Collection #1

1883 – 1923

Progress in 'Water'

Behind the Scenes

PREFACE: https://www.waterysauces.org.au/history/theodore/theodorepreface.pdf

'WATER' REFLECTS ON THE GROWING OF THE CASTLE CREEK / THEODORE COMMUNITY

REFLECTIONS BY THE WATER RESOURCES RETIREES ASSOCIATION (WRRA)

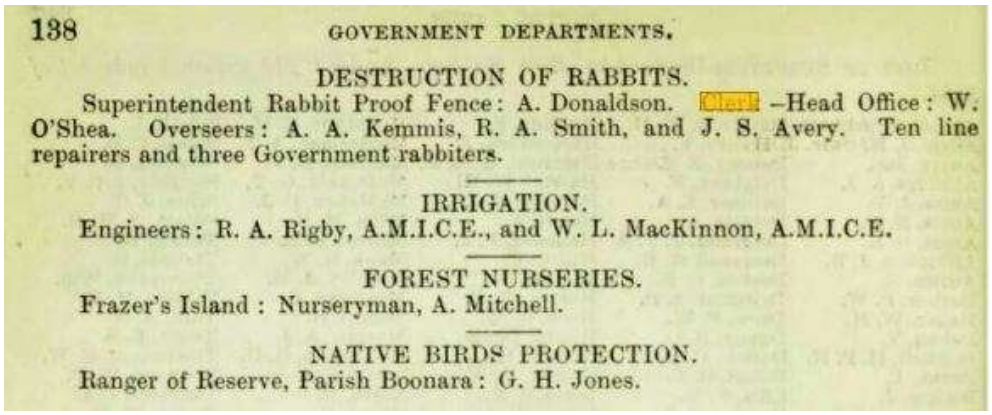
1883 to 1890 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON EARLY ASSESSMENT OF IRRIGATION PROSPECTS

(1) IN THE STATE

[Source: 'Watery Sauces – A People's History of the Water Resources Commission and its Predecessors 1881 – 1995' (Ian Pullar and Dr Margaret Cook)]

Irrigation (generally) was initially given little attention under JB Henderson ('Hydraulic' Henderson - Qld's first Hydraulic Engineer – appointed in 1883). Henderson appeared sceptical about its prospects. The Lands Dept was its advocate in the 1880's, driven by two Ministers whose constituents included large sugar cane plantations.



138 GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

DESTRUCTION OF RABBITS.

Superintendent Rabbit Proof Fence: A. Donaldson. Clerk –Head Office: W. O'Shea. Overseers: A. A. Kemmis, R. A. Smith, and J. S. Avery. Ten line repairers and three Government rabbiters.

IRRIGATION.

Engineers: R. A. Rigby, A.M.I.C.E., and W. L. MacKinnon, A.M.I.C.E.

FOREST NURSERIES.

Frazer's Island: Nurseryman, A. Mitchell.

NATIVE BIRDS PROTECTION.

Ranger of Reserve, Parish Boonara: G. H. Jones.

Extract showing some of the initiatives recorded on the books of the Land's Dept in the early 1880's

(Source: Pugh's Almanac)

Irrigation had commenced in the Logan River Valley in the 1890's, where the irrigation of fodder crops allowed consistent milk production from dairy herds and a more reliable supply of horticultural produce for the Brisbane market. Irrigation of sugar cane began in the Burdekin Delta in 1884 using surface water lagoons.

Despite departmental reluctance, in the late 1880's irrigation engineers A Rigby and W MacKinnon were commissioned to undertake investigations of potential irrigation districts.

[What transpired was production of fifteen (15) reports now of somewhat historical significance for irrigation prospects, covering various districts around the state. The reports comprised three (3) from Mackinnon and twelve (12) from Rigby, of which one of the latter dealt with prospects for irrigation in the Dawson district]

(2) IN THE DAWSON

[Source: Plains of Promise, Rivers of Destiny – Water Management and the Development of Queensland 1824 – 1990 (JM Powell)]

Extract from Chapter 4 [Blueprints for Cornucopia – The Rigby and Mackinnon Reports – P 59;
In 1889 and 1890…… the government published its own farsighted appraisals of potential irrigation districts. The engineers responsible for these reports were Messrs A Rigby and W Mackinnon, though JB Henderson had made a preliminary sortie before they were commissioned. Their analyses were generally unassuming and sober, and although set aside during the subsequent traumatic decade, they continued to enjoy a popular shelf-life in back-room circles, and were frequently consulted in the first half of the twentieth century.

Rigby produced 12 major reconnaissance reports covering an immense area. The principal rivers he examined were the Barwon-Macintyre-Severn from below Goondiwindi to Texas; the Balonne and Condamine and their

tributaries from above Warwick to below St George; the Warrego; the Albert and the Logan; **the Dawson**, Dee and Nogoa; the Burnett and Elliott; and the Johnson and Pioneer.

The Dawson lands drew some of the highest praise. In common sense language, Rigby alluded to the crying need for accurate river gauging, contour maps, rainfall data, and comprehensive hydrological surveys. He settled for practical, conservative descriptions of observed stream behaviours, estimated above-river heights of irrigable tracts, the importance of drainage works and the absorbent qualities of local soils. Apart from lauding the beneficial, silt-bearing functions of the Condamine floods – '*as good as the Nile waters'* – the only licence he indulged was his passion for timber weirs.

The emphasis on relatively cheap timber constructions was right enough for strapped times, however, and it drew upon successful international precedents. Late nineteenth century Australia was fast becoming littered with examples of the influence of water management practices developed in India under the British Raj, but in Rigby's case the immediate models were North American. The question of maintenance, so easily passed over in favour of construction details, was put forward as a primary consideration, and Rigby regularly identified the most convenient supplies of hardwood on or near the banks.

On the Condamine/Balonne, he supported the storage of water in off-stream billabongs and lagoons, their levels to be raised by appropriate structures and filled by diversions from the main watercourse. The principle was employed many years later in the St George district, in the operation of the Buckinbah and Moolabah Weirs; the potentials of the St George district and the site of the St George Weir were also recognised by this singular talent scout. For central Queensland, Rigby spotted a fine dam site above Emerald – now the site of the huge Fairbairn Dam – and along the southern border he ruminated on the prospects for irrigation along the Barwon at Goondiwindi.

The Dawson River lands were also favoured, and another generation of engineers would select that country for the state's first irrigation scheme.

The Potentials of the Dawson River – May 1890 – Summary by A Rigby (CE)

This river, the principal tributary to the Fitzroy, drains an area, including that of the Dee and Don Rivers, of 18,000 square miles, or one-third of the entire watershed of the Fitzroy River.

It may be described as flowing in a northerly direction through a large plain or basin, which contains few elevations in the vicinity of the river. The length of this plain, in the direction of the stream, or from south to north, is 187 miles, with an average width from east to west of 90 miles.

The river does not flow in the centre of this basin but considerably nearer to its eastern edge. Thus, the width of the country between its right or eastern bank and the Dividing Range is 20 and 30 miles only, while from the left or western bank to the Expedition Range is 40 to 60 miles.

It is important to notice this, as the best land for agricultural purposes lies within the narrow strip of country on the eastern side of the river, and extends approximately from below Cracow northwards as far as Mt Ramsay and the Cooper's Range, a distance of say 80 miles in length, by an average of 12 to 15 miles in width.

Most of this is open country with rich black soil of excellent quality, possibly decomposed basalt, and of volcanic origin. The country on the western side of the river is generally good pastoral land, but often sandy and inferior to the eastern side for cultivation …..

The main channel of the Dawson River is well defined, with an average width of about 220 feet and a general depth of 25 to 30 feet from the top of the banks to low-river level.

There is only a moderate fall in this river particularly during the lower part of its course, and this feature, together with the prevailing flatness of the adjoining country, accounts for the recurring widespread floods in this district.

There is general gradual fall in the plains towards the river channel and a large proportion of the best land is consequently beyond the reach of the recent or highest known flood.

Taking into consideration the above described formation of this river basin and the quality of its soil, I consider that this district contains facilities favourable for irrigation on an extensive scale, and I am convinced that a large quantity of water could be diverted from the river on to the land by gravitation through the requisite irrigation canals ….

Taking the rainfall over the area drained by these various branches at 20 inches, and assuming that, owing to the frequent absorbent nature of the surface, one-fiftieth only (or 2 percent) of this rainfall finds its way into the river and can be utilised, this quantity – after allowing for absorption, evaporation and waste in use – would be sufficient to give three waterings of 4 inches each on an area of 42,000 acres, and possibly partial irrigation on 20,000 acres more.

I believe that it is safe to assume that at least this quantity of water could be diverted by suitable weirs, with the necessary headworks above and below Taroom.

I advise that such weirs be built principally of timber, with their permanent sills as low as possible, and constructed with their upper portions of removable waste boards, so as to allow passage for the flood waters. Also they must have sufficient sluice area for flushing to prevent deposit of silt, and as far as possible preserve the flow of the river in its normal condition.

The cost of the works for this scheme ought not to exceed 250,000 Pound for the 60,000 acres irrigated – or 4 Pound 3 Shillings and 6 Pence per acre.

A proper system of gauges ought to be established for ascertaining the flow of the river past Taroom at different times of the year.

Extract from Chapter 7 [The First Irrigation Frontier – The Dawson Valley and the New Agency – P113]
After Rigby's 1890 report, the next major survey of the Dawson had been made 17 years later by Thomas Parker, under JB Henderson's direction. By Parker's remarkably restrained estimate, the construction of a small local storage would ensure the watering of about 405 ha (1,000 acres). The 1920-21 survey teams were much more positive. The selected dam site commanded a catchment area of 23,000 sq km (9,000 sq m) with an estimated average annual runoff of about 3.7 billion cu m (300,000 ac ft). It was judged sufficient to irrigate over 40,000 ha (100,000 ac), with the irrigable lands stretching from Delusion Ck. The state's new Hydraulic Engineer –Swedish-born Hugo E Eklund (1878 – 1950) – saw no cryptic message in the label 'Delusion Creek'.

In his first complete *Bulletin* of the Water Supply Dept for 1919-20, a confident Eklund indicated that funds had been set aside for further surveys and that a strong irrigation policy emphasizing new legislation, education and co-operation would soon replace *'the negative toying with the subject that had previously obtained'.*

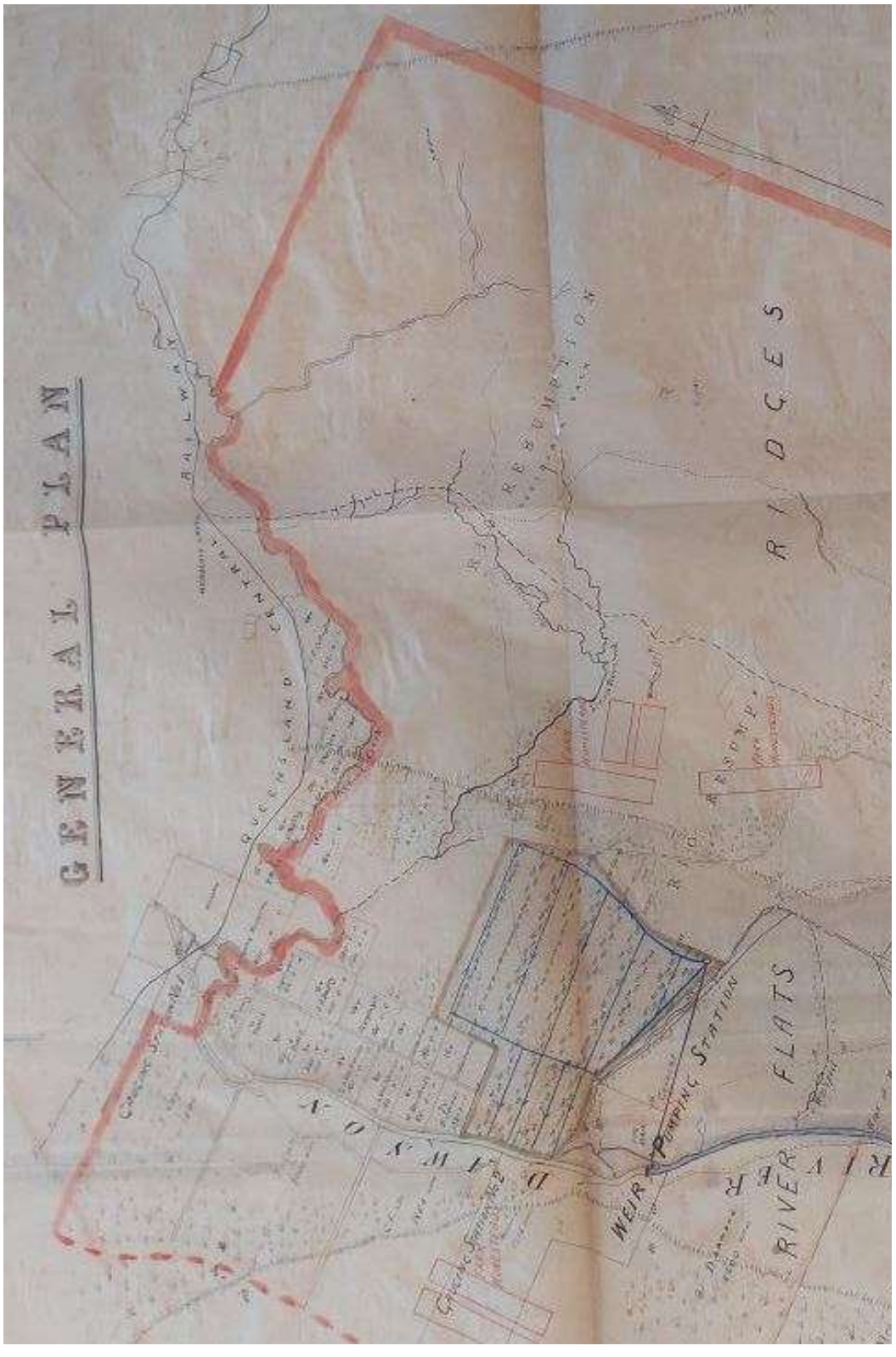
(Eklund's widely publicised 1919 *Bulletin on Irrigation Activities in Queensland* - featuring a section on the Dawson - is acknowledged as foreshadowing the eventual passage of the *Irrigation Act of 1922*.)

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

1908 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON EARLY IRRIGATION PROPOSALS LOOKED AT IN THE DAWSON VALLEY

(Source: 1908 Water Supply Dept Report; State Archives Refs # ITM 18370; ITM 809511)



VICINITY OF BOOLBURRA

This particular proposal lies within a property on the Dawson River flats just south of the *'Queensland Central Railway'*.

The proposal is 1 of 7 in the Water Supply Dept report.

