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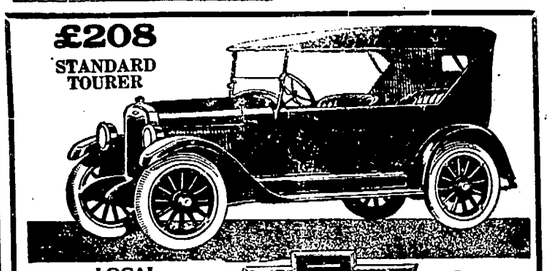

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Chapter XXI. (Continued).

"Where is he?"

"Again I don't know. Concha may."

"Then Concha's our first objective. If he isn't guilty himself we shall be able to tell; and in that case we must get Juan Vospero's address out of him."

"By Jove!" cried Westaway suddenly, as a thought came to him. "We're overlooking one thing. The Governor himself may be responsible for Catherina's disappearance."

"Possibly. But there's no word from Catherina, and she must have expected that I should call at the hotel; for she would not know that I had been bashed over the head by her father's enemies. That discounts your suggestion pretty liberally."

"Yes," agreed Westaway thoughtfully, "yes!"

"So Concha's our mark, and if he hasn't the key to the situation, we've a hard lock to pick."

Wogan shaved himself, finished dressing, and astonished one of the nurses by walking into the dining-room, where she was reading.

"Sir——" began the nurse protestingly.

"It's all right, nurse. I'm as fit as a fiddle. Don't be alarmed. I've simply got to go out."

"But the doctor, sir. He——"

"Give him my compliments on his treatment. Say I'll thank him personally for what he's done when I see him. And for yourselves——"

"Better remain here," broke in Westaway with a little laugh. "If I don't bring him back a corpse it will be a miracle, and he's pretty certain to need your services again."

"You are taking grave risks, sir—"

"They are my own," laughed Wogan. "I hope you and your friend will make yourself comfortable and not worry about me. Believe me, I am better moving than I should be lying in bed, worrying about something that has simply got to be attended to. Ready, Gilbert?"

They left the house and, Westaway driving, made their way to the Consular Offices of San Salvador. Miguel Concha, who had been working late, was just locking up his safe for the night, when one of his clerks announced them, and he received them without any visible enthusiasm, though he stared at Wogan a little incredulously.

"You, senors?" he said frostily. "What can I do for you?"

"You can tell us where Catherina Vospero is?" answered Wogan with a directness that made the consul start.

"I am afraid not," answered Concha briefly.

"But you've got to," answered Wogan, a savage note in his voice. "If you don't I'll wring your neck."

"Steady, Wogan!" broke in Westaway.

"It is beyond my power," replied the consul. "I do not know where the beautiful senorita is. All day have I been anxious to learn her whereabouts. I have cherished the idea that you knew; that she had left her hotel with——"

"You knew that she had disappeared then?"

"But yes! I called at the hotel this morning, hoping to see her. I found a compatriot of mine there who had come from her father, and who was much distressed to find that she had left the hotel. I tried to console him with the assurance that she was with you, but he did not accept the suggestion. He said that the senorita was expecting him; that she would have waited for him; and then he hurried away to inform Senor Vospero, and I returned here, thinking that soon my friend his Excellency would communicate with me. But he has not done so. And though I have waited all the day the silence has not been broken."

Wogan, who had watched the Salvadorian closely while he was speaking, was convinced that he was speaking the truth. He stared at the consul for a moment, then he asked abruptly "Where is Juan Vospero."

The consul shook his head. "I do not know."

"You will pardon me if I seem to doubt your word, Senor Concha, but failing knowledge of the senorita, it is very necessary that I should know Juan Vospero's whereabouts. And you need have no fear of letting us into that knowledge. This gentleman, Gilbert Vospero Westaway, is his son."

Miguel Concha permitted himself to smile. "If that," he said quietly, "is no news to me. I have known that fact for quite a long time."

"The dickens," cried Westaway. "And how did you come by the knowledge?"

"Your father told me five years ago, when you drove down that Zeppelin off the coast of France. And at that time, as perhaps you may remember, your photograph was in many papers, American as well as English."

"Well, since you know who I am you need have no scruple in letting me have my father's address."

"If I knew——" began the consul.

Wogan interrupted him sharply. "Oh, come, Concha that at bluff won't work. You are his agent it; his address you know very well."

"That is where the spokes rattle in your wheel," retorted Concha. "I have said I do not know, and that is the simple truth. I have not his Excellency's address. Always he is moving about, for, as you know, he has enemies, and so as to foil them he stays not long in one place. And today I have not heard from him."

"But you knew where he was yesterday?" said Westaway quickly.

"Yes. But that is of no use. His Excellency left there last night. I have been here to-day and learned that he gave up his rooms."

"What was the address?" asked Wogan.

"It was the Hotel Darlington—a small private hotel in Parliament street, and an insignificant domicile for so great a man—but safe, you understand."

Wogan made a note of the address, then he said: "And you can tell us nothing more, Senor Concha? You can tell us of no one who might put us on the track of Senorita Vospero?"

"Alas! No. I would give a thousand silver dollars for information of such a person, for the senorita is very dear to me. Last night she promised to do me the honor of becoming my wife."

The words were spoken quietly, but there was the sting of malice in them, and a flash of triumph in the glance he threw at Wogan whilst he was speaking, which togeteher brought Wogan suddenly to his feet.

"Concha," he cried, "you lie. Why, Catherina hates you like poison."

"You are mistaken, senor. You must be."

"And you must be stark, staring mad to think that Catherina would entertain the thought of marrying you. For two pins I would ram that lie down your throat."

"I assure you, senor——"

"If you repeat such a monstrous lie I will thrash you within an inch of your life. A cur like you to presume——"

"Steady, Wogan!" began Westaway, rising and putting a hand on his friend's arm. "We've other fish to fry than Miguel Concha, and you've no strength to waste. Come along and leave the fellow to his conscience, if he has one."

For a moment Wogan hesitated, then with a great effort he restrained himself and turning on his heel, left the room. For a moment Gilbert Westaway delayed to follow him, and in that moment he addressed the consul.

"Miguel Concha, you seem to know quite a lot about my family, and yet I don't think you know me very well. But, if through any machinations of yours, Catherina should keep the promise I believe you have somehow forced from her, you can take it from me that I shall make her a widow in just so short a time as it takes me to reach you."

The words were apparently carelessly spoken, in a quiet voice that was absolutely normal; but they seemed the more forceful for that very reason. The consul did not reply. His jaw sagged a little, and he flashed a hasty glance towards the bell-push on his desk, as if half-inclined to summon help. Westaway caught that glance and laughed with quiet contempt, then swinging round he followed Wogan.

The latter, in apparent forgetfulness of the lift, had already begun to descend the steps, and Westaway started to follow him. Just as he did so, however, he heard the lift stop at the consul's landing, and as the flexible gate of it clashed open, Westaway looked round. A man was just stepping on to the landing, at the sight of whom Westaway's heart kicked violently, for the man was one of the two men who had followed Charles Wogan from the Adelphi on the previous night.

CHAPTER XXII.

As Catherina Vospero made her recognition of the man whom she had last seen lying unconscious in the room at the Adelphi, her face went very white, and for a moment she felt that she was about to faint. Then her spirit braced itself, and with amazing self-possession she stood facing the man and wondering what to do. She understood the implication of the man's words very well. Her father was not in that lonely house, but she had been brought here in order that she might serve as lure for him. It was all beautifully simple, and in that moment, as she grasped the fact that she had been kidnapped, she was beset with fears, lest following her, her father should move to his destruction, Vincente began to speak again.

"Last night, senorita, you scarcely expected that we should meet again so soon. But I knew we should—for lying on the floor in your room, half-choked and pretending to be altogether so, I heard your father make the arrangement to send for you this morning, and then and there my plan came to me. I would anticipate his messenger, knowing that, once you were in our care, Juan Vospero might follow you and deliver himself into our hands. So far my plan has worked admirably. You are here, in my hands, to do with as I shall chose, and at this moment no doubt your father is learning that his dearly-beloved daughter has left her hotel, and has not yet returned. It will cramp his style a little, I fancy. He will not feel so high and mighty when he hears what has happened. No doubt he will search for you, and I should not be at all surprised if he were to discover that you are here." He broke off with a laugh, and then added: "He is a sharp one, Juan Vospero."

He laughed again, this time at the dismay in the girl's face, and then Catherina looked about her desperately, hoping against hope that she might be able to run from this house of danger. The man with the hooded eyes was standing in the doorway regarding her coolly, and blocking the way out, and she knew instinctively that any attempt to leave the room would be resisted by force. Vincente read her mind like an open book, and once more he laughed.

"It is useless, senorita. We did not go to all this trouble in order to let you walk from the house at will."

"You mean to keep me here?" asked Catherina in a disturbed voice.

Vincente bowed. "You have your father's quick discernment."

"But I have nothing to do with Salvadorian affairs."

"Nevertheless you are a pawn in them, senorita. No doubt when your father hears where you are he will travel here as fast as petrol will bring him, and when we have him you will be lifted from the board and allowed to go your own way."

"Then I hope he will not come," cried the girl impulsively.

Vincente laughed. "A Spartan daughter! And I thought that perhaps you would send out the S.O.S that would bring him here before the day is out. Well, it does not greatly matter. There are other ways and means of acquainting Juan Vospero with your plight, and no doubt they will be equally effective. Have no fear—he will come to save you in the end."

He waited, as if expecting that Catherina would speak, but she did not do so, and after a moment he spoke again. "We do not desire to be harsh with a lady, and we have made all preparations for your comfort. There is an upper room here that has been made ready for you. Its windows are barred, but the bars do not obstruct the view if you desire to look forth; whilst a considerable number of books have been placed there that you may read if you should find time hanging heavy on your hands. If there is anything that you require you have but to ring and if the resources of this house will run to it your requirements will be instantly met. That is all, I think, but you will permit me to say that I hope the period of your incarceration will not be a very long one. Your father—"

"You seem very sure that he will come," interjected Catherina.

Vincente smiled. "We have reason for that assurance, senorita. Juan Vospero is a man of energetic nature. Merely to know that you are in our hands will cause him to set forth to deliver you, but when he knows the fate in store for you he will be sure to come hot-foot."

"The fate—what do you mean, senor."

"You are very beautiful, senorita, as your mirror must have told you, and as, no doubt, some lover has already whispered. There are countries, cities where such beauty is in demand, and your father will be reminded of them and informed——"

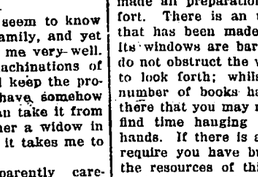
"Oh! Shame on you" cried Catherina, her face blanching to the color of chalk. "How can you——"

"Senorita, we are ruthless. There is nothing that we will not do to secure our ends; though I am convinced that such extremes will not be needed; that the mere mention of them will be sufficient to make your father fare forth on his knight-errantry. But there is no need that we should discuss the matter further. Your room, as I explained, is quite ready, and I think that now it will be as well if you retire to it. Further conversation will only serve to distress you."

He made a sign and the man in the doorway came forward a little. Catherina did not move, but stood there, her face very white, her dark eyes burning. Vincente spoke again. "Senorita, your room awaits you. Senor Mandega will conduct you thither."

Still the girl gave no sign of having heard, but stood there like a figure of stone, only her burning eyes betraying the emotion that she felt. Vincente spoke once more, and this time his voice was harsh.

(To be continued.)



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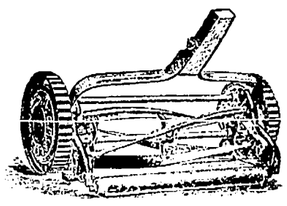

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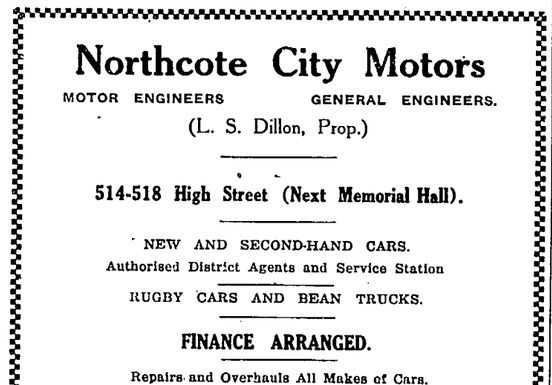

MAKING HARTLEY ST

COMPLAINTS OF HIGH COST.

At the meeting of the Northcote Council on Monday, the council considered the plans for Hartley street, Northcote, and heard a deputation of owners objecting to the making of that street.

Mr. Bade said the expense of the work in the street was too great, and the ratepayers considered the council was making too elaborate a job of it, with seven inches of metal, bitumen penetrated. They considered the estimate was based on there being a rock reef in the street, but most of the surface stone was boulders, although there was a reef down below. They considered that they had had to pay a proportion of the cost of St. George's road and High street, through the general rates, and they were also taxed through the electric light. Most of the people in Hartley street were workers, and it would make it impossible for them to carry on and pay off their homes and street construction charges as well. People on the corners would pay £111, and would get no benefit whatever, as Bastings street was already made. They felt the job should be done cheaper, and so make their burden lighter.

Mr. Naylor said evidently the council's policy was to make better streets than formerly, evidently with a view to saving maintenance. In the main the cost would work out at 5/- per week per owner in the street. In the old days the people got their streets made at 12/6 per foot, and the council should find out the cost of making the new streets of to-day as against old streets.

There were also a large number of other objectors.

Cr. Johnson said this was one of the unfortunate things that had happened since adopting a new policy. The council had fully considered the question before deciding on a policy for concrete paths and bituminous roads. In Ethel street, Thornbury, they had a similar case, and in that case some relief had been given in respect to the railway frontage, but the policy of the council was not altered. The ratepayers in the early days were fortunate in that some got their streets for nothing, and others only paid 12/- to 13/- a foot. In those days all things were cheaper in proportion. There was only seven inches of metal provided for this street, and no less could be put down. The council had decided to give relief as regards concrete footpath slabs, as they could make them for 2/- a yard cheaper than they could get them outside. The ratepayers in Hartley street would get the benefit of this. Whilst not anxious to delay the work, his colleagues had suggested that the matter be deferred for a fortnight to see if any reduction could be made, and he moved to that effect.

Cr. Oldis seconded, saying in the past he had always opposed delaying plans, but in this case the matter might well go back. The engineer had given only an estimate, which he could not reduce. He considered the construction of private streets should be looked at in a different light. Hartley street was a job with boulders in it, and contractors would put in a high price for the work. The council could do everything in street construction but the excavation, and he could not see why the council should not do that as well.

Cr. Dennis said that in the West Ward streets had been made at a somewhat similar price to the one in this instance. The council was anxious that the plans should be passed, as there was a great outcry to have the progressive street policy carried out.

The motion was carried, and the plans were deferred.

Straying Cows Hold Up Trains.

At Preston police court on November 25 Nicholas Larkin, Otto Rose and Stanley Rose, all farmers of Epping, were charged with having allowed cattle to stray on railway property on September 8.

Peter Clunes, farmer, of Epping, was also charged with allowing 24 head of stock to stray on railway property on September 21.

Defendants all pleaded guilty.

James Watson, railway ganger, of Epping, said on September 8 he had to yard two cows belonging to Larkin, two belonging to Otto Rose and one owned by Stanley Rose. The cattle were released the same day. On September 21, whilst at South Morang, he learnt there were 24 cows in the yards at Epping. He locked up the cows and they were later released.

To Mr. Norris (Norris and Norris) for defendants—There was a big gate at the station, and there was no passage gate. Epping was a suburban station, through which about four trains passed a day.

Mr. R. C. Lee, who prosecuted for the Railways Department, said that on previous occasions trains had to be stopped while cattle were hunted off the line. (Laughter.)

Clunes was fined £3, with 10/9 costs, and the other three were fined £2 each, with 10/9 costs.

CRICKET

Secretaries are requested to forward reports AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, so as to ensure insertion. All reports should reach the "Leader" Office BEFORE WEDNESDAY.

NORTHCOTE V. COLLINGWOOD.

SUPPORTERS' DISGRACEFUL CONDUCT.

The above match was resumed on Saturday last in delightful weather, and in the presence of over 2000 people, but was made most uncomfortable to decent people by the disgraceful conduct of a small section of Collingwood supporters. Chagrined at the successful efforts of the Northcote team, they gave vent to their pent-up feelings by an orgy of abuse, quite foreign to what one expects from followers of cricket. They paid particular attention to Dr. Hartkopf, jealous of his prowess as a cricketer, and who was at this particular period in splendid form with the ball. So abusive and personal were they that the doctor refused, and rightly so, to proceed. Approaching the boundary fence his challenge to the culprits had the desired effect, and like all cowards do when they meet their master, they collapsed. Clean barracking is welcomed, but to receive abuse, and that from a section who have no idea of the game, will not be tolerated, and in future stern measures will be taken and an example made. It is only fair to say that the Collingwood players and officials expressed their disgust at the unseemly conduct.

Of the play there is not a great deal to relate. P. Gibaud and G. Heron resumed their not out innings, and both gave a very fine display of batting, both hitting hard, but on many occasions not receiving the full benefit of the strokes, owing as usual to the bad condition of the ground. These two batsmen added 83 runs before being separated. In Gibaud's score of 63 was ten fours and a six, and Heron's 40 included six fours, and was a very fine innings, crisp and bright. When the score had reached 301 for eight wickets Baring closed.

Collingwood opened with Ryder and Keating. When he had beached 34 Ryder, after giving several chances, went out to a tempting ball from Hartkopf and was smartly stumped by Morgan. Taylor, taking his place, fell a victim to Hartkopf. Coppock followed, but soon lost Keating, bowled by H. Fothergill. Koppock, after a smartly compiled 24, was caught by Heron, bowled Hartkopf. Collingwood now had six wickets down for 126, and Northcote's chance looked very bright, but the stonewalling and playing for strike by Brown saved Collingwood from defeat, and at stumps were seven wickets for 155. The game was drawn. This puts Northcote third on the list with three wins and one draw. The superiority of Northcote's play in all departments of the game was most marked. As mentioned the ground was against good fielding, but mention must be made of Lawn and Heron in this department. The second eleven suffered defeat at the hands of Collingwood seconds. The following are the scores:

NORTHCOTE.

First Innings.

F. Baring, c Brown, b Collier	32
Hartkopf, c Coppock, b Collier	62
Lawn, c Makin, b Ryder	49
L. Fothergill, c Taylor, b Ryder	38
Heron, stp. Bird, b Makin	40
Morgan, b Scott	4
Gibaud, c Brown, b Scott	63
McSperrin, c Bird, b Scott	4
H. Fothergill, not out	2
Extras	7
Eight wickets (dec.) for	301

Bowling—Scott, 3 for 74; Ryder, 2 for 30; Collier, 2 for 38; Makin, 1 for 107; Coppock, 0 for 17; Monahan, 0 for 28.

COLLINGWOOD.

First Innings.

Ryder, stp. Morgan, b Hartkopf	34
Taylor, b Hartkopf	5
Keating, b H. Fothergill	18
Coppock, c Heron, b Hartkopf	24
Stewart, c L. Fothergill, b H. Fothergill	3
Monahan, b Hartkopf	18
Bird, c Lawn, b Hartkopf	5
Brown, not out	32
Collier, not out	5
Extras	11
Seven wickets for	155

Stumps drawn.

Bowling.—Hartkopf, 5 for 75; H. Fothergill, 2 for 44; Gibaud, 0 for 18; Baring, 0 for 7.

The game was drawn.

SECOND ELEVENS.

NORTHCOTE.

First Innings.

Dickens, b Ramsden	18
Kostigan, c Keating, b Smith	52
Kelly, c and b Mitchell	7
Warren, c Freake, b Smith	7
Kellar, c Ellis, b Smith	15
Gibaud, c Ellis, b Vining	4
Dickson, stp. Joyce, b Smith	12
Ansell, lbw., b Smith	4
Gordon, c Ramsden, b Smith	10
May, c McMahon, b Vining	8
Powell, not out	25
Extras	2
Total	164

Bowling.—Smith, 6 for 31; Vining, 2 for 77; Mitchell, 1 for 16; Ramsden, 1 for 38.

COLLINGWOOD.

First Innings	203
Second Innings.	
Ellis, c Costigan, b Kelly	12
Joyce, b May	2
Ramsden, c Warren, b Dickens	35
McMahon, c Costigan, b Dickens	53
Keating, c Warren, b Dickens	1
Grose, c Warren, b Ansell	25
Mitchell, b Gibaud	21
Freake, b Ansell	39
Smith, c Warren, b Gibaud	30
Hayson, not out	8
Vining, not out	6
Extras	8
Nine wickets for	240

Stumps drawn.

NORTHCOTE V. PRESTON DIGGERS.

Saturday, November 20, saw the conclusion of the match for the supremacy between the neighboring cities. Great rivalry existed and a keen, pleasant sporting match resulted. Northcote had first use of the wicket, and scored 153 runs before the last wicket fell, H. Jones 45, R. Quamby 31 n.o., A. Reid 20, being the principal scorers. Preston Diggers went to the wicket full of confidence, but could not withstand the Northcote attack and, batting one man short, were all out for 87, H. Jones six for 44 and J. Fagan 2 for 22 being the destructors. At the tea adjournment Mr. Pinney, of the Northcote Diggers, thanked the Preston team for the sporting manner in which the game had been played, and also the ladies' committee for the splendid catering during the match. Capt. Watson, of the Preston club, responded and expressed the wish that they would meet again, so that the same enjoyable time would be spent again. Scores:—

Northcote, first innings, 153.—H. Jones 45, R. Quamby 31 n.o., A. Reid 20, A. Wallis 10. Bowling—McGinnis 3/11, Holland 3/33, Gilbert 2/23.

Preston, first innings, 87.—Gilbert, 28, Holland 15, Watson 15, Chown 11. Bowling.—H. Jones 6/44, J. Fagan 2/22.

SECOND ELEVENS.

Camberwell, seven (closed) for 220 (Farman 84 n.o., Oates 32, Le Lew 30, Strettly 20; Hagger 4/55) v. Preston one for 25.

North Suburban Association.

FIRST GRADE.

Abbotsford Brewery, 192 (Ansell 48, Cutts 49, Lamber 35) v. Essendon Footballers, three for 11.

Postal, one for 46 (Byron 31) v. Coburg-Bell Park 113 (Butler 30, Ivey 21).

Brunswick Amateurs, 160 (Caldwell 22, Jones 35, Harding 26, K. Heller 20; Wiffen 4/52) v. Thornbury, four for 62

SECOND GRADE.

Yarra Falls 103 (Edwards 26; Thomas 4/32) v. South Preston Methodist, four for 68 (Bott 5/30, Hocking 4/27).

West Coburg one for 86 (Campbell 40 n.o., Simpson 17 n.o.) v. North District 152 (Patrick 54, E. Sullivan 30, Hadsey 28; J. Bowen 4/67, hat trick).

South Preston Methodists commenced their match against Yarra Falls last week. Yarra Falls opened the batting and made 103 (Edwards 26, France 16, R. Wilkins 14, A. Wilkins 10; Bott 5/30, Hocking 4/27, Davis 1/4). South Preston Methodists in their innings made 68 for the loss of four wickets up to the drawing of stumps (Davies 17, Goodman 18 n.o., Hibbert 12 n.o., Hocking 13; Thomas 4/32). The match will be finished to-day at Gower street, Preston. Play to commence at 2.30

THIRD GRADE.

North Fitzroy United 99 (Townsend 24, Lister 24; Douglas 4/43) v. Lynn Shoe, one for 70 (Watson 31 n.o., Caffin 21).

Spensley Street, 142 (Lockhead 23, Tuttleby 65; Green 4/40) v. Northcote Old Scholars, two for 41 (Cotter 15 n.o.).

Parkdale 60 (Rickard 6/18) v. Brunswick Scouts Old Boys, nine for 33 (Simpson 4/16).

Croxton, 128 (Otto 51) v. Regent, six for 66 (Newbegin 20, Ryan 18 n.o.; W. Cranston 5/32).

Dennis 86 (Reilly 20, Blockly 20 and 7/9) v. Cole's Book Arcade, 42 and one for 4 (Mulkay 4/8).

Whittlesea Association.

In the Whittlesea Shire Association matches on Saturday Whittlesea 135 and eight wickets for 197 (E. Luff 24 and 103 n.o., H. Barclay 35 and 17, W. Duffy 28 and 19, J. Crawford 24 n.o., S. Johnstone 20, D. McKimmie 3/17, and 2/40, L. Smith 3/31 and 1/21) beat Strathewen 132 and three for 65 (Cooper 31, J. Rich 30, Cameron 11 and 24, B. Mann 17, Barclay 2/9, W. Armstrong 3/20, S. Stainsby 2/22, E. Luff 2/27).

Doreen beat Humevale with seven wickets to spare. E. Owens, of Doreen, made 104 n.o.

Jika Association.

Preston Soccer, two for 74 (Doncaster 62 n.o.) v. Preston United 137 (C. Prince 62; Knowles 7/45).

East Ward 130 (Smith 24, Waller 36; Coulson 5/23) v. East Northcote five for 83 (Paroissien 4/27).

Stewart and Davies 124 (Morrow 39 and 4/37; Moore 3/33) v. Gowerville, seven for 87 (Torrens 27).

Reservoir 75 v. Footballers, four for 94 (Punch 37 and 7/49, Skipper 33, Forde 3/9).

Other Matches.

Alphington 163 (Kent 72, Naish 27 n.o.; Kyte 4/32) v. Fairfield two for 45.

Rosanna 49 v. Alphington Footballers, one for 112 (Thompson 50 n.o., Whelahan 55 n.o.).

Fairfield Junior Footballers 108 (McKay 31) v. Heidelberg, seven for 123 (W. Bond 21, Paternoster 31,).

Preston U.A.O.D. 103 (Cassidy 15; Clayton 5/12, Harper 3/6) v. Shamrock, four for 54.

Clifton Hill, 147 (Bone 55, Evans 17; Brown 3/23, Williams 3/41, v Northcote I.O.R., three for 39 (Scott 26 n.o.).

Preston P.A.F.S. six (closed) for 233 (Seebeck 129, Worsey 51, Crump 29) v. Malvern, six for 47 (Tansley 29, C. Burge 4/18).

South Melbourne 201 (Nixon 53, Smith 34, Budge 20, Layfield 23, Budge 22 n.o.; Emery 4/55) v. Northcote P.A.F.S.

Northcote Baptist 191 (Ryan 60, Burton 27, Walpole 25 n.o., Emmerson 24 and 3/16, Thomas 23; Hardess 3/18, Griffiths 3/55) v. Footscray (Gordon street), seven for 33.

Sub-district.

CAMBERWELL V. PRESTON.

At Camberwell, Preston won the toss and batted on a good easy wicket, which, however, as subsequently proved, was not altogether a batsman's wicket. The spin bowlers were able to turn the ball a great deal, and kept scoring down. Preston made the small total of 107, the chief contributors being Brown 17, Proposch 17, Bradford 13, Watt 13 and Butler 12. Bell, aged 16 years, from the Camberwell Grammar School, made an auspicious entry into sub-district ranks by capturing four wickets for 35 runs off 9.3 overs. The remainder of the wickets were captured by Walsh, two for 12, off nine overs; Robinson, 2 for 36, and Maguire 1 for 16. The fielding of the Camberwell men was very keen. Camberwell opened with Walsh and Maine to the bowling of Butler and Watt, and at stumps had lost five wickets for 96 runs, Walsh 38, Maine 15, Maguire 13 and Upton 11 being the chief contributors. Ludlow, who at times turned the ball disconcertingly, was the best bowler, capturing three wickets for 22 runs, off seven overs. Walker, 2 for 26, also bowled well.

OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOR CHARGE

A CASE ADJOURNED.

At the Northcote police court on Tuesday, Madeline Chapman, married woman, Turnbull Grove, Northcote, was charged with offensive behavior in High street, Northcote, on November 27.

Const. E. Carey said that at about 12.30 p.m. on Saturday, November 27, he saw defendant in a chemist's shop in High street, near Bastings street. She was calling out loudly and on floor of the shop there was a lot of broken glass. Defendant threatened to break the chemist's —— shop up. She was very excited and slightly under the influence of liquor.

Defendant said that she was guilty, but it was all the chemist's fault, as he had supplied her with drink.

The P.M. (Mr. D. Grant) said that the bench did not want to record a conviction, and the case was adjourned for three months.

Don't be late. Place your order early for Xmas cards at "Leader" office.

JINKER SMASHED

Bus Driver Heavily Fined.

LICENSE ALSO SUSPENDED.

Frank Waglin, Norah street, East Brunswick, was charged with having driven a car in High street, Northcote, on October 31 in a dangerous manner.

Sgt. J. Power prosecuted.

Charles Henry Farnfield, laborer, of Abbotsford, said that at about 5.30 p.m. on October 31 he was driving a horse and jinker down Rucker's Hill when defendant, driving a motor bus struck his vehicle from the rear, and crashed it against a telegraph pole. As a result of the accident the jinker was reduced to matchwood and witness was pinned underneath. His wife sustained a broken rib and other injuries. Defendant stopped and, coming over, said: "I'm sorry, old chap. I didn't want to do anything dirty. Here's the number of my bus," and gave witness the number of his car.

To the P.M. (Mr. D. Grant)—Defendant was driving a big white passenger bus. When his jinker was hit it was about three feet from the kerb on its proper side.

Charles Alfred Harding, accountant, Dudas street, Thornbury, said he saw the accident, and saw the jinker thrown against a telegraph pole. The driver of the motor bus sounded his horn at the same time as his bus hit the jinker.

Alfred Ernest Saunders, motor driver, Victoria street, Brunswick East, said he saw the accident, and considered that it was an error of judgment on defendant's part.

Frank Waglin said on October 31 he passed two motor cars which were travelling behind a tram, and he swung out to pass them. As he passed the second car he swung on to his proper side again, and as he went to pass between the tram and the kerb, he caught sight of a jinker at the kerb. He immediately applied his brakes, but could not stop his vehicle before hitting the jinker. If he had had another six feet his bus would have been stopped.

To Sgt. Power—He knew the bus route well, having opened it up.

Defendant was convicted and fined £10, with £2/13/6 costs, and his license was suspended for two weeks.

The P.M. said: "Defendant is very fortunate that he did not kill one of the occupants of the jinker."

A stay of proceedings for seven days was granted.

Law.

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NICHOLAS O'DONOHUE, Barrister and Solicitor, Capitol House, Collins street, Melbourne, may be consulted each evening at his address, corner Hutton and Stott Sts., Thornbury (opp. Thornbury Station), and at Preston, High street (opp. P.O.), on Wednesday evenings, 7.30 to 9 p.m., and Reservoir, High street, Tuesday evenings, 7.30 to 8.30 p.m. 'Phones C11197; private, Northcote 1829. Money to lend on mortgage.

CLANSMEN FOREGATHER AT MELBOURNE EXHIBITION.

National games, tug-of-war, dancing, and massed band performances were features of the Highland gathering at the Exhibition last Saturday. The picture on the left shows the Northcote and Preston Highland Pipe Band, which won the highest honors of the day, while on the right His Excellency the Governor-General (Lord Stonehaven), who attended the luncheon given by the Victorian Scottish Association at the Exhibition, is shown with Senator Pearce. ("Argus" Photo)

West Wardites

ENTERTAINED BY MAYOR.

At the conclusion of the Northcote Council meeting last Monday, the Mayor (Cr. Phil. Mayer) entertained a large number of ratepayers of the West Ward.

The loyal toast having been honored, Cr. Turner proposed "The Visitors," saying the West Ward was the most progressive of all the wards, and it had two and a half progress associations. (Laughter.) In recent years great progress had been shown, due to the provision of better travelling facilities. The number of voters on the rolls had doubled since 1915.

Cr. Beard supported, saying he was pleased at the large attendance.

The Mayor extended a hearty welcome to the West Wardites, saying ratepayers were always welcome at the council meetings and in the Mayor's room.

Messrs. Cavanagh (president West Ward Progress Association), Warren (president Citizens' League), L. T. Stevens (secretary Arthurton Road and District Progress Association), Duplop (treasurer Thornbury Estate Association), and ex-Cr. W. E. Findlay responded on behalf of their respective organisations and the ratepayers generally.

Mr. T. J. McMahon proposed the health of the Mayor and Mayoress, which was carried with enthusiasm, and to which Cr. Mayer responded.

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BOWLING

THE THORNBURY CLUB.

The whole of Thornbury's representatives in the V.B.A. champion rinks tournament were eliminated in the preliminary rounds last Saturday. The two A pennant rinks survived the first round, only to be beaten in the second.

At the Carlton green Forth, who had associated with him Thomas, Berryman and Hayes, had little or no difficulty in defeating the rink from Elwood skippered by Stubbs, but it was a different proposition when they met Phillips' quartette from Surrey Hills. Thornbury's representatives failed to reproduce their form of the first round. The final scores were 26 to 14 in favor of Phillips.

Frencham's rink played at North Fitzroy, and they also finished amongst the "also ran," the rink from Essendon, skippered by McHardy, winning by 3 points after a real good fight, the final score being 21 to 18. Frencham had with him V. Warren, Rogerson and Murden.

Of the C pennant rinks Allen's did best. They won their first very easily, their opponents on this occasion being a rink from Prahran skippered by Doig. In the second round they started off splendidly scoring two fours and a two in the first three ends, then through an error of judgment an altercation took place between the respective leaders and skippers, and unfortunately for Thornbury, they cracked up from then on, only scoring two points in the remaining 15 ends.

