PETER CHANDLER

We record the recent death of Peter Chandler of Ettrick with sincere regret. Peter was an historian of note who had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Wakatipu and in particular the Shotover area. He was a long standing member of the society and in the past contributed to the Courier. The following article by Peter is typical of his meticulous and detailed style.

Lake Kirkpatrick- Peter chandler

LAKE KIRKPATRICK

In 1980, newspaper publicity which covered the proposal to create a scenic reserve at "Lake Kilpatrick," (sic), prompted me to write to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Dunedin, pointing out that the original name of this small lake on the road to Moke Lake, was Lake Kirkpatrick.

In 1959, I interviewed Mr James Kirkpatrick, a retired farmer, living in Invercargill, a son of Thomas Kirkpatrick, owner 1874-81 of the Twelve-Mile Run (No.9A, Wakatipu Depasturing District). Mr Kirkpatrick had lived as a child at Bob's Cove and retained vivid recollections of his mother rowing from thence to Queenstown in an open boat, when household requirements made the journey necessary. In addition, he supplied certain information about his father, Thomas, and uncle, James; this has been amplified by reference to various documents available in official repositories.

Thomas and James Kirkpatrick were born at Moffat, in the Parish of Moffat, or Kirkpatrick Juxta (precisely which parish remains to be determined, as both adjoin in the vicinity of the town of Moffat), Dumfries-shire, Scotland. At a later date they removed to Tobermory, in the Island of Mull, and it was from this district that the two brothers came to New Zealand - James about 1865 and Thomas some two years later. At the time of emigration to New Zealand, James was a widower with one daughter.

James Kirkpatrick settled at the Eight-Mile, or Wilson's Bay, in 1866, and obtained a licence for the run which he called Closeburn. In 1874, he secured the lease of Run No.8, but sold it within a few months to A.H. Douglas and Alexander Gray. His occupation of this run is commemorated in three place-names: CLOSEBURN, KIRK'S TERRACE and LAKE KIRKPATRICK. In 1875, he leased a farm from Bendix Hallenstein, at Thurlby Domain, and on the expiry of the lease in 1881, he, with his brother, Thomas, whose stock losses in the 1878 snow and severe winters of 1879 and 1880 had persuaded him to relinquish his run, bought farms in the subdivision of Waicola Estate, at Wairio, Southland. James Kirkpatrick died at Invercargill, 26 March, 1890, aged 65. The fate of his daughter remained unresolved until my letter to the Commissioner of Crown Lands came to the attention of Mr John Toll, Alexandra. Mr Toll has now supplied documents which show that Barbara Kirkpatrick had married a miner. Thomas Toll (Mr J. Toll's grandfather), and died in the Arrow district about 1894.

The earliest mention I have traced of Lake Kirkpatrick, is in "Otago Provincial Government Gazette," 10.1.1872, pp. 30-31. KIRK from Norse and Old English forms, cirice, circe, kirke, and KIL from Latin cella, through Gaelic cill, or ceall, had become common usage almost interchangeable.

CLOSEBURN, as a place-name, has nothing to do with either closes, or burns, but is derived from CELLA OSBERNI (the cell, or chapel, of St Osbern - a Norse saint), through KELOSBERN, then KILOSBURN, to emerge finally as CLOSEBURN. Closeburn Castle (a ruin for many years) had belonged to a family of Kirkpatricks, though any relationship to James or Thomas has not been established. The last owner, William Kirkpatrick, sold the estate in 1783 and removed to Malaga, in Spain, where he became first a wine merchant, and from 1800 until 1818, American consul. His grand-daughter, Marie-Eugenie-Ignace-Augustine de Montigo, a noted beauty of her day, married Napoleon III of France. Abdication in 1870, saw her begin a long residence at Chiselhurst, Kent. Her death occurred at Madrid in 1920.

This issue of the Courier contains the two winning entries in the William Rees Memorial Essay conducted by the society, one by Catherine Early, the other by Andrea King. Owing to its length it has not been possible to include all of Andrea King's essay and the other instalment will be included in the next issue.

