

PROBLEM FOR WHYALLA ENGINEERS

Gritty Clay Difficult To Dredge

SHORT LIFE FOR CUTTING BLADES

Hard, red, gritty clay which resists the iron cutting blades of a modern dredge has proved to be one of the toughest obstacles met with by engineers in reclaiming land off Whyalla for the Broken Hill Proprietary Co.'s £1,500,000 blast furnace site.

Mr. E. A. Schulz, in an article in the February issue of the "B.H.P. Review," says that, as a result, the digging rate has fallen below that anticipated and tests are being now carried out on teeth made from various materials.

At present, specially fitted blades of nickel chrome cast steel are being used, but even these, in the grit-embedded clay, have a life of only from 24 to 36 hours.

Before this, alternate cutter blades were serrated after ordinary cutter blades had worn rapidly, and, although the serrated blades were altered in profile to give a more pronounced tothing effect, the rapid wear of the blades continued.

As the face of the dredged cut is now normally uncovered by the tide each day, holes 25 to 30 feet apart and alternately 14 and 25 feet deep are stuffed with gelignite and 25 per cent. ligdyn and blasted. A large increase in the output has resulted from the blasting.

So that steamers may swing alongside the blast furnace to obviate trucking, a site was chosen on shallow flats half a mile wide between high and low water mark and is now being dredged.

While the dredge, the Melbourne Harbor Trust's suction cutter G.P.H. which had previously been used at Williams-town, Victoria, and Bombay, India, was being reconditioned for the job, construction of reclamation banks was begun.

Big Scheme

The scheme provides for banks to be thrown around two areas, a northern paddock of 74 acres and a southern paddock of 17 acres, the banks being of clay 12 ft. above low water at ordinary spring tides, and constructed with the aid of end-tipping lorries.

The work was begun in June, 1938, and by the end of August the banks of the northern paddock, into which 67,000 cubic yards of clay and 40,000 cubic yards of stone had been packed, were finished.

The dredge used is designed to dig 70 ft. below water and has a cutter of a cast steel spider of 10 arms.

A suction pipe begins just below the centre line of the cutter and passes through the boiler room to the pump and thence to the stern of the ship, where it connects with the stern pipe and pontoons.

So that wharf construction could begin as quickly as possible, the dredge cut its way in from the sea through a specially made channel of minimum width and depth. After the discharge pipe line had been coupled into a shore position for discharging into the northern reclamation paddock, a heavy storm parted and damaged the line, and dredging was continued by dumping material behind until the dredge had moved forward enough to couple into another position.

The dredge operates in a fanwise movement, being moved across the face by either the port or starboard bowline.

When completed, the channel will be 240 ft. wide and the swinging basin 600 ft. wide with a minimum depth of 25 ft. at low water at ordinary spring tides.

The berth is being deepened to 27 ft. for a width of 100 ft. from the wharf face. The total quantity of material to be dredged will amount to 1,300,000 cubic yards, mostly clay.

CITIZEN RIGHTS FOR NATIVES

'Leave Them Alone' Policy 'Disastrous'

SCIENTISTS URGED TO CO-OPERATE

"No scheme worthy of the nation has ever been inaugurated to prepare aborigines for citizen rights, because it has been thought that the kindest way to act was to disturb them as little as possible, and leave them to their own resource," states the report of the Aborigines Friends' Association, which will be presented at the 80th annual meeting in Adelaide today.

"The 'Leave them alone' policy adopted in Australia for the natives has proved unprogressive and disastrous for the aborigines," the report proceeds. "Now that native leaders are seeking a wider opportunity for the race, much leeway must be made up to enable them to undertake civic responsibilities. While the older generation, through lack of preparation, cannot take a higher place in the community, they have aspirations for their children. Some natives who are worthy of a better status should be exempted from aboriginal laws, and brought under the laws governing the general community.

"No discrimination should be made among aborigines in regard to shades of color. Entrance to citizenship should be decided by the intelligence and character of the applicant. Present laws discriminate between the full-blood and the half-caste, and treatment differentiates accordingly. The full-blooded black is quite as intelligent as the half-caste, and sometimes more so.

"The only way to prolong the life of the aborigines is to give them a cleaner, healthier, and more intelligent life," the report states. "Tribal methods carry the seeds of decay, embracing, as they do, infanticide, cannibalism, a dread of magic, and rites which cause suffering and mutilation. The mating of old men with young women also tends to the decline of the race.

Combined Effort Essential

"From 250,000, the aborigines have dwindled to fewer than 80,000 throughout Australia, and only a combined effort by all interested sections of the community can now prevent their utter extinction," continues the report. "Scientific men, who are unwilling to supersede the primitive systems of the aborigines by something better, could do a great deal in salvaging them. The anthropologist wants the native to remain static, if possible, in the midst of an advancing civilisation. Missionary work is trying to deal with the situation."