Warren's rink played at Toorak, and were fortunate to get a bye in the first round, and were beaten by three points after a real good go by Middle Park representatives, skippered by Hearden, the scores being 16 to 13.

Two more rounds of this tournament will be played to-day, commencing at 2 p.m., but Thornbury has lost interest by reason of the process of elimination, and it is hoped that those members who still remain in either club's championship or handicap tourneys will make a special effort to play their respective games. This afternoon affords a splendid opportunity to play these matches.

The time for receiving entries for the Century Handicap and the Pairs Handicap Tournaments has been extended until this afternoon at 3 o'clock, when a draw will be made, and thus give all interested an opportunity of playing the first rounds in both of these competitions.

On Tuesday next six rinks will meet a similar number of rinks from the Preston club at Preston. These matches with our neighbors are always looked forward to by the members of the respective clubs. Be sure that your name is on the list on the notice board. First come, first served. This is the first electric light game for the season, so it is up to the Thornbury members to see that we step off with the right foot and take a representative team up to storm the citadel of our good neighbors. The game starts at 7.45 p.m. punctually.

The usual monthly meeting of the committee will be held at the president's home, 14 Shaftesbury Parade, to-night at 8 o'clock. The V.B.A. is collecting data with regard to each club for the souvenir programme in connection with the Australian Bowling Carnival in Melbourne at Xmas, and has asked the clubs to send in two or three photos of the club's property. The president is anxious to have all the officials of the club present this afternoon at 2.15 p.m. sharp, when these photos will be taken.

THE PRESTON CLUB.

V.B.A. COMPETITIONS.

The result so far as this club is concerned :—First round : Exit all rinks; write "Finish." Wait patiently till 1927.

LADIES' BOWLING CLUB.

Hurrah! Here's to the health of the ladies. Bless them. Another great win. To secure four wins in the first half of your pennant season is a great performance. It speaks well for the enthusiasm and constant practice of the members, and as a result the men are looking forward to the evening of Tuesday, December 14, when the ladies no doubt have something up their sleeves for the men. The men are looking forward to the evening, and ladies, just excel yourselves

PRESTON 63 V. ASCOT VALE 36.

Mrs. Binney, Mrs. Attyeo, Mrs. Siddons, Mrs. Appleton 34 v. Mrs. Giles, Mrs. Woolridge, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Stooke, 16.

Mrs. Howe, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Henshaw, Mrs. Burgis 29 v. Mrs. Stephens, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Black, Mrs. Tibb 20.

CHAMPION RINKS.

The first round of the champion rinks was begun on Tuesday evening, November 30. The A Pennant rinks turned up in full force, and were able to commence their tourney. The C rinks unfortunately did not turn up, and the selection committee decided that if on Saturday, December 4, the C rinks turned up that the competition would be commenced on that date. So roll up all C players, and help make this a success.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP.

All matches in the first round were completed by date allotted. Well done, players. That is the way to run a competition. The draw for the second round is now posted in the pavilion.

FRIENDLY MATCHES.

Tuesday night, December 7, at 7.45 six rinks wanted to play Thornbury at Preston.

MASSED BANDS

FINE ACHIEVEMENT AT PRESTON PARK.

On Sunday afternoon, under the direction of the Preston Citizens' Band, a musical festival was presented to the patrons in the Preston Park by bands representing South and Port Melbourne Original Ladies' Pipe Band, Northcote Boys' Pipe Band, Kensington District Brass Band, Fitzroy Concert Band, Northcote Citizens' and Soldiers' Band, Kilties Brass Band, Glen Iris Brickworks Employes' Band, and the Preston Citizens' Band. Several of the bands marched to the park. The selections were all creditably rendered and most appreciatively received. A quick step by the Northcote Boys' Pipe Band gave an opportunity for revealing fine movement, which was loudly applauded by the listeners. The massed bands, under the baton of Mr. Hy. Hellings, the local bandmaster, gave a very fine presentation of their several numbers, the sacred selections (a) "Sun of My Soul," (b) "Diadem" being pleasingly received.

On arrival at the park Mr. H. P. Zwar, J.P., president, introduced Cr. Newton, who extended a hearty welcome to the visiting bands on behalf of the citizens of Preston. Mr. Zwar said the Preston band greatly appreciated the various bands coming to their assistance on such a hot afternoon. He also said that Mr. Booth had again manifested his organising ability by securing such a number of bands, but unfortunately he had no control over the rather oppressive weather. Had the afternoon been more inviting Mr. Booth would have seen a greater reward for his arduous labors.

Refreshments were liberally provided, and just as quickly consumed in the grandstand. The Mayor and Mayoress accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Zwar, accepting the band's hospitality. Here again Mr. Zwar thanked the visiting bands for their services on such a trying day.

Mr. Young, hon. secretary of the South and Port Melbourne Original Ladies' Pipe Band (who claim to be the first ladies' pipe band in the world) said his band were pleased to be present. Bands, he contended, should strive to assist one another. They had been to Preston before, and they would be pleased to come again and give their services should they be required. Mr. Young concluded by thanking the Preston Band for their kind hospitality. At the instigation of the Northcote Citizens' and Soldiers' Band, three hearty cheers were given for the liberal manner in which they had been catered for.

Such an assemblag of visiting bands once again demonstrated the vast amount of work which had fallen to the lot of Mr. Harold Booth, who seems to revel in the organisation of such an afternoon. Only two of the bands programmed to take part were unable to fulfil their engagement, which is a further evidence of the thoroughness with which Mr. Booth did his task.

For the benefit, and at the request of the Oakleigh Band, who are contemplating erecting a rotunda, the Preston Band's selection, "Melodious Gems," was rendered from the bandstand.

It was unfortunate that the day turned out to be what it was, which greatly mitigated aginst the attendance, otherwise a record crowd would have been present.

Marvels of Wireless

By "Loud Speaker"

ANODE BEND METHOD.

Reference was made in the previous articles to the anode bend method of rectification, and it was stated that although it was not possible to obtain the same volume as with the grid condenser method, it had certain other advantages.

It has been explained how the obliteration of the negative half cycle of the high frequency oscillation enabled the audio or low frequency variation to actuate the diaphragm of the headphones or loudspeaker. It will be seen that unless the whole of the negative half cycle is obliterated, full advantage of the amplitude of the audio frequency variation cannot be taken. In actual practice there is no known method that will rectify perfectly, but some are better than others, and it is for this reason that the same volume is not obtainable with anode bend rectification as when using a grid condenser and leak. It is also not so sensitive to weak signals.

When properly used, it has the advantage that little or no grid current flows in the grid circuit, and its ill effects are avoided. Grid current flattens the tuning of the grid circuit, and also introduces distortion so that when the maximum selectivity and purity is required at the expense of some volume, it will be preferable to use anode bend rectification.

The following is an explanation of how a valve functions as a detector when using this method. The reader should preferably have before him a characteristic curve of an ordinary receiving valve.

He will see that the middle portion of the curve is straight, and that the curve ends. To obtain a proportional change of anode current for a given change in grid voltage, the valve must operate on the straight portion of the curve, and care is always taken to operate high or low frequency amplifying valves at this position. If the valve is operated on the bottom of the curve, it will be seen that the change of anode current for a positive voltage increase will be greater than for a negative voltage increase, and use is made of this in anode bend rectification. It is found preferable for various reasons to work on the bottom curve, and not on the top curve.

It can be so arranged that the valve works on the point of the curve which gives the greatest positive change of current for the least negative change, thus giving the best rectified output possible. This is done by giving the valve the correct negative grid bias, so that the working point is on the correct position on the curve. The best method of doing this is by means of a potentiometer and grid battery. The potentiometer should preferably be of the high resistance type, such as the Igranic High Resistance Potentiometer, which has a resistance of 30,000 ohms. This potentiometer will be found very satisfactory in use, as due to its high resistance, the useful life of the grid battery is considerably prolonged. There are a few special valves on the market specially designed as detectors which can give excellent results as anode bend detectors, as the bottom bend of their characteristic curve is very sharp, thus reducing the negative change of current to a minimum.

HORSE SELLING CASE

BAY MARE SUBSTITUTED FOR BLACK FILLY.

£90 HORSE SOLD FOR 24/-

In the General Sessions on Wednesday, before Judge Woinarski and a jury, Percy William Davidson, 42 years, Stanley street, Northcote, was charged with having obtained £90 from Percy Lionel Ford, of Hikurangi, New Zealand, by means of false pretences, with intent to defraud.

Mr. Sproule said that on November 14 of last year accused advertised a black three-year-old filly in a New Zealand newspaper, describing it as a good, natural unhoppled pacer, with great speed, having done a mile in 2.16. The filly was described as being by Don Pronto, the famous American trotting sire. Ford wrote to Davidson for particulars, and accused replied that the filly's sire held five world's records, and had inherited great speed. He offered to sell the filly for £90, including freight. After further correspondence Ford sent the £90, and asked accused to send the filly by the first boat to New Zealand. Accused caused that the filly was being shipped on the Moeraki, but instead of sending the filly described in the advertisement, he bought an old bay mare for £2/15/- and sent that. This mare was once owned by a man named Washington, who used it in a milk cart for five years, and then sold it by auction for £3/10/- to a man named Connor, who soon after sold it by auction for £2/15/-, accused being the purchaser. The previous owners of the mare had said that instead of doing a half mile in 1.7 it was more likely to take 1.1. The 2.15 was the price paid for the mare, not the time it took to do a mile. Accused had admitted that he did not own a black filly, as described in the advertisement.

James Foley, baker, of Hikurangi, N.Z., said that he was employed by Ford last November, and wrote to accused on his behalf. Accused replied that the filly was a strongly built pacer, with a long, skimming action, adding that it had no vice and that a child could handle it. He prophesied that on the New Zealand tracks it would easily do a mile in 2.10. When the bay mare was sent he refused to take delivery. A veterinary surgeon said that the mare was 22 years old.

Mr. Monahan—Has the color of a horse anything to do with its pace?—Blacks are better than bays.

What about Carbine?—I know Carbine was a bay, but he was an exception. I often saw him in action.

Lionel Percy Ford, bacer, Hikurangi, said that he sent the £90, and when the bay mare arrived he refused delivery and wrote to accused, who did not reply. He was told that the mare was sold by the shipping company for 24/-.

John Washington, Fitzroy, said that last October he sold a nine-year-old bay mare at auction for £3/15/-. She had been used in a double-horse lorry and a milk cart for five years, and had no sign of quality or breeding.

Edward Connor, horse dealer, Lincoln street, Richmond, said he bought the mare for £3/15/-, and sold her for £2/15/-.

Mr. Monahan, in defence, said that there was no attempt to hide the fact that a bay mare was sent. If Ford had taken delivery and got to know her speed capabilities he would have kept her. Davidson had the offer of a 3-year-old black filly by Don Pronto from Frank Jenkinson, of Sydney, but when Ford wrote accused was told by Jenkinson that the filly had been sold. Accused's self-assurance and confidence that the bay mare possessed pace had got him into trouble, but it was an honest business transaction.

Accused, on oath, bore out this statement, adding that he wrote to Ford stating that if the mare did not suit he could return her, and he would refund the £90. He had no intention to defraud.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty after an hour's adjournment, and prisoner was remanded for sentence.

OUR GREATEST AIRMAN.

"Why are people afraid of flying? It is infinitely safer and more comfortable than motoring on our overcrowded, narrow roads."

Alan Cobham made the above remark in the course of conversation one day. It expresses the faith that has been the keynote of his life. His aim has been to prove that flying will be the normal means of transport to-morrow, and that even to-day it is perfectly safe.

To him flying is life. Asked when a man ought to give up flying, he replied: "Not when he is too old to walk; not when he is bed-ridden; but only when he is so sick that he cannot be carried into the cockpit!"

Cobham is a London man. He was born in Camberwell, and educated there at Wilson's Grammar School. He was quite young when war broke out, and was in France four weeks after the declaration of hostilities.

The Air Habit.

After serving with the R.F.A., he was transferred to the Royal Flying Corps, with a commission, but too late to take part in any air fighting. But he had acquired the air habit, and when he was demobilised decided to make flying his career.

Really, he is the first of the flying men, for he is the first man to adopt flying as another man adopts stock-broking or teaching. And his mastery of his profession has been demonstrated by such flights as that with Sir Sefton Brancker to India and back, and the journey to the Cape and back. His greatest feat of all was the "England to Australia and Back" flight. Yet, with all this record of achievements, up to the present he can boast of never having "crashed."

What is the secret of his phenomenal success as a long-distance flier? He leaves no single detail to chance. He takes nobody's word that something has been seen to. His motto is organisation, preparation, forethought.

WOMEN AS INVENTORS.

"No woman," says general gossip, "has ever invented anything worth talking about." But gossip is wrong, as usual, for though women have not invented really big things such as printing, the steam engine, the motor car, the telephone, or wireless telegraphy, they have invented a legion of small things, notably in contrivances belonging to woman's sphere, which have been boons to the users and brought handsome cash returns to the women inventors.

One woman inventor supports a crippled husband out of royalties she collects upon three inventions to her credit—an improved type of mangle, a cinder sifter and a galvanised grid for the bottom of a kitchen sink. They certainly are not big or remarkable things, but they are essential, practical and she makes a comfortable living out of them.

A safety roundabout for children is the invention of a seaside landlady. Another woman has invented unbreakable toilet sets of colored rubber, while a feminine engineer has produced a device for improving the joints of scissors. A removable lining for a travelling coat which can be inflated to form a cushion is an ingenious device made by another woman, "unhookable" curtain hooks, and a net for wearing round a hat when attending to bees are the inventions of two women of title.

As a matter of fact women have taken out patents for devices which practically run the whole gamut of human domestic needs. The first patent for a washing machine was taken out in 1867 by an American woman, and 25 years later seven other washing machine patents were applied for in as many months.

A laborer's wife evolved a tube kinema toy, and after getting her husband to make the experimental sets, sold her idea to a large toy-making concern; and another wife got her husband to make a clothes peg to her directions, with the result that it will not split.

As long ago as 1871, a woman invented the "hump" in the hairpin which prevents it from falling out easily, and another woman patented the curved hairpin with turned-up ends, spending much time in discovering the most useful curve.

Ten years ago a princess, whose identity was never disclosed, applied for patents for berths, bunks and seats on board ship, and Princess Stephanie of Belgium has invented a practical gas stove for workmen's houses.

Inventions, of course, do not respect frontiers, and they are the product of all nationalities of women, but the greatest number at present are British women. The inventors are very persevering, and if criticism shows their invention is open to improvement they will always try again.

It is an interesting point, however, that they usually invent something for which they have a personal need, as if they knew exactly what they required, and sat down to think it out while their ideas were new. They rarely invent anything for use in a sphere in which they are not experienced.

Not so long ago, for instance, a woman in the Midlands brought out a series of diamond-shaped saucepans for cooking several dishes at the same time upon one gas jet.

A woman was responsible for a table, which concealed a folded mattress; and another which, when the hinges were let down, displayed the padded back and seat of a comfortable settee.

An inventive English woman at one time was credited with having a dozen patents on the market at the same time, ranging from combination toothbrush racks, to inventions for disinfecting money in tills and dust in door mats.

In conjunction with the advice of fathers, brothers and husbands, women have sometimes brought out very useful inventions that have altered ideas on many subjects.

Mme. Curie, it will be remembered, shared equally with her husband the honor of discovering radium; Mme. Galvani was solely responsible for her husband's theory which eventually gave us the "Galvanic" electric battery for use in our hospitals.

CHURCH OF EPIPHANY SOCIAL.

One of the most successful and brilliant socials and dances in the history of Northcote was held in the Town Hall on Saturday evening last. The occasion was the final of the Ugly Man Competition, arranged in aid of the building fund of the Church of the Epiphany. The Mayoress (Mrs. P. Mayer) wore a beautiful gown of black georgette, trimmed with jet beads. Mrs. Cole looked charming in a black georgette, trimmed with silver tissue. Mrs. Oliver was dressed in powder blue georgette, trimmed with self colored flowers. Mrs. Swift wore black georgette, trimmed with jet beads. Mrs. Plant was in white georgette, trimmed with jet beads. Amongst those present were Mesdames McCaughy, Cohen, D. McPherson, F. Cornish, A. Rowe, R. Bohme, F. Rattigan, C. Arthur, R. Thompson, H. Cassidy, L. Kettle, J. Kirkby, L. Ahern, N. Kenyon, A. and D. Hamilton, E. McPherson, C. and I. Lees, A. and D. Arthur, D. and T. Wyatt, B. Cohen, P. Hunt, C. and A. Noar, D. Taylor, L. Belinfante, B. Kenny, S. Howitt, J. La Bass, W. Harris, N. Gurney, L. Taylor, Rev. T. Cole, Messrs. P. Mayer, A. E. Emery, W. Olver, F. Cornish, D. McPherson, L. Heath, A. Rowe, G. and L. Hamilton, R. and K. Riches, L. and T. Vizard, H. Kennard, R. Bohme, A. Peters, R. Rogerson, V. Cox, J. Kirkby, F. Rattigan, F. Moorman, etc.

During the evening musical items arranged by Mr. A. E. Emery were highly appreciated, all the artists having to respond with encores. Miss D. Wyatt gave a beautiful contralto rendering of "Less Than the Dust;" Mr E. Ramsden gave "The Trumpeter" in one of the best bass voices ever heard in Northcote; Mr. E. E. Emery's number was Tosti's "My Dreams," rendered in his usual capable manner. Miss B. Cohen's selection was "Here's to Love," sung in a charming manner. Mrs. Cohen was the accompaniste. Master Ross Cox, from St. Paul's Cathedral choir, gave two numbers, "My Treasure" and "The Lass With the Delicate Air," in a beautiful soprano voice. He was accompanied by Mr. Emery. On the call of the vicar, votes of thanks were passed to the artists and workers, Mesdames Kettle, Cassidy, and Kirkby being specially mentioned.

THE DIVER.

Although I generally endeavor to discount the romantic and adventurous side of a diver's life, I must confess that there are times when no other adjectives can be used in connection with his work. But it must not be forgotten that he has also often to face disagreeable duties. When vessels have been sunk with men aboard, he may have to face gruesome sights, but it is doubtful if these sights are anything like so strange and weird as even the vivid imaginations of fictional writers picture.

A wonderfully clear idea of the strangeness of visiting a ship beneath the sea is given by Captain Dean-Pitt, R.N., after he went down to H.M.S. "Dotterel," which was blown up at Sandy Point, Magellan Straits. "I will not dwell on the many awful sights that met our view when we were surveying the wreck," he said, "but some idea of the state of things may be formed when I say that of 140 men who were killed there were only twenty whole bodies, the majority being in pieces. If the whole bodies, one was that of my old friend and shipmate, Lieutenant Creagh, who was sitting in an armchair under the poop as if he were asleep, and without a mark on him—quite uninjured to all outward appearances. The ensign was half-mast high, as though in mourning for the dead. I hoisted it up again, as I did not care to go about my work under a half-mast flag."

It was once my lot to go down to a vessel in circumstances somewhat similar to those mentioned above. And it was on this occasion that I encountered one of the most serious accidents which it has ever been my lot to experience.

It may be remembered that some years ago the yacht "Eugenie"—the property of a wealthy American, Mr. Tyron, was sunk in a collision off the coast of Florida. With the circumstances of the disaster I am not concerned—I believe that there were many rumors and much gossip prevalent at the time—but I was called in after a week or so to go down to the "Eugenie," which lay only about six fathoms deep in clear water, and try and bring to the surface a small strong-box known to have been in Mr. Tyson's stateroom. The reason for the expense undertaken was partly on account of the fact that Mrs. Tyron, the widow, had reason to believe that without certain papers her late husband's will would be disputed, and partly on account of the fact that Mr. Tyron himself had perished in sudden disaster, or, in any case, had disappeared.

In due course I went down, and on looking over the wreck, at first I thought that I had before me a very easy job. The "Eugenie" rested on a fairly even keel, so that getting about her was not difficult, and she was broken but little, though the tides had begun to play havoc with her.

I had, of course, been provided with a detailed plan of the vessel, and had no difficulty in locating the stateroom deck. I might have been warned by the obvious absence of difficulties. The job was really too easy. My first halt was occasioned by the fact that the door of Mr. Tyron's stateroom was jammed.

However, I broke my way in. I do not want to make matters any more gruesome than they were, but I must say in this respect I had a bit of a shock. There was no sign of him at first, and I had almost come to the conclusion that he must have been carried away beyond recovery by the tides when I came across him in a most unexpected position. I had forced open the door of a cupboard let into the wall of the cabin, when the body of the owner of the "Eugenie" swirled out into my arms.

Mr. C. R. Candy, of Messrs. Madden and Candy, solicitors and conveyancer, The Olderfleet, Collins St., Melbourne, notifies that his private address is now 4 Merton Av., Ivanhoe; telephone Ivanhoe 483.

PRESTON DIGGERS

PRESIDENT ENTERTAINS.

On Thursday evening (November 25) a social evening was tendered by Mr. W. L. McDonald, president Preston branch R.S.S.I.L.A., to the members of that branch and to the Mums, Wives, Sisters and the Dads' Associations, as in recognition of their valued services rendered during the year. The year has been one of the most prosperous the branch has ever had, so much so that it is now the third largest branch in Victoria the other two being Melbourne and Geelong. The organisations have worked together most harmoniously, and it was to recognise this working and to further promote the social welfare of these bodies that Mr. McDonald gave a social evening.

There was a large attendance, about 350 being present, and a very pleasant evening was spent, dancing being indulged in, and a euchre competition was held. The hall was beautifully decorated, and the lighting effects were superb. The floor was in good condition, and the dancers seemed to enjoy themselves thoroughly.

PRESENTATION TO PRESIDENT.

At an interval Mr. Donath (secretary of the branch) introduced the Mayor (Cr. A. E. Newton), who on behalf of all present, thanked Mr. McDonald for the splendid evening that had been given.

Mr. Osborne spoke of the work the branch was doing, and introduced Mr. B. Howse, senior vice-president, who on behalf of the branch, presented to Mr. McDonald a beautiful case of cutlery, suitably inscribed, as a token of esteem, and in recognition of his fine work as president. Three hearty cheers were given, and "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" was heartily sung.

In responding, the president said the year had been one of great progress. The Mums', Wives' and Sisters', and the Dads' Associations had stuck to him right loyally, and had helped to make the association what it was. He would be quite satisfied if the branch maintained its present position, which was the third largest branch in the State. (Applause.) He thanked the ladies for the help they had given to make the evening enjoyable, by helping with the refreshments; also the Dads, and especially Dad Stevens, who had done more for the relief of distress in the district than the Returned Soldiers' Association itself. He also thanked the Mayor, councillors and town clerk for their unswerving assistance during his term, and it spoke volumes for the council when it was carrying out a policy of preference to returned soldiers. The membership of the branch was increasing, and at the annual meeting it would reach 250. He thanked the speakers for the sentiments expressed, and also the donors for their gifts. (Applause.)

The evening closed with "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem.

Watch for the "Shop in Northcote Sign!"

"PUBLIC PARKS."

We have received the following letter. Can anyone tell us just what it means? The writer may know what he intends to say, but does not appear to have the happy knack of expressing himself intelligibly. We have put the mss on the piano and tried to play it. Also sent it to a chemist to be "dispensed." The language of the latter, when we sent for the "prescription," was simply awful and awfully simple too! Here she goes:—

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—In your report of the meeting convened by the Mayor of Preston re the above animadversions of one citizen is ascribed to me. As I was unavoidably absent, the pungent rhetoric must have been some other citizen's perquisite. Notwithstanding the merited repute for authenticity and veracity of our grave and revered City Fathers, evidences of the weaving into what should be an unvarnished tale, is sought to be rendered more palatable with the addition of a few myths, inclining one to rationally deduce the successful efforts of the sponsors for additional parks was attended with municipal ostracism by the unappreciative ratepayers, and in support of this contention the result of an election when ex-councillor Bricknell failed, on account of associating himself with the purchase of Haxby's paddock, and a similar fate overtook the originator of the park in Bruce street. It would be just as consistent to attribute the lamentable result to the roast pork or other viands constituting the menu of the previous Sunday dinner, whether accidental or deliberate, discloses a penchant to disparage the efforts of a number prepared to immolate themselves on the altar of duty.—Yours, etc.,

F. W. DONOVAN,
76 Martin St., Northcote.

1/12/26.

PRINCE EDWARD ESTATE.

OPEN FOR PRIVATE SALE.

The Prince Edward Estate at Reservoir will be open for private sale to-day (Saturday, December 4), at 2.30 p.m., when representatives of Messrs. Bryne and Madden will be on the ground to submit particulars. Free motor inspection will be available, on communication with the agents, Messrs. Bryne and Madden, 104 Queen street, Melbourne; telephone Cent. 4897.

A unique photograph shown at the recent meeting at Oxford of the British Association by D. H. Eltringham, of the Zoology Section, was obtained by using the eye of a glowworm in place of the ordinary lens of a camera.

Dodge the foreign trader who spends nothing locally and "swags" all money out of the district!

JOHN SHAW
LICENSED CONTRACTING PLUMBER,
ESTABLISHED 20 YEARS.
Cor. Wimble and Bastings Sts., Northcote.
REAR NORTHCOTE PICTURE THEATRE
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PRESTON POLICE COURT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2.

Before Messrs. C. Bricknell and J. T. Ellison, J's.P.

Drove Over Footpath.

J. Darcy, Hopetoun street, Northcote, was charged that on November 13 he drove a lorry with two horses attached across the footpath in High street.

Ernest Taylor said he intercepted defendant driving a two-horse lorry across the footpath.

Defendant was fined £2, with 2/6 costs.

Wandering Stock.

The following owners were fined for allowing stock to wander:—F. C. Woodhouse, 10/- and 2/6 costs; G. Williamson, 5/- and 2/6; R. T. Blood, 10/- and 2/6; L. Ewart, 5/- and 2/6; B. Gardiner, 10/- and 5/-; S. Lempriere, 10/- and 2/6; J. Morton, 10/- and 5/-; J. McNamara, 5/- and 2/6; C. Price, 5/- and 2/6; J. Scott, two head, 10/- and 2/6; E. Taffe, 5/- and 2/6. An order was made to sell a horse, the owner of which was unknown.

ABOUT THE BAND UNIFORMS

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—It was interesting to read two of the letters in your issue of last Saturday. One correspondent says she tried in vain to purchase Lister's 4oz. black silk in practically the whole of the Thornbury district. Apparently she did not try our Thornbury shop, because we certainly had it in stock. It is positively certain she did not try our Northcote shop, as we always carry a large reserve stock of this particular line. For the information of your correspondent, I may state that it is our endeavor to supply each of our shops with every possible line, and on same being sold out, it can be replaced within a few days (on urgent occasions within an hour) from our Northcote store.

We were glad also to note from the letter of Mr. Bromilow that, apparently, our tender was the only one received for the supply of uniforms for the newly formed State School Brass Band. By only one tender being received, and that one being too high, one would take it that the specifications did not state what materials were required. I may state that our tender for the supply of uniforms for the Fairfield Brass Band was recently accepted by that body.

If Northcote is given a fair and reasonable opportunity for the supply of any article, I feel sure that the price and value will compare favorably with those outside.—Yours, etc.,

F. G. SMITH.

Johnston and McMillan, electrical contractors, corner Woolton Avenue and High street, Northcote, elsewhere advertise Philips' electric light globes, lamps, radio, etc. An excellent display can be seen in their window.

CHURCH NEWS.

Church of the Epiphany.

Last Sunday being the first Sunday in Advent, and the Sunday nearest St. Andrew's Day, special services were held in the Church of the Epiphany. At Mattins a joint pastoral letter from the Archbishop of Melbourne, and the Victorian Bishops in reference to St. Andrew's Day was read by the vicar, the Rev. T. Cole. Among the special music by the choir was Goodall's "Benedicite." Lessons were read by Messrs. A. H. Blore and Roy Riches.

At evensong the choir rendered the anthem "O Saviour of the World." Special intercessory services for mission work were held on Tuesday, St. Andrew's Day, beginning with Holy Communion at 7 a.m. The preacher at next Sunday evening's service will be the Rev. Dr. Law, of St. John's, Toorak.

Thornbury Presbyterian Church.

In April of this year the congregation commenced a special campaign for the reduction of the debt on the new church in Rossmoyne street. Each organisation in connection with the church was allotted a month in which to organise an individual effort. By means of social gatherings, concerts, etc., the sum of £170 was raised. Last Wednesday week the year's effort culminated in a freewill offering by the members. The Rev. W. J. Harris, the minister, attended at the church from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. As a result the sum of £235 was donated by the congregation.

In the evening the Rev. and Mrs. Harris entertained the members at a social evening. A splendid programme was thoroughly enjoyed by all present, and a bountiful supper partaken of. And in this happy manner a very successful culmination of the year's efforts was celebrated.

Northcote Baptist Church.

In connection with the Northcote Baptist Christian Endeavor Society, their annual "Old Folks at Home" was held on November 27. Although the weather was a little warm for the old folk, 55 who accepted the invitation attended, and were motored to and from the church in motor cars supplied by Messrs. F. Kelley, L. Cogle, A. J. Cornish, S. Kitson and Mrs. Rea. The pastor of the church, Rev. Donald McNicol, welcomed the visitors, and they were then favored with an appropriate programme, to which the old people contributed some fine items. Bouquets and buttonholes were then presented to the oldest lady and gentleman present, and to the oldest colonists. After a few minutes of social intercourse all adjourned to the classroom at the rear of the church for refreshments. The room and tables were artistically decorated in pink and mauve, and a sign bearing the words "C.E. Welcome" was hung in a conspicuous place. When all had partaken of the good things, of which there was an abundance, the gathering joined together in family worship. The old folk were motored to their respective homes, and all who worked for the success of the afternoon had the joy of knowing that they had brightened the hearts of those who are in the eventide of life. The average age of the old people was 64 years.

Preston Presbyterian.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday morning at the Preston Presbyterian Church. In the evening a "Men's Service" will be held. Mr. D. Claude Robertson will conduct the service, and the men of the congregation will assist in the service and the music.

Methodist S.S., Mernda.

In anticipation of the approaching marriage of Miss Hazel Hurrey (eldest daughter of Cr. T. W. Hurrey, J.P., of Yan Yean) to Mr. H. Edge, of the Methodist Sunday school on a recent evening Rev. W. H. Taylor presided and, despite the inclement night many friends attended. The following programme was presented:—Chorus, "O'er the Downs;" chairman's address; duet, Mrs. Turley and Mr. W. H. Taylor; competition, "A Musical Love Story;" song, Mrs Turley; two recitations, Mr. Fred Knox; competition, "Local Celebrities;" parlor games, "Stepping the Carpet," "Mysterious Parcel" and "Have You a Sweetheart," "Cross-ball Throwing," etc. Miss Hurrey is a member of the Yan Yean Tennis Club, and Mr. Will Taylor made a presentation to her of a beautifully framed picture, and Mr. R. S. Knox gave her a Pyrex casserole, with silver stand, suitably inscribed, from the Sunday school. The chairman with a few humorous remarks about the gifts, asked her acceptance of a large number of kitchen utensils. Mr. Hurrey then, on his daughter's behalf, sincerely thanked the donors for their kindness in arranging the social, and for the many and varied gifts. The ladies then dispensed a bountiful supper, and a happy evening closed with congratulations to the prospective bride.

XMAS BRIDES

HINTS FOR THE SEASON.

At this period of the year a large number of marriages are celebrated; and as etiquette is the science of social manners, perhaps a few hints on this all-important matter may not be out of place.

If a wedding is to be celebrated with due honors it is customary to send out invitations a few weeks ahead. Those who intend to accept are expected to bring or send a present, and these are always somewhat of a difficulty. If, however, one is very intimate with the family it is permissible to ask what would be preferred as a gift, or to suggest that one would postpone for a little while choosing the present so as to avoid, what so frequently happens, "doubling." It is understood that cheques are never given except by relatives or most intimate friends of the family. Table linen is another thing which should never be given to a bride except by her immediate relatives, who occasionally make it a joint present to the young people. It falls into the category of house-furnishing, and this it is the business of the bridegroom to attend to.

When the invitations are being sent the bridegroom is asked for a list of the friends he wishes to be invited, and they are sent to them—the invitations as a rule being sent out on small-sized notepaper very highly glazed, the lettering being of silver.

In some cases the wedding does not take place from the residence of the bride's parents, and in that event the invitations are sent out in the name of the host and hostess of the occasion. It is the privilege of the bride's family to provide, at their own expense, the cars in which the whole party staying in the house are conveyed to and from the church. Guests who come in their own cars are expected to share them with the guests who are less fortunate. The family also pays for the festivities, the floral adornment of the church, and for the erection of the awning, red baize, etc., if such be necessary. Again, the family of the bride as a rule chooses supplies, and pays for the wedding cake; but the custom of sending out cake and cards during the last few years has fallen into disuse.

The question when to send wedding presents is a very moot point. It is not expected that everyone should send until the date of the marriage is settled, and the fixture of the event is the time honored privilege of the bride. The usual course followed is to send a present, with a note of good wishes, a few days after the receipt of the invitation to the wedding. It is the bride's duty to herself to acknowledge each present—to fail to do so is an almost inexcusable offence against the laws of courtesy and good taste. The letter should be despatched immediately on receipt of the present, and the wording should be simple and to the point, though, of course, this will vary according to the relationship existing between the bride and the donor.

The bridegroom does not, as a rule, reside the last night under the same roof as his fiancee. It is his duty to consult his bride about the presents and bouquets to her maids—the former of which should be conveyed to them the evening before the wedding.

Help those who help you and your district!

JUSTICES ACT 1915.