LAW AND ORDER ON THE OTAGO GOLDFIELDS

Law and order on the Otago goldfields - Catherine Early

Catherine Early

The most popular way of making a quick fortune in the nineteenth century was in the pursuit of gold. Wherever it was found it was accompanied by waves of people of differing race, religion and social background living in close confinement with each other. Consequently, Gabriel Read's discovery of a paying goldfield at Tuapeka in 1861 brought both large numbers of miners to Otago and the need for a means to control them. While a spirit of lawlessness existed, the goldfields were not generally as turbulent as was once believed. Law and order was maintained to a large extent through the conscientious efforts of the policemen and wardens who were stationed in the area.

In 1858 the New Zealand Government had passed the Goldfields Act using the Victoria fields of Australia as a model for organisation. Under this Act miners' rights and export duties geared to New Zealand were introduced. Control of the goldfields was to be administered from Wellington but in 1861 the Otago superintendent applied for delegation of power from the central Government to the Provincial Governments. This was granted. However, magistrates and warden courts were still under central Government control. At first miners' committees controlled disputes. This was the case at Tuapeka (now Lawrence) where Read took the lead in setting up a supervisory committee to maintain order and peace and spent several weeks adjusting claims and settling disputes. The Government soon intervened and a gold commissioner was appointed

to organise the provincial police. The Provincial Government's regulations were drafted in July 1862 by a surveyor, Vincent Pyke who also organised the Goldfields Department at the same time for the central Government. Once satisfied that the Tuapeka field was rich, the Otago Provincial Government borrowed a contingent of Victorian mounted police to enforce the authority of the law and Warden Courts were eventually established to deal with disputes over gold claims. An ordinance was passed to allow the police to return known criminals to Australia, but was disallowed by the central Government. It appears however that the police, aided by their colleagues from Victoria repatriated undesirables illegally and informally. All miners were required to hold a miner's right or license costing £1. If this was broken a fine was imposed although fines did not seem to be an effective deterrent in the Wakatipu district.

Within six months of the discovery of gold there were 14000 miners in Gabriel's Gully. The Tuapeka diggings were reputed to be extremely orderly and calm compared with those in California and Victoria. Read claimed that "The Otago diggers are orderly and well-conducted men, the best type I have ever seen on any gold-field". There were however many incidents of claim-jumping, assault and theft. According to one local citizen: "During those dangerous times all our doors and windows were heavily barred, a loaded revolver being hung at our bedhead and James (Fulton) kept a pistol under his pillow".

The credit for the discovery of large quantities of gold at the Arrow River has gone to William Fox, who, along with a small band of diggers, worked the gorge in secret. They were richly rewarded but it was not long before they were discovered. Fox had been self-appointed commissioner and undisputed head. He had given each man a 60 ft frontage of the river and had forbidden claim-jumping on the penalty of having to fight him. Apparently there were no takers. With the opening up of the gorge to all there was chaos for some time due to the readjustment of the boundaries to the legal limits (24 ft claims). Many boundary disputes resulted and it was not until the arrival of Sergeant-

Major H W Bracken that order was restored. It has been claimed that he said: "Look here diggers, I have been sent up here to enforce the law and by God I will". Indeed Bracken's arrival produced an instant effect. He settled a great number of disputes by getting the miners to elect disinterested assessors. Acting as an arbitrator he then explained the by-laws and a decision was reached by the assessors. As he said: "The simple proceeding gave great satisfaction". Sergeant-Major Bracken eventually resigned from the force to set up the first hotel in Queenstown, the Queen's Arms Hotel (now Eichardt's). Bill Fox said of him: "His energy and boldness have secured him the approbation of the wild race of men to whom I belong, namely the diggers".

