

## SELECTED DOCUMENTS FROM AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES

### BRICKWORKS

The Brickworks were built in 1913 and by July of that year had produced its first bricks. Towards the end of 1916 the yards closed as men and money were diverted to the British War against Germany. The yards opened again in the early 1920s and continued until 1942 when the second World War caused their closure once again. During the period of the Great Depression the numbers of bricks being produced decreased. Following are a number of documents that show the ups and downs of the Brickwork production.

The men who built the brickyards were housed in 1913 in the Railway Camp (site unknown). Those who came to work at the yards lived in the vicinity of modern Banks Street. The married men built their own humpies from hessian, tin and timber. Single men lived in tents. During the First World War the majority of men left either to work in the armed services or alternatively to find work elsewhere. Although no man could be forced to join up pressure seems to have been put upon "him" through a please explain letter to his boss why he had not. This included men between the age of 18 and 35 - married or single.

In 1921 a new camp was set up using ex-Molonglo buildings brought to the site - again near the modern day Banks Street. There were two sets of five cottages for married men and barracks for single men. In 1927 two new camps were established for single and married men near the brickyards.

An interview reported in The Canberra Times Wednesday, September 30, 1987 stated in part the following:

Mrs Stitt, then a young Ethel Boag, came to Molonglo with her family at the end of World War 1. The long rows of houses, or barracks, were split into separate homes for Australian families. They had been moved to Molonglo from their home in the Brickyards, via Queanbeyan, but now known as the brickyards in Yarralumla.

The Boag family moved to Canberra and the Brick Yards at the end of 1915, when the children consisted of young Ethel, who was the eldest child, a brother and a sister. Three more sons were born later, bringing the family to eight.

Mr Boag was a foreman of the roads and bridges, and later became the supervisor of roads and bridges. "My Dad bought a fully furnished two bedroom self built cottage," Mrs Stitt said. "There were two rows of such houses with approximately nine families in each row." There were no shops, no facilities. "We had no electricity or running water. The [public]

toilets consisted of about four for each row of houses. A sanitary man changed the pans twice a week."<sup>1</sup>

The article continues with reference to the school known as Nerrabundah on the old crossroads. It is opposite the modern Fire Station at Forrest. Following the opening of Telopea Park School towards the end of 1923 the children transferred to that school.

Mrs Townsend was Mess Caterer at the Brickworks' Mess. A letter in Australian Archives (A6269/1 E1/28/1155) refers to her. It is dated January, 1926. It is as follows:

REPORT  
ON  
WESTRIDGE MESS...

ACCOMMODATION. 30 men

CATERER. Mrs Townsend

This mess has really developed into a restaurant and is patronised by about 20 men from the Brickyards. No alterations or extensions to this Mess need be considered until the question of the establishment of a permanent Mess at the Brickyards has been decided.

Details in connection with the establishment of a permanent barracks at the Brickyards will be submitted in the near future.

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<sup>1</sup> These cottages were the humpies built around 1914 – not to be confused with the ex-Molonglo buildings erected near Banks Street and Forestry School.

Jean Boyd who lived in one of the ex-Molonglo cottages with her parents and siblings often worked for Mrs Townsend to give her a hand in the preparation of lunch sandwiches for the men. The bread had to be handcut and had cold meats as well as the usual jams etc. Mrs Townsend's daughter, Dora, later married Jean's brother William (Bill) and Jean married the son of the Brickworks' Manager, Claude Oldfield.

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Australian Archives - A6269/1 E1/30/342

(handwritten BRICKWORKS, FEDERAL CAPITAL - RE STARTING ...) Date 4.3.1921

NOTES ON REQUIRED INSTRUCTIONS TO ENABLE WORK TO BE COSTED.

1. Instructions from the Molonglo Trust Committee to hand over buildings and contents to the Works Superintendent, Canberra.
2. Works Superintendent to instruct Stores Officer, Canberra, to take on charge these buildings (25,000 is provided for this purchase).
3. 50,000 pounds is available to build cottages and other buildings. If this sum can be used for Workmen's Camp and general services, suggest instructions and approval be given to subdivide it as follows, otherwise separate funds should be provided as under: [These were all ex-Molonglo buildings.]

1. Supply of material and erection of Workmen's Camp near Power House 1 Block	1,000 pounds
2. Ditto For Civic Centre 1 Block	1,500 pounds
3. Ditto For Brickworks 1 Block	1,000 pounds
4. Ditto For Hostels etc	1,000 pounds
5. Supply of equipment for Camps, Stretchers, tables, forms etc.	250 pounds
6. Maintenance and upkeep of Camp, Cooks, Stewards, Sanitary men etc (Charged to works	200 pounds

after each pay on the wages cost of works).

7. Joiners' Shop working cost only Products to be credited and charged to works monthly. 500 pounds

8. Fitters' Shop - working costs to be charged to the works for which the service has been performed monthly. 200 pounds

9. Traction Engine - working cost charged to works on an hourly basis. 200 pounds

10. Stable Account - working cost charged at the rate of horse upkeep to works using the service 50 pounds

11. Store administration including loading and unloading (cleared by 5% on goods as issued). 200 pounds

(Written on the left of 6-9 is Working Capital and Capital - and next to 12 - 1,000 pounds Stock, Coal and Oil Spares.)

