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They must have been ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~water~~
~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~tramp~~ ~~having~~ ~~both~~ ~~been~~
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Area

Murray Works

The total cost to South Australia of Works on the Murray, he proceeded, would not be the actual cost of such works, but one-fourth of the total cost of all the works under the River Murray Agreement, which must not exceed £12,000,000. South Australia's share would, therefore, approximate £3,000,000, and would include its interest in the Hume storage. The total area in South Australia under irrigation from the River Murray was about 40,000 acres, and about 710,000 acres were served by town and district water supplies. With the exception of the reclaimed swamp areas in the lower reaches (8,500 acres), which were watered by gravity, the water had to be pumped to varying heights, the greatest lift being 138 ft. at Waikerie.

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RIVER MURRAY COMMISSION

Chairman's Views On Disposal Of Water

GOOLWA, March 3.

On the general question of South Australia's share of Murray waters the chairman of the River Murray Commission (Mr. T. Hill) said today that the quantities of water allowed to each State were clearly defined under the River Murray Act. How each State dealt with its supply was entirely a matter for that State to decide, and the suggestion of means of giving upper northern districts a permanent water supply was in the hands of the South Australian Government.

After staying at Goolwa last night, members of the commission visited the Mundoo and Boundary Creek works this morning. Mr. L. R. East, a representative of Victoria, was with the party, which was conducted over the works by the engineer for construction (Mr. E. R. Lawrie), and the resident engineer (Mr. H. G. Oliver). The engineer-in-chief of the Mundoo works (Mr. Anderson) met the party at that point.

At the Mundoo works the chairman also reported good advancement. The concrete works at the sluices had been completed, and the coffer dam removed. The approach bank from Hindmarsh Island was well in hand. When this bank is completed, access will be given to conduct material to the works farther on at Boundary Creek and Towitcherie Channel. The steel and timber decking for the roadway across the piers is expected to be at hand during the next two weeks. At Boundary Creek works, it was noticed that the earth and coffer dam had been completed, and a beginning was made with the foundations for concrete openings at the piers. The approach banks at each side were also in the course of construction, and the chairman expressed satisfaction at the progress made. From this point of the scheme borings have been taken, and the commission discussed with the constructors the designs for the structures to be erected at Ewe Island Creek and Towitcherie. This work will then shortly be put in hand. When the work there is begun there will be a free run for trucks and all other vehicles to carry material right to the scene of operations. This should be accomplished in two months.

There are at present 250 employes directly employed at the barrage works, and about 91 indirectly employed. Members of the commission again sat in conference at Goolwa, and then left for Adelaide.

WATER SUPPLIES FROM MURRAY

Minister Considers Scheme Premature

COST ASPECT

Future Of City Storages

Referring to suggestions which have recently been made in public and by correspondents in the press to pump water from the River Murray to the metropolitan area, the Commissioner of Public Works (Sir Herbert Hudd) said yesterday that, in view of the reports received from its technical advisers, the Government did not propose to take immediate steps to put any such scheme into operation. It was considered that, until such time as all the supplies available from catchments in the Mount Lofty Ranges were utilised, any such action would be premature.

The Minister said that much misapprehension appeared to exist in the minds of many people about this matter, both in regard to the ease with which water could be made available and the financial aspect of such a project. While any such scheme did not present any insuperable engineering difficulties, it would undoubtedly be very costly and was quite unnecessary while sufficient cheaper water was available.

He added that the Mount Bold reservoir, with a capacity of 6,500,000,000 gallons, which would double the existing storages, was likely to be completed within the next three or four months, and in ample time to receive the winter rains. Both the present Engineer-in-Chief (Mr. Angwin) and the previous Engineer-in-Chief (Mr. J. H. O. Eaton) were of the opinion that, with the Mount Bold storage, the position in the metropolitan area could be met for many years.

Further Storages Warranted

Data which had been collected by officers of the Engineering and Water Supply Department, he said, indicated that, notwithstanding the extension of pasture and other cultivated areas, the run-off from the Onkaparinga catchment was sufficient in normal years to warrant the construction of a further storage of 3,000,000,000 gallons in addition to Mount Bold. Gaugings being recorded in the Myponga district indicated that a substantial quantity of water could also be made available from that area.

