

veying the produce to the rail head, and I dare say that even now, might be seen the tracks in places near the Selwyn station that were made by those teams. I have recollections of those tracks made by the cart wheels, to a depth ^{of horse traffic} of nearly two feet. It was some years later, that a branch railway was made diverting from a place called Hornby six miles south of Christchurch, and extending as far as Southbridge. This railway took away a large proportion of the Brookside produce, & the whole from the others with the exception of Kilmilly which was diverted to Dunsandel two miles further south than Selwyn. As the railway extended further south, the general trade was ^{with} overborne further southward, and Selwyn ceased to be of such great importance, only to those most contiguous to it, and the means of communication to Christchurch. There is one thing however that does not change. The same land is there. There is the same water supply. The clouds are distilled into rain. The sun shines. The blessings from above in which we have no say are still bestowed to all alike, and Gods promise is still fulfilled. "While the earth remaineth, seed time & harvest and summer & winter & day & night & cold & heat have not failed & shall not cease."

When we come to consider matters in connection with labour and life in general at the present time with that of the earlier period, we must confess that however, we have progressed in many respects, the methods of production, still we have not got beyond that stage, that mankind in general has to labour to produce while we have in these latter days the many labour saving devices, and yet we cannot get away from the fact that labour of another kind has still to be performed. There is a great feeling with very many that to labour with the hands, such as manual labour is degrading, and that we must try to adjust things, so as to do as little as possible. True in those pioneer days, the workmen whistled or sang whilst he followed the plough and the women folks in the house, sang whilst about their work, and if it was required that they should, which indeed it was, that they should engage in the general work of the cowshed or other work. yet it was common to hear singing and also in the families it was singing or whistling whilst going about. It must be half a lifetime since I heard of such things. It is all "canned music" or our pleasure generally is derived from sources, mechanically contrived.

In that early time the ploughman, had to attend to his horses, feed and groom, properly, before taking the team out to work, commence to plough at 8 o'clock