12. Brickworks - manufacturing costs including the 1000 pounds now available. 2,000 pounds

13. Brick purchasing account - To take on charge bricks now on site 2,300 pounds, and also the product of Plant, say for four months, say 6,700 pounds = 9,000 pounds. Assuming that 400,000 will be issued, say 1600 pounds. 7,400 pounds

14. Three cottages at the Power House [brick] 3,000 pounds

15. Ten Cottages at Civic Centre [brick] 10,000 pounds

Unallocated balance 28,500 pounds

16. Clerks and Supervision 21,500 pounds

50,000 pounds

I approve of items 6 to 15. Items 1 to 5 approved

(l'td) LEG (l'td) LEG

1921. 18.2.1921

Signed The Director General of Works. 4.3.1921

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A6269/1 E1/30/342

Brick & Tile Manufacture

PTO CDF

MEMORANDUM to

The Hon. The Minister for Works & Railways

MELBOURNE

I have received a letter from Mr Daley of the 25<sup>th</sup> March, and note that Cabinet has approved of bricks being sold to lessees, subject to conditions that Commonwealth bricks must not be used outside the Territory.

There is, however, another condition, namely that the bricks supplied must be surplus bricks and that all Commonwealth requirements must first be met. As the stock of bricks stands at present there is no surplus to Commonwealth requirements. We have reduced the stocks from over 7 millions to about 5 and half millions, and we have been drawing an average of 250,000 per month for some months past. At present we are delivering 20,000 a day. Parliament House will absorb in all, I imagine, about 3 million bricks. That figure is not precise until the quantities are taken out.

We will certainly have to make more bricks to meet prospective Commonwealth requirements, thus the kilns must be run again and I propose to burn bricks and tiles together. The point requiring decision is, whether, assuming that the Brickworks will continue their operations at the economical output of 5 million bricks per annum, the surplus over Commonwealth requirements will then be available for lessees. If the kiln is not to be continued in operation beyond the time in which Commonwealth requirements will have been catered for, it would, in the course of a few months time, probably be necessary to close down the operations.

I propose to shortly submit a scheme for the establishment of a Depot at the Civic Centre side of the Molonglo River, and the operation of brick manufacture and distribution, assuming that lessees are to be supplied would be broadly as follows:-

The bricks burnt in future would be taken direct from the kiln to Parliament House and to other Governmental works on route of the tramway on the southern side and by tramway to a depot near Civic Centre. The balance of the bricks, say, about three and four millions, would then be held in reserve at the Brickyards for delivery to lessees on the Southern side, namely, the group of cottages to be built as a result of the Architectural competition and other construction in residential areas. In this way the bulk of delivery would be per tramway to Government Buildings and Civic Centre.

My object of writing to-day, however, is to obtain your concurrence to restart brick burning coupled with tile burning. The production of Tiles only has resulted in our having on hand a sufficient number to meet demands collaterally with the distribution of bricks.

(Per Sec Fed Cap Advisory Committee) Signed PT Owen, Director General of Works Canberra.

[NB The Brickyards recommenced work in 1920 or 1921 and the FCAC operated between 1920/21 and 1924. The first sod for the Provisional Parliament House was turned in August 1923.]

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Statement of back Pay due to Employees at the Brickworks

Memorandum WRC 22/-

Being the difference between 48 hrs & 44 hrs per week WAGES\_Separate Pay Sheet

Ordinary Rates

The Commonwealth of Australia Dr. to the undermentioned persons for Wages from the 27<sup>th</sup> March to the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 1922 inclusive.

Designation	Name	Period From - To	No of Hours/ Rate per Hour	Wage/ Gross Amount
	Apps T	23/3/22 - 3/4/22	4 & three quarter hrs 2 shillings & 0 three quarters pence	9/9d
		4/4/22 - 13/4/22	5 & quarter hours - 2 shillings & 0 & three quarters pence	10/10d
		14/4/22 - 19/4/22	2 & half hrs - 2s & 0 & three quarters pence	5/2d, 1 pound 5/9d
33 P Foreman	Boag R	27/3/22 - 3/4/22	4 & three quarters hrs 2s3d	10/8d
		4/4/22 - 13/4/22	6 & quarter hrs - 2s 3d	14/1
		14/4/22 - 19/4/22	2 & half hrs 2s3p	5/7: 1 pound 10/4d
195 Jumperman	Beveridge I	27/3/22 - 3/4/22	4 & three quarters hrs 2s1 & quarter p	10/-
		4/4/22 - 13/4/22	6hrs 2s1 & quarter pence	12/7
		14/4/22 - 19/4/22	2 & half hrs - 2s1 & quarter pence	5/3: 1 pound 7/10
36 Yardman	Beveridge A	27/3/22 - 3/4/22	4 & half:hrs 1/11 & quarter pence	8/8
		4/4/22 - 13/4/22	4 & half hrs 1/11 &	8/8