Design features in the proposal include

- 1 weir
- 2 gauging stations (I US & 1 DS of the ponded area)
- 1 pump station
- Head ditch and furrows in the distribution layout

The eastern boundary of the property lies beyond the limits of the extract shown. It is referred to on the plan as follows:-

'Boundary of the Settled District under the Crown Land Alienation Act (1868)'

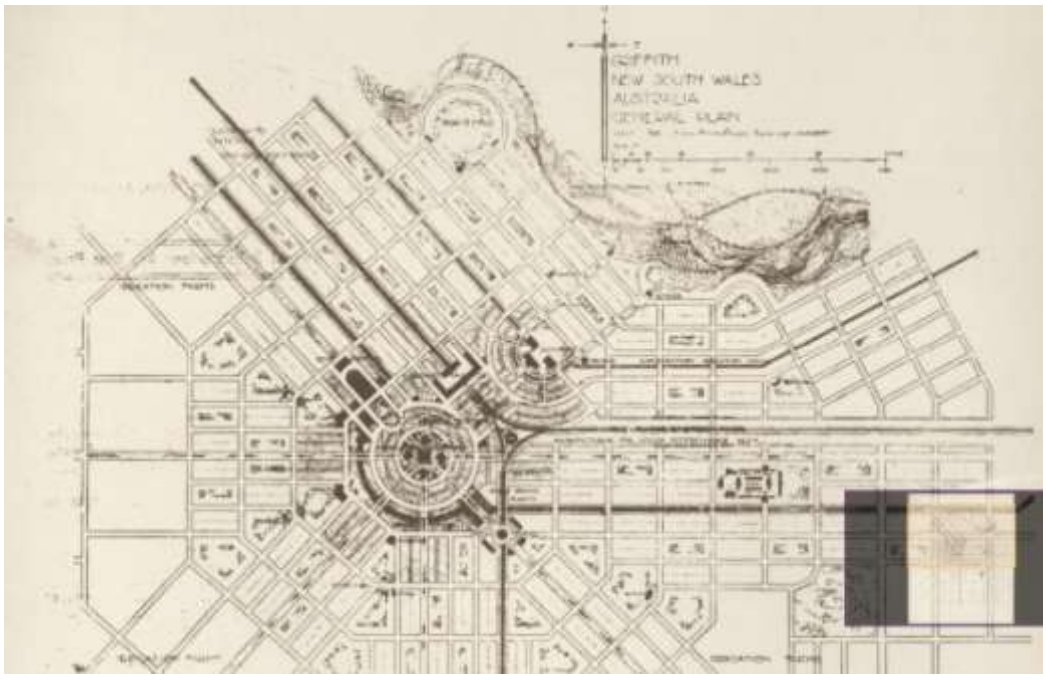
1914 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

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 the Burley Griffin Society has confirmed that Griffin had nothing to do with the planning of the township of Castle Creek / Theodore. 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 1925 Conceptual 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/.

(NOTE: A WRRA Scenario on the Planners of Theodore can be found in 'Recollections - 2025')



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'.

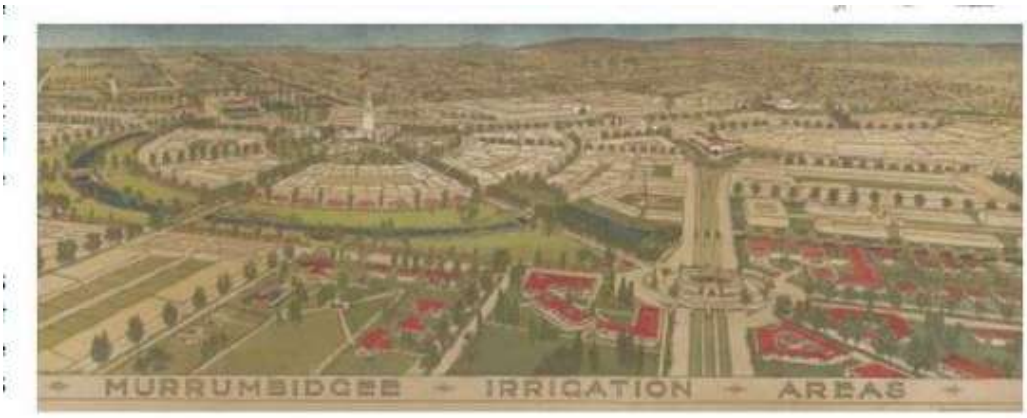


FIGURE 1: ORIGINAL PLANS OF GRIFFITH - WALTER AND MARION BURLEY GRIFFIN

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).

IRRIGATION RECORD

CULTIVATE IRRIGATE CULTIVATE

Published Fortnightly under the Authority of the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission at Leeton, New South Wales, Australia.
Address all communications to the Editor "Irrigation Record," Leeton, N.S.W.
Registered at the General Post Office, Sydney N.S.W., for transmission by Post as a Newspaper.

Vol. 3. No. 6. LEETON, JUNE 1, 1915. Annual Subscription: 3/-, Post Free.

The City Plan of Griffith.

BY WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN (Designer of Federal Capital).

General.—Griffith, so named in honor of tion for this very important section of the Areas.

1919 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON STAUNCH SUPPORT FROM PREMIER THEODORE

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

After moving 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 AWU in 1913.

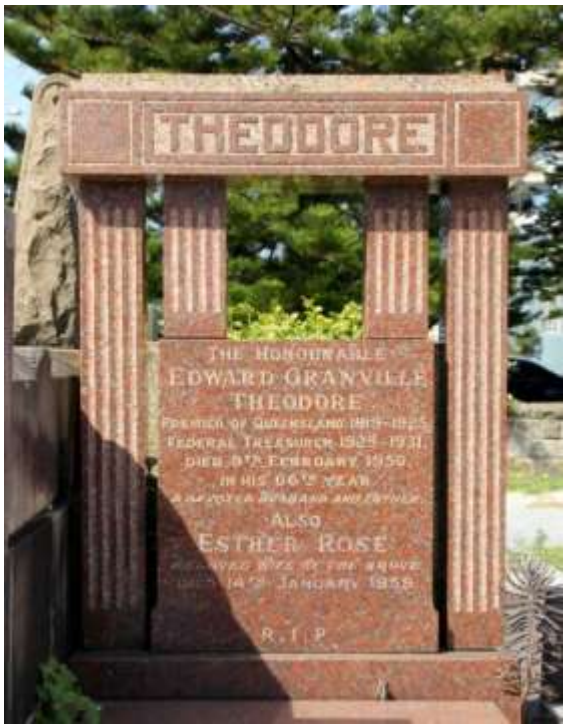
On 22 October 1919, he became the 28th Premier of Queensland, a position he held until 26 February 1925. He also led the Queensland Labor Party during that time.

It was Theodore who introduced the *Irrigation Bill* into the House and who as Premier saw the *Irrigation Act of 1922* assented to on 18th October 1922. Amongst other things, this Act held special local government provisions which enabled the Commissioner of Irrigation (Archibald Frederick Partridge - 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-queensland-premier

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

He earned the nickname 'Red Ted' Theodore because of his confrontational style whilst Treasurer of Queensland. After his resignation as Queensland Premier, Theodore entered federal politics and served as Federal Treasurer in the Scullin Labor Govt and at one time served as Deputy Prime Minister. After leaving politics, Theodore established and co-owned Australian Consolidated Press with Frank Packer, producing the first ever Australian Women's Weekly in 1933. Theodore died on 9 Feb 1950, aged 66.



Headstone above the graves of
Edward Granville Theodore
and
Wife Esther Rose Theodore
(South Head Cemetery, Vaucluse NSW)

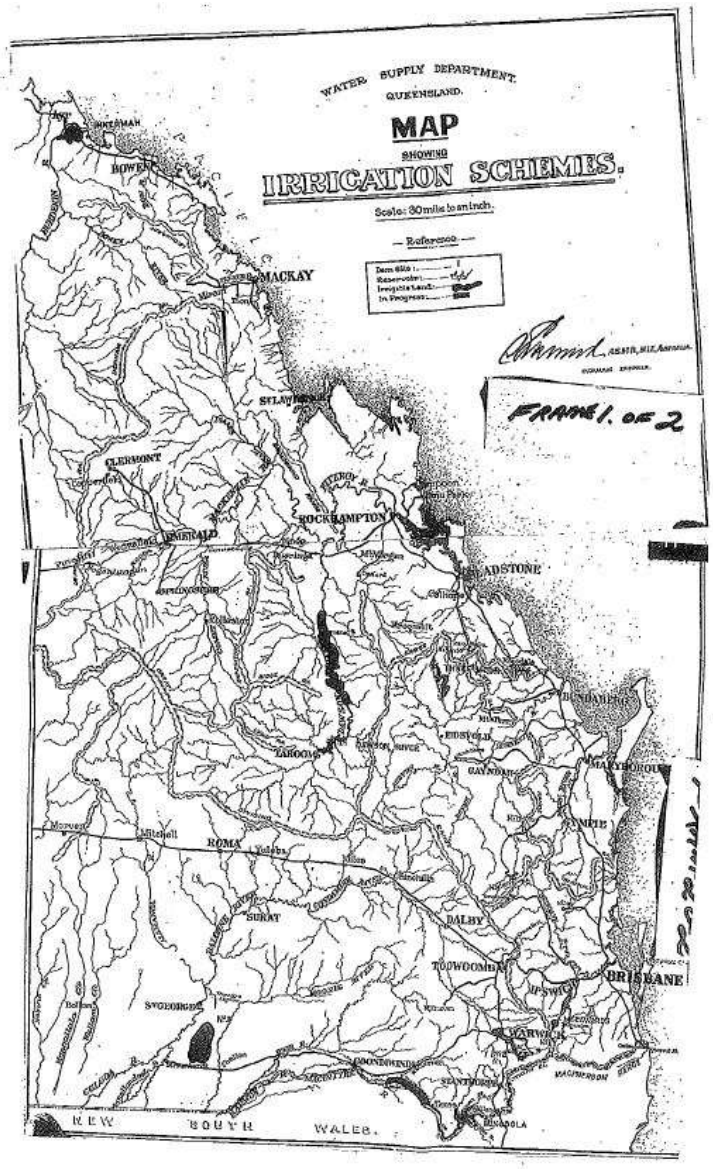
1920 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON PUTTING 'THE DAWSON' ON THE MAP

COMMISSIONER PARTRIDGE'S PREDECESSOR – HYDRAULIC ENGINEER HUGO EKLUND Some of the groundwork for Commissioner Partridge's 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

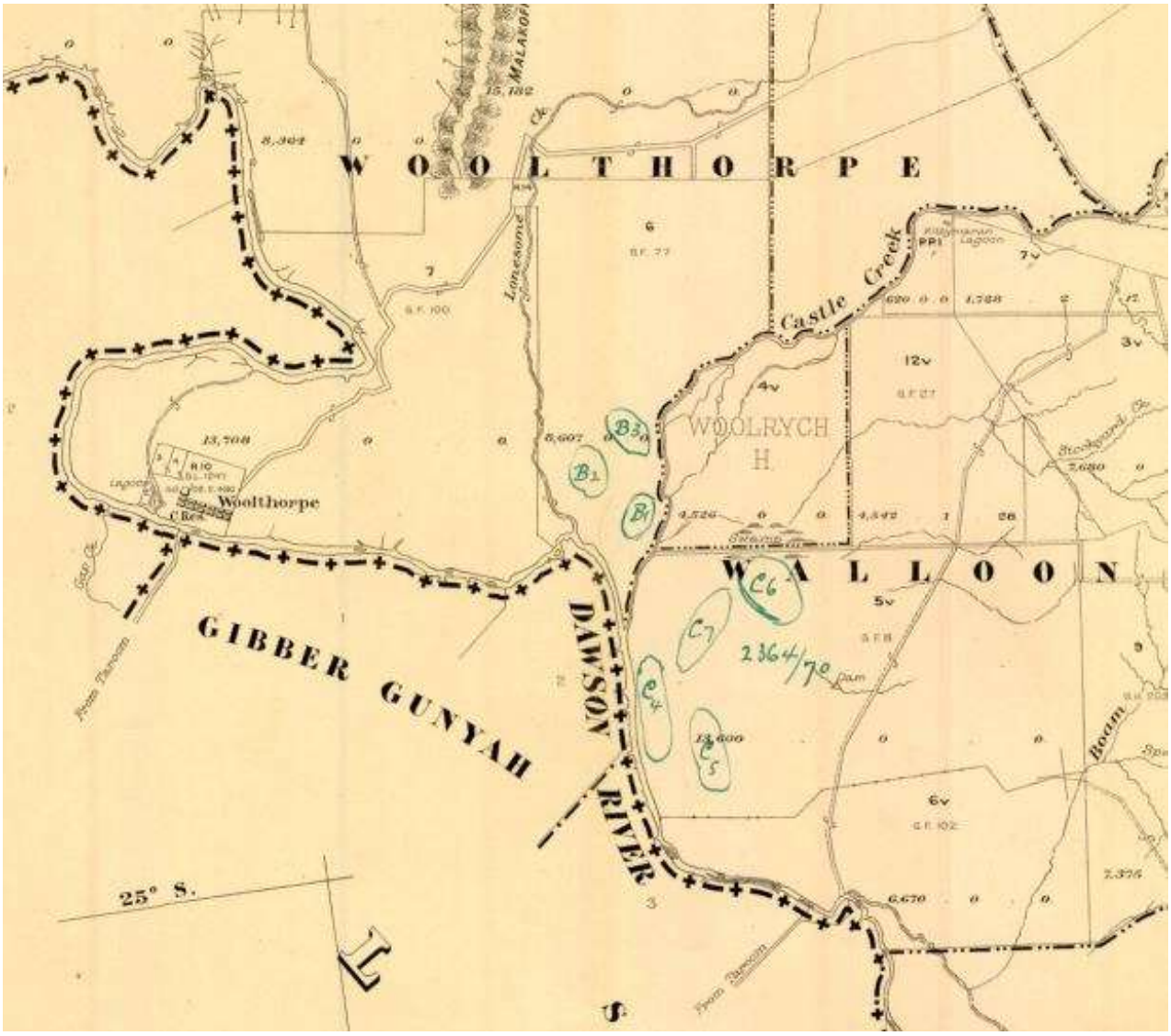


Location map of irrigation investigations in 1919/1920 in Qld – including the Dawson

(Source: Water Supply Department Report to then Treasurer Fihelly by the state's 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 - 'WATER' REFLECTS

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 Hume's 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 Hume's Pipes workforce (below**), a workforce he inherited upon taking up his appointment at the Hume's 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 Hume's 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 personally introduced into the House.

May 1922 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

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 conservation and irrigation on the Dawson has been the subject of several reports. In April of that year Mr. A. Morrison, engineering surveyor, reported on his reconnaissance survey. Later Mr. Ecklund drew attention to the hydro-electric possibilities of the scheme. As Treasurer and Minister for Works the matter came under the notice of Mr. Theodore, and he deputed Mr. Crowley, a Victorian engineer, to report on the hydro-electric aspect of the scheme. Mr. Crowley was enthusiastic from the cheap power that could be generated. He foresaw Central Queensland transformed into a great manufacturing centre. Other officers of the Hydraulic Engineer's Department likewise reported favourably. For once civil engineers found themselves in agreement.

