

Deposited by H.W. Shoobridge 1959
Available for reference

WILLIAM EBENEZER SHOOBIDGE

William Ebenezer Shoobridge (1846-1940) of Bushy Park, J.P., fruit and hop grower and farmer, was the eldest son of Ebenezer Shoobridge (1820-1901) who purchased Valleyfield, New Norfolk, in 1851 for hop growing.

W. E. Shoobridge was educated at Horton College, where he was introduced to the study of hydraulics, chemistry and electricity, which he continued to study after leaving school in 1860, thinking of becoming an engineer. However in 1864 his father had the chance of acquiring Bushy Park estate with its water resources and W. E. Shoobridge, with his brothers, helped to develop it, later purchasing also Kentdale and Glenora and forming the firm of E. Shoobridge and Sons (later Shoobridge Brothers) with W. E. Shoobridge in charge of construction, his brother, R. W. G. Shoobridge the general farming and brother L. M. Shoobridge the stock department. W.E. Shoobridge constructed an irrigation system for the hop fields on Valleyfield and later replanned and reconstructed the irrigation works on Bushy Park (originally made by the first settler of Bushy Park Mr Humphries). In 1908, with the help of his son, Marcus, who had trained in the Westinghouse Factory in Canada, W.E. Shoobridge installed a hydro-electric plant for the estate. W.E. Shoobridge was especially interested in the development of water conservation, irrigation and hydro-electric schemes for Tasmania. In 1914 he went on a trade mission to Canada and the United States to inquire particularly into hydro-electric power schemes and industries connected with them, including paper making, and irrigation schemes for closer settlement. He negotiated the transfer of the Hydro-Electric scheme from the Electrolytic Zinc Company to the State Government and also consulted Dr. Fortier of Berkley, California, about plans for the use of Tasmanian water although these were rejected by the Legislative Council.

W. E. Shoobridge also did much to develop the fruit industry, not only in irrigation and methods of pruning to allow the sun to shine equally on all fruit, but especially in developing a ventilated cool store system to prevent deterioration of apples through "brown heart". A cool store designed by Shoobridge was installed on a White Star liner. He developed suitable apples for export to Europe and expanded the British and European markets and started the Derwent Valley Fruit Growers' Association. He also introduced the Saaz drying system for hops and developed the process for drying or curing other fruit.

In 1892 W. E. Shoobridge became President of the Council of Agriculture. He introduced improvements in the the dairy industry and started the export trade in butter.

He was later able to persuade Messrs. W. & J. Cooper of the Cadbury Company that sufficient milk supplies would be available to start a chocolate factory in Tasmania. He also experimented with and advocated the introduction of alternative crops, including tobacco and sugar beet and recommended clearing and irrigating bush allotments for specialised crops and soldier settlements. In 1918 he investigated the use of gum wood for paper pulp and persuaded the directors of the Australian Wood Pulp and Paper Co. to try Huon district timber.

Shoobridge was a member of the Labour Party and was elected to the House of Assembly for Franklin in 1916, remaining a member for most of the rest of his life.

He married Ann Benson Mather, a Quaker, daughter of Robert Andrew Mather in 1869 and they had 6 daughters and 3 sons. He was made a justice of the peace in 1877

and in 1888 an Assessor for Capital Values. He was a member of the Methodist Church and a lay preacher for many years.

William Ebenezer Shoobridge wrote many articles and letters to newspapers on his theories on agriculture, economics, socialism and politics. The deposited papers consist almost entirely of typed copies of his newspaper articles and letters with some typed notes or extracts from other works used for reference for his articles. They appear to have been copied and arranged in various ways, possibly for his own information or perhaps with a view to publication under various topic headings. It has not been practical to restore Shoobridge's own arrangement precisely but the papers have been arranged as far as possible in subject groups.

(For Bushy Park estate ledgers (mainly wages) c 1876 - 1936 see B.7.)

AGRICULTURE

CORRESPONDENCE

S.3/

1 Correspondence 1919 -1920

Introductions for Bushy Park Manager to California State Insectary, Messrs Clemens, Horst & Co. concerning hop picking machines, and American Blower Co. (1920); Cadbury Bros: local milk supplies (1920); Upper Derwent Farm & Garden Society - advertisement.
(6 docs.)