By the end of 1862 the total population of the combined Shotover and Arrow districts was estimated to be 3000 and the community was not altogether a calm one. The influx of miners to the Dunstan and Wakatipu exhausted the resources of the police, of whom there was a significant shortage. Some remote regions of the diggings were not easily accessible and claim-jumpers were able to seize quantities of gold and disappear before the law could apprehend them. the force at Wakatipu numbered only five with two on the escort. There were few major crimes at the Arrow and arrests were infrequent. Nevertheless life was not dull or uneventful, and at night the town was supposedly 'made hideous by screaming and fighting'. F W G Miller comments that there was 'no lockup, no court and still less hope of bringing offenders to justice'. However, with the establishment of a police camp and warden's office, the township at the Arrow settled into a more orderly existence as the town assumed a permanent character and the population was occupied with its daily business. As there was originally no jail in the Arrow district, from 1863-65 anyone who was arrested was chained to a log. This didn't stop one captive, a gigantic Irishman, who strode into town with the log under his arm and was found drinking heartily in a hotel! He later made another excursion with his log which he carried to Lake Hayes before being apprehended. Those convicted of a criminal act were sent to Dunedin in manacles. In 1865 a wooden gaol was built in Arrowtown and was replaced in 1875 by the present stone building.

The character of the stream of immigrants which the goldfields attracted to New Zealand has often been disparaged, with insufficient reason. The gold miners of the 1860's were the most skilled group of immigrants to have arrived at that stage in the development of the country as a British colony. Most brought with them technical knowledge learnt through hard toil in the goldfields of California and Victoria. In fact their social background was not vastly different from those colonists in planned settlements. The miners and camp-followers were drawn from a wide spectrum of backgrounds, occupations and religions. Most were aged between 20-40 years and there was a very small number of women and children. As George Hassing, a Danish miner later recalled: 'Those were happy, rollicking, gold-mining days when men of all sorts and conditions from every part of the world met on equal terms..' There existed a brotherhood among gold-miners, surpassing even the bonds of freemasonry.' This comment applied perhaps to all with the exclusion of the Chinese who were, in many places, ostracised from the European community, and, in some cases, abused and mistreated by them. The point has been made that while the miners were blunt in manner, intensely competitive and quick to fight, they were also capable of working together for long periods of time in relative harmony. They enjoyed the freedom from 'Old World' conventions and constraints. The bars and grog-shanties did a roaring trade and the streets of the various townships were loud with the noise of diggers in town to spend their gold on having a good time. Although the Otago diggings may have been more violent than the settled towns like Dunedin or Camaru, assault and drunkeness were the most common crimes in New Zealand long before the arrival of the goldminers. Life was hard but most miners appear to have been an honest, generous lot, boisterous and rowdy, but within the law. With such riches being mined it is indeed surprising how little crime occurred.

Each goldfield had its own warden. They were all men of integrity who were appointed on account of their knowledge of the Mining Act

and how to administer it, not because they knew the law thoroughly. They were highly respected and their authority was unquestioned by the diggers. Wardens were accountable to the Goldfields Department which seems to have been not over-excessive in its expenditure on wages and facilities for its wardens. The warden would often be required to travel long distances on horseback to settle mining disputes and in the early years no travelling expenses were provided. The warden's duties were many and varied. Richmond Beetham was a warden at Queenstown for thirteen years from 1863. During that time he established himself firmly in the hearts of the people through his wise decisions and his influence on the social life of the township. Beetham confessed that until he had taken up his position he had never been in a court-house and possessed only one book of law. Armed with little knowledge of the law and limited resources, wardens such as Richmond Beetham ensured that law and order on the goldfields was maintained through their common-sense and their high standing in the community.

Before the arrival of the police William Rees, a Wakatipu runholder was the general custodian of the gold. The first escort with 25,000 ozs of gold went to the foot of Lake Wakatipu in his renowned whaleboat. Rees' boat was the only one on the lake until the police were supplied with one for their use. The police weighed and tallied the gold before sending it to Dunedin by the escort. The first armed escort left in 1861. The growing stream of wealth pouring into the district left the police faced with the problem of guarding it.

Commissioner-Sergeant John Branigan arrived in Queenstown early in 1863 to organise the receiving of gold and the protection of the escort. This task proved to be more difficult than he expected as thieves were constantly on the lookout for easy pickings. There was only one attempt to rob the gold escort and the Rev Alexander Don provides an account of how unaffected by danger the escort was

'...when the night came down upon the hills and the company grew merry round the open hearth, a solitary guard without kept half an eye open on an old wooden shed where ... some 10,000 ozs of gold

awaited further transport on the morrow to the safety of the banks of the city'.

