MR. BELL gave an extremely interesting lecture, profusely illustrated with lantern slides, on the construction of a new breakwater for the Marine Board of Burnie and Table Cape. Burnie is situated on the north coast of Tasmania, and enjoys the advantage of being the nearest port to the Australian mainland, having railway communication with all parts of Tasmania. In the centre of one of the richest districts in Tasmania, supporting a prosperous community, the Port of Burnie expanded until its accommodation became inadequate. In 1910 the lecturer was called in to advise the Port Authority—the Marine Board of Burnie and Table Cape—and as a result of his advice it was decided to build a new breakwater 420 feet to the north of the old breakwater.

The new breakwater is 1,250 feet long, 23 feet wide for the first 1,000 feet from the shore, and 29 feet wide for the remainder. The height, without the upper parapet, is over 72 feet in 53 feet of water at H.W. Springs.

The lecturer built the breakwater of single blocks of concrete, each weighing 60 tons on the 23 feet width, and 70-ton blocks for the wider portion.

Many interesting views were given of the block-making yard, with its Goliath crane, and the work of construction of the breakwater, together with the Titan crane for handling and setting the 60 and 70-ton blocks.

The lecturer devoted special attention to the plant used in the construction of the breakwater, and it was interesting to learn that both the Marine Board and their adviser were far-seeing enough to lay down a permanent power plant, which would serve a useful purpose to the community after the breakwater was completed.

The two large cranes were designed by the lecturer, and, with the exception of certain parts obtained from the mainland of Australia, were built in the Marine Board's workshops at the new breakwater.
BURNIE HARBOUR AND BREAKWATER.

DISCUSSION.

The President said they had listened to a most interesting lecture, and he thought Mr. Bell was to be congratulated not only upon having had the opportunity of executing a work such as that—an opportunity that occurred too seldom, not only in Australia, but everywhere—he was also to be congratulated upon the many ingenious methods he had adopted to overcome the very considerable difficulties. He was sure members would wish to pass a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bell for his immensely interesting and instructive lecture.

The vote was carried by acclamation.
Author/s: Bell, William Reid

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