

Concrete Tank at the Opal Fields.

—:0:—

WORK PROGRESSING FAVORABLY.

Mr W. Hargrave (inspector of the Water Conservation Department) returned from the Stuart Range Opal Field on Sunday last, where he had been inspecting the work in connection with the 500,000 gallon concrete tank now in course of construction. Interviewed as to how the work was progressing, he stated:—That good progress was being made and that he was pleased indeed with the work. The catch pit is finished, and at present is being used for the storage of water for the concrete work. The work of excavating the hole for the tank is completed, and nineteen iron columns to support the iron girders and galvanized iron roof are bedded in position. Owing to the intense heat a tremendous quantity of water is necessary and two camel waggons and a motor lorry are engaged in carting water to the site from the bore 16 miles away. As stated before the men (under Foreman Turley) are doing good work, despite the fact that for five days in succession the thermometer registered 115 degrees in the coolest place on the field. Thanks to the extreme heat the fly pest has greatly diminished. Thirty-five men are employed. The government boarding-house is giving every satisfaction, but there is great difficulty in securing fresh meat. Material is being carted to the field from William Creek (120 miles) and Kingoonya (160 miles). Mr Hargrave spent a week on the field.

The tank, which is 16 ft. in depth, will have a 5-inch floor reinforced with $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch steel, with a 9 inch pitch. The wall at the bottom will

be 8 inches in thickness and 4 inches at the top. The vertical reinforcements are $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch steel, and horizontally the reinforcements vary from the bottom upwards from $\frac{5}{8}$ inch bars to $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch bars, with $\frac{5}{8}$ inch steel to 4 ft from the bottom and then $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch steel to $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch to the top. The inside diameter of the tank is 86 ft, and, when full, will have a depth of 15 ft of water.

When taken into consideration the difficulties under which those in charge of the construction of this tank are faced with—all material has to be carted from 120 to 160 miles, water (not too good at that) 16 miles, meat hard to procure, firewood to be carted, the flies, heat and without sheds of any sort in a shade temperature of 122 deg. (February 13)—it is pleasing to note that in South Australia (and in Port Augusta) we have men capable of surmounting all obstacles, and carrying out construction works where it is almost impossible for men to exist.

On Monday 1700 sheep from Kolendo station were barged across the gulf and travelled to Nectar Brook.

On Monday night a special picture programme will be shown by the Enterprise Picture Syndicate. The proceeds are in aid of the Royal Institution for the Blind. It is a cause which should appeal to all.