The next step was the putting in hand of a contour survey, and the appointment of Mr. Shaw, an engineer connected for some years with the Yanco Irrigation Scheme. Mr. Shaw is in charge of the operations now and, with the possible exception of the Premier, is the one man who knows most of the inner details of the proposition.

The officer who knows most of the actual conditions on the river and the irrigable areas is Mr. F. Peate, the chief surveyor, who has been at work there for two years past.

August 1922 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

on *'BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME'*

(Source: https://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/qld/QldRoyalC/1922/1.pdf)

C.A.B. 11/8/22.

1922.

QUEENSLAND.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON PUBLIC WORKS.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION

APPOINTED TO

Inquire into and Report upon a Proposal to Extend the Dawson Valley Railway from Baralaba, the present Terminus, to Castle Creek, a distance of 53 Miles,

PRESENT THEIR

REPORT

Alphabetical Index to Witnesses.

Witness.	Designation.	Place.	Page.
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Peterson, James Christian ..	Member of the Legislative Assembly for Normanby Electorate	Brisbane ..	18-20
Sexton, Richard Ernest ..	Chief Engineer, Queensland Government Railways	Brisbane ..	7, 8
Shaw, Bowyer Edward ..	Assistant Engineer, Water Supply Department	Brisbane ..	1-7

ROYAL COMMISSION ON PUBLIC WORKS—PROPOSED RAILWAY EXTENSION FROM BARALABA TO CASTLE CREEK (DAWSON VALLEY LINE).

REPORT.

To His Excellency the Right Honourable SIR MATTHEW NATHAN, P.C., G.C.M.G., Governor of Queensland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

We, the Commissioners appointed by His Majesty's Commission bearing date the twenty-sixth day of April, 1918, to report upon all Public Works costing twenty thousand pounds (£20,000), and having received instructions from the Honourable Minister for Railways and Executive Council on the twenty-fourth day of May, 1922, to inquire into and report upon a proposal to construct a railway from Baralaba (Dawson Valley Line) to Castle Creek, a distance of 53 miles, beg now to report:—

We made a thorough inspection of the country to be served by the line, and traversed the principal areas included in the Government's proposed Dawson River Irrigation Scheme, as well as the country adjacent thereto. We also examined on oath, in Brisbane, Messrs. R. E. Sexton (Chief Engineer of Railways), O. L. Amos (Railway Surveyor), B. E. Shaw (Assistant Engineer, Water Supply Department), A. G. Melville (Under Secretary, Department of Public Lands), G. Morgan (M.L.A. for Murilla), and J. C. Peterson (M.L.A. for Normanby). We considered the advantages of the proposed extension on its merits, together with its bearing on the proposed settlement along the irrigation area, and unanimously arrived at the following conclusion, namely:—

RECOMMENDATION.

The proposed extension meets with the approval of the experts of the Railway Department (Engineering Branch), Lands Department and Water Supply Department. We therefore recommend that the Dawson Valley Line be extended from Baralaba, the present terminus, along the Dawson River, to the point "B" on Castle Creek suggested by the Railway experts, a distance of 53 miles (*Vide* "Appendix A"), at a cost of approximately £5,600 per mile.

We are also of opinion that the new railway should be considered as a link in a proposed trunk line to connect the Central and Southern Railway systems, between Rockhampton, *viâ* the Dawson Valley, Taroom, Juandah, and Miles.

October 1922 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON 1st SOD TURNED FOR EXTENSION OF 'THE DAWSON VALLEY LINE' TO CASTLE CK

https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/20579211

The Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864 - 1933) / Mon 23 Oct 1922 / Page 6 /

NEW RAILWAY.

BARALABA-CASTLE CREEK.

DAWSON VALLEY IRRIGATION SCHEME.

ROCKHAMPTON, October 22.

At Baralaba yesterday afternoon the Minister for Railways (Mr. Larcombe) turned the first sod of the Baralaba to Castle Creek railway, leading to the Dawson Valley irrigation area. This section, which is 53 miles long, is estimated to cost £360,000, inclusive of rolling stock. The next section will be from Castle Creek to Delusion Creek, a distance of 23 miles. A special train ran from Rockhampton for the opening ceremony, and was fairly well patronised.

In turning the sod Mr. Larcombe dwelt on the possibilities of the irrigation scheme. He attacked newspaper critics for embarrassing the Government in carrying out its schemes. Critics had castigated the Government for borrowing, but these developmental schemes could not be carried out without loan money: it could not be done by a magical process. Mr. Larcombe went on to say that the engineer and staff from the recently completed Mt. Edwards line would commence work on Castle Creek shortly. It

Queensland Railway's Construction Camp at Rannes – circa 1922 (Source: Public Domain)

October 1922 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

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.]

BE 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 Partridge's 1ST Term ran for an initial period of twelve months to 30 September 1923. Partridge's 2nd 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] was found in 'State Archives'. Commissioner Partridge was to serve out his Commission on 30 September 1929. [As the *Irrigation Act of 1922* made provision for reappointments of up to 5 years, it is possible that his last re-appointment may have been for a 5-year term]

October 1922 - 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON PARTRIDGE'S BACKING TO BUILD SCHEME AND TOWN

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

Irrigation Area to be a Shire.

10. Forthwith upon the constitution of an Irrigation Area, that Area shall be constituted a Shire within the 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

October 1922 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON LOOSENING PURSE STRINGS TO BUILD THE CASTLE CK SECTION

(5.) Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council, 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.

Dawson Valley irrigation.

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)

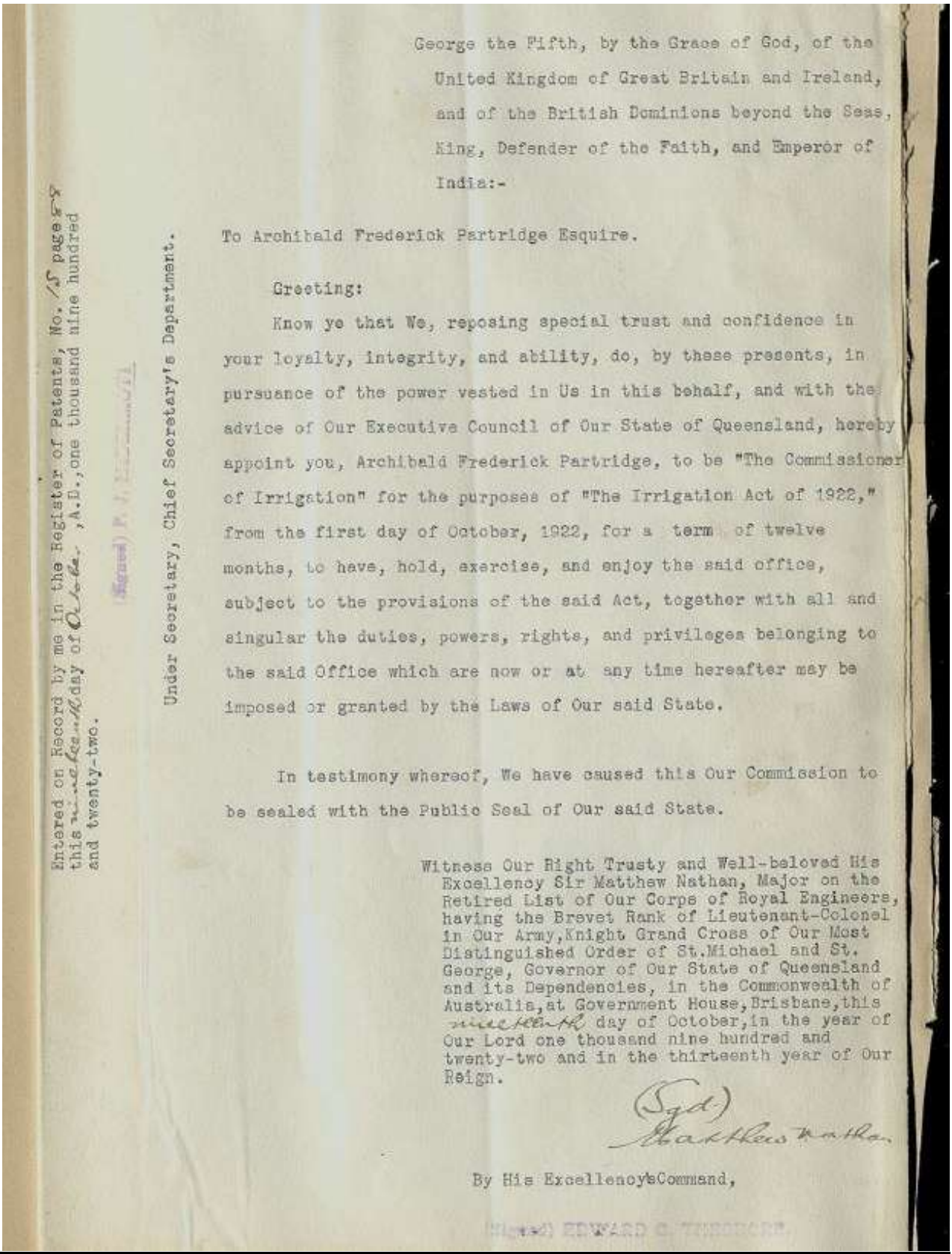
Inkerman NQ – Irrigation Channel under construction (L) and Moving of Earth (R) using 'Steam Shovel' (Hayward 'Orange Peel' Grab Bucket [IWSC – late 1920's])

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

October 1922 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

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 Archibald 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 Seal of Our said State.

Witness Our Right 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 Australia, at Government House, Brisbane, this nineteenth day of October, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-two and in the thirteenth year of Our Reign.

(Sgd.) Matthew Nathan

By His Excellency's Command,

(Signed) EDWARD G. THEODORE

Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department.

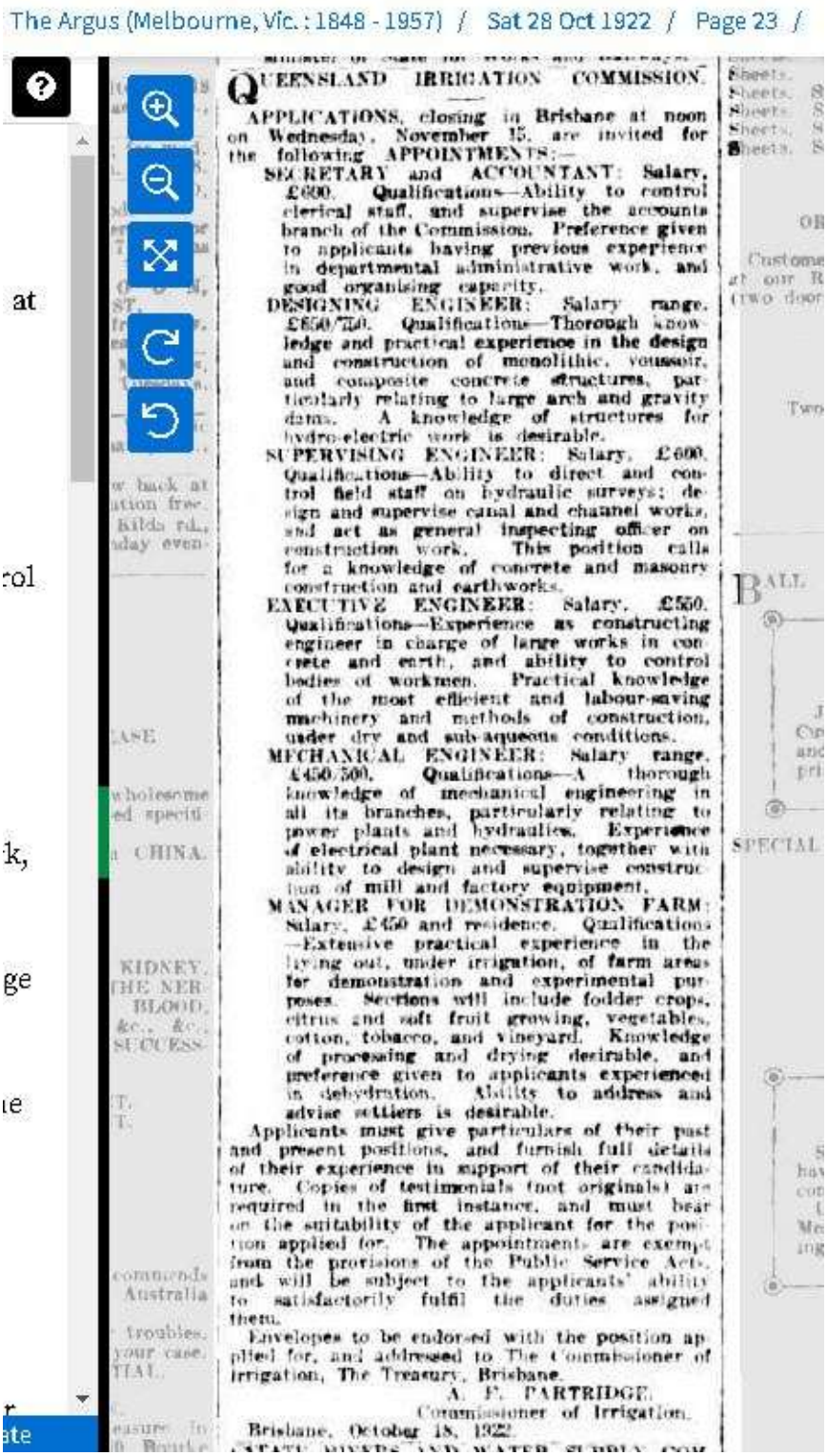
Entered on Record by me in the Register of Patents, No. 15 page 58 this nineteenth day of October, A.D., one thousand nine hundred and twenty-two.

October 1922 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON PARTRIDGE'S 1ST 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



The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957) / Sat 28 Oct 1922 / Page 23 /

QUEENSLAND IRRIGATION COMMISSION.

APPLICATIONS, closing in Brisbane at noon on Wednesday, November 15, are invited for the following APPOINTMENTS:—

SECRETARY and ACCOUNTANT: Salary, £600. Qualifications—Ability to control clerical staff, and supervise the accounts branch of the Commission. Preference given to applicants having previous experience in departmental administrative work, and good organising capacity.

DESIGNING ENGINEER: Salary range, £650/750. Qualifications—Thorough knowledge and practical experience in the design and construction of monolithic, voussoir, and composite concrete structures, particularly relating to large arch and gravity dams. A knowledge of structures for hydro-electric work is desirable.

SUPERVISING ENGINEER: Salary, £600. Qualifications—Ability to direct and control field staff on hydraulic surveys; design and supervise canal and channel works, and act as general inspecting officer on construction work. This position calls for a knowledge of concrete and masonry construction and earthworks.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER: Salary, £550. Qualifications—Experience as constructing engineer in charge of large works in concrete and earth, and ability to control bodies of workmen. Practical knowledge of the most efficient and labour-saving machinery and methods of construction, under dry and sub-aqueous conditions.

