

The minutes are silent as to the fate of this proposal, but evidently it was either not gone on with or proved unsatisfactory because at the Board meeting held on St. Patrick's Day, 1891, seven tenders were received for "A. The building of stone walls at Watsonville main drain; B. Quarrying and supplying stone for same." The day proved fortunate for the only two representatives of the Emerald Isle tendering, O'Malley getting the wall building job and Cleary the contract to supply the stone.

As the district developed its needs received careful and considerate treatment from each succeeding Council. In the accounts of the Waterworks loan in 1894-5 an interesting reference is made to the expenditure of money for waterworks purposes at Watsonville. Frequent items appear in the minutes in regard to maintenance work. In 1906 Sumner's first big loan was floated, £13,000 being raised. Of this amount £816 was set apart for contingencies, £1,550 was allocated for paying off liabilities incurred in connection with the completion of the waterworks, repairing and strengthening Shag Rock reservoir and in the purchase of an oil engine. Of the balance remaining £4,000 was expended on metalling, asphaltting footpaths, kerbing and channelling in Redcliffs.

In 1909 a portion of the £4,000 loan raised in January of that year was used to lay a pipe drain, fill in the ditch and extend the culvert at Monck's Bay. The main drain in Redcliffs was also enlarged. Augusta, William, James and Slater Streets and Estuary Road, which had been metalled under the 1906 loan, each received another 20 yards of metal to the chain. The footpaths in these streets were also screened.

Redcliffs was the first portion of the Borough to have electric light and power installed. In June, 1917, there were 81 consumers which number increased to 157 by July of the following year, when a poll authorizing the installation of electricity in the Sumner area was carried. On the 31st March, 1919, the revenue from the sale of electricity was £660/11/6. In 1928 sales to consumers amounted to £4,097, and at 31st March, 1941, private consumers paid £7,180, despite the fact that although these are days of rising costs, lighting and power charges have been reduced since 1928, the former from 5d. to 3d. nett, and the latter from 1½d. to 7-8ths of a penny per unit.

Gas at Redcliffs. A poll was carried to reticulate Redcliffs with gas in August, 1920.

SUMNER BECOMES A BOROUGH

During the year 1889, the question of having the Sumner Town District declared a Borough, was discussed. At the beginning of 1891, the proposal assumed definite form by the preparation of a petition which read as follows:—

IN THE MATTER of "The Municipal Corporations Act 1886"

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONORABLE WILLIAM HILLIER Earl of Onslow of Onslow in the County of Salop, etc., etc., Governor and Commander in Chief in and over

Her Majesty's Colony of New Zealand and its Dependencies and Vice Admiral of the same.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY

THE HUMBLE PETITION of the undersigned Resident Householdors of that portion of the Colony of New Zealand which is hereafter described

SHEWETH

1. That your petitioners are resident householders in that portion of the Colony of New Zealand hereafter described that is to say All that parcel of land commencing at a point at high water mark on the northern side of the Christchurch and Sumner Road which point is in a line with the western boundary of Rural Section Number 866 thence following the western boundary of that section to the south west corner thence following the eastern side of the Mount Pleasant Road to the south west corner of Rural Section Number 247A from thence following the northern and eastern side of the said road to "Zig Zag" thence following in an easterly direction the northern boundary of the Borough of Lyttelton to a point true north of Trig Station M thence following the eastern boundary of the said Borough to high water mark in Gollan's Bay thence following the coast line round Godley Head Taylor's Mistake Sumner Heads to the "Cave Rock" from thence following along the southern shore of the Heathcote and Avon Estuary to the starting point.
2. That a plan of the said parcel of land is hereunto annexed and marked "A."
3. That the said parcel of land comprises the Town District of Sumner and a portion of the Heathcote Road District.
4. That the said portion of the Colony described as aforesaid comprises one continuous area contains six and three fourth square miles and has not within it any two points more than six miles distant from each other.
5. That the rateable property in the said District will yield on a rate of one shilling in the pound on the annual value thereof or of three farthings in the pound on the capital value thereof an annual income of not less than two hundred and fifty pounds exclusive of subsidies and grants.
6. That your petitioners are desirous that the said portion of the said Colony so described as aforesaid may be constituted a Borough under the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act 1886.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY THAT Your Excellency will be pleased to constitute the said portion of the said Colony so described as aforesaid and delineated upon the plan hereto annexed a Borough under the said Act.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS will ever pray, etc.

This document was signed by one hundred and three resident-householders, the signatures being witnessed by James Crawford. The petition after having been publicly notified as being