Thurs. Nov. 27. In the morning we went ov' to a Mr. Amberger (Frenchman) & Senior Veranda of Melanesia came for an evening meeting. After lunch I set off at 2.30 & drove to the bridge on the Rakaia & got the "corkscrew" towards Lake Coleridge. Soon after the Sub Station (Chertsey) manager came & I turned short round & got to Methven. I tried to buy some eggs & butter but they would not take any money. They told me that the eggs had been set aside for the S. Sarnies Orphanage so when I got to Hokitika I sent a p.o. to the Orphanage. I then had a very rough road which was all bad except for one or two places it had been cut up & dried in hard ruts. I got to Lake Lyndon about 5.30 & saw fire rising so I stopped & put my rod together. As I got to the lake the wind dropped & presently began to blow hard making small waves & I never saw another fish or fell one. I drove on to the Tikemani hut & I had been told of but found it locked, so I put my rod away & drove on to Porter's River & crossed it as it was getting dark. I had only very little food & got water & made all snug & then had bread & butter & eggs & tea. When it was quite dark 2 tired swaggers came up & I gave them some tea & bread & butter of which they were very grateful. They then went on & I turned in & slept well finding my air mattress very comfortable. about 50 miles

Fri. Nov. 30 I got up at 5.30 & had breakfast. When I looked out of the tent I saw 2 Paradise Duck close by. I was on road to start at 6.30 as I wished for the sun to dry off the heavy dew. All the gear we had got rid of & "Cobb's Stoves" are put up since are a great convenience. I overtook my "swaggies" & gave them a lift; one sitting on back running board & holding on & the other on the mudguard. It was another very hot day & I drove in my shirt sleeves. I got to the Dealy at 11 & had tea & got out on the line in a tarry with 3 horses. I had dropped my two swaggers just before the Dealy as I knew the present proprietor is rather queer. I picked them up again on the other side of the line

Otira

& took them along. We got to the line & found a great many bungalows near where the tunnel begins & then I told them I should drop them if the road was steep but I took them along to the top of the descent where I left them as the grade down is steep & the surface rather loose. I went down carefully but without anything approaching a upset.* I stopped for an hour. The hut was looking very neat in need of paint. I went on down the road noticing a good many forgeries on all channels & pots & found as I had thought they were great & are thus in use all the time. I ran out of petrol & had to fill up from my spare can. I had afterwards the old Jackson the hotel opposite Jackson's station (the old Jackson is closed & shut up) & then I came on passing the fine avenue begun to Dunsandel. At the junction turned I turned left & took the short-cut & came out thro' Hokitika at 4. I found the doctor was there & got things off the car.

P.S. Mail

Sat Dec. 1. Went out the line & left my car at Newmans for an hour's small repairs & it got greased. In saw G. Williams & called on Mr. Knight the Vicar and Mr Lemmanuel man who knew car in Christ. Cleaned the car in the afternoon & went out & had tea with Dear Learmont. The P. showed me some slides in the evening.

Hokitika

Sun. Dec. 2 Take H.C. Sunny Wind & very lovely at 11. Took Kaweki at 2.30. Sat with the Knights & preached at the evening. Went in to Mr Rodgers. Not a sufficient for the Rain that day.

Mon Dec. 3 Rodgers took me out to see the drays. Went afterwards I then went out to the town & returned on account at the Bank. N.Z. After lunch I went out & did a few things & had a sleep - wrote letters & fiddled with the car.

Tues Dec. 4 Went out shopping, saw Armstrong about fishing. Tea with Mackay chemist with the Ales-club. Macgregor & Walker being the guests.

Wed Dec. 5. In the morning went across the airodrome had a cup of tea with Mr Reuter met Moran talked about fishing. Afterwards to Kaitangi & saw Frank Ball Jack Cropp, the Spencer Arthur Ball & Percy Cropp. Took car to Newmans after lunch. The Kaitangi & Kokatahi team came in evening. What I noticed most was the dry hair instead of the shirts