Collection #2

1924 – 1930

Development by 'Water'

of

Community, Township and Scheme

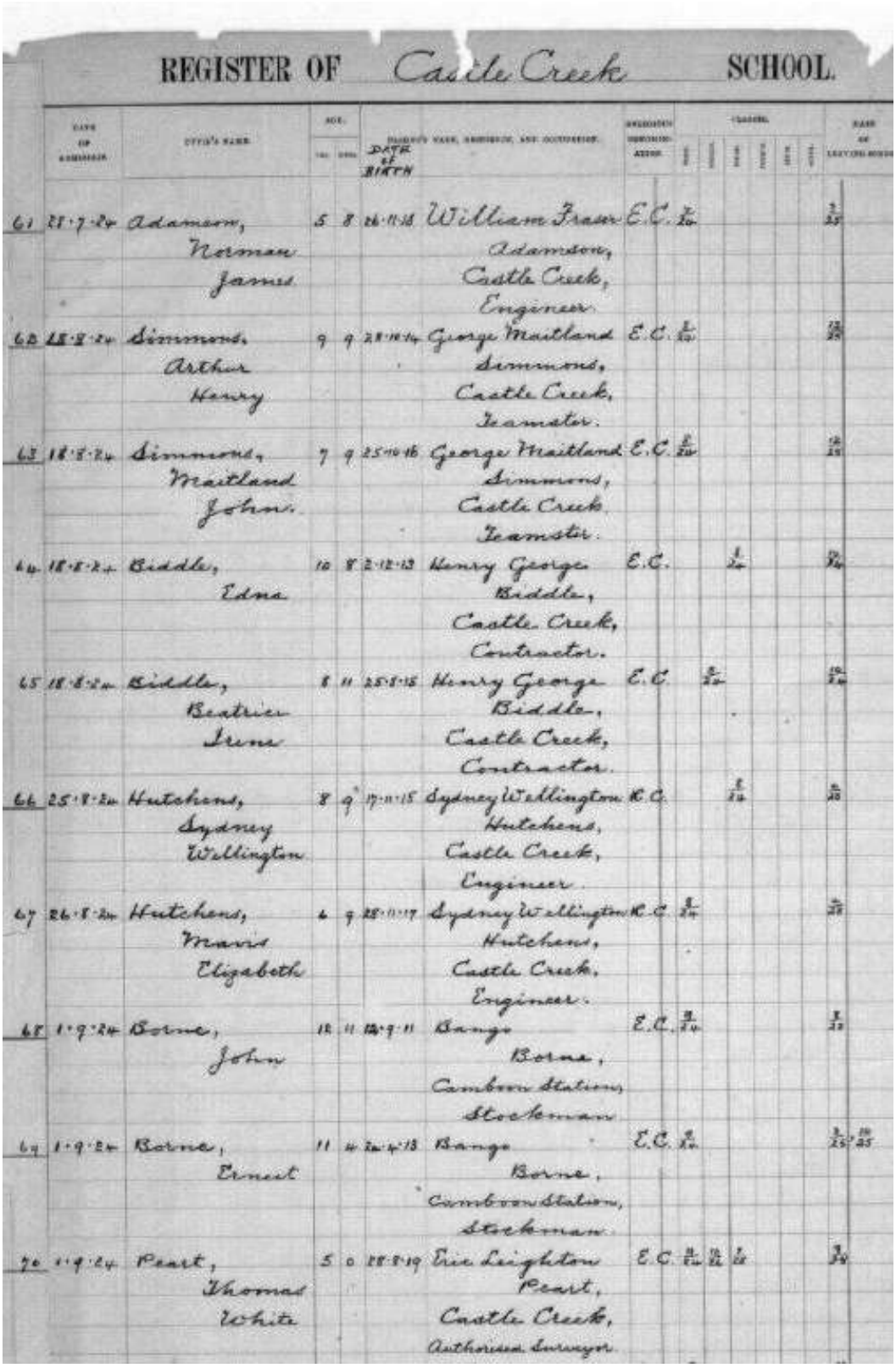
PREFACE: https://www.waterysauces.org.au/history/theodore/theodorepreface.pdf

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

REFLECTIONS BY THE WATER RESOURCES RETIREES ASSOCIATION (WRRA)

1924 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON IWSC 'CAMP KIDS'



REGISTER OF Castle Creek SCHOOL.

	Date of Admission	Child's Name	Age		Date of Birth	Parent's Name, Residence, and Occupation	Religious Denomination Adhered to	Classes						Date of Leaving School
61	28·7·24	Adamson, Norman James	5	8	26·11·18	William Fraser Adamson, Castle Creek, Engineer	E.C.	1/24						3/25
62	28·8·24	Simmons, Arthur Henry	9	9	28·11·14	George Maitland Simmons, Castle Creek, Teamster	E.C.	1/24						12/25
63	18·8·24	Simmons, Maitland John	7	9	25·11·16	George Maitland Simmons, Castle Creek Teamster	E.C.	1/24						12/25
64	18·8·24	Biddle, Edna	10	8	2·12·13	Henry George Biddle, Castle Creek, Contractor	E.C.			1/24				12/24
65	18·8·24	Biddle, Beatrice Irene	8	11	25·8·15	Henry George Biddle, Castle Creek, Contractor	E.C.		2/24					12/24
66	25·8·24	Hutchens, Sydney Wellington	8	9	17·11·15	Sydney Wellington Hutchens, Castle Creek, Engineer	R.C.			1/24				2/25
67	26·8·24	Hutchens, Mavis Elizabeth	6	9	28·11·17	Sydney Wellington Hutchens, Castle Creek, Engineer	R.C.	1/24						2/25
68	1·9·24	Borne, John	12	11	12·9·11	Bango Borne, Cambron Station, Stockman	E.C.	1/24						3/25
69	1·9·24	Borne, Ernest	11	4	24·4·13	Bango Borne, Cambron Station, Stockman	E.C.	1/24						3/25, 10/25
70	1·9·24	Peart, Thomas White	5	0	28·8·19	Eric Leighton Peart, Castle Creek, Authorised Surveyor	E.C.	11/24	12/24	1/25				3/29

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.

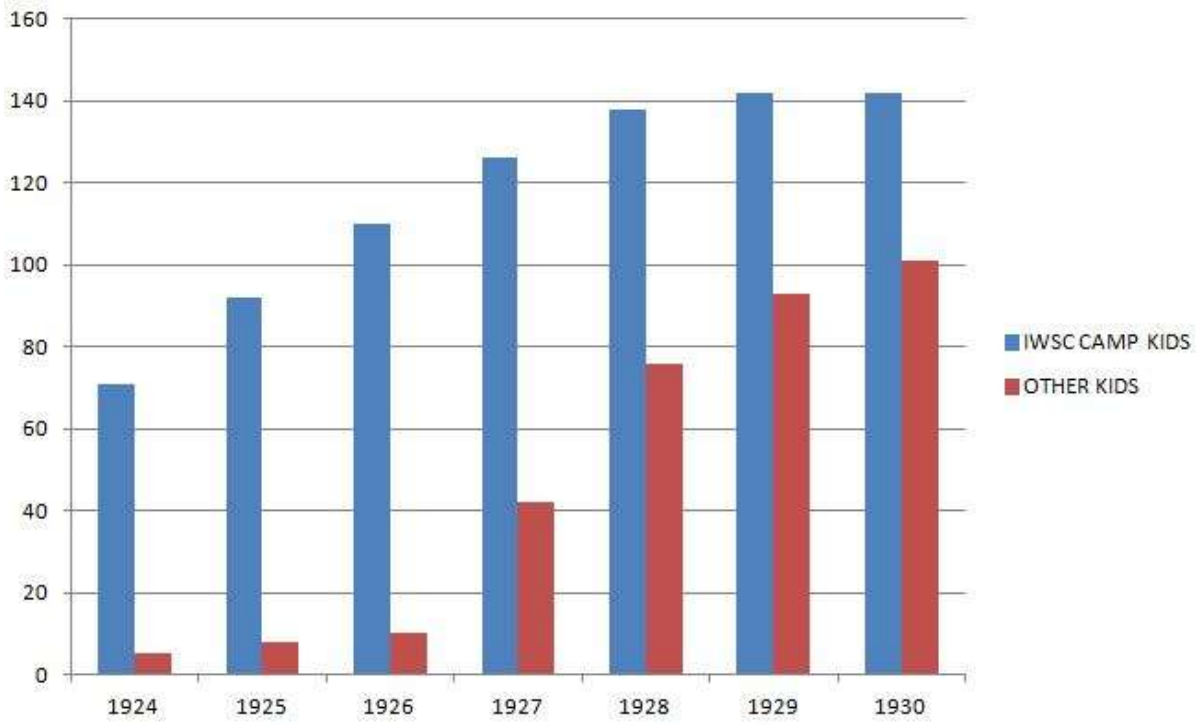
(Source: State Archives [Ref ITM 979270])

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 year-by-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.

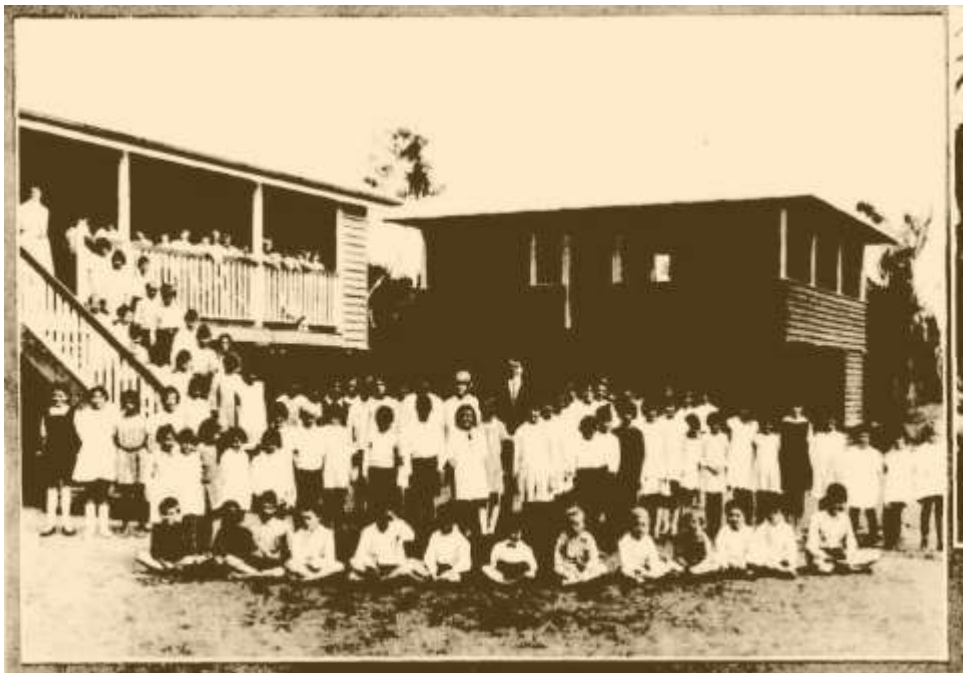
'OTHER KIDS' – This group is made up of children whose parents have been deduced as having been either self-employed or having had an employer other than the IWSC. This group comprised just over 100 children in total by the end of 1930.