INFORMATION OR COMPLAINT FOR AN OFFENCE PUNISHABLE SUMMARILY AND SUMMONS THEREON.

In the Court of Petty Sessions at Northcote, in the Central Bailiwick.

By William John Jones, Cattle Ranger to the Mayor, Councillors, and Citizens of the City of Northcote, Informant.

Unknown Owner, of ——, Defendant.

The information of William John Jones, of Northcote, in the State of Victoria, who saith that on the 23rd day of November, 1926, at Northcote, in the said Bailiwick and State, the said unknown owner being the owner of certain cattle, to wit One Bay Pony Gelding, about 14 hands, two white hind fetlocks, indistinct brand near shoulder found on certain land off Victoria road, such land not being a common and such that there is no fence dividing such land from the said street without anyone having charge of the said cattle.

Wm. J. Jones, Informant.

To Unknown Owner aforesaid.

WHEREAS the above information has this day been laid by the abovementioned William John Jones before me one His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the Central Bailiwick of the said State. These are therefore to command you in His Majesty's name to be and appear on the 7th day of December, 1926, at the hour of 10 o'clock in the forenoon at the said Court of Petty Sessions at Northcote to answer to the said information and to be further dealt with according to law.

Dated at Northcote the 2nd day of December, 1926.

PHIL. MAYER, J.P.

[Stamp Fee 2/6 Cancelled.]

Note.—If not claimed the court will be asked for an order to sell at noon the same day, December 7, 1926.

Commercial and General
PRINTING
ORDERS
Executed to Your Satisfaction
at the
"Leader" Office, Northcote
Phone, Northcote 46

STOTT SON & WATSON

NORTHCOTE'S OLDEST ESTABLISHED AUCTIONEER, ESTATE AND INSURANCE AGENTS.

Largest List of Properties in Districts of Northcote, Preston, Fairfield.

IT WILL PAY YOU TO CONSULT US.

Head Office—203 HIGH STREET (Cnr. Westbourne Grove).

Branches—HIGH ST., THORNBURY, Cnr. Dundas Street.
HIGH ST., PRESTON, opposite Post Office.
RAILWAY PLACE, FAIRFIELD, opposite Station.

Phones—Northcote 584-585.

THIS DAY.
At 3 o'clock on the property,
220 MURRAY ROAD, PRESTON.
Auction Sale of
MODERN D.F. W.B. VILLA.

Four rooms, panelled entrance hall, sleepout verandah, kitchen, one fire stove, gas stove, cupboard, sink, bathroom, heater, lav. basin, linen press, enclosed back verandah, garage, shedding, etc., on land 45 x 115 to made street. Splendid situation, good order, garden, lawns, handy tram and station, on bus route. Title Certificate. Terms at Sale. Auctioneer—D. S. JENKINS, 344 St. George's Rd., Nth. Fitzroy, in conjunction STOTT, SON & WATSON, Northcote, Preston and Fairfield.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8.
At 3 o'clock, on the property,
"MOWBRAY," 2 GEORGE ST.,
RESERVOIR, PRESTON.
Auction Sale of
POULTRY FARM

On land 127 x 245, BRICK VILLA, tiled roof, 5 rooms, sleepout, separate bathroom, porcelain bath and heater, washhouse, pantry, electric light and power points. Also extensive Gal Iron Sheds, 76 x 15, two 50 x 15, one 50 x 8; brooder house, cement floor, 52 x 15; 200 White Leghorns (2nd season birds), good strain; 300 Pullets, pony, plough, harrow, etc., Buckeye Incubator, 600 egg capacity; sundries. The property occupies a splendid situation, and is in first class order and well worth inspection; handy station. Title, Certificate. Terms at Sale. Auctioneer—
STOTT, SON & WATSON,
Northcote, Preston, Thornbury and Fairfield.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11.
At 3 o'clock on the property, 41 QUEEN ST., PRESTON, 3 min. bus, 8 min. station (Regent). Auction sale of
SUPERIOR TIMBER VILLA,

Five rooms, wide hall, kitchenette, bathroom, linen press, porcelain bath, lavatory basin and heater, sleepout verandah, del. laundry, fernery, garage, gas stove and sink, sewered, E.L., made street, lawns, gardens, etc. Land 54 x 162. Ideal situation, perfect home. Picturesque views, splendid order. Owner leaving State; determined to sell. Title, Certificate. Terms—Credit Foncier Loan £592, repayable 20/- weekly. Auctioneer—
STOTT, SON & WATSON.
Northcote & Preston: conjunction
A. B. & R. W. JOHNSTON,
Estate Agent, Collins St., Melb.

BY PUBLIC AUCTION.

TO-DAY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4
At 3 p.m., on the Property.

25 HAROLD ST., NORTHCOTE.
D.F. TIMBER VILLA,

Five rooms, sewered, wobdshed magnificent corner position, roads made; 1 min. from Thornbury station and cable tram, close to High St. Land 40ft. by depth of 134ft. 6in. Title Certificate. Land Transfer. Easy Terms at Sale.

GRAY & JOHNSON,
Auctioneer, Estate Agents, 102 King St., Melbourne. 767 and 235 High St., Northcote.

TO-DAY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4
On the properties at the various times hereunder.
IVANHOE.
Lot 1, 3 p.m., TOORA ST.—
Magnificent New Brick Bungalow,

Tiled roof, 5 large rooms, all conveniences, replete with every modern conv. The property is exceptionally well built, in a superior locality, within 2 min. of train. Land 55 x 131. Terms—£300 deposit; balance 3 years.

Lot 2, 3.30 p.m., TOORA ST. (adjoining lot 1)—
Beautiful Building Site,

54ft. 4in. frontage, 62ft. 7in. at rear, by 123ft., fenced two sides, garage and sewerage connection thereon.

Lot 3, 4 p.m., 60 GREEN ST., off Waterdale road, within 10 min. station and 1 min. existing bus route and proposed tram route.
Substantial D.F. Villa,

In weatherboard, 5 spacious rooms, sleepout, road made, sewered; land 66ft. x 155ft. Terms—£100; balance 3 years.

All these properties are well worth consideration; each has a Title Certificate. Call or write for slip containing full particulars.
KNELL & SWIFT PTY. LTD.,
Off Ivanhoe Stn. Phone, Ivan. 77
ANGUS McDONALD,
Auctioneer, 682 High St., Northcote. Phone—Northcote 235.

GIVING THE GAME AWAY.

Nothing could ever be too good for his son, had declared the profiteer, and, subsequently, he had packed the young man off to college.

One week-end the son managed to obtain permission to visit his parents. He received a warm welcome, and his father began to question him as to the nature of his education and studies.

"Well," said the boy, "there's maths." "Hum!" exclaimed the father, a trifle disappointed. "And French, German, Euclid," continued the son. "Ah," returned the other cheerfully, "that's better! Tell me the Euclid for 'Good morning!' "

A BID FOR FREEDOM.

Wild-eyed and dishevelled of appearance, he burst into the dentist's consulting room and addressed the man of molars in gasping tones—

"Do you give gas?"

"Yes," replied the dentist.

"Does it put a man to sleep?"

"Of course!"

"Then you could break his neck or jaw without him feeling it?"

"My dear sir," began the dentist, "of course I——"

"Right!" said the other. "You're the man for me!" And he began pulling off his shirt.

"Now," he said, "get your gas ready and then pull this porous plaster off my back."

The only period in a woman's life when she gives any thought to dress is between the cradle and the grave.

Watch for the "Shop in Northcote Sign!"

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18.
At 11 a.m.
Clearing sale by auction of the well known
ALLBELL POULTRY FARM,

Cooper St., Preston, under instructions from Mr. Albert Dower, who is leaving business.

1,500 head of Poultry, Geese, Ducks, Fowls, Feed, Chaff, Crates, Grindstone, Feed Dishes, Steam Boiler, Ladder Steps, Egg Cases and Fillers, Hand Plough, Spring Cart, Fowl Manure, quantity Firewood in 5, 10 and 20 cwt. lots. Furniture, including Ward robe, Bedroom Suite, 8-drawer Chest, Hall stand, Table, Chairs, Lino, Wertheim Sewing Machine, etc., etc. quantities of Sundries. Everything must go.
LLEWELLYN JONES,
Auctioneer, High St., Preston.

CITY OF PRESTON.

NOTICE OF MEETING FOR EXAMINING AND SETTLING ACCOUNTS.

NOTICE is hereby given that the ACCOUNTS of the CITY OF PRESTON have been duly AUDITED by the Auditor appointed for that purpose by the Governor-in-Council, and that a STATEMENT of the said Accounts, with the Auditor's report thereon and Certificate thereto has been printed and lies at the Office of the Council, Town Hall, Preston, ready for the INSPECTION of parties interested.

NOTICE is further given that the MEETING of the COUNCIL for EXAMINING AND SETTLING THE ACCOUNTS will be held at the said offices on MONDAY, the 20TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1926, at 7.30 p.m.

Dated this 4th day of December, 1926.

W. ARTHUR KELLY, C.E.,
Town Clerk.

Church Notices.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, Northcote.

11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Rev. A. C. Kellaway.

HOLY TRINITY, THORNBURY. (Railway Parade.)

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT.
8 a.m., Holy Communion (G. of S. Corporate).
11 a.m., Mattins and Sermon.
7 p.m., Evensong and Sermon.
Preacher—The Vicar.

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY, Central Northcote.
Parish Hall, Merri and Bay View Sts.

8 a.m., Holy Communion.
11 a.m., Holy Communion.
7 p.m., Evensong. Preacher—Dr. Law (Vicar of St. John's, Toorak).

THORNBURY PRESBYTERIAN Rossmoyne St., near High St.

11 a.m., Rev. B. T. Buntine.
7 p.m., Rev. W. J. Harris.
Minister—Rev. W. J. Harris.
Come and Welcome.

NORTHCOTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (James Street).

FOREIGN MISSION SUNDAY.
11 a.m., Rev. A. C. Wright (Missionary from Korea).
7 p.m., Supply from Deepdene.
Minister—REV. JOHN H. BATES.

PRESTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DAVID ST.

11 a.m., Communion.
7 p.m., Men's Service. Preacher—Mr. D. Claude Robertson.
Minister—Rev. W. H. McCook, B.A., B.D.

NORTHCOTE METHODIST CHURCHES.

HIGH STREET.
11 a.m., Pastor W. J. Davey.
7 p.m., Hon. J. G. Membrey.
PRINCE OF WALES' PARK.
11 a.m., Rev. W. E. Lancaster.
7 p.m., Pastor W. J. Davey.
ST. GEORGE'S ROAD.
11 a.m., Band.
7 p.m., Rev. W. H. Holtham.
CROXTON.
11 a.m., Rev. W. H. Holtham.
7 p.m., Rev. W. E. Lancaster.

PRESTON METHODIST CHURCHES.

PRESTON.
11 a.m., Rev. McIlroy, B.A.
7 p.m., Mr. W. H. Gray.
THOMASTOWN.
11 a.m., Mr. Johansen.
7 p.m., Mr. Pearce.
WEST PRESTON.
11 a.m., Mr. Beighton.
7 p.m., Rev. McIlroy.
RESERVOIR.
11 a.m., Mr. Gammaway.
7 p.m., Mr. Beighton.

SOUTH PRESTON METHODIST CHURCHES.

SOUTH PRESTON.
11 a.m., Mr. Hales.
7 p.m., Rev. J. W. Thomas.
PENDER'S GROVE.
11 a.m., Rev. J. W. Thomas.
7 p.m., Mr. Bentley.

BAPTIST CHURCH, HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

10 a.m., Men's Meeting. Mr. Olver.
11 a.m., Rev. Donald McNicol. "Sunshine and Shadow."
7 p.m., Madame Yasnovsky, of Russia.
Wednesday—Pastor's Anniversary Social.
Minister—Rev. Donald McNicol.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, High Street, Northcote.

11 a.m., Worship.
3 p.m., Bible School.
7 p.m., Gospel Service. Mr. W. H. Hinrichsen, M.B.B.S. Subject—"The Wasted Past."

Dodge the foreign trader who spends nothing locally and "swags" all money out of the district!

NORTHCOTE THEATRE

To-night, Saturday 4th, and Matinee
HOOT GIBSON in
"The Phantom Bullet"

Also
"The Shadow of the Mosque"

At Matinee Only
Baby Malvie Cassidy
of Dennis School
SONGS and DANCING

Commencing Monday, Dec. 6
"The Greater Glory"
(Blanche Sweet)

"Overland Limited"
(Ralph Lewis)

Commencing Thursday Dec. 9
"On the Go"
(Buffalo Bill Jnr.)

"Chasing Trouble"
(Pete Morrison)

Over £100
awaits the Girl selected as
"Miss Northcote 1927"
See elsewhere for details.

SHOP EARLY FOR XMAS.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—With the approach of the festive season I would crave your indulgence for the purpose of appealing to your readers to do their shopping as early as possible before Christmas Eve (Friday, December 24), and by this means spreading their shopping over a longer period and making matters much easier for both the employers and the workers of both sexes in the shops. By adopting this method of earlier shopping the customer gets a much better selection and service than if everything is left to the last minute rush. Shop workers have an extremely nerve racking and anxious time whilst the Christmas rush is on, and if shoppers would only realise this, and show a little good will towards the worker in the shop, it will make matters much more pleasant for everybody.

After a heavy and gruelling time in the shop, many of which are not even provided with the ordinary sanitary conveniences, and more often than not in a stuffy and vitiated atmosphere, the shop workers are not fit to accept the seasonal greetings, "A Merry Christmas," owing to the fact that it takes all their time off to recover and fit them to take their places behind the counter when the shop re-opens. This position applies more particularly to women and girl workers, who generally suffer severely over this very trying period.

In the name of humanity I would appeal to your numerous readers to get their shopping over early during the coming month, with more satisfaction to themselves and with benefit to the shop worker. I would also ask that they should all use their influence with their friends and neighbors, with the result that when Christmas of 1926 dawns, it will in every sense of the word be a "Merry Christmas" for the workers in the shops.—Yours, etc.,

W. H. WEBBER.

Preston West State School Mothers' Club will hold a "wind-up" euchre party and dance at Bradford Hall on December 9.

A strawberry fete will be held on December 11 in connection with the David Street Presbyterian Church, Preston. Mrs. M. Wearne is the hon. secretary. Particulars advertised.

A blossom fair in aid of the Reservoir Presbyterian Church will be held to-day. Amusements for young and old. Father Christmas will be there to welcome the kiddies.

Miss Irma Hughson's pupils will give their first annual concert in Northcote Town Hall on Wednesday, December 8, at 8 p.m. Particulars are advertised.

The pupils of Miss Madge Hamilton will give a physical culture and dancing exhibition on December 7, at Northcote Town Hall.

The rooster crowed at early morn,
And all the neighbors knew it.
It seems that someone's aim was good,
And now he doesn't do it.

Mrs. Rowland—"Our charity society is trying to find someone to go to the hospital and brighten the children." Rowland—"I'll go." "I said 'brighten,' not 'frighten.' "

Conjurer (at party)—"Suppose you had a box of cigars but no matches, how could you light a cigar?" Guest—"I'm sure I don't know." "Why, simply take one cigar out of the box; the box will then be a cigar lighter."

A fool and his equilibrium are soon parted.

Not having any faults is a very great fault indeed.

When a man is full of himself he is just about vacant.

A great many people who went to school can't prove it.

Most of us having the key to success can't find the lock.

Being rich would be nice if it didn't take too much money.

Lucky is the man who thinks that Friday is the only unluck yday in the week.

Help those who help you and your district!

XMAS GREETING CARDS

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW.

Only a few weeks remain till Xmas. It will be wise to get your order for INDIVIDUAL XMAS CARDS in at once.

Your name and address are printed and envelopes supplied, ready for mailing.
PRICES FROM 7/6 PED DOZEN.

"LEADER" OFFICE,
309 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE.

PRINTING ORDERS

GET THEM IN EARLY.

OWING to the approaching Xmas Holidays, CLIENTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND IN THEIR ORDERS FOR PRINTING at the EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT.

We do not wish to disappoint our customers owing to the last minute rush.

D. H. MOTT & SONS,
"Leader" Office, 309 High Street, Northcote. Telephone N'cote 46.

IN MEMORIAM.

BOWDEN.—In loving memory of my dear husband and our dear father (Harry), who passed away on December 3, 1925, at Johnston St., Northcote.
Inserted by his loving wife and family.

The Leader
Published Every Saturday Morning.
JUSTICE TO ALL.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1926.

ITEMS OF NEWS.

Owing to alteration in the date of publishing next week, all copy and advertisements for the "Leader" must be in hand by Wednesday night next. Will contributors and advertisers kindly note.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Northcote (Cr. and Mrs. P. H. Mayer) have issued invitations to the ceremony and laying the foundation stone of the Baby Health Centre, Clarendon street, Northcote, on December 8, at 2.30 p.m.

Jewellery, watches and clothing, valued at £70, were stolen from the home of Mr. T. Cracknell, Jackman street, East Preston, last Saturday between 4.45 p.m. and 11.15 the same night. The police are inquiring.

Raymond Theodore Stevens, of Smith street, Thornbury, carpenter. Causes of insolvency—Adverse judgments in County Court, and having insufficient assets to meet same. Liabilities, £287/17/-; assets, 5/. Mr. Wood, assignee.

Ernest John Arthur, of High street, Thornbury, grocer. Causes of insolvency—Falling off of business, pressure of creditors, and illness of self and family. Liabilities, £1,593/0/2; assets, £408/15/7; deficiency, £1,184 4/7. Mr. J. W. Ross, assignee.

At the last meeting of the Northcote Council, on a notice of motion by Cr. Turner, it was decided to rescind a motion previously carried to name the Shaftesbury Parade Reserve "Turner Reserve." A second notice of motion to name the area "Whittaker Reserve" was lost, and on an amendment by Cr. Beard the matter was referred to the Parks Committee.

At the termination of the official luncheon at Whittlesea show several members of Parliament made reference to the splendid luncheon of which they had partaken, which was provided by the ladies and gentlemen connected with the Yan Yean Methodist circuit, and declared it was the best they had attended of any country show. Mr. Everard, M.L.A., called for three hearty cheers for those who had so excellently attended to their needs. Rev. W. H. Taylor (Mernda) was warmly congratulated on having such a large and enthusiastic band of workers connected with the five churches in his pastorate.

At the annual smoke night of the Northcote Amateur Cycling Club, held at club rooms, Wimble Hall, Northcote, there were seventy present, and Mr. A. E. Eastman, president, acted as chairman. We were favored with several items from the club members, and the evening was carried out with great success. Presentations of sashes were made to the following members:—F. Thomas, 20 mile unassisted Open Road Championship; H. Best, 10 mile Senior Unassisted Club Championship; J. D. Wood, 10 Mile Junior Unassisted Club Championship.

The membership of the Preston branch R.S.S.I.L.A. has grown rapidly of late, and now stands at 250, which makes Preston the third strongest branch in the State. Instancing the rapid increase in membership, the president (Mr. W. L. McDonald) at a social evening recently said that so great was the membership that the function had to be held in the Town Hall instead of the Memorial Hall, owing to the large number to be accommodated.

The final of the series of social evenings conducted by the Mothers' Club of the South Preston State school was brought to a successful conclusion on Saturday evening, November 27, when a most enjoyable time was spent. During the evening several presentations were made by the Mayor, Mr. Newton, on behalf of the club. Mrs. Miller was presented with a wicker chair in return for her kindness and assistance which she rendered to the club, and Mr. Miller, caretaker of the school, was presented with a walking stick, suitably inscribed, in recognition of his assistance during the weekly socials. Mr. Miller suitably responded. Mrs. Judkins, hon. secretary, was also the recipient of a wallet from the members for her work in the interests of the club. Mrs. Judkins thanked the members for the surprise they had secretly kept from her, and also stated that she would not be seeking re-election as secretary for health reasons. The Mayor referred to the good work performed by the president and Mrs. Woolfe, and also other members. The euchre prizes were won by Mrs Brown and Mr. Luscombe. The evening was brought to a close by all joining hands and singing "Auld Lang Syne."

Owing to the hot weather experienced the collections at the massed bands carnival held at Cramer street Park last Sunday was £50 below the amount of the previous year. Last Sunday's collection was £16, whilst last year it was in the vicinity of £66.

The increase in the revenue of the electric light department of the Northcote City Council for the year just ended was £44,215, and the profit £10,500 odd. The expenditure showed a proportional increase of 15.17 as compared with 23.84 last year.

While swinging at the rear of a motor lorry trailer in charge of James Burns, of Union street, Northcote at Dawson street, Port Melbourne, on Thursday morning, an infant named Mervin Campbell, aged four years, of Bay street, Port Melbourne, became entangled in the spokes of the trailer wheel, and was badly mangled about the legs. Later he was admitted to the Children's Hospital suffering from severe abrasions to the legs, and was found to be in a critical condition.

On Tuesday last, November 30, Mr. Thos. Willmott, yard foreman Northcote Brick Coy's works, severed his connection with the company. His fellow employes, in recognition of his 35½ years' association, subscribed as a testimonial a wallet of notes, one for each year of service. Mr. B. M. Ramsay, managing director of the company, in making the presentation, eulogised Mr. Willmott for his valuable qualities, and trusted that both he and Mrs. Willmott would enjoy many years of healthy leisure. The speaker conveyed also the good wishes of the employes, the testimonial being contributed to by every man at the works, thus showing the high esteem in which Mr. Willmott was held. He concluded by presenting also, this time on behalf of the directors, a cheque representing three months' salary. Mr. Willmott, in responding, thanked everyone who had been associated with the tstimonial. He said he would never forget the kindness of his fellow employes, and he was also deeply grateful to the Board of Directors for their gift. After honoring the health of Mr. Willmott and repeating their good wishes for his future, the gathering dispersed.

There was a large gathering of young Australians at the last meeting of the Northcote branch A.N.A., the occasion being the announcement of the winners and the presentation of prizes won at the recent essay competition, held annually by the local branch. After the three first essays had been read, Mr. V. L. Ginn, of the Board of Directors, presented the first prize, a gold medal, to Allen Angus; the second prize, which was also a gold medal, to Marion Le Plastre; third prize, a book, to Alma Melbourne. The subject was "The Agricultural Show." Mr. Ginn gave an interesting address to the competitors and also commended the branch on its annual effort. He also installed the following officers for the ensuing half-year:—President, Mr. T. Evers; vice-president, Mr. L. Ward; secretary, Mr. A. C. Williams; treasurer, Mr. W. F. Glanville; assistant secretary, Mr. L. Berry; committee, Messrs. A. Colley, L. Sullivan, C. Graham, H. Mellot and H. Graham; ex-president, R. V. Griffin; conference delegates, W. F. Glanville and F. Evers; dispensary delegates, A. Colley, T. Evers, L. Sullivan; librarian, H. Graham; press correspondent, F. Evers; auditors, G. E. Hulett and J. E. Newell. Mr. Ginn also addressed the meeting on the work of the association, dealing with the association's policy over the distribution of seats, and also favoring a policy of sane immigration, preferably of British subjects. Mr. Glanville moved and Mr. Williams seconded a vote of thanks to Mr. Ginn, which was carried with acclamation. The library was formally declared open by Mr. Glanville and, judging by the demand for books, it promises to be a success. Members can now borrow from a good selection of books free of charge, providing the book is not kept longer than a fortnight. Members are invited to send in any items of interest, or suggest same at next meeting, to be included in the syllabus for the coming half-year. The essays appear elsewhere in the "Leader" to-day.

On Monday afternoon, 22nd inst., a large gathering of head masters assembled at Northcote Central School to do honor to Mr. W. P. Dawson, who is retiring after serving for half a century in the Education Department. Mr. J. Lowry, district inspector, presided, and expressed the greatest admiration for Mr. Dawson's work and worth. Mr. Osborne, head teacher Wales street, proposed the health of their guest in felicitous terms. Many other teachers joined in the expressions of appreciation and goodwill. The toast was drunk with musical honors. Mr. Dawson suitably responded. The same night at Tyler street State school, Preston, Mr. and Mrs. Dawson were entertained at a social evening by the school committee, the Mothers' Club and the teaching staff. An exceedingly fine programme of vocal and instrumental musical items was rendered by leading artists. Recitations and dancing also contributed to the enjoyment of all, while refreshments were handed round during an interval. Mr. J. Pile, who presided, spoke in high praise of both their guests. Cr. G. Robinson, chairman of the school committee, presented Mr. Dawson with a very fine roll-top smoker's outfit, a pipe rack, and two cases of pipes. Mrs. Kohry, president of the Mothers' Club, presented a very elaborate piece of antique ware to Mr. Dawson, and a beautiful silver mounted jam jar to Mrs. Dawson. On behalf of the teaching staff, Mr. J. B. Ryder handed to the retiring head teacher a handsomely framed and illuminated photo enlargement of the staff, while Mr. W. J. A. Doherty read a beautifully framed address, testifying to the esteem and affection entertained for both Mr. and Mrs. Dawson by teachers past and present, all of whom had appended their signatures to the address. Miss G. H. Smith and Mr. Syer, South Preston, supported the eulogistic remarks of the various speakers. Mr. Dawson, on rising to respond, received a very flattering reception. He was so overcome by the warmth of the demonstration that, for some minutes, he could not proceed with his speech. He thanked again and again all who had contributed to the success of the evening, and felt a thrill of pride at the appreciation expressed regarding his efforts for the advancement of the district, particularly in the domain of education. The evening was brought to a close by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne." It is interesting to record that the Mothers' Club has raised over £160 towards establishing Dawson scholarships at the Preston school.

ALTERATION OF DAY OF PUBLICATION.

NEXT WEEK THE "LEADER"

WILL BE ISSUED ON

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

All Copy and Advertisements must be in hand by WEDNESDAY NIGHT in order to secure insertion.

BETTER FARMING TRAIN.

TO VISIT WHITTLESEA.

Mr. W. J. Yuill, senior dairy supervisor of the Agricultural Department, visited Whittlesea on November 29, in connection with the coming visit of the better farming train. Mr. Yuill explained what the day's programme would be. Demonstrations and lectures are to take place throughout the whole of the day in a large marquee, which will seat 300. Two cars, each seating 100 are at the disposal of the ladies, where cooking and needlecraft lectures and demonstrations will take place. Sister Peck, principal Baby Health Centres, will lecture on "Baby Welfare and Mothercraft." Boiling water is provided free. Morning lectures in the marquee are Babcock Testing, Herd Testing Association, Feeding Dairy Cows and Top Dressing of Pastures. On the train are carried an Ayrshire bull and cow, also Jersey and Friesian bull and cow, red poll, milking shorthorn, and a grade cow. All of these animals have shown test records. Lectures on pig breeding and pig feeding will be given. A boar and sow of the large white, and middle Yorkshire, also Berkshire breeds will be carried on the train; also two sides of bacon, one to demonstrate the class of bacon that the trade needs, the other the wrong type.

Poultry.—Mr. W. C. Rugg, chief poultry expert, is in charge of this section. Male and female specimens of the leading utility breeds of fowls are carried; also a car full of all requisites of the industry. Incubators, brooders and water systems are shown.

Wool.—Rams of the leading breeds are shown, including those suitable for fat lamb raising. Wool classing and sheep breeding lectures are given.

Fruit, potatoes and honey are dealt with. In the dairying and veterinary car will be found many exhibits of interest and value.

Sealed glass jars containing actual specimens of all diseases of cattle and sheep and pigs are to be seen.

How to balance a ration for dairy cows is shown. Equipment for a herd testing association, cooling of milk, etc.

The model car contains many useful exhibits, including a handy steriliser, automatic pig feeders.

Mr. Adams, of Dookie College, has a splendid collection of models of concrete work, posts, also of gates.

All lectures are short and to the point.

The field branch have actual sods cut from top dressing plots, showing results from use of manures.

The train will be open throughout the whole day.

"THE REGENT NEWS."

The Regent Theatre is to be congratulated for providing vaudeville fare like that presented by the Veterans of Vaudeville last week. Every artist a star, and every star a winner. Many actors could with profit have visited the Regent during the week and learned something about stage deportment and artistry. Without exception every one of the Veterans achieved instantaneous success every night during the week. It is to be hoped that this really excellent company will be heard again in Northcote at no distant date. They brought with them a breath of old times and memories of past delights that are rare in these times of hustle and bustle.

PICTURE PROGRAMMES AHEAD.

On Monday the latest First National special, "The Greater Glory," in which Anna Q. Nilsson has the stellar role, will be featured, supported by a J. C. Williamson attraction, "The Law of the Snow Country," starring Ken McDonald. Thursday's change of programme will bring Renee Adoree and Conrad Nagel in "The Exquisite Sinner." The star picture will be the J. C. Williamson special attraction, "Broken Laws," in which Mrs. Wallace Reid has the principal role. This is one of the trenchant features made by Mrs. Reid since her husband's tragic death, as an object lesson to humanity. Splendidly produced and acted, "Broken Laws" will stand out as one of this year's most striking pictures.

VAUDEVILLE AT THE REGENT.

The vaudeville act for the coming week at the Regent will be Wallace and Gennett, billed as dancers extraordinary. This act is one that should be acceptable to all Regent patrons, being novel and attractive, as well as entertaining to a degree.

THE GOWERVILLE.

To-night "The Thorobred," "Lovey Mary." Vaudeville, Beryl Williams. Matinee—"The Fighting Ranger."

Monday to Wednesday—"Honesty the Best Policy," "Overland Limited." Vaudeville, Marshall and Graham.

Thursday to Saturday—"The Exquisite Sinner." "Albertine," featured in "The Man on the Cornet." Vaudeville, Reaco.

THE STAR.

To-day—"It's the Old Army Game," "Hunting Trouble." Matinee—"The Fighting Ranger."

Monday to Wednesday—"My Old Dutch," "Gross." Vaudeville, Marshall and Graham.

Thursday to Saturday—"Shadow of the Mosque," "Desert Gold." Vaudeville, Reaco. Matinee—"The Fighting Ranger."

Order your Xmas cards now from "Leader" office. Prices from 7/6 dozen, with envelopes. Your name and address printed on.

An entertainment by the pupils of Mrs. J. and Miss Leila Dabschuck will be held in Northcote Town Hall on December 6, at 7.45. It will comprise dancing, character sketches, songs, etc.

SHOP IN YOUR OWN TOWN

What Smith Street is Doing.

IMPROVING SMITH STREET.

At a recent conference between the Fitzroy and Collingwood Councils and the Smith Street Traders' Association, to consider means of improving Smith street, in order that there should be given every facility for people to patronise that thoroughfare as a shopping centre, a scheme for additional lighting was drawn up and submitted to the councils concerned. At the meeting of the Fitzroy Council on Monday night the works committee recommended the council should adopt an amended scheme, at an annual cost of £500 and a first cost of £60 for installation, to be borne in equal parts by the two councils. The recommendation was adopted. Collingwood Council also notified Fitzroy that it had agreed to the proposal.

WINNERS OF 10/- NOTES.

The following persons have been successful in spotting the 10/- note in the City of Northcote Traders' Association campaign—Mrs. F. J. Chandler, 48 Rennie St., Thornbury; Mrs. Holding, 180 Separation St., Northcote; Mr. K. Blythe, Livingstone St., Preston; and Mr. Thompson, c/o Mrs. Roulston, 19 Barry St., Northcote. Each of the winners has claimed the 10/- prize.

DANGERS OF BRIQUETTES.

LIABILITY TO CAUSE FIRES.

During the last two weeks four fires have occurred at metropolitan briquette depots of the Electricity Commission, three having broken out at Moreland, and the latest outbreak at Footscray. The officers of the Commission have not as yet ascertained the cause of the fires, but it seems probable that brown coal dust has accumulated for a considerable time in the dumps, and reached a condition favorable for spontaneous combustion. This danger would not be confined to the commission's stores, but would also be present in wood yard dumps and in private coal cellars or sheds, where briquettes have been stored for some time. Immediate action is essential to fix the cause, and provide measures for prevention. If present in any quantity in a confined space, the dust would be likely to explode if brought into contact with a naked light.

PERSONAL.

Constables A. G. Eddy and T. W. McCormack have been transferred to Northcote from Russell street.

Const. E. North, who has been stationed at Northcote for two or three years, has been transferred to Clifton Hill.

Cr. Angus McDonald and Mrs. McDonald, of Northcote, have gone on an extended holiday to Upwey.

His many friends will be pleased to learn that Hon. J. C. Newton, of Tasmania, a brother of Cr. A. E. Newton, Mayor of Preston, who recently was stricken with a sudden illness, is now making good progress towards recovery.

BOY KILLED

STRUCK BY TRAIN AT PRESTON

In attempting to cross the railway line at the Preston station on Wednesday, Ray Lanfranchi, aged 10 years, a newsboy, of Pender street, Preston, was struck by the 6.35 p.m. train from Reservoir to Melbourne.

The boy was tossed into the air, and fell several yards away on the other set of rails. He was hurried to the Melbourne Hospital and admitted in a serious condition, suffering from fractures of both arms, internal injuries and shock.

He died early on Thursday morning.

"Is soup upon the bill of fare?"
He questioned, with a cough.

"It was," the waitress snapped reply
"Until I wiped it off."

Miss Tuke—"Where were you going yesterday in your new car?" Miss Richo—"I haven't any idea—I was just learning to drive."

McTavish—"You're lookin' bad, Wullie." MacTarrant—"Ay, I've been in the hospital an' the doctors took awa' ma appendix." "These doctors will tak' onything. It's a peety ye didna' have it in yer wife's name."

Estelle—"D'you know, dear, my hair is coming out in handfuls? Can you tell me something to keep it in?" Emerald—"Yes, darling, an empty cigar-box, if you have one."

