenuity over the difficulties presented by Nature, which appeals to the imagination of the average man. When it is considered, therefore, that to provide against all contingencies in the irrigation of the Dawson Valley there is to be constructed the largest water storage in the world, it will be realised that the Government of Queensland is determined to spare no effort to make the project the success it deserves to be.



Irrigation Canal with Regulator, Theodore

The physical features of the country are admirably adapted for irrigation on a very large scale. Nature has provided ideal conditions for conserving water at a gorge – selected for the site of the main storage dam – which is situated towards the head of the river and about 30 miles below the township of Taroom. The narrowness and depth of the walls at this point permit the construction of a tremendous storage at a relatively low cost. When it is completed, the great dam – to be known as the Nathan Dam as a compliment to the late Governor of Queensland Sir Matthew Nathan, who took a deep interest in the scheme – will impound at least 2,485,000 acre-feet of water. The immense volume stored can be better understood when it is realised that there would be more than sufficient to supply Brisbane for over 50 years without any rainfall during that period. A further idea of the magnitude of the reservoir may be gained from the fact that 130 square miles of country will be submerged. This great storage is considered necessary in order to ensure the safety of the extensive areas of land which will ultimately depend upon it.



A Drainage Channel, Theodore

Some years hence, when the whole of the territory to be irrigated is ready for settlement, we will find, reviewing the scheme from its beginning at Nathan Dam, that from the great reservoir the stored water is delivered through sluices to a hydro-electric station, where electricity is generated for the production of power and lighting for the whole project. After leaving the power station, the water discharges down the bed of the river to secondary weirs, each of which forms the offtake works and regulators for the canals which supply the whole area by gravitation.

The irrigable area commanded by gravitation is from 100,000 to 150,000 acres, lying along both banks of the river for a distance of over 100 miles. Of a further 200,000 acres of higher land, portions of which will be attached to the irrigated blocks for stock-raising and general farming purposes, it will be possible to irrigate about 50,000 acres by pumping to the higher levels from the gravitation canals, the power being derived from the hydro-electric scheme mentioned above.



#### Fluming Water over Creek, Theodore

Probably it will be six or seven years before the whole of the available area of 150,000 irrigable acres is ready for settlement, but by that time production in a very considerable portion of the Dawson Valley should be in full swing. It is not proposed to delay settlement any longer than can be helped, for it is recognised that the sooner land is taken up the cheaper becomes the cost of completing the project. With this end in view, the scheme provides for five distinct zones of from 40,000 to 50,000 acres, each with its own township, and each

with its correspondingly large area of 'dry' country. It is the first of these, the Theodore Zone, that is now open for selection. As will be seen later in this pamphlet from a description of what is being done in Theodore, it is intended to give the incoming settler every possible chance of making a success of his work.

#### **THEODORE ZONE – THE FIRST SETTLEMENT**

The best way to realise the work that has been done in the Theodore zone, 30,000 acres of which are now available for allotment, is to visualise that section of the Dawson Valley district as it appeared in 1923.



#### Theodore Area in 1923

In those days there would have been traversed for mile upon mile a country wherein the only signs of life were provided by the herds of cattle which grazed along the verdant river flats or wandered among the scrub and upon grassy plains of the uplands. There was then nothing to indicate that in this locality the magic wand of irrigation was to bring into being pulsing centres of business life, pleasant homesteads, good roads, a railway; everything, in fact, on which there could be based the existence of a thriving community.

But what a difference today! No greater surprise could be afforded the traveller of three years ago than the sight which spreads before him as he approaches the central town by night. There on the plains, where he had watched the browsing cattle, the glitter of a modern electric system would greet him – the lights along the trim, tree-planted boulevards and building-bordered streets of the first model garden city of Australia. So would he come to Theodore, first of the zonal townships of the Dawson Valley scheme, created by the engineers and town planners who are carrying out the great project, and typifying the preparations which are being made for the reception of an important community.



Corner of Theodore Township, 1926

Theodore has been planned along the most modern lines and the determination of the administration is that nothing will be allowed to mar the beauty of design which the latest town planning methods have made possible. In many ways Theodore will enjoy conveniences at least equal to suburban areas around large cities.



Skirting one side of the area on which the township stands are the waters of the Dawson. Traversing the township from north to south there is a spacious garden boulevard, intersected at intervals by avenues which

have also been planted with palms and shade trees in such a manner as to lend a restful aspect to the general scheme. Certain of these avenues are designed to accommodate the business section of the town, and along the others will be the residences of the community. In the centre of the town is an oval, around which have been erected the residences for the accommodation of members of the Commissioner's local staff, neat and varied in design, and each situated on a quarter-acre block.



Another Corner of Theodore Township

The oval is laid out in lawns, in the centre of which stands a picturesque water tower, 50 feet high, from which the town water supply is reticulated. The lower floor of the tower is arranged as a bandstand.

Theodore is equipped with an electric supply system, current for which is generated at a modern power station on the bank of the river. The station also supplies power to the pumping plant which lifts the water for the irrigation of the 5,000 acres of farm blocks now ready around Theodore. For house and street lighting and industrial purposes, power is supplied from the same source.