MECHANICAL ENGINEER: Salary range, £450/500. Qualifications—A thorough knowledge of mechanical engineering in all its branches, particularly relating to power plants and hydraulics. Experience of electrical plant necessary, together with ability to design and supervise construction of mill and factory equipment.

MANAGER FOR DEMONSTRATION FARM: Salary, £450 and residence. Qualifications—Extensive practical experience in the laying out, under irrigation, of farm areas for demonstration and experimental purposes. Sections will include fodder crops, citrus and soft fruit growing, vegetables, cotton, tobacco, and vineyard. Knowledge of processing and drying desirable, and preference given to applicants experienced in dehydration. Ability to address and advise settlers is desirable.

Applicants must give particulars of their past and present positions, and furnish full details of their experience in support of their candidature. Copies of testimonials (not originals) are required in the first instance, and must bear on the suitability of the applicant for the position applied for. The appointments are exempt from the provisions of the Public Service Acts, and will be subject to the applicants' ability to satisfactorily fulfil the duties assigned them.

Envelopes to be endorsed with the position applied for, and addressed to The Commissioner of Irrigation, The Treasury, Brisbane.

A. F. PARTRIDGE,
Commissioner of Irrigation.

Brisbane, October 18, 1922.

November 1922 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

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):-

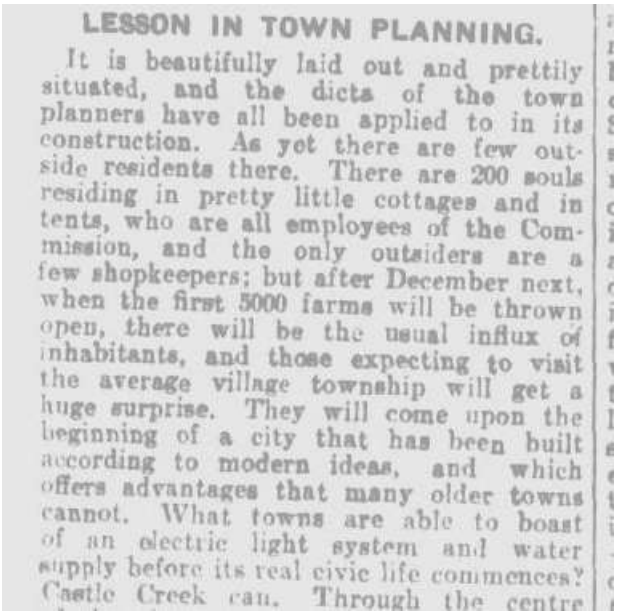
https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/20582606/1615339 *'Serious consideration will also require to be given to the control of the growth of new townships which must inevitably come into future existence consequent on the consummation of the extensive irrigation schemes proposed to be established 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.

In terms of who may have designed/planned Theodore, the WRRA has written up a scenario in 'Recollections 2025' on who could have been the key players in the planning of the Township (namely Water Supply Department Officers - Engineer Bowyer Shaw & Authorised Surveyor Eric Peart - and Premier Theodore himself). 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(s) were 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 dicta 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 Commission, and the only outsiders are a few shopkeepers; but after December next, when the first 5000 farms will be thrown open, there will be the usual influx of 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 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

THEODORE – 'MODEL GARDEN TOWNSHIP'

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

https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/177771686

a reasonable supply of water underground.

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 are of neat and varied design, and are comfortably situated on 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 130 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 alike. A portion of the farm has been 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])

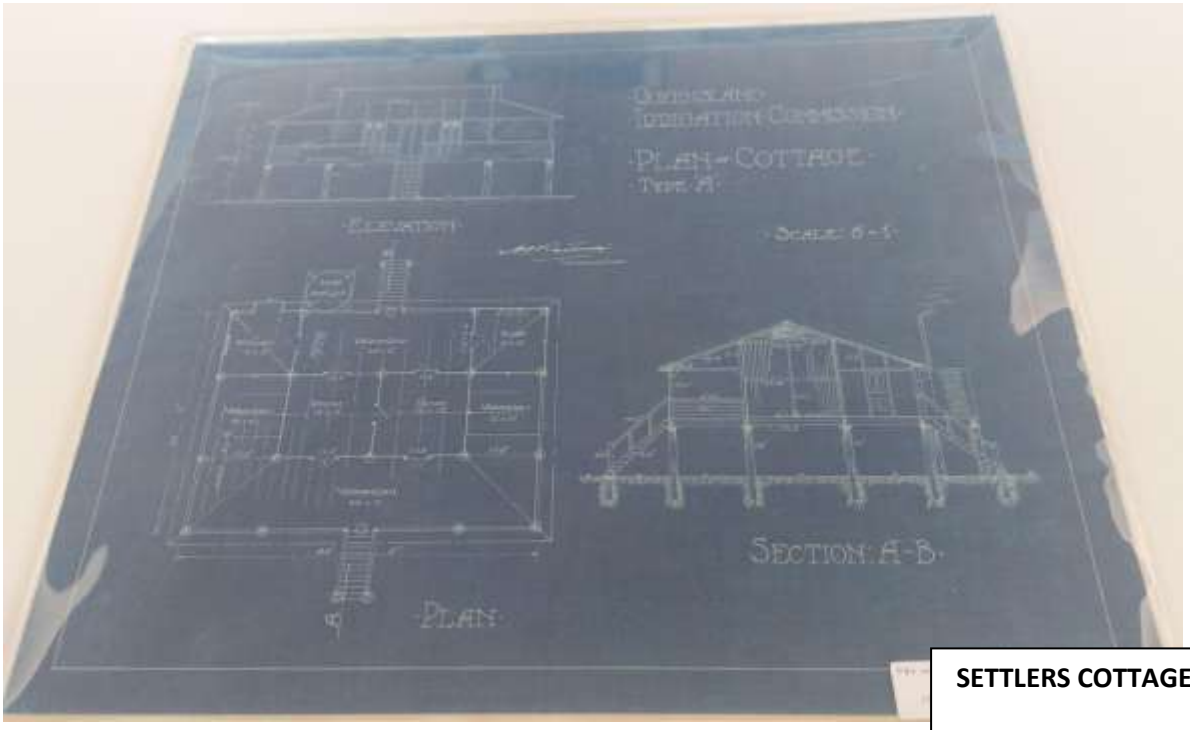
https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/253954991

rling 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 possible. When completed, Thedore will 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, intersected 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.

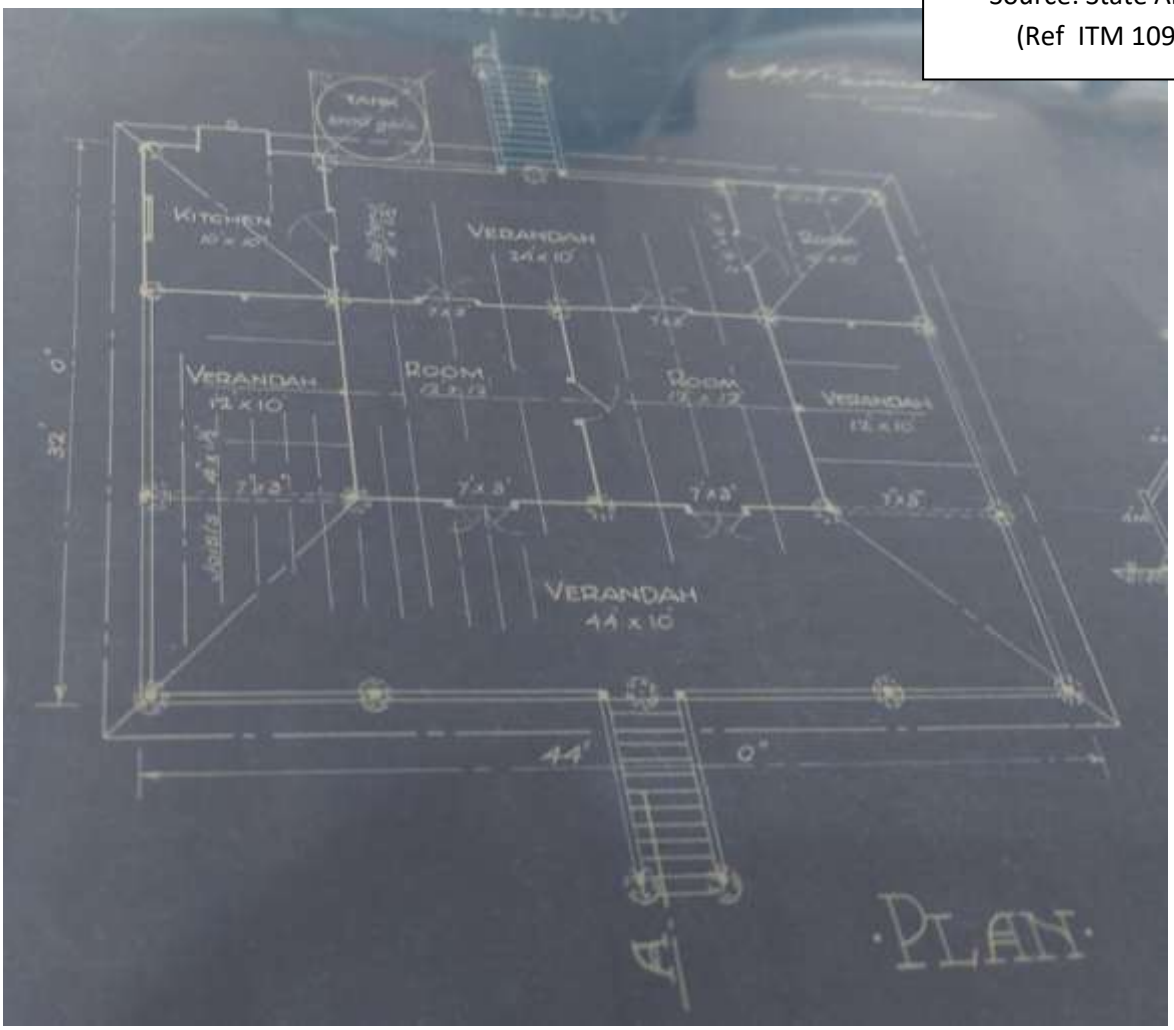
November 1922 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