Advocating the appointment of an aborigines' protection board, the report states that the time has now arrived when the burden of administration in that sphere should no longer be placed on one man's shoulders. To keep aborigines herded together on Government stations, with no future outlook on life, is demoralising and must end in mendicancy. The wrong impression that the half-caste cannot do the work of a white man should be removed. He is quite capable of taking his share in the work of the community, and should be given every opportunity to prove his worth.

According to the latest available statistics, there are now 2,081 full-blooded aborigines and 2,148 half-castes in South Australia. The corresponding totals for the whole of the Commonwealth are 51,615 and 24,325.

CHARGES OF CRUELTY TO ABORIGINES

Minister To Call For
Immediate Report

SENATOR FOLL'S STATEMENT

Allegations Said To Be
"Extraordinary"

CANBERRA, May 1.

The Minister for the Interior (Senator Foll) said tonight that he would call for an immediate report on allegations by Dr. R. M. Crookston of the ill-treatment of aborigines in the north.

Dr. Crookston, accompanied Dr. Donald Thomson on an expedition which studied Arnhem Land natives in 1935. Speaking in Sydney last night he alleged that a missionary had tied young native women to posts, whipped them, and turned them into the bush, and that aborigines were chained together, some in a dying condition.

Dr. Crookston claimed also that the Queensland Government, by compelling natives to work for a mere pittance, was virtually engaged in a slave trade.

Senator Foll said that the charges made against the missionaries were most extraordinary. The Queensland Government would have to answer the accusation levelled at it, but his experience as a Queensland member was that a succession of State Governments had shown very great consideration for the welfare of the natives.

He had visited many mission stations in the north. The aborigines were contented and happy. In some areas of the undeveloped north there might be instances of ill-treatment, but they were heavily punishable. Unless Dr. Crookston could submit concrete cases of ill-treatment it would appear that he had allowed his enthusiasm to run ahead of his judgment.

Senator Foll said that the Commonwealth Government had plainly shown its interest in the welfare of aborigines in the Northern Territory. A few weeks ago the Government had appointed Mr. E. W. Chinnery, senior anthropologist from New Guinea, to organise a new Native Affairs Department. Mr. Chinnery was now working on the "new deal" for the natives.

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CONTROL OF ABORIGINES

New Commonwealth Scheme Welcomed

UNDERSTANDING REQUIRED

"The new Commonwealth policy for the care and control of aborigines is to be highly commended, with the proviso that its ultimate success depends upon the ability and understanding of the officials who undertake it," said the president of the Aborigines' Protection League of South Australia (Dr. Charles Duguid) yesterday. He was referring to proposed changes in the Government methods adopted in the treatment of tribal natives and half-castes, announced by the Minister for the Interior (Mr. McEwin).

Apparently the Commonwealth Government had at last become convinced that the successful native policy followed in New Guinea by the Administrator (Sir Hubert Murray) provided a worthy example for Australia, Dr Duguid said.

The proposals of the Commonwealth authorities for dealing with the natives still living in a tribal state were also practically identical with those so successfully adopted at the Ernabella aboriginal mission in the north-west of this State, Dr. Duguid added. Since Ernabella had come into existence not a single half-caste had been born in that part of South Australia, while the births of full-bloods had been numerous. The full-blooded natives who were sent to Ernella for medical treat-

LEICHHARDT'S LAST EXPEDITION.

Old Newspaper Reveals Plans.

By N.H.S.

FOLLOWING the recent expedition into the sun-baked interior of South Australia to investigate a report of the finding of human remains, believed to be those of members of the Leichhardt expedition, an extract from the "Perth Gazette" of November 28, 1846, reveals that on his fateful journey Leichhardt intended proceeding around the north of Australia and making towards the north-west coast of Western Australia. If the explorer carried out that intention it appears improbable that relics of his party would be found as far south as the northern limits of South Australia, but when, in August of last year, it was reported that the skeletons of eight men, believed to be the relics of the Leichhardt expedition, were found in the Simpson Desert, an official party was sent to investigate. Two men, while mustering cattle, had come upon an old camp with seven skeletons in a circle. It appeared that the men had been around the camp fire and had been surprised and speared by the blacks. Another skeleton was found about two miles away.

About three weeks later a radio message was received in Adelaide from the official party in the Simpson Desert. Scattered pieces of white substance which were believed to be highly calcified portions of tree stems and roots were examined, and more important discoveries were a Queen Victoria threepenny bit dated 1841, a George III half-sovereign dated 1817, and a corroded iron pack-saddle ring. The threepenny bit was coined a few years before Leichhardt's last expedition. The location of the finds, which were dug up in consolidated sand at a depth of about six inches, was stated to be about two miles south of the northern border of South Australia. Several pieces of leather and fragments of bone were also found, and the party left the desert after digging out about 1,000 square feet of red sand. The fragments of bone were found to be human, but no further official expedition was made to the desert where the relics were found.