Buildings already in existence include a large accommodation house for the convenience of intending settlers and visitors; a public hall with provision for picture shows, dances and public entertainments; a school with accommodation for 100 children; the local offices of the Commissioner, a post office, official and private residences, and shops. An up-to-date sawmill, controlled by the Commissioner, is operating at Theodore, and the whole of the timber required for building and construction purposes is cut on the spot at a comparatively low cost.



Settlers and Visitors' Accommodation House, Theodore

Large stocks of sawn timber are on hand ready for the time when they will be drawn upon for settler's homes and the other requirements of the areas.

It has been decided that in the erection of houses within the Theodore township area there must be no departure from designs that will tend to add to the artistic layout of the settlement. To this end, the Commissioner will only give his consent to building after the plans have been inspected and approved by his officers. Settlers are assisted in this connection by varied plans being made available if desired. By adhering to this system, it is hoped to foster the growth of a gem among country towns, and, when the other zonal centres are completed on the same lines and connected by rail and road, life in the Dawson Valley should be healthier and happier than in the crowded cities of the coast.



A Cottage Garden, Theodore Township

## THE FIRST 30,000 ACRES

## **373 Farms Now Ready for Settlement**

During the past three years the work of making ready the Theodore zone for farming purposes has been proceeding steadily, and 30,000 acres have been contoured and subdivided. There are 264 irrigated farms now ready for settlement, together with 109 dry farms. The latter include some of the finest grazing land in the State, and much of it is admirably adapted for agricultural purposes.

It is the intention of the Commissioner to allocate to any holder of an irrigation block who may desire it a proportionate area of 'dry' land, thus affording him an excellent opportunity of extending his operations to dairy-farming, lamb-raising, or the growing of seasonal crops. Dry farms will be provided with bores or dams on extended terms of payment.

The farm blocks now available radiate from the township centre, and are directly connected thereto by main and feeder roads which ensure rapid and easy transit for produce and stock from the farms to the railway station at Theodore. This section might be described as the inner circle of the Theodore irrigation zone.



In area the irrigated farms range from 10 to 24 acres. This, it has been proved by the experiences of other irrigation settlements, is sufficiently large for the convenient working of a property which is devoted to intense culture. Each block is designed as a 'one-man' farm, but there is no objection to two irrigated blocks being taken up by one settler, provided that he can show to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that he is able to handle the larger area. One dry block only will be allotted, even if two irrigated blocks are taken up by one settler. Furthermore, dry farms will be allotted only to holders of irrigated farms. The areas of the dry farms range from 80 to 500 acres.

## **Group or Family Farming**

There is an outstanding opportunity for the introduction of what might be termed 'family farming'. Assuming that the successful applicant for land has sufficient capital and one or two sons who are also financially strong enough to take up farms themselves, the holdings might be grouped so that they could be worked jointly.



There is no need to stress the saving in cost and labour or the increased efficiency of working that can be affected by such methods. This has been demonstrated elsewhere and under conditions not nearly so advantageous as those offered by the Dawson Valley Scheme.

In addition to the larger irrigated blocks, there are 25 farms of from 6 to 7 acres each which have been designed as workers' blocks. They are situated immediately adjacent to the township and will be taken up, it is anticipated, by those who are partially employed elsewhere, either in connection with the operations of the Commissioner or in factories and other pursuits within the area. These 25 'workers' farms are exempt from the condition of  $\pounds$  400 cash being held by applicants, and are opened to experienced workers who have  $\pounds$ 100 cash available for improvements. No dry blocks are attachable to workers' farms.



#### Canal and Regulating Weir, Theodore

The whole scheme has been designed as a gravitation supply, but until the Nathan Dam is completed water will be temporarily pumped from the river and carried by channels to a water outlet on each farm, and there it will be taken care of by the settler, who will distribute it according to the requirements of his property. The main canals and distributaries through which the water will be delivered have already been constructed, and all that remains for the settler to do after he has prepared his land for cultivation will be to construct his own head ditches which is a simple operation.

The combination of 'dry' and irrigated farming forms one of the most attractive features of the scheme; indeed, it is certain that a contributing factor to progress will be found to be the high quality of the land behind the river flats and not commanded by the irrigation channels. The road system in the Area has been laid out in such fashion that there will be connection everywhere between the irrigated and 'dry' blocks. No difficulty will be experienced, therefore, in shifting stock or material to and fro.



An Attached Dry Farm, Theodore; Note Herbage

Page 14 of 33

While the irrigated blocks are being utilised to their fullest capacity for intense culture, lamb and pig raising, wool-growing, or dairy farming on 'dry' lands will provide an opening for expansion which is the natural desire of the progressive farmer.

In all cases, settlers will be required to do their own clearing, fencing, ditching, and grading. The Commissioner undertakes to deliver the water by means of outlets from adjoining channels – of which there are about 50 miles – to the most convenient point on each farm. Such supply will be sufficient to irrigate the area within a given period. Clearing, as already stated, will not, on most of the farms, be a heavy or expensive business. Owing to the irrigated section being on alluvial river flats, very little grading of the land will be required.

#### LAND TENURE

#### How Blocks May Be Acquired

Whence will come the settlers for the first 30,000 acres of the Dawson Valley scheme? It is anticipated that, from inquiries already in hand, that the scheme will prove so attractive that no difficulty will be experienced in securing applications for the areas now thrown open. It is considered that the preliminary 30,000 acres at Theodore can be filled with settlers from Queensland and other Australian States, though, as operations are extended, no doubt numbers of desirable migrants will be attracted from overseas.