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	'OTHER KIDS' PARENTS
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')

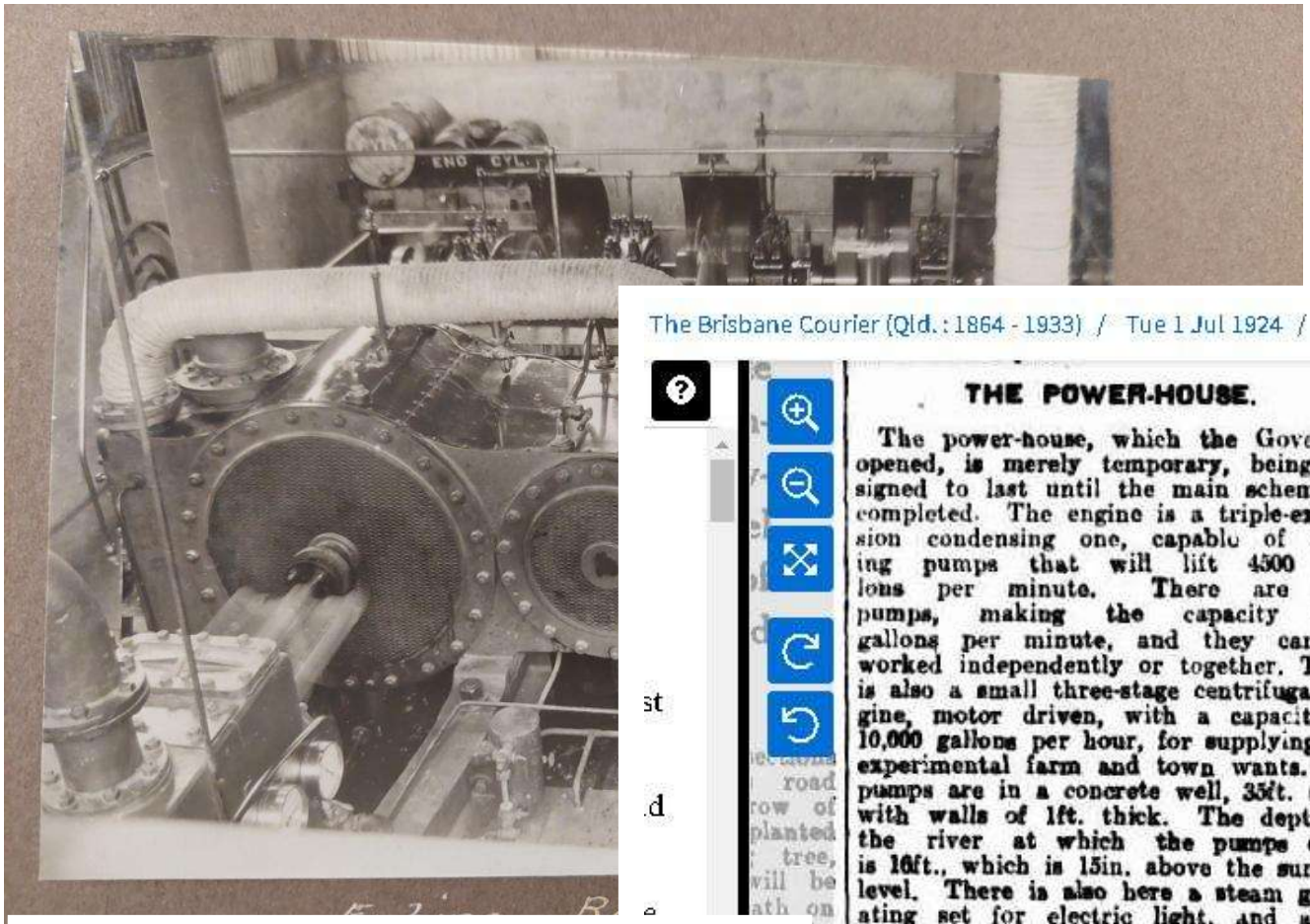
(Source: The Queenslander 4/6/1931 – Caravanning Through Qld)

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

1924 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT – *OFFICIAL OPENING OF POWER HOUSE*

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



The Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864 - 1933) / Tue 1 Jul 1924 / Page 7

THE POWER-HOUSE.

The power-house, which the Governor opened, is merely temporary, being designed to last until the main scheme is completed. The engine is a triple-expansion condensing one, capable of driving pumps that will lift 4500 gallons per minute. There are two pumps, making the capacity 9000 gallons per minute, and they can be worked independently or together. There is also a small three-stage centrifugal engine, motor driven, with a capacity of 10,000 gallons per hour, for supplying the experimental farm and town wants. The pumps are in a concrete well, 35ft. deep, with walls of 1ft. thick. The depth of the river at which the pumps enter is 16ft., which is 15in. above the summer level. There is also here a steam generating set for electric light, and a 135 kilowatt generating set for the town lighting system.

The Governor, who was motored over from Cambroon, where he spent the week-end, will be the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Partridge during his stay in Castle Creek. Much interest was manifested in this afternoon's ceremony by outside residents, many motoring over 100 miles to be present. The Camp Band played pleasing selections. Those who were present included: Captain Turner, A.D.C.; Mr. A. F. Partridge (Commissioner for Irrigation) and Mrs. Partridge, Mr. J. Grant Thomson (Secretary to the Commissioner) and Mrs. Thomson, Messrs. B. E. Shaw (Supervising Engineer), W. F. Shootridge, M.L.C. (Tasmania), F. M'Cormick (Executive Engineer), C. Douglas (Chief Mechanical Engineer for the Commission), S. Hutchens (Assistant Mechanical Engineer), S. Burns (Construction Engineer), R. Phillips, T. G. Sparks (Assistant Engineer), and O. E. Halliday (Farm Manager).

The Brisbane Courier (Qld. : 1864 - 1933) / Tue 1 Jul 1924 / Page 7 / FIRST PHASE COMI

it will add to the well-being of all who are taking part in the preparation of settlement—the settlers themselves."

EXCELLENT ARRANGEMENTS.

The Governor later paid a tribute to the engineers and men to whom Queensland would owe much of her prosperity.

On Tuesday the Governor will go to Delusion Creek, and then on to Taroom. On Wednesday he will inspect the site of the Nathan dam and gorge, and on Thursday he will leave for Brisbane.

After the Governor had set the engine revolving, Mrs. A. F. Partridge (wife of the Commissioner) turned the switch, and officially opened the electric lighting system for the township.

All arrangements for the transport of the Governor and his party have been arranged by Mr. R. Halliday (of Leyland Motors, Brisbane), and have been admirably carried out with a fleet of three cars. Tremendous distances have been negotiated to date, and much still re-

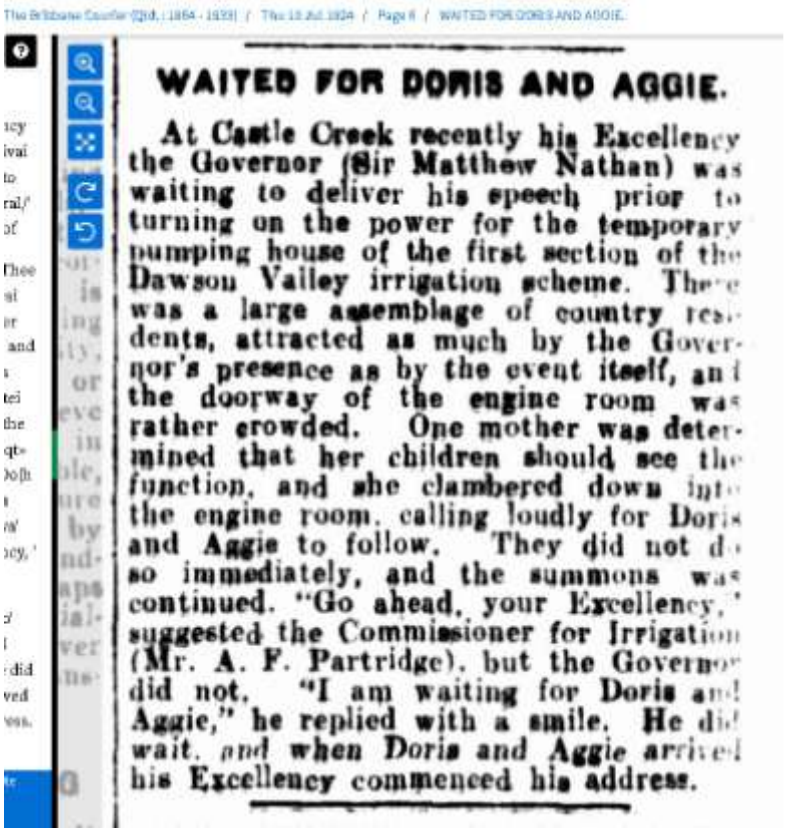
1924 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON THE GOVERNOR'S 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)



WAITED FOR DORIS AND AGGIE.

At Castle Creek recently his Excellency the Governor (Sir Matthew Nathan) was waiting to deliver his speech prior to turning on the power for the temporary pumping house of the first section of the Dawson Valley irrigation scheme. There was a large assemblage of country residents, attracted as much by the Governor's presence as by the event itself, and the doorway of the engine room was rather crowded. One mother was determined that her children should see the function, and she clambered down into the engine room, calling loudly for Doris and Aggie to follow. They did not do so immediately, and the summons was continued. "Go ahead, your Excellency," suggested the Commissioner for Irrigation (Mr. A. F. Partridge), but the Governor did not. "I am waiting for Doris and Aggie," he replied with a smile. He did wait, and when Doris and Aggie arrived his Excellency commenced his address.

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/article/20752388

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

1924 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT – *BRIEFING OF THE DIGNATARIES*

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

IWSC Engineer Shaw (2nd 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) – **'WATER' REFLECTS**

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 (IWSC Photo Albums Ref # ITM 291323 to 291325)

1924 (to late 1920's) – 'WATER' REFLECTS 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)

1924 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON ALSO LOOKING AFTER 'MUNICIPAL BUSINESS'

IRRIGATION AND WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION

CASTLE CREEK WORKS.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

RANNES, 16th September 1924

N O T I C E.

PLEASE NOTE : - STANDARD EARTH CLOSETS must be provided on all selected TOWNSHIP LOTS. A charge of SIXPENCE (6d) PER WEEK 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.

F. McCormack

Executive Engineer

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

(Source: Dawson Folk Museum, Theodore)

1924 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON REPORTS FROM THE SETTLEMENT

(Source: Morning Bulletin [Rockhampton] 10th and 12th 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 of 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.

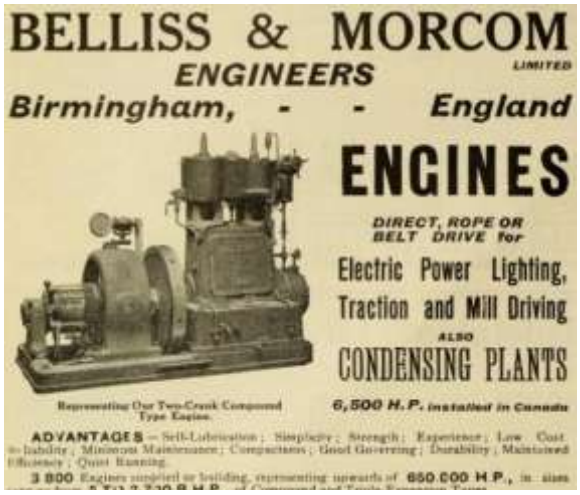
Residential allotments may be secured on a perpetual lease tenure, but none are to be less than one acre in area. An endeavour is to be made to prevent any question of progression of increment cropping up in the value of allotments or irrigation farms. Provision is to be made to restrict the sale price 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 3,000 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.



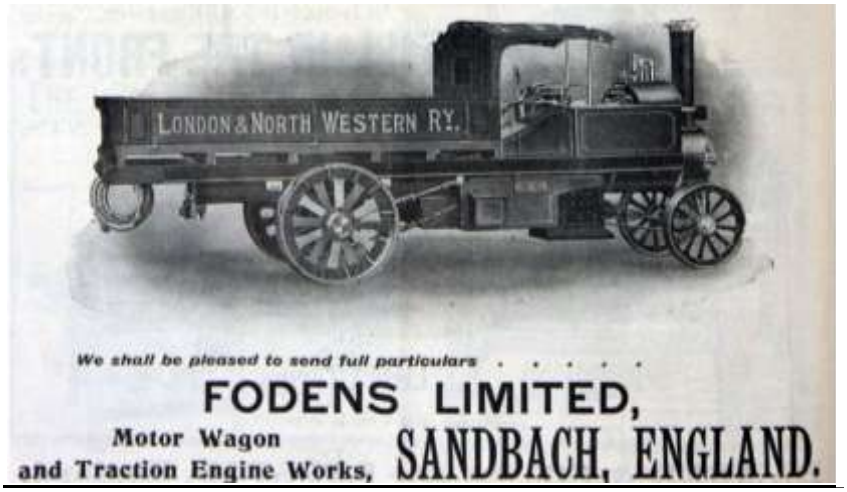
STEAM POWER – **Bellis and Morcom Steam Dynamo** as exhibited in a museum**.** One component of a 2-unit electric power-plant reported as being installed by IWSC to service both low & high power demands of the township & scheme. (Sources: IWSC Annual Report 1924/25 & Morning Bulletin)

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.