ARTICLES

2 Press Articles - Agriculture 1872 - 1935

Typed copies of articles, including American Thistle (23 Mar. 1872), hop picking conditions - the growers' case (Mar. 1918)

FRUIT INDUSTRY

3 Correspondence 1907 - 1934

Correspondence relating to the fruit industry, including the Saaz Drying Process, lemon curing.

4 Fruit Trade - English Market 1891-95, 1905

Papers relating to the fruit trade, including reports of the fruit trade season and information relating to English trade.

5 Fruit Industry: Press Articles 1911-16, 1929-1935

Articles and reports, including: "marketing of fruit" read at Agricultural Conference, Launceston 16 June 1911, lemon curing (1911-12), co-operation (1913), packing sheds (1913); fruit export (1913), fruit pickers' wages (1916), apples in England (1929), organisation of fruitgrowers, storage of apples (1931-2), carriage of apples (1932-3), fruit drying methods, lemon production (1932).

S.3/

- 6 Fruitgrowers: miscellaneous papers 1917 - 1934
 Miscellaneous (mainly printed) papers, including: resolutions of Fruitgrowers' Conference 1917 and ms. notes (1917), wages in the fruit industry, list of Central Fruit Committee, Sir Henry Jones in London - meeting with fruit importers, reports of Australasian fruit market, annual report of State Fruit Advisory Board 1932.

ALTERNATIVE CROPS

- 7 Sugar Beet [1896], 1919-1920, 1931-2
 Statement copied from *Mercury* of yields of sugar beet tried in 1896, papers and letters to press relating to the sugar industry in Tasmania
- 8 Tobacco c 1924 - 1932
 Tobacco growing in Tasmania: letter to Premier J. C. McPhee suggesting it and notes.

FORESTRY & TIMBER

- 9 Forestry and Timber 1910 - 1918
 Articles and notes on Tasmanian forest and timber resources, including: conservation, paper making, firewood, the relation of forests to water supply, wood distillation, forest fires, report of address by W.E.S. to the Australian Natives Association (Nov. 1910 *see also* Australian Natives' Association: arousing public interest in timber industry Aug. 1911, S.3/56), paper by L. Rodway "Afforestation: the moral for Tasmania" written for the Forest League (1913).

AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY ETC.

- 10 Trade Mission to Canada 1914
 Correspondence and miscellaneous papers relating to W.E.S. as Commissioner on a Trade Mission to Canada with regard to fruit, tanning bark, and skins from Tasmania and agricultural machinery, motor engines etc. from Canada.
- 11 Tasmanian products Oct. 1917
 Article on use of Tasmanian products, including timber and mineral products, in the Government Service (ts.)
- 12 Rural Producers' Association ND.
 Report of first conference and statement of political platform.
 (ts. 2pp.)
- 13 Compensation for damage 1919
 Letter to Mrs Sharp, Kangaroo Valley, *in re* compensation claim and Government Committee.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER, WATER CONSERVATION & IRRIGATION

S.3/

- 14-15 Hydro-Electric Power, Water Conservation and Irrigation, 1896, 1909 - 1935
 Papers relating to W.E. Shoobridge's interest in the development of hydro-electric power and the use of water conserved for H.E.P. for irrigation and in possible schemes for the Upper Derwent and other districts. Including: correspondence with Government ministers and with H.G. Rashbacher, Consulting Engineer U.S.A. (1913-24); Samuel Fortier of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (1916-24); the H.E.P. Commission of Ontario, Canada (1919-24); the Westinghouse Co.; Electolytic Zinc Co. (1917); the Aluminium Co. of America (1918); Wardens of Huon, Fingal, etc. (1919), and an introduction for Bushy Park Manager to the Closer Settlement Board of California for information on irrigation, hydro-electric power and closer settlement (1920). Also copies of articles for newspapers etc. and notes and extracts from other studies, including: "Water power in the west" (1896), notes on water power in Ontario, Sweden, Russia etc., use of water in Tasmania, power, irrigation and closer settlement (*see also* soldier settlement S.3/26), flood prevention, Hobart and Launceston water supplies, need for a Commission etc.
- 14) Correspondence: 1909 - 1927, 1931-2
 15) Articles (ts. copies) 1896, 1909-1921, 1931-5
- 16 Rainfall - Bushy Park 1874 - 1923
 Monthly record of rainfall (printed)