Another Dry Farm, Theodore

Each applicant before being allotted a farm will go before a board composed of executive officers of the Commissioner, where full particulars of his experience and finances will be recorded, and his suitability or otherwise for taking up irrigation blocks determined. On being granted a qualification certificate he may select a block or have it selected for him.

Allotments will be made on terms of perpetual leasehold; that is to say, the holder and the descendants have the title of the land in perpetuity, and while the conditions of the lease are observed it cannot be terminated, except of course, at the wish of the tenant himself. The leaseholds may be transferred with the approval of

the Commissioner, but in no case will this be allowed at an increased rental. In other words, the tenant may only sell the value of his improvements or tenant right.



An Example of Private Residence, Theodore Area

In the event of a settler being compelled to give up his holding for any cause, such as ill-health, and being unable to arrange an approved transfer, he may surrender his farm to the Commissioner. The farm may then be re-leased, the incoming tenant paying the Commissioner the value of the tenant right as above, the outgoing tenant then being reimbursed accordingly.

#### WATER RIGHTS

#### **Rental and Water Rates**

Every farm is entitled to a certain assessed quantity of water as a fixed right (known as the 'water right'), which is determined before the farms are opened for selection. The amount so granted is based upon the area of irrigable land. On areas with even a lower average rainfall than prevails in the Dawson Valley, 2 acrefeet of water is regarded as sufficient for agricultural requirements, but the scheme is designed to afford a supply up to 3 acrefeet, from which it will be seen that there is no likelihood of a shortage.



Crossing the Dawson by Cableway at Township Page 16 of 33 What is meant by '3 acre-feet of water'? The term represents the amount of water which would be required to cover an acre of ground to the depth of 3 feet, or, in actual quantity, somewhat more than 800,000 gallons. Of course, this is not used in one watering, but is applied at varying times as may be required, usually 4 to 6 inches being taken at one irrigation.

As to payment, there will be an annual charge of 30 shillings per acre for the irrigable areas and 2 shillings per acre for the 'dry' areas, this figure including all charges for land rent, water, and road maintenance. Be4ing on terms of perpetual leasehold, no land tax is payable by the tenant. This is an exceedingly low figure. For long it has been a contention against irrigation schemes that settlers have had to pay heavy rates, and that their holdings have been loaded with the interest bill for the costly work of building dams and canals, erecting pumping stations, and so forth. Where the Dawson Valley scheme rises above all others is that the interest and redemption upon the whole of the works will be based on a low expenditure for the comparatively large area served by the Scheme.



Commissioner's Sawmill on the Bank of the Dawson

Apart from this, as the national aspect of the Scheme is developed, and the State as a whole benefits from the Dawson Valley fodder reserve, the question must be faced as to whether the State should not contribute towards the interest and redemption charges upon the works. It is reasonable to believe that the Government may favourably consider such a proposal.

## FARMIMG AND FINANCE

## **Assistance to Block-holders**

It must be thoroughly understood by applicants for blocks that the Dawson Valley scheme is not intended to be a resort for the man without capital, who merely has an idea of becoming a farmer.

The first step towards progress will be made by the person who has the means and the ability to provide for himself and his family while he is getting his land ready for culture. It could not reasonably be expected that, after having provided farms at exceedingly low rental, the Commissioner would be prepared to 'spoon-feed' his tenants. In apportioning blocks, consideration will be given to this, and the applicant who can show that he has ample capital, and is regarded by the Qualifications Board as likely to develop into a desirable settler, will be given every consideration in the allotment of farms.

It is impossible to set a hard-and-fast rule regarding the amount of capital a settler will need; so much depends on the personal equation – on a man's experience, industry, and the style of farming he adopts. If he is able to do a fair amount of the preparatory work of getting his farm in order without calling in hired labour, the amount of necessary capital will be affected to that extent. The small annual charge for rent and water

rate sets the greater part of his capital free for the purchase of farm equipment, stock, seed, trees, and so forth, and for domestic requirements in the interim between his occupancy of the block and his first returns.

It is considered that in the case of a man with agricultural experience, who is in a position to do his own work, the min amount of cash he should have available is  $\pounds400$ . Without such experience, at least  $\pounds800$  would be necessary. As already mentioned, 25 small farms have been set aside as workers' blocks (6 to 7 acres) and will be allotted to workers with experience and  $\pounds100$  cash capital. Applicants without experience and without money cannot be considered. Such persons, however earnest they may be, would be burdens on the scheme, and there is no guarantee that under such a handicap they would ever make desirable settlers. Similarly, 'spoon-feeding' tends to develop a spineless community, and gives rise to a spirit of dependency on the State.

It is recognised that in some cases settlers will require a measure of assistance in the early stages of their tenancies, and to this end the Commissioner will finance block-holders on the basis of  $\pounds$  for  $\pounds$  on the value of improvements, with a maximum of  $\pounds$ 500 to each settler. In other words, a settler may expend  $\pounds$ 1,000 in the preparation and stocking of his farm, of which  $\pounds$ 500 would be his own money. Low rates of interest and liberal terms of repayment are fixed. As well, necessity for financial self-help cannot be too strongly stressed.