FREE GIFT

SAVE YOUR COPY OF THE "LEADER."

Compare It With Numbers in Shop Windows.

LUCKY ONES GET VALUABLE PRIZES.

Each copy of next issue of the "Leader" will have a number. Various business people have selected numbers, which will be attached to certain articles displayed in their windows.

Any person who can produce an intact paper bearing the corresponding number will be presented with the article.

It is therefore advisable for subscribers to carefully keep their copies of the "Leader," and watch the various windows to see if they are lucky enough to win a prize.

JUVENILE CONCERT.

Something new to Northcote in the way of juvenile concerts will take place in the Town Hall on December 8, when Miss Irma Hughson will provide a programme with her pupils, assisted by Mr. Dey and family's orchestra. Miss Hughson is also producing two brothers and a sister whom she teaches, besides a clever team of children from two years of age upwards. Miss Hughson is noted as a singer herself, having won over 300 prizes, and her A.L.C.M. when she was 14 years old. She won 30 prizes in six weeks, during September and October this year, and is the youngest known singer to win contralto solos against adult sections in competitions. Professor Ives, at the Colac

MISS IRMA HUGHSON, A.L.C.M.

competitions, when she won the contralto solo, best love song, Irish song, girls under 18 solo, song and dance, sacred song, character song, Australian song, and also second in the Scotch song, said she had a beautiful voice; nine wins out of ten entries; also contralto solo, girls' solo under 18, and duet with her sister at the V.R.I. competitions last month; also eight wins at Maryborough and quite a number of other successes at other competitions. She won the champion solo for girls and boys and adult champion at Wonthaggi when 13 years old, included among the competitors being the winner of Melbourne A.N.A. scholarship. She has also won at Ballarat, A.N.A., Bendigo, and almost every other competition throughout Victoria.

OLD SCHOLARS

TYLER STREET REUNION.

At Preston Town Hall on Thursday evening the Tyler Street Old Scholars held a reunion social. There was a good attendance, many of the old identities coming from other suburbs, and a few from the country.

It is now 52 years since the school was founded, and amongst those present were scholars who had attended almost 50 years ago, and there was one teacher who was teaching in 1877. Dancing was indulged in, but the older hands found greater pleasure in exchanging reminiscences of their school days. One conversation that was overheard showed that a certain gentleman reminded a lady how they had made mud pies together something over 40 years ago. The recent formation of the Old Scholars' Association came at an auspicious time, as it was only within the past few weeks that additions at the Tyler street school were opened, bringing it up to its maximum capacity, and from now on no further additions will be made.

Members of the Preston Citizens' Band gave items, and pleasant rounds of community singing were heartily sung. This was followed by a "roll call," during which many evidently thought they were back at school, from the way they answered.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. J. Hughes (nee Butt); Mrs. H. Ryde (nee Newton), and Mrs. A. Wilson (nee Newton).

Amongst those present were:—Mrs. F. Sheppard, J. S. Bartlett, Mr. C. Cameron, Mrs. W. Smith, Mr. R. Welsh, Mr. E. Nankervis, Mr. F. Frank, Mrs. D. Brooks, Mr. H. Chapman, Mrs. J. E. Moore, Mrs. M. Parryman, Mrs. Arch. Campbell, Mrs. A. Robinson, Mrs. A. Anderson, Mr. Chas. Kupsch, Mrs. A. Bussell, Mrs. R. Mutimer, W. Johnson, Mrs. C. Norris, Mrs. M. Wood, Mr. H. Coe, Mrs. A. Williams, Mr. F. Scott, Mr. A. Scott, D. Taylor, Mrs. H. Crawford, Reg. Andrews, H. Andrews, G. Hamilton, F. Reynolds, Alan Hamilton, Mrs. A. Murphett, Miss Claribel Ouley, Miss Louise Ouley, Miss Jeanette Ouley, Mrs. Gunther, A. Kupsch, Reg. Kupsch, I. Chergwin, A. E. Johnson, A. Browse, Mrs. A. Brown, H. Hull, W. Mutimer, Mrs. W. Williams, Miss L. Norton, A. I. Edmonds, I. Leenison, A. Carlyle, H. Moulden, F. J. Scott, H. Biggs, A. Penny, W. Thake, V. Thake, L. J. Thake, L. Cruther, M. Iles, G. Hempsell Ernselle, E. Hempsell Ernselle, F. Deacon, Mrs. Gregory, L. Craffer, M. McConchee, W. G. Sone, S Richardson, H. Biggs, Fred Biggs, V. Coleman, B. Jenkin, L. Westcott, Mrs. A. Hopkins, Mrs. Crawford, R. Moulden, R. Cameron, Mrs. N. Tucker, Miss Phyllis Kerr, Miss Gwen Kupsch, Miss Isabel Pinkerton, Miss C. Major, Miss Florrie Cameron, Mrs. A. Ferrier, Mrs. Cuthbert, Mrs. Selby, Miss A Mitchell.

PROGRESSIVE THORNBURY

A LONG FELT WANT SUPPLIED.

Owing to the rapid progress of the West Thornbury and South-west Preston districts, due partly to improved tramway facilities, a rapid increase in building operations will include an up-to-date residential and professional chambers at the corner of Miller and Taylor streets, West Thornbury. Provision is being made for well known professional men, including Dr. Hinrichsen. This change will be greatly

"MISS NORTHCOTE 1927."

Opportunity knocks only once at everyone's door. This is your opportunity, made available to you by the enterprise of the Northcote Theatre in conducting a "Miss Northcote 1927" Victoria, Australia, competition, to be conducted on the basis of beauty of face and form and general popularity, to be decided by public vote to the semi-finals; then by a judging committee, with the Mayor of Northcote as chairman.

Someone, somewhere in our city, possesses every quality of beauty, grace and intellect to represent Australia in the world pageant held annually in Atlantic City—an ambassador whose beauty will do more to bring Australia before the world's eye than all the political and press influences. Miss Beryl Mills' recent trip as "Miss Australia 1926" proved this beyond question. There are many charming girls fully endowed by nature to represent the true Australian girl, but who have in the past held fond ambition in check by a too modest valuation of their worthiness to compete for so high an honor. These will gain self-confidence and courage from the fact that both "Miss Australia 1926" and "Miss Australia 1925" hailed from small towns tucked away in States far from the cities where the beauty quests were planned, and from which they were controlled.

The following are some of the donors—Northcote Theatre, £10/10/-; Stott, Son and Watson, £3/3/-; Hutchinson's Garage, £1/1/-; J. W. Stevens (Park St.), £1/1/-; Trevorrow (South Melbourne), £5/5/-; Riddell and Preece, £3/3/-; Peterson and Co., £3/3/-; Dickenson Bros. (High St.), £1/1/-; West's Confectionery, £1/1/-; Film Ads, £2/2/-, also engagement to act in screen advts.; Misses Woods and Thomas, frock £6/6/-; Harvie's confectionery, £1/1/-; Johnson and McMillan, £2/10/-; Ezywalkin's Shoes, £1/12/6; Northcote Trading Agency, £5/5/-; Emmerson (photographer), portrait £5/5/-; J. Kirkby, framed picture, £1/1/-; Mrs. Ward, corsets, £1/10/-; A. V. Knott, free shingling; Mrs. Powell, ladies' hose; F. Fettling, string of pearls; D. W. Rodger, ham; F. G. Smith, boudoir cushion; Miss Ward, hat; Adams' cake shop, cake; Harris and Wright, pen; J. Kelly, ladies' hand bag; Howat's, confectionery supper to winner; Parker's Shoe Co., £3/3/-; J. Faifer, wool vest; Beattie Marshall, dressed kewpie; Dunlop's (High St.), chair; Sharp Bros., box hose; Commercial Hotel, champagne; Peacock Inn, champagne, Chas. Brittnall, sucking pig; Leeden and Bock, £1/1/-; and a host of other gifts.

Send your name now to manager, Northcote Theatre.

WEDDING.

EDGE—HURREY.

A pretty wedding took place in the Mernda Methodist Church on the evening of November 24, when Hazel, eldest daughter of Cr. T. W. and Mrs. Hurrey, of "Craigielea," Yan Yean, was married to Harry, the eldest son of Mr. Edge, of Warrnambool. The girl friends of the bride decorated the building beautifully; a large white arch was covered with asparagus ferns and white and pink flowers, whilst pot plants and Christmas lilies were much in evidence. Over the bridal party was suspended a large wedding bell, and decorated horse-shoes were placed on the arch, and the initials of the young couple were also visible. In the centre of the aisle a smaller arch was erected, and near it a small gate painted silver color, with the word "Guests" in gilt letters. The pretty little gatekeeper was Mena Hall. Rev. W. H. Taylor was the officiating minister, and Mr. Sharpe acted as organist and played "Because" whilst the documents were being signed. As the bride entered the church on the arm of her father, the congregation joined in singing "The Voice That Breathed O'er Eden.' The bride looked charming, and her dress was made of ivory crepe-de-chene and lace, and wore the usual bridal veil and coronet of orange blossom, and carried a bouquet of Watsonias and Christmas lillies. The bridesmaid was her sister (Miss Doris Hurrey), who looked pretty in pink georgette and lace; she carried a bouquet of pink and white sweet peas and carnations. The bridegroom was supported by his brother, Mr. George M. Edge. The happy couple left the church amidst a shower of rose leaves, confetti and congratulations. Afterwards a reception was held at the bride's home, and the wedding breakfast was partaken of in the large barn specially transformed for the nonce into a [illegible] bower. Rev. W. H. Taylor in a felicitous speech proposed "The Bride and Bridegroom," and the latter responded and thanked all for their good wishes. Mr. Knox in humorous vein gave the toast of "The Bridesmaid," whilst the best man made reply. Mr. Sharpe had the congenial duty of "The Parents of The Bride and Bridegroom," supported by Mr. G. Turley and Mac Smith. To this suitable replies were made by Messrs. Hurrey and Edge. All toasts were accompanied by musical honors. A large number of beautiful presents, both ornamental and useful, were displayed in the drawing room, and were greatly admired. During the evening the happy pair left for their honeymoon. The bride's travelling costume was of bois-de-rose marocain, with hat to match, and black silk coat. We are glad to add that the young couple are not leaving Yan Yean.

APPROACHING AUCTIONS.

By Stott, Son and Watson and A. B. and R. W. Johnston, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m., on property, 41 Queen St., Preston, 5-roomed house on land 54 x 162.

By Stott, Son and Watson, Dec. 8, at 3 p.m. on property, 2 George St., Reservoir, Preston, poultry farm on land 127 x 245, together with all utensils and plant.

By Stott, Son and Watson, to-day at 3 p.m., on property, 220 Murray Rd., Preston, 4-roomed house on land 45 x 115. In conjunction with D. S. Jenkins.

By Llewellyn Jones, Preston, on Dec. 18, at 11 a.m., on the property, "Allbell Poultry Farm," Cooper St., Preston, sale of ducks, geese, fowls, farm equipment, household furniture, etc. For particulars see advt.

By Gray and Johnson, to-day at 3 p.m. on property, 25 Harold St., d.f. villa, 5 rooms, on land 40 x 134ft. 6in.

By Knell and Swift Pty. Ltd., Ivanhoe, and Angus McDonald, Northcote, this day, brick bungalow, 5 rooms, Toora St., Ivanhoe; building site, Toora St., Ivanhoe; d.f. w.b. villa, 5 rooms, Grean St., Ivanhoe. Particulars and terms of sale advertised.

A.N.A. ESSAYS

The following are the winning essays at the recent A.N.A. competitions (Northcote branch):—

THE AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

FIRST PRIZE.
(By Allan Angus, Helen Street School.)

Why is the Agricultural Show held? I think it is to show the farmers all the latest farm appliances; to show the city people how the country is progressing.

On entering the grounds the first noticeable objects are several tall windmills, used for pumping water, in order to let the stock drink. These are of great interest to the farmer.

Perhaps the most interesting display was that of the motors. Kinds many and varied received great praise from the interested crowd.

The Government Pavilion was a wonderful arrangement which called forth loud and prolonged admiration. Wool, wheat, mutton, pork, currants, raisins, etc., dried and fresh fruits—all were set out in wonderful array.

The cattle and horse sheds held many beautiful beasts, which delighted the crowd. This was the farmer's "Paradise." Here he wandered anywhere, seeing continuously beautiful beasts of his own breeding.

Many small stalls sold numerous samples to the crowd, who were only too ready to receive them. Several letters were sent to the daily press complaining about the extortionate charging of some of these stallholders.

The arena provided a fine entertainment for those who had finished looking at the exhibits. Horse jumping, trotting, wood-chopping and other events gave the interested crowd a fine exhibition of skill, and in the case of trotting, pace.

Large advertisements were displayed above the arena. These were held in the air by what appeared to be balloons, being a fine idea for the industrious business man.

Altogether, it was a fine show, the men who ran it deserving praise for the capable manner in which they managed things. From beginning to end, there was not a dull moment. I feel sure that the farmers left Melbourne feeling that the committee displayed their beasts and products to the best advantage possible.

SECOND PRIZE.
(By Marion Le Plastre, Helen Street School.)

When speaking of the Agricultural Show, a natural question that might be asked is: "What is this show for, and what good does it do?" This question is easily answered, for the Royal Agricultural Show of Victoria is to show people what Australians can produce and make. It also spurs the young farmer on to greater efforts.

The show is held annually on grounds kept specially for that purpose at Newmarket, a few miles from Melbourne. On entering the grounds a natural impression of hurry and bustle is given.

In large halls, which are called Industrial Halls, and smaller stalls outside, some of Melbourne's prosperous merchants display their wares, mostly in the form of samples.

In long streets of stalls the horses are housed, from the finest racehorse to the shaggiest Shetland foal. Long sheds, divided into stalls, where the cattle are housed, also catch the eyes of the passers-by. In similar sheds and stalls the sheep and pigs are to be found.

Packed in almost every conceivable space is machinery, mostly farming machinery—harvesters, reapers and binders. Displayed in stands are some of the best cars on the market, and of these the mechanism is explained by those in attendance.

A large arena is kept for the sporting events—wood chopping contests, horse racing around the track, hurdle races, and many other events. One day is allotted for the judging, and on this day proud owners parade their cattle and horses before the judges, to be judged for the championships.

In a small shed artificial manures and guaranteed destroyers of noxious weeds are displayed for the benefit of the farmers.

In conclusion we can just say that the Royal Agricultural Show is one of the most looked forward to events of the year by city people as well as farmers.

THIRD PRIZE.
(By Alma Melbourne, Helen Street School.)

The agricultural show is a yearly event held at Flemington. The articles on show are all Australian, from the cattle to the cakes. This show encourages people to buy Australian made goods, and take an interest in their own country.

On coming out of the station, you will not fail to see the machines that help farmers in getting a good water supply. Then there are other machines with which to plough the ground.

In the large pavilions there were cattle and sheep. The sheep were of different breeds, each thus having a different coat. The merino sheep had very thick, curly wool, which was about four to six inches deep. Others had wool as long, but not so thick.

The cattle were in pens about a yard and a half square, with railings all round. Some of the biggest cattle weighed over two thousand pounds, but all of these did not win prizes; some of the smaller ones won prizes too.

The horses were in stables near the pavilion. The younger horses were ridden by young men and women, who were hurdle jumping and racing. There were also men racing in jinkers.

On the side of the pens, and in front of the stalls, the prizes which were won were hung up. They consisted of certificates and red, white and blue ribbons.

Prizes were given to the pig who had the most babies. Some of the little ones numbered up to ten in one family. They were mostly fighting and going to sleep.

Some of the needlework was beautiful. All of it was done by hand; it was a credit to Australia. Large mats worked by hand with small pieces of material were done beautifully. I think that they all deserved a prize.

The cakes, all home-made, were done to perfection. Several people remarked that it was a pity that they were all not on sale, and I quite agreed with them.

The horses were decorated for the grand march, and they looked very nice.

Every true Australian patriot's motto should be: "Whatever you buy, make it Australian made," from the most important article to the smallest detail.

WHY NOT ADVERTISE AND PROSPER?

"The Leader" Small Advertisements Bring Good Results.

ADVERTISE YOUR NEEDS and look for them in "The Leader." Many thousands scan these columns weekly.

WRITE YOUR ADVERTISEMENT ON THIS FORM, AND HAND IT TO YOUR NEWS AGENT OR SEND DIRECT TO THE OFFICE.

Minimum space two lines, about six words of average length to the line. Each abbreviation counts as a word. Up to four consecutive figures count as a word. Rates—14 words, 1/- (two lines), each extra line or part of line 6d. Answers to advertisements may be addressed in care of "The Leader" free of charge.

For Sale.

BROODER, 50 chick size, cheap; also Broody Hen. After 1 p.m. 50 Woolhouse St., Northcote.

FURNITURE, Poultry, etc., is best sold at HOOPER'S NORTHCOTE AUCTION ROOMS, 336 High Street (opp. Henderson's, Butcher). Goods sold at auction and privately. Large Premises for Display of Goods. We send our own waggon anywhere. Prompt settlements. Northcote 916.

GET your Xmas Cards from "Leader" office. 7/6 dozen upwards, with envelopes and your name printed on.

WIRELESS—Xmas Portable, 4-valve and Crystal Reflex Set, no aerial or earth, everything contained in cabinet; complete; all accessories, loud speaker built in; just open lid and pull switch; £18/10/-; guaranteed. 9 Dally St., Northcote.

WIRELESS.—2-valve and crystal reflex, excellent outfit, distance getter, volume equals 4 valves, complete with all accessories, loud speaker included; £8/10/-; guaranteed. 9 Dally St., Northcote.

WANTED to Sell, Child's Play ground, in perfect order; cheap. 68 May St., Preston.

WIRELESS.—3-valve Set, very selective and efficient, outfit complete, all accessories, loud speaker included, £8/10/-; guaranteed. 9 Dally St., Northcote.

WIRELESS.—5-valve Tuned Radio, frequency, excellent outfit, complete with all accessories; loud speaker included; £18; unconditionally guaranteed. 9 Dally St., Northcote.

XMAS CARDS.—Order your INDIVIDUAL XMAS CARDS at once, with name printed on and envelopes supplied. Big range of samples from 7/6 dozen. "Leader" Office, Northcote.

W. AYLWARD,
(Late R. Bailey).
ESTATE OFFICES—104 HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

TO LET.
SHOPS.
Northcote, Charles St. Rent 15/-

HOUSES.
Eltham, 6 min. station and electric train service—7-roomed house, E.L., dairy, fowl houses, stabling, garage, and 13 acres. Suit poultry farmers. Rent 30/-, or sell deposit £50; balance as rent; price £750.
Barry St.—5 rooms, garage; 30/-.

FOR SALE.
Northcote, house, 4 rooms, £625.
Northcote, house, 6 rooms, £720.
Clifton Hill, house, 5 rooms, stabling for 2, £500. Deposit £50.
North Fitzroy, s.f. brick house, 6 rooms, £985. Deposit £100.
Upwards of 200 properties to select from at prices from £650.
Terms arranged, with moderate deposits.
Rents Collected.
Estate Offices:—104 High St., Northcote. Established over 40 years.
'Phone—Northcote 576.

To Let.

GOOD Stables or suitable workshed. 48 Barry St., Sth. Northcote.

Board and Residence.

TWO Boarders, men, close tram and train. 13 Salisbury Gr., N'cote.

WANTED two men, Protestants, share room private home, close trams. 21 Raleigh St., Thornbury.

YOUNG Lady in business requires comfortable accommodation, private family; close train, Thornbury district. Apply 7 Osborne Grove, Sth. Preston.

WANTED in vicinity Clifton Hill, Northcote or Thornbury, by young lady. Reply "Joyce," "Leader" Office.

Lost.

LOST Wallet, containing papers and key, in St. George's Rd. Reward. Finder return to "Leader" Office.

Wanted.

BRICKLAYER.—E. MEDLIN, 11 Martin St., can cure your smoky chimney or copper, or build you a new one. Workmanship guaranteed. Material supplied.

DRESSMAKING and all kinds of Sewing and Renovations. Satisfaction guaranteed. Mrs. A. Whyte, 65 May St., Preston, late Reservoir.

GARDENS laid out, kept in order; expert all branches; charges mod. George, 17 Turnbull Gr., Northcote.

GRAZING to let for horses. Apply Walding, 26 Kellett St., N'cote.

MRS. BARNES, certificated teacher of Piano, visits pupils in Preston. Terms—£1/1/- per quarter. C/o Mrs. Windsor, Shakespeare Av., E. Preston.

SLEEPOUT or parts; cash price and particulars, 1 Archbold St. (off Collins St.), Thornbury.

STRONG Woman wanted to wash. Apply 15 Martin St., Croxton.

WE require on First Mortgage at 7½ per cent. and 8 per cent. sums of £500 and £600 on new houses in Northcote and Preston. Every loan secured and guaranteed. Invest in your own district. O'DONOHUE & BREW, Solicitors, Capitol House, Swanston St., Melbourne. F3213.

WANTED to Sell or Exchange for block land, Ford Car, d.s., good order. 200 High St., Preston.

CITY OF NORTHCOTE.

BABY HEALTH CENTRE, THORNBURY.

NOTICE is hereby given that the FOUNDATION STONE of the NEW BABY HEALTH CENTRE being erected in CLARENDON STREET, NORTHCOTE, will be LAID ON WEDNESDAY NEXT, 8TH INST., at 2.30 p.m. by His Worship the Mayor (Cr. P. H. Mayer).

By Order,
J. A. THOMSON,
Town Clerk.
Municipal Offices, Northcote,
3/12/26.

HEALTH WEEK.

THE ESSAY WINNERS.

THE essays submitted by scholars of the various schools in the district on the Health Lecture and Display of Health Films at the various Theatres have been judged by the medical officer of health, Dr. E. Rosanove, and the following awards made:

Prizes given by Dr. E. Rosanove—
Northcote Theatre—MARGARET CHEASELEY.
Regent Theatre—ALAN ROSS.
Westgarth Theatre—MARY MILLER.
Special Prize—MOLLIE McCUTCHEON.
Prizes given by Mrs. Duncan—
First—EDNA LYNCH.
Second—MAISIE BLACKWELL.

PRESTON CITIZEN'S REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION.

A committee meeting of the Preston Citizens' Regimental Association was held on Thursday night at the Drill Hall, Raglan street, and there was a good attendance, amongst whom was Mr. A. F. Anderson, secretary of the old committee. Major Richardson was in the chair.

Prior to the meeting the old Citizens' Encouragement League met, and arrangements were made to hand over its funds (approximately £15) to the new association.

Col. W. H. Scott, D.S.O., Cr. W. J. Adams, and Mr. W. T. Mott were appointed to the committee.

It was reported that a number of donations had been received towards the cost of regimental colors for the battalion.

Col. Scott said that every regiment that had served overseas had been presented with a King's Color, and besides that every battalion should have a regimental color, which was not provided by the military authorities. In view of the approaching visit of the Duke of York, every battalion which up to the present did not have its regimental color was striving to get it, as all battalions would send color bearers to the ceremonies at Canberra, and if Preston battalion did not have its regimental colors the members of the color party would have to hang their heads in shame. The regimental honors won during the war had not yet been finally approved, and the only regiments that had their battle honors were the regiments that served in South Africa. The Preston Battalion was entitled to 10 battle honors, and they would probably be approved of by December 15.

Major Richardson said that he had the Mayor's assurance that the money would be forthcoming, and it was resolved that Col. Scott be asked to arrange with Archbishop Harrington Lees to consecrate the colors prior to presentation.

Further arrangements were made in connection with the ball to be held on December 16 to raise funds to help take the band to camp in February.

The next general meeting will be held on December 9, to which will be invited leading citizens of Preston.

Don't be late. Place your order early for Xmas cards at "Leader" office.

CITY OF NORTHCOTE.

NOTICE OF MEETING FOR EXAMINING AND SETTLING ACCOUNTS.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Accounts of the City have been duly audited by the Auditor appointed by the Governor-in-Council, and that a STATEMENT of the said ACCOUNTS, with the Auditor's Report thereon and Certificate thereto, has been printed and LIES AT THE OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL, Town Hall, Northcote, ready for the INSPECTION of the parties interested; and Notice is further given that the MEETING of the COUNCIL for the EXAMINING and SETTLING THE ACCOUNTS will be held at the said City Offices on MONDAY, the 13th day of DECEMBER, 1926, at 7.30 p.m.

Dated this 25th day of November, 1926.

J. A. THOMSON, L.I.C.A.,
Town Clerk.
Municipal Offices, Northcote,
25/11/26.

BOTTLES, Bones, Rags, Zinc Lead, Brass and Copper. Highest price given. Cash on Delivery. Letters receive prompt attention. H. Bishop, Darebin Rd., Northcote. 'Phone 363.

LOOK STYLISH!

HAVE WELL FITTING CLOTHES
Made by
PAULINE PAERSCH
Frocks also tacked and fitted.
"MOSELLA," SHARP STREET,
Off Crawley St., between Spring St. and Railway, Regent.

WHERE TO GO

PROGRAMME

for Friday and Saturday and Saturday Matinee:

Gowerville

On SATURDAY, DEC. 4
Master Pictures—
"The Thorobred"
(Gladys Hulette)
Metro-Goldwyn—
BESSIE LOVE in
"Lovey Mary"
(Adapted from Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch"
VAUDEVILLE—
BERYL WILLIAMS
Acrobatic Dancer
At the MATINEE Saturday
"The Fighting Ranger"

The Star

Saturday Dec. 4
Paramount—
"It's the Old Army Game"
(W. Fields)
Selznic—
"Hunting Trouble"
(Eddie Malone)
Vaudeville
BERYL WILLIAMS
Acrobatic Dancer
At the Matinee Saturday
"The Fighting Ranger"

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, December 6, 7, 8
Fox presents—
"Honesty the Best Policy"
Master Pictures
"Overland Limited"
(Alice Lake)
VAUDEVILLE—
Marshall & Graham
In Gems of Harmony.
(Direct from the Tivoli)

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Dec 6, 7, 8
Universal—
"My Old Dutch"
(May McEvoy)
Paramount—
"Grass"
(Marguerite Harrison)
VAUDEVILLE—
Marshall & Graham
In Gems of Harmony.
(Direct from the Tivoli)

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, December 9, 10, 11
Metro-Goldwyn—
"The Exquisite Sinner"
(Rene Adoree)
Selznic—
Albertini, featured in
"The Man on the Cornet"
(Sensational Action Picture amid Circus Settings).
VAUDEVILLE—
REACO
Australia's Premier Mimic.
At the Matinee Saturday—
"The Fighting Ranger"

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Dec. 9, 10, 11
Master Pictures—
"Shadow of the Mosque"
Paramount—
ZANE GREY'S
"Desert Gold"
VAUDEVILLE—
REACO
Australia's Premier Mimic
At the Matinee Saturday—
"The Fighting Ranger"

Bread for PRESTON RESIDENTS

J. McALPIN & SONS

Extend Delivery System to PRESTON & DISTRICT

This is to advise our numerous late Customers and Friends who of recent years have moved further out that

We are Now Delivering Our High Grade Bread in and Around the District of Preston

Residents can rest assured that they will be thoroughly catered for.

TRY OUR EXTRA SPECIAL (EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS) MALTO-PEPSIN WHEATEN MEAL BREAD: "It's Good." ALSO OUR DISTINCTIVE VIENNA BREAD: "It's Different." CONTAINS MALT, MILK, & CLARIFIED FATS. Not Ordinary Bread: "Worth getting."

Wardrop

The Smart
New Suitings

Now showing at Wardrop's are certain to meet with your approval. Tailored in the inimitable manner which makes so many men say "Wardrop My Tailor, and Always Will be," your suit will realise your ideals of what good tailoring should be.

Order that new suit without delay. We'll gladly mail you patterns if you cannot conveniently call and see the goods in the piece.

HOLIDAY NEEDS.

Get all your holiday needs at Wardrop's—Hats, Shirts, Collars, Ties, Hosiery, Underwear, etc.

197 Elizabeth St Melbourne (Opp. P.O.)
and at Corner Johnston & Smith Sts Collingwood.

'Phone—Northcote 762.

CLIFTON MOTOR GARAGE
212 QUEEN'S PARADE, CLIFTON HILL.

Taxis and Touring Cars for Hire Day or Night. All Kinds of Repairs And Overhauling Done at Cheapest Rates. Petrol and Oil Stocked.

G. A. LAITY & SON, Proprietors.

Amusements.

THE REGENT

WHERE QUALITY REIGNS
High Street, Thornbury.
Direction: F. W. THRING.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY
Anna Q. Nilsson in "The Greater Glory"
A First National Attraction
Ken McDonald in "The Law of the Snow Country"
A. J. C. Williamson Attraction.

ALL THE WEEK
WALLACE & GENNETT
Dancers Extraordinary.

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY
Rene Adoree in
"The Exquisite Sinner"
Mrs. Wallace Reed in
"Broken Laws"
A. J. C. Williamson Special Attraction.

Charles Vita and the Regent Concert Orchestra.
Prices as Usual. Box Plan at Theatre. Phone N'cote 1782
No Extra Charge for Booking

NORTHCOTE BRANCH R.S.S.I.L.A.

ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS TREE AND ENTERTAINMENT

Will take place on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, in the MEMORIAL HALL at 6.30 p.m., for the benefit of War Orphans.

Parents and Guardians are requested to forward names and ages of children eligible under 14 years of age to the secretary. Applications must reach secretary on or before December 7.

J. A. FAGAN,
Secretary, Memorial Hall, High St., Northcote.

DAVID STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PRESTON.

STRAWBERRY FETE,
On DECEMBER 11, 1926.

Will be opened by His Worship the Mayor (Cr. Newton), at 2.30 p.m.

Stalls—Drapery and Fancy, Produce, Refreshment, Sweets, Ice Cream and Soft Drinks, Fruit Salad, Strawberries and Cream.

SANTA CLAUS is coming with a load of toys for the children. Mother, bring your children to see Santa on the 11th. In the evening a programme will be given by the children.

Northcote Town Hall.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9,
At 7.45 p.m.

GRAND
JUVENILE VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT
BY PUPILS OF
MISS MAY McPHERSON.

Tickets—2/- and 1/6; Children half-price.

DON'T MISS
PHYSICAL CULTURE & DANCING DISPLAY
By Pupils of
MISS MADGE HAMILTON,
Northcote Town Hall, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7.

THE WIND-UP OF THE YEAR.—Preston West S.S. Mothers' Club EUCHRE PARTY and DANCE, next Thursday, December 9, at 8 p.m., at Bradford Hall, High St., Preston. Good Music. Admission 1/- (including Supper). Cash prizes. A. Watt, President; G. Payne, Hon. Sec.

GRAND ENTERTAINMENT.

DANCING, CHARACTER SKETCHES AND SONGS
By the Pupils of
MRS. J. & MISS LEILA DABSCHECK,
NORTHCOTE TOWN HALL,
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1926.
At 7.45 p.m.

Admission 1/6; Children half-price.

Buy locally and improve the value of your own property! Shop locally and buy from people who trade with you!

The pupils of
MISS IRMA HUGHSON
Will give their
FIRST ANNUAL CONCERT
In NORTHCOTE TOWN HALL
On WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8,
At 8 p.m.

LEARN TO DANCE AND DANCE WELL.
MR. AND MRS. STRETTON,
Teachers of Ballroom Dancing
9 Woolton Avenue, Croxton.
Private Lessons. Phone—N'cote 1270

THE AUSTRAL PALAIS DE LUXE
419 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE
(Two Doors from Elm Street).

Hall available for Weddings, Parties, Clubs; etc.
Choicest Confectionery in Stock.
Try our Sundaes and Spiders. All Drinks on Ice.
CATERING DONE. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.
A. JORY, Proprietor.

CITY OF NORTHCOTE.

TENDERS.

TENDERS, closing 12 noon on SATURDAY, 11th day of DECEMBER, 1926, are invited for the ERECTION OF CONVENIENCES, McDONELL PARK.

Plans and Specifications available at the office of the City Surveyor.

Preliminary deposit 2½ p.c.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

By order,
J. A. THOMSON,
Town Clerk.
Municipal Offices, Northcote,
26th November, 1926.

CITY OF NORTHCOTE.

TENDERS—LEASE OF HALL.

TENDERS, closing 10 a.m. on MONDAY, THE 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1926, are invited for the LEASE OF THE NORTHCOTE TOWN HALL, on the following nights for the periods set out:—

MONDAY, TUESDAY AND/OR THURSDAY—MARCH TO NOVEMBER.
SATURDAY—FEBRUARY TO SECOND SATURDAY IN DECEMBER.

Particulars of Lease on application.

Tenderers are requested to state the night for which the tender is submitted, the price per night they are prepared to pay, and the purpose for which the hall is to be used.

Deposit £20.

The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

By Order,
J. A. THOMSON,
Town Clerk.
Municipal Offices, Northcote,
23/11/1926.

CITY OF NORTHCOTE.

TENDERS (Re-advertised).

TENDERS, closing at 12 Noon on MONDAY, the 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1926, are invited for the CONSTRUCTION OF SHARP ST. AND LANE, between Howitt and Leonard streets.

Plan and Specification may be seen at the office of the City Surveyor.

Preliminary Deposit 2½ per cent.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

By Order,
J. A. THOMSON,
Town Clerk.
Municipal Offices, Northcote,
3/12/26.

Between Now and New Year

You will be doing your Holiday Shopping! Whatever your needs in

FURNITURE, FURNISHINGS, BEDS AND BEDDING

CARPETS, CHAIRS, Etc., also PIANOS, GRAMOPHONES and RADIO,

You may rest assured you'll do better at

KIERNAN'S

"Where Good Furniture Costs Less."