ECONOMICS & POLITICAL THEORY

ECONOMY

- 17 Land values 1886 - 1908
 Copies of articles on "land values" relating to valuation and taxation (ts. 30 pp)
- 18 Land value and taxation 1931-32
- 19 Economy and wealth 1907-1921, 1931-1935
 Letters to press and articles on accumulation of capital wealth, white Australia and labour, cost of living, trade and industry (1912), benefits of spending (1913-15), progress or stagnation (1916), purchasing power of wages (1918), capitalism (1919), nationalisation, unemployment (1919), coal prices, wages, strikes, wages and production (1920), industrial democracy (1920), immigration (1920), "Bible laws and peace" (1920), strikes, labour and capitalism (1921), production and unemployment etc. (1931-5), usury (1932).
- 20 Women's employment 1931-33
 Girls in offices, women's work.

S.3/

- 21 Notes on economics 1918-1920, 1931
Copies of and extracts from articles on economy, nationalisation, unemployment, strikes etc.

ECONOMICS AND WAR

- 22 War and Peace 1915 - 1918
Articles on financing the war, effects of war on industry and standard of living, notice of "Peace Celebration" in Bushy Park Hall 1919.
- 23 Conscription 1916
Articles and reports on the anti-conscription campaign.
- 24 Bauxite and use of French mines by Germany ND. c 1916
- 25 Reconstruction and After the War 1916-1920
Articles and notes on "Reconstruction", including: municipal failures, federal and state government, individual and collectivism, after the war, Russia, loan for Europe, finance etc., labour.
- 26 Repatriation & Soldiers' Land Settlement 1919
Articles and notes on repatriation, soldier settlements - including irrigation, cheap power etc.
- 27 "Democracy and the War" 1918-1920
Series of articles, including some originally written between 1891 and 1911, on "Democracy and the War" relating to economics, capital growth and division of wealth, unemployment, housing, control of industry and strikes, labour and government by labour.
(ts. 184 pp.)
- 28 Keynes' Economics and Peace 1918-1920
Articles on Keynes' economics and the peace treaty, and notes from studies by John Maynard Keynes, A.G. Gardner, Sir Ian Hamilton (The Armistice), Prof. Meredith Atkinson.

ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

- 29 The Referendum 1909 - 1913
Articles on referenda, particularly the effect on wages, prices and industry.
(ts. 14 pp., draft and corrected ts.)

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30 National Guilds 1920
Articles on wages systems and the English suggestion for the establishment of National Guilds as explained by S.G. Hobson.

31 Politics and Economics - miscellaneous notes c 1911
Notes and extracts on political and economic topics.

POLITICS - FEDERATION

32 Federation 1896, 1898
Short articles on federation.
(ts. 11 pp.)

POLITICS AND LABOUR PARTY

33 Federal Elections 1910
W.E. Shoobridge Labour candidate for Franklin.

34 W.E. Shoobridge's Electoral Statements 1918

35 Labour Party 1918 - 1919
Miscellaneous articles on the Labour Party

POLITICS - MISCELLANEOUS

36 Political Articles - miscellaneous 1872 - 1935
Articles or letters to the press on political subjects, including local self government (1872), elections and the franchise, state politics, farmers' outlook (1912), labour, women in politics (1915), Labour Party, power of the state (1918), prime minister or president (1921), government (1935).

37 Social and Industrial 1874 - 1917
Articles and notes on social and industrial topics, such as ideals, the meaning of socialism, Saturday half holiday, power of churches, gambling, housing.

38 Tasmanian Workers' Political League 1915
Objective
(ts.)

PUBLIC WORKS

S.3/

- 39 Public Works: bridges, roads, railways 1874 - c 1890
Series of articles or letters to newspapers on "Public Works" relating to the New Norfolk Bridge (1874), roads and road trusts, Derwent Valley Railway and bridge (1883-6), railway extension (1889).
(ts. 20 pp.)
- 40 Bridges: travelling, Derwent 1931, 1933
Articles on "travelling bridges" and the Derwent Bridge.
(3 ts. articles)
- 41 Community Service and Municipalities c 1920, 1931
Articles on the cost of road maintenance, local government and community services.
(ts. articles)
- 42 Correspondence 1919-1920
Public halls (1919); copies of letters to newspapers concerning copies of evidence W.E.S. gave before the Public Works Committee (1920); redefinition of municipalities (1920).