Improvements upon which advances may be made - erection of home & farm buildings, fencing, purchase of stock / implements, and other expenditure to make the farm productive. Advances will be made gradually as the block is improved and the capacity of the settler is made manifest. By this means he should be able to develop his farm and have sufficient means to provide for his family during early stages of settlement.

## **£** FOR **£** PRINCIPLE

#### How Money is Advanced

As illustrating the principle on which the assistance on a  $\pounds$  for  $\pounds$  basis will be distributed, let us take the case of a settler possessing  $\pounds$ 500 and desiring to take up dairying and pig-raising. It is assumed that he would provide his own labour for fencing, cultivation, and the planting of crops; apart from this his expenditure would probably work out as under:-

out as u	nder:-		in a		1000		£
20 5	pringing heif	ers at	£10				200*
20 5 8 b	reeding sows	at £5		• •		• •	40*
2 fa	arm horses a	nt £15					30
1 li	ght horse					• •	10
Har	ness · ·					• •	15
Car	t	••			• •		10
Plou	igh, harrow,	minor	tools				25
Mate	Material for fences and subdivisions						30
Seed	l			1			10
Dair	y buildings						50*
Sepa	trator, cans,	&c.	•••	• •	• •	••	50*
						-	£470
Smal	ll standard o	ottage	• •	• •	••		230
						-	£700
Com	nission					-	£
Cash	expond a	dvances	s secu	red c	n above		350
	expended 1	by sett	ler	• •			350
							£700

Page 18 of 33

Assuming that he had started with  $\pounds$  500, the settler would thus have a margin of  $\pounds$  150 with which to provide for the support of his family for the first year at least. By the end of the first year his holding should commence to pay its way.

In this total of £700, items amounting to £360 would be the subject of an immediate advance of £180 by the Commissioner, and the remaining items – those marked \* - amounting to £340, would entail a further advance of £170 by the Commissioner when the farm was in a position to commence dairying, probably within nine months from selection.

This settler would require an irrigable farm of 20 acres with 100 acres of 'dry' land attached. His land rental, water rates etc would amount to 30 shillings per acre on 20 acres of irrigated land, and 2 shillings per acre on 100 acres of 'dry' land, or  $\pounds$ 40 per annum in all.

## THE SETTLERS HOME

## To be Built to a Standard of Comfort

To assist settlers in the problem of housing themselves and their families, the Commissioner will make available plans of 'type' houses which it will be possible to build at a minimum of cost, at the same time preserving a certain attractiveness of design and interior comfort.

Permission will be granted to settlers to reside under canvas or in temporary dwellings during the first six months of their occupancy of their blocks. Arrangements should be made during this time, however, for the erection of a permanent abode, and only in exceptional cases will extensions of time be granted.

The building of expensive houses by assisted settlers will not be countenanced, as, until such time as the farmer is financially strong enough to pay for additions, a two or three-roomed bungalow house with wide veranda all round should be ample for average requirements. This class of building will cost about £350 and is quite suitable for the climate. The money which would be put into a more expensive dwelling can be made to play its part in relieving the settler of a drag of debt by being used for the purchase of stock or plant.



Small Type of Cottage at Theodore

Timber cut at the sawmill at Theodore will be available for purchase by settlers. Stocks of this timber have been accumulating for a considerable period, and when called into use will have been rendered suitable by thorough seasoning.

## THE SOIL AND ITS USE

#### **First-class Agricultural Land**

Soil analyses have been compiled from samples taken throughout the area. It has been found that practically every type is represented, from light sandy loams to heavy black alluvial loams on the river flats, with varying types of red to chocolate scrub soils of very fine texture and quality on the slopes. The soil analyses show good capillarity, indicating suitability for irrigated culture. The percentage of humus varies from fair to very good, the lime content is high throughout, and there are liberal supplies of mineral plant food available.



#### **Clearing Alluvial Flats in the Dawson Valley**

On the whole, the Areas may be classed as first-grade agricultural land, which is, by reason of the several types of soil represented, suitable for the profitable production of almost every kind of crop. The fertility of the whole Area is evidenced by the native timber and prolific growth of natural grasses, and instances of what can be done under irrigated culture are to be found at the Theodore Experimental Farm, where the crops planted have made vigorous growth.

## AN OBJECT LESSON

#### What to Grow, and Where.

At the outset, an Experimental Farm of 130 acres was established by the Commissioner on land that was considered as average of the quality prevailing on the Area. The Farm affords practical demonstration in all operations connected with irrigation farming, and also illustrates the suitability of various crops to the class of soil. This should prove of great benefit to new and old settlers alike.

It is not the intention of the Commissioner to dictate to the settlers what crops they should grow, or what class of farming they should follow. But when advice is sought it will be readily forthcoming. As far as possible, however, certain areas will be designated as most suitable for particular crops, but if a settler in a classified

area chooses to grow something different, that is his own concern entirely. It is obvious, however, that unity of action and co-operation in the matter of ideas is to the advantage of all.