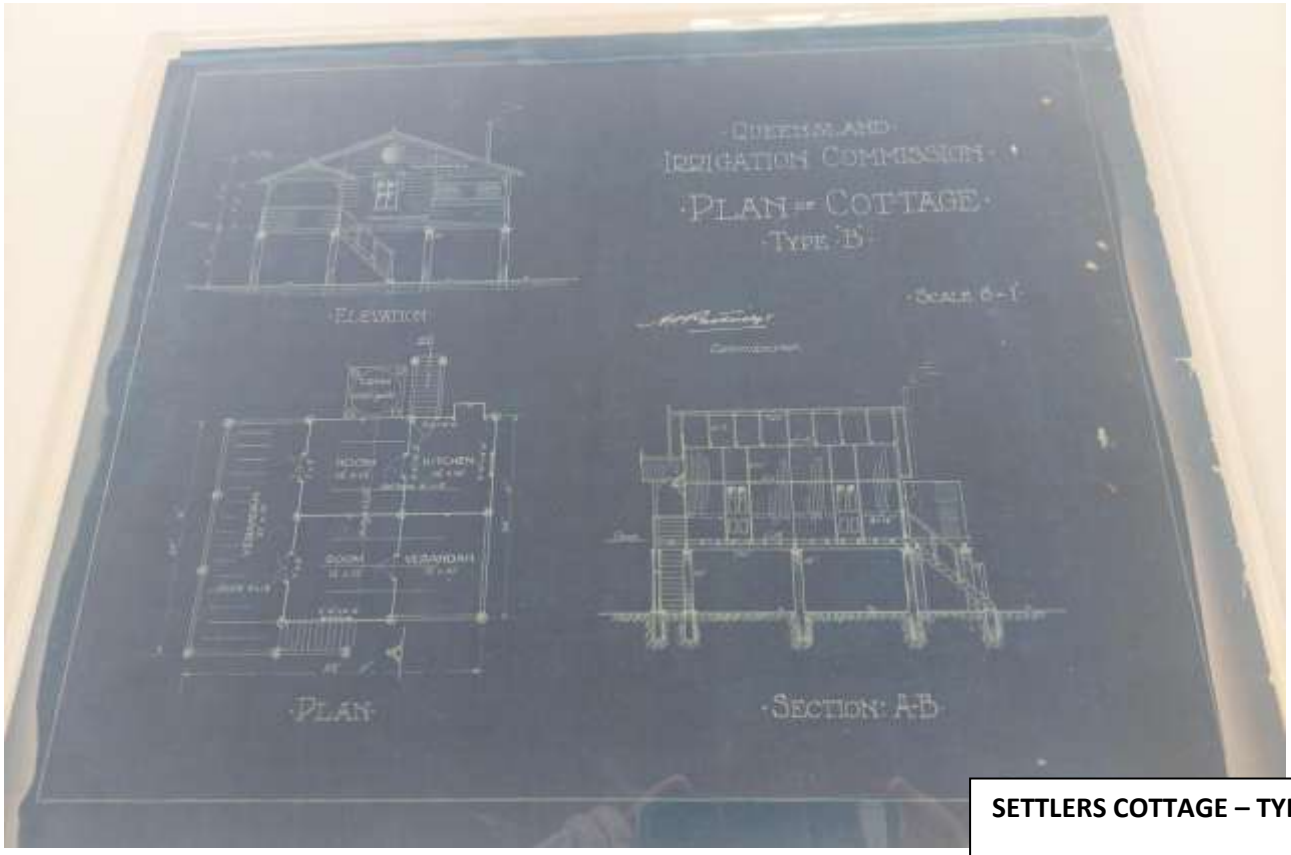
ON IRRIGATION COMMISSION DESIGNS OF SETTLERS COTTAGES



SETTLERS COTTAGE – TYPE A

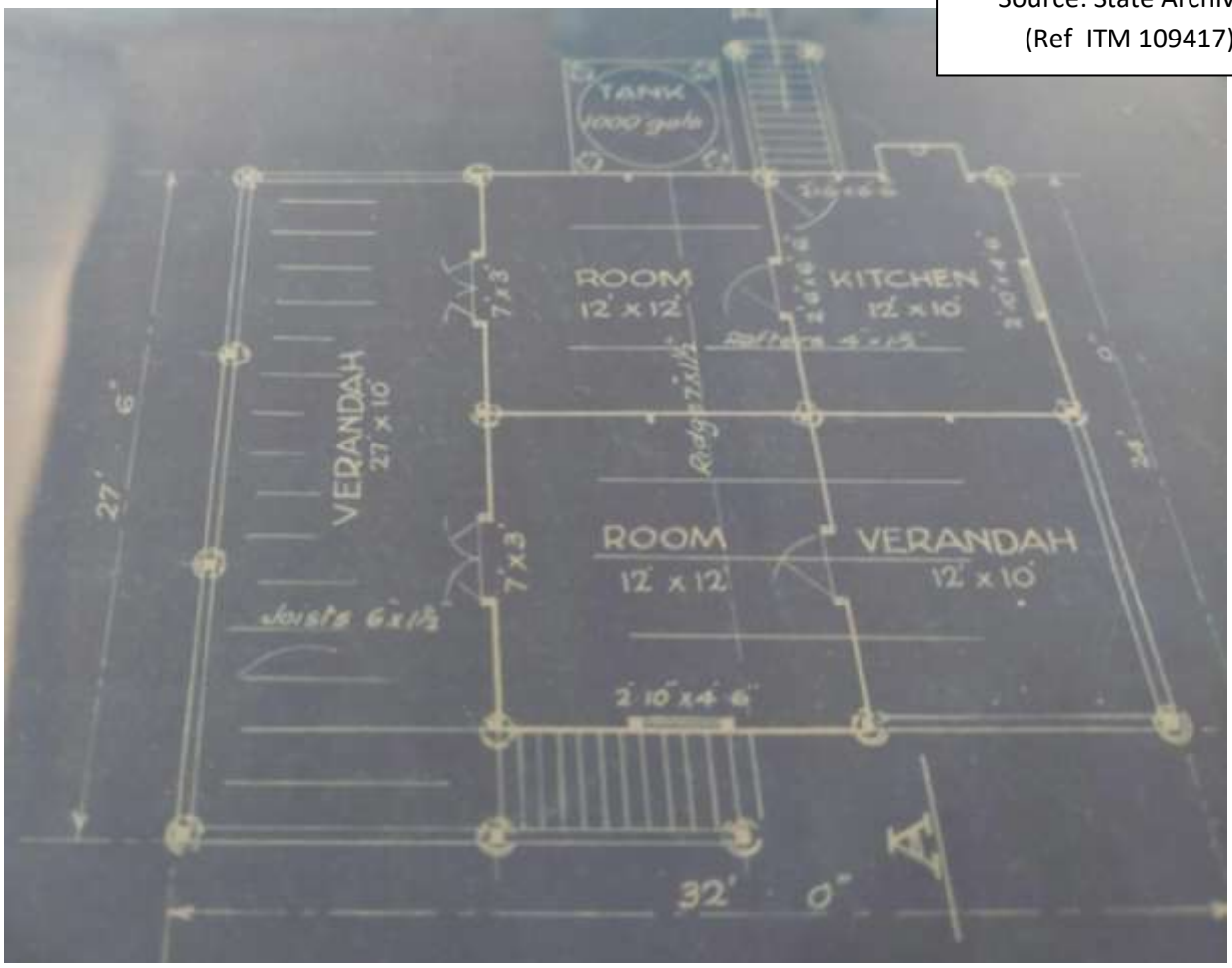
Source: State Archives
(Ref ITM 109416)

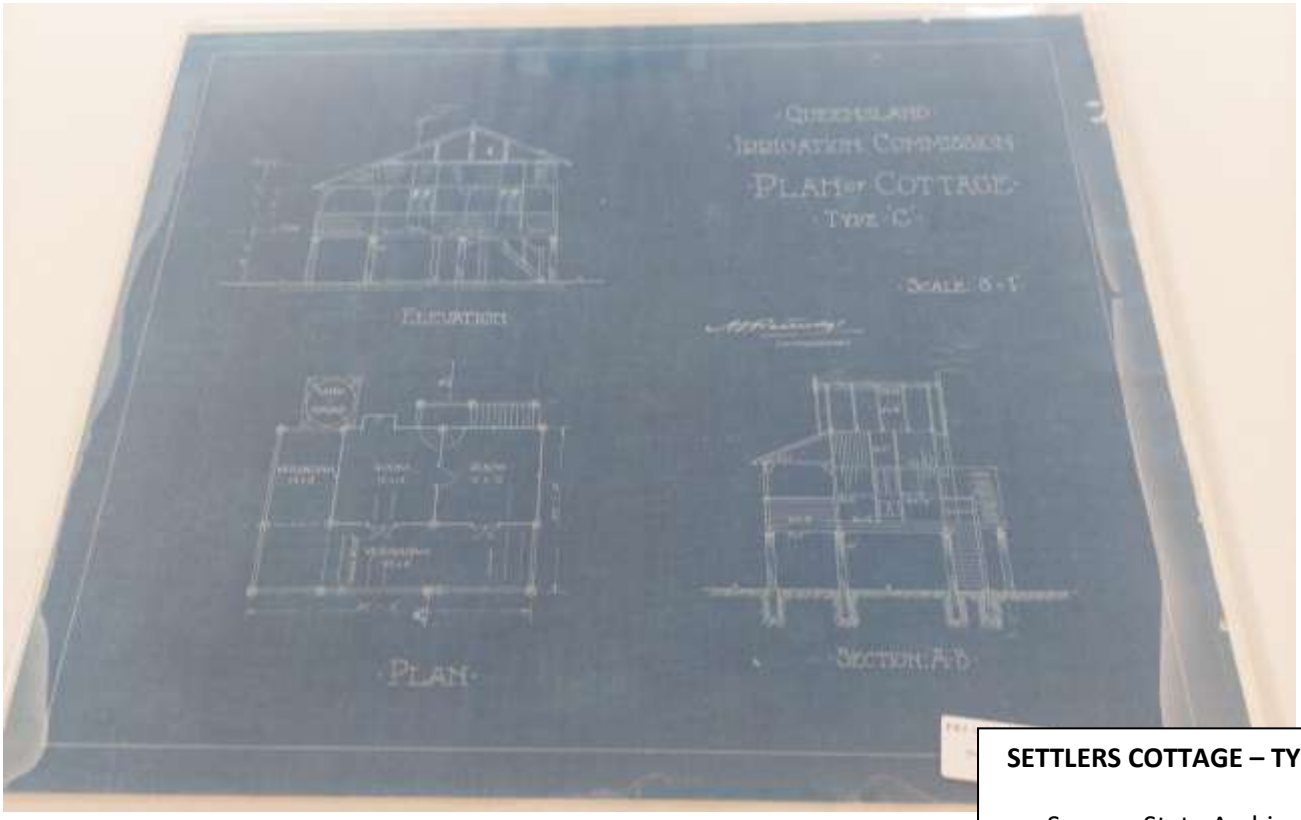




SETTLERS COTTAGE – TYPE B

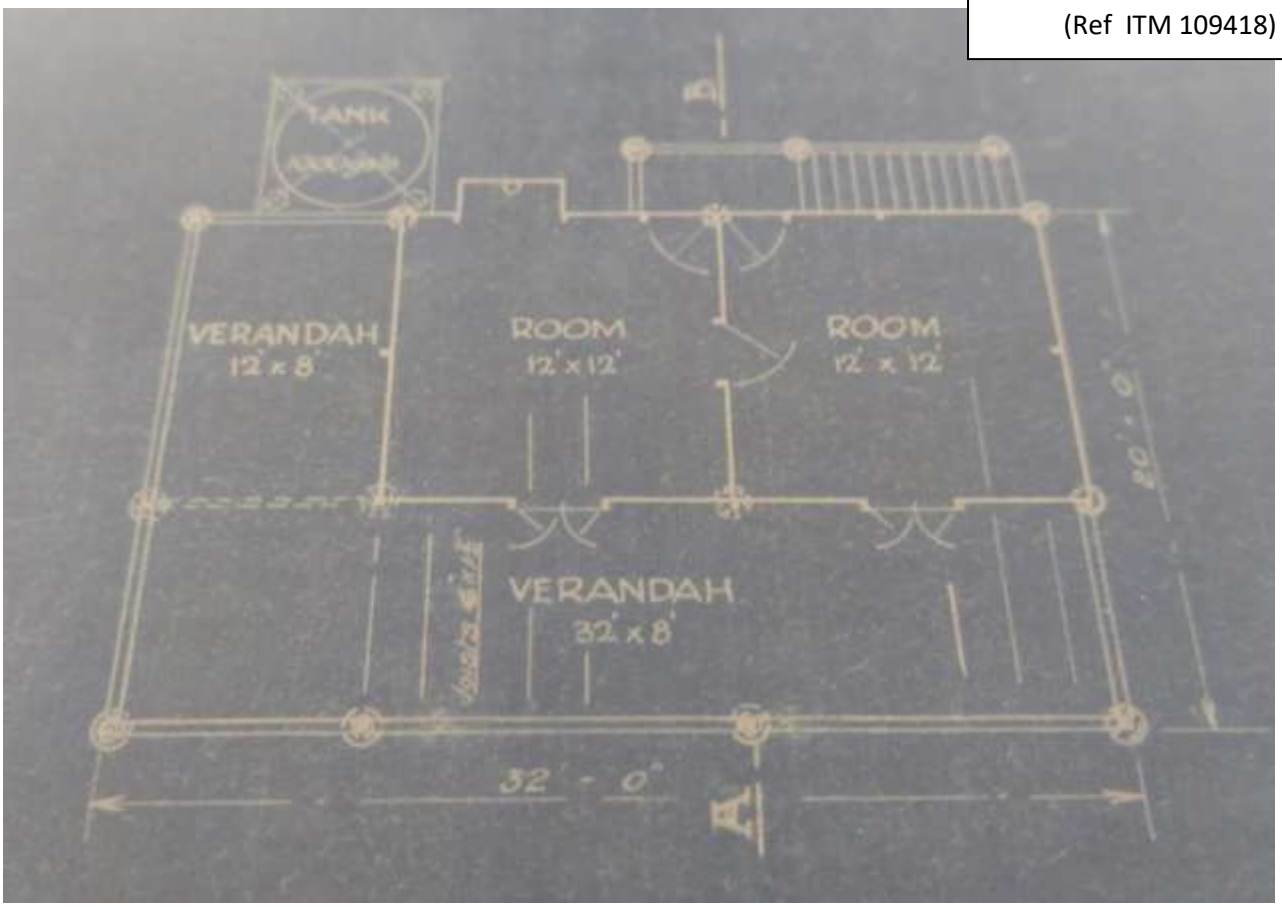
Source: State Archives
(Ref ITM 109417)