24 Yard Cleanup	Faulkiner J	27/3/22 - 3/4/22	4 & three quarter hours - 1/9 & quarter pence	8/5d		
		4/4/22- 13/4/22	6 & quarter hours	11/1d		
			1/9 & quarter pence			
		14/4/22- 19/4/22	3 & quarter hrs - 1/9 & quarter pence	5/9d - 1 pound 5/3d		
		28 Pit-man	Hannaford A	27/3/22 - 3/4/22	4 & three quarter hours - 2/0 quarter pence	9/7d
				4/4/22 - 13/4/22	6 & quarter hours - 2/0 & quarter pence	12/1d
		14/4/22- 19/4/22	2 & half hours - 2/0 & quarter pence	5/- - 1 pound 6/8d		
170 Pit-man	Hutchinson A	27/3/22 - 3/4/22	4 & three quarter hours - 2/0 & quarter pence	9/7d		
		4/4/22 - 13/4/22	6 hours - 2/0 & quarter pence	12/1d		
		14/4/22 - 19/4/22	2 & half hours - 2/0 &	5/- - 1 pound 6/8d		

			quarter pence	
265 Yard-man	Hart AT	27/3/22-3/4/22	4 & three quarter hours 1/11 & quarter pence	9/2d
		4/4/22-13/4/22	6 hours - 1/11 & quarter pence	11/7d
		14/4/22-19/4/22	1 & three quarter hours - 1/11 & quarter pence	3/4d - 1 pound 4/1d
266 Setter	Hering W	27/3/22-3/4/22	4 & three quarter hours - 2/0 & three quarter pence	9/9d
		4/4/22-13/4/22	6 hours - 2/0 & three quarter pence	12/4d
		14/4/22-19/4/22	3 & quarter hours - 2/0 & three quarter pence	6/8d - 1 pound 8/9d
43 Yard-man	Lawless W	27/3/22-3/4/22	4 & three quarter hours - 1/11d & quarter pence	9/2d
		4/4/22-13/4/22	4 & half hours - 1/11 & quarter pence	8/8d

14/4/22-  
19/4/22

2 & half hours 4/10d - 1 pound 2/8d  
- 1/11&  
quarter pence

[The total wage bill for the period was 17 pounds 17 shillings. /- is the sign for shilling.  
The next page had the same wage periods and the names -

44 Wheeler - Marsh V

62 Dragger - McKay F

251 Setter - Noble H L

37 Setter - Newcombe RA

446 Youth - Oldfield C

155 Pit-man - Pola L

21 Jumperman - Quigg E

46 Youth - Quigg M

91 - Dragger - Stratton J

25 Mixer - Turner F

467 Wheeler - Turner W

204 Pit-man - Vest D

55 M & P F Man- Ware MJ

151 Pit-man - Ware P

215 Yard-man - Wilson A

268 Yard-man - Wilson N

10892 Youth John Brown - handwritten on bottom of list.]

A6269/1 E1/30/342

Department of Works & Railways

Memorandum to:

The Works Director

Canberra.

With reference to your Memorandum received 26/4/24 giving approval to proceed with the manufacture of bricks and tiles concurrently, I desire to submit the following report.

No 1 Brick Machine started Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1924.

No 2 Unit I hope to start by the 5<sup>th</sup> May, 1924.

No 3 I must state that I have to wait for vertical shafts for pug mill before this can be put into operation. This machine must be got ready before I can say I am in a position to manufacture at the rate of 5,000,000 per year which is absolutely necessary. Nothing less will do otherwise the cost of bricks will be too high and I could not burn the kiln to advantage.

1. When I have all three machines ready for action I propose putting all labour on piece work in such a manner that the best results can be obtained.

No 1 Section say - Clay pit.

No 2 Section say Pan men

No 3 Section say Loft men

No 4 Section say Machines

No 5 Section say Setters

No 6 Section say Draggers

No 7 Section say Loading of stock.

By this system every man will be interested in his work for his own benefit, and I propose checking and paying on bricks when set in chamber.

3. I am also carrying out any necessary repairs to the continuous kiln, machines, and erection of coal bin.

4. Regarding the manufacture of roofing tiles, I would suggest not making any more until we have cleared some of our present stock out of the road of the bricks on stock, as the latter may be required before long in addition to our new manufacture, as I understand you want say about 20,000 bricks per day at Parliament House, 10,000 per day at No 3

Hostel and also 6,000 per day at No 1 Hostel [Hotel Canberra], not mentioning cottages and other works.

5. Re floor tiles, I will push on with this class of goods as they would go away with first handling.

6. I would also like to suggest that we make a number of black and blue face building bricks, such as are made in Sydney and elsewhere. These are bricks that will be needed in the Territory and I am anxious to get this product on the market here, as you are aware it has been discussed several times by prominent men visiting here. I propose testing one or two chambers in the continuous kiln and if successful we would not require a separate kiln for that purpose. Otherwise we would have to build a kiln such as the one sketched by me and which now lies in your office. This class of kiln would burn roof tiles as well as any other specials.