As the consumption increased, said the Minister, the question of providing further supplies would receive consideration, and if the demand were such as to exhaust all the available gravitational supplies it would then be necessary to resort to pumping. Before this stage was reached, however, full data would have been obtained and the necessary designs prepared for pumping from the Murray.

On the question of reliability of supply, the Engineer-in-Chief pointed out that since 1902 there had been only four periods during which it had been necessary to impose restrictions in the metropolitan area—1914-5, 1929, 1930 and 1934, said Sir Herbert Hudd. With Mount Bold in commission, it should be possible to store slightly more than two years' requirements, which should adequately safeguard the position during periods of low rainfall.

"Cheaper Than Pumping"

The Minister said that, speaking generally, supplies which could be obtained by gravity, proved more economical than those which necessitated pumping, and investigations which had been made showed that the cost of supplying water from the Murray would be very much greater than that of the additional supplies likely to be obtained from the Onkaparinga and other catchments.

"Preliminary estimates of alternative schemes for procuring water from the River Murray have been investigated," he said, "and show that the cost of pumping, based on interest on capital cost, sinking fund repayments, and annual maintenance, but exclusive of distribution costs, varies from 9d. to 1/2d. a thousand gallons, according to the quantity pumped a year. The corresponding cost of water supplied from the existing metropolitan headworks is only 2d. a thousand gallons, and in the case of Mount Bold it will be considerably below that figure."

£4,000 Building Scheme At Norwood

The Norwood Council last night decided to meet officials of the Emulation Lodge of Norwood at a date to be fixed. The question to be discussed will be the lease of premises at the corner of the Parade and George street, Norwood, at present held by the lodge. In a letter read at the council meeting last night, the lodge stated that it was prepared to spend £4,000 on reconstruction work provided its present lease, which has about 10 years to run were extended to 50 years. The reconstruction scheme will provide for improved visibility at the corner.

MURRAY WATERS

S.A. SHOULD GET HER SHARE

To the Editor

Sir—I have just returned from an extensive tour in Victoria and N.S.W., right along the Murray, from South Australia almost to its source, in the mountains, and I am alarmed at the way our sister States are using this enormous storage of water. I was informed by a New South Wales gentleman standing on the Hume Weir that these huge works had taken fifteen years to complete, and that the cost, which we are already acquainted with, was borne by the three States, and the storage in the Murray and Mitta Mitta Rivers, which join at the Hume Weir in this basin, will benefit South Australia equally with New South Wales and Victoria. But I fear for this. The storage is certainly going to benefit our two sister States very largely as they, of course, have the first call of the water. From the time almost that you enter Victoria the water is used for irrigation purposes tremendously, and the river banks and adjoining country for a considerable distance are covered with dairying farms, green grass, and production, including all kinds of fruits in various parts. Channels are made from the river all the way along, extending out for many miles, and the water is irrigated over the fields by water wheels.

The two States are to be congratulated on the way in which they are using these mighty rivers, and I grant that South Australia is in some respects using it on our side with the towns and the irrigation works. But although this vast supply of the Hume Weir is now almost completed in its first stages, we are to be faced with the silting of the Murray which is already occurring, and with the slower and less water coming down that river, seeing that this has begun at only the completion of the weir, and with the works of the great scheme not yet in progress, but which the States have still to put in operation. I ask how much is going to be left to come into South Australia? It will be too late to wake up when the mighty river has only pools in it, and runs only in the winter, or at a time when the snow melts and the water comes down in floods.