QUEENSLAND IRRIGATION COMMISSION.

DAWSON VALLEY PROJECT.

STEAM MOTOR LORRIES AND TRAILERS.

QUOTATIONS, closing at noon on SATURDAY, MARCH 3, are invited for the Supply and Delivery f.o.r. Rannes of a number of STEAM MOTOR LORRIES and TRAILERS.

Further particulars may be obtained at the office of the Commission, Adelaide-street.

A. F. PARTRIDGE,
Commissioner of Irrigation.

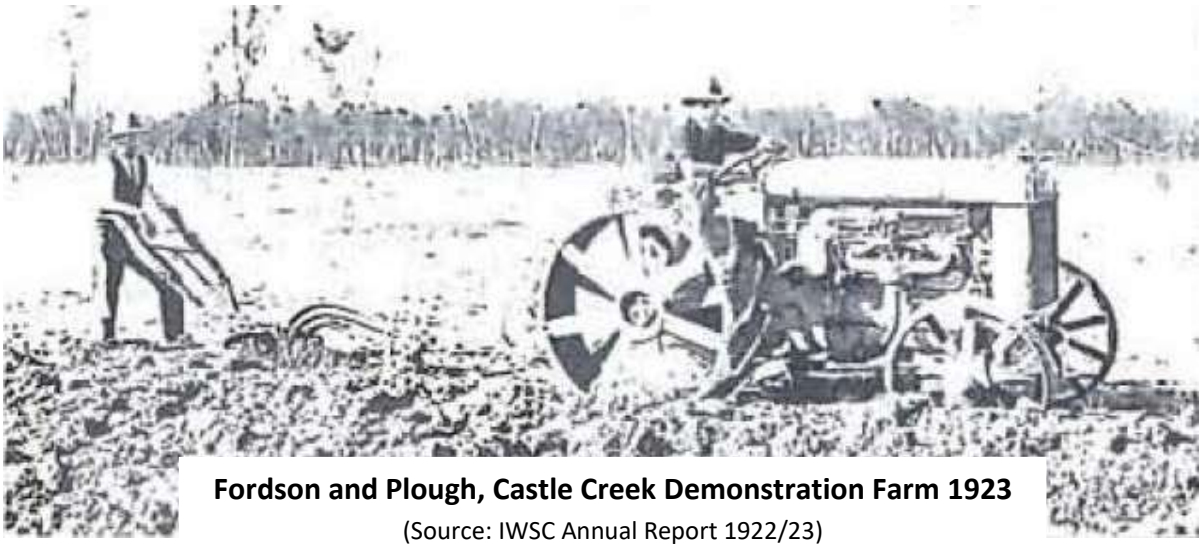
Brisbane,
February 10, 1923.

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 altogether. 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



Fordson and Plough, Castle Creek Demonstration Farm 1923

(Source: IWSC Annual Report 1922/23)

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 sawn 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 Governor's 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)

1925 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

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.

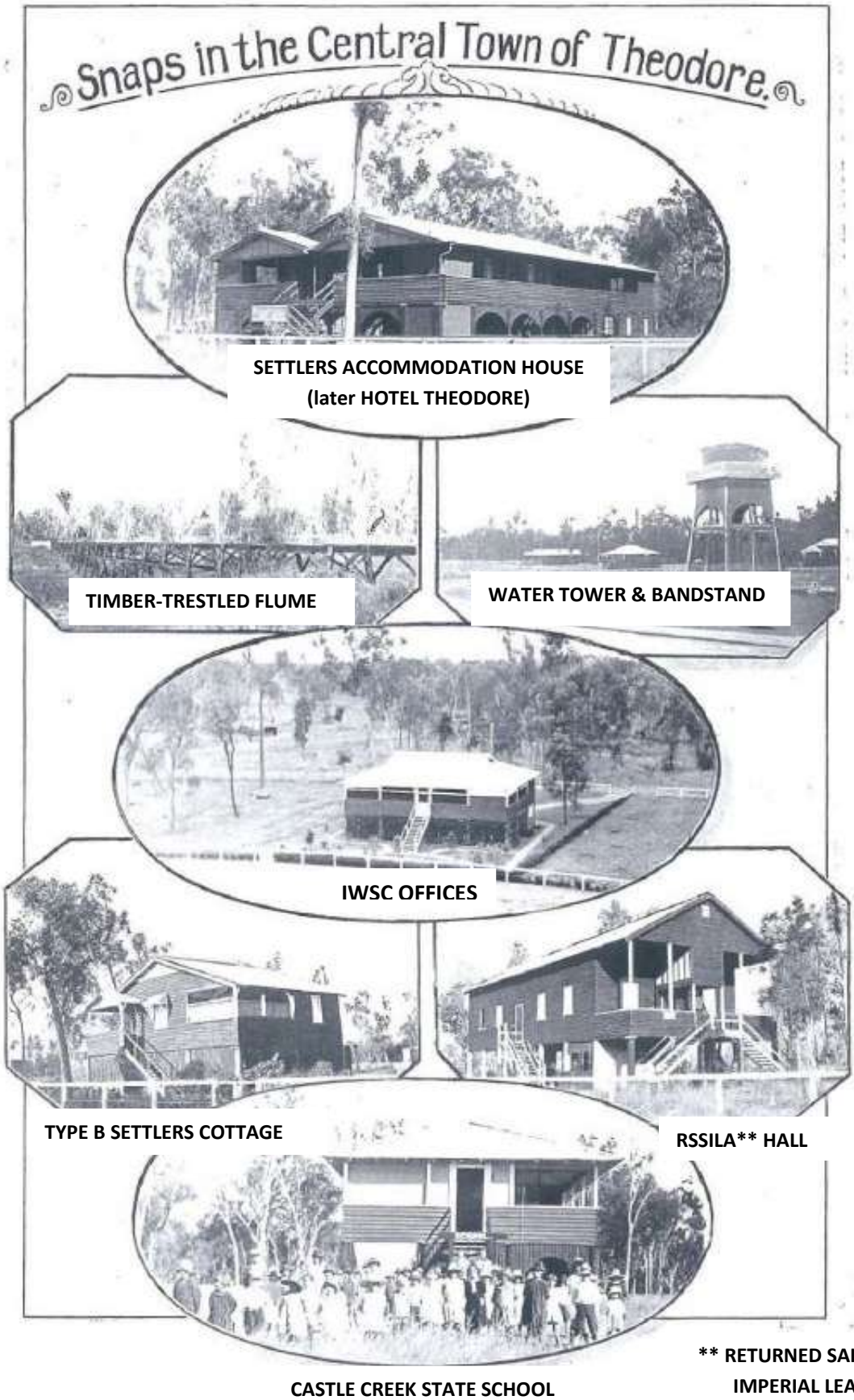
It was not until 1/12/1926 that the name of Theodore was officially gazetted.

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)

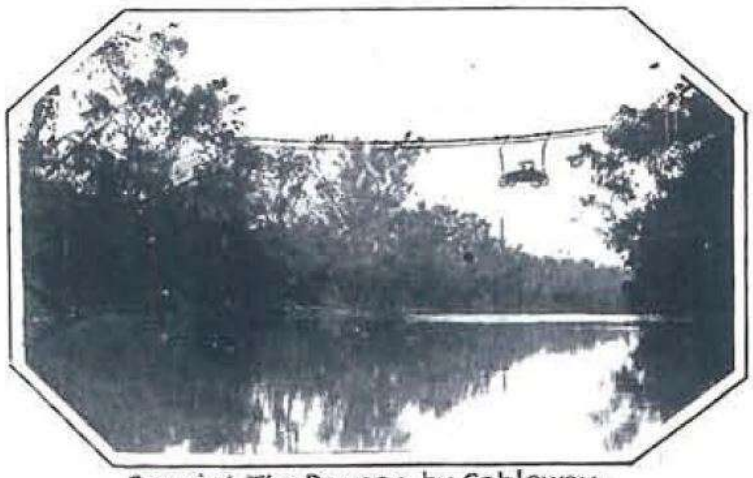


** RETURNED SAILORS & SOLDIERS IMPERIAL LEAGUE OF AUST (later to become the RSL)

1925 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

on 'THE DAWSON SLING' and 'THAT WHAT-MODEL-FORD' THING

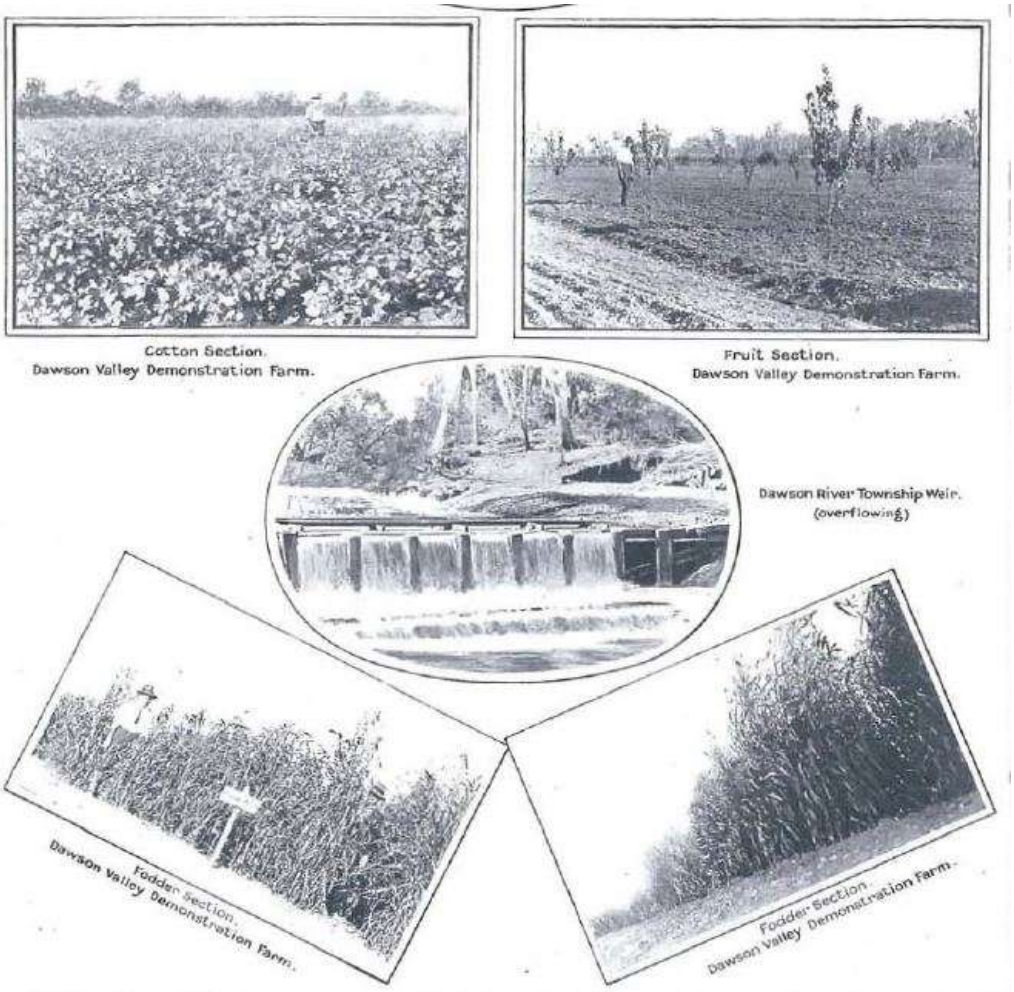
(Source: IWSC Annual Report 1924 / 25)



Crossing The Dawson by Cableway.

ON THE DEMONSTRATION FARM GETTING RESULTS

(Source: IWSC Annual Report 1924 / 25)



1925 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

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).

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

1925 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

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.

The Township Weir (before reaching overflow).