7. It will be necessary to put a lathe in at the fitting shop at the Brickworks so that my fitters can carry out all our own repairs to plant, die boxes and plates, and for the turning up any thing that is necessary. This work can be attended to here thus saving a lot of expense at present incurred by jobs being sent to the Power House. With my own lathe any bolt required could be turned out at a moment's notice. I might state that this is a machine that is put in any Brickworks fitting shop as it is part of the plant carrying out running repairs.

8. It would also call your attention to the fact that no progress has been made with the erection of a new store at the back of the Brickworks office as mentioned in a previous report.

Hoping that this will meet with your approval.

WK Newbold

Manager, Brickworks.

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FEDERAL CAPITAL COMMISSION

The Chief Engineer

Canberra 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1925

I desire to advise that I have gone into the matter of the cost of Production of Roofing tiles under our proposed new conditions.

Details showing the Estimated Cost on an output of 3000 per day is shown hereunder

No of employees required	(pounds, shillings & pence)
2 Pitmen @ 1 pound per day each	2.0.0
1 on Grinding pan	1.0.0.
1 on Mixer	1.0.0
1 cutting of at front of pug	1.0.0.
1 cutting on at back of machine	1.0.0.
1 taking off at front of machine	1.0.0
3 wheeling away and piercing holes	3.0.0.
1 Plaster Die caster or moulder	1.0.0
6 Youths Trimming @ 9/- per day	2.14.0
1 Youth cleaning up around machine	12.0
1 Setter	1.2.0
3 Wheelers to setters Youths @ 12/-	1.16.0
2 Burners	2.0.0

3 Draggers or Graders	3.0.0
Management and Office	3.0.0
Royalty on tons cwt Oper1000 @ 1/- clay or shale	10.6
Plaster of Paris 1 barrel per day	3.0.0
Oil	5.0
Power per day	3.0.0
Depreciation @ 9/- per 1000	1.7.0
Coal for burning 10 cwt per 1000	3.7.6
Stationary 10/- per day	10.0
Fitter Renewals and Maintenance	2.0.0
	39.4.0

WK Newbold  
 Manager Brickworks Canberra.

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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

FEDERAL CAPITAL COMMISSION

CANBERRA September 1<sup>st</sup> 1925

MEMORANDUM to

The Controller of Stores

Re Fixed Rates for Brick and Roof Tile Cartage

After consideration of the matter of fixing rates for Brick & Tile Cartage in conjunction with the new system of Brickworks costing, I have to advise that I am prepared to stand by the following rates being added to the cost of Bricks (ordinary size) and Roofing Tiles.

I would point out that in order to partially cover the cost of my supervising the work of various brick carters, checking their dockets and passing for payment, running about settling their little differences on the various jobs &c, I have allowed 6d per 1000 over and above what I consider I can do the carting for, this I think we mutually agreed was reasonable.

<u>Blandfordia Area &amp; Capital Hill, No 2 Hostel, Secretariat, Parliament House &amp; bounded by Commonwealth Avenue Bridge</u>	Bricks & Tiles	Shillings & pence 15/6d per 1000
<u>Eastlake Building Sites and Stores Depot Area</u>	Do do	18/- per 1000
<u>Causeway Building Area and adjacent camp site</u>	Do do	20/- per 1000
<u>Site of new Hotel between Acton and Civic Centre</u>	Do do	20/6d per 1000

Bachelors Quarters do 22/6d per 1000  
bounded by Acton  
offices until such  
time as Acton Ford  
is again open for  
traffic when rate  
will be lower

Civic Centre Building do 22/6d per 1000  
sites and  
surrounding area

Note we are at present getting this done at a lower rate in respect to Bricks but I am not confident of a continuance and therefore say 22/6d

Mt Stromlo heavy do 50/6d per 1000  
pull

Distance beyond  
above and up to

10 miles do 27.6d per 1000

12 miles do 35/6d per 1000

SPECIAL TRIPS. These can be referred to me for a price by the Brickworks Manager as they arise.

Paving Tiles and Bricks Half of above rates for full loading.

.\_Signed (signature illegible)

Transport Officer

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REVISED SCHEDULE OF PRICES FOR BRICKS

From 15/5/26

- Prices where Contractors supply cartage

Job, Firm etc	Cartage from Brickworks per 1000	Price if delivered on job & cartage from Ainslie	If taken from Ainslie stock & Cartage from railway	If taken from Railway & (rhs) if taken from Brickworks
<u>COMMISSION</u>				
<u>BOARDING</u>				
<u>HOUSES</u>				
George & Elphinstone - Canberra Avenue	26/- + 6d	6.2.6 13/6d + 6d	5.8.6 26/- + 6d	4.16.0 4.16.0
J Walker	18/6d + 6d	5.15.0	5.1.0	4.16.0
West Basin		13/6d + 6d	18.6 + 6d	4.16.0
Telopea Park	16/- + 6d	5.12.6 -	- 16/6 + 6d	4.13.0 - charge 4.16.0 4.16.0
J G Taylor	14/9 + 6d	5.11.3	-	4.13.0 - charge 4.16.0
Wellington Avenue		-	do	4.16.0
Public Offices	18/6 + 6d	5.15.0	5.3.6	4.18.0
Hutcherson		* 12/6		4.16.0
100 cottages Bruce Eden & Griffiths Ainslie	24/9 + 6d	5.12.6 -	16/6d + 6d	4.16.0 4.16.0
100 Cottages	16/- + 6d	5.12.6	-	4.15.0 charge