220-8 SMITH STREET, COLLINGWOOD.
291-3 ELIZABETH ST., MELBOURNE.
132 BRIDGE ROAD, RICHMOND.

THE COBBERS' CLUB

CONDUCTED BY UNCLE PHIL.

Dear Cobbers,—I suppose you're all looking forward to Christmas, because it brings Santa Claus and holidays. Most of you will be going away, and I hope you won't altogether forget me. That would be too bad. I'm going to get the galah for the girls after Christmas. Perhaps I'll find a wild one and bring her back with me and tame her.

I know you're all dying to know who won the Cat Competition. Well Gladys Lees won the girls' section and David Bensley the boys. I really must congratulate you both. They were such lovely cats. Your prizes are here waiting to be claimed, and you must write and thank Mrs. H. V. Ransom very much for them. Jacko seems to think you could make a monkey, but I think it's too hard. If you can, send one in, and I will give you marks for it. Lots of love to all the Cobbers from

UNCLE PHIL AND JACKO.

P.S.—I forgot to welcome Jack Angus to the club.

Don't forget to send me some toys for the children at the Collingwood Kindergarten. Thank you very much to Phyllis and Jean Murray, Mrs. Bensley and Gwen and Gladys Lees for gifts.

The monkey is still waiting here for certificate 379.

OUR MAIL BAG.

30 McCracken Av., Northcote.

Dear Uncle Phil,—Please enrol me in the Cobbers' Club. I am 11 and attend the Northcote Central school. My brother, Allan Angus, asked me to join. I also joined because I have some mates in the club. I am enclosing two jokes.

(GOOD.) Jack Angus.

We're very pleased to have you, Jack. The monk was so pleased when I told him. He is getting too clever and mischievous.

St. George's Rd., Croxton.

Dear Uncle Phil,—I think that Jacko is a fine name for your pet monkey. I hope that he is a nice monkey, and will look after your Cobbers' letters. I am still trying to get Cobbers to join. We have a fine big club now. It is still growing too.

(GOOD.) Doris Smith.

Are you going away for Christmas? I am, but I won't be away long.

James St., Northcote.

Dear Uncle Phil,—How is Jacko? I wish you would get a pet for the girls. I think a galah would be lovely. They are like cockatoos, only pink and grey. I have sent in a toy rabbit for the Collingwood Kindergarten. I hope you will like it. We are going away for Christmas down to the sea. I may be able to write to you still.

(GOOD.) Gladys Lees.

Jacko is very well. I am going to get a galah. I hope you will write to me.

10 James St., Northcote.

Dear Uncle Phil,—It will soon be Christmas now. During the holidays I am going to Benalla, so will not be able to write to you. Have the cats for the Bluebell cat competition been judged yet? Does your monk behave well? Hoping you and your mork are quite well.

(GOOD.) Sidney Singleton.

The monk is very good, but gets into lots of scrapes. I hope you enjoy your holiday. Benalla is a nice place to stay in. The cat competition winners are announced this week.

James St., Northcote.

Dear Uncle Phil,—I am sending a ball made of wool for the kindergarten. I hope the child who gets it will like it. I haven't written for a long time. We are having exams at school now. I hope I pass, as I won't be put up if I don't. How is our Jacko?

(GOOD.) Gwen Lees.

I have received your ball. Thank you very much. It is beautifully made. I hope you pass in your exams too.

OTHER LETTERS.

Florrie Callanan.—You forgot to enclose your entry form in letter. Please fill it in, and I will forward you a certificate and print your jokes.

Colin Junor—You are a good boy to write so much, but it will take a long time for me to use it all.

Esme Broadhurst.—I'm glad you like your certificate, Esme. I've already printed your "For Sales," but you'll see the joke in this issue.

Marjorie Govan.—I hope you'll get a lot of toys, too, Marjorie. You are a good little girl to try and give others pleasure. I will help you all I can.

Edna Lynch.—I hope you will get your 100 marks. The results of the cat competition are in this week's corner. I like your story immensely.

Lorna Lynch.—All the other riddles but the ones I've printed have been in before. Try again, Lorna.

Frank Fry.—Will you send in the cues to your word square? I can't put it in without them, as nobody would understand what it was about.

Will the owner of the riddles marked "No Name" please send them back and the name, and I will mark them.

Birthday Greetings to Cobbers.

Uncle Phil, Jacko and all the Cobbers wish John Cordell (Nov. 27) and Violet Whipp (Nov. 30) the happiest of birthdays.

SHORT STORIES.

THE LOST FAIRY.

Once upon a time there was a little princess called Shining Eyes. One day, when she was in her toy-room, a strange thing happened. She looked down, and what do you think she saw? A little fairy, who said: "Princess, I am lost; can you help me?" Shining Eyes said: "Where is your wand?" The fairy answered: "Alas! it was stolen from me." So they searched for it. As they passed some steps the fairy said: "I can see something shining; I think it is my wand." So they ran and picked it up. Then the fairy wished to be back in Fairyland. Immediately they were there with the other fairies. The Fairy Queen thanked Shining Eyes for her kindness, and invited her to the fairy ball.

(BETTER.) Ida Owen.

TED'S LESSON.

Ted was a small boy and wanted to see Santa Claus when he came on Christmas Eve. He was wondering how he could see Santa, but at last thought of a plan. This was the plan. After mother had switched off the light and gone downstairs he would get out of bed and switch the light on again, and shut the door so no one would see it. Then Santa Claus would come into the room unaware that Ted could see him. At last night came, and he had excitedly carried out his plans and was patiently lying awake waiting for Santa Claus to come. There was a light tread in the passage. Who could it be? Then a red covered arm trimmed with white switched out the light and in a flash the room was flooded with darkness. Next he heard steps retreating. Ted had not bargained for this, but it did not take him long to go to sleep after the light was out. In the morning he woke up and found his stocking empty, so he went and confessed his plan to his mother. She laughed and told him that Santa Claus had told her all about it, and he had put the toys under the stairs to teach him a lesson. Ted found heaps of delightful toys under the stairs, and the next day he was riding a scooter merrily down the street.

(BETTER.) Edna Lynch.

A CHRISTMAS STORY.

Christmas Eve was here. The two girls had gone to bed thinking that Santa Claus would come. The poor but hard working mother, who could scarcely keep the home together with the money she earned through sewing and what was made out of the milk of the only cow "Daisy," had been working all day and was tired. Although it was early she had fallen asleep. In a dream stood her father beckoning to her and she followed him. He told her of some money which he had hidden and forgotten to tell her about before he died. He said he would show her where it was hidden. He led her to an old well near the cottage and pointed to a certain stone. Then the woman woke up and, wondering if the dream was true, went to the well. It was moonlight and she could see some coins glistening when she turned the stone away. She hastily gathered them up and after going home, went to the stores, which were still open. Here she bought some necessary clothes and food, and also toys to put in Emma's and Glady's stockings.

Christmas morning broke! What happy children were Emma and Gladys, but the best thing of all was that the mother found joy in giving pleasure to others.

(BETTER.) Colin Junor.

RIDDLE-ME-REES.

My first is in jam, but not in butter.
My second is in road, but not in gutter
My third is in cot, but not in bed.
My fourth is in cake, but not in bread.
My fifth is in got, but not in get.
My whole is the name of our Uncle Phil's pet.

Answer—Jacko.

(GOCD.) P. and J. Murray.

My first is in cobber, and also in club.
My second is in trough, but not in tub.
My third is in butter, and also in bread.
My fourth is in blue, but not in red.
My fifth is in Peter, but not in Phil.
My sixth is in factory, but not in mill.
My seventh is in servant, but not in page.
My whole are the people who read this page.

Answer—Cobbers.

(GOOD.) Aubrey Singleton.

A TOY MANDOLIN.

To make this novel mandolin, take half of a walnut shell, a piece of cork; also a piece of cardboard and cotton are needed. Smooth the edge of the shell, and cut a piece of cardboard the shape of a violin. Gum this to the shell, and then gum two small pieces of cork one quarter of an inch square, one on the sound box and one on the end of the handle. Now thread four pieces of cotton through the pieces of cork and the toy is finished.

(GOOD.) James Hartnell.

BEHEADED WORDS.

I am not fresh. Cut off my head and I am a short story; again and I am a beverage; again and I am French for "the."

Answer—Stale, tale, ale, le.

(GOOD.) P. L. Kerr.

THE REASON WHY.

Why the walls of a house are built evenly:—The walls of a house are carried up evenly so that the pressure will be the same all over and prevent an unequal settlement of the foundations. If this was not done the walls would crack, as the weight of a house on its foundations is considerable.

(GOOD.) Marjorie Govan.

THE CAT AND THE MONKEY.

One day a cat and a monkey saw a number of chestnuts, which had been placed before the kitchen fire to roast. They sat watching the nuts for some time. When they were quite ready to eat, the monkey said to the cat: "Pull the chestnuts away from the fire, for your paws are exactly like our master's hands." Very pleased to hear this, the cat pulled away several of the nuts, though in doing so she burnt her paws, for the nuts were very hot. When she turned around to receive her share, she found that the monkey had eaten them all. Moral—Do not let anyone make a catspaw of you.

(GOOD.) Betty Ryan.

THE SECRET.

"Aline always thinks of little things to do for people. I don't know how she ever thinks of so many little kindnesses," said Marie. "I never can." "I think it's because Aline is always practising," said her mother. "If you want to play the piano, you practise. If you want to be a good cakemaker, you practise, and if you want to be an expert in kindness, you must practise that too."

(GOOD.) Edna Lynch.

WORD DIAMONDS.

To hit, liquid, a thing that you like.

W
TAP
WATER
PET
R

First letter in fun; third person pronoun (mas.); a quarrel; third person pronoun (fem.); a beverage (1 letter).

F
HIS
FIGHT
SHE
T

(GOOD) F. Johnston.

WORD SQUARE.

To whip; a girl's name; a boy's name; to hold water.

BEAT
ELLA
ALAN
TANK

(GOOD) Gordon Bardwell.

OUR TRIMMER.

I know a little pup so white;
Cheeky and quick; he barks at night.
Chases his tail and jumps around,
And flies about with joyful bound.

He takes our socks on to the lawn,
And chews and chews till they're all torn.
Mother may scold and Daddy roar,
But we love Trimmer more and more.

(GOOD.) V. Whipp.

THE SEASONS.

Winter brings the days so cold,
And then Spring brings the flowers.
Summer is hot, we know of old,
And Autumn brings "April showers."

(GOOD.) Colin Junor.

CAN YOU?

Can your write your name and surname in one letter? Surely not! Well, just draw a large O on a piece of paper, and put your Christian name and surname inside that. Q.E.D.

(GOOD.) Marjory Hartnell.

BOOK INSCRIPTION.

Sometimes your friends forget to return books which you have lent to them. This is a verse which you should write in your books:—

This book I lend with pleasure;
Pray read it at your leisure.
I only hope, my trusted friend,
That you'll return it in the end.
For all my books I treasure.

(GOOD.) Lottie Le Blanc.

THE FUN BOX.

The Reason.—Teacher: "Why are you so late, Jimmy?" Jimmy: "A man up the road stole five hens, smashed a plate glass window and assaulted a policeman, and mother sent me round to see if it was father."

(GOOD.) F. Johnston.

Officer—"Now, Private Maloney, tell me what a blank file is?" Moloney—"Yes, sir. A blank file is a space occupied by the man that isn't there."

(GOOD.) Hilda Hartnell.

"Are there any eggs in the nest this morning?" asked mother. "No," said Harry; "only the one the hen measures by."

Here are some jumbled names of boys and girls. Can you find them out? Krfna, Ryrha, Lineel, Cyper, Dflear, Irsct. Answer—Frank, Harry, Nellie, Percy, Alfred, Doris.

(GOOD.) Ken Scaddan.

Shopkeeper—"Hello, swooping the shop out, boy?" New assistant—"No, sir, the dirt."

Prisoner (arrested on windy day)—"Constable, there goes my hat. May I run after it?" Policeman (newly enrolled)—"No, my lad; can't catch me that way. You stop here and I'll get it."

(GOOD.) James Hartnell.

Too Good to be True.—Sambo had been charged with stealing a watch, but the kindly judge, convinced of the negro's innocence, said: "You are acquitted." "Acquitted?" gasped Sambo. "What's dat mean?" "That's my decision. You are acquitted." "Say, judge, does dat mean I can keep de watch?"

(GOOD.) A. Angus.

Poor Bill.—Bill Smith, a country storekeeper, went to town to buy some goods. They were sent home before him. On seeing the boxes Mrs. Smith who was attending to the shop, uttered a scream, seized a hatchet and began to force off the lid of the largest box. "What's the matter?" asked a bystander. Pale and faint, Mrs. Smith pointed to an inscription on the lid. It read: "Bill inside."

Too Late.—Lady: "Could you not possibly have rescued your friend from the cannibals?" African Traveller: "When I arrived he was already crossed off the menu."

(GOOD.) Jack Angus.

There was a little man,
His name was Henry Ford.
He took a lot of rubber
And a little bit of board.
A little drop of petrol
And an old tin can.
He shoved the lot together
And the funny thing ran.

(GOOD.) Beryl Loinas.

Quite Likely.—Prospective Employer: "Now, my lad, if you are quick at figures, answer this question. Suppose I paid you five shillings a week for the first month, and seven shillings a week for the next eleven months, what would you have at the end of the year?" Cheeky Applicant: "A jolly bad opinion of us both, sir."

(GOOD.) Esme Broadhurst.

The schoolmaster wanted to know whether the boys had an understanding of the functions of a British consulate. "Supposing," he began, "someone took you up in an aeroplane, and after a long, exciting flight, dropped you down thousands of miles in a country quite foreign, what place would you seek out first of all?" An eager hand was lifted. "Please, sir, the hospital."

(GOOD.) Leslie Beecher.

CAN YOU GUESS?

1. Why there is no such thing as a whole day?
2. If an elephant's foot covers a yard, what does its trunk cover?
3. What is always at the top of a class?
4. What runs without any legs?
5. When is the sun like a jelly?
6. Which is the most amusing bird?
7. Why is 7,000,000 a very bad number?

(GOOD.) Ron Moylan. No Name. Frank Fry.

8. What is that which never asks questions, yet requires many answers?
9. Why does a sailor know there is a man in the moon?

(GOOD.) Lorna Lynch.

ANSWERS.

1—Because every day begins by breaking. 2—It's mouth. 3—The ceiling. 4—A tap. 5—When it sets. 6—A lark, of course. 7—Because it's so naughty (nought-y). 8—The doorbell. 9—Because he has been to sea (see).

A CHRISTMAS STAR.

(For the Tiny Tots.)

Gerty was a little girl of seven years. She always went to bed early and watched the stars till she fell asleep. How she would love one of those stars. But to-morrow was her birthday, and Christmas day, and her mother had promised her a Christmas tree with a star on top. She had invited many friends to be merry with her, and to-night she couldn't sleep for thinking about it. All at once a little gnome flew in the window. He settled on the foot of the bed in the moonlight, and spoke, "You are thinking about me!" Gerty was amazed and asked who he was. "I am the gnome of the Christmas tree. To-morrow you will see me decked in boughs, and the boughs will be hung with garlands and tinsel, presents and candles." Suddenly he said: "Come," and flew out the window. Out on to the lawn stepped Gerty and followed the gnome. He went out the garden gate and across to the woods. On walked Gerty till she was tired. Once she stopped and then a strange thing happened. The gnome turned and looked at her. He ran to a fir tree and knocked. Out came a little walnut coach drawn by shiny black beetles. Gerty looked at them first in delight and then in dismay. "How can I ever ride in that," she thought. The gnome seemed to read her thoughts. "Move," he commanded, and she instantly found herself growing smaller.

(To be continued.)

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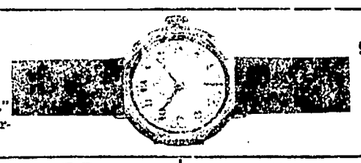

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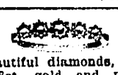

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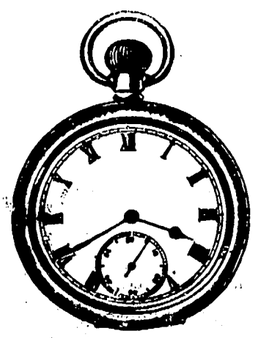

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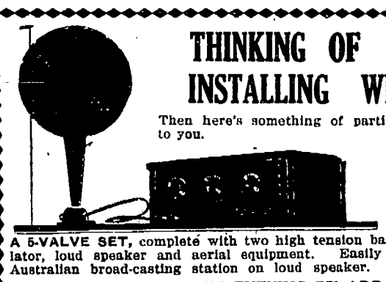

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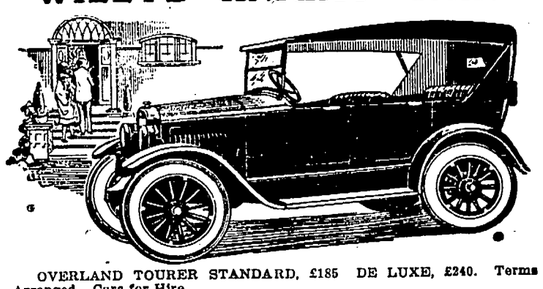

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GIRLS' FROCKS.

LADY'S ENSEMBLE SUIT.

Our offering for this week is something quite new and exclusive in the "Ensemble" or two-piece suit, which is destined to enjoy unabated popularity throughout the summer months, materials suitable for the warm season being used, of course. The ensemble comprises two separate garments, made up of the same material, and worn together; if desired, the coat may be removed and carried over the arm, each garment being complete in itself. No one desirous of maintaining a reputation for stylishness can afford to be without one of these attractive yet useful suits. Our design shows the suit made up in natural color crepe de chene, of good weight, the trimmings being carried out in black, either of braid, ribbon, or stitching. The coat pattern is No. 2796, price 8d., and

may be worn over almost any narrow one-piece frock, forming the ensemble costume. The coat may be unlined, or it may be lined with fancy or figured material as desired, in which case the dress is usually made up of the same material as lining, the hem being faced up with the coat material, and the dress trimmed with the same. This style would also look equally well made up in black satin, which is so very much in demand just now. For summer wear we would suggest the following materials as being suitable for this suit, all of which should be of heavy quality—Silk marocains, crepe de chenes, silk poplin, Shantung, Assam, Fugi, and a host of other silks too numerous to mention, that are not of the flimsy variety. Linen also could be used with success. The pattern is cut for small, medium, and out-size figures, and can be obtained from any of the agents shown on list in this paper.

CARE OF YOUR EYES.

The better your eyes are to-day the more chance there is of something serious happening to them before you know where you are. That seems rather paradoxical, but if we go a little deeper into the subject we can see the force of the argument. It is those persons who have good strong and long sight who mostly abuse their eyes, and do not seek the aid of spectacles until it is too late for them to be of any great benefit. Those who are naturally short-sighted or weak sighted never ill-treat their eyes by straining them over small print or reading in bad lights, and at the first sign of extra little trouble or pain about the eyes do not hesitate to see a specialist. Spectacles for reading and writing may seem an annoyance and encumbrance to those whose sight has always been good, but it will be found that if the eyes are studied in this way, one can reach a great old age before it becomes necessary to use spectacles. For those who wear spectacles it must also be remembered that new tests should be made at least once every year. The glasses which have served you so well for one period of your life may possibly ado you harm in another. Beware of the quack oculist, and realise that if you have to go without other things, the care of your sight is of paramount importance, and a little money spent for an opinion or treatment is a wise investment for the years to come. And more for women than men. Night sewing and patching ruins more eyes than anything else.

HOW TO REMOVE PERSPIRATION STAINS.

More frocks are ruined by perspiration stains than anything else, and many of the special preparations do more harm than good. Now that the warmer weather is coming round, you might like to have a method of removing these, that stage folk use with such success. And it is quite simple, too. Soak the garment or part of it stained in warm water, in which ammonia to the strength of two tablespoonsful to every quart of water has been added, and then dry in the ordinary way. Some bad stains that will not respond in any other way do so to lemon juice squeezed over them and then a warm water rinsing. But beware of the many acids offering. They are much too strong, and ruin any fabric.

SCOTSMEN'S DAY

NORTHCOTE AND PRESTON BAND WIN CHAMPIONSHIP.

Last Saturday, St. Andrew's Day, was celebrated by Scotsmen and their descendants at the Melbourne Exhibition grounds, when a Highland gathering was held. During the day there were sports, pipe and band, dancing, and other competitions.

The Northcote and Preston Pipe Band upheld their traditions by winning the David Buchanan Challenge Cup and the Championship of Victoria against all comers for the pipe selection, and they also marched away with the S. M. Bruce Challenge Cup for the quickstep, and also annexed the McBeath aggregate.

In individual items the Northcote and Preston pipers also did very well. Amongst the awards were:—

PIPE BAND CONTESTS.

Selection.—The David Buchanan challenge cup, £20, and championship of Victoria—Northcote and Preston Scottish Society Pipe Band (Pipe-Major J. Ackerly), 180 points, 1; Royal Caledonian Society Pipe Band (Pipe-Major H. Fraser), 177 points, 2; Melbourne Highland Pipe Band (Pipe-Major L. McLennan), 175 points, 3; Footscray City Highland Pipe Band (Pipe-Major J. M. Lawrie), 170 points, 4; Yarraville Scottish Society Pipe Band (Pipe-Major L. Cunningham), 149 points, 5.

Quickstep.—The S. M. Bruce challenge cup and £20—Northcote and Preston, 173 points, 1; Melbourne Highland, 165 points, 2; Footscray, 164 4-5ths, 3; Yarraville, 132 points, 4; Royal Caledonian, 110 points, 5.

The McBeath Aggregate.—Northcote and Preston, 353 points, 1; Melbourne Highland, 340 points, 2; Footscray, 334 points, 3; Royal Caledonian, 287 points, 4; Yarraville, 281 points, 5.

PIPING.

Open Piping.—Strathspey and Reel—J. Ackerly (Northcote), 1; J. M. Lawrie, 2; D. McPherson, 4.

Marches.—J. Ackerly (Northcote), 1; D. McPherson, 2; J. M. Lawrie, 3.

Pibroch.—D. McPherson, 1; J. M. Lawrie, 2; J. Ackerly (Northcote), 3.

Miss Mildred Cotchin, of Northcote, also won a number of the dancing competitions, including Highland Fling (girls between 14 and 18); Shean Truis (girls under 16); Irish Jig (under 16), and will thus add several more awards to her present long list of successes.

NONDESCRIPT GARBAGE RECEPTACLES.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—Health Week has come and gone, as also has tidy week. To observe the effect, I took a ramble through some of the rights-of-way in the City of Northcote, commencing in the Central Ward, and what I saw convinced me that if tidy week had made any improvement, well, their condition must have been abominable before. I was under the impression that the City Council had passed a by-law making it compulsory for householders to provide receptacles for refuse, of a certain form, by which to prevent flies, rats, etc., gaining access to what they contained. What met my observation proved that the law is not being observed. Discarded kerosene and petrol tins, all innocent of covers, and in one instance a corn sack, had been pressed into service, all providing breeding grounds for flies and feeding places for rats. I have been informed that the councillors have instructed their garbage collectors to confiscate all improper receptacles, and householders are to be forced to replace with regulation tins. In the case of the corn sack it has lain for upwards of three weeks with its contents, and has not yet been removed. May I ask wherein lies the utility of making regulations if they are not enforced? In the interests of health and the abatement of the fly and vermin nuisance these regulations were made, but by their non-observance by the few (in this right-of-way by the many) the object sought is nullified. Perhaps the publication of the foregoing facts may awaken the proper officials to a sense of the duty they owe the ratepayers.—Yours, etc.,

REGULATION OBSERVER.

BOY SCOUTS

THE PRESTON TROOP.

Last Saturday we commenced cricket against the Prestonite team. Several of our scouts competed in the Victorian Scout sports at the Motordrome last Saturday. The Court of Honor met last Sunday. It has been decided to purchase another plane. Last Saturday night we had outdoor games and a despatch run was held. The idea was for four appointed runners to try and get through the lines of the scouts and hand message to Scoutmaster. Two of the runners got through, and two were captured, but as the message was with the two successful ones, the game ended in favor of the runners. Starting from next Tuesday evening the Tuesday parades will be for scouts who are going to camp only. The parents' meeting for new hall arrangements was held in the Scout Hall last Wednesday. To-day the troop and cubs will meet as usual at the Scout Hall. Concert practice will be held to-day. It has been decided to sell the present piano belonging to the troop. Several of our scouts are making application to take part in the Canberra opening celebrations, but as only 100 scouts are to be selected from the whole of Australia, the selection will be a keen one, and at best we can only expect one selection. Applicants must have at least two years' service, and be first class scouts in every sense of the word. We expect to have representatives at the Tasmanian Scout corroboree next January. When we have the new scout hall erected, plans will be made for the planting of various trees and shrubs. We are hoping to arrange for showers to be installed in the building. These will be specially welcomed by the gymnasts and footballers. The cubs will meet Monday as usual. The books for the scouts' Limerick are now distributed. Scouts and cubs are reminded to return their brick books at earliest.

SOLICITOR ASSAULTED.

AN APOLOGY AND PAYMENT OF DAMAGES.

At Northcote court on Tuesday Horace S. Bolger, contractor, of Arthur street, Fairfield, was charged with having assaulted Robert George Ramsay, solicitor, on November 19. There was also a claim for £49 damages.

Counsel for the complainant said that the assault took place when divorce papers were being served on Bolger. A settlement between the parties had been arrived at.

An apology to Ramsay on behalf of defendant, was made by his counsel, who said that the whole affair had been a sudden one. Ramsay and another man who had been cited as co-respondent in divorce proceedings had waited on Bolger to serve certain papers, and Bolger, not knowing Ramsay was a solicitor, thought they had come to give him a "hiding." He was prepared to pay £25 damages.

On these terms there was no prosecution, and the case was dismissed.

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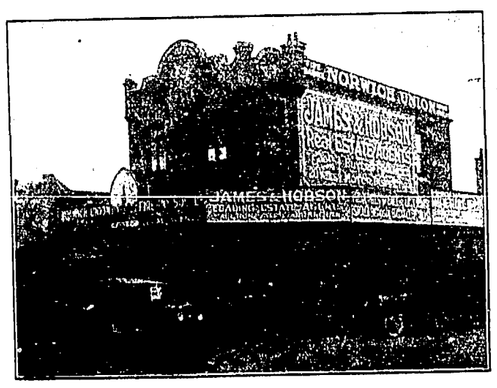

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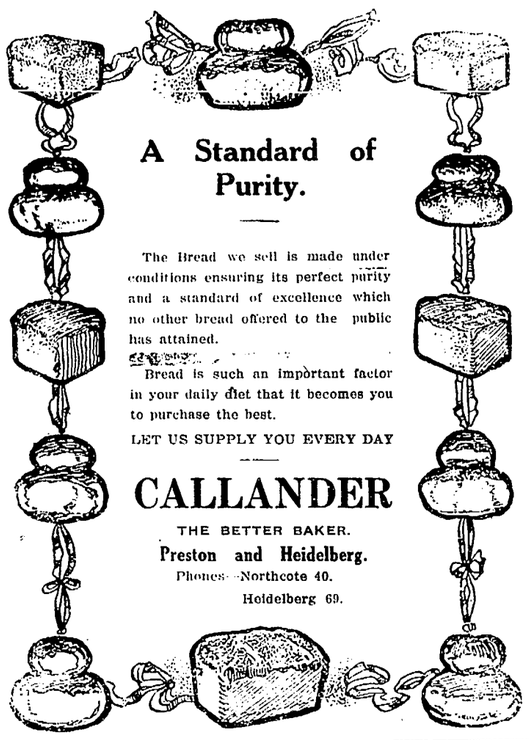

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Blue S.S.S. Drill Aprons, 3/6.
Plain or Striped Boys' Aprons, 1/6, 1/11, 2/6.

NORTHCOTE COUNCIL

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29.

The usual meeting of the Northcote City Council was held on Monday, when there were present the Mayor (Cr. Phil Mayer) and Crs. S. Dennis, A. H. Oldis, J. Sutch, W. Hayes A. C. Beard, H. Mitchell, W. Olver, J. L. Dunlop, B. E. Johnston, W. Glanfield, C. Timmins, J. Cain, W. Turner and A. McDonald.

Sanitary Depots.

Metropolitan Board of Works, re Sanitation Commission's report on Board's sanitary depots, stating that the proposals were a direct menace to the work of the Board, and requesting that two delegates be appointed to discuss the matter. The Royal Commission's report recommended that the depositing of night-soil at Bundoora (Janefield) be discontinued.

The Mayor and Cr. Hayes were appointed.

Cr. Dennis said the Board had had trouble over a number of the depots. The special point that needed clearing up was the appointment of a Royal Commission, and before the report came forward, the Government had told the Board that they should compensate one man. It was a serious thing for the municipalities. The Board of Works had to take charge of sanitation, and had spent some thousands of pounds. The service was now better than ever before. If the recommendations of the Royal Commission were given effect to, the Janefield depot would be closed. The time had now arrived when this thing was bigger than one dairymar and one parliamentarian. If the proposals were given effect to the Board would certainly be compelled to extend its deep mains at a cost of probably £1,000,000, and it would cost the people that money. He hoped the representatives of the municipalities would inspect the spot before discussing the matter.

Expenditure of £1,400 Bus Money.

Country Roads Board, granting authority to expend £1,400, grant from the Highways' and Vehicles' Act, on certain works in High street and St. George's road.—Received.

The Mayor said it was satisfactory to see that they were allowed to deal with St. George's road.

Constitution of Tramways Board.

Town clerk, City of Footscray, enclosing resolution re the constitution of the Metropolitan Tramways Board, viz.—That this conference adopt as a first principle that the municipalities should have majority representation on the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board.—Received.

Lighting Dundas Street.

Town clerk, Preston, re lighting of Dundas street, stating the work would be put in hand at once.—Electric Light Committee.

Copyright Act.

Municipal Association, re municipal halls and Copyright Act, requesting that an authority be signed to allow the association to act for the council; and also for an undertaking to share in the costs in ascertaining the legal position, and if necessary defend the rights of the municipalities.—Finance Committee.

Board of Works Amending Bill.

Municipal Association re bill to amend M. and M. Board of Works Act enclosing recommendations for amendments to the proposed bill.—(1) That the provisions of the Bill as to the reconstitution of the Board are desirable and should be given effect to; (2) that the Bill should be amended to provide that necessary bridges and tunnels (construction and maintenance) being carried out by the Board; (3) that the Bill should make provision for maintenance, as well as construction of all arterial roads; (4) that a larger share of motor fees (say one-half) be appropriated by the Board, and that the imposition of a super-tax be strongly opposed; (5) that provision be made to empower the Board to purchase more land than was barely necessary for any particular work, so as to enable the profits from the re-sale of frontages to be available towards the cost of the work.—Committee of the council.

Auditor's Report.

The Government municipal auditor Mr. A. H. Shackell) reported that the books and other records of the council had been well and carefully kept, and were presented for audit in an excellent manner. Every assistance had been afforded by the officers, and he thanked the town clerk and officers. He suggested that as the volume of money passing through the council had greatly increased, the fidelity guarantees be revised.—Finance Committee, for report.

Council Complimented on Concrete Plant.

Secretary Arthurton Road Progress Association, stating his association desired to compliment the council and staff on the enterprise shown in establishing a plant for the manufacture of concrete slabs. By this means the council were able to supply the finished article at a cheaper rate than was anticipated, and it was therefore a direct benefit to the ratepayers.—Received.

West Ward Progress Association.

J. A. Hogan, hon secretary West Ward Progress Association.—(1) Asking that a post be placed on footpath, corner Hill street and Comas Grove, to prevent the path being cut up by vehicles; (2) asking that drain be made in Fyffe street, between Comas Grove and the creek, on the south side; (3) asking that post be placed corner Rennie street and St. George's road, south side, and also at Fyffe street and St. George's road, south side, to protect footpaths from vehicular traffic; (4) drawing attention to drains in Shaftesbury Parade and Rennie street; (5) asking that pot holes in Woolton Avenue be filled.

Cr. Beard said a number of posts were authorised some time ago, and he hoped posts would be put in at once.

The items were sent to Public Works Committee.

Council Building Regulations.

Secretary Pender's Grove Association, protesting against the "shameful way the council are overriding their own building regulations, by granting permission to build on blocks less than 40 feet frontage, as in Harry street on a frontage of 26 feet."

The town clerk said that the council was quite within its rights in allowing a building to be erected on this block.

It was resolved that the association be so informed.

Pender's Grove Association.

C. Hales, secretary Pender's Grove Association, drawing attention to—(1) Bad state of Pender street, near the park, also opposite right-of-way coming down from Dundas street; (2) bad crossing at Pender and St. David streets; (3) bad hole in roadway corner Victoria and Collins streets; (4) complaining of road between St. David and Newcastle streets, which required blinding and rolling.—Public Works Committee.

Helen Street State School.

Secretary Education Office, per Mr. J. Cain, M.L.A., re council's representations that more land at rear of Commercial Hotel be acquired for Helen street State school, stating the Government valuer had now supplied a report. In view of the high price asked (£1,950) the Department could not approve of the purchase at present.

Cr. Mitchell moved that the matter go to the committee of the whole.—Carried.

GENERAL.

Metropolitan Board of Works, stating that excavating for lowering of 4-inch main in Nash street, from Auburn Avenue southwards, had been commenced.—Received.

W. B. Dale, secretary A.W.U., submitting copy of requests sent to the Metropolitan Board of Works.—Committee of the whole.