The 93-year-old newspaper report has been brought to light by Mr. C. Treadgold, a member of the Archives Board of Western Australia, and he said that, in his opinion, the report confirmed the contention of old residents of the East Kimberley district that Leichhardt either did not leave the northern parts of Queensland or that, if he reached the Northern Territory, he disappeared there.

The extract from the "Perth Gazette" is as follows:—"Dr. Leichhardt, since his return from Port Essington, has delivered two lectures of a most interesting character in Sydney on the characteristics of the country he passed through, and also of its possibility for colonisation. These lectures are, unfortunately, far too lengthy for our columns, and it is impossible to do justice to them in a condensation. We shall content ourselves with giving the worthy doctor's last few sentences containing the plan which this intrepid explorer had laid down for the expedition on which, doubtless, he has by this time departed from Sydney.

"Dr. Leichhardt said: 'I shall lay before you the plan of an expedition on which I intend to start in October next. Captain Sturt's expedition has shown that the interior in the longitude of the head of the Gulf is a desert, at least to latitude 24, from where the explorer was compelled to return. It would, therefore, not be advisable were I to attempt to cross the continent in that or a higher latitude; I shall, therefore, proceed at once to latitude 23, where I found the Mackenzie and Peak Range during my last journey; and as the Mackenzie was well supplied with water I shall follow it up to its sources, which I expect to find about 80 to 100 miles to the westward of the spot where we first came upon the river. I might then be able to ascertain whether the western branches of the supposed watershed come down to the southward to join the stream of the Darling, or whether they turn northward, forming the sources of the largest rivers of the head of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

"Should the latter be the case, and should the country be sufficiently well watered, I would, of course, proceed to the westward, keeping the same latitude, and try to reach the waters of the north-west coast. But should any want of water not allow me to continue my journey westward, or even to the northward, I will retrace my steps down the Mackenzie and follow the track of my last journey up to the Burdekin where it is joined by the Clarke in latitude 19.12. I would follow the latter river, and I have no doubt of finding the head of the Flinders after having crossed the tableland or the Dividing Range.

"I would then continue my journey to the Albert and follow that river up to ascertain with correctness the latitude of its source, and the nature of the country. I would then again try a westerly course to come successively to the heads of the Nicholson, the Van Alphen, the Abel Tasman, the Robinson and the Macarthur, and from the latter river I would hope to reach the waters of the west coast in about latitude 17.18. Should I succeed in this I will turn to the southward and work my way parallel to the north-west and west coast until I reach the Swan River. This journey I hope to accomplish in two years, although I am aware that unforeseen difficulties may retard my progress."

...ions are sometimes substituted. All
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POEMS AND RHYMES.

TWO POEMS.

[From "Spirits in Bondage," by Clive Hamilton.]
—The Roads.—

I stand on the windy uplands among the hills of
Down

With all the world spread out beneath—meadow
and sea and town,
And ploughlands on the far-off hills that glow
with friendly brown.

And ever across the rolling land to the far horizon
line,

Where the blue hills border the misty west, I see
the white roads twine,

The rare roads and the fair roads that call this
heart of mine.

I see them dip in the valleys and vanish and rise
and bend

From shadowy dell to the wind-swept fell, and
still to the west they wend,

And over the cold blue ridge at last to the great
world's uttermost end.

And the call of the roads is upon me, a desire
in my spirit has grown

To wander forth in the highways, 'twixt earth
and sky alone,

And seek for the lands no foot has trod and the
seas no sail has known:

For the lands to the west of the evening, and east
of their morning's birth,

Where the gods unseen in their valleys green are
glad at the ends of earth,

And fear no morrow to bring them sorrow, nor
night to quench their mirth.

—To Sleep.—

I will find out a place for thee, O Sleep—

A hidden wood among the hilltops green,
Full of soft streams and little winds that creep
The murmuring boughs between.

A hollow cup above the ocean placed

Where nothing rough, nor loud, nor harsh shall
be,

But woodland light and shadow interlaced,
And summer sky and sea.

There in the fragrant twilight I will raise

A secret altar of the rich sea god,
Whereat to offer sacrifice and praise
Unto my lonely god.

Due sacrifice of his own drowsy flowers,

The deadening popples in an ocean shell,
Round which, through all forgotten days and
hours,

The great seas wove their spell.

So may he send me dreams of dear delight,

And draughts of cool oblivion, quenching pain

And sweet, half-wakeful moments in the night
To hear the falling rain.

And when he meets me at the break of day,

To call me home for ever, this I ask—

That he may lead me friendly on that way,
And wear no frightful mask.

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OBER 13, 1937

rian March's
s For Women

Mothers



MRS. NAPIER BIRKS, who has been president of the Mothers and Babies' Health Association for the past twelve years.—Rembrandt portrait.

Contest, sponsored by "The Advertiser" augmented the fund by