WELFARE & EDUCATION ETC.

- 43 Education c 1883, 1909, 1919, 1931-33
Articles or letters to newspapers on education and state funding.
(ts. articles)
- 44 Housing 1911, 1919-1920
Letters to newspapers on housing and miscellaneous notes and extracts on housing.
- 45 Health and hospitals 1919, 1920, 1931
Notes on "Hospitals and the State" (Napier Burnett, 1919); health and smoke (ventilation); article for *Mercury* on "The Public Hospital" (1931)
- 46 Correspondence: child welfare, quarantine 1918, 1919
Letter and draft reply on "Children of the State Bill" (1918); letter to Chief Health Officer, Hobart, on quarantine on ships.
- 47 Temperance and Licensing 1917-18, 1931, 1934
Letters to newspapers on temperance reform (1917-18); the Licensing Act (1931); six o'clock closing (1934).

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES

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- 48 Papua 1920, 1921
"A trip to Papua"; "Papua and its possibilities".
(ts.)
- 49 Religion ND, 1920, 1933
"God is a spirit", "Duty of the Church" (1920), "Christianity and unemployment"
(1933)
(ts.)
- 50 Cricket 1933
"Shock bowling", "The new cricket".

DAILY POST

- 51 Share certificates 1912
W.E.S.' share certificates in *Daily Post* Ltd.
- 52 Correspondence *Daily Post* 1910-1919
(8 docs.)
- 53 Miscellaneous Papers: *Daily Post* 1916 - 1918
Including notice of takeover by Labor Papers Ltd., Hobart, publishers of *The World*
(1918).
- 54 Boycott of the *Daily Post* 18 May 1912
Letter to *Daily Post* on the freedom of the press and the withdrawal of stock
advertisements.
(ts.)
- 55 Financial Statements: *Daily Post* 1915 - 1918
Balance sheets, comparative statements and related correspondence and address to
shareholders' meeting on the takeover by Labor Papers Ltd.

ASSOCIATIONS

AUSTRALIAN NATIVES' ASSOCIATION

- 56 Correspondence: Australian Natives' Association 1911, 1916
Meetings; committee to consider means of arousing public interest in the timber
trade (1911); congratulations on W.E.S.' election as M.H.A.
(5 docs.)

Y.M.C.A

- S.3/
57 Correspondence, President's Report 1916, 1934
(4 docs.)

W. E. SHOBRIDGE - PERSONAL

- 58 Methodist Preacher 26 Apr. 1931
Congratulations on W.E.S.' record as preacher of the Gospel from H.G. Pitt.
- 59 Biography 1931
Copy of a biography of W.E.S. published in serial form in the *Examiner* under the heading "Tasmanian Industries". It deals especially with his work in irrigating the hopfields on the Valleyfield and Bushy Park estates and later the orchards, the installation in 1908 of a hydro-electric plant for lighting and small electric appliances on the estate driven originally by an iron water wheel but later by a turbine, and his interest in the development of H.E.P. in Tasmania and the first H.E.P. station at Waddamana and the proposal for a Hydro-Electric Commission for Tasmania. It also refers to W.E.S.' work in the development of orchard irrigation, pruning of fruit trees, export of apples and the Saaz drying process for hops and its use for drying or curing of lemons and other fruit. (part 5, pp. 10-11, missing)
Also copy of brief biographical details sent to the *Advocate*.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 60 Miscellaneous Advertisements & printed material
Including: Thomas Tyson of Melbourne: agricultural and mill machinery (1878); "Granny's household hints" (Sunset Drug Co. Sydney); *Carry On* No. 1 July 1925 issued by the Commonwealth Treasury (war loans and reinvestments). [*The Wayfarer*, a record of Quaker life and work, U.K., July, August 1925 transferred to Library]