G. M. Anthony, Nicholson street, Abbotsford, requesting permission to build on land 28 x 115, Gooch street.—Public Works Committee.

F. N. Fairs, High street, Northcote, drawing attention to the fact that though High street outside his premises was tarred over twelve months ago, the tar was still liquid, and asking that the matter be rectified, as it was causing damage to his furnishings.—Surveyor to take action to remove the cause of complaint.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

Cr. Dennis moved that accounts from the general fund totalling £2,970 3/7; street construction account £1,346 3/2; Loan account No. 17 £57/13/3, and Loan account No. 18, £129/11/1 be passed.—Carried.

Re motor trucks.—To report that authority has been given for tenders to be invited for supply of three motor trucks.—Adopted.

J. Reidy, requesting permission to erect motor garage at rear of property 90 St. George's road.—Granted.—Adopted.

E. Wigston, requesting permission to build addition to property, Cunningham street.—Granted.—Adopted.

J. Weaver, renewing application to build house on land 42 feet by 90 feet, Ellesmere street.—Refused.—Adopted.

W. Peat, re subdivision of land, Collins street; J. Riley, do.—Approved.—Adopted.

Rhodes and Heron, requesting permission to erect second petrol pump, 6 St. George's road.—Granted.—Adopted.

M. Tramways Board, application to erect signboards at tram stops, High street.—Granted.—Adopted.

Tobin Avenue.—(a) That the works having cost £780/16/3, being £103 4/9 more than the estimated cost, the respective apportionments be increased proportionately.

Cr. Cain said there was a tremendous rise in the cost of Tobin Avenue over the estimated cost, and asked the reason for it.

Cr. Dennis said the work was carried out under adverse conditions. The street had been an old garden, with a number of trees growing in it, and no provision had been made for a buffer pitcher as suggested by the surveyor.

The clause was adopted.

M. Board of Works, re underground drain, Auburn Avenue.—That in connection with closing of western end of Auburn Avenue, the Board's conditions agreeing to underground drain running along Auburn Avenue to Merri Creek, remaining in its present position, be agreed to.—Adopted.

Re concrete mixer and loader.—That concrete mixer be provided at a cost of £95.

Cr. Oldis asked what kind of power would be used to drive the mixer.

Cr. Dennis—An oil engine.

Cr. Oldis—Is it possible to use our electric current from the mains. There is current throughout the city, and a motor could be used.

Cr. Dennis said the household current could not be used, as it would be very expensive, and the mains would have to be tapped.

The clause was adopted.

Bitumen sprayer.—The sprayer will be received this week, and a tractor is required pending the purchase of steam roller, and to recommend that surveyor hire a Fordson tractor.

Cr. Dennis said it was desired to get to work immediately after the holidays. They were using one of their Fowler rollers for this work at present.

The clause was adopted.

Re fencing quarry site.—That surveyor be authorised to invite tenders.—Adopted.

Kemp street construction.—That in respect of proposed works the plans, specifications, etc., shall be open at the Town Hall during office hours, and that notice be served on all intended to be made liable.—Adopted.

J. Barclay, requesting permission to build two houses on land 81 feet by 100 feet, in Francis Grove.—Granted.—Adopted.

J. Barclay, requesting permission to resubdivide land, Francis Grove.—That application be agreed to.—Adopted.

ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMITTEE.

Cr. Hayes moved that accounts totalling £1,287/1/9 be passed.—Carried.

Supply of cable.—That tenders be invited for supply of bare and covered cable.—Adopted.

Northcote Ice Works, re charges for current.—That rates for supply of current be the same as those charged to Fairfield Quarries, viz.—Monthly consumption, 2000 units at twopence; 7000 units at 1.4 pence, and all over 9000 at one penny per unit.—Adopted.

PARKS AND BATHS COMMITTEE.

Cr. Mitchell moved that accounts totalling £134/16/7 be passed.—Carried.

J. Barclay, offering land for sale in Francis Grove.—That no action be taken.—Carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Cr. Johnson moved that additional accounts totalling £895/3/8 be passed.—Carried.

Re "Tidy Week" campaign.—That refuse baskets be erected in the streets outside the following schools: Helen St. school, 2; Hutton St. school, 1; Wales St. school, 1; Westgarth school, 2; and in High street at Barry street, Separation street, Marobin street, Normanby Av., Regent Theatre and Miller street.—Adopted.

Control of traffic, St. George's road.—Consideration is being given to the matter of compulsory parking of cars on race days in Mayer Park. To make such a scheme possible, the construction of Woolton Avenue and two bridges over Bullen's drain is necessary, and to recommend that the plans be submitted irrespective of the last list adopted by the council.

Cr. Johnson said the reason why they had pushed on with this was the fact that there was great congestion in St. George's road on race days. When the Board would be laying a new main in the pipe track, the street would be very congested with cars, as at present many cars were parked on the pipe track.

Cr. Turner said the Finance Committee was dealing with traffic control. This was a matter of extreme urgency. The traffic in St. George's road was a serious thing for people living there. The matter had been held up for some time, and it would be better to deal with it in council, instead of calling into the matter the question of dignity between committees.

Cr. Sutch moved an amendment that the matter go to the Public Works Committee.

Cr. Beard seconded.

The amendment was carried, and the matter sent to the Public Works Committee.

That tenders be invited for the lease of the Town Hall between February and November, 1927.—Adopted.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL.

Cr. Sutch moved that the following clauses be adopted, viz.—

High School Council, re construction of garden fronting school.—That committee be informed that council regrets its inability to comply with the request.—Adopted.

Re purchase of land, Clyde street.—To report that land having a frontage of 230 feet and a depth of 148 feet, has been purchased from Mr. T. D. Walker for £130.—Adopted.

M. Board of Works, re extension of water supply reticulation in Auburn Av., Winifred street, Sumner Av. and Nash street.—That the Board be requested to lay the water main under the footpath in Winifred street and under the roadway in Auburn Av., Sumner Av. and Nash street.

Cr. Dennis said that before the Board would agree to lay mains under footpaths, it would require the council to accept responsibility in case of a burst in the main.

The town clerk said that if the main was 10 feet from the building line that condition did not apply.

The clause was adopted.

ORDINARY BUSINESS.

Cr. Glanfield asked what had been done with the water carts and sweepers.

Cr. Dennis said the carts were used.

Cr. Glanfield asked that the water cart and sweepers be put on in Separation street.—Public Works Committee.

Cr. Hayes said there was a shortage of water in the vicinity of Clyde street. He moved that the matter go to the Commissioner.

Cr. Beard asked for a report re Anderson road, and the laying of a main in St. George's road.

Cr. Dennis said that re Anderson road water supply he was following the matter up. With reference to the big main it was being laid in North Fitzroy. There was difficulty in securing steel plates for making pipes, as a result of the coal strike in England. The pipes were being made in Victoria from steel plates made in England. The engineer had given him an assurance that the supply would be much better than last year, and although the water pressure might get low these people should always be able to get water.

Cr. Turner moved that drainage at corner of Taylor and Keon streets be referred to the surveyor for immediate attention, the cost to be charged to the West Ward apportionment. All Preston drainage from Gilbert road was being concentrated at this point. The council had held a conference with Preston recently about the drainage, and Preston had agreed to meet their share of the cost, but the Northcote Council had made no move to deal with the problem in view of the proposal to make Miller street in the near future.

Cr. Beard seconded, saying Keon and Rennie streets were in a similar condition.

The motion was carried.

Cr. Dunlop said he understood it was not the custom to sweep High street on Sunday mornings, and moved that it be a recommendation to the officers to have the work done.

Cr. Mitchell said a good deal of the debris was put there by shopkeepers.

Cr. Sutch suggested that Cr. Dunlop alter his motion to provide for a late sweeping on Saturday night.

This was agreed to and the matter was sent to Public Works Committee.

Cr. Oldis asked what it was proposed to use three motor trucks for, for which they were calling tenders.

The engineer said for private street construction work and loan work. The trucks would have to handle hot mix for road work. They were "up against it" as regards cartage for bitumen and concrete slabs. At present they had to double handle sand etc., to the depot and thence to the job.

Cr. Oldis asked if the Public Works Committee had in mind the use of these trucks to deal with pipe cuts in the city.

The engineer said this had not been considered. He wished to keep streets in order instead of letting them wear out, and then re-sheet the metal.

Cr. Oldis said they had an antiquated method of dealing with pipe cuts, and they should use a light motor lorry for this purpose. He moved that the method of pipe repairing in various parts of the city go to the Public Works Committee.

Cr. Beard said that the West Ward ratepayers were getting lots of rats, and it appeared they were coming from the Preston tip. The rats were becoming a menace. He moved it go to Public Works Committee; inspector to report.—Carried.

Cr. Beard moved that garbage service in the West Ward go to Public Works Committee.

Cr. Hayes referred to the spending powers of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades' Board. Recently tram fares had been raised, and they were told that certain moneys had to go to the Fire Brigades' Board. Recently the Fire Brigades' Board had paid the big price of £111 per foot for land in Madeline street. The ratepayers were taxed by fire insurance, by the council contribution, and fares, and then by the Government taxes. He moved that the council representative be asked to provide a statement showing the probable expenditure in the next twelve months. Any lessening in taxation would be welcomed.

Cr. Johnson seconded.

Cr. Mitchell moved that the question of unsewered premises on the outskirts of Northcote be referred to the committee of the whole, also that the health officer report on unsewered premises in Victoria road.—Carried.

Cr. McDonald drew attention to insanitary condition of convenience at corner of High and Dundas streets.—Public Works Committee.

Cr. Oldis asked if an overseer had been appointed to inspect private streets.

Cr. Dennis—Yes.

Cr. Oldis said if the council could do all the work bar the excavation, why should they have an overseer for the excavation? The policy of the council to do all the work but the excavation, after calling for tenders, was farcical. The big cost of excavation was the absence of proper plant. In the matter of tenders he realised the necessity for supervision. One job was very faulty in the East Ward, and it had to undergo serious alteration. He moved that the matter of doing private street construction by day labor go to the Public Works Committee.

Cr. Dennis said that Cr. Oldis' proposal was that the council should do all the work in private streets, instead of only part of it. The work Cr. Oldis referred to was carried out before they had proper supervision. He was not condemning day labor or upholding contract work, but every case should be considered on its merits.

Cr. Beard moved that holes in Woolton Avenue go to the Public Works Committee; engineer to report.

Cr. Beard moved that the continuation of St. George's road through the brick kiln go to the committee of the whole.—Carried.

Cr. Olver moved that certain name plates be erected.—Carried.

Cr. Olver referred to drainage, corner Wales and Clyde streets.—Public Works Committee.

Cr. Timmins said he was advised that the Railways Department were about to put an advertisement on the overhead bridge at Clifton Hill. He moved that the matter be left in the hands of the representative.—Carried.

Cr. McDonald moved that debris in Christmas street go to Public Works Committee.—Carried.

Cr. Oldis moved that the compulsory purchase of Helwig's quarry and other quarries go to the committee of the council.—Carried.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Cr. Sutch moved that By-law 38 (zoning by-law) be confirmed.—Carried.

Tenders, construction of Sharp street.—Fresh tenders to be called.

Tenders, Jenkin street.—Tender of T. Goldsworthy for £4,424/1/6 was accepted, on the motion of Cr. Dennis.

THE BUZZ OF THE LAWN MOWER.

SCENE—A FRONT GARDEN (SUNDAY MORNING).

"Morning, Smith." Mower ceases buzzing.

"Morning, Jones. Your garden is looking bonzer."

Jones—"Not too bad; I wish I could keep the house looking as fresh as the garden."

Smith—"Yes, so do I. That reminds me of a little conversation we had coming home in the train yesterday. Brown has a scheme that if 25 people in our street pooled in 10/- a week for 50 weeks, and have a draw every fortnight, we could all have our houses painted within 12 months, each one to pay any amount over the £25. Any good, eh?"

Jones—"Not for me; who takes the responsibility?"

Smith—"Well, I suppose Brown would, as he suggested the idea, and he reckons he knows a bit about painting. You know he painted his fence last year."

Jones—"No; it wouldn't work. I've got a better system than that, and it's only 5/- per week, or 2/6 if you like. It's called 'The Original Home Decorating and Painting Club, with 55 members, and a draw every fortnight, or once a month, as the case may be. It's worked by GEO. ALLEN, the DECORATOR, 53 Shaftesbury Parade, Northcote. Here, read this." (Hands over the printed conditions.)

Smith—"Yes, that's all right, but wouldn't you have to pay through the nose for it, just like a time payment stunt?"

Jones—"Not on your life! It's just something like Brown's idea, only that we have no responsibility. Instead of putting away 5/- every week until there is enough saved, it is paid into the club. It's the system that does it, and it's dinkum, too. Think it over."

Smith—"I can see it all right now. You bet I'll take this on. You can send him over when he calls again. So long. I'll tell Brown about this."

Jones—"You ring Northcote 1423, and have it explained by the Decorator himself. Must do some work now."

Mower starts buzzing again.

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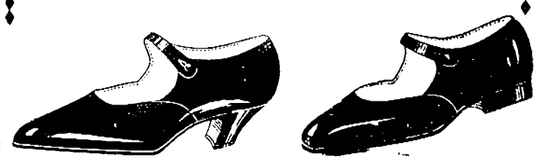

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CHAPTER XXII. (Continued.)

"Go," he commanded. "Do you hear? claim on the consideration of his enemies, and it would be as well not to tempt us to rough measures."

The girl stood as if she had not heard him, looking straight in front of her, visioning terrible things, and as Vincente made a sign Mandega moved forward and took her by the arm. As he did so, Catherina gave a gasping little sob, and a second later collapsed on the floor in a dead faint.

When she came to herself she found that she was lying on a bed in a luxuriantly furnished room. There was the pungent taste of brandy in her mouth, and as she looked round she heard the door softly close, and a second later caught the rasp of the lock. For a minute or two after that first look round she lay quite still, striving to steady her bewildered senses, and to fight off the faintness which was threatening to overcome her again. Then opening her eyes, and staring stronght in front of her, her gaze encountered a decanter of brandy and a wine glass set on a small table by the side of the bed. With an effort she lifted herself up, poured out half a wine glass of the spirit, and slowly sipped it.

Her heart began to beat regularly; she felt stronger, but she did not move from the bed. Instead, for something like ten minutes she lay still, her eyes closed, refusing to think, and striving to get full control of her nerves before considering the situation in which she found herself. At the end of that time she felt much better, and leaving the bed walked to an easy chair, set by the hearth where a fire of logs burned. From that point of vantage she carefully surveyed the room. Except for the bars at the window it did not in the least resemble a prison.

As she had observed in her first glance, it was luxuriantly furnished, and but for the bed might have been a lady's boudoir. The books which Vincente had mentioned stood in a small bookcase near to her hand, and there were others on an antique table at the foot of the bed. A plate of fruit stood there also, and near by was a biscuit barrel with a decanter that as she guessed contained wine. Whatever the ultimate intentions of her captors might be, it was clear that they were concerned for her immediate comfort, and were indisposed to stint her of anything that might help.

After a few minutes, feeling stronger, she rose from the chair, and moving to one of the windows, looked out. The bars of which Vincente had spoken were on the outside of the window, leaded into the sill, and as she saw at the first glance were much too stout for her to break or to force apart. As she looked at them, the thought crossed her mind that at some time the room must have been a nursery, and the bars placed there for the safety of children. Now, as she instantly recognised, they made this cosy room a prisou from which there could be no escape except by the door.

There was a little surge of despair in her heart as she recognised the fact, but repressing it as well as she could, she looked beyond the bars. A considerable kitchen garden, now covered with half melted snow, ran at the back of the house where the room was situated, and beyond it was a stretch of dark, funereal pines, in the tops of which drifted wisps of mist, like smoke. The view was a depressing one, and after a minute or so she turne daway, and began to pace the room, thinking over the situation.

That her father would hurry to release her when he heard of her situation she had little doubt. But that was just what she did not want, and fear for him surged within her as she reflected on what might happen to him when he arrived; for as Vincente had been at pains to point out, this house was for him just a trap, with herself as bait. She found herself hoping that he would not come, and then shuddered as, remembering the Balvadorian's vile threat, she thought of what might befall her if he did not.

Then her mind turned to thoughts of her lover. By this time perhaps Charles Wogan had called to see her, and in that case would have learned that she had left the hotel in the company of a stranger. Before night, perhaps, he would grow alarmed about her, would begin to make inquiries, possibly to start to search for her.

But as she reflected on the hard facts of the situation in which she found herself, the thought of possible help from him faded away. There was so little ground on which he might work, and so far as she could see, absolutely no clue to lead him to this lonely house, situated she knew not where, but, as she was sure, many miles from the city. She had told no one where she was going. She had left no message for him in case she should call. There was probably no one who had observed the car in which she had driven away, unless it was the page-boy who had brought to her the bogus message. Her lover would have nothing but the vaguest guesses to guide him, and he could not possibly guess anything of this lonely prison house set in the dark pinewoods. Sudden despair gripped her, and covering her face in her hands, she sobbed whisperingly, "Oh, he will never find me—never! And my father—my father—will die."

CHAPTER XXIII.

Having made his recognition of the man just moving from the left towards Miguel Concha's office, Gilbert Westaway did not pause, but followed down the steps in the wake of Wogan until they reached the entrance hall. Then as they passed into the street, he gripped his friend's arm.

"Quick," he said, as he looked round. "Take the car up the street a few yards, not too far; and be ready to start on the instant."

"What is it?"

Westaway did not tell him everything. He knew Wogan too well to inform him that one of the men who had been responsible for the attack on him had just entered the consul's office. If he told him that, it was morally certain that Wogan would go back, and that there would be trouble, and that, with the task before them, was undesirable. Accordingly he trimmed his knowledge to the moment's need.

"You were in front of me. You did not see the lift. A man came out of it who was going to Concha's office. He is a Balvadorian, I will take my oath, and he may be useful to us. I want to watch. Take the car forward—a dozen yards will be sufficient."

Wogan asked for no further explanation, but ran the car a few yards up the street, whilst his friend, lighting a cigarette, moved to a neighboring doorway and set himself to watch. In the business quarter there were few people moving about at that hour, and no one interfered with him, though once a man with a handful of papers came out of the open doorway behind him, giving him a curious stare before he passed down the street. Westaway took little notice of him, for the man was obviously a shipping clerk, who was merely curious why any man should loiter in a doorway on such a miserable night. The cigarette was finished, and he was on the point of lighting a fresh one when up the street sounded the honk of a motor horn, and a moment later the headlights of a car broke through the fog. The vehicle glided forward and drew up outside the building in which Concha's offices were situated. There were two men in it, and one of them descended and, crossing the footpath, entered the building. Westaway watched him go with some interest. Notwithstanding the bright light in the vestibule of the building, the fog made it impossible to mark the man closely, but, as a thought struck the watcher, he moved from the shelter of the doorway and, stepping into the street, looked up. On only one floor of the building did any window show a light, and that window, as he knew, was the window of the consul's office.

Satisfied on that point, he returned to the sidewalk, and after a second's hesitation, began to stroll toward the waiting car, feeling that it might be useful to get a glimpse of the driver. Just as he reached it, however, his heart gave a great bound, and he almost came to a standstill, for the radiance of the lamp lighting the number-plate lit also a little patch of the body of the car, showing a circle of light blue enamel, plentifully besprinkled with mud.

He troubled no further about the driver. Swinging sharply on his heel, he went back a few paces, and then returned again, staring at that muddied disc to make sure that his imagination was not playing tricks with him. There was no question about the matter. The car was a blue one—Air Service blue—a rare enough color, and one whose presence outside the Consular offices of San Balvador was tremendously significant, for Catherina Vospero had disappeared in a car of just that color.

He did not return to the sheltering doorway, nor did he loiter any longer on the sidepath. Jerking his hat over his eyes he moved quickly past the car without so much as another glance at it. Arrived at the place where Wogan awaited him, he looked back. The headlights of the light blue car were quite visible, and it would be impossible for it to move without him being aware of it. Assured of that he stepped into the car and took the wheel from his friend.

"What is it, Westaway?" questioned Wogan curiously.

"A great find," answered his friend.

"What?"

"That car behind. It is light blue, and the man it is waiting for is a Balvadorian."

"Great heavens!" whispered Wogan, in sudden excitement. "You don't mean——"

"I do. It's a moral certainty. We've got to follow that car to its destination whatever happens—and without being seen."

"It will be difficult to follow on a night like this; unless we keep so close that the occupants are bound to notice us. But we must do it; we simply must. It may take us straight to Catherina."

"I think so. Keep your eyes glued on it, and tell me as soon as it begins to move. If it comes this way we shall be all right; if it reverses——"

"It is moving now," interrupted Wogan hoarsely. "Coming this way."

The blue car slid by them a little more than a yard distant, and as it came into the range of their own headlights Wogan saw its body clearly.

"Blue!" he whispered. "Blue as the sky. Forward my friend."

They slid forward, following the car ahead rather closely through the night traffic of the city, but in the suburbs they dropped behind a little, and when the suburbs were left behind and the fog grew thinner, fearing discovery, they deliberately allowed the blue car to gain on them, until its rear light was like the glow of a cigar end in the darkness of the night. So they swung forward, saying little, each occupied with his own thoughts; Wogan was wondering if there was any truth in Miguel Concha's amazing theory of Catherina's promise to marry him. If there were, he told himself, some terrific pressure must have been brought upon the girl to extract such a promise from her, and he strove in vain to conjecture what the nature of it might be. Half an hour passed, and still the tiny glow in front swung forward through the darkness, then suddenly behind them there came the harsh blare of a motor horn. Wogan glanced round, and saw the glare of headlights rapidly overtaking them. Half expecting trouble, he thrust a hand into his coat pocket, and gripped the handle of the pistol that reposed there. But the action was unnecessary. The vehicle behind, a great touring car, swept by them with no more than a warning toot of its horn, travelling at a terrific pace, and as it passed them splashing the melting snow all over them.

"Going some!" commented Wogan.

"Yes. Whoever the owner is he has no time to waste."

"And he's not afraid of his neck, or on a sloppy road like this he'd go at a more discreet pace." They saw the car that had passed them slip by the car they were shadowing and disappear, and in a few minutes after Wogan cried out sharply:

"We've lost. That rear light has gone—or gone out."

"Taken a corner, I imagine," answered Westaway. "We shall see it again in a moment, I am sure."

His conjecture was justified. A minute later that saw a road branching off the main road, and far down it caught sight of the red danger light.

"This way, I think," said Westaway, as he swung the car into the secondary road.

"Yes," said Wogan, his eyes fixed on the red light ahead.

They followed the car steadily. In the darkness they swept by the shadowy woods. A small house presented itself, with a tall man standing at the door staring first at the car ahead and then at their own. They slid by him with no more than a look; then suddenly Westaway spoke.

"Journey's end—or I'm a Dutchman. Look there!"

Lighted windows quite plain against the background of the woods had leaped into view; and in the same moment the red light which had beaconed them unexpectedly disappeared from view.

"Turned into the drive of that house," suggested Wogan. "I'll wager a thousand pounds on it."

"It would be like throwing money in the sea to take you," laughed his friend. "I think we had better stop and reconnoitre."

"Yes," said Wogan.

Westaway turned the car on to the broad strip of grass at the side of the road, placing it well under some overhanging trees, then he extinguished the lights and whispered: "Better stand by, old man, whilst I go spy out the land."

"No," replied Wogan, "I come also."

"And the car——"

"Is mine. It must take it's chances. I don't suppose there's anyone in this God-forsaken lane who will want to steal it. Even if I knew there was, I should still insist on going forward."

"Very well. We take the risks. After all, if we have to run away, it may be as well to have the car hidden here as anywhere else."

"I don't run away without finding out if Catherina is in that house or not, and if she is, and a prisoner, as I suspect, then I shan't come away at all without her."

Westaway nodded. "I feel that way myself. But take a good look round and mark the place well, Wogan. If we have to leave the neighborhood in a hurry we shan't want to lose time hunting for the car."

A moment later they started to walk forward together, and after a very little time reached the gateway opening on the short drive leading to the house which they had noticed, and outside which a car's headlights sent great streams of radiance up into the night.

"In we go," said Wogan.

They stepped through the gates and took to the shrubbery which bordered the drive, and then began to creep forward just as the car moved round to the rear of the house. Reaching a point that gave them a clear view of the front of the house, they examined it closely. There were lights in three rooms in the front of the house, two of them on the upper floor of the house, and one below; but any chance of observation in the latter case was spoiled by curtains of some dark material dragged across the windows, and even while they watched the lights in the upper rooms were extinguished one after the other. In the same moment they caught the sound of a man's whistling, and heard footsteps coming round the house.

"Fellow who took the car round," whispered Westaway.

"Yes," agreed Wogan, "and he's going into the house. I think we might take a look at the rear."

"All right," answered his friend; and using great caution, and working round the house, they arrived in the kitchen garden behind the shrubbery without any mishap.

Then they looked about and found that there were two windows, obviously belonging to one room, and whilst curtains hung at the windows they were not drawn, so that the light from them streamed into the night. Then Westaway gave a whispered exclamation.

"By Jingo! Those windows are barred."

"Then if Catherina's in this house that's the room we shall find her in. I guess I'm going to have a look into that room and make sure on the point."

"But how are you going to get up there?"

"About a house like this there is sure to be a ladder, if we can find it."

But the ladder was not even sought for, since as they moved in the shadow of the house Wogan made an unexpected discovery.

(To be continued.)

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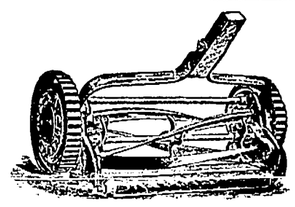

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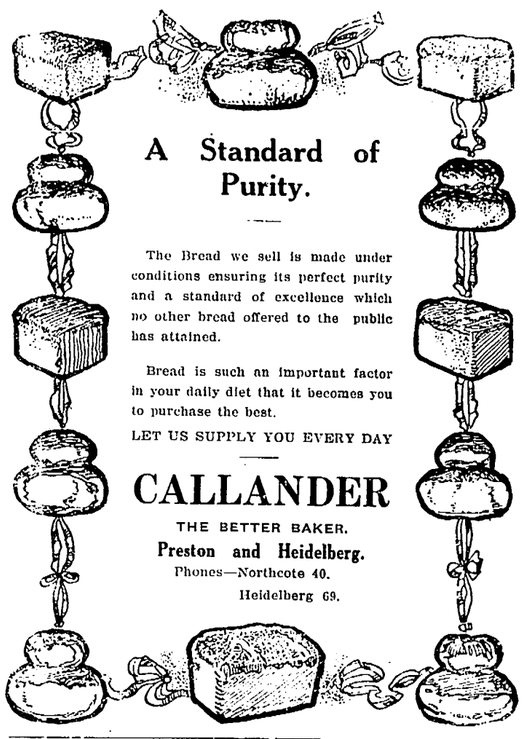

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PRESTON COUNCIL

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6.

The usual meeting was held on Monday evening. There were present Crs. L. Jones, J. W. Adams, G. E. Robinson, C. T. Crispe, G. C. McPherson, H. Pratt, and G. Bransgrove

An apology was received from the Mayor (Cr. Albert E. Newton), who had gone to Tasmania on account of the serious illness of his brother.

Cr. Llewellyn Jones was appointed chairman, on the motion of Cr. McPherson.

Roads and Bridges Control.

Municipal Association, re Board of Works Amending Bill, recommending that the Bill should provide that the Board should construct and maintain main roads and bridges.

Cr. Robinson said he did not think it wise to load up the Board with bridges, tunnels, and roads, and he felt that another body should be appointed to deal with these matters.

Cr. McPherson said that the sooner they had one controlling body for these facilities the better it would be.

The matter was sent to the committee of the whole.

Time Off for Employes.

Secretary Federated Municipal Employes' Union, asking that employes should be allowed to cease work on Xmas Eve (December 24) at midday without loss of pay.

Cr. Pratt moved that the request be granted.

Cr. Adams seconded.- Carried.

Carters Want Wages Increase.

Secretary Municipal Employes' Union, asking that consideration be given to an increase in the rate paid to carters.—Committee of the whole.

Cr. Robinson said Preston — apparently paying the lowest rate in the metropolis, and the matter might well be considered.

Water Extensions Refused.

Metropolitan Board of Works, re requested extensions in Spring, Stanlake and Berwick streets, Preston, stating the Board could not depart from its previous decision not to extend the mains in those streets.—Received.

Preston Band Subsidy.

H. P. Zwar, president Preston Citizens' Band, requesting the council to consider the increasing of the annual subsidy from £75. At the annual massed bands carnivals the collection was usually £60 or £70, but this year it was only £16, a falling off of about £50.

Cr. Robinson moved that the matter go to the committee. The band was a great asset to the district.

The motion was carried.

Cross Country Bus Route Wanted.

F. A. Kent, secretary Heidelberg and District Progress Association, stating that the association was approaching the Tramways Board in an endeavor to obtain a bus route from Coburg to Kew via Heidelberg, and requesting Preston's support.

Cr. McPherson moved that whilst the council was sympathetic with the proposal, the writer be asked to write to his own council, so that Preston could co-operate with the Heidelberg Council

Cr. Robinson moved an amendment that the matter be referred to a conference which had dealt with a similar matter some time ago.

The amendment was not seconded, and the motion was carried.

Swimming Pool Wanted.

C. W. Mason, Delaware street Preston, asking that a deputation of the Reservoir residents be received to place requests before the council in regard to swimming pool at Edwardes' Lake.—Deputation to be received next Monday night.

Citizens' Regimental Committee.

S. T. Gray, hon. secretary Preston Citizens' Regimental Committee, a request that council make a donation towards the cost of regimental colors

Cr. Adams moved that the matter go to the committee of the council. This was a movement within their own city, and most of the boys of the city were in training in this unit. He understood that in other places all the regiments had their colors, and Preston should not be behind other places.

The motion was carried.

Request for Tennis Courts.

Secretary Preston West Progress Association, asking that tennis courts be erected in the West Ward for the use of residents.—Committee of the whole council.

GENERAL.

Secretary Federated Carters' and Drivers' Union, expressing gratification at council's action in enforcing by-law to provide that one man may only drive one dray in Preston.—Received.

Wm. Johnstone, president Preston Amateur Cycling Club, requesting use of room at Bell Street Park as a meeting place.—Parks Committee, with power to act.

Secretary Preston West Progress Association, drawing attention to the necessity for providing some means of conveyance for the Baby Health Centre nurse.

Cr. Robinson said the matter was already under consideration.

Committee of the council.

A. McPhee, secretary Preston A.L.P., an invitation to a lecture by Cr. W. J. Beckett, M.L.C., on his experiences on a world tour.—Invitation accepted.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Cr. Robinson moved that accounts amounting to £521/1/5 be passed.—Carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

Cr. Pratt moved that accounts amounting to £2,530/7/5 be passed.—Carried.

Pitcher dressing at Reservoir quarry lands.—That engineer's report relative to conveyor for rejects at existing quarry be recommended to council for adoption. Cost would be less than £100.

Asphalting of Linvingstone street.—That work be done.

Tenders construction of Cooma and Dalgety streets.—That tender of A. Mitchell for £765/13/6 be accepted.

Fencing Strathallan Cemetery.—That tender of James Fitzgerald of £488/5/- for labor and timber be accepted, and that tender of Melbourne Wire Works of £162/16/3 for wire only for this work be accepted.

The foregoing were adopted.

ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMITTEE.

Cr. Adams moved that accounts amounting to £1,277/5/10 be passed.—Carried.

Street Lamps.—That two street lamps be erected in Grange road and one in Gilbert road, between View street and end lamp.—Adopted.

COMMITTEE WHOLE COUNCIL.

Moved that the following clauses be adopted:—

S. L. Willmott, re outlet for mason street.—That lots 46 and 47, Foch street, of 54 feet frontage each, be purchased at £4/17/6 per foot (total £526/10/-).

M. and M. Tramways Board re widening of Oakover road.—That offer of M. and M. Tramways Board for the carrying out of this work at an estimated cost to council of £187 be accepted.

Park lands, Gower street, offer of Messrs. H. P. Zwar and E. A. Tomkins, of 15 acres 29 6-10th perches, or thereabouts. That offer be accepted, provision for same to be made in Loan No. 10. Price £6,500.

The clauses were adopted.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The treasurer reported that during the past fortnight £861/18/2 had been collected. Dr. bank balance, £10,285 2/1; private street construction account, dr. £19,152/18/8; Electric Light Department, dr. £4,583/15/10.—Received.

Baby Health Centre.

Sister E. M. Holland reported that attendances at the Baby Health Centre for the month were as follows.—Visits to centre 504 (adults 257, babies 247); new cases 46; visitors to centre, 107. There were no cases of Diarrhoea.—Received.

Meat Inspectors.

The meat inspectors reported that the following had been inspected and branded:—Pigs, 2,827; cattle, 348; sheep 3,201.—Received.

HEALTH INSPECTOR.

The health inspector and ranger reported that during the past fortnight four cases of diphtheria had been reported, and one of septicaemia. Inspections had been carried out. He had issued prosecutions, taken samples of milk for scarlet fever test, issued notice forms for registrations of samples of sausage meat; two analysed did not comply with the standard. He had prosecuted in cases of wandering stock, fines and costs amounting to £9/14/-. Stray dogs had been seized by the dog cart, and 48 head of wandering stock had been impounded.

Oakover Road Depot.—The refuge was kept covered by the man continually on the job, and rats were now being kept down as well as possible. In the past ten weeks only 10 rats had been found, two of which came to the depot in a load of refuse.

