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F.C. GREEN AND A.J. GILLIES

Frank C. Green collaborated with Albert J. Gillies in drafting a history of the early development of hydro-electricity in Tasmania, pioneered by Gillies' father, James Hynde Gillies (1861-1942). J.H. Gillies, a metallurgist, developed an electrolytic process for extracting zinc from complex ores and in 1908 he started the Complex Ores Co. in Melbourne. He proposed to establish works in Tasmania, using hydro-electric power from the waters of the Great Lake and the Shannon River. The hydro scheme was suggested by Harold Bisdee, a Midlands land owner, and Alexander McAulay, Professor of Mathematics at the University of Tasmania. The project was authorised in 1909 by the Complex Ores Act, which also allocated a site at Electrona, North West Bay for the refining works. A subsidiary of the Complex Ores Co., the Hydro-Electric Power and Metallurgical Co. was established and on 17 December 1910, at an informal ceremony, Mrs. McAulay turned the first sod for the water power development on land owned by Professor McAulay. A severe winter and other problems delayed work however.

In 1914 the Hydro-Electric undertaking was sold to the Government. In 1916 the Government authorised a rival firm, Amalgamated Zinc, to establish a zinc works at Risdon and agreed to supply hydro-electricity for it. Gillies retained a Carbide Electro Products project but this did not start producing until 1921 and in 1924 was taken over by the Hydro-Electricity Department.

The draft history was based on original records of the Complex Ores Co. and the Hydro-Electric Power and Metallurgy Co. as well as Gillies' private papers, and includes some extracts, but the original papers were burnt after A.J. Gillies' death, by his widow.

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1. "The Story of the Development of Hydro-Electricity in Tasmania" c 1960
Draft written "by A.J. Gillies and F.C. Green from the papers of the Complex Ores Company, the Hydro-Electric Power and Metallurgical Company and the private papers of J.H. Gillies who brought Hydro-Electricity to Tasmania".
Typescript with ms corrections and notes, 164pp. foolscap.
2. Notes and Extracts from Gillies Papers
Letters from A.J. Gillies to F.C. Green (1959-61) commenting on the draft manuscript and enclosing extracts from his father's papers or from newspapers that might be quoted. Includes articles in Mercury 9.7.1915 and 18.3.1922, undated article by A.S. Gill "The Australian zinc-industry". Also letter from John Butters 9 July 1959.
(folder containing 17 documents)
3. Acts and Papers of Parliament, etc. 1913-1916
 - (1) The Hydro-Electric Company of Tasmania, information on the proposal before Parliament. 1913;
 - (2) Hydro-Electric Power and Metallurgical Co. Ltd. report by E. Parry presented to Parliament 1914;
 - (3) Interim Report on the Hydro-Electric Construction Scheme 23 Dec. 1915.

3. (4) Amalgamated Zinc (De Bavray) Lease Enabling Bill 1916;
- (5) Hydro-Electric Department; statement by the Minister for Works 5 Nov. 1919.

(folder of 5 documents)

4. Photographs and Newspaper cuttings

- (1) J.H. Gillies, head and shoulders. ND ?c[1900-1910]
- (2) Photographs of site of dam and power station, River Shannon, Great Lake and Ouse (? from printed paper)
- (3) "Stock Exchange Journal of Australasia" 13 August 1913: photo of J.H. Gillies and article on Hydro Electric Power and Metallurgical Co. Ltd.
- (4) Official opening of Hydro-Electric Power Scheme, "Tasmanian Mail", 11 May 1916.
- (5) Photo of bush scene with mud "memorial" to the Complex Ores. N.D.
- (6) "Great Lake Power Development" from H.E.C. leaflet c 1954.