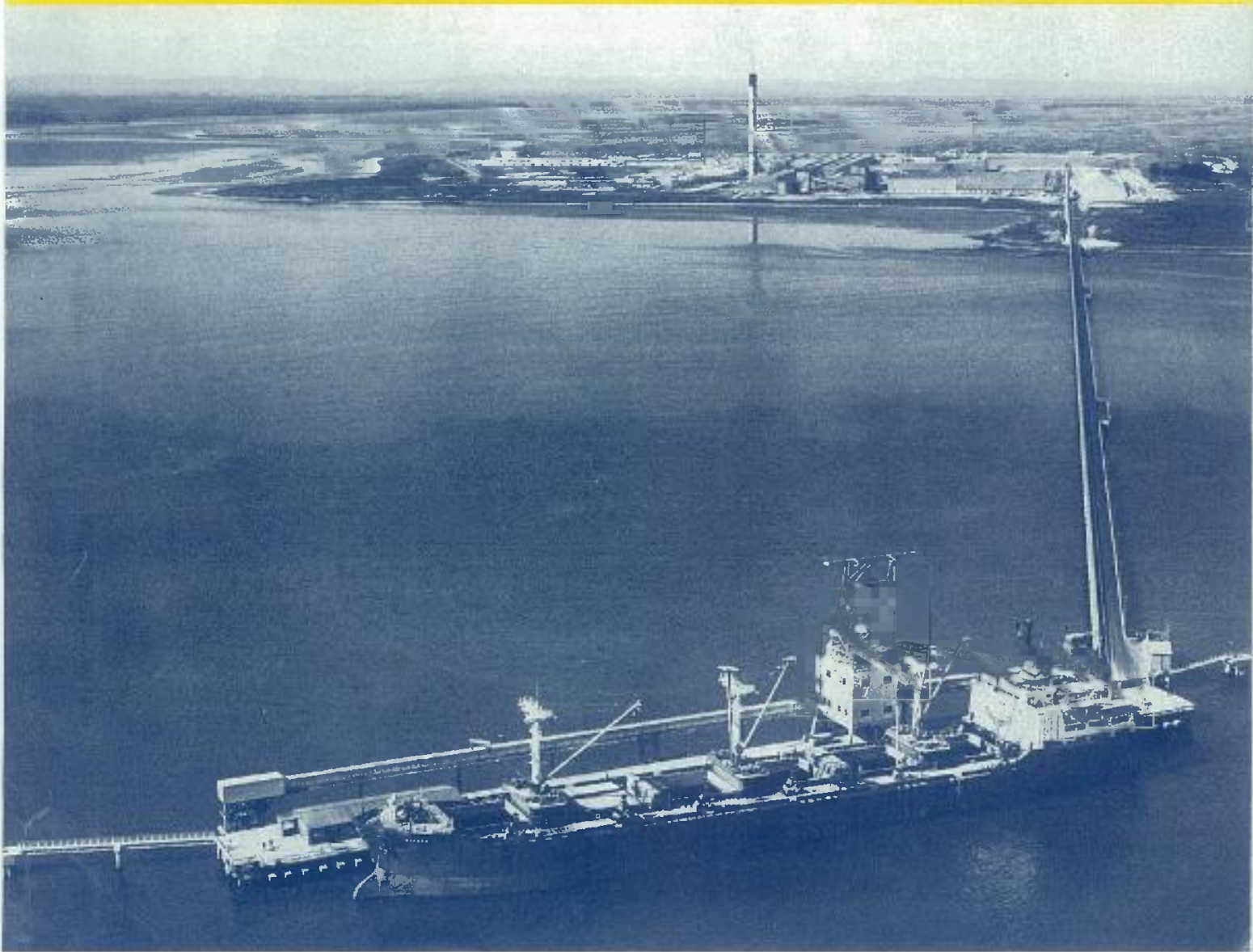


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NEW ZEALAND

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THE SIMPLE ANSWER



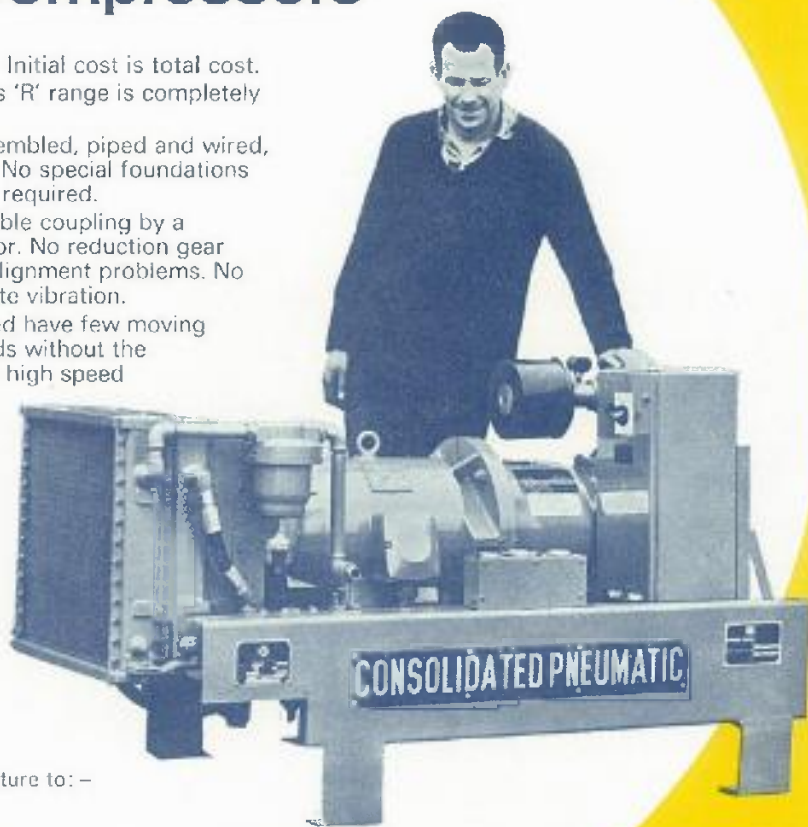
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N. Z. I. E.