Fresh fruit growing on an extensive scale will not be encouraged until such time as an export market is more fully assured. The production of essentials is favoured rather than luxuries that can be done without in times of financial depression. Fruits suitable for canning, citrus crops, and fruits and vegetables suited for

dehydration may be handled in comparatively small quantities. It is along the lines of growing proved crops and raising exportable commodities that success will lie, and farmers will not be encouraged to go in extensively for either experimental crops or untried methods.

In the Dawson Valley Area there are large, compact sections well adapted for the production of those crops requiring special soil conditions, such as lucerne, tobacco, cotton, rice, peanuts, potatoes, onions, and several varieties of fruit. The whole Area may be classed as suitable for ordinary fodder crops, including maize, millet, sorghums, sudan grass, wheat, and barley.

## SUITABLE CROPS

## Intense Culture and Mixed Farming



Cotton Section, Commissioner's Demonstration Farm, Theodore

Amongst the crops which are likely to be most suitable for profitable production on the Areas, might be mentioned the following:-

**Cotton**. Already the Dawson Valley in parts other than those to be served by the irrigation scheme has been proved to be particularly suited to the needs of cotton production, in spite of irregular rainfall. Therefore, with irrigation, the Area should quickly take rank as the most important and flourishing cotton-growing centre in the Commonwealth.

In Egypt, where admittedly the finest quality of the world's cotton is produced, the crops are cultivated entirely under irrigated conditions.

The average yield of cotton for the whole of Queensland in the season 1924-25 was 327 lb to the acre, whilst returns to date show that for 1925-26 it will be slightly lower; nonetheless, yields of 900 to 1,000 lb to the acre of seed cotton are reported from many farms on the Lower Dawson, and on the Commissioner's Experimental Farm one plot yielded at the rate of 1,640 lb to the acre.



Luxuriant Pastures on the Dry Farming Sections

While an average yield of from 1,000 to 1,500 lb per acre, which seems quite feasible under irrigated conditions, an excellent return is assured.

It may be said that any soil that will produce a good crop of maize will be equally suitable for the growing of cotton. As with most other crops, water is the determining factor between success and failure, and, as irrigation assures the farmer of a constant and well-regulated supply, the possibility of failure is limited accordingly.

**Rice**. Apart from the many well-known and proved crops, rice-growing is an industry which should have a promising future in the Dawson Valley Area. So far it has little or no standing as a crop in Queensland, though it was grown successfully by the Chinese in North Queensland fifty or more years ago, and also spasmodically by others ever since, sufficiently to prove its suitability to soil and climate. The chief reason why it has not expanded as an industry is, no doubt, lack of suitable water facilities for irrigating.

Rice has already been successfully grown on the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area in New South Wales, where approximately 1,800 tons were produced last season, and yields up to 140 bushels per acre were obtained. It is considered there than an average of 75 bushels per acre can confidently be expected. A bushel of rice is taken at 42 lb as against 60 lb for wheat, and, comparing the average of 75 bushels or 3,150 lb with the average yield of wheat in Queensland, say 12 ½ bushels or 750 lb., it will be seen that there is a wide margin in favour of the former.

To ensure success, most varieties of rice require more or less submergence, the degree of which varies greatly, but it is the one factor most subject to artificial control. It is clear, then, that rice is a crop essentially adapted for irrigated districts, where it may be regarded as one of the safest of the major crops.

The most suitable soil is a rich, silty, and fairly heavy loam, with an impervious clayey subsoil, which will hold the water better than the lighter loams. There are large areas of this class on the lower Dawson lands, typically suited for the purpose.

The total importations of dressed and undressed rice into the Commonwealth for the year ending June, 1924, were 31,688 tons, valued at £461,701, and there seems no reason why this quantity, or at least a considerable portion of it, should not be grown on the Dawson Irrigation Area, and the proceeds distributed amongst our own farmers. The climate conditions and assured supplies of water should render this locality more ideally situated for the production of rice than anywhere else in the Commonwealth.

Tobacco. This is another crop which should be grown successfully on the Dawson Irrigation Area.



Bottle Tree Scrub, Dry Area

Limited quantities have been grown in Queensland for many years, and it is difficult to understand why this profitable crop has not been produced on a much larger scale – at least to the extent of supplying our own requirements. Probably this is due to the very great care required in drying and curing the leaf and the necessity for uniformity in this respect; also the relative expense of erecting curing barns would be a deterring factor with many small farmers.

It is expected that tobacco-growing will be undertaken fairly extensively in the Dawson Valley, where large areas have been classed by experts as being suitable for the growing of good, bright tobacco. The Commissioner proposes to provide central drying kilns, where drying and curing will be carried out under expert supervision, thus ensuring uniformity of type and of methods of treatment.

Climatically, Queensland has certain advantages over other Australian States, and has given ample proof of being able to produce a high-class tobacco in great quantity. The most suitable soil for the growth of bestquality leaf is a friable, sandy, alluvial loam, fairly rich in humus, and with a high capillarity.



Dry Farming Area in Open Country

The subsoil should be porous and capable of free drainage. Moreover, to ensure its healthy condition, the crop must be kept growing at a uniform rate, and this can only be attained by thorough cultivation, and by supplying the necessary moisture to the soil as required.

All these qualities and conditions are available in the irrigated areas of the Dawson Valley, and there is no reason why the industry should not become one of the most important of the Area. The total importations of tobacco amount in value to not less than  $\pounds$  2,000,000 a year, which alone furnishes an indication of the extent of the local market.

