

CAHILL SAYS . . .

Syphon Heavier Than Sydney's Bridge

Sydney can keep its bridge.

The Lawson Syphon and its attendant works is 5,000 tons heavier than the steelwork in the "Coat-hanger" — so the State Premier, the Hon. J. J. Cahill said on Wednesday.

In his speech prior to sending the first irrigation water through the Syphon, and the main canal, he congratulated engineers and workmen on a "great achievement."

"It is a work which once again illustrates the Government's determination to develop N.S.W., not in particular and specially favoured areas, but by an intelligent decentralisation which will provide just what may be lacking to aid development in one place or another.

"To those who have worked on this project I extend the warmest thanks on behalf of the Government and the people of New South Wales.

"I congratulate them on a great achievement," he said.

"During the session of Parliament just completed your member, Mr. J. A. Lawson, M.L.A. described what was going on here as 'one of the greatest works in the Southern Hemisphere,' he said.

"After coming to the site and informing myself of all the matters connected with this great irrigation undertaking, I see no reason to quarrel with that remark.

"And I do not believe that anyone else who has a knowledge and appreciation of what has been accomplished would have any doubts on that score, he added.

"The irrigation works completed here include twin siphons and about 185 miles of channels, together with associated structures, such as bridges, regulators, outlets, etc.

"Each pipe has been designed for a flow of 540 million gallons a day.

"Construction of the siphons involved 140,000 cubic yards of excavation and the placing of 31,000 cubic yards of concrete and 1,000 tons of reinforcing steel.

The total weight of the siphons and related structures is approximately 57,000 tons—about 5,000 tons heavier than the steelwork in the Sydney Harbour Bridge, including its approaches.

"I think those figures will convey some impression of the im-

mensity of the work undertaken here.

Then he said "The total of this project to the 30th March last was £1,989,039—approximately £2 million.

"But that is not a large sum when considered against the background of retracting money values today.

"Two million becomes a small sum indeed if it is balanced against the benefits that will accrue from this completed project, Mr Cahill stated.

"Expenditure on irrigation is good expenditure, he maintained.

"Water can now be reticulated to approximately 40 holdings in the northern part of the Deniboota district, for which channel earthworks and structures have been completed ready for use.

"The water you see flowing through these pipes today will be used almost immediately on a variety of irrigated crops, including dice.

"There is no question of the fertility of the soil in this district once adequate supplies of

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"We will find that crops will be growing virtually overnight.

"Deniboota is the fourth such district established in the Riverrina, he said.

"The three similar districts—Wakool, Berrigan and Denimein—were already in operation.

"The total area of Deniboota was slightly more than 304,000 acres and there were some 150 holdings within its boundaries.

Mr. Cahill concluded: "The soil in this district has always been rich and fertile but because of the low average rainfall and the uncertainty of the seasons the land could not be put to its fullest use.

"Irrigation has certainly changed all that . . . with happy results for all concerned.