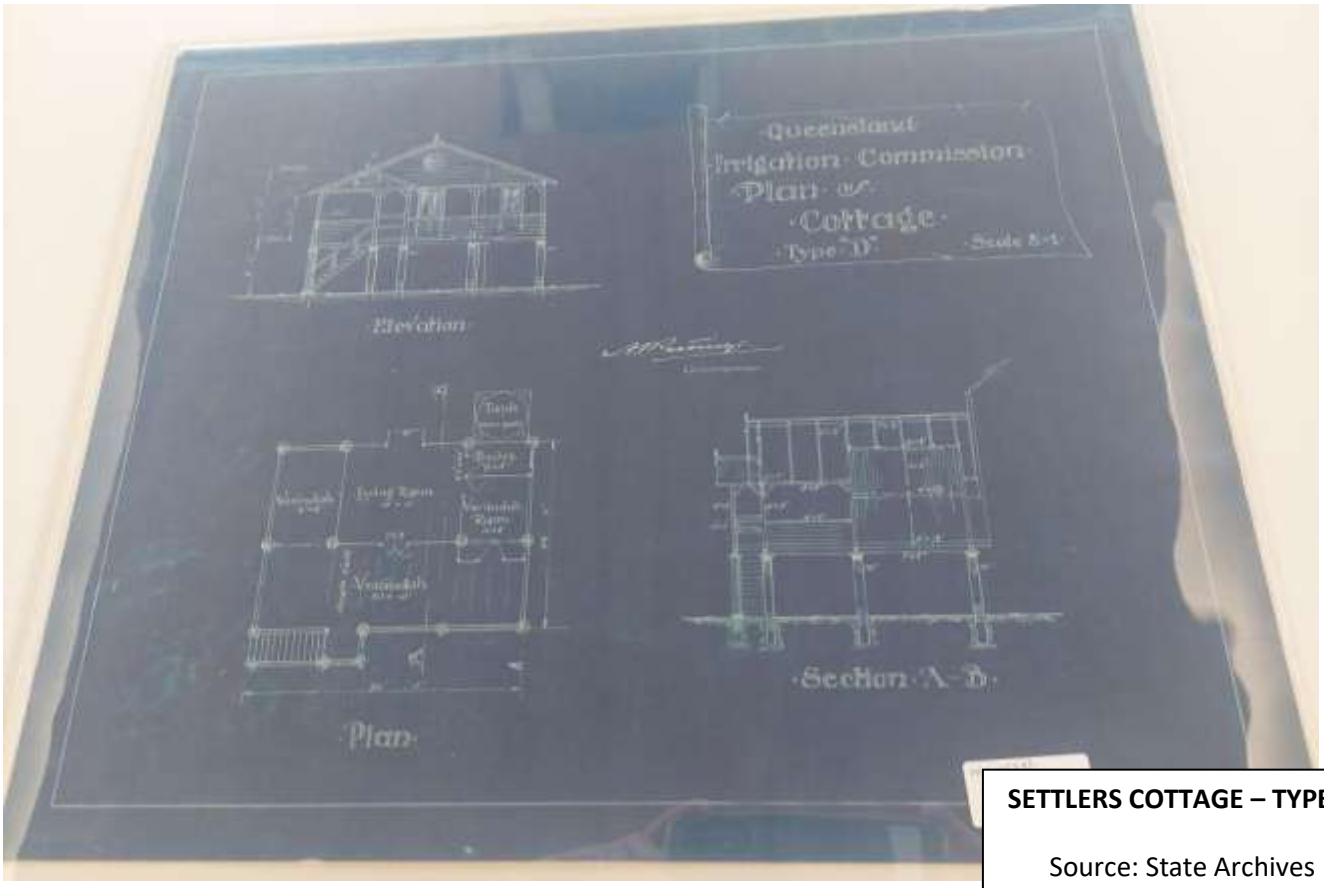




SETTLERS COTTAGE – TYPE C

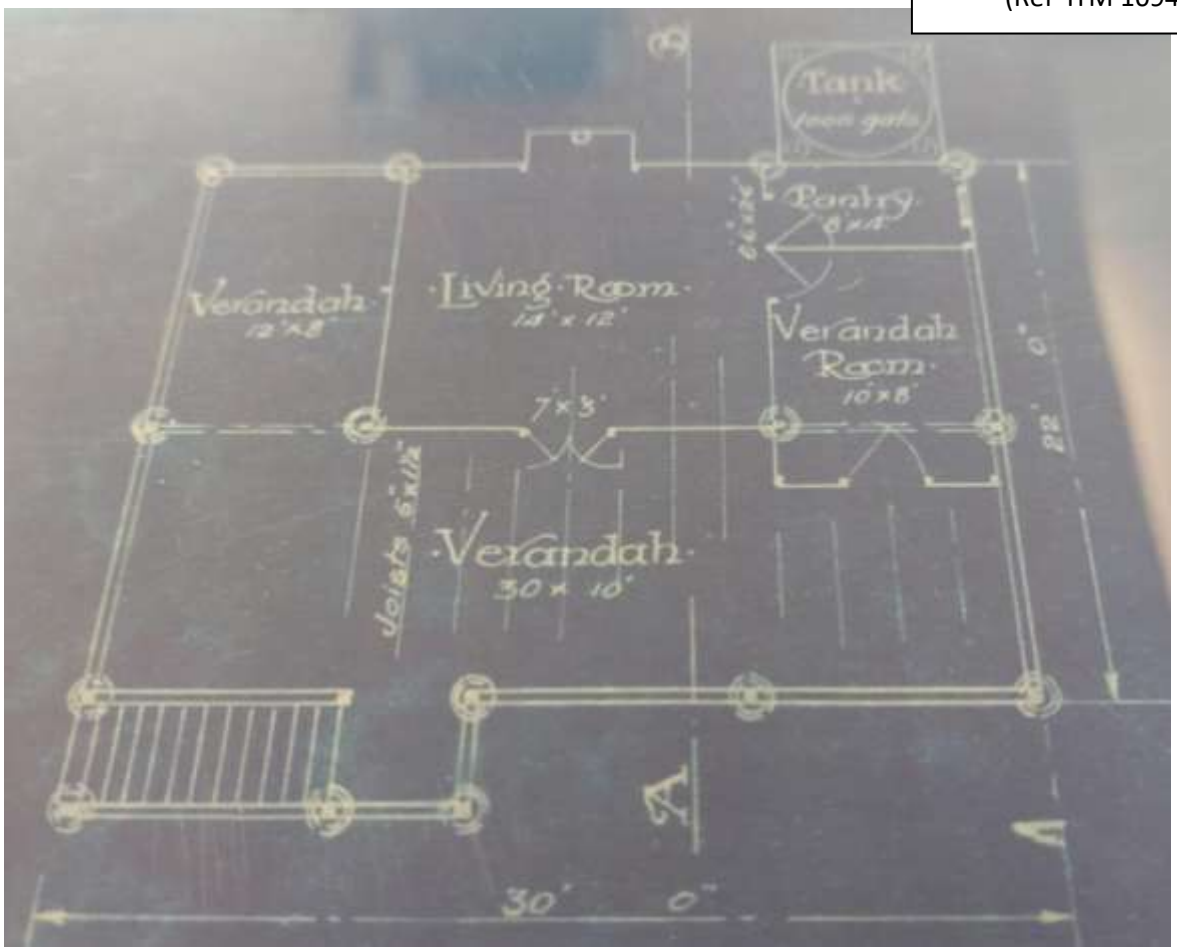
Source: State Archives
(Ref ITM 109418)





SETTLERS COTTAGE – TYPE D

Source: State Archives
(Ref ITM 109419)



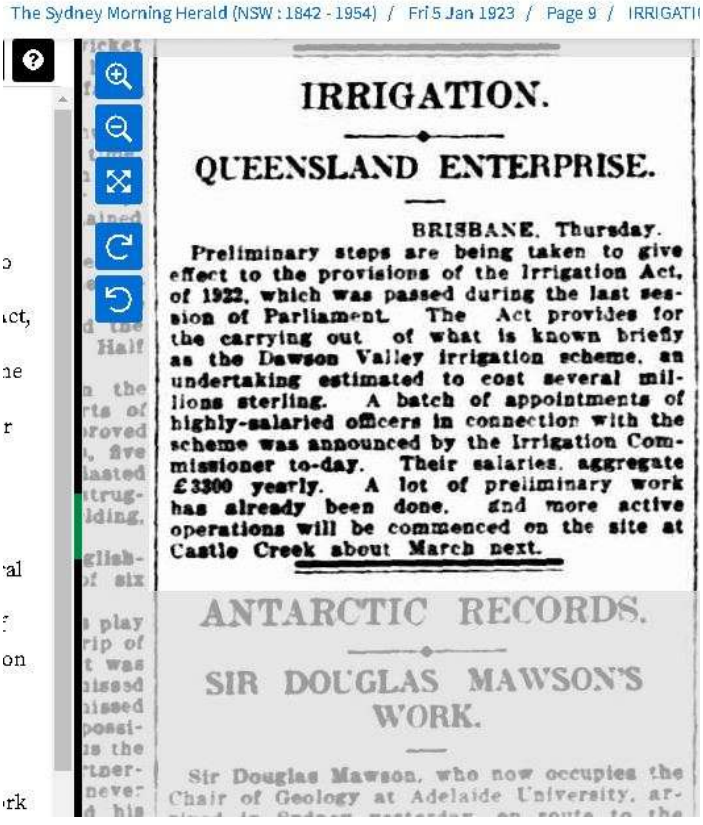
December 1922 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

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 Partridge's 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: **Mr Bowyer E Shaw** 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 including that of Resident Engineer 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: **Mr Colin Douglas**, at the time having spent nine years in the position of mechanical engineer in the Water Supply Branch of Treasury Queensland
- Secretary and Accountant: **Mr J Grant Thompson**, at the time Inspecting Accountant to the Commissioner of Railways, Queensland
- Demonstration Farm Manager: **Mr O.E Halliday**, 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 / IRRIGATI

IRRIGATION.

QUEENSLAND ENTERPRISE.

BRISBANE, Thursday.

Preliminary steps are being taken to give effect to the provisions of the Irrigation Act, of 1922, which was passed during the last session 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 millions sterling. A batch of appointments of highly-salaried officers in connection with the scheme was announced by the Irrigation Commissioner to-day. Their salaries, aggregate £3300 yearly. A lot of preliminary work has already been done, and more active operations will be commenced on the site at Castle Creek about March next.

ANTARCTIC RECORDS.

SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON'S WORK.

Sir Douglas Mawson, who now occupies the Chair of Geology at Adelaide University, ar-

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/commencement/pullarbook/iws.pdf)

December 1922 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON PARTRIDGE'S TWO COMMISSIONS

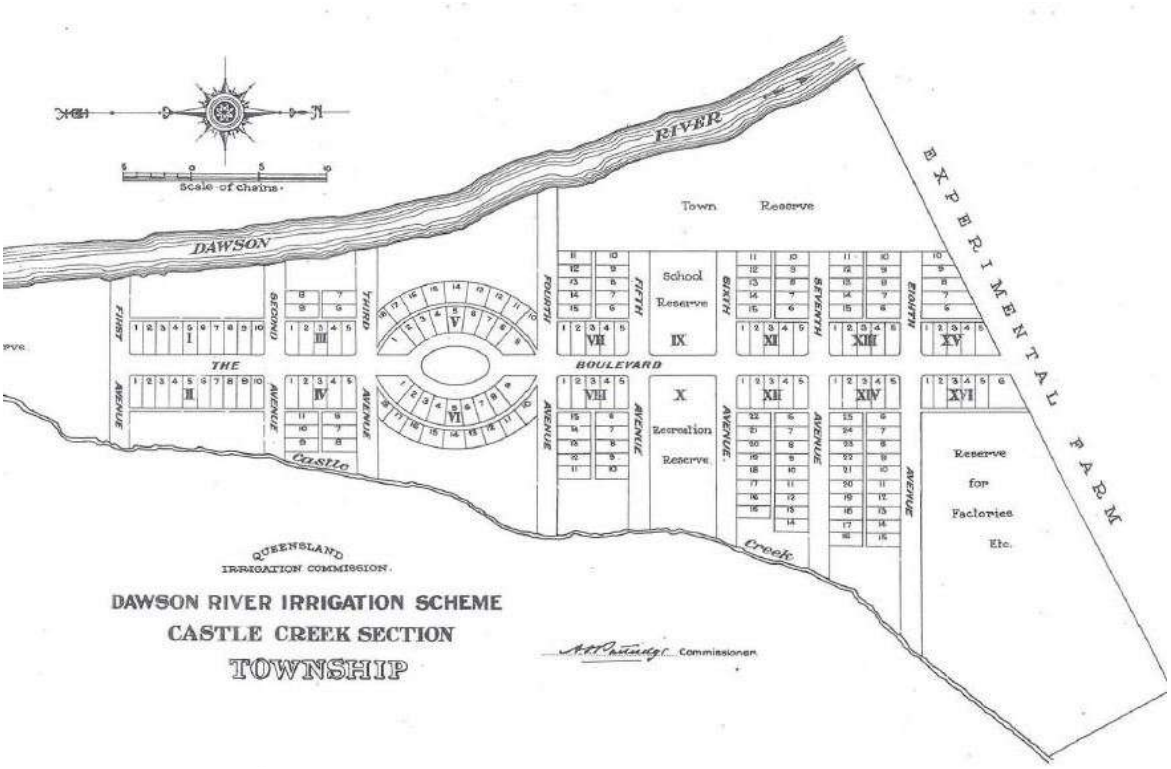
QLD IRRIGATION COMMISSION & IRRIGATION and WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION

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 Partridge's signature could have been expected to have the references 'Irrigation & Water Supply Commission' & 'Queensland' in their titles.

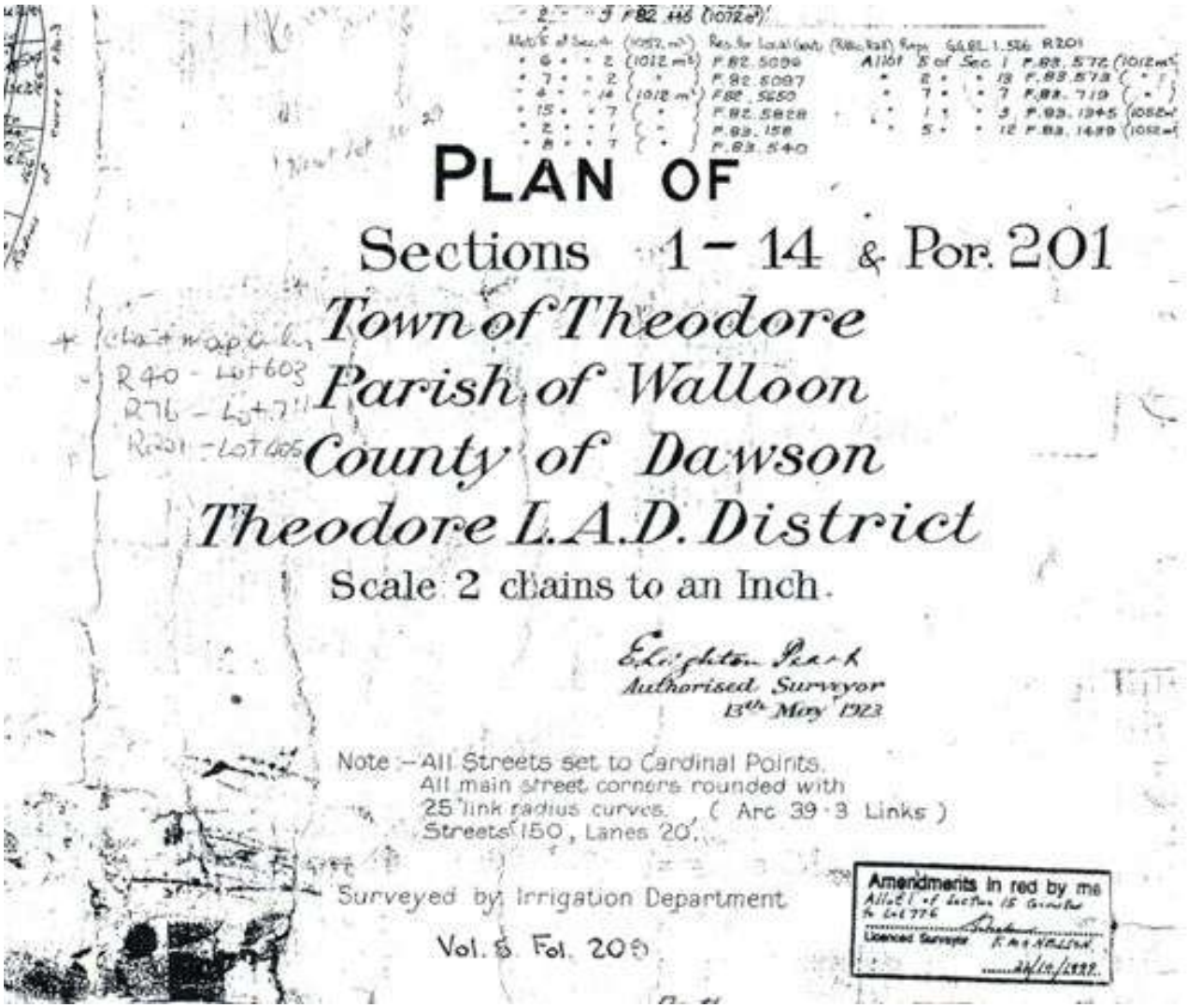
For the plan below to bear both the Commissioner's signature as well as the name of his new organisation being quoted as 'Queensland Irrigation Commission', it suggests that the plan could have been signed in a relatively tight window late in 1922, and also suggests that **a Draft / Conceptual Town Plan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



13 May 1923 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON SURVEYOR PEART'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE TOWN PLAN

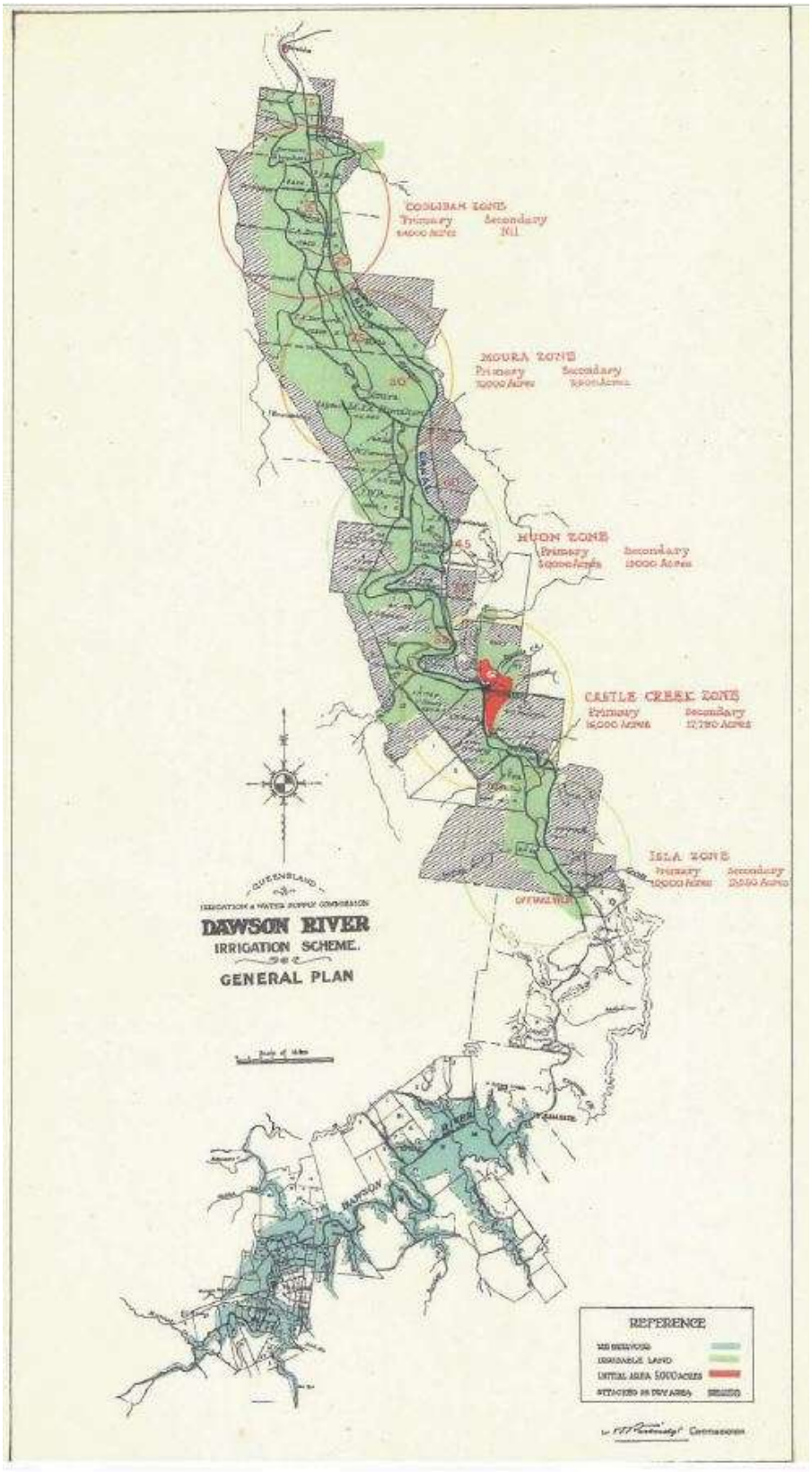
(Source: Titles Queensland)



NOTE: More on Surveyor Peart; wife Ada & family; and the TOWN PLAN can be found in 'Recollections'

1923 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

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 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

on *'IWSC CASTLE CREEK WORKS, RANNES' (Dawson Valley Line)*

(Sources: IWSC Annual Report 1922 – 23; Public Domain).