1925 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

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 – ‘WATER’ REFLECTS

ON THE TOWN GETTING A NEW NAME

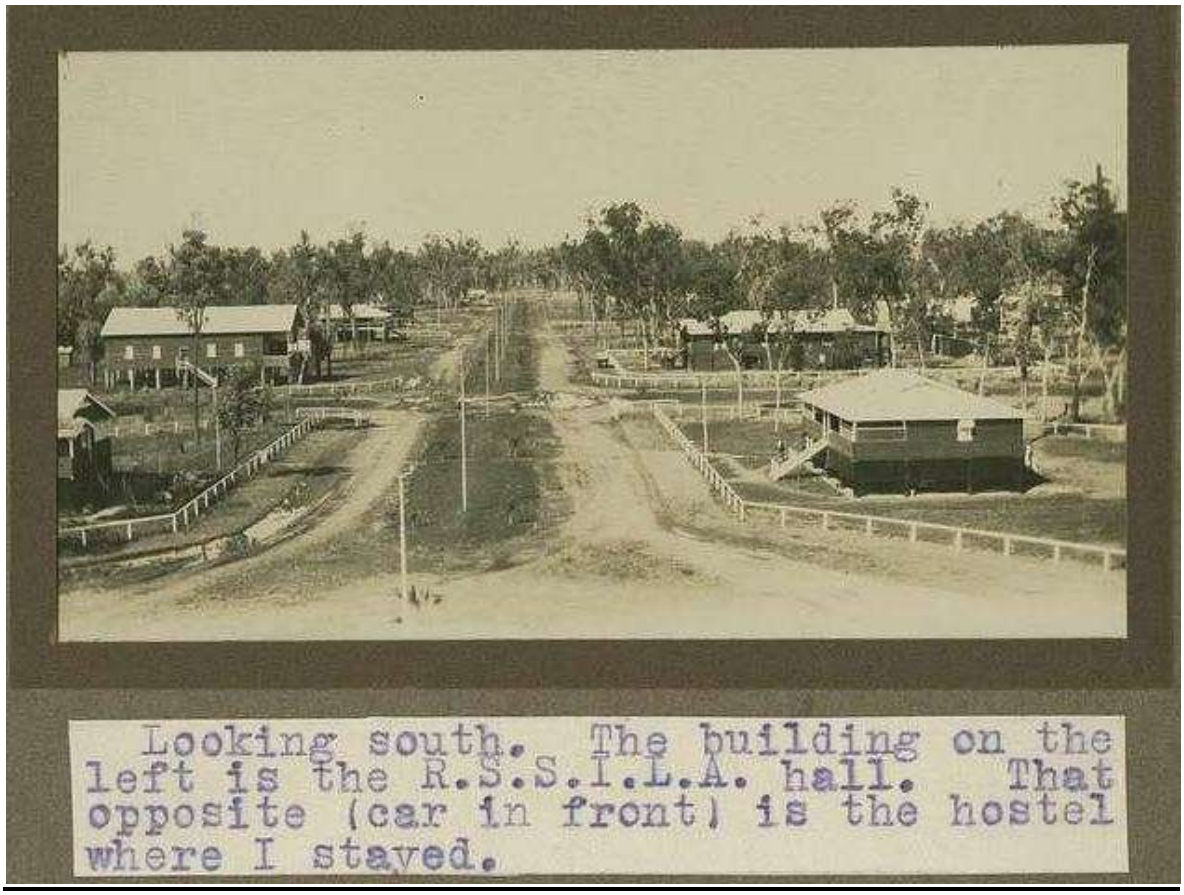
Daily Mercury (Mackay, Qld. : 1906 - 1954) / Sat 13 Nov 1926 / Page 2 / TOWN OF THEODORE.

TOWN OF THEODORE.

The Irrigation Commissioner (Mr. A. F. Partridge) advises in the ‘Government Gazette’ that the central town of the Theodore zone, Dawson Valley irrigation area, hitherto known as Castle Creek, will, from December 1, 1926, be known as and designated “Theodore,” in lieu of the name of Castle Creek. The postal address will be “Theodore, via Baralaba, Dawson Valley line, Q.”

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

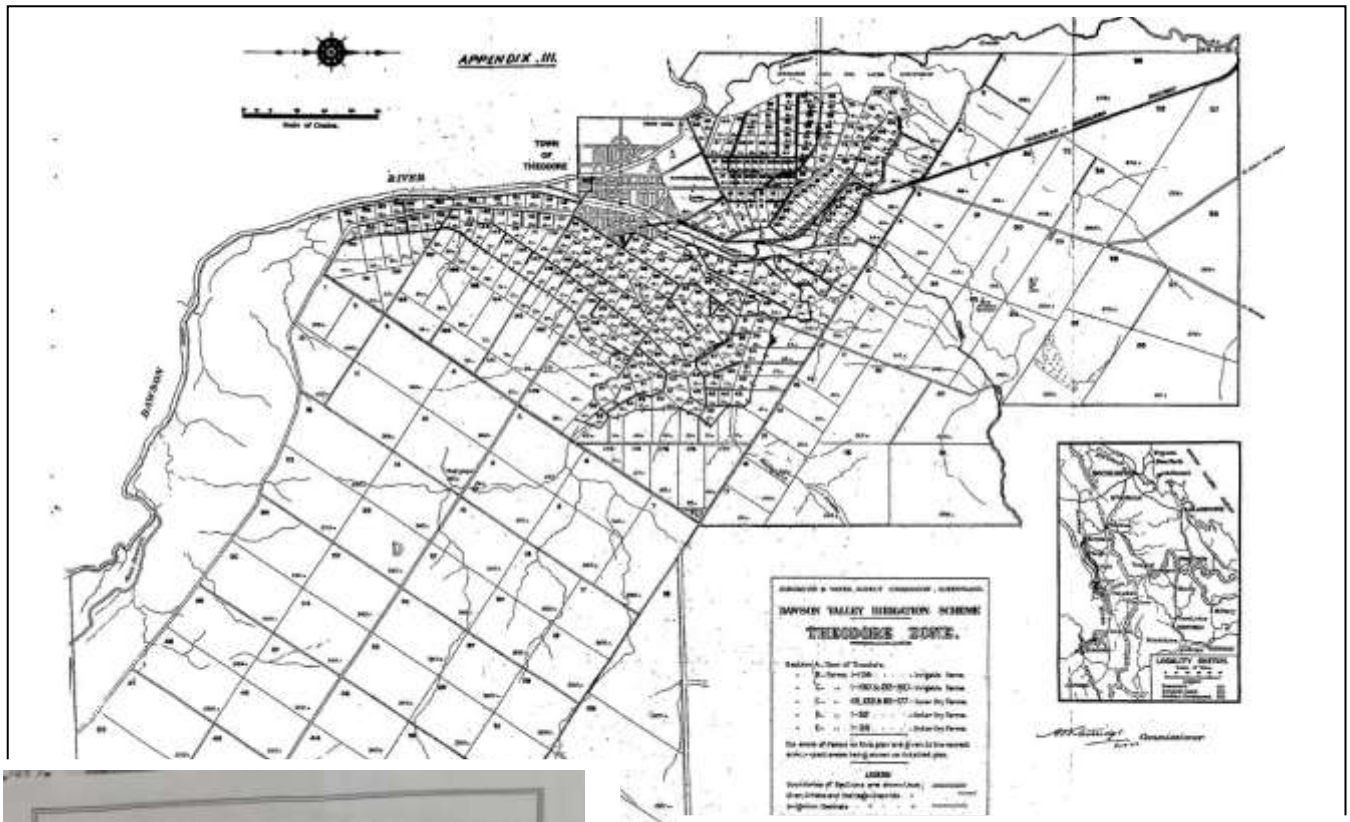
THE BOULEVARD LOOKING SOUTH

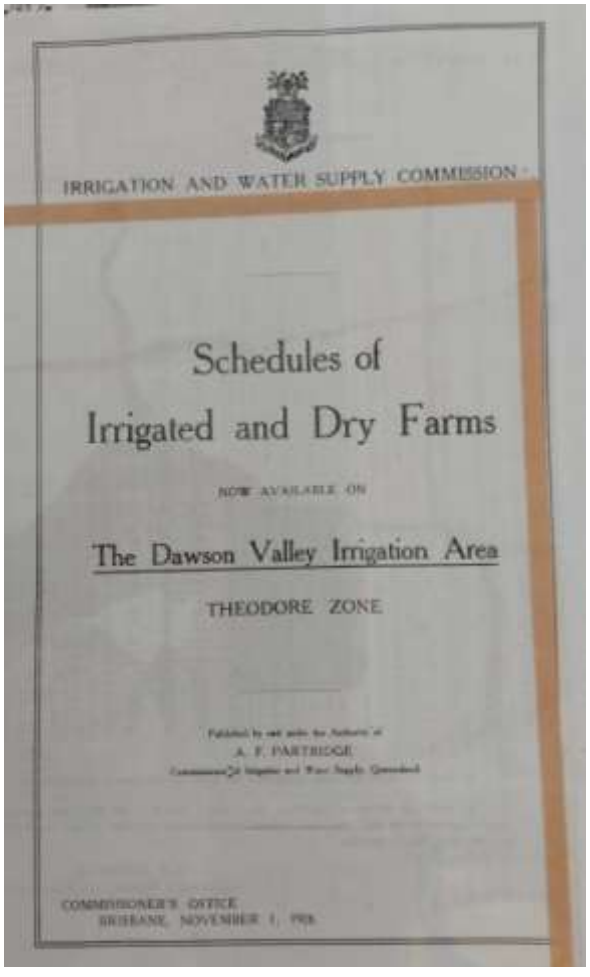


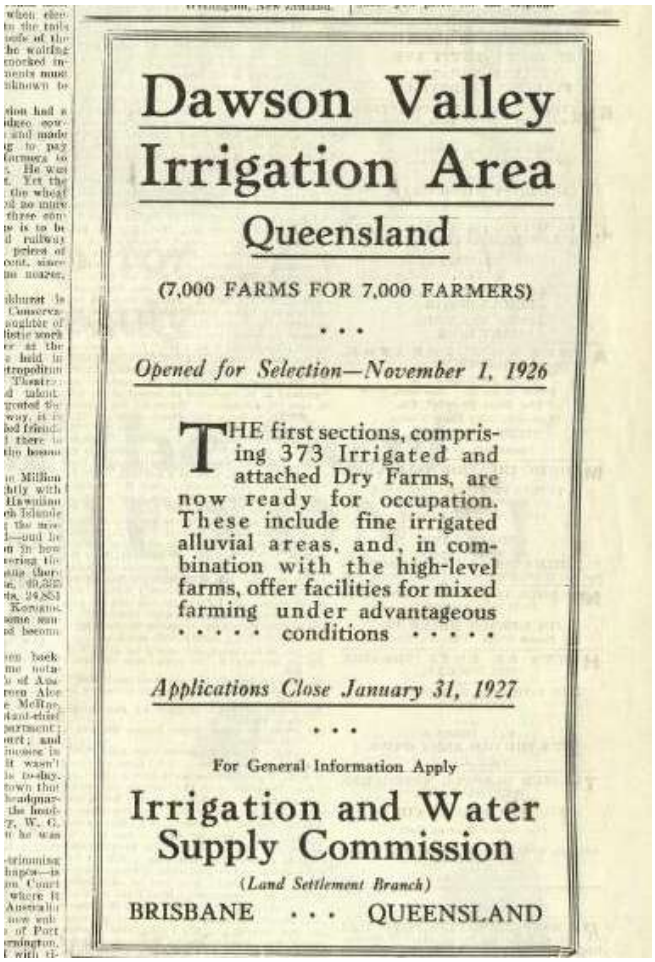
Looking south. The building on the left is the R.S.S.I.L.A. hall. That opposite (car in front) is the hostel where I stayed.

1926 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON THE FIRST RELEASE FARMS GETTING THE NEW NAME







Dawson Valley Irrigation Area

Queensland

(7,000 FARMS FOR 7,000 FARMERS)

• • •

Opened for Selection—November 1, 1926

THE first sections, comprising 373 Irrigated and attached Dry Farms, are now ready for occupation. These include fine irrigated alluvial areas, and, in combination with the high-level farms, offer facilities for mixed farming under advantageous • • • • • conditions • • • • •

Applications Close January 31, 1927

• • •

For General Information Apply

Irrigation and Water Supply Commission

(Land Settlement Branch)

BRISBANE • • • QUEENSLAND

(Source: Dawson Folk Museum, Theodore)

1926 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON THE FIRST RELEASE FARMS GOING ON THE MARKET

DAWSON VALLEY IRRIGATION AREA.

