

being fenced in, a sheep yard, very hilly, I walked up the saddle to look at it, to see if it was passable for horses. In it I saw an old wheeled van, the fore wheels, lying in one place & the hind part in another very steep, three extraordinary steep places. As I made up my mind to go round the Hill, these Hills, composed of a limestone rock, a beautiful building stone & useful to burn into lime. We broke up the camp about 10 a.m. loaded up, & again commenced our journey, there is a large party making a fresh cutting, all through limestone rock, to make a new line of road through the pass.

We recrossed the Deka creek, up a terrace, a cutting several drays had been stuck before me, & left a boggy hole, the shafter got bogged in it, I was forced take all the things out tip up the shafts, & then he manage to get out, put him in again & pulled onto solid ground. Reloaded & again on our way. (Sunday work) very dry pulling round the hill although dry, yet soft, from being cut up by bullock drays. I got up the Black Prince by degrees, stopping to wind them on their way, up, it is a very steep sideling, which after rain is so slippery that neither horse nor bullock could stand on it, we stopped to refresh ourselves & horses

about halfway through the pass. We had some long steep cuttings & sidelings to go up & down, but the Old boys tugged on, like Old bullocks, forced to wind them up the steep places. The Deka pass is five (about) miles through very rough road, no bush to be seen, only a little scrub, tea & fern on the borders of the creek. All the wood used by Henry is fetched, from the other side of the Wai-tobi. After we had passed through the pass, we crossed the, Dai-karai flat, very soft when wet, good now excepting where small boggy creeks cross the track, to the N.E. the flat is very swampy & wet. about midway across the flat the track divides, the east track, is the Hurunui track to Nelson & the other to Lances Station, we crossed a low down & came to another flat, crossed by two creeks, via little river & sheep washcreek. High terraces on the sides of each, low swampy ground to the east. Lances run, is 100,000 acres, which includes several downs, he has some very large paddocks fenced in with wire fencing, 16 miles of fencing, some very good country & some very poor, just the other side of the Wai-tobi, about 3 miles from the station, is several hundred acres of Manuka scrub, great value to the squatters around, as the country is void of bush.