While claim-jumping, theft and violence were relatively common on the Otago goldfields, life was not as chaotic as it had been on the Californian and Victorian fields. The large majority of miners worked and lived together in peace and calm. The law enforcement agencies - police, wardens and magistrates stationed in goldfield settlements maintained order efficiently and fairly with what little resources they had and set the moral precedent for the whole community. Although the time of the Otago gold-rushes was one of urgency and at times turmoil, as the settlements became established as permanent towns and many miners remained in the district with their families, the communities developed into an ordered, structured society which has prevailed until this day.

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1930's depression in the Lakes District

THE 1930S DEPRESSION IN THE LAKES DISTRICT

TO WHAT EXTENT DID THE DEPRESSION AFFECT

LIFE IN THE LAKES DISTRICT?

by Andrea King

"The thirties was a time for heroes - and few decades have needed them more. In a world wracked by economic, physical and social anguish, victim of the Great Depression, its mental and physical resilience still struggling to heal the wounds of the Great War, this generation needed men and women of noble spirit and intellect, capable of uplifting dreams and great feats of courage, determination and daring."

The number of local men who lost their lives in World War One was heart-breaking. Those who did return, came back with an amount

of gratuity money. Many bought small businesses and farms with this money and set up a more regular, secure lifestyle for themselves and their families. When the economy collapsed in 1929 however, this group of people was probably the worst affected. Most had a minimal amount of savings tucked away and had to struggle to keep their businesses and lifestyles economically secure. Many could not.

Between 1929 and 1930, export prices continued to fall and unemployment kept rising. "There was a lingering feeling of confidence, however, that the end of the depression was in sight so long as Ward, 'the financial wizard' as some called him remained Prime Minister." On 14 May 1930, Ward resigned as Prime Minister and died six weeks later. "The depression was growing more serious every day." With the appointment of George Forbes ('Honest George') as Prime Minister, severe retrenchment began. Business confidence declined very rapidly, with such a pessimistic budget. The Finance Act of March 1931 called for a 10% reduction on Public Service salaries. In July, taxation was increased and further reductions in government expenditure were made. Prices on commodities of general consumption were raised, which stretched the average family budget to the limit.

There were 'cuts' in all aspects of life. For example, the school starting age was raised to six years, kindergarten grants were ceased and the Wellington and Dunedin Teachers' Training Colleges were closed. Employers could no longer afford to keep who were now considered to be 'extra' workers on the job. If they did, it was usually for a minimal wage. Unemployment rose day by day. Hospital boards and charitable institutions exclusively handled unemployment relief before the depression. As unemployment persisted, however, these organisations found relief a ruinous drain on their finances.

The 1930 Unemployment Act set up an Unemployment Board under the Minister of Labour's chairmanship. The Board paid registered unemployed a reasonably small amount yet rates were lowered as pressure of numbers grew. A number of schemes for providing work were set up.

In January 1931, Forbes announced that no payments would be forwarded to New Zealand unemployed unless they did actual work. Desperate attempts were made to provide the swelling ranks of unemployed with work. Work had to be rationed, and jobs, shared. Work was often made 'for work's sake'. Schemes for gold prospecting and rabbit control were subsidised by the Board. By the end of 1933, a sustenance allowance (the 'dole') was paid as local bodies were not prepared to continue providing the types of work that they had been. The rates of pay dissatisfied the unemployed and most schemes were unpopular. There was much civil discontent ".... and the large numbers of ill-nourished people seeking food and work grew increasingly hostile."

The reaction against the unstable situations people were forced into was very evident in the cities. Country towns, because of their smaller structure and nature did not react in this way. We shall discuss this difference in the case of Queenstown, in particular, and why these 'country folk' were more accepting of the crisis. In Dunedin, Auckland and Wellington, windows of shops etc were smashed during riots and demonstrations against cuts in government spending. Serious rioting was escaped by Christchurch because relief was better organised. Local bodies employed special constables to guard against such outbreaks.