THEODORE ZONE.

SCHEDULE OF IRRIGATED FARMS—SECTION B.

Farm No.	Areas in Acres. Total.	Irrig'ble	Dry.	Annual Charge. Irrigable. £ s. d.	Dry. £ s. d.	Total. £ s. d.
1	11	11	..	16 10 0	..	16 10 0
2	11½	11½	..	17 12 6	..	17 12 6
3	13½	13½	..	19 17 6	..	19 17 6
4	13½	13½	..	19 17 6	..	19 17 6
5	14½	14½	..	21 7 6	..	21 7 6
6	12½	12½	..	18 7 6	..	18 7 6
7	11½	11½	..	16 17 6	..	16 17 6
8	12	12	..	18 0 0	..	18 0 0
9	13	13	..	19 10 0	..	19 10 0
10	12½	12½	..	18 7 6	..	18 7 6
11	6½	6½	..	10 2 6	..	10 2 6
12	6½	6½	..	10 2 6	..	10 2 6
13	7	7	..	10 10 0	..	10 10 0
14	6½	6½	..	9 7 6	..	9 7 6
15	6½	6½	..	9 7 6	..	9 7 6
16	7	7	..	10 10 0	..	10 10 0
17	9½	9½	..	13 17 6	..	13 17 6
18	5½	5½	..	8 12 6	..	8 12 6
19	6	6	..	9 0 0	..	9 0 0
20	6	6	..	9 0 0	..	9 0 0
21	6	6	..	9 0 0	..	9 0 0
22	6	6	..	9 0 0	..	9 0 0
23	5½	5½	..	8 12 6	..	8 12 6
24	5½	5½	..	8 12 6	..	8 12 6
25	5½	5½	..	8 12 6	..	8 12 6
26	5½	5½	..	8 12 6	..	8 12 6
27	6½	6½	..	9 7 6	..	9 7 6
28	6	6	..	9 0 0	..	9 0 0
29	6	6	..	9 0 0	..	9 0 0
30	6	6	..	9 0 0	..	9 0 0
31	6	6	..	9 0 0	..	9 0 0
32	5½	5½	..	8 12 6	..	8 12 6
33	5½	5½	..	8 12 6	..	8 12 6
34	5½	5½	..	8 12 6	..	8 12 6
35	5½	5½	..	7 17 6	..	7 17 6
36	6	6	..	9 0 0	..	9 0 0
37	9½	9½	..	14 5 0	..	14 5 0
38	13½	13½	..	19 17 6	..	19 17 6
39	13½	13	0½	19 10 0	0 1 0	19 11 0
40	17	12	5	18 0 0	0 10 0	18 10 0
41	11½	11½	..	17 12 6	..	17 12 6
42	11½	11½	..	17 12 6	..	17 12 6
43	16	15½	0½	23 5 0	0 1 0	23 6 0
44	9½	9½	..	14 12 6	..	14 12 6
45	10½	10½	..	15 7 6	..	15 7 6
46	10	10	..	15 15 0	..	15 15 0
47	12½	12½	..	18 15 0	..	18 15 0
48	12½	12½	..	18 15 0	..	18 15 0
49	12½	12½	..	18 15 0	..	18 15 0
50	12½	12½	..	18 15 0	..	18 15 0
51	12½	11½	1	16 17 6	0 2 0	17 0 0
52	13	13	..	19 10 0	..	19 10 0
53	13½	13½	..	20 5 0	..	20 5 0

Farm No.	Areas in Acres. Total.	Irrig'ble	Dry.	Annual Charge. Irrigable. £ s. d.	Dry. £ s. d.	Total. £ s. d.
54	13½	13½	..	20 5 0	..	20 5 0
55	13½	13½	..	19 17 6	..	19 17 6
56	13	13	..	19 10 0	..	19 10 0
57	12½	12½	..	19 2 6	..	19 2 6
58	8½	8½	..	13 2 6	..	13 2 6
59	12½	12½	..	18 7 6	..	18 7 6
60	12½	12½	..	18 15 0	..	18 15 0
61	13	13	..	19 10 0	..	19 10 0
62	12½	12½	..	19 2 6	..	19 2 6
63	13	13	..	19 10 0	..	19 10 0
64	13	13	..	19 10 0	..	19 10 0
65	13½	13½	..	20 12 6	..	20 12 6
66	10½	10½	..	16 2 6	..	16 2 6
67	12½	12½	..	18 7 6	..	18 7 6
68	15	15	..	22 10 0	..	22 10 0
69	14½	14½	..	21 15 0	..	21 15 0
70	14½	14½	..	21 7 6	..	21 7 6
71	13½	13½	..	20 12 6	..	20 12 6
72	11	11	..	16 10 0	..	16 10 0
73	12½	12½	..	18 15 0	..	18 15 0
74	12½	12½	..	19 2 6	..	19 2 6
75	19	16½	2½	24 7 6	0 5 6	24 13 0
76	12½	12½	..	19 2 6	..	19 2 6
77	12½	12½	..	19 2 6	..	19 2 6
78	12½	12½	..	18 15 0	..	18 15 0
79	12½	12½	..	18 15 0	..	18 15 0
80	12½	12½	..	19 2 6	..	19 2 6
81	13½	13½	..	19 17 6	..	19 17 6
82	13	13	..	19 10 0	..	19 10 0
83	13½	13½	..	20 12 6	..	20 12 6
84	14½	14½	..	21 15 0	..	21 15 0
85	15½	15½	..	22 17 6	..	22 17 6
86	15½	15½	..	23 12 6	..	23 12 6
87	15½	15½	..	23 5 0	..	23 5 0
88	14½	14½	..	21 15 0	..	21 15 0
89	13½	13½	..	19 17 6	..	19 17 6
90	11	11	..	16 10 0	..	16 10 0
91	52½	14½	38	21 15 0	3 16 6	25 11 6
92	28½	13	15½	19 10 0	1 11 6	21 1 6
93	13	13	..	19 10 0	..	19 10 0
94	46½	12½	33½	18 15 0	3 7 6	22 2 6
95	47½	12	35½	18 0 0	3 11 0	21 11 0
96	11	11	..	16 10 0	..	16 10 0
97	48	9½	38½	14 5 0	3 17 0	18 2 0
98	14	14	..	21 0 0	..	21 0 0
99	39	12½	26½	19 2 6	2 12 6	21 15 0
100	12½	12½	..	18 7 6	..	18 7 6
101	14½	14½	..	21 15 0	..	21 15 0
102	54½	14½	40	21 15 0	4 0 0	25 15 0
103	45½	13½	32	20 5 0	3 4 6	23 9 6
104	74½	13½	61	20 5 0	6 2 6	26 7 6
105	26	19	7	28 10 0	0 14 0	29 4 0
106	29½	18	11½	27 0 0	1 3 0	28 3 0

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,
Commissioner of Irrigation and Water Supply.

(Source: Dawson Folk Museum, Theodore)

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

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

1926 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

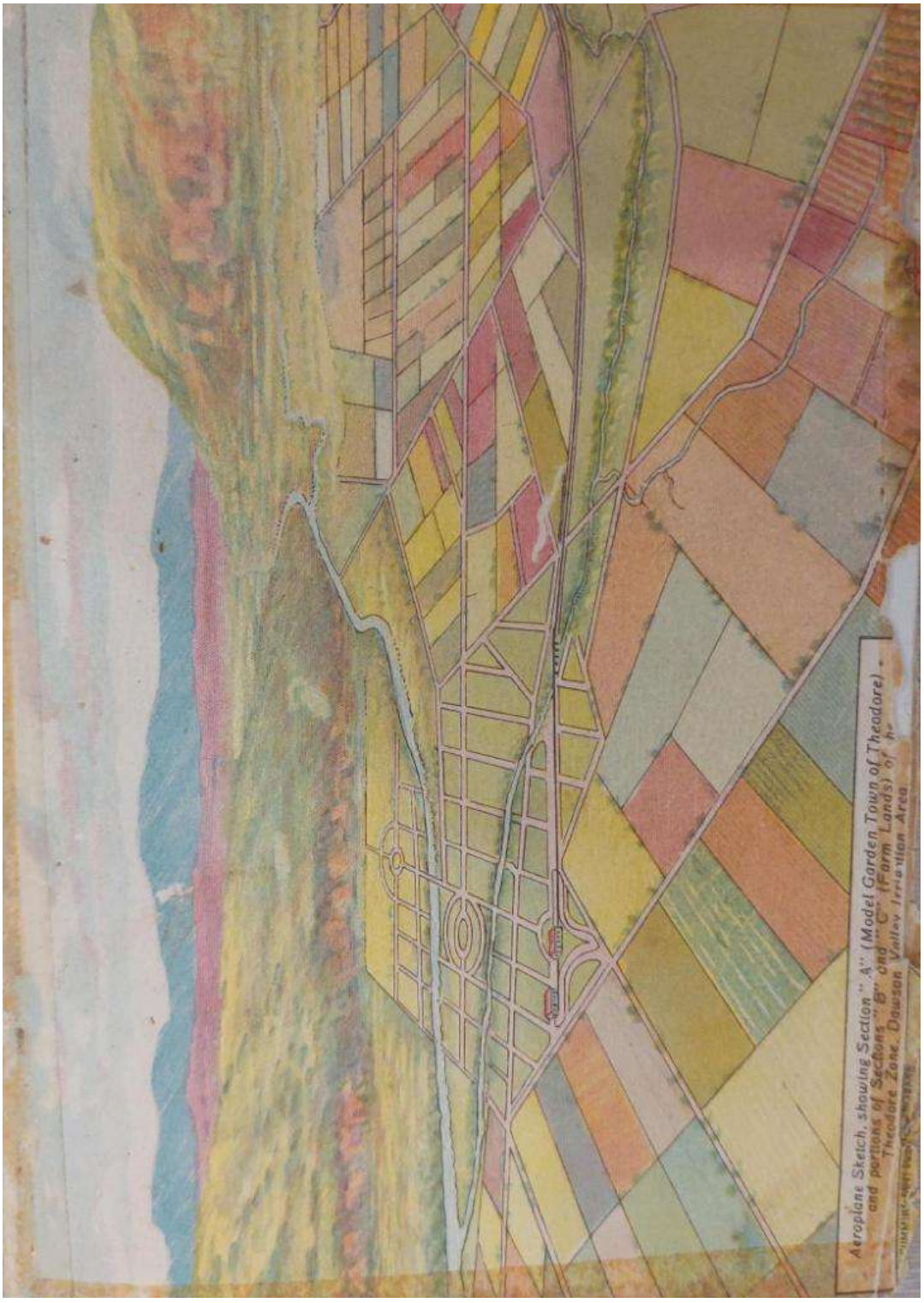
ON PIONEER SETTLERS PURCHASING & DEVELOPING THE BLOCKS

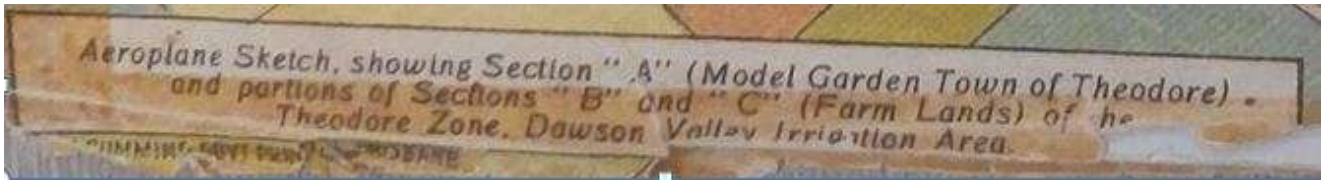
Two examples of development of irrigated blocks undertaken by the early settlers in Theodore Zone [Section B]
(Source: State Archives IWSC Photo Albums Ref # ITM 291323 to 291325)