Mason Blandfordia			16.6	4.16.0
				4.16.0
Prime Minister's Residence JG Taylor Blandfordia	14/9 + 6d	5.11.3	- do	4.14.3 charge 4.16.0 4.16.0
New Kiln Brickworks		4.16.0		- 4.16.0
Loss on Sydney bricks to be separately debited to job by (can't read) own cartage quotes				

PRIVATE

Deans Eastlake	18/6 + 6d	5.15.0	-	4.18.0
		-	16/6 + 6d	4.16.0
Oakley & Parkes (Ainslie)	24/9 + 6d	6.10.3	5.16.3	5.0.0
		13/6 + 6d	24/9 + 6d	5.0.0
Ditto Manuka	16/- + 6d	6.1.6	-	5.5.0
		-	16/6 + 6d	5.5.0
Rudd (Blandfordia)	do	5.12.6	-	4.16.0
		-	16/6 + 6d	4.16.0
Gildea - Ainslie	24/9 + 6d	-	5.7.3	4.16.0
		13/6 + 6d	24/9 + 6d	4.16.0

Woodger	18/6 + 6d	-	16/6	5.7.0
Eastlake		-		5.5.?

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(Handwritten letter Australian Archives A6267 E1/26/222

Rutledge Street,  
Queanbeyan  
Jan 14 1926  
The Secretary,  
Federal Capital Commission  
Canberra

Sir:

I the undersigned, hereby submit a tender for Item 4 Brickmaking (operating New Era Brick Machines)

My price is 7/5 (seven shillings five pence) per 1000 bricks Face or common

I understand the Commission provides all necessary tools, oil, grease, for the successful operation of the plant and that 2 Machines will be in constant operation.

Any communication to me can be made either to the above address or to Workman NO 34 at the Brickworks Westridge.

Yours truly,

HA Charlton.

A note written on the side says both Ware and Charlton are good men and have been with me 5 years. I would recommend making this a butty gang at price mentioned or stock today work. WKN 16/2/26. The WKN stands for Newbold the manager of the brickworks.

Another letter from Mr HA Charlton dated 15.3.1926 –

Rutledge Street,  
Queanbeyan  
15.3.1926  
The Secretary  
Federal Capital Commission  
Canberra.

Dear Sir,

I have today received your letter dated 12.3.26 accepting my tender for operating New Era Brickmaking machines, at the Commission Brickworks, Canberra.

Since sending in my tender various alterations have taken place in the hours of labor, wages and working Conditions that render it impossible to carry on at the price tendered last January.

I hereby apply for a readjustment of the above mentioned tender, the items requiring adjustment being as follows:

4 hours per week less (one twelfth of price 7 and half pence

Smoko allowance approx (1 & third hours wkly) 3d

Increase in wages 4 men @ 3/- = 12/- (approx) 3

Total additional increase 1 pound, one penny.

This raises the tender price from 7/5d (seven shillings and five pence) to 8/6 (eight shillings and 6 pence).

Trusting for an early favourable reply,

Yours truly,

HA Charlton.

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The above letters refer to the introduction of piece work. A letter in Australian archives sets out some of the details re piece work rates.

FEDERAL CAPITAL COMMISSION

2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1925

MEMORANDUM TO:-

The Commissioner

BRICK WORKS - PIECE WORK RATES.

I have to advise that from the information I have been able to obtain, that piece work rates per 1000 bricks in Sydney are as follows:-

1. MINING OF SHALE OR CLAY AND DELIVERING SAME INTO THE HOPPERS OVER THE CRUSHERS.

Brickmasters' Association - Labour only 5/10 & 3 sixteenths of penny (average)

Austral Brick Coy. - All tools and explosives provided by the men - 6/10d

NSWales State Brick Works - Labour only - 5/10 and 58d

A tender received by the Manager of the Commission's Brickworks is at the rate of 7/6d with all explosives and tools found by the Commission (handwritten nearby - Day Labour Rates 9/7)

1. GRINDING PANS

Brickmaster' Association - 11 and 3 eights pence (average)

Austral Brick Co - Day rates

State Brickworks - 7.951d

Local quotation - 2/- including cleaning, oiling, greasing and general attention to pans. (In handwriting on side - Day Labour Rates 2/-)

2. CLAY LOFT -

Brickmasters' Association - Day Work

Austral Brick Co - Day Work

State Brickworks - 11.3184d (probably youths who are employed on day work).

Local quotation - 1/3d including renewal of wires in screens and attention to elevator bearings in the clay loft. (Handwritten on side - Day Labour Rates 1/3d)

3. MACHINES

Brickmasters' Association - 1/11d & 9 sixteenths (average) plus 4/1 & 15 sixteenths for patent kiln setters - total 6/1 and half pennies for machine men and setters.

