

14 Christ Church, & there must have been several journeys backwards & forwards to get the whole together. Some of the dwellings which were erected about the same time by other settlers were either made of sods or cob & thatched with rushes or raupo. Our house of timber was 24 ft long, by 12 ft broad, with eight-foot studs, a gable roof ceiled & roofed with split palings or shingles, divided into two rooms, with half of the portion ceiled off, to which a ladder was erected, & this was a sleeping portion for some of the children beneath the attic. There was no lining what so ever for some years, a chimney of brick was built at one end of the house, & that room was kitchen, breakfast room & sitting room combined. Later on when the family increased, other rooms were attached. It must have been very cold in the winter time for there was no shelter timber in any direction as far as the eye could reach nothing but open plain in all directions. There were no land marks, to guide

15 or to denote where the section was, & one journey that father made, he found himself half a mile out of his object. Later when the house was built, it was mother's duty to pull up a lighted lantern by a small pulley to the top of the house & thus act as a direction finder, after father had crossed the river Selwyn & two other streams to be forded before reaching home. This continued for a long time, for there was no other means of getting supplies in, or of taking in to market anything that was marketable, such as butter & eggs, & later other farm produce. The first rail way in the country was ^{opened} ~~commenced~~ the year I was born, but it was not until 1869 that the railway reached as far as the Selwyn, & we were then only four miles from the station. I should imagine that one of the first things to be done, would be to enclose the house with a fence, & also allow sufficient room, in which to grow some vegetables &c. There being no timber of any sort, & the ground requiring to be drained

which was
often very
late com-
mencing the
distance