news section

A supplement to "New Zealand Engineering" sent to all members of the N.Z. Institution of Engineers
President: E. W. de Lisle, M.Sc.(Hons), C.Eng., F.I.E.E., F.N.Z.I.E.
Secretary: R. W. K. Stevens, C.B.E.

The Secretary's Newsletter

THE INSTITUTION AWARDS

THE premier award of the Institution is the Fulton Gold Medal awarded to the member presenting the best paper at an annual N.Z.I.E. conference. The award was endowed in 1929 by the late J. E. Fulton who bequeathed a sum of £250 for the purpose. The Fulton Silver Medal, established by the same bequest as the Gold Medal, is awarded to the graduate member submitting the best paper to an annual conference of the Institution. In recent years the Institution has enhanced the value of the premier award by adding to the Gold Medal a sum of \$30 for the purchase of books and has had to subsidise the award by meeting the difference between the income from the investment (\$27.50/year) and the cost of the two medals (\$45.25).

In July this year, A. H. Downer, a past president, donated to the Institution a sum of \$2 000 and with his consent the Council decided to add this sum to the principal of the Fulton bequest and change the name of the award to "The Fulton-Downer Award". The award will, in future, comprise, for the premier award, a gold medal, a certificate and a sum of money for the purchase of books and for the lower award, a silver medal, a certificate and a sum of money.

The Council is much concerned at the effects of inflation upon the endowments of other awards. For example, the Furkert Award, which was established in 1948 with a capital sum of \$500 is now worth less than half of the original endowment, and it is not possible to make more than \$24 a year available for the purchase of books, instruments, etc. The Council has been studying ways and means of making provision against inflation and one obvious way is to create a fund, the interest from which could be used to augment the income from each endowment. Unfortunately, the Institution has no capital available to establish such a fund and the most that can be done is to subsidise, in a small way, the older and less well-endowed funds.

The Council has decided, therefore, to seek the support of the membership for the creation of an awards endowment fund. A letter has been sent to all holders of N.Z.I.E. debentures inviting them to donate the whole or part of their debenture holding to the fund. The Council now asks all members who are not debenture holders, or whose debentures have been repaid, to give sympathetic consideration to a donation to the fund.

Awards for well-written and well-presented papers are a part of the Institution; they provide encouragement to potential authors and rewards to those who spend many hours of their leisure for the ultimate benefit of their fellow members. Any donations to the endowment fund, however small, will not only help to keep the awards at a worthwhile level but will be a tribute to those who gave so generously to the establishment of the awards.

Donations should be sent to the secretary, N.Z.I.E., P.O. Box 1224, Wellington and marked, "Award Endowment Fund".

SALARY STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1973

The Council has directed that the Institution conduct a salary statistics survey for the year ended 31 March 1973. The timing of this survey is rather later than usual and because of this it is hoped that returns from members can be obtained more expeditiously and processed more promptly.

To achieve this objective the statistics forms will be unnumbered and there will be no follow-up on members not submitting their forms by the prescribed date. Members are therefore urged to make a particular point of completing the survey form and returning it to the Institution by 30 September 1973.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT

Members who read the paper, "Ecology engineering and environment" by R. H. Wilson, in the July 1973 issue of *New Zealand Engineering* will be interested to know that the Council recently received from the Minister for the Environment, Hon. J. A. Walding, a paper setting out a proposed procedure for environmental impact assessment and the preparation of environmental impact reports. The paper is too long for publication, even in abridged form, in these pages but copies can be obtained from the Commission for the Environment, P.O. Box 12042, Wellington.

The Council's comments on the proposed procedure follow.

In the opinion of the Council, the principle of environmental impact reports is excellent and should help to codify and hence simplify the efforts which have been made in recent times to obtain assessments of the effects of proposed projects upon the environment. However, there are a number of points which the Council considers need further examination and these are as follows:

- (1) It was not clear whether the proposed procedure was intended to apply to projects initiated by a local authority and which had already been subjected to scrutiny as a district scheme.
- (2) It seems impossible to separate the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Act from the environmental impact assessment scheme. The point was made that if the Government were bound by the Town and Country Planning Act, the requirement for impact assessment could probably be modified. As a corollary, it was thought that in cases where a project had been subjected to examination under the Town and Country Planning Act, impact assessment could well be redundant.
- (3) It was suggested that implementation of the proposed procedure