**Peanuts**. Although the peanut cannot be classed as a major crop, it is well worthy of attention, and much more prominence might be given to it. As an industry it has been retarded by the ineffective tariff on the nuts, which permitted them to be imported more cheaply from such countries as China, but encouragement is now offered to the local grower by the high protective tariff of 6 pence per lb for shelled and 4 pence per pound for unshelled nuts.



The First Breaking on the Alluvial Irrigated Farms

There is a considerable and increasing demand for this product locally and in the Southern States, principally for the manufacture of oil and margarine, and also for confectionery and other purposes. The peanut is of great value for fattening pigs, and the vines make an excellent fodder for other livestock. It is one of the major crops grown in the United States of America, where the area annually planted is in the vicinity of 2,000,000 acres, and where it is justly looked upon as one of the most important of the world's oil-producing crops.

Apart from the value of the crop itself, it has particular merit when planted in rotation with other crops, such as maize, cotton etc., as a means of enriching the soil, owing to its power, common to all legumes, of absorbing nitrogen from the air, and restoring this valuable element of plant food to the soil. Peanuts do best on the lighter types of soil, preferably a well-drained, light, sandy, grey loam with a good percentage of lime, which class is well represented in the Dawson Valley. With such a soil, the nuts can be lifted readily, and yields of from 1 to 2 tons per acre of a clean, light coloured product should be obtained.



**Cutting Lucerne, Demonstration Farm, Theodore** 

**Lucerne**. Apart from the production of essential commodities such as cotton, tobacco, rice, butter, cheese, bacon, lambs, wool etc., one of the more important thoughts behind the scheme is to make the Dawson Valley the fodder reserve area of the State. This aspect of the project has been carefully considered in all its bearings, and no factors, financial or practical, have been overlooked which would militate against the success of this scheme within a scheme.

The project would be self supporting and, at the same time, state-wide in its ramifications. Here should be a very real and effective antidote to the ravages of the recurring droughts in portions of the State, with their consequent heavy financial and stock losses.

In such a scheme the production of lucerne, that 'king of fodders', which is so well known to the agricultural



Fodder Section, Commissioner's Demonstration Farm

community, would play a leading part. It should be mentioned, however, that the growing of lucerne or other crops under irrigation purely for sale as fodder is not usually profitable except in times of general drought. Feeding to dairy stock, pigs and lambs, and the conservation of any surplus for sale or consumption in periods of shortage is the safest and most advantageous use of lucerne.

**Other Crops**. Apart from the products which have been dealt with, there are many others which will repay attention. It must be remembered that, with direct rail communication between Theodore and Rockhampton, produce can be consigned to all parts of Australia and overseas. There will be a ready market for tomatoes, vegetables and fruit in Rockhampton and other central towns. Citrus fruits, figs and almonds have been found to flourish at homesteads near the Dawson Valley and broom millet, of a quality far superior to that of the imported article, has given splendid results on trial plots at the Demonstration Farm.



Fruit Section, Commissioner's Demonstration Farm (First Year)

## **DAIRY FARMING**

Probably no industry will benefit to a greater extent from irrigation than will dairy farming. Queensland has a foreign market for its dairy products that is constantly increasing, and home consumption is, of course, a most important consideration.

The Dawson Valley Scheme presents a splendid opening for the dairy farmer. There will be regular and ample supplies of feed available at all times, thus ensuring the output of the farm throughout the year, and also allowing advantage to be taken of the increased prices in the local market when supplies fall off elsewhere, owing to scanty herbage, or during periods of drought. Opportunities are offered for the establishment of this class of farming on the dry areas, with the adjoining section of irrigable land providing a guaranteed supply of fodder.



Fodder Section, Commissioner's Demonstration Farm

## FAT LAMBS – A Staple Industry

An inspection of the 'dry' areas attached to the irrigated farms indicates the wonderful grass-growing capacity of these lands. The abundance of grass is a matter for wondering comment. It is luxuriantly thick, and sufficiently high to hide mudguards of a motor car. It is a delightful country, with handsome clumps of timber which have been retained as shade trees, lending a park-like appearance to the wide sweep of plain and rolling downs.

Here is the opportunity for the farmer who desires to embark on fat lamb raising for export – a branch of sheep-farming which promises to be exceptionally lucrative. As an industry it has not been given much attention in Queensland so far, though in New Zealand, and to some extent in the Southern States of the Commonwealth, it is followed more profitably.



Grazing Farm, Dawson Valley Area

The grazing lands of the Dawson Valley constitute first-class sheep country, and lucerne and other fodders may be cheaply cultivated for fattening the lambs for market.

## **Striking Examples**

Some almost incredible results have been obtained by hand-feeding or grazing sheep on lucerne, and numerous instances can be quoted where from 25 to 75 sheep are carried to the acre. In this connection, the following extract from the "Sydney Mail" is if interest:-

'It may be mentioned that during the 1919-20 drought, when many thousands of sheep were lost and when valuable stocks of highly priced stud animals were threatened with extinction, this farmer (Mr A Purcell) provided accommodation for no fewer than 12,700 head – including 200 high-priced rams – on an area of his estate of a few hundred acres, and fed them successfully for 10 months on the lucerne cut from 150 acres. That 12,700 sheep could be fed for a 10 months on 150 acres sounds incredible, but it was done".