The Labour circles (of the United Party) became suspicious of the Reform Party and Forbes' retrenchment policy. In 1931, the National government was formed (which became known as the Coalition) when Forbes invited Coates of the Reform Party to merge. This government remained until November, 1935, when the Labour government come to power under Michael Joseph Savage. This was quite a radical step in the context of New Zealand politics. The Labour Party aimed to 'insulate' the New Zealand economy through guaranteed prices for farmers, raising workers' wages and salaries, creating more jobs on public works etc and generally reversing the earlier retrenchment policies of the previous government. To many, M J Savage was a hero who brought them out of the depression.

In the cities, tense political feelings were aroused during these years. In the Lakes District however, politics were not held in such high regard. Politics did become more important to people though, especially those who were out of work. The public work schemes set up by Michael Savage definitely helped 'clean up' the unemployment problem. Most people in Queenstown accepted the hardships that prevailed and the economy, as something that they had no choice but to cope with and 'get on with the job'.

This attitude could perhaps be attributed to the isolation of Queenstown. The main transport link with the city was the Earnslaw, and from Kingston the train was caught to Invercargill. News was slow in reaching the town therefore. Queenstown people did not see the riots etc as there were obviously no televisions, and radios were scarce until the late 1930s. The main way of receiving news was from the newspapers - mostly the 'Otago Daily Times' and 'Southland Times'. The odd 'Press' was delivered from Christchurch also. Newspapers were delivered to Queenstown by the Earnslaw which often didn't arrive till late in the evening. News also came through the Post Office and when there was something special to announce, it was put up in the Post Office window for everyone to view. On Sunday mornings, the scores from Saturday rugby games etc were also placed in the window.

Obviously, some families felt the effects of the Depression more than others. There was a general feeling of hardship in the Lakes District, like there was in other places. But unlike the cities, it was rare to see a starving child on the street. Unemployment was also a problem in Queenstown, although relatively minor when, again compared to the city figures. Many major work schemes were set up during the depression which soaked up most of the local unemployed as well as a good proportion of city unemployed. It was estimated that the number who were out of work and received the 'dole' was less than 35 people, in Queenstown. In fact, many city men were involved in local work schemes as Miller points out, "... the 1936 census showed the county population apart from the boroughs, to be 2,626. This was during the progress of big Public Work undertakings such as the Haast Pass road, the Homer Tunnel,

the Kingston road and the Arrow irrigation scheme. It seems incredible that a county could so quickly lose fifty percent of its population ...." (after the depression).

To cope with unemployment such work schemes largely affected the district. The construction of the Milford Road (and the Homer Tunnel) and the Haast Pass road did not directly affect the area.

There were many smaller scale local works eg putting sods into the lakeside area (beside where Walter's Resort now stands), and the building of the new Post Office later on. However, the three main schemes in the county were the Kingston to Queenstown road, the goldmining scheme and the Arrowtown irrigation scheme. The most important undertaking was that of the road to Kingston. It was constructed by a large group of men (along with their families) and was directly set up as an attempt to create employment. Most of the workers were from Invercargill. These men walked from Invercargill to the road (to be) along the Bridal track in the early 1930s, looking for work. They worked throughout winter and summer and lived in an encampment of tents beside the road. They had a wooden board floor platform with a canvas covering, tin roofs and a fireplace and chimney to keep them as warm as possible. This encampment of tents was often referred to as 'Bob Simple's Army' by the locals. These men worked with horse and gig, pick and shovel. The work was very labour intensive and there were a few explosions to help carve the road. The work was very difficult with such limited resources. Two local carpenters, Mr Shepherd and Mr McKay managed a great feat in building the Staircase bridge by hand.

Some of the ideas and decisions relating to the public works and how best unemployed could be used .....

The Unemployment Board advised that the placing of men on the Glenorchy to Queenstown road would be taken up with the Public Works Department - received.

The Deputy Chairman, Unemployment Board communicated with the Chairman regarding the appointment of an Executive to control the Gold Prospecting Scheme in Lake County. The Chairman advised that he had appointed as an Executive Messrs Geo. Reid, Peter Reid, C.H. McKay, and himself as Chairman. The Certifying Officer from Cromwell here waited on the Council and at length explained the working of the new scheme. After his retirement the Council considered the matter, and it was then resolved that the Board be co-operated with under the new Scheme.