He drew attention to the necessity for pitchers in a channel in front of shops in Spring street, near Cameron street, and also to the state of open drains in Newcastle street.

Referred to committee of the whole.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

L. J. Watson, Government municipal auditor, reported having completed the audit for the year ended September 30. There was an increase in rates outstanding at September 30 as compared with 1925. It was highly important to reduce the amount of arrears as soon as possible. The revenue from the Electric Light department had shown a further increase, the total surplus for the year, after redemptions had been charged, being £12,826. The books were in good order.—The report was received, and referred to the committee of the council.

Cr. Robinson said the officers were to be congratulated on the highly satisfactory state of affairs.

ENGINEER'S REPORT.

The engineer reported that during the past fortnight 960 cubic yards of metal had been carted from the quarry; also 110 cubic yards toppings; 155 cubic yards screenings, and 2,500 6in. pitchers.—Received.

ORDINARY BUSINESS.

Cr. Jones moved that a letter of sympathy be sent to Porteous Bros. on the death of their mother.—Carried.

Cr. Jones moved that grading Esther street be referred to the engineer.—Carried.

Cr. Bransgrove moved that engineer have young trees in the city watered.—Carried.

Cr. Robinson moved that holes in Tyler street go to Public Works Committee.—Received.

Cr. McPherson asked re re-metalling of Gower street. The Cramer street portion had been done, and he was surprised to see it. He had wanted the same thing done in Gower street and was told that it would have to go to the estimates.

The engineer said that there was only 2½ins. of metal on Cramer street, and the work came under ordinary maintenance. Portions in Bell street and Plenty road had also been re-sheeted under routine work.

THE BUZZ OF THE LAWN MOWER.

SCENE—A FRONT GARDEN (SUNDAY MORNING).

"Morning, Smith." Mower ceases buzzing.

"Morning, Jones. Your garden is looking bonzer."

Jones—"Not too bad; I wish I could keep the house looking as fresh as the garden."

Smith—"Yes, so do I. That reminds me of a little conversation we had coming home in the train yesterday. Brown has a scheme that if 25 people in our street pooled in 10/- a week for 50 weeks, and have a draw every fortnight, we could all have our houses painted within 12 months, each one to pay any amount over the £25. Any good, eh?"

Jones—"Not for me; who takes the responsibility?"

Smith—"Well, I suppose Brown would, as he suggested the idea, and he reckons he knows a bit about painting. You know he painted his fence last year."

Jones—"No; it wouldn't work. I've got a better system than that, and it's only 5/- per week, or 2/6 if you like. It's called 'The Original Home Decorating and Painting Club, with 55 members, and a draw every fortnight, or once a month, as the case may be. It's worked by GEO. ALLEN, the DECORATOR, 53 Shaftesbury Parade, Northcote. Here, read this." (Hands over the printed conditions.)

Smith—"Yes, that's all right, but wouldn't you have to pay through the nose for it, just like a time payment stunt?"

Jones—"Not on your life! It's just something like Brown's idea, only that we have no responsibility. Instead of putting away 5/- every week until there is enough saved, it is paid into the club. It's the system that does it, and it's dinkum, too. Think it over."

Smith—"I can see it all right now. You bet I'll take this on. You can send him over when he calls again. So long. I'll tell Brown about this."

Jones—"You ring Northcote 1423, and have it explained by the Decorator himself. Must do some work now."

Mower starts buzzing again.

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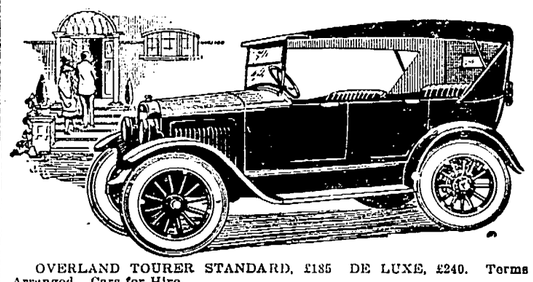

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BUNDOORA SANITARY FARM

The last has not been heard of the scandal associated with the establishment by the autocratic Metropolitan Board of a sanitary depot at Bundoora. As the result of vigorous protests in the Legislative Assembly by Mr. Everard and other members, a royal commission was appointed to inquire into the disposal of nightsoil with special relation to the Bundoora scandal. As the result of further vigorous agitation the commission presented a report to Parliament condemning the proposal. The Government adopted the recommendation of the royal commission, and gave a definite promise to the House that legislation would be introduced immediately to give effect to these recommendations, thus preventing the board from proceeding with the establishment of the Bundoora depot. Now, in face of this decision and the great public outcry against the depot, the board has defied the Government and totally disregarded the royal commission's recommendation and the condemnation of Parliament, and stated in a letter to municipalities that the royal commission's recommendations are a "direct menace" to its work. The Government, too, has apparently bowed to this autocratic non-representative body, as yesterday, when the underground methods of the board were exposed in the House by Mr. Everard, the Chief Secretary said the promised legislation will be drafted "at the earliest possible moment," meaning, obviously, that the Government has no intention of introducing the definitely promised legislation this session. The incident is just one more instance of the lack of regard this Government has for public opinion and the will of power, and of the overbearing attitude of the Metropolitan Board.

Mr. Everard, during the debate in committee on supply, said that, in the absence of an amending bill the insanitary depot, which had already done so much damage to the district of Bundoora, would continue right through the summer until this time next year. The board had now addressed a letter to municipalities in which the secretary stated:—"I am directed by the sewerage committee to point out that the proposals (of the commission) are a direct menace to the work of the board," and he asked each council to appoint two delegates to attend a conference on the subject at 3 p.m. on 6th December. Nothing, said Mr. Everard, was said about the direct menace which the insanitary depot had proved to be to the dairymen at Bundoora. Mitcham council, he understood, favoured the commission's report. He considered the action of the Metropolitan Board was in direct contravention of the will of Parliament. This time last year he (Mr. Everard) had urged the Premier and begged the Government to do something to protect the residents of Bundoora and Burwood, and the distinct promise was made that the board would not be allowed to carry on its work there. Yet, in spite of that assurance, the Board waited until the House had gone into recess and started the work as soon as it could in January.

Mr. Snowball said the communications read were surely astounding. Here was a public department—for that was all the board was—created by Parliament for the purpose of carrying out certain duties, deliberately defying the Health department in a matter seriously affecting the whole of the community. The Government had appointed a royal commission, whose report had been laid on the table of the House, and now the board was asking municipalities to join with it in fighting Parliament in connection with the matter. It was fighting the Minister, fighting Parliament, and defying a royal commission. Things had come to a sorry pass when they found Parliament's authority being challenged in such a way.

The Chief Secretary (preparing to leave the Chamber): An amending clause of the Health Act will be drafted in connection with the matter at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. Blackburn vigorously attacked the system under which the Metropolitan Board is constituted. In Melbourne, he said, we had too many of these quite unrepresentative, half-independent boards of which the Metropolitan Board was the worst type. It would be almost impossible for the ratepayers to make their influence felt on the Metropolitan Board. No periodical election of members of the board took place, and the board seemed to get away with a sort of airy independence of Parliament. He believed they had too many such boards.

Mr. Snowball: Without responsibility to anybody—certainly none to Parliament.

Mr. Blackburn said the Government—at least, the Attorney-General—had said in the House that the Metropolitan Board was a representative elected body. It was not representative of the ratepayers, nor under their control. The time had arrived when the work done by the board should either be directly controlled by Parliament—which was a responsible body—or be responsible to the ratepayers for its actions.

BLOSSOM FAIR

AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

On Saturday last a successful blossom fair was held in the Presbyterian Church Hall at Reservoir. The stalls were beautifully decorated with blossoms of various hues and coloured streamers. The stall-holders were:—Produce, Mesdames Friend, Clowes and Barker; Cake, Mesdames Glover and Westabock; Sweets, Mesdames Baker, Notman and Miss B. Frazer; Christmas Tree and Toys, Miss Dods; Work-stall, Mesdames J. R. Irwin, Frost, Andrews and Carne. The refreshment room was in charge of Mesdames Armstrong and Shackleton. Members of the Presbyterian Troop of Boy Scouts conducted bran-dips, fish-pond and poppy-bed. The senior girls of the Sunday School assisted at the various stalls.

The Rev. W. H. McCook, B.A., B.D., presided, and introduced Cr. McPherson, who opened the fair at 3 p.m. During the afternoon Miss Peggy Lott sang two songs, "Danny Boy" and "That's All," which were very much appreciated.

A hearty vote of thanks to Cr. McPherson and Miss Lott was proposed by Mr. W. H. Clowes—Secretary of the Church—which was carried with acclamation. The fair was arranged by the ladies of the congregation with Miss Dods as hon. secretary and organiser, and Mrs. Armstrong as hon. treasurer. The hall was thronged all the afternoon and evening, and business was so brisk that the amount fixed as the "objective" by the committee was largely exceeded.

Cloth gaiters, made of the same material as the skirt, are being shown for country wear. They reach from the ankle to the knee.

Twopence is now the maximum fare on the Glasgow tramcars. On one route, at least, it is possible to travel a distance of about twenty miles for this sum.

HEIDELBERG ELECTORATE

MR. H. P. ZWAR, J.P., A CANDIDATE.

MR. H. P. ZWAR A CANDIDATE.

It is pleasing to a section of the electors of Preston, irrespective of their political views, to know that Mr. H. P. Zwar, J.P., has decided to offer himself for selection as the Nationalist candidate for the Heidelberg electorate at the forthcoming State elections. Under the new electoral boundaries adopted for this election, a new seat, to be known as Heidelberg, comprising Preston, Ivanhoe, and Heidelberg, has come into existence. Taking these boundaries into consideration it will be patent to most people that to win this seat for the Nationalist party, a strong representative from the Preston end or Mr. Cain, the sitting member, had the electorate must have the best chance. One has only to analyse the figures to see this. In the various subdivisions the following electors are enrolled, namely:—Preston, 13,634; Ivanhoe, 4,077; and Heidelberg, 2,767; hence it is obvious that Preston must

MR. H. P. ZWAR, J.P.

be the deciding factor. The figures of the last election are no guide in forming an opinion with regard to a forecast as to the result of the coming election, by reason of the fact that very strong personal following, and this following cannot be transferred to another candidate by the mere waving of a magic wand, especially if the Labour nominee is not a resident of the electorate.

Mr. Zwar has resided continuously in Preston for the past sixteen years, and it would be almost impossible to find another man in Preston who has identified himself more with every thing appertaining to advance the interests of the district from a civic, municipal, sporting, or social aspect. He needs no recommendation, his actions speak for themselves. In fact, one has only to read the list of the names of the various organisations that he is actively associated with to wonder how on earth he finds time to compass the multitude of duties attached to these respective offices.

At this juncture it is not necessary to enumerate the names of the various bodies that he is associated with, a detailed list of which has been published recently, but one could hardly refrain from making reference to his wonderful interest and attachment to the returned soldiers, and he has gone about the business with practically no ostentation, the only occasion on which he has come under public notice with regard to this side of his life, was when the various bodies associated with the R.S.S.I.L.A. have publicly made some presentation to him. The whole outlook of many a soldier and his dependents has been completely changed by the kindly and generous assistance of Mr. Zwar.

This is his first endeavour to try for a public position, but no man has ever entered the field with better prospects, so far as the material available in Preston is concerned; he has undoubtedly the best chance of winning this seat in the interests of the anti-Labour forces.

Mr. Zwar has resided continuously in Preston for the past 16 years, and is a brother of the Hon. Mr. Zwar, M.L.C. He is managing director of Messrs. Henry P. Zwar, Pty. Ltd., Tanners, Preston. Other offices he has held are:—President of the Preston branch of the National Federation. President of the Preston Football Club. President of the Preston Cricket Club. President of the Jika Cricket Association. President of the Preston Tennis Club. President of the Preston Ladies' Cricket Club. President of the Preston Citizens' Band. Vice-President of the Preston Rowing Club. Chairman of the West Preston State School Committee. Life Member and Trustee of the Preston Angling Club. Life Member of the Preston United Friendly Societies Dispensary. Trustee of the Preston A.N.A. Trustee of the Preston Bowling Club. One of three members of the tribunal of the Junior Football League of Victoria. Member of the Farmers' Wages Board of Victoria. President of the Australian Federated Master Tanners' Association of Australia for three years. President of the Victorian Master Tanners' Association for three years, and at present a member of the Executive Council. At present Treasurer of the Australian Master Tanners' Association of Australia. Represented the Federated Master Tanners' Association of Australia on the Leather Board, appointed by the Commonwealth during the war period. This board was associated with the Defence Department during the whole of the war period. Life Guest of the Preston Memorial Hall. Holds the Certificate of Merit from the R.S.S.I.L.A. of Victoria. The No. 6 Branch of the R.S.S.I.L.A., which comprises the whole area from Collingwood to Whittlesea, presented him with the Medal of Merit. He is the only civilian recipient of this medal in Victoria. At the last conference of the delegates of the R.S.S.I.L.A. branches of Victoria held 1st July in Melbourne, a motion was carried unanimously asking the Federal body to bestow the Federal Medal of Merit. At present there are only 12 recipients of this medal in Australasia.

NOISY MOTOR CYCLES

Two Drivers Fined.

At Northcote police court on Tuesday, before Mr. D. Grant, P.M., and Messrs. P. H. Mayer, J. Cohen, W. Hayes and E. J. Jones, J's.P., Vernon R. Coleman was charged that on Sunday, October 31, whilst passing a place of divine worship he allowed a motor cycle to make an offensive noise.

Const. S. F. Baguley said that defendant's cycle was making a very loud and offensive noise. Services were being held in the church at the time.

As defendant could not be identified, the constable being sick, the case was adjourned to January 11, 1927.

S. L. Johnston, Murphy Grove, Preston, was similarly charged.

Const. Baguley said that on October 31, at 3.15 p.m., defendant drove a motor cycle past a place of divine worship, making an offensive noise. When interviewed defendant admitted having left the silencer open to hear the reports of the engine, so that he could adjust the carburettor.

Defendant, who did not appear, was fined £5, in default distress.

Henry Arbuckle, Murray road, Preston, who was similarly charged, pleaded guilty, and was fined £5, in default distress.

LOOK FOR THE NUMBER

PIONEERS OF INDUSTRY.

GEORGE STEPHENSON.

A member of the House of Commons once said, "If a man were to undertake to convey us regularly to Edinburgh in coaches in seven days and bring us back again in seven more should we not vote him to Bedlam?" To-day an express train will cover the distance from London to Edinburgh in six hours; a feat which is accomplished solely by the development of George Stephenson's pioneering work.

George Stephenson was born near Newcastle in 1781. His father—known as "Old Bob Steve"—was only a colliery fireman earning 12/- a week. Small wonder it is then that George received no schooling and grew up even ignorant of the alphabet. He obtained his first situation at the age of eight, earning twopence a day for looking after a widow woman's cows, and seeing that they did not wander in the way of the coal waggons. A little later, when he was stronger, he obtained a rise of twopence per day by weeding and hoeing turnips, and soon after was able to earn a full sixpence a day as keeper of a horse in the mine in which his father worked. This position gave George the opportunity during his spare time to examine the pit engine, learn how the wheels went round, and to carefully inspect each part when it was dismantled.

Stephenson at length determined he must learn to read and write, so, starting at the foot of the lowest class he attended the night school by paying threepence a week: he learned to spell and pothook. Despite the remarks and sneers from his workmates on his perseverance he went steadily forward in his work, and ere long was made brakesman at the Dolly Pit at Black Callerton. Here his task, although it required watchfulness left him a great many unoccupied moments which he used to the best advantage by practising tailoring and cobbling, and even unloading barges, to make a shilling or two extra. He never lost sight, however, of all things concerning engines. He was for ever trying to ferret out facts relating to machinery.

One day, when he was but newly married, his wife let a frying pan boil over, and fired the chimney. As local fire engines were unheard of, jugs and pails of water were brought by the neighbours and the fire was soon extinguished. The furniture, however, was badly damaged, and the big clock seemed as though it was entirely ruined. Stephenson set about mending matters, and although he had never looked into the interior of a clock before, took the thing all to pieces, cleaned each part, and finally assembled it again so expertly that it went as well as ever. From that time the neighbours brought every old clock and broken watch to George to mend, and here again he was able to add a little to his scanty income. His ambition, however, was to make good engines better, and to make bad engines good, and in time, as well as being famous as a clock doctor, he became famous as an engine doctor.

It is, however, as a pioneer of the railroad that Stephenson is best remembered. His early endeavours were made simply with a view to economising expense in the sending of coal as far as the Tyne banks, which up to that time had been conveyed by barges. In 1814, "the Blucher," his earliest locomotive, hauled eight waggon loads of coal, but it was no saving of time on the old system. George saw, however, where the defects lay, and made many more locomotives, each an improvement on the other.

In 1821 he was appointed Engineer to the Stockton and Darlington Railway. The promoter, Mr. Edward Pease, a prominent Quaker of the district, had obtained permission for a railroad between the two towns, but only intended to employ horse-drawn waggons. Stephenson, however, after much argument and a demonstration of his locomotive's powers, persuaded him to try engines on his new way.

On September 27th, 1825, the line was laid, and with George mounted on his engine, the first train of passengers and goods ever carried upon a public railway, set off. In front was a horseman waving a big flag, with the Latin motto of the company, meaning Private Enterprise—Public Good. Then came the locomotive, followed by six carriages containing flour and coal, a covered coach filled with excited directors and shareholders, twenty-one coal waggons crammed with six hundred venturesome passengers. Then, after all, six more waggons piled with coal. The procession was accompanied by people in gigs and carts who had come from all parts to witness this wonderful invention. Stephenson shouted to his horseman in front to get out of the way, and the locomotive with its load flew off at the rate of fifteen miles an hour, leaving the astounded onlookers staring in the far distance.

Another railway was planned between Manchester and Liverpool; a complete article could be written of the difficulties which had to be surmounted before the working of this line was an accomplished fact. Land owners did not wish the line to pass through their property — workmen hated new ideas—then the general public were convinced that the engine would burst and scatter them to fragments—he was opposed in Parliament and in the Press. In addition there was the difficulty of crossing the huge morass of Chat Moss. After an astonishing and heavy fight Stephenson got his Bill through Parliament and even then had to convince his Directors that he had the best engine to offer by placing it in a public trial in competition with three other locomotives. His engine, "The Rocket," in speed outpaced them all, travelling nearly thirty miles an hour with a load of thirteen tons. One of the competing locomotives burst, a second broke down at an early stage in the trial, whilst the third was withdrawn.

Stephenson's ambition was realised: railways began to spring up all over the country, and George, and Robert, his son, came from poverty into the front rank of the world's engineers, building not only in England, but in America and on the Continent.

He died in 1848, having secured not only his own fortune, but fortunes of thousands of people, and made the whole world richer by an enormous development of traffic and communication.

CONCERT BY PUPILS OF MISS EILEEN PASCOE-WEBBE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16.

The pupils of Miss Eileen Pascoe-Webbe will prove their skill as entertainers on Thursday, December 16th, when a gigantic programme of charming songs, dainty duets, song and dance numbers, choruses and ballets, will be given, in many novel and attractive costumes. These clever children, under the name of the "Sunbeam Singers," are well known concert artists, not only in the suburbs, but in many of our country towns. They are known also for their wonderful success at all our best and biggest competitions, where they carry off a long list of prizes and many favourable comments from the adjudicators for the high standard of their work. They are heard regularly from 3LO, and the letters and messages received from all parts of the Commonwealth testify to popularity of these young singers. Miss Pascoe-Webbe is assisted by her niece, Miss Mavis Yeomans, the leader of the "Sunbeam Concert Party." Miss Yeomans has had a most successful juvenile career, beginning her competition work at South St. at the age of 4 years, when she was awarded hon. mention for recitation under 10 years. She has been a consistent prize winner at South Street every year since. At the age of seven she won a special prize for the cleverest juvenile competitor, and most promising singer for that year. This year she won the Vocal Championship, under 16, and other prizes. Miss Yeomans has competed successfully at all the leading competitions in Victoria, N. S. Wales and Launceston, where though only in her tenth year she won both the Vocal and Elocutionary Championships under 16, under Mr. Claude Hall and the late Professor Andrews. She has won over 500 prizes for singing, elocution and pianoforte, including both championships under 16 this year, at Bendigo, and prizes too numerous to mention at Maryborough, Rutherglen, and Wonthaggi. A very bright future is predicted for this young artist, who is still under 16 years.

Edna Harley, another prominent member of the Concert Party, is also a very promising young artist, with a long list of honours, including 2nd in the Champion Solo under 16, at South Street, this year; 1st at Rutherglen, and 1st prize for best radio voice under 14 at the recent 3LO Competitions. Other prize-winners who will be heard at the concert on the 16th are: Joyce Mundy, Joan McConnan, Vera Wilson, Ellen Bailey, Jean Prior, Joy Dunstan, Lorna Ralston, Thelma Stabb, Thelma Watt, Irma and Valda Knowles, Edna Brown, Mavis Kruger, and Connie Webster. Tickets are 2/- each, booking fee 5d. extra, at 205 High Street. Book early to secure a good seat.

Candidates for the London Metropolitan police number about 20,000; there is a steady demand for more policemen owing to the increase of traffic regulations and the new areas always being opened up.

UNPROVOKED ASSAULT.

GARAGE PROPRIETOR STRUCK.

At Northcote court on Tuesday Frederick Holding, Victoria road, Northcote, was charged with having assaulted Alfred Rose on December 4.

Mr. S. R. Roe appeared for defendant, who pleaded guilty.

Alfred Rose, motor garage proprietor, High street, Northcote said on December 4 he heard a noise in his garage. Defendant, who was drunk, came into the garage and started to use bad language. Witness ordered him out, and he refused to go. Witness went to the telephone to ring up the police, and defendant struck him a heavy blow on the jaw with his fist. Defendant then ran away.

To Mr. Roe: Defendant was drunk, and witness asked him several times in a quiet manner to leave the place.

Const. L. Carey said at about 6.30 p.m. on December 4 he arrested defendant near the Arthurton road railway gates. Defendant went quietly to the lockup.

Mr. Roe (for defendant) said that his client had given way to a sudden temptation to take drink, and that was the whole cause of the trouble. Defendant was prepared to take the pledge.

A fine of £5 was imposed in default one month's imprisonment.

IN SOVIET RUSSIA.

With Soviet Russia as it is to-day it is hard to believe that really adequate action is taken against those who rob and plunder the people unless such robbery is done in the name of the Soviet Government. Unofficial crime is punished by either long sentences of imprisonment or more often than not by shooting out of hand, for the Peoples' Commissars are only too glad of an excuse to decrease the population of Russia, the feeding of which is becoming a nightmare to the Soviet leaders.

I will divide this article into two parts—unofficial crime and official crime. I will deal with the former first. With the commencement of the revolution all the prisons in all parts of Russia were thrown open and malefactors of all kinds liberated, Russia became immediately overrun with a horde of vicious criminals who did not care anything for the Soviet cause so long as they could gratify their own lust and greed by crime. They were allowed to do pretty well what they liked until Lenin took the reins of Government, then they were given a rude awakening. With the establishment of the Tcheka, the Secret Political Police, under Dzerjinsky, who has just died, they were rounded up in their hundreds, given more or less mock trials, and shot summarily by Tcheka soldiery. Anything greater than petty theft was punished by death, and robbery which in any way touched the Soviet exchequer was punished by seven days' thrashings with the knout and final shooting.

There was one class of criminal who when arrested was immediately taken into the pay of the Third Internationale. These were forgers and counterfeiters who were quickly gathered together under an astute Tcheka agent and put to counterfeiting the money of foreign nations which was later to be used for undermining the finances of countries against whom the Third Internationale were conducting a vigorous propaganda. These one time criminals were highly paid and given all sorts of privileges because of their nefarious art.

Some criminals, who showed aptitude or education on being arrested, were offered employment by the Tcheka, which in nine cases out of ten they accepted. All sorts of outrages have been committed in the name of the Soviet Government and the Third Internationale. Stalin, ex-bandit Commissar, robbed a train of bullion at Tiflis—"in the name of the Soviet Government"; Dzerjinsky himself confiscated the luggage of a group of Americans who found it necessary to travel across Russia. They made repeated requests for the return of their belongings, but to no avail.

Zinovieff, the ex-criminal Governor of Leningrad, stole the jewels of an Austrian dancer foolish enough to visit Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Government. The great Trotsky himself on one occasion walked into a gambling "hell" in Moscow, and ordered his soldiers to close the place down while he himself helped himself to the money on the tables. Choice scoundrels to be responsible for the destinies of a once great Empire.

The Tcheka still exists—it has changed its name, that is all. It is now called the Gosudarstvennoe Politicheskoe Upravlenie, or since such a mouthful is even too much for the Russians themselves, it is called simply the Gpu. Dzerjinsky, "The Black Pope of Russia," caused to be shot—murdered—no fewer than 1,250,000 persons of both sexes. Surely this is a record since the beginning of all things for the number of murders through one man.

Dzerjinsky lived by and for bloodshed—he literally bathed in blood—once washing his hands in the blood of his victims whom he had just ordered to be shot. He attained his post as head of the Gpu, by blood—he retained it by blood. Even the rest of the Peoples' Commissars feared him because of the colossal murder machine he controlled. The complement of the Gpu is estimated at being 350,000—all armed, vicious, and bloodthirsty men—an army of murderers. In fact, they are the backbone of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to give the Soviet Government its full title.

Soviet agents abroad have been lately given orders to approach criminals in all European countries and in America and to offer them money to enrol under the orders of the Soviet Government and to spread Bolshevistic propaganda throughout the world. They will not have much difficulty in recruiting those who live outside the pale of the law, I should imagine.

It is a well-known fact in the underworld of all capitals that Moscow is the sanctuary for all badly wanted criminals, who are welcomed with open arms by the Russians.

I know for a fact that there are many badly wanted murderers in the upper ranks of the Gpu—killers from Chicago who have an ideal outlet for their murderous propensities under the Soviet regime. Not very long ago the American Government applied to Russia for the deliverance of a certain badly wanted murderer, who had shot sixteen people in St. Louis. He was traced to Moscow, where he had apparently disappeared.

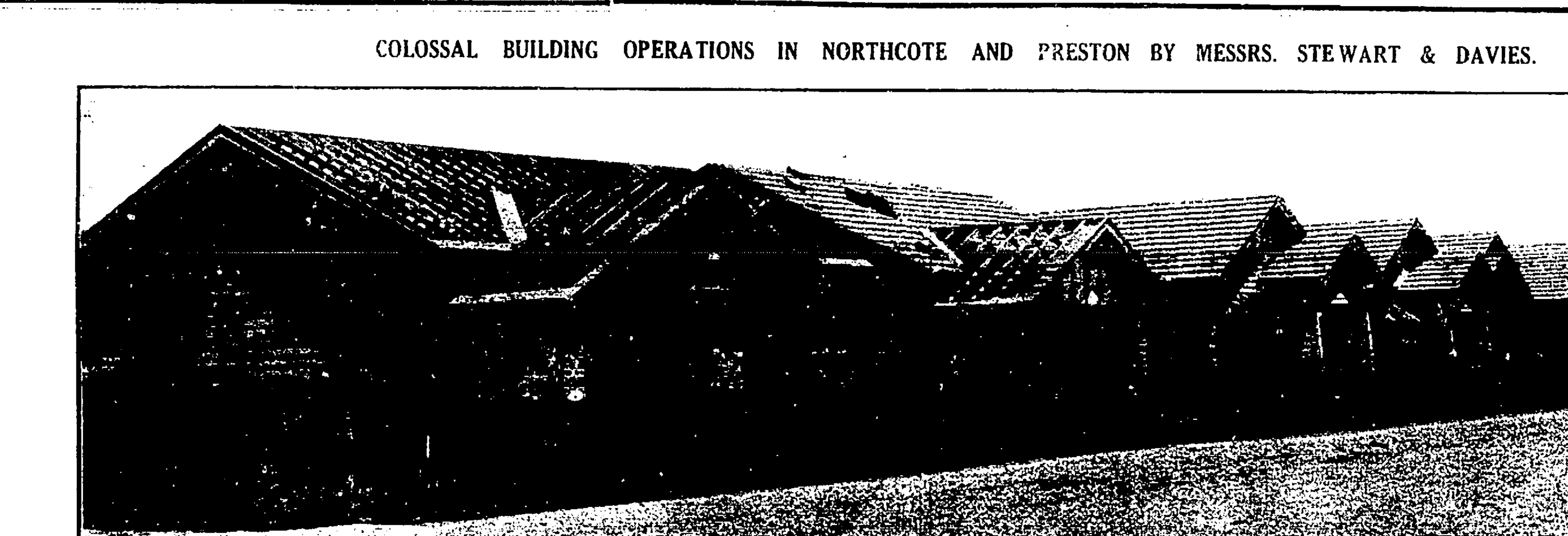
A reply to the application was eventually received in Washington which refused the deliverance of the man in question, the document bearing several signatures, one of which was that of the murderer himself!

Such are the conditions under the Soviet Government.

Ears measuring 27 inches long were the striking feature of a black lop-eared rabbit at the recent Redruth show.

A National Savings Association has been formed in the Royal households, and both King George and Queen Mary are members.

COLOSSAL BUILDING OPERATIONS IN NORTHCOTE AND PRESTON BY MESSRS. STEWART & DAVIES.



A fine row of comfortable houses typical of those built by Messrs. Stewart and Davies, of Northcote. This enterprising firm have built to date over 1,200 houses in Northcote and Preston alone, and are now extending their already extensive operations to other suburbs. Houses are sold for a small deposit and on weekly terms over a long period of years. There is thus no reason why everyone in receipt of an income should not become the owner of a house. The firm are strictly builders only and not agents.

"WHO'D BE A STAR?"

It is well known, and not so very strange after all, that most actors and actresses cherish a secret ambition to play parts entirely opposed to the particular "line" in which they have won fame and fortune.

This is often put down to sheer affectation and the desire to say something striking that will attract public attention. Really, it is a feeling which has at its root a very sound principle one that applies as much to other walks of life as it does to the stage.

Most people who possess any ambition or initiative at all live in constant fear of getting into a rut, although in that rut they may be sure of their position—at least for the time being.

There are, of course, callings in which getting into a rut doesn't matter. To be, for instance, a plodding butcher, with little imagination or few go-ahead ideas, is perfectly safe.

But for many other people, and for theatrical folk in particular, this rule does not hold good. There are scores of well known artistes in London and the provinces who have got into very deep ruts indeed. Or, rather, I should say that admiring audiences have put them into their ruts.

Your versatile comedian who can keep a crowded "house" roaring for hours with his special line of humor may have in his make-up latent and unsuspected, all the vital powers of a great tragedian. Perhaps he started his career with the full intent of becoming a great Shakespearian actor. He could not get a job. In desperation he took on a small comedy part, and then, quite by accident, by some little trick or mannerism, he suddenly found himself famous—not as a Shakespearian actor but as a "funny man."

Then, to take the reverse side of the picture, there is the perhaps not very good Shakespearian actor who could make his fortune as a light comedy "star" if he only got the chance. But to very few does that chance ever come. The theatre going public have come to look upon him as a tragedian, and such he must remain until the end of his career.

When Triumph Means Disaster.

And this may be very dangerous. When the particular type of comedy in which our comedian has won fame is no longer in demand, what happens to him? And what is the tragic actor to do if playgoers desert serious drama entirely? In such cases the very success these actors have won proves their undoing.

Another unfortunate truth about the theatrical profession is that when an artist is at his best—at the very zenith of fame and popularity—failure is nearest. An actress, who makes her name by the singing of one particular song, which for the time being is all the rage, fares badly if, when the popularity of that song has waned, she cannot produce something equally good.

In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred she cannot—and, if she is not very careful, she is in for a very thin time, as critical audiences aver that she is "going off." She has been too good. On the stage it is impossible to live on past triumphs. Only the very fortunate few can hope to do that, and then for a little while only.

It Pays to be a Plodder.

There is the well known case of Lottie Collins, who made such a hit with the song "Ta-ra-ra Boom-de-ay." For over two years people flocked in their thousands to hear her sing that song, and to see her do her famous high-kicking dance. She was paid the for those days enormous salary of £50 a week to appear at the Gaiety. The whole world talked of Lottie Collins and her song. Her name became identified with it, and everyone who had ever heard of Lottie connected her with "Ta-ra-ra Boom-de-ay." She could never find another song to equal it in popularity.

And so it is in many walks of life—in business and socially. One day, feeling at the very top of our form, we do something remarkably clever, or put out a piece of very brilliant work. Something, perhaps, that our friends or our business superiors never thought us capable of. We create for ourselves a standard too high to live up to. We have stepped up a rung too high on the ladder and, not being able to keep our balance, we topple to the ground. That is why the fall of the mighty is always great. No gradual slipping, but—crash! and all is over.

That is why, sometimes, one wonders if fame is worth while. For, if fame brings us precariously near to failure, then it pays to be a plodder.

CYCLIST RUN DOWN

TRUCK DRIVER FINED.

At Northcote court on Tuesday James Michael Bresnan, motor driver, of Cecil street, Williamstown, was charged that on November 9 he drove a motor car in a dangerous manner in High street, Northcote.

Henry Stephen Kent, letter carrier, Percival street, Preston, said that at 2.45 p.m. on November 9 he was riding a bicycle near the corner of Dennis and High streets. There was a tram ahead of him, and without warning a four ton motor lorry going north turned from High street into Dennis street across the front of the tram, and knocked witness down. The bicycle was badly smashed up, and witness sustained injuries to his thighs and arms.