Another instance may be quoted of a demonstration which was conducted under the supervision of an officer of the New South Wales Department of Agriculture, near Forbes (NSW). The officer's report is as follows:-

"Early in October a paddock of lucerne containing 22 ½ acres was handed over for the experiment. That there had been no provision made beforehand is shown by the fact that just previously to this being a flock of 550 sheep had been depasturing on this paddock, and for the purpose of obtaining uniform and successive growth ten acres of irregular herbage had to be cut and carried off the ground. Two flocks of sheep, mixed sexes and all ages, one of merinos and the other of crossbreeds, were brought in from a back station where they were starving under drought conditions. 562 sheep from each of these flocks were put into two separate paddocks of 30 acres each, and a mixed flock of the same number into a similar third paddock. Neither lot had the slightest sign of edible vegetation within their enclosure, except what was given to them from the time they went in. The merinos were generally in fair store condition. Many of the crossbreeds were so weak that they could hardly crawl, but they were retained and included in the test from the consideration that such sheep would probably be found on any station in time of drought........The lucerne was cut daily and carted out to the sheep twice each day, thus giving 1,685 sheep two lots of nice fresh food daily. After cutting, these lands were irrigated, each as early as convenient, and by the time the seventh land was cut the first one was always ready again. The total loss by death was only one sheep. At the end of February the sheep were generally in good health and doing well; had a good growth of clean, bright wool, and had gained over 3 lb in weight per sheep, while the lucerne paddock contained as much feed for cutting as when the trial commenced".

These illustrations show the extraordinary results that may be obtained in this class of farming under irrigation conditions.

## PORK AND BACON

#### **Pig-raising Potentialities**

Throughout Australia, it has been found that the pig, if raised under proper conditions, provides the farmer with a not inconsiderable portion of his revenue. There need be no waste on a farm where pigs are kept, and there are not wanting those among the members of the farming community who claim that pigs are more profitable than cows. This may be an exaggeration, but it would be idle to deny that pig-raising as an adjunct to dairying is a remunerative branch of the business of farming



Standard Bore and Water Facility for Dry Farms

In such a district as the Dawson Valley, where lucerne and other fodders can be produced so cheaply and in such large quantities, the industry should develop into one of considerable importance. By the conversion of these fodders into pork and bacon, there is created an exportable commodity of considerable value for which there is almost an unlimited demand overseas, apart from requirements of the local markets.

With irrigation as an insurance, pig-raising, combined with dairy farming, will probably go far towards building up the prosperity of the Dawson Valley.

## THE SECOND STATE

## **Raw Material to Finished Product**

An essential adjunct of primary production is the provision of means whereby the results of agriculture may be transformed to the second stage of the marketable commodity. It will not be left for the settler in the Dawson Valley to entirely provide these for himself, for, coincidentally with the settlement of the first section of the Dawson Valley Areas, the Commissioner will make provision for the necessary plant for treatment of the more important produce. As the first 5,000 acres of irrigable farms in question will become the centre of a section of about 30,000 acres of irrigable farms when this portion of the full scheme is completed, any plant erected requires to be of a small character, with provisions for additions as they become necessary.

In passing it might be mentioned that, although the factories would be built and operated by the Commissioner in the initial stages, it is intended that ultimately these should be owned by the farmers themselves and worked on co-operative lines. When the number of settlers justifies it, small local elective

advisory boards will be constituted in each area. The work of these boards will be to promote the interests of settlers in the section, assist by advice and example, and help to co-ordinate the operations of the Commissioner with the work and aims of the settlers.

Naturally, in any such scheme as the one under review, the question of the disposal of the products grown under irrigation in such a large area cannot be regarded as being other than of the utmost importance.

Ever since closer settlement commenced in earnest about thirty years ago, 'over-production' has been the fear of the pessimists. The passage of time has proved, however, that by co-operative action no great difficulty has been experienced in the satisfactory disposal of products. Whatever the article produced, the first essential to a profitable return is the creation of a thoroughly organised market, and this matter is being given close attention by officers of the Commissioner.



Weir and Swimming Pool, Theodore

## SOCIAL LIFE

## What Irrigation Settlements Offer

One of the attractions of settlement on irrigated areas lies in the improved facilities it offers for social intercourse, which is usually lacking under ordinary rural conditions.

The comparative isolation and monotony of country life is largely responsible for drawing the younger generation off the land to seek occupation elsewhere, generally amid the brighter surroundings of the city. With closer settlement on a large scale this isolation will be non-existent, and the conditions will be largely reversed.

Numbers of city dwellers from all classes should be attracted, as well as experienced agriculturists, who will be encouraged, by the prospect of making as assured income under such congenial conditions, to make their home in this Valley of Content. The Dawson Valley Scheme offers exceptional opportunities for the building up of a home in a settled district, convenient to main towns, with a splendid climate, and with most of the conveniences and social advantages of modern civilisation.