The Unemployment Board circularised on the matters of (a) possible building operations in the County, (b) tree planting, and (c) the works of national importance created by the use of Men on the Scheme No. 5 - received, and to be advised.

The Unemployment Commissioner communicated on the matter of the Upper Shotover Valley road - to be referred to the Mining Executive.

The Palmerston North City Council asked for the support of the Council to a proposal that improved sustenance be granted to Unemployed - received, and to be advised that the Mining Scheme operated in this County.

REPORTS: The County Clerk's report on arrears or Rates, the County Inspector's report, the Ranger's report, and the report from the Joint Traffic Inspector, were all considered and adopted. Clr. W.S. Reid reported on the District Highways Council meeting on the 10th May last and advised that the appns. for Highway's money were approved. He also attended a conference of Representatives of Councils under the Joint Traffic Scheme, when the full years' working was considered. It was agreed that all Councils contribute towards the supervision costs, and the extra charge on this Cncl. would be under £2. It was resolved that such additional cost be met, and Clr. Reid was thanked for his attendance in the Council's interests.

Southland League asked if this Council would approve of the League

communicating with the Public Works Department to have the portion of the Queenstown Kingston road gravelled - it was resolved to approve of the League's suggestion.

The men were 'attended to' by the locals. For example, grocers ran a regular truckload of groceries and meat (after receiving them from the Earnslaw and butcher) to the encampment and received orders for the next load. Doctor Anderson made frequent trips to attend to the medical well-being of the workers, where they'd line up for his attention. On Saturdays (late night shopping), the men and their families would come to the council building where the locals supplied tea and scones etc for them. Not all of the community was in favour of the scheme, however. A group of farmers put forward delegations to parliament complaining about the land being broken up by the road, and a certain amount of controversy existed amongst politicians. Many believed that the Earnslaw services would be sacrificed as the major means of transport to and from the area, and the Railway Board was also determined not to let work continue. Construction was halted on occasion and many felt it was too dangerous to open. Towards the end of its completion, locals worked on it to tidy up the corners etc.

The road was officially opened on 4 April 1936, at a memorable ceremony which took the form of a procession of cars from all parts of the province from Kingston, where a picnic lunch was held on the shores of the lake, to the Kawarau end of the lake, where the official function was held and Mrs Leo Lee, the wife of the chairman of the county, cut the ribbon. "The total cost of the road was £70,000 or £3,000 per mile.

The effect of the new road on Queenstown and the rest of the country was instantaneous. Traffic poured in and excursion buses came from the south and a mild building boom developed in Queenstown, as Invercargill and Southland people acquired property here and began to build holiday homes and more elaborate residences to which they could retire. One of the outstanding men of the Wakatipu District was John Cockburn, the great advocate for the Lake road.

In the meantime, working hours for businesses were longer, especially since most were family concerns. Men worked as many hours possible, if it would add to their somewhat limited income. The shops were open late on Saturday nights and Wednesday, only for half a day, although very few shops had set hours. There were no unions to restrict trading hours etc and some men worked on into the evening to save hiring somebody else. For example, Mr Veint owned a butcher shop and after he'd come home from work and eaten dinner, he would kill meat in the evening, while it was cool. This was so that the meat would keep, as there were no adequate forms of refrigeration, besides the coolers. Although budgets were very tight, most Queenstown businesses maintained themselves usually due to family effort and support.

Another form of raising revenue which proved to be very popular was by gold mining. This was done by locals who had other jobs, and men who spent years searching. A number of long-established sluicing claims revived during the depression, and often exceeded the success of new concerns. As the number of unemployed rose, the Mines Department developed relief schemes " ...conditions that proved disastrous to other sections of economic life were particularly favourable to the development of goldmining. In preceding years the cost of extraction had risen while the price of gold remained stationary: now labour was cheap and plentiful and value of gold increased rapidly in consequence of the abandonment of the gold standard." Between 1931 and 1934, the export value of gold rose from £3.15s per ounce to £8.45s per ounce. Goldmining offered employment that could provide its own remuneration.