Cross-examined: Witness did not see a boy run across the front of his bicycle. The motor lorry was not travelling fast, and after it hit witness it stopped within four feet. Witness did not see the vehicle begin to turn.

Const. G. R. Gilding said that he went to the scene of the accident, and examined the tracks. There was a mark about a foot long, and a mark on the road corresponded with the crushed front wheel of the bicycle. On November 10 witness interviewed defendant, who refused to make a statement.

James M. Bresnan said that on November 9 he was driving a four ton truck loaded with about 1½ tons of oil. About 2.45 p.m. he was driving north along High street, behind a tram. A car cut in ahead of his truck, and he swerved to avoid the rear of the car. A little boy was running behind the tram, and almost ran under witness' truck. To avoid the boy he swerved again and went to turn towards Dennis street, as he could not turn towards the left hand kerb on account of a car there.

To Sgt. Power—He expected the cyclist to turn into Dennis street. The cyclist did not appear to be watching the traffic. He had intended to turn into Dennis street.

Defendant was convicted and fined £3, in default distress.

NORTHCOTE COURT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Before Mr. D. Grant, P.M., and Messrs. P. H. Mayer, J. Cohen, E. J. Jones and W. Hayes, J's.P.

Alleged Damaging of Taxi.

John E. Sharp, Rae street, North Fitzroy, was charged with wilfully damaging a Yellow Taxi cab on December 6, the amount of such damage being 30/-.

John O'Dwyer, taxi driver, said defendant had broken a window, but had since paid for the damage, and he wished to withdraw the charge.

The information was dismissed.

Tram Passed on Wrong Side.

Raymond Sharp, collector, Groom street, Clifton Hill, was charged that on October 20 he passed a tram on the wrong side of the tram.

Const. C. E. North said that at 4.35 on October 20 he saw defendant pass a cable tram on the wrong side in High street, Northcote. Defendant in a statement said that the road had been blocked by a barrier.

A fine of £3 was imposed, in default distress.

Unknown Owner's Horse Sold.

W. J. Jones, ranger to the City of Northcote, obtained an order to sell a horse, the owner of which was unknown.

DRUNKEN DRIVER

Dairyman Fined £3.

At Northcote police court on Tuesday Robert Horne, dairyman, of Northcote, was charged with having driven a horse and vehicle whilst under the influence of liquor on December 6.

Const. Charles Dorham said that he saw defendant driving a horse and vehicle. He was asleep and the reins were hanging loosely. A tram had to stop to avoid running him down. Witness arrested defendant, who was under the influence of liquor.

Defendant was fined £3, in default two weeks' imprisonment.

Watch for the "Shop in Northcote Signal"

FOR THE LADIES

LADY'S MAGYAR FROCK.

An attractive appearance has an especial appeal to women, and it is certainly to her credit that she should desire to look her best at all times and in all places. In order to achieve that desired distinction, it is most important that she should be smartly and becomingly clothed, and to this end we cannot do better than suggest the charming little frock shown in our illustration. This design embodies the long jabot, which is at present very much in demand. This jabot is made of floral or figured crepe de chene, in tones to blend with the frock. The frock has a strip of the material running from the hem to hip line at the right front, giving a box pleat effect. If desired, buttons could be used as a trimming. The dress may be confined at hip line with a belt or girdle or it may be allowed to hang straight.

We would suggest crepe de chene as being particularly suitable for making up this frock, though other silks, such as Fuji, Shantung, etc., would be equally suitable; then, too, there are a multitude of cotton goods which could be used. The small view marked No. 2 shows the frock made up with a square neck, the material employed being gingham, trimmed with white facings and buttons. The pattern is No. 2774, price 8d., and is cut for medium size figures. Patterns can be purchased from any of the agents shown on the list elsewhere in this paper. Short sleeves are shown, but the dress may be made with long added sleeves, pattern for same being provided.

BUILDING RECORD

At the meeting of the Preston Council on Monday evening the building inspector (Mr. W. L. McDonald) reported that during the previous fortnight 94 building permits had been issued, comprising w.b. villas 42; brick and concrete do., 18; shops and dwellings 2; additions 3; garages 8; sheds 18; and miscellaneous 4.

This constitutes a new record for the highest number of permits issued in any one fortnightly period.

The previous highest number issued in any one fortnight was 70. The corresponding number for the similar fortnight last year was 22.

The report was received.

Figures of Progress.

£34,887 INCREASE.

At the same meeting the valuer (Mr. A. H. Hammond) reported having made a complete valuation of the East Ward, and partial valuations of the Central and West Wards for the period ending September 30, 1926. Increases were as follows:—

	Increase.	Total Valuation
East Ward	£7,546	£60,582
Central Ward	8,213	89,835
West Ward	19,094	146,618
West (No. 2)	34	8,643
	£34,887	£305,678

The total value of rateable property on September 30 was £305,678, showing an increase of £34,887 for the year 1926-27. It will be necessary to make a supplementary valuation in January owing to the very large number of houses in course of erection.

The report was received.

STOTT SON & WATSON

NORTHCOTE'S OLDEST ESTABLISHED AUCTIONEER, ESTATE AND INSURANCE AGENTS.

Largest List of Properties in Districts of Northcote, Preston, Fairfield.

IT WILL PAY YOU TO CONSULT US.

Head Office—203 HIGH STREET (Cnr. Westbourne Grove).

Branches—HIGH ST., THORNBURY, Cnr. Dundas Street.
HIGH ST., PRESTON, opposite Post Office.
RAILWAY PLACE, FAIRFIELD, opposite Station.

Phones—Northcote 584-585.

SALE BY AUCTION.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15,
At 3 p.m., on the property,
1 & 3 CAMPBELL GR., NORTHCOTE

Pair 5-Roomed Brick Cottages.

RENTALS £150 PER ANNUM.
Title, Certificate. Orders to view from

S. E. WHELLAMS & SON,
Clifton Hill, or
ANGUS McDONALD,
Auctioneer, Northcote.

BY PUBLIC AUCTION.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18,
At 3 p.m., on the property,
53 SUTHERLAND STREET,
BRUNSWICK WEST,
(OFF HOPE STREET).

Natty Detached S.F. Timber Villa,
Four rooms, conveniences, sewered, road made; separate bathroom; in good position.

Deposit £50; balance easy rent terms.
Solicitors—Hickford and Murray, 418 Little Collins St., Melbourne

GRAY & JOHNSON,
Auctioneer and Estate Agents, 102 King St., Melbourne; 767 and 235 High St., Northcote.

EXECUTORS' SALE.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18,
At 3 o'clock, on the premises,
6 CRAWLEY ST., PRESTON

Under instructions of the Executors of the estate of C. Crawley, deceased, fine block 40ft. x 160ft., on which is erected a

Commodious D.F. W.B. Residence
Containing 6 large and lofty rooms, kitchen, bathroom, E.L., gas, copper and troughs, etc., sewered. This property has been thoroughly renovated throughout, is centrally situated, and can be recommended as a good sound investment proposition. Title Certificate.

W. H. EDGAR & CHANDLER,
Auctioneer, 437 Collins St., Melb., and
A. F. DEACON,
Agent, 254 High St., Northcote (in conjunction).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11.

At 3 o'clock at the property, 41 QUEEN ST., PRESTON, 3 min. motor bus, 8 min. station (Regent), auction sale of

SUPERIOR TIMBER VILLA,
Five rooms, wide hall, kitchenette, bathroom, linen press, porcelain bath, lavatory basin, heater, sleep-out verandah, det. laundry, fernery, garage, gas stove and sink, sewered, E.L., made street, lawns, gardens; Land 54 x 162; ideal situation, perfect home; picturesque views, splendid order. Owner leaving State determined to sell. Title Certificate.
Terms—Credit Foncier Loan £592, repayable 20/- weekly. Auctioneer—
STOTT, SON & WATSON,
Northcote & Preston, in conj. with
A. B. & R. W. JOHNSTON,
Estate Agent, Collins St., Melbourne

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11.

At 4 o'clock at the property, 22 MUTIMER ST., PRESTON (opp. Martin St.), auction sale of

NEW TIMBER VILLA,
Four large rooms, 16 x 15, 14 x 12, 15 x 12, 13 x 12, wide pannelled hall, linen press, bathroom 8 x 8, porcelain bath, tiled recess, one fire stove, pantry, aluminium sink, sleep-out verandah, power points, E.L., on land 47 x 115; ideal situation; 3 min. electric tram; rapidly improving district.
Low Reserve. Owner determined to sell. Title Certificate. Easy terms arranged. Auctioneer—
STOTT, SON & WATSON,
203 High St., Northcote, Preston, Thornbury, Fairfield.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11.

At 3.30 o'clock, at the property, MURPHY GROVE (Corner Sylvester Gr.), PRESTON, 3 min. Plenty road electric tram, auction sale of

NEW MODERN & STYLISH VILLA,
Five splendid rooms, two 14 x 12, 13 x 12, 12 x 12, kitchenette, one fire stove, bathroom, porcelain bath and lavatory basin, linen press, motor garage, on land 50 x 150. Murphy Gr. is made. Splendidly constructed, attractive design, lovely easterly views. A bonnie home for someone. Title, Certificate. Terms—From £50 deposit, balance 30/- weekly. Auctioneer—
STOTT, SON & WATSON,
Northcote, Preston, Thornbury, Fairfield.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18.
At 11 a.m.

Clearing sale by auction of the well known

"ALLBELL" POULTRY FARM,
Cooper St., Preston, under instructions from Mr. Albert Dower, who is retiring from business.
1,500 head of Poultry, Geese, Ducks, Fowls, Feed, Chaff, Crates, Grindstone, Feed Dishes, Steam Boiler, Ladder Steps, Egg Cases and Fillers, Hand Plough, Spring Cart, Fowl Manure, quantity Firewood in 5, 10 and 20 cwt. lots. Furniture, including Wardrobe, Bedroom Suite, 8-drawer Chest, Hall stand, Table, Chairs, Lino, Wertheim Sewing Machine, etc., etc. quantities of Sundries. Everything must go.

LLEWELLYN JONES,
Auctioneer, High St., Preston.

Church Notices.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,
Northcote.

11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Rev. A. C. Kellaway.

HOLY TRINITY, THORNBURY.
(Railway Parade.)

Services 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Preacher—The Vicar.

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY,
Central Northcote.
Parish Hall, Merri and Bay View Sts.

8 a.m., Holy Communion.
11 a.m., Matins.
7 p.m., Evensong.
Preacher—The Vicar.

THORNBURY PRESBYTERIAN
Rossmoyne St., near High St.

11 a.m., "Two Ideas of God."
7 p.m., Communion.
Preacher—Rev. W. J. Harris.
Come and Welcome.

NORTHCOTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (James Street).

11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Rev. John Bates.
Minister—REV. JOHN H. BATES.

PRESTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DAVID ST.

Services 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Minister—Rev. W. H. McCook, B.A., B.D.

NORTHCOTE METHODIST CHURCHES.

HIGH STREET.
11 a.m., Rev. W. H. Holtham.
7 p.m., Rev. W. H. Holtham.
PRINCE OF WALES' PARK.
11 a.m., Pastor W. J. Davey.
7 p.m., Rev. W. E. Lancaster.
ST. GEORGE'S ROAD.
11 a.m., Mr. Webster.
7 p.m., Pastor W. J. Davey.
CROXTON.
11 a.m., Rev. W. E. Lancaster.
7 p.m., Mr. Webster.

PRESTON METHODIST CHURCHES.

PRESTON.
11 a.m., Mr. S. W. King.
7 p.m., Rev. McIlroy.
THOMASTOWN.
11 a.m., Mr. Beighton.
7 p.m., Mr. Fawcett.
WEST PRESTON.
11 a.m., Rev. McIlroy, B.A.
7 p.m., Mr. C. Sandland
RESERVOIR.
11 a.m., Mr. Perkins.
7 p.m., Mr. Beighton.

SOUTH PRESTON METHODIST CHURCHES.

SOUTH PRESTON.
11 a.m., Rev. F. Delbridge, B.A.
7 pm., Mr. Burvill.
PENDER'S GROVE.
11 a.m., Mr. Frank Bishop.
7 p.m., Rev. F. Delbridge, B.A.

BAPTIST CHURCH, HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

10 a.m., Men's Meeting.
11 a.m., Rev. Donald McNicol. Baptismal Service.
7 p.m., Rev. W. H. Holdsworth, M.A.
All Welcome.
Minister—Rev. Donald McNicol.

CHURCH OF CHRIST,
High Street, Northcote.

11 a.m., Worship.
3 p.m., Bible School.
7 p.m., Gospel Service. Mr. W. H. Hinrichsen, M.B.B.S.

LOOK FOR THE NUMBER

West Ward Progress Association.

(NORTHCOTE).

The monthly meeting of the Northcote West Ward Progress Association was held on Tuesday evening, December 7, at the school hall, Hutton street. There was a large attendance of members and a representative of the Preston West Progress Association, also Cr. Beard, both of whom were welcomed. Correspondence from the town clerk, Northcote, revealed the fact that all matters submitted for attention were being attended to. A long and varied list of matters requiring attention was referred to the ward members. Several ratepayers who reside close to the Preston tip made strong protest regarding its condition, and stated that the rats were destroying their property. They also complained of a filthy practice alleged to be carried on of allowing the old clothes and bags deposited there being sorted out and sold. The practice of paying children for rats caught was considered bad, and encouraged children to roam about the tip. A West Ward calendar has been prepared by Mr W. Callender and Mr. Hogan, and 2000 of these will shortly be personally distributed to the residents of the ward. The calendar, which has been set up and printed by the "Leader" office, is a credit to the association and to those responsible for same. It comprises all information concerning the West Ward, postal, train, tram, and other useful knowledge, and in addition a writing block is attached to the calendar. The advertisers who have been fortunate in securing space on this splendid advertising medium can congratulate themselves on obtaining so good a job.

The next meeting of the association will be held on Tuesday, January 4, 1927.

The committee are to be commended on their enterprise and solicitude for the well-being of the ward in using this means of bringing its affairs into prominence.

NORTHCOTE AND PRESTON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Results of matches played on November 27 and December 4:—

Thornbury Presbyterians 89 and 72 (Brownbill 39, Wintle 30 and 7/45) defeated Croxton Methodists 107 and 52 (Tippett 31, Daniel 25; Carr 10/40) by two runs.

Preston Presbyterians 109 and 32 (McHarg 24, Guppy 20; Cordell 5/7) defeated South Preston Methodists 40 and 59 (Body 26, Hocking 14 and 6/25) by 42 runs.

Prince of Wales Park Methodists 127 (Walker 35, Steele 31; Wagstaffe 8/18) defeated Northcote Presbyterians 34 and 59 (Yeomans 38; Waterson 5/37), by an innings and 34 runs.

Victoria Road Baptists four for 169 (dec.) (Hooton 99; Parker 14/34) defeated Northcote Church of Christ 53 and 48 (Lawry 20), by an innings and 6 8runs.

St. James Church of England (Alexander 33, Thornycroft 80; Wright 6/15) defeated Pender's Grove Methodists 38 and 61 (Williamson 4/37) by innings and 73 runs.

St. George's Road Methodists bye.

NORTHCOTE THEATRE

To-night, Saturday 11th,
Mrs. Wallace Reid's
"Broken Laws"
and
"On the Go"

Monday, Tuesday, Wednes.
Dec. 13, 14, 15
"Madamoiselle Modiste"
(Corinne Griffiths)
and
"Tall Timbers"

Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Dec. 16, 17, 18
REGINALD DENNY
in
"Rolling Home"
Also
"Lights Out"
A Thrilling Detective Drama

Entries now being received for
"Miss Northcote Competition"

See elsewhere for conditions for Competition.

LOVE ON A LINER

Why is it that Cupid always gets so busy when land is out of sight and Mrs. Moon casts her spell on the rippling waves? This article, by a sentimental sailor, answers the question and tells some stories of love at sea.

A pleasure ship, which returned to England a few days ago after a long cruise, had on board twelve couples who had become engaged on the trip and two who had been married by the captain. The latter, when questioned about the happy events, laughingly replied:—

"What can you expect? A tropic night, a silver moon, youth—and the sea? That's all! You can't explain it. It works the same magic over and over again!"

AN OCEAN ROMANCE.

Youth and the sea! That was all, yet how much it means! We do not need to tax our imaginations overmuch to capture something of the spirit of romance which hovers over the pleasure-liner ploughing its way over the ocean highways of the world with their ever-changing panorama.

The most romantic ocean voyage, the one which is said to result in most sea engagements, is the trip from England to India. It was once the scene of an international love-match, the details of which were recorded in the newspapers here and in America at the time.

The story begins in the United States. A young American girl had fallen in love with an English baronet whom she had met during a visit he paid to New York. He was nearly twice her age, tall and distinguished, handsome, too, but rather cold and aristocratic in mien. She made no secret of her affection, but he ignored her, although she was wealthy and lovely.

UNDER THE TROPIC STARS.

His indifference piqued her, and when she learned that he had taken a passage on a vessel bound on a round-the-world cruise, she followed suit. Surely, she argued, she could win him if they were thrown into each other's society every day for months? She was prepared to try; more, she was determined to win.

But she seemed to be fated to encounter disappointments. The baronet was willing to walk and talk with her on board ship, but he remained as cold as marble. He was apparently heartless. She couldn't understand it, unless it was that all Englishmen were the same! So she made no progress—until the ship left Bombay and steamed into the blue of the Indian Ocean.

A warm evening found the girl promenading after the dance. She paused under an awning, a figure radiant in white. She was gazing with sad eyes upon the shimmering sea, which seemed to croon and gurgle to her, when she was joined by someone—the man she loved. They talked in the mystic darkness and then were silent, hushed into wonderment. Softly the melody of a guitar came floating upon the breeze.

CONVERTING A WOMAN-HATER.

That evening Romance lived again. Before the end of the voyage the little American girl had become "my lady."

The voyage to and from South Africa had likewise made many people rich in happiness—and memories. In a court case not so long ago a curious story of an ocean love-match was revealed. A girl was on her way out to Cape Town to be married to a young man to whom she had been engaged for some time. On board she struck up one of those easily-made acquaintanceships which are characteristic of life on the big liners.

He was a young engineer going to the gold mines. He proved to be an interesting companion; too interesting. The sea-air fanned their friendship into a brighter flame and by the time they reached Madeira they were hopelessly in love. They were married and left the ship at Madeira, to spend their honeymoon amidst the exotic splendour of the land of grape-gardens. And the vessel which should have carried a bride to a young man in Cape Town brought him instead a letter and a ring!

The trans-atlantic crossing would be too short, one might imagine, for intimate friendships, but this is not so. The present writer, during a voyage to New York, heard a story from the liner's captain which reveals that even old heads can be turned by the glamour of "the herring pond."

A wealthy Canadian, suffering from old age and gout, was bound for the Riviera. He was a confirmed woman-hater; women, he said, did not interest him and never would. He spoke too soon.

On the ship was a flighty widow, as aged as the Canadian, if not more so. The sea air had been stirring up the gouty traveller to life, and, in his own words, he promptly "fell for" the antiquated and gushing flapper. Instead of sitting groaning in his deck-chair, he would get up and hobble round the deck with her.

ROMEO'S RELAPSE.

He grew more and more ardent. The ship's gardener was told to send her flowers each morning. Soon all the passengers got to know about the affair, the progress of which was watched with interest.

Sure enough they became engaged. But they were not married until nearly a year afterwards, as it took just that time for the ancient though dashing Romeo to recover from the relapse in health he suffered as a result of his hectic voyage!

The moral of all of which is: Whether you're young or whether you're old, if you want to fall in love—go to sea!

MARRIAGE.

HOOPER—HILL.—(Golden Wedding)—On the 7th December, 1876, at the parish church, Stroud, Gloucester, England, by the Rev. John Badcock, LL.D., vicar, John Charles, wool stapler, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cooper, Winchcomb Villa, Stroud, Gloucestershire, England, to Mary Kate, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hill, Bowbridge, Stroud. Present address—"Lillieville," Darebin street, Northcote.

The Leader
Published Every Saturday Morning.
JUSTICE TO ALL.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1926.

ITEMS OF NEWS.

Owing to late arrival of copy several items are unavoidably held over.

Owing to the dry season the ranger of the Whittlesea Shire Council has been instructed to exercise discretion in impounding straying stock, which has to be taken to and fro to water.

The engineer to the Whittlesea Shire Council has drawn up a scheme for a water supply for Whittlesea township, and this has been referred to the riding members.

New Insolvent:—Charles Threlkeld, of Mansfield street, Northcote, manufacturer. Causes of insolvency—Sickness of self and bad debts. Liabilities, £197/16/4; assets, £6/15/; deficiency £191/1/4. Mr. J. G. Davis, assignee.

Owing to the increased size of today's issue, and to the fact that the "Leader" is published a day earlier this week, some few changes have been rendered necessary in the "make up." The "Cobbers' Club" will be found on the last page.

Messrs. Morris Barrow and Co., the well known manufacturers of printing ink at Preston, applied to the Whittlesea Shire Council on Wednesday for permission to erect a large factory at Thomastown. The request was granted subject to the approval of the inspector.

The next meeting of the Whittlesea Shire Council will be held on the third Wednesday in January, 1927, instead of on the second Wednesday. This has been rendered necessary through the secretary, Mr. J. Ryan, being absent on his annual holidays.

Owing to shortage of money and the dry season Whittlesea Shire Council has decided to curtail its staff of maintenance men as soon as the works in hand are completed. Council's solicitors are to be notified to collect all outstanding rates.

A motor cycle, ridden by Clarence Burton, aged 32 years, of Auburn Av. Northcote, ran into the rear of a motor car in Swanston street, Melbourne, last Saturday afternoon. Burton was thrown to the ground, and he later received treatment at the Melbourne Hospital for severe abrasions.

Owing to the fact that he did not know it was in gear, Ray Stevens, aged 33 years, builder, of Smith street, Thornbury, tried to crank a motor car in a garage attached to his place of business in Woolhouse street, Thornbury, last Saturday. The car moved forward and crushed Stevens against a bench in the garage. He was admitted to the Melbourne Hospital with a fractured pelvis.

Some time back the Whittlesea Shire Council wrote to the Chief Commissioner of Police, urging that more police protection be granted in the shire on holidays and week-ends, when the picturesque spots in the district are crowded with visitors and the fine roads are greatly availed of by motoring parties. A reply was received at the meeting of the council on Monday acceding to the request.

The fortnightly meeting of the Northcote I.O.R. was held on the 2nd inst., the C.R. (Bro. J. C. Newnham) in the chair. It was decided to vote £1/1/- towards defraying expenses of entertaining the team from South Australia I.O.R. Association. The P.A.F.S. made application for permission to hang Past Masters' Respect Board in the hall; referred to hall committee. The dispensary have decided to open a receiving depot at the corner of Miller street and Gilbert road, where prescriptions can be left and the medicine obtained the same day. Next Thursday a mixed bowling tournament will take place. All members with their wives and friends are invited to the Xmas social on 18th inst.

A successful bazaar in aid of the Regent Presbyterian Church was held in the Preston Town Hall on Saturday, November 27. Sir Wm. Brunton, ex-Lord Mayor, in his opening remarks, expressed his pleasure at being able to help such a noble cause, and congratulated the ladies on the fine display of goods placed before the people. As a result of keen prices and big hearts the building fund will benefit by £160. This, together with further amounts of £36 raised by the Ladies' Guild, and £30 collected by the men folk, gives a grand total of £226 in hand. The question uppermost in the minds of the people is "When can we begin a Presbyterian service at Regent?" A meeting to discuss this will be held in the old Library Hall, High street, Regent, next Wednesday evening, December 15. A hearty welcome is extended to all interested.

The last meeting for the year of the Northcote Red Cross Auxiliary was held in the Town Hall, on Thursday, December 2, 50 members being present. Seven new members were welcomed, and five new ones nominated. The value of pillowslips (534) sent to Austin Hospital last week was £53/8/-, and the value of the eggs sent to the Melbourne Hospital last month £84/12/8. A contribution of 118 tins of peaches (preserved) for Xmas tea for the patients at Melbourne Hospital was made by the members, value £6, and work sent to Melbourne Hospital for November, 93 tea towels, value £10. Altogether the value of the auxiliary's work for the last three months is £154/0/8. It was decided to provide "high tea" for the Mental soldiers at Bundoora on December 29. The Mayoress entertained members at afternoon tea and wished all the compliments of the season. The auxiliary goes into recess until February 8, 1927.

In connection with the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new Baby Health Centre at Thornbury on Wednesday, under the stone, in a bottle, was placed a copy of the last issue of the Northcote "Leader," a copy of last balance sheet of the Northcote City Council, and the last report of the Baby Health Centre. Should it ever be necessary to "dig up" this foundation stone in years to come, these should prove interesting reading.

A father and son were injured when a motor cycle and sidecar skidded and crashed into a fence near Greensborough on Saturday afternoon. They are—Albert Bransgrove, aged 47 years, of Greensborough, concussion of the brain; Albert Bransgrove, aged 23 years, his son, cuts, abrasions and shock. When the accident occurred the son was riding the machine and his father was in the sidecar. Both were taken to the Melbourne Hospital in a civil ambulance. The father was admitted and the son, after he had been detained for observation, was allowed to go home.

Having been knocked down by a motor bus in Swanston street, city, James Duckworth, aged 41 years, of Peel street, Preston, was admitted to the Melbourne Hospital on Saturday afternoon, suffering from a compound fracture of both bones of the right leg. His leg had to be amputated. It might also be mentioned that the last large piece of work on which Mr. Duckworth (who is leading engineer for Messrs. S. Cooke Pty. Ltd.) was engaged was the erection of the big new Miehle printing machine at the "Leader" office, on which this edition was printed.

Xmas Cards.—Only a few days now to Xmas. Order your Xmas cards from "Leader" Office. Your name and address printed on and envelopes supplied. From 7/6 dozen.

By arrangement with the Traders' Association traders in Northcote who require fresh "Shop in Northcote" signs may obtain same free of charge by sending to "Leader" office.

It is painting time now. All woodwork requires painting regularly, and the most important thing is to use good paint. Pridgeon's, the Paint House, supply only the best at the lowest prices.

HEIDELBERG SEAT

CR. HERBERT PRATT A CANDIDATE.

In addition to Mr. H. P. Zwar, J.P., whose candidature is announced elsewhere for this seat, Cr. Herbert J. Pratt, of Preston has signified his intention of nominating for the seat at the forthcoming election in the Labor interest. Cr. Pratt has been associated with the Labor movement, both politically and industrially, for the past 15 years. Prior to coming to Preston seven years ago he took an active part in Labor activities in the north-east districts, where he held the position of secretary of the Broadford branch of

CR. HERBERT J. PRATT.

the A.L.P. for five years, and was also president for a term. He was also a member of the Federal Management Committee, continuing his activities with the A.N.A., and passed through the presidential chair of the Preston branch, and has twice represented that branch at the annual conference.

BOY KILLED

Playing Cricket in Street.

The dangerous practice of playing cricket in the street led to the death on Wednesday afternoon of John Henry Doherty, 8½ years, whose father, George Allan Doherty, lives at 87 Dundas street, Preston.

About 5 p.m. young Doherty, with a number of other boys, was playing cricket in Dundas street, near his home. Doherty, who was batting, hit the ball and started to run. As he did so he ran in front of a "White" motor bus, travelling along Dundas street to Heidelberg. The radiator struck Doherty on the head, killing him instantly. He was taken in the bus to the surgery of Dr. Walker, who pronounced life extinct, and the body was later removed to the Morgue.

LOOK FOR THE NUMBER

The Churches.

NORTHCOTE BAPTIST CHURCH.

On Sunday evening last Madame Yasnovsky, of Russia, who in the Russian Revolution of 1917 narrowly escaped with her life, preached to a large congregation. She told, how, as a girl she realised that Russia was only nominally Christian, but that along with others, who were influenced by a British missionary, she commenced to work for the Salvation of her country. The odds were against this first band of Christian workers; but in 1905 religious liberty was granted by the authorities. As a result there was a great religious awakening, and in 1917 Pastor Fetler arrived from England. Drawing large congregations, he re-awakened the fears of the ruling class, who in 1924 banished him. He did good work among the Russian war prisoners, who were in Germany and Austria at that time. In 1917 the Russian revolution broke out, and all went well until the Bolsheviks tried to make a paradise without God. "Never," said the speaker, "was there a more ghastly failure," for where — as in 1917 there were but 250,000 Christians, the numbers had now risen to over four millions.

PRESTON POLICE COURT

Before Mr. W. G. Smith, P.M., and Messrs. H. P. Zwar, J. T. Ellison and E. Lewis, J'sP.

Milk Cans Stopped Up With Soap.

J. Bunting, of Epping, was charged that on November 10 he consigned two cans of milk in cans that had holes in the bottom stopped with soap.

Mr. Wilkinson (Home and Wilkinson) prosecuted for the Preston City Council.

Inspector J. O. Iles said that on November 10 at about 11.30 a.m., he stopped a milk waggon and found two cans of milk. In the bottom of the tins were two holes stopped with soap, and covered with some black substance.

Defendant said that on that day he had had some good cans damaged, and he stopped up two old cans with soap. He put two new cans in commission next day.

Defendant was fined £1, with £1/1/- costs.

Alleged Adulterated Milk.

A. Horne, Dundas street, Northcote, was charged that on October 24 he sold adulterated milk, to wit, milk that was colored.

Inspector Iles said that on October 24 at about 3 a.m., he purchased a sample of milk from Horne for analysis. The Government analyst's certificate showed that the milk contained anatto coloring.

Cross-examined—He believed it was allowable to put anatto coloring in butter and cheese. The anatto color would improve the color of the milk.

Horne said he delivered the milk as he received it, and did not add anything to it.

Defendant was by majority fined £2, with £2/12/6 costs. A stay of 14 days was granted.

Another charge was adjourned for eight weeks.

Another case on a charge of selling adulterated milk, to wit, milk that was colored, was adjourned for eight weeks.

W. Worley, Kinkora road, Preston, was charged that on October 13 he sold milk that was below the standard.

Inspector Iles said he purchased milk from defendant for analysis. The Government analyst's certificate showed that it was 21.4 per cent. deficient in fatty solids and deficient 3.6 per cent. in total solids. The milk had either been skimmed or skim milk had been added.

Fined £5, with £2/12/6 costs.

Trading After Hours.

David Scott, licensee of the Victoria Hotel, Epping, was charged that on October 24 persons were found on his premises during unlawful hours, and that he disposed of liquor during prohibited hours.

Inspector Gardiner prosecuted.

Const. Joseph Long said that at 6.25 p.m. he went to the hotel with Const. Cummings and Higgins. In the hotel were found three men, one of whom had a bottle of beer under his coat. The three men said that they had gone to the hotel to get drinks. Witness said to the licensee: "Why are these men on your premises. Did you ask them if they were bona fide travellers?" Defendant said: "Yes." Witness questioned the men as to whether they were bona fide travellers. A man named Jones said he was asked nothing, and the other two said they had been challenged. A man named Grimes said he bought two bottles of beer at the hotel and gave one to Jones.

Const. J. H. Higgins gave similar evidence.

David Scott said that when he admitted the three men he challenged them as to whether they were bona fide travellers, and they all said they were. He denied having sold any bottled beer, but he served the men with drinks.

Defendant was fined £3, and 3/- costs, for disposing of liquor, and the second charge was withdrawn.

John C. Buttlin, South Melbourne, for having been found on the premises of the Victoria Hotel, Epping, on October 24, was fined 30/-.

Royal Jones, Moray street, South Melbourne, and Michael Grimes, Cleland street, Reservoir, for similar offences, were each fined 30/-.

At the recent Ministerial Conference in connection with the sanitary depot in Whittlesea Shire, to serve unsewered areas, it was represented that the whole matter was on a satisfactory basis, and "everything in the garden was lovely." The councillors of the Whittlesea Shire Council, however, do not acquiesce in the rosy reports, and strongly resent this view of the matter. It was decided to write to the State members and request them to enter an emphatic objection to the whole scheme.

A swift ball delivered by a bowler in a Lancashire cricket match recently hit the wicket in such a way that the balls shot out of the groove and fell exactly into place again.

A warehouse in Bermondsey is being converted into eight flats by the Bermondsey Borough Council. This authority has contrived 38 flats out of a disused workhouse.

"Tipping" railway porters is said to be falling off. At one time these officials could count on their wages being much increased by the public; but railway passengers are now more careful of their money.

London tradesmen can teach Americans a good deal about the dressing of shop windows, according to one expert from the States, who recently bought a complete window "show" in London for transportation to San Francisco.

Buy locally and improve the value of your own property!

WALKER'S, Westgarth.—A good range of Manicure Sets in cases, from 10/6 to £3.

XMAS GREETING CARDS

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW.

Only a few weeks remain till Xmas. It will be wise to get your order for INDIVIDUAL XMAS CARDS in at once.

Your name and address are printed and envelopes supplied, ready for mailing.
PRICES FROM 7/6 PED DOZEN.

"LEADER" OFFICE,
309 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE.

A MUSICAL TREAT

BY PUPILS OF MISS IRMA HUCHSON.

On Wednesday the pupils of Miss Irma Hughson, A.L.C.M., assisted by the Dey Family, gave a musical and dancing entertainment in the Northcote Town Hall. A very large and appreciative audience attended. The concert was most capably carried out and reflects the highest credit on the instructress.

The Overture, "Morning, Noon, and Night," was played by the Dey Orchestra. The opening chorus, "Never Mind," was given by Miss Hughson's pupils, who were dressed as Pierrots. A tiny tot, Baby Jean Rowe, sang "Mister Bear" very sweetly, and a toe dance, "La Petite Fille," was gracefully rendered by Baby