1926 – ‘WATER’ REFLECTS

ON THE ‘AEROPLANE SKETCH’ OF THEODORE ZONE UNDER CULTIVATION

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

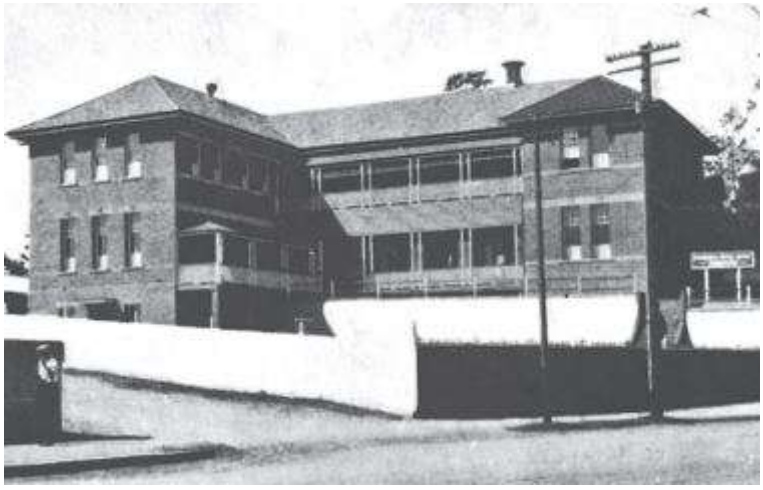


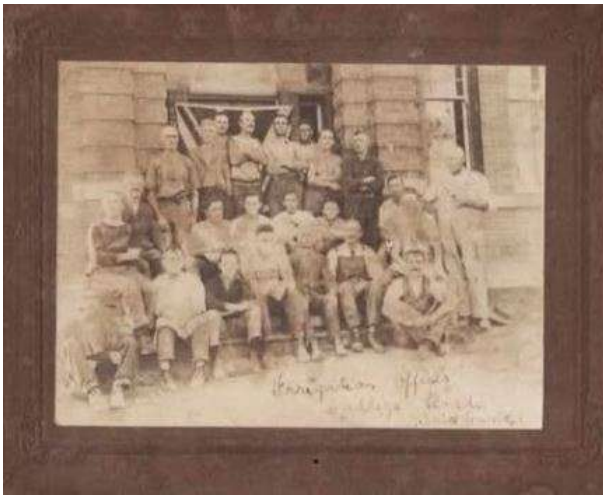


1926 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON 'BRISBANE' GETTING A NEW ADDRESS

In 1926, Commissioner Partridge moved the IWSC H/Office from cramped headquarters in the CBD (163 Adelaide St) to more roomier accommodation in the former Stock Institute Building in College Rd., adjoining the Bris Grammar School at Spring Hill on the 'fringe' of the CBD (Photo L). Photo R shows some IWSC staff posing outside their new abode. (Source: Tory family – Bill Tory 3rd from R)





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-under-construction-31582f

1926 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON PREMIER McCORMACK WRITING TO ~~CANBERRA~~ 'MELBOURNE'

re Qld seeking Commonwealth Financial Assistance for the Dawson V Scheme

https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22publications%2Ftabledpapers%2FHSTP01505_1926-28%22;src1=sm1)

NOTE: SOME TRIVIA wrt ***'WRITING TO CANBERRA'***

In 2024, statements like *'Premier Writes to Canberra'* bring to mind the nature of headings often used by the Press to introduce commentary on matters where the Queensland Govt has approached the Commonwealth Govt on any number of matters of state and national significance (including 'water').

In 1926, one such matter involved an approach by the second-in-succession to ex-Queensland Premier Theodore (ie Premier McCormack) for funding assistance from the Commonwealth for development of the Dawson Valley Scheme. However, at the time, McCormack actually wrote to 'Melbourne', as Melbourne is where the Commonwealth Parliament sat until 9 May 1927.

So it is somewhat ironic then that in 1928, the recommendations provided to the Prime Minister's Office for a Commonwealth reply to Premier McCormack's 1926 request to 'Melbourne' actually came out of 'Melbourne' but ended up in 'Canberra', in a Department set up in 1927 from which all such responses have been eagerly awaited ever since by the states – and with great anticipation.

As well, those who are optimists amongst us can be forgiven for thinking that the outcome not sought by Queensland (ie as recommended in the 1928 advice provided to the Prime Minister's Office [shown later in this document]) would have been anything different, should the response have come out of 'Canberra' after 22 October 1929.

For on 22 October 1929, ex-Queensland Premier Edward 'Red Ted' Theodore - the driving force behind the passage of the *Irrigation Act of 1922* and a staunch supporter of the Dawson Valley Scheme - was to become

(1) 'Our Man-In-Canberra'; &
(2) Federal Treasurer in what was by then the newly elected Scullin Labor Government.

Chief Secretary's Office,
Brisbane.
16th November, 1926.

Draft Scheme under Migration Agreement between the Commonwealth Government of Australia and the Government of Queensland.

Sir,

I beg to submit for the consideration of the Commonwealth Government the following scheme under the Agreement dated 9th March, 1926, and I request that this scheme may be approved as an "agreed undertaking" under that Agreement.

The scheme is in connection with the development and opening of lands in the Dawson Valley (Queensland) for irrigated farms and attached dry areas.

The area suitable for irrigated farms is 100,000 acres to which will be attached 200,000 acres of dry lands. About 7,000 new irrigated farms are included in the project, each embodying a living area for an average family of five persons. The farms are designed with a view of producing necessary commodities, such as cotton, rice, tobacco, lucerne and other fodders; to these may be added such industries as wool-

growing and lamb raising, dairy and pig farming, and similar occupations. Fruit growing (fresh and dry) is not included. The total estimated expenditure is £3,370,000, made up as follows:-

Capital expenditure on irrigation works - (a) Canals and distributories (b) Barrage and weirs (c) Hydro-electric plant (d) Land resumptions	£1,968,000
Main and feeder roads, bridges, townships, reticulation and resumptions	400,000
Treatment works for produce	127,000
Advances to settlers	875,000
	£3,370,000

The amount estimated for the construction of main and feeder roads, bridges, central towns, electric power, and water reticulation to towns is £527,000. This total includes the necessary treatment works for products.

A further sum of £875,000 is estimated to be required in connection with advances by way of loans to settlers for improvements, stock, and equipment, this sum being based on 25 per cent of the settlers needing assistance at an average of £500 per head.

Presuming that the whole of this amount is advanced under the Agreement, the terms of section 18 require that 3370 new farms be provided, at least one half of which (1685) must be allocated to assisted migrants.

Regarding clause 28 of the Agreement, if the period of three years mentioned is to be regarded as the limit of time allowed for the completion of the works, such limit should be extended to five years, as the period of time necessary for the completion of the Dawson Valley Scheme will be at least five years.

A loan of £3,370,000 is requested in connection with the above scheme.

Yours faithfully,

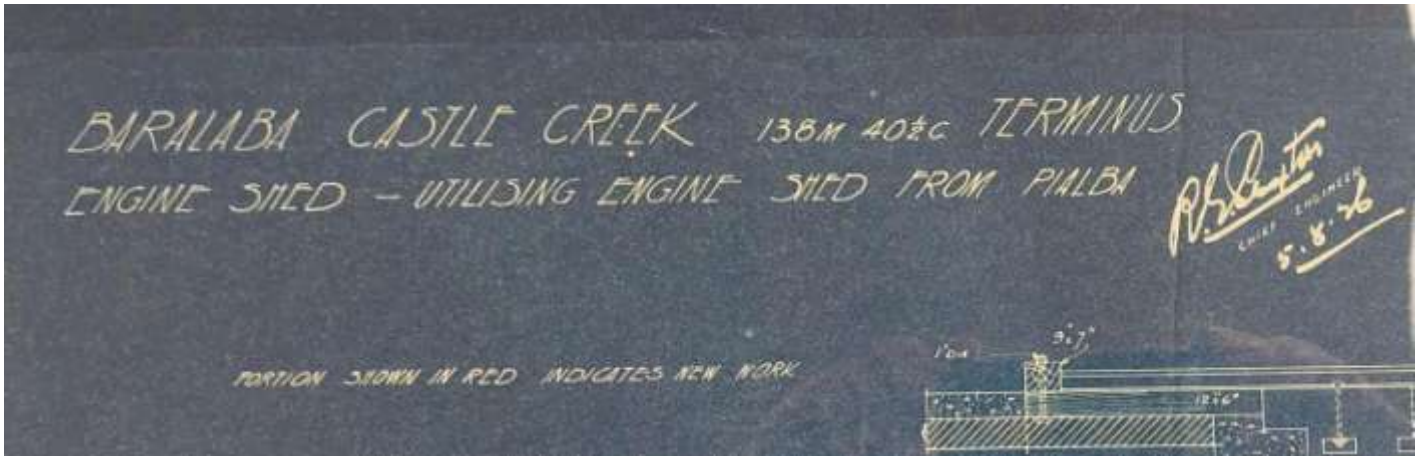
(Sgd) W. McCormack

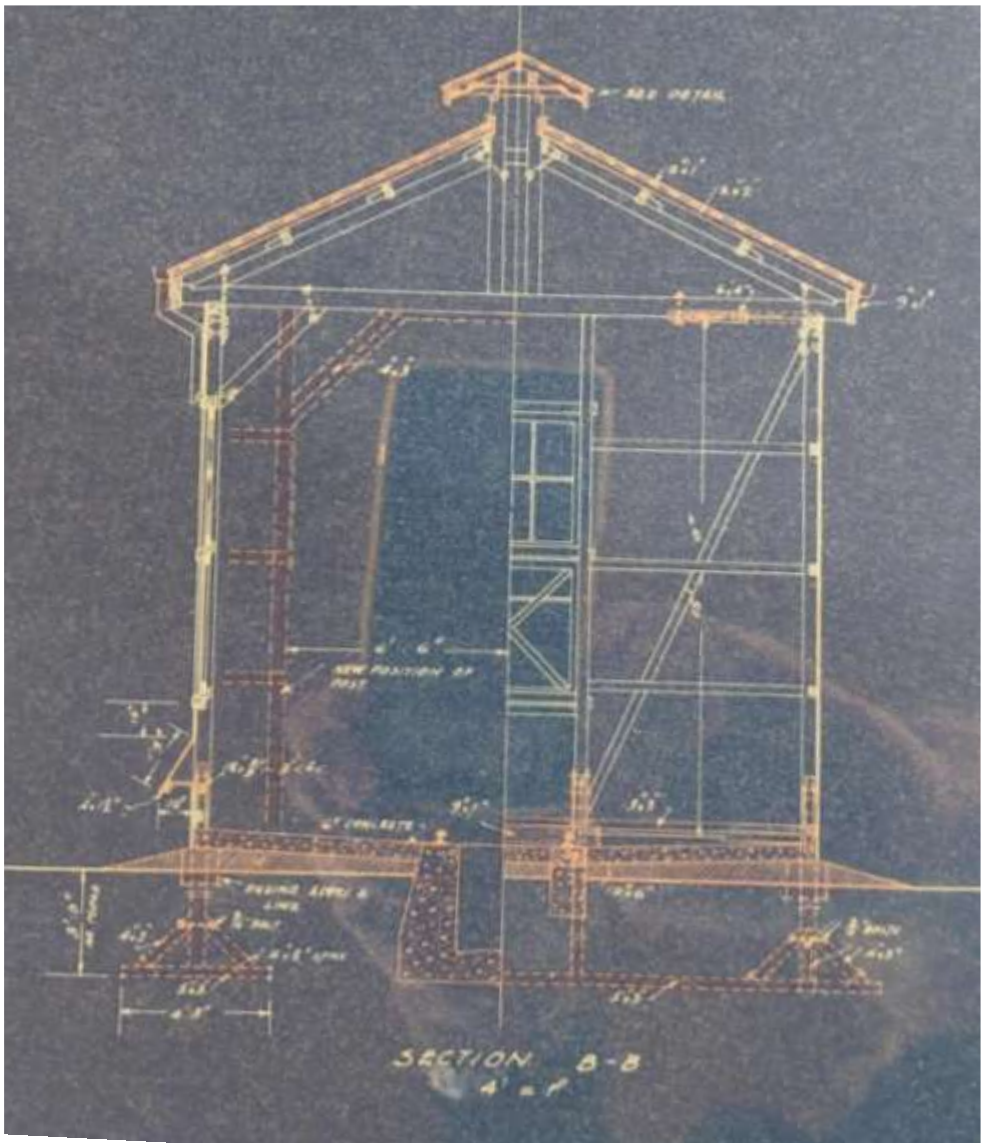
Premier.