Subsidised prospectors searched, in hope of staking new claims, where goldfields had once existed. The old local mines which had proved so valuable in the late 1800s were now brought back to life. The Mines Department fostered the expansion of new goldfields and Public Works Department set men to work in improving goldfields' roads and tracks. The majority of prospectors were inexperienced and the Mines Department hastily disseminated a mass of information on prospecting techniques. The miners were permitted to retain the gold they won until they began to earn more than the subsidy, when

their pay was discontinued. Their allowance was 15s per week for a single man, and 30s per week for a married man. The miner was also supplied with equipment if he couldn't supply his own. He then had to repay it by 50% on the Miner's Right. Other mining expenses included 10% of the claim for water supply to the Public Works Department, a 10% subsidy, 12/6 per ounce of gold for export duty, and 2/6 - 7/6 to the council for rates. The miners had supervisors (or wardens) who kept an eye on things, gave advice and taught mining methods etc. The miners ate food they had access to ie fish, deer, goats, rabbits and other wild animals.

Companies assisted the goldmining industries by employing prospectors. These companies or syndicates lacking the resources to engage as many miners as they wished, received subsidies for this purpose. Similar to the miners' wages, aid ceased as soon as a company declared a dividend. A fortunate few lighted upon small deposits, which had been overlooked by the pioneers, rich in alluvial gold. Company promotion was essential element in the expansion of mining, although "industry expanded through private initiative." Companies in the local area included Skippers Ltd, Upper Shotover, and Moonlight No. 1, who were all fairly large.

Weirs were proposed at the outlets of Lake Hawea and Wanaka. This would also have created employment if NZ materials were used. The government refused these proposals because of the failure of the Kawarau dam scheme in 1926, which cost £100,000. They were reluctant to become involved in another speculative scheme. New concerns were often being exceeded by long-established sluicing claims which had been revived. Mines were soon dotted over the countryside. Small mining communities were formed. Miners staked claims at many different points on the Shotover, Kawarau, Arrow, Dart, Rees, Clutha rivers, and diversions off them.

Some schemes depended on technical ingenuity. "The Sandhills Company proposed to divert the Shotover above Arthurs Point; Skippers Ltd suggested the diversion of the river with an 8 ft weir and steel fluming on one side of the river bed ..." On the Shotover, at Maori Point, A E Smith conducted successful sluicing

work. Nearby, Skippers Ltd sluiced out 1,098 ounces in five years. The least expected alluvial discovery in Otago during this time was made at Scotland's Point on the Kawarau, where JP and RJ Bell, W Kilgour and the Hooper Brothers, in October 1932, tunnelled under the sandstone bluff to make a rich strike yielding an ounce of gold to the dish. The Bell-Hooper Company won, within nine months, over 1,000 ounces of gold. Others set themselves up in tents, and occasionally caves and old shanties, at Glenorchy, Kinloch, Skippers, Moke Road, 7 Mile, Moonlight, and at Macetown. Many disputes over water rights and mining arose. In fact, that was how Lake Dispute earned its name. The production of gold from quartz mines also reached its peak during the depression. "Goldmining declined as NZ emerged from the period of the slump in 1936." Dredge mining, however, retained something of the early thirties, and outlived the quartz mines and the sites "...allluvial miners disappeared almost as completely as had their Chinese rivals a generation earlier."

The Mines Department advised that the question of a vote to improve access to the Macetown Mines would be held over until the field had been better proven - received.

(to be continued)

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Transport Report by a Carter to the Dunstan rush

RICHES OF THE GOLD FIELDS

Report by a Carter to the Dunstan Rush

I took up a load of swags for which I was received one shilling and sixpence per pound. The next load I took up was a consignment of general groceries on my own account. A storekeeper bought all at invoice price and allowed two shillings per pound for carting it including bags, boxes etc. I not only sold every pound of goods but the diggers even bought the bottom of my dray giving me two shillings and sixpence per running feet for them and so I had to return with only the framework to keep my feed in. Near Deep Stream I met another carter who offered twenty pounds each for my last two bags of feed which I had to refuse. My next load consisted of flour for which I received twenty pounds for each 200 lbs bag.