

The western boundary, was later called Pelwyn and later a further portion Dunsandel. As a whole the district was good agricultural land although the character of the quality of the land changed very quickly, some being very fertile others very hard stiff clay, & until properly drained rather wet. These damper portions however were exceedingly good for dairying and grazing in general whilst the free soil for grain growing, wheat, oats, barley & peas the lay of the country in general, had a good fall towards the east. It is said that in the far away distant ages that all this open country, known as the Canterbury plains was brought down from the high mountain range, this is shown that every where beyond the surface at varying depths there is shingle, a gravel, and all water worn, similar to the rivers that flow through the country, the nearer to the mountain region the nearer to the surface this shingle appears whilst further eastwards it is very much ^{deeper from} the surface. Through Brookside itself there were several watercourses, and water could be obtained any where for stock purposes &c, by sinking a few feet. There were also places which were very boggy, caused by ^{supply} overflow of water not being able to get away quickly, these places, however, after the country was drained ~~sank~~ became depressions, & were called blind creeks as water being diverted into ditches, which formed

boundary on

the divisions into paddocks. It was rather surprising however to notice the various degree of the quality of the land, on the different sides. The best portion of the Brookside district from a grazing point of view was between the St. Washburn or Irwell creek, this heavier land continued through Irwell, Doyleston Ellesmere, Leeston & Lake side to the Ellesmere Lake. The Pelwyn now flows into the Lake as also all the other diverted waters. I made mention in my previous writing of the earlier stage of development in the district in general. Before the railway appeared as far as the now Pelwyn station, Christchurch was the only market, but general supplies of provisions could be obtained from the General Storekeeper (Mr. J. Henry) at the Pelwyn. He used to run weekly what we called the peddler's cart & he took the supply of eggs, butter &c in return for what we received from him. This applied also in the surrounding districts. It was some time later that railway came, & with that the development of the district, and the Pelwyn station was the place for the concentration of all the wheat &c that was grown in the surrounding districts, as far away as ^{Irwell} Doyleston, Leeston, Killinchy & Southbridge. There were continual ^{strings} streams of dray teams con.