Austral Brick Coy - Day Work

State Brick Works - 6/9.541 including setting.

Local quotation - 7/6d for mixing, machine, wheeling and setting. (Handwritten in margin Day Labour rate 14/4.)

The Austral Brick Co pay 4/2 & one eighth for setting in patent kilns and 4/4 half penny for setting in dome kilns.

The State Brick Works pay Award rates for distance wheeled in addition to above.

4. DRAGGING BRICKS AND CLEANING CHAMBERS -

Brickmasters' Association - Patent kiln draggers (commons) 3/1d. OK draggers (face) 5/5-11/16d

Austral Brick Coy - 2/11 & three eighths (carters unload from barrows).

State Brick Works - Draggers 4/3.66d, Cleaners 2.7324d

Local quotation - Loading and stacking in trucks and cleaning chambers ready for setters 5/- (Handwritten in margin Day Labor Rate 6/9)

These figures show that the local quotations are generally higher than the prevailing rates in Sydney.

I consider that it would be advantageous to carry on brick making by piece-work rates, and recommend that fresh competitive tenders be called for the various operations. Preference is to be given to local men and employees now engaged at the Brickworks. Brickwork's Management to draw up general conditions of employment and duties required.

In regard to mining shale and delivering into the hoppers I think that the Commission should supply Air compressor, Drill, Piping etc and carry out the sharpening of tools. The men to supply explosives and all small tools. I am submitting a detailed recommendation as to this plant in a separate memorandum.

For tile making I consider that all the processes should be by done by day-work with the exception of setting in chambers. I would suggest that the Manager be empowered to grant a bonus to day-work men when warranted.

(Signature unreadable)

Assistant Chief Engineer.

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The Assistant Chief Engineer corresponded with a number of firms etc re their costs of production. One letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> August, 1925 addressed to the Secretary Federal Capital Commission from The Austral Brick Company Limited, King & Cowper Streets St Peters, Sydney said the following:

With reference to your Chief Engineer's communication of 6<sup>th</sup> inst concerning Piece Work Rates. The conditions vary in the different yards here, but those prevailing in the yard are:-

Pit 6/10 per 1,000. A "Butty" Gang - provides all tools, explosives, drills etc, keeps them sharpened, cleans out sump [?] and sends up all shale and are paid by the Tally taken at the machines.

Pans We pay the labour here at day work rates.

Loft Ditto

Machines Ditto

Setting In patent Kilns 4/2 & one eighth per 1000

In dome Kilns 4/4 & one eighth per 1000 with the Award pri[?] as to the distance wheeled

Dragging Per chamber based on rate of per 1000 of 2/11 & 3 eighths. This ...cleaning ashes out of kiln.

I have no information re roofing or ridge tiles.

Yours faithfully,

David R Rogers Manager.

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#### FEDERAL CAPITAL COMMISSION

Report for Col PT Owen, Chief Engineer. 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1926

#### LABOUR

The labour required for bricks alone working day labour was a total of 66 men, at the present time we employ 52 men day labourer, 5 men are employed making blocks, specials and shapes for new kiln, 3 men are quarrying limestone in the pit, (included in the 52) and 4 contractors employing 8 men..

#### REDUCING COST OF PRODUCTION

To reduce the cost of production to 3 pounds 18 shillings per thousand, I would suggest letting the whole of the work contract, as follows:-

Pit 8/6 per 1,000

Pans 2/3 per 1,000

Loft 2/0 per 1,000

Machines 8/9 per 1,000

Setting 5/3 per 1,000

Dragging 5/3 per 1,000

Burning (labour) 5/6 per 1,000

Burning (coal) 15/- per 1,000

Fitters 4/0 per 1,000

Management 3/0 per 1,000

Blacksmith & Carpenter 2/- per 1,000

Maintenance & renewals 6/0 per 1,000

Int on capital 4/0 per 1,000

Depreciation & offices 4/0 per 1,000

Total 3 pounds 15 shillings and 6 pence.

Since my estimate was given an alteration in the award has reduced the hours worked from 48 to 42 and three quarters per week, besides making provision for wet weather payment practically all the concessions that the men have been obtained since the date on which I first quoted the above estimates.

WK Newbold

Brickworks Manager

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FEDERAL CAPITAL COMMISSION

4<sup>th</sup> July, 1928

MEMORANDUM for

The Honourable

The Minister for Home & Territories

When you gave me the Government's direction that our expenditure was to be reduced to the extent of a quarter of a million earlier this year, and again when I received the decisions of yourself and the Treasurer with regard to our 1928/29 programme, the Commission immediately proceeded to cut its suit according to its cloth. This reduced programme has had a very serious effect upon all our factories.

After carefully studying the position during the last week or two the Commission to-day gave a direction that our main Joiners' Shop, a subsidiary Joiners' Shop and our Fibrous Plaster Factory are to be shut down forthwith.