Rannes - to the north of Castle Creek/Theodore - had been at the end of the Dawson Valley Line since the opening of the latest extension of that line in Feb 1915.

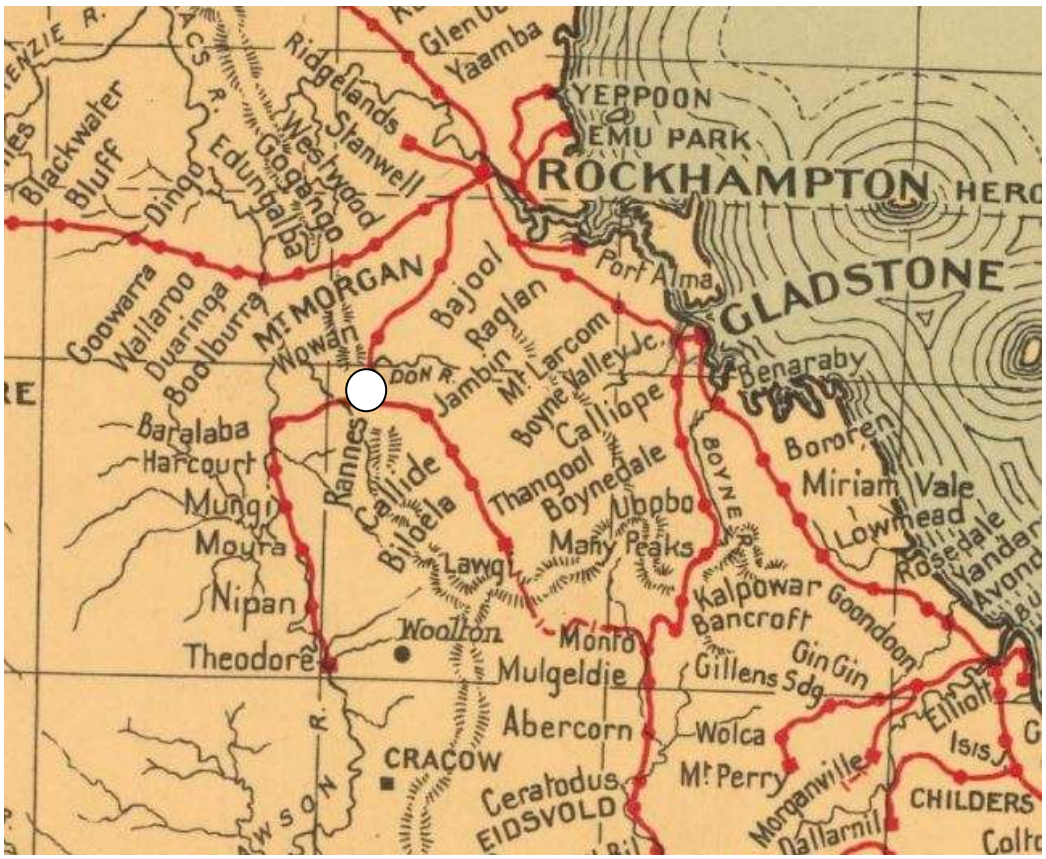
Timber buildings in the main Street of Rannes, Dawson Valley Line – circa 1923. The railway workers tent village can just be seen to the right.

By 1923, the population of Rannes had swollen to about 500 (incl railway construction workers and their families using Rannes as a base). Rannes was fast becoming a beehive of activity and more substantial buildings were starting to be constructed. (Source: Public Domain – Contribution by J Salecich)

Also by 1923, the township was to house a 'base-depot' set up by IWSC for receipt of all incoming goods and personnel by rail, to then be dispatched by IWSC road transport to Castle Creek using solid-tyred 'Leylands'.

Letterheads on early IWSC correspondence contained the reference **'Castle Creek Works, Rannes'** to reflect IWSC presence there. The following is an extract from the IWSC 1922 / 23 Annual Report:-

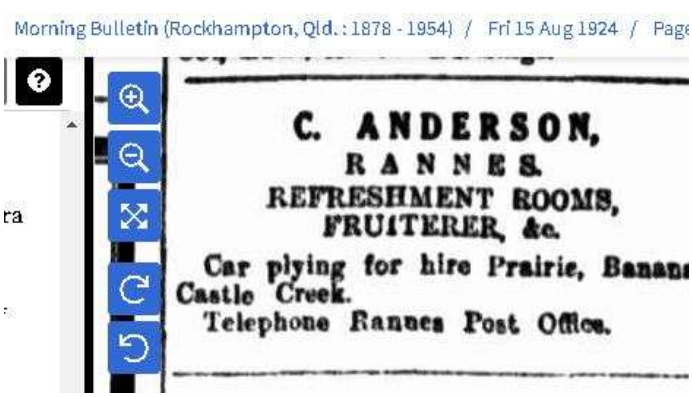
Though the Dawson Valley Railway is now being built, it is not sufficiently advanced for use in the transport of irrigation construction material or supplies, necessitating the establishment of a base depôt at Rannes. This entails 70 miles of haulage for all material, and, owing to the expense and slowness of wagon teams, a fleet of heavy Leyland motor transports has been purchased, and supplies are now being rapidly and economically handled in this manner. The necessary road construction has been carried out, and fuel and water bases established. The effect of the transition from horse to motor transport has been to reduce haulage from £5 per ton to about 30s. per ton, in addition to ensuring prompt and regular deliveries of material.



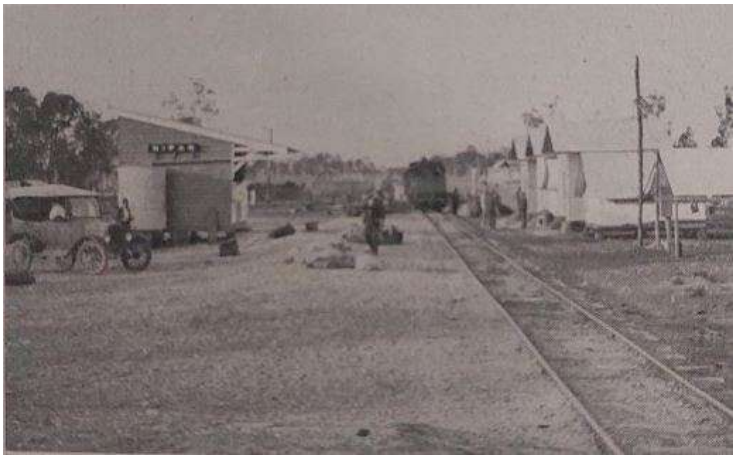
By 1924, the Callide Valley Line had reached Rannes. This 1939 map shows the Callide Valley Line coming in from the right to Rannes, and the Dawson Valley Line heading south from Rannes to Theodore.
(Source: Chief Engineer's Office, Qld Railways)

By late 1926 in the gazettal of the name change from Castle Creek to Theodore, the postal address to be used for all IWSC correspondence was advertised as
Theodore, via Baralaba, Dawson Valley Line, Qld
This was in anticipation of 'the end of the Dawson Valley Line' becoming Theodore in May 1927, at the opening of the Theodore extension.

Early photo of the Rannes Railway Station, receiving station for all IWSC goods in 1923.


Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1878 - 1954) / Fri 15 Aug 1924 / Page

C. ANDERSON,
RANNES.
REFRESHMENT ROOMS,
FRUITERER, &c.
Car plying for hire Prairie, Banana
Castle Creek.
Telephone Rannes Post Office.



'Nipan' – the end of the 'Dawson Valley Line' (as it was in 1926)

(Source: IWSC – 'The DVIA and What It Offers to Settlers' [1926])
See Appendix 2

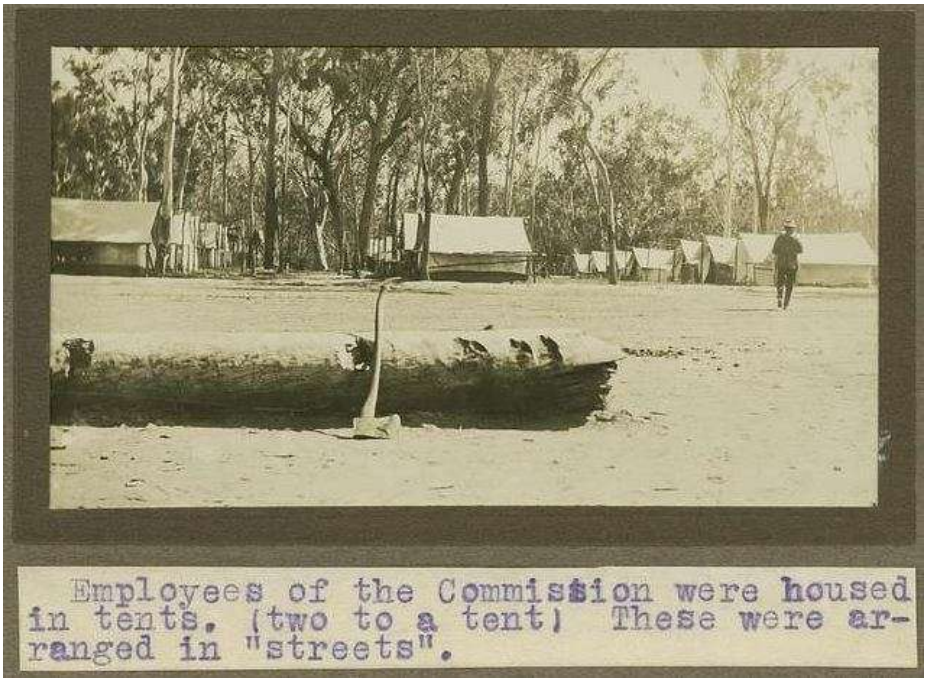
Advert for Taxi from 'the-end-of-the-Dawson Valley Line' (Rannes) to Castle Ck in 1924

1923 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON SETTING UP CAMP AT CASTLE CREEK

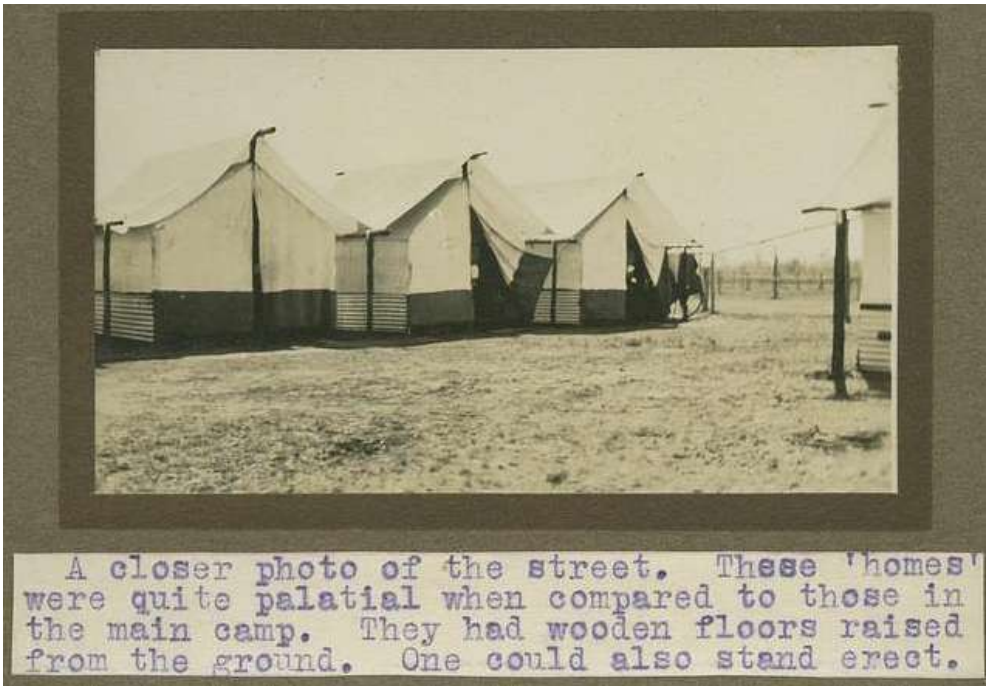
(Source: State Library Collection, Queensland).

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



Employees of the Commission were housed in tents. (two to a tent) These were arranged in "streets".

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



A closer photo of the street. These 'homes' were quite palatial when compared to those in the main camp. They had wooden floors raised from the ground. One could also stand erect.

