

Stopped at the "Wheat Sheaf." To get "a wet." & wind the Hournival, the "Wheat Sheaf" stands just at a three wheel, & just at the back of the house stands a blacksmiths shop, a barn to the left & round we called in at Alford, a Scotch Farmer, about two miles further on, He had 150 acres all in cultivation or in grass, divided into 15 acre paddocks. The house (nine roomed, built of cob, is situated near the center of the block, along side a pond, which is full of water some months in the year, up to the house from the road is a long straight drive, planted on either side, with Blue gum, Poplars, willows & other kinds of trees, a quarter of a mile in length, we stopped & rested the old boy (I gave him a feed) for about an hour, & then we started on our journey, country improving in quality as we neared the Selwyn, we soon came to what was but two years back an impassible swamp, & a year or two anterior not scarce a house to be seen for miles, but now what a change, drains cut, road formed corduroid where required, & now being metalled

Thirty yards across, & on each side homesteads dotted about, & around them, one years produce — stacked & partially thatched, quantity plainly showing the quality of the ground. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating Mr Jones." quite true, & here is plainly shown what swampy land once drained will throw out let the season be ever so dry. Just before reaching the Selwyn we passed over several creeks, with a good flow of water & two sandhills, to the left lies a large block of about 2,000 acres belonging to Mr Gould of Cokham house, on it a good homestead, consisting of house in a garden, stable, sheds stock yard, sheep yard, & stack yard, the land being subdivided into large paddocks in different stages of cultivation, some in grass some crop just off it, some just broken up ready for sowing, & some burnt & prepared for breaking up, & a large quantity in its natural state, we crossed the Selwyn at a very picturesque spot, three streams at the cross, two small & then the main, but of flax & fern in abundance, we pushed up, surprised