

## The life of a dog fence boundary rider.

The control of these fences, which appear to be our one and only line of defence against the dingo, seems, therefore, to lie at the root of the whole matter. The north south section from the Queensland border to Cockburn Is controlled by the South Australian Government, each State contributing to the cost on a fifty-fifty basis. It stands about 6ft high, the bottom half rabbit netted and the top dog netted, with a couple of barbed wires over all.

Each man is equipped with a couple of camels one for riding and the other for packing rations, water, and equipment. He is also supplied with two tents a stout canvas shelter, which he hitches permanently in the most convenient spot in his section, and a lighter tent, which he carries about on his pack camel for temporary use at any point where the fence calls for attention.

Once a month he mounts his saddle camel and leads his pack animal in to the nearest station homestead for rations and pay. Those on the northern end come in to Yandama, 30 miles this side of the border, taking two days each way, for the camels are very old and slow.

For the rest of the month he leads a **quiet**, retired life with only the flies or company. On the other hand he is well paid, comparatively-about £5 per week-and he cannot spend his wages on beer or billiards.

The east-west fence from Hungerford to Fort Grey Is now controlled by the New South Wales authorities. It broke down completely in 1919 under Queensland control, and was taken over in self-defence by the Western Lands Commissioners, together with the staff of men who patrolled it, and the inspectors who controlled the patrols.

Most of these men are married and have reared families on the Queensland side. They provide their own means of getting about from one portion of their section to another. They also make their own private arrangements for obtaining rations, the facilities for doing this being greater on these stock routes than on the South Australian side.

Their pay is about the same as the rate ruling on the South Australian fence. Some of them still live at a considerable distance from the work in order to be near water. Indeed, I am assured on excellent authority that on both fences the men spend

three-fourths of their time In going for water and rations, and the remaining fourth on the fence.