1923 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON SETTING UP THE SAWMILL AT CASTLE CREEK

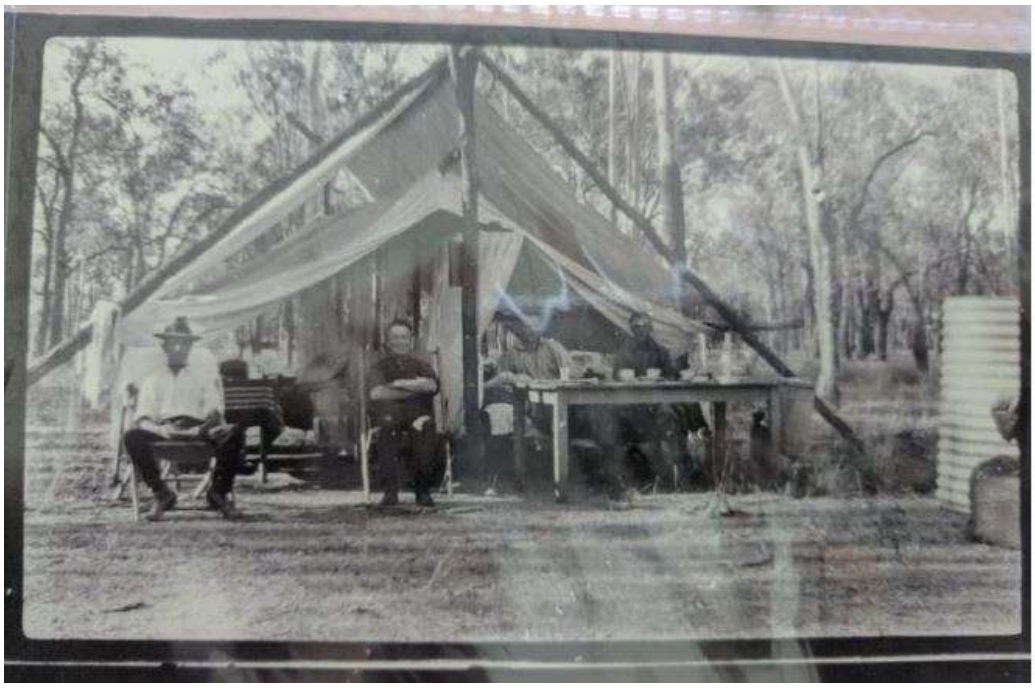
(Sources: State Archives – IWSC Photo Albums Ref# ITM 291323 to 291325; and 1st IWSC Annual Report 1922-23).

The 'Steam Donkey' used to drive the Commissioner's Sawmill at Castle Creek
(Seen here after its re-location to the IWSC Sawmill at Orange Creek Weir)

1923 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON ATTRACTING SETTLERS TO CASTLE CK

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



Pre-Cottage Castle Ck - Before building a cottage, one of the options was for settlers to live 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.

Pre-Cottage Castle Creek

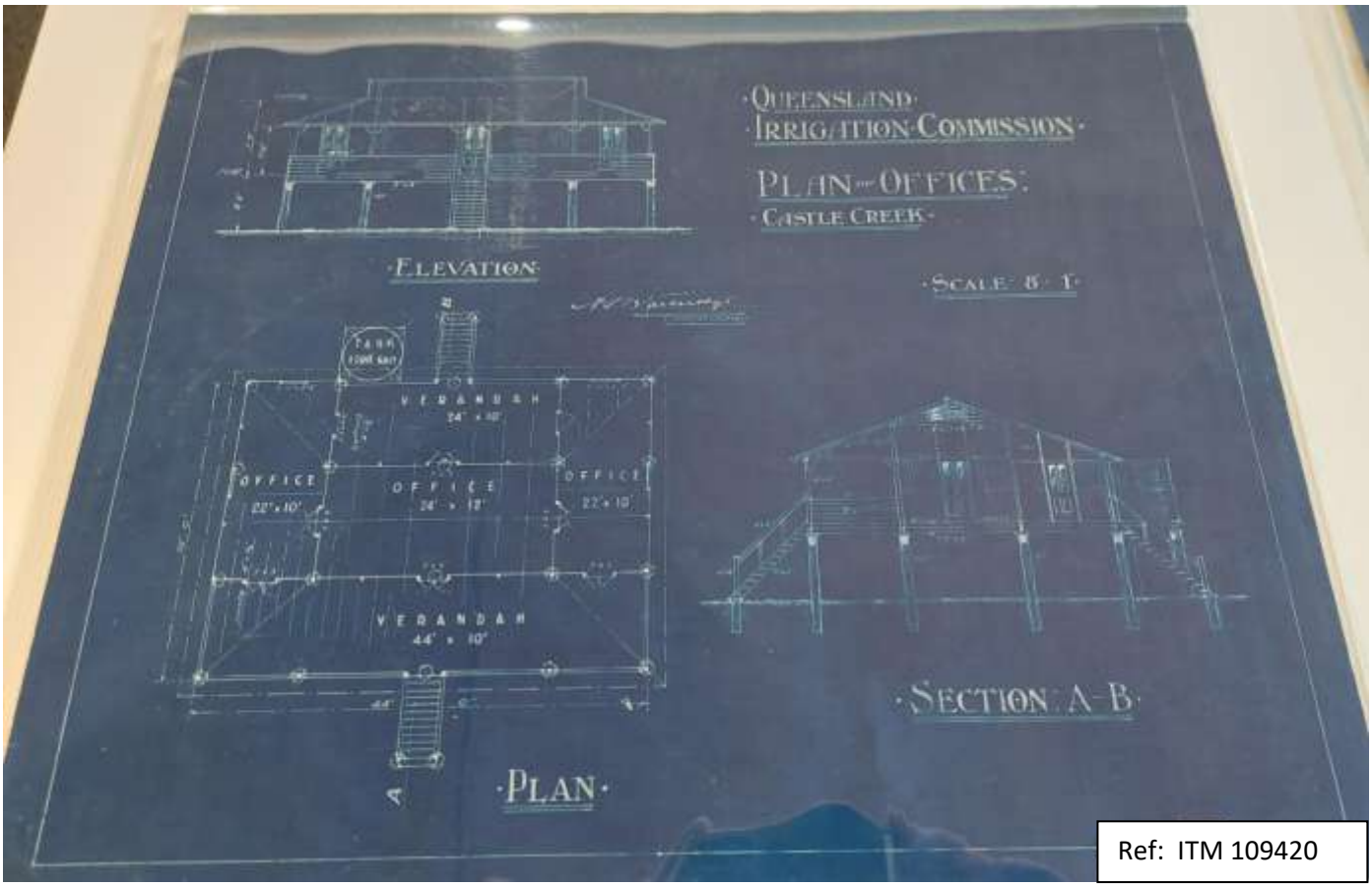
(Sources: State Archives – IWSC Photo Albums Ref# ITM 291323 to 291325

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 as well as early IWSC memorabilia.

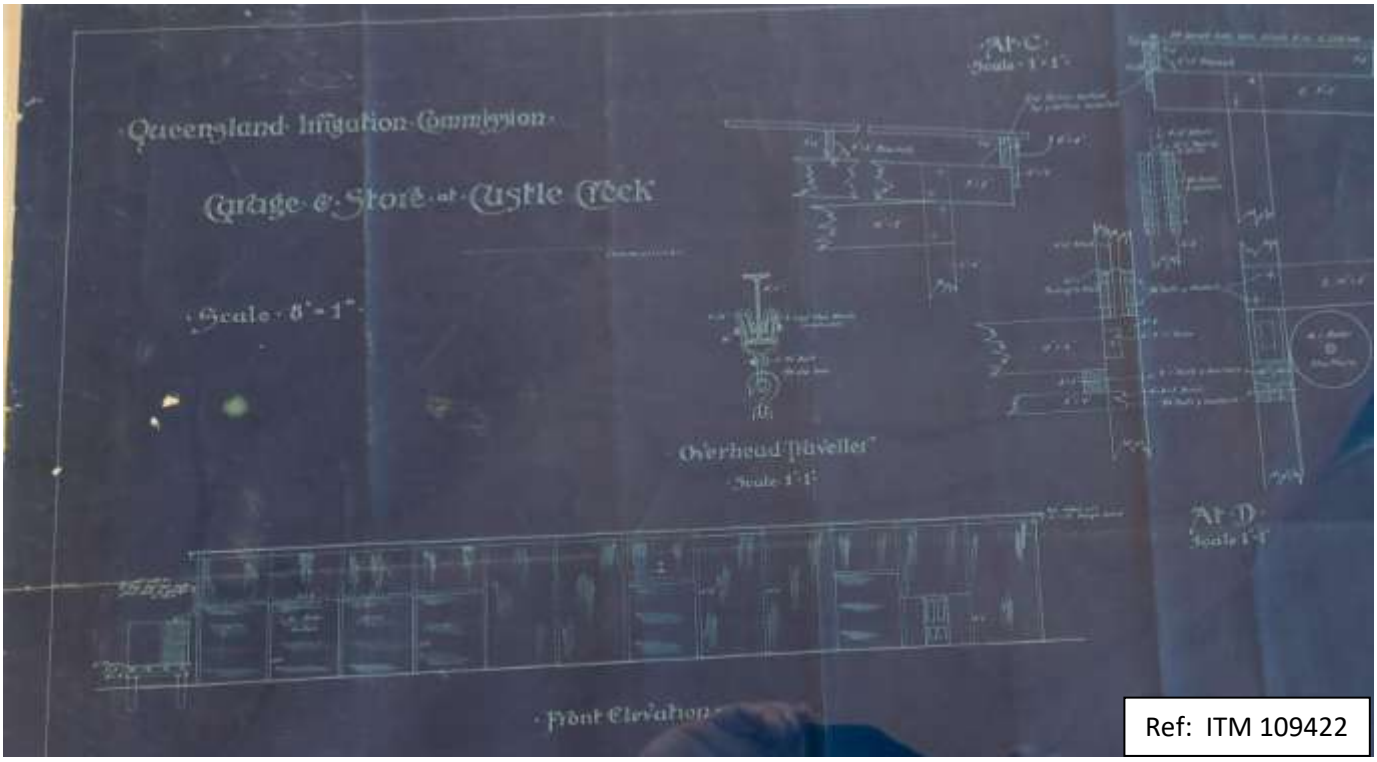
1923 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON SETTING UP OFFICES, GARAGE & STORE AT CASTLE CK

(Source: State Archives)



Ref: ITM 109420

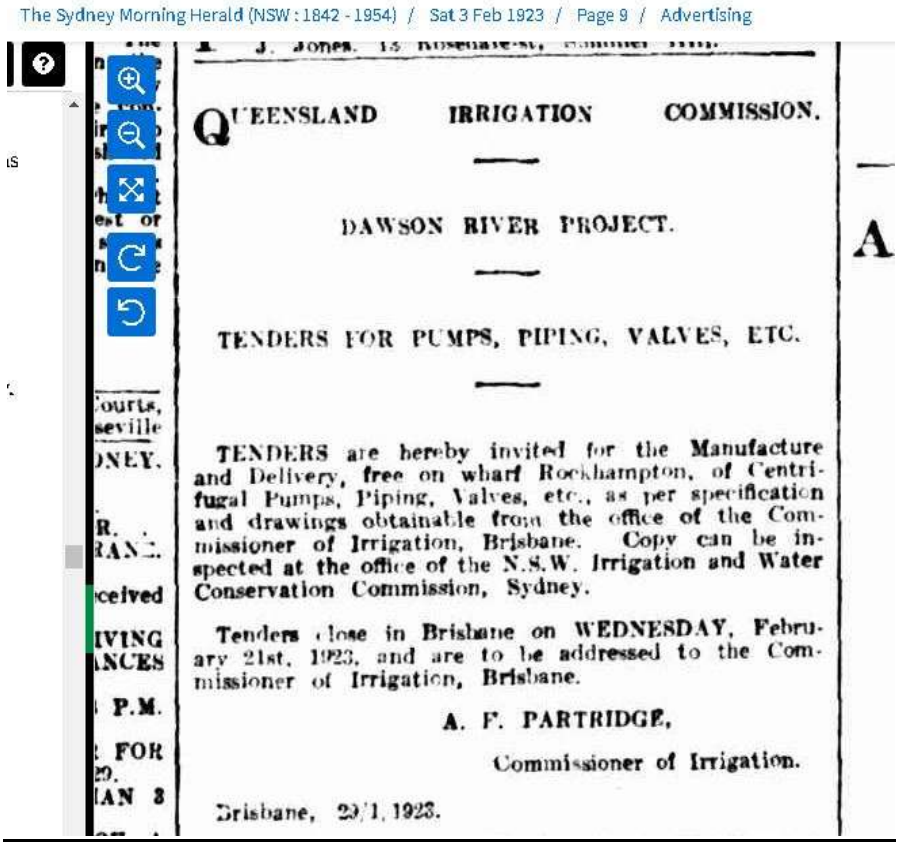


Ref: ITM 109422

1923 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON CALLING TENDERS FOR PUMP EQUIPMENT

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



The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954) / Sat 3 Feb 1923 / Page 9 / Advertising

QUEENSLAND IRRIGATION COMMISSION.

DAWSON RIVER PROJECT.

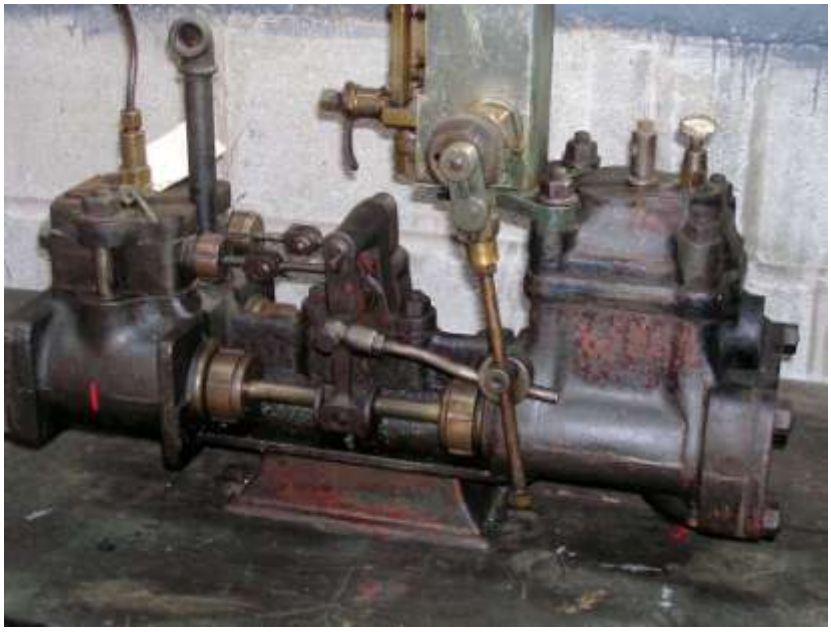
TENDERS FOR PUMPS, PIPING, VALVES, ETC.

TENDERS are hereby invited for the Manufacture and Delivery, free on wharf Rockhampton, of Centrifugal Pumps, Piping, Valves, etc., as per specification and drawings obtainable from the office of the Commissioner of Irrigation, Brisbane. Copy can be inspected at the office of the N.S.W. Irrigation and Water Conservation Commission, Sydney.

Tenders close in Brisbane on WEDNESDAY, February 21st, 1923, and are to be addressed to the Commissioner of Irrigation, Brisbane.

A. F. PARTRIDGE,
Commissioner of Irrigation.

Brisbane, 29/1/1923.



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 double-acting pumps placed side-by-side 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