A few months ago we shut down our Brickworks almost entirely, confining ourselves to the manufacture of a certain number of tiles to build up a stock, together with such bricks as are necessary to keep the kiln in effective operation, and the best that we can hope for is to run the factory at half output during the reduced programme.

Our main metal quarry has been building up stocks for the work in hand but has now reached a limit in this regard, and I expect to have to give instructions that the quarry is to be shut down in the course of a few days until further notice.

The financial impossibility of maintaining a continuous concerted programme in connection with our constructional operations has brought about this situation, and I feel that the costs involved in these plants lying idle or operating at a reduced output should be borne against the cost of establishing the Seat of Government and not against the trading accounts of the factories themselves. I feel also that the loss which the Commission was compelled to incur due to the necessity which it was under of importing bricks from Sydney and Bowral pending its own kiln being developed, (this necessity arising from the sudden change in the Government's programme in November 1925 which compelled us to commence upon a much bigger programme forthwith) should also not be a charge against the factory trading accounts but should go against the same Establishment Account.

You will realise that the publication in the course of a few months of the Commission's balance sheet and statements of accounts must include the trading accounts of all our subsidiary undertakings. Our Brickworks always have, by the very nature of things, had to operate at a loss, but the other factories will make a reasonable showing provided this terrible load of accumulated debt due to a shut-down can be transferred from them. It is extraordinarily difficult to make the critics of Canberra understand anything about the place, and in my opinion it will undoubtedly give rise to further anti-Canberra talk if accumulated debit balances are shown in each of these trading accounts, unless there is a prospect of their being very rapidly wiped out.

I should be glad if you would advise me whether you agree with the principle that the cost of these shut-downs should be borne against the Seat of Government Establishment Account instead of the various trading accounts, and if you do I will arrange for the preparation of a statement as to the transfers involved for your approval.

(Signed) J H Butters, Chief Commissioner

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FEDERAL CAPITAL COMMISSION

20<sup>th</sup> August, 1929

MEMORANDUM for

The Chief Commissioner

Subject: Brickworks

The position at the Brickworks has been reviewed from time to time and on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1929 the Commission decided that manufacture would be continued only in the down

draught kilns. The Staffordshire kiln was thereupon filled with green bricks and burning in that kiln discontinued.

The actual expenditure at or on the Brickworks, not including interest and depreciation, during the financial years ending 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1929 was 20,282 pounds 5 shillings and 7 pence.

The value of the stock produced during the same period was 17,504 pounds and 11 pence and the revenue from sales was 17,216 pounds, 17 shillings and 8 pence.

The cash loss during the year was, therefore, about 3000 pounds, most of which was incurred in the latter part of the year.

The stocks in hand at 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1929 were approximately as under, excluding specials etc:-

3"Commons 3,409,874

Marseilles Tiles 105,642

Plus 14,000 held by the Controller of Stores. There was also a fair stock of specials.

In terms of buildings, the above would represent bricks for approximately 100 cottages, and tiles for approximately 50 cottages.

The Executive Architect advised me on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 1929, that the requirements of his Department for the current financial year would be:

Bricks 3,600,000

Tiles 220,000

His estimates being based on the estimates for 1929-30 as approved.

Sales during 1928-29 were:

Bricks 2,858,760

Tiles 68,631

It appears probable that stocks of bricks and tiles will be adequate for building purposed during the financial year 1929-1930.

I am of the opinion that it would be inadvisable to keep adding to the above stocks, because of the increased interest charges and because of the money which will be necessary to expend to produce stocks.

Should production of tiles now be suspended and a shortage for Commission works be realised later in the year the deficiency may be brought from Sydney at landed cost,

Canberra, of approximately 22 pounds 10 shillings per thousand. The sale price of tiles at Canberra Brickworks is 20 pounds per thousand. Alternatively, as a means of postponing such purchases, sales of tiles may be refused for other than Commission works.

A feature of last year's operations was the demand for face bricks - glazed and semi-glazed, and coloured face bricks; sales from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1929 being 211,615. There are on order at the present time about 10,000 of these grades covered by about 5,000 on hand. Part of this demand has grown only recently because of the production of specialities. Should the Brickworks be closed it will be necessary to import any face bricks which cannot be culled from the stocks of commons. Alternatively, architectural designs might call for a minimum of these grades.

During the past six months, operations at the Brickworks have been confined to the 2 down-draught kilns manufacturing only specials and tiles. Twenty-two men have been employed. It is not however, economical to produce bricks from the down draught kiln owing to the increased coal consumption.

Latterly a pipe making machine for the production of earthenware pipes has been installed, and it seems fairly certain - consequently on the discovery of suitable clay at Gungahlin - that it will be possible to manufacture good quality pipes and fittings locally. Some months of experimental work will be necessary to definitely establish that commercial production is possible. It seems undesirable to keep the Brickworks open for this purpose.