In a few years the district should carry an extensive population spread throughout the farming and pastoral areas and the townships of the different zones. The country is not confined to a single industry, but offers endless opportunities to a community which will include factory workers, those engaged in the various commercial and industrial pursuits, officials and others. The usual forms of entertainment will follow naturally, and all classes of sport should be well represented



**Cottages of Various Types in Progress, Theodore** 



Main and Feeder Roads Throughout the Area

## **Experienced and Sympathetic Administration**

The successful settlement of any irrigation area is primarily dependent upon sound administration, and if this is based on broad, sympathetic and experienced lines settlers undoubtedly will respond to it. The settler is not merely a cog in a machine. On the contrary it must be realised that he is one of the determining factors of ultimate success or failure, and that the administration's duty is to assist, advise, and consider the concerns of its people, consistent, of course, with reasonable business conditions and the interests of the State generally. It will be found that these conditions are not lacking in the administration of the Dawson Valley Scheme.

## **DOUBLY SAFEGUARDED**

## Lessons from History of Irrigation

Bearing in mind the experiences of other irrigation enterprises, and profiting by the mistakes of the past, the initiation of irrigation enterprise in Queensland is doubly guarded, first by the application of modern constructional and technical skill required for such an extensive project as the Dawson Valley Scheme, and, secondly, by encouraging only proved and sound principles of settlement, which, though entailing a slower growth, are infinitely surer, and certainly of more permanent value to the State.

Out of the knowledge that has been gained through a careful study of the history of irrigation in Australia and other parts of the world have been formulated the principles upon which the policy of the Irrigation and Water Supply Commission of Queensland has been based, among the most important being:-

- 1. Land ownership limited to the amount which families and individuals can apply to a useful purpose;
- 2. Co-operation, with the associative ownership of factories and utilities;
- 3. Well-considered rotation and diversification of crops;
- 4. Scientific control of marketing, both export and local, with an assurance to the grower of a fair return for a first-class product; and
- 5. The production of proved crops and essential commodities which, even in periods of depression, are in regular demand both locally and abroad

#### CONCLUSION

#### **The Soundest Investment**

The Dawson Valley Irrigation Scheme presents itself as a sound investment for the settler. It will provide a career for his sons, and for his womenfolk a life that will be rendered attractive by its healthfulness and its opportunities for social pleasures. Its potentialities are self-evident – those who move forward with it will be progressing towards prosperity.

Coincident with the growth of Queensland's population must be a steady increase in the demand for the products of the soil; a demand which should find a ready response from the thousands of farms which in years to come will transform the Dawson Valley from Waste to Wealth.

Here also will be found the solution to the problem of how best to prevent the city-ward drift of the younger rural generation. Irrigation settlement permits of a condition of life which is far removed from the grinding, heart-breaking strenuousness too frequently associated with the working of a farm. Life is more comfortable, more opportunity is provided for recreation, and the home folk find themselves in a position to enjoy a freer and less irksome existence.

It must not be thought, of course, that the development of a successful irrigation farm consists merely of running the water over the land and then sitting down and waiting for things to grow. In no phase of farming – and this applies more particularly to irrigated farming – can success be achieved without hard work and a determination to get ahead. The man who farms with his head, so to speak, as well as with his physical powers, or, in other words, combines hard work and brains, is the man on whom Fortune will smile the soonest.



'Aeroplane Sketch' of Theodore Zone showing
Section 'A'(Model Garden Town of Theodore) and
Portions of Sections 'B' and 'C' (Farm Lands)

Page 33 of 33

PROGRAM OF EVENTS	ol open – times will be advised* ion ; of water tower in representing each year since 1924)	nds for caravans and tents, vans and coffee vans, Lions ns in and around Boulevard.
28th - 30th June 2024	<ul> <li>Arrive Theodore</li> <li>School and museum open for tours</li> <li>School and museum open for tours</li> <li>Catch up with friends and family</li> <li>Dance at Theodore RSL</li> <li>Venue: The Boulevard CBD Museum and Schoo</li> <li>QAS (QLD Ambulance Service) 100 Year Celebrati</li> <li>Street Parade with Floats - Boulevard</li> <li>Lunch</li> <li>Official speeches - invited dignitaries</li> <li>Official speeches - invited dignitaries</li> <li>Opening of Centenary walking track and unveiling</li> <li>Roll Call - School</li> <li>Boulevard Twilight markets - food and bar</li> <li>Boulevard - Turn on the lights to Theodore</li> <li>Continue to catch up - enjoy the town</li> <li>Venue: Junction Park</li> <li>100 km fun run - (100 individuals or groups to run 1 kr</li> <li>BBQ Brunch with Games from 1924</li> <li>Until we meet again</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>I Theodore, Theodore Sports and Recreation grou friends and family.</li> <li>Theodore Home and Garden, Xtreme Servo, food Club of Theodore, other community organisatio ull Ring, adjacent to Tennis courts, portable toilets</li> </ul>
100 Year Celebr	Friday 28 June 2024 6.30pm 5.30pm 9.30am 11.00am 12.30pm 12.30pm 12.30pm 2.00pm 2.00pm 5.30pm 6.30pm 6.30pm 6.30pm 6.30pm 7.00pm to late 9.00 -11.00am 10.00am Farewell	Accommodation: Hote Food: Hotel Theodore, <sup>7</sup> Toilets – School, The Bu
	Balter and the second	Dawson Bawson Briter Creek Creek VIC