Can I join with others and stir up our people to go into this matter seriously, and get our pumps to work (never mind the expense), and bring the water across to our reservoirs and utilise our share of the river. We could do just as much as our sister States if we brought the water across to the Mount Lofty Ranges and used it in our plains. One of your correspondents pointed out that through the settlements on the Onkaparinga and Torrens banks making use of super, the sources of those rivers are being interfered with, and that before many years we will find that there will not be enough water left to supply even our present requirements. I may point out that this is also occurring in Victoria and New South Wales, right away back where the Murray and the Mitta Mitta take their rise. In many places the land is being settled on, and the farmers and the sheep graziers are using the land and clearing off the timber, and top dressing it for sheep, &c. This, as we know, will also affect the source of the rise of these great rivers. May I ask our Government to seriously consider this problem, and see that our future rights to the Murray are preserved. But if I could stir up South Australians to realise what we could do if only we got some of this water cheap enough to irrigate our plains, we could then have some of the wonderful dairying land which we possess carrying ever so many more dairies, sheep, and cattle.—I am, Sir,
&c.,

J. H. PEEK, Seacombe road, Seacliff

Dawn Reflections on the Murray

PROBABLY there is little in the great Australian Bush that inspires the spirit of romance more than the great River Murray, which in its season transports the produce of the far-flung areas of Australia's fertile lands and irrigate the otherwise idle spaces that stretch for miles on either side of its tortuous path.

One night I camped beside the Murray. It was warm, and after vainly trying to sleep, I left my bed and strolled along the river bank. I found a fallen tree and sat down.

It was dark and the pin points of light in the heavens were reflected in the waters of the river. The trees that lined the further bank were but dimly visible, but one could sense the mighty volume of water that flowed between, making its way without flurry but inevitably to its natural outlet in the sea.

I VISUALISED the sources of these waters of the Murray. From countless tributaries that have their rise in mountain ranges and snow-clad heights, hurrying in creeks and rivulets to join the bigger streams, till finally they were gathered to the bosom of Old Mother Murray and went on to the sea.

stream grows turbulent and frets against the puny efforts of man to stay its progress. But, for the most part, it

passes sedately and majestically to where the waters of the ocean beat upon the reef that guards the Murray Mouth.

Not all the waters of the Murray reach the open sea, for some are turned aside to refresh the thirsty soil, to nourish vineyards and orchards and to give the needed moisture to pasture lands. Windmills and other pumping plants pick up the life-giving element and send it for miles across a dry and thirsty land to where man and beast await it eagerly.

Something indefinable seemed to warn me of the approach of day, a scarce perceptible brightening of the eastern horizon, a sudden, quickly passing puff of wind. Then presently, from a distance, came the first call of the kookaburra, to be answered sleepily from the boughs of trees near where I sat.

THE eastern sky still held a billowing curtain of clouds, which slowly rolled aside to let the first rays of sunlight peep through. Daylight cast a film over the heavens and blotted out the stars, which like sentinels had kept watch over a sleeping world.

With the coming of light the wonderful Murray mirrors made their magic once more. The smoothly running waters made no ripple and reflected with marvellous clarity in their unruffled surface a picture of the further

bank, every detail of which seemed to drop into the river and stay there upside down.

A herd of cattle came to drink and dipped their nostrils in the cooling stream, while below them were the ghostly images of themselves. They passed up the bank and went back to their pasture and their reflections hid away till they should return. A little skiff passed lazily by propelled by a fisherman inspecting his lines.

The strengthening light was now glistening on the broad surface of the river, and I stood and watched the flow of the mighty stream irresistibly sweeping on to the sea.

I walked back to my camp slowly. At the water's edge, here and there, trees had fallen and their boughs stretched out into the current caused a ripple in the water as though in expostulation that the serenity of their flow should be checked.

Rounding a bend of the river bank I came to where an abandoned house-boat languished at the water's edge. A rusty chain passed round a tree trunk still held it. Sometimes when a paddle steamer passed near the bank, the derelict rocked to dancing waves, but now it seemed to mope dejected and undisturbed. It appeared as though it were meditating on other days when it braved the current, carried happy parties on their holiday quests. When joy and laughter might have resounded in the tiny cabin, what cheery songs may have been sung. What tales of Love and Romance may have been told. . . or maybe, at some time, there have been sorrow, sadness, even tragedy. Who can tell? Its secret is its own.

Garth O