Supplies of pipes can be obtained as in the past from Sydney or Tasmania. In this respect difficulties have been encountered with the Sydney Stoneware Pipe Association over a long period, and the position in regard to the purchase of pipes, etc, from Sydney is now somewhat acute. I am looking into this aspect of the matter which has recently come to my notice. The main difference in price as between Sydney and Tasmania in favour of the former are:

4"Stoneware pipes 5 and halfpenny each

6"Stoneware pipes 6d each

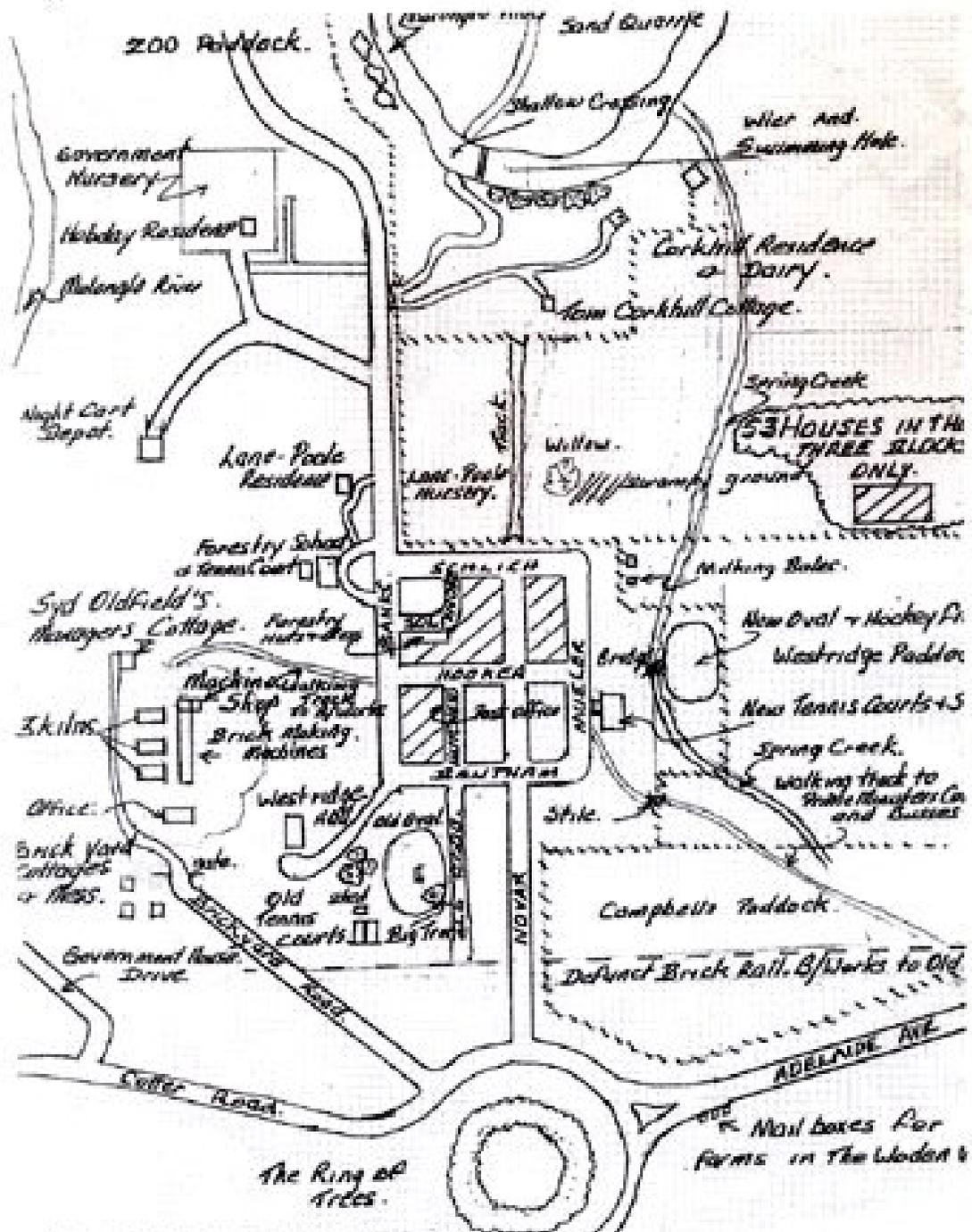
Should the works be closed it will be necessary to employ a Delivery Clerk (300 pounds per annum) and also a Watchman (270 pounds per annum). In addition, it is estimated that 100 pounds per annum will be required for miscellaneous expenditure = total 670 pounds per annum. Interest charges amount to about 5,200 pounds per annum, but the depreciation charges during 1928-29 amounted to only 790 pounds approximately. This low depreciation is due to the system of recovering depreciation at fixed amounts per one thousand of brick and tile output. Under this system the depreciation chargeable, should the works be closed, will be nil.

An unfortunate feature of the apparent necessity to close the works is the unavoidable loss of a few skilled men (3 burners, 1 foreman, 1 moulder) and the Manager, which will result. It is almost certain that such men will not remain here in other employment and it will not be easy to again get together an efficient working crew. I am of the opinion, particularly because of the uncertainty of the demand, that the Brickworks should be closed forthwith, and I recommend accordingly.

(Signature unreadable)

Chief Engineer.

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