1927 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON THEODORE BECOMING 'THE END OF THE DAWSON VALLEY LINE'

(Source: State Archives – Ref # ITM 120662)





1927 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

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 transport in the Commissioner's inspection cars on the Area. Farms are allotted according to priority of application.

Should any further details or information be required, these will gladly be furnished on application.

Yours faithfully,

Superintendent of Settlement.

'THE LITTLE GREEN BOOK'
(See APPENDIX 1)

(Source: Dawson Folk Museum, Theodore)

1927 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

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

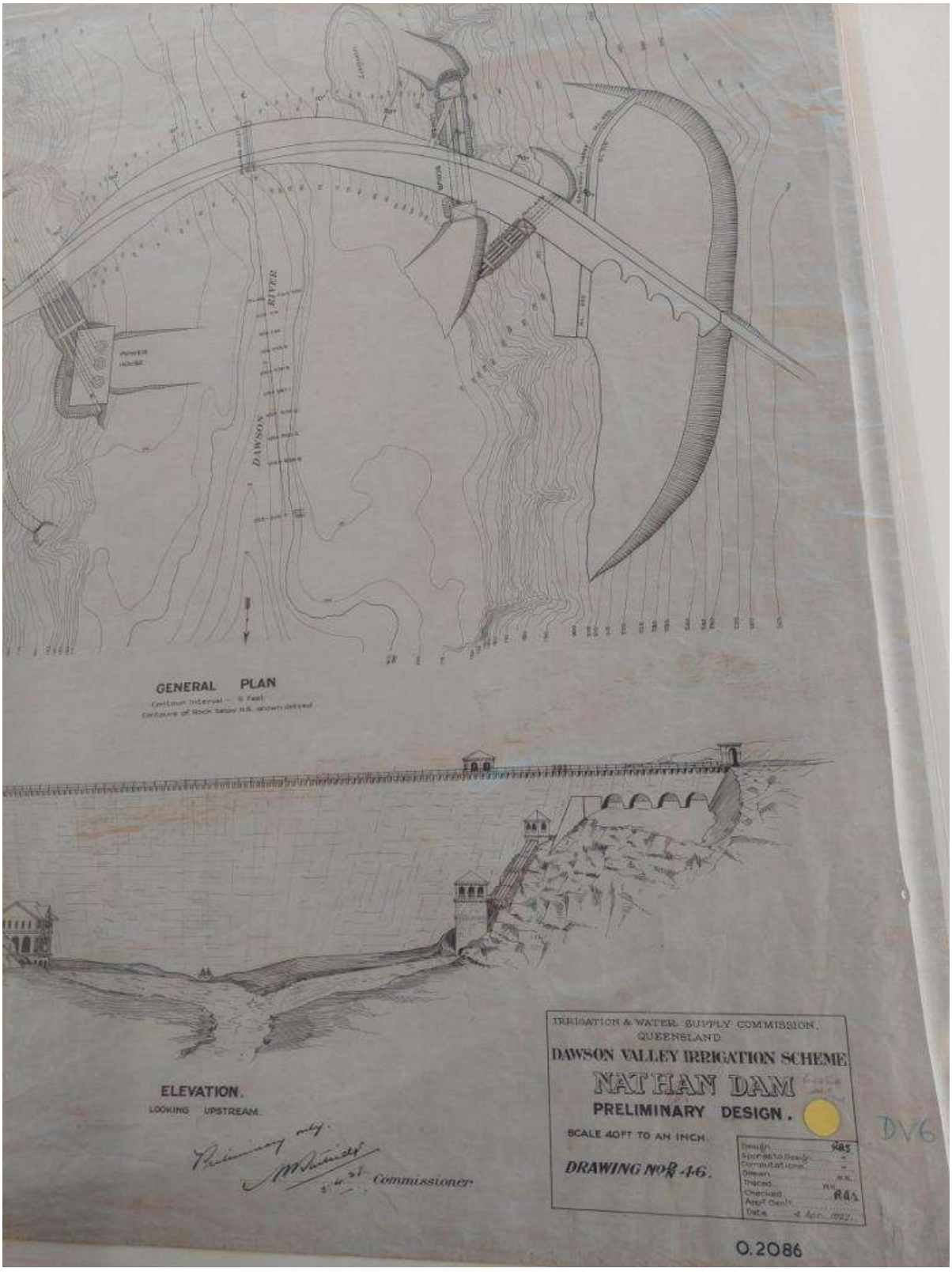
The 1927 Visit to Theodore by the Rockhampton Automobile Club

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

1927 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON THE PRELIMINARY DESIGN OF NATHAN DAM

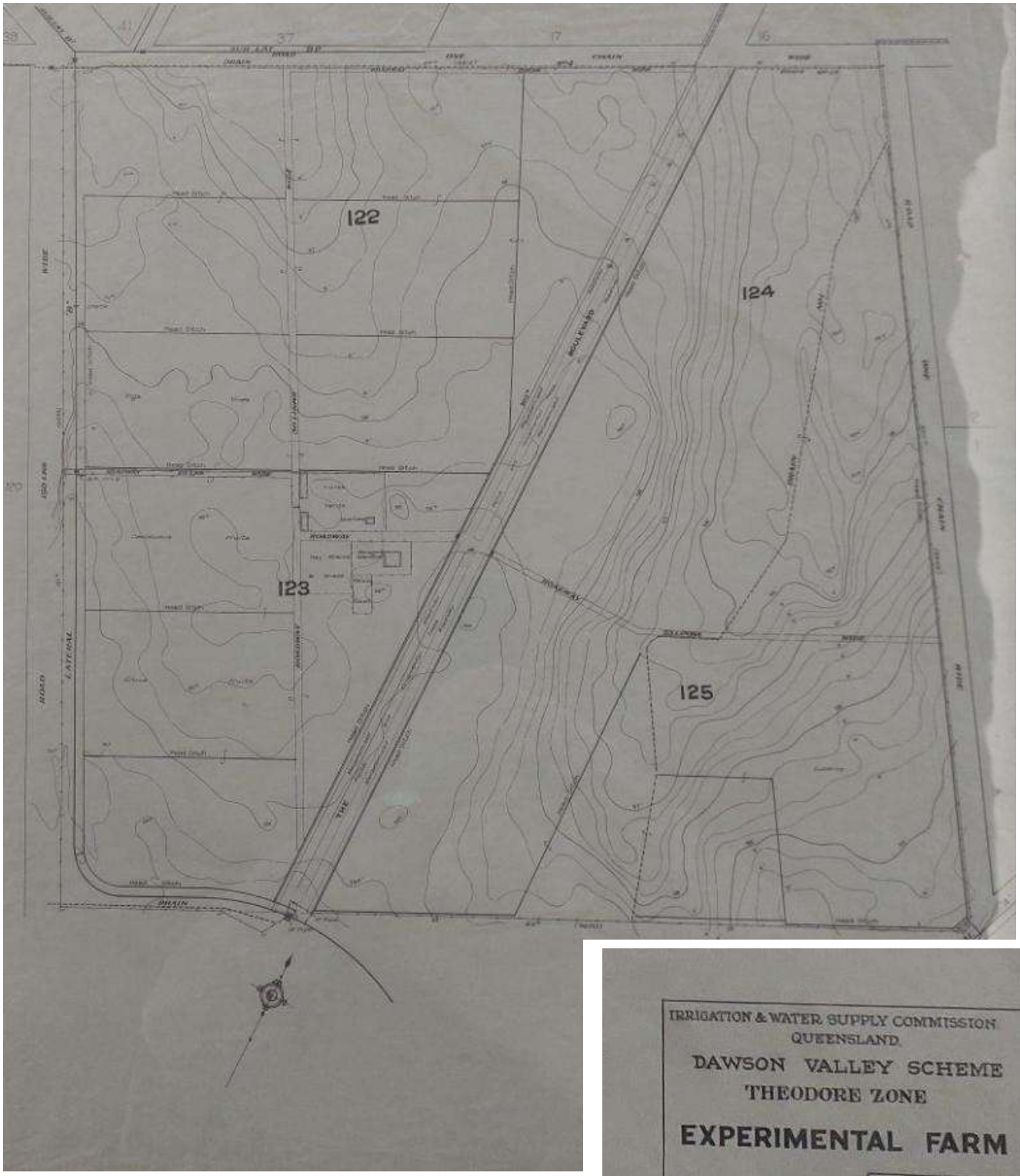
(Source: State Archives Ref# PR 809524)



1928 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON THE IWSC EXPERIMENTAL FARM

(Source: State Archives Ref# PR 809685)



1928 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

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.

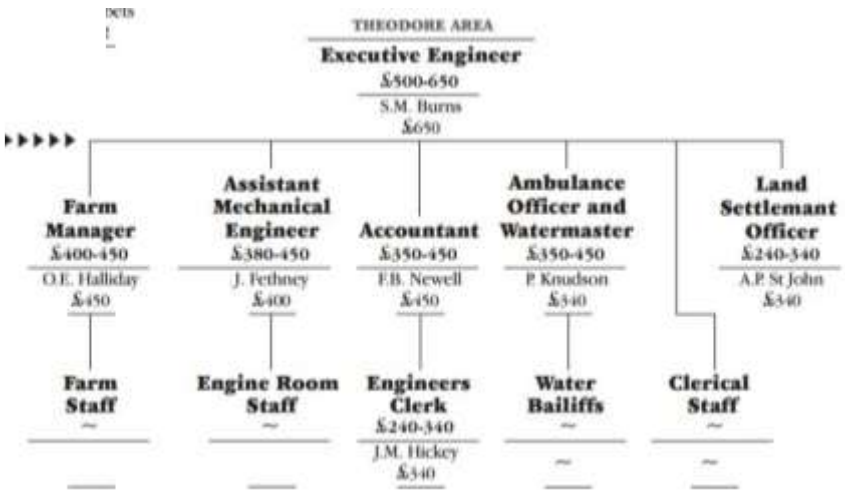
It is quite possible that the following residents of Theodore who also appeared in that directory may also have had some association with developing the Dawson by way of professional connection with the IWSC:-

> 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; 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 People's 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, LEICHHARDT DISTRICT, 148 m by rl from Rockhampton

Acason W, farmer
Addis F, farmer
Ansermet A, frmr
Auliff Mrs M, farmer
Bennett L G, caretaker
Bond J D, farm overseer
Bourke C, farmer
Bowman J A, farmer
Brodie J, engnr
Burgess R H, farmer
Burne S M, executive engr
Cannard A, farmer
Carter W, farmer
Case E W, public servant
Christopher C, farmer
Coney G B, farmer
Cronin G, frmr
Devine H T, farmer
Doelle C H, farmer
Fairfields Mrs C, lessee accom house
Farrell D O, farmer
Feltham M E K, farmer
Feltham T, farmer
Fennessey J, farmer
Firth W, electn
Fitzsimons E H, farmer
Francis G, frmr
Freeman J E, farmer
Gardiner T, farmer
Gasche L, farmer
Gooda Mrs L, farmer
Goodland E E, farmer
Gralow S H, leveller
Grant G W, surveyor
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, frmr
House C, grazier
Howe J H, farmer
Howell J C, farmer
Howell T W, farmer
Hunt R W, farmer
Hursthouse S P, storekpr
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 offcr
Leed R A, farmer
McCarthy D M, farmer
McCarthy R J, farmer
McDougall J, baker
McGregor Mrs C E, farmer
McNamee Mrs L H, farmer
Manning J, farmer
Martin J, storekpr
Mayne R E, mech engr
Medew R S, farmer
Minogue E, postmaster
Moorhead W, butcher
Morris W P, farmer
Mortimer F, farmer
Myler V H, farmer
Nester J, farmer
Newell F B, acct
Orme C E, farmer
Owens H S, 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
Ravenswood G A, farmer
Robinson T, farmer
St John A P, public servant
Scantlebury D J, farmer
Scantlebury W, 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, civil 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
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

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, strkpr

Castle Vale, see Springsure

Caves, see Yaamba

1928 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON ADVICE PROVIDED TO 'CANBERRA' FOR A RESPONSE TO QLD PREMIER McCORMACK

re Qld seeking Commonwealth Financial Assistance for the Dawson V Scheme

https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22publications%2Ftabledpapers%2FHSTP01505_1926-28%22;src1=sm1

COMMENT: The Report quoted below was compiled by advisers within the Commonwealth Department of Development and Migration. Amongst other things, it contains recommendations intended to inform a formal response by then Prime Minister Stanley Bruce to Qld Premier William McCormack, on the matter of McCormack's 1926 request for Commonwealth assistance for development of the Dawson Valley Scheme.

The actual letter sent by Prime Minister Bruce to Queensland Premier McCormack has yet to be located.

1928

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEVELOPMENT AND MIGRATION COMMISSION

REPORT

relating to the

DAWSON VALLEY IRRIGATION SCHEME, QUEENSLAND

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEVELOPMENT AND MIGRATION COMMISSION.

Kurrajong House,
175-177 Collins Street,
MELBOURNE. 15th May, 19' >.

The Rt. Hon. Sir George Pearce, P.C., K.C.V.D.,
Vice President of the Executive Council,
Prime Minister's Department,
CANBERRA .. F.C.T.

Dear Sir,

DAWSON VALLEY IRRIGATION SCHEME.

x/- I have the honour to forward herewith the report of the Development and Migration Commission relating to the Dawson Valley Irrigation Scheme.

This proposal was submitted to the Right Honorable the Prime Minister by the Premier of Queensland on the 16th November, 1926, for approval as an "agreed undertaking" under the £34,COC,COC Agreement, and it was referred to the Development and Migration Commission for investigation on the 23rd November, 1926.

After full consideration, the Development and Migration Commission is of opinion that until the economics of irrigation practice in the Dawson Valley area have been thoroughly explored, it is necessary to defer decision by this Commission with regard to the scheme as submitted by the Premier of Queensland. The full recommendations of the Commission in this regard will be found on Pages 29 and 30 of the attached report.

Yours faithfully,

H. W. Gepp

CHAIRMAN.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Development and Migration Commission therefore recommends:-

(1) That decision as regards the scheme as submitted be deferred.

(2) That a sum, as required, not exceeding £100,000 should be advanced under terms of Clause 16 of the Agreement for the purpose of carrying out a five years' programme of demonstration, details of which are to be agreed by the parties concerned.

(3) That the all-important task of a detailed soil-survey should be completed.

(4) That the economic aspect of the various forms of farming be fully investigated on the data obtained from the proposed demonstration areas.

(5) That the sum of £12,500 be allocated from the advance of £100,000 for the testing of the site of the dam at Nathan gorge.

(6) That a sum not exceeding £30,000 be allocated from the advance of £100,000 for the construction of a permanent weir at Theodore to ensure (as advised by the Queensland Commissioner for Irrigation and Water Supply) a supply of water for the proposed demonstration areas and for the existing settlement at Theodore.

On behalf of the Development and Migration Commission of the Commonwealth.

(Signed) HERBERT W. GEPP.

Chairman.

1929 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

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)

Potatoes.

Cabbages.

Vegetables for sale!"

1929 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

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)

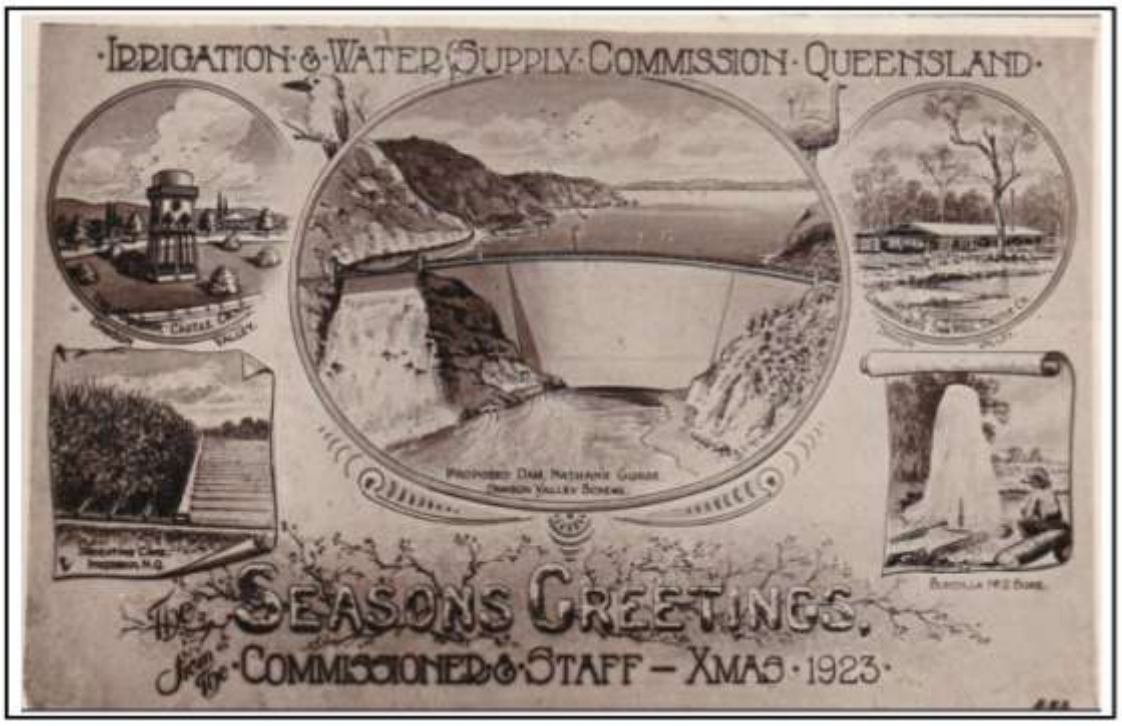
The wisdom of building towns equipped with the conveniences of a city before settlement of the surrounding irrigation area takes place may be questioned by some, but I am firmly convinced that if settlement on the land is to be carried out successfully, the settler and his family should have the opportunity 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.

1929 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

ON COMMISSIONER PARTRIDGE

- FOR BUILDING A SCHEME (Source: Dawson Folk Museum, Theodore)

- FOR BUILDING A COMMUNITY (Source: Public Domain)



- FOR THE TENURE OF HIS COMMISSION
(Source: 'Plains of Promise, Rivers of Destiny 1824 – 1990 [JM Powell])

The Commission bestowed on Archibald Partridge by the state on 1 October 1922 (initially for a 12 month period as signed off by Governor Nathan) **ran to 30 September 1929.**

1930 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

on 'THE TOWN THAT WATER BUILT'

TOWN CENTRE

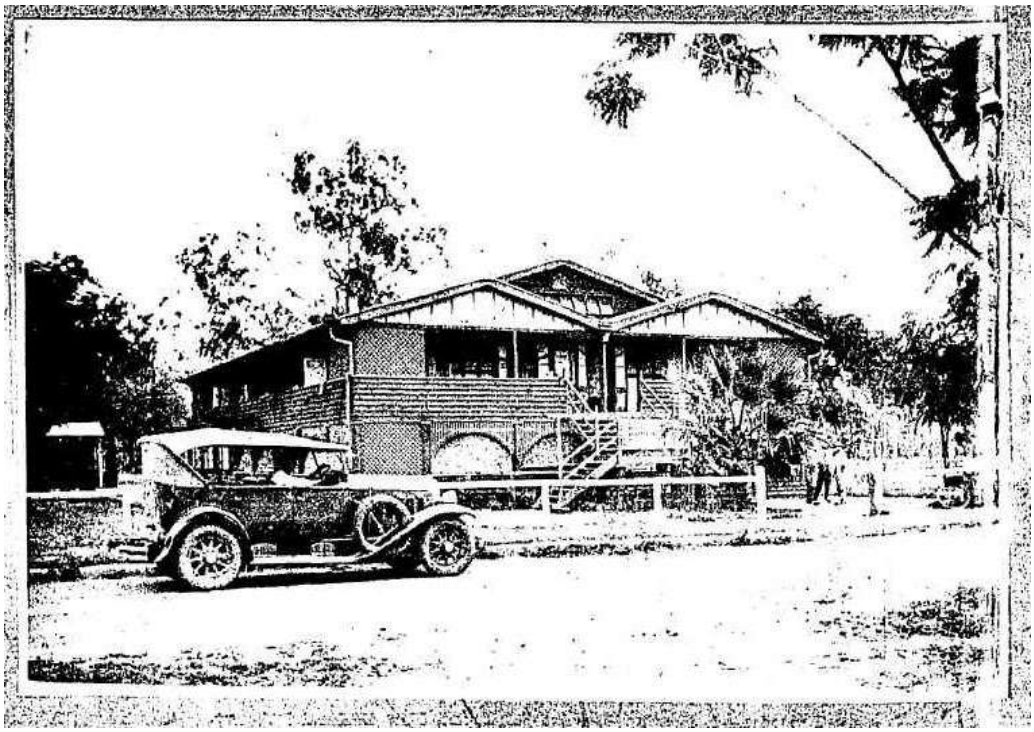
(Source: State Library, Queensland)
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:StateLibQld_1_136190_Palm_tree_lined_boulevard_in_Theodore,_ca.1930.jpg

BOULEVARD LOOKING NORTH

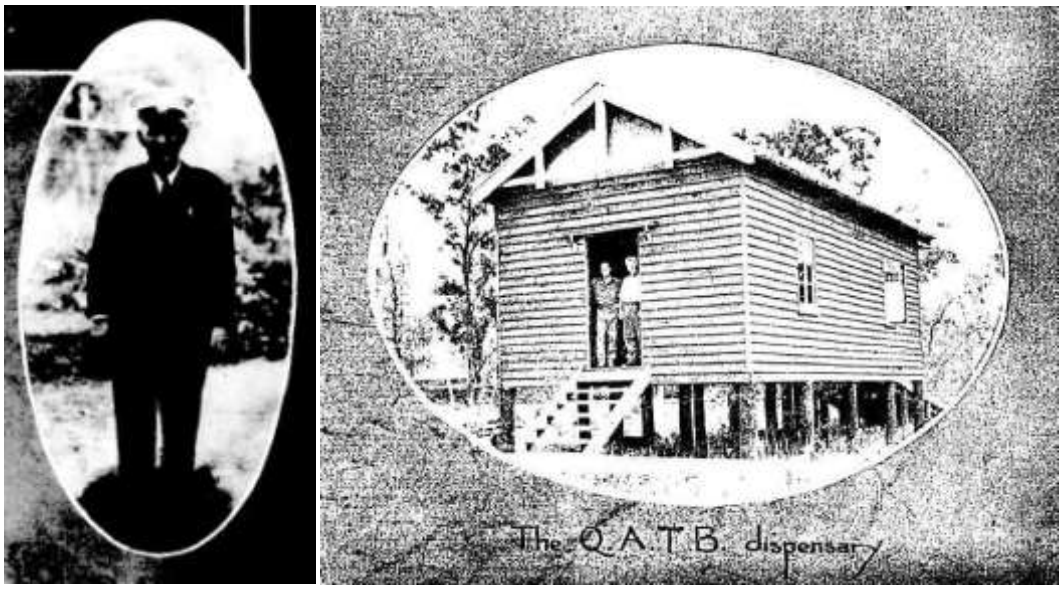
(Source: State Library, Queensland)
https://eisdocs.dsdip.qld.gov.au/Surat%20Basin%20Rail/EIS/Appendices/AppK_European_History.pdf

1930 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

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

IWSC AMBULANCE OFFICER PETER (DOC) KNUDSEN and THE QATB CAR

(Source: Dawson Folk Museum, Theodore)

1930 – 'WATER' REFLECTS

on 'THE TOWN THAT WATER BUILT'

IWSC OFFICES ON THE BOULEVARD

SHOPS ON FOURTH AVENUE