

## Examination of house and block, Burnie area

*by W. L. Matthews*

The Methodist Church requested an examination of the stability of a block of land, over which the church has an option to buy. A house was built on the land about 4½ years ago and the area is on the margin of an area classed as potentially unstable in a survey of the Burnie area about six years ago. The property examined is located at 7 Maydena Place, west of West Park.

The front of the block is flat and rises steeply towards the back. On the back or southern boundary there is an outcrop of heavily quartz-veined Precambrian rock and down the slope towards the house fragments of Precambrian rock can be seen in the red-brown soil. Although no outcrops are visible south of the block, the land surface rises and is underlain by Tertiary basalt.

About 2 chains west of the block there is a probable old landslide which has occurred in an area where the Precambrian has been eroded to a lower level before the basalt flowed over it. Further west of this area, a house was affected by a slip several years ago.

As the house is below the level of the Precambrian outcrop, it is expected that this will protect the area from being subject to landslide. Although some basalt soil occurs on the block, this is expected to be fairly shallow and the block has been terraced behind the house. Drainage from inland (from the south) is expected to be directed away from the area because of the high level of the Precambrian rocks which probably have a low permeability.

For the above reasons, it seems unlikely that the block will be affected by landslide. The only apparent possibility seems to be of slipping developing on adjoining land (to the south) and affecting this area. This possibility is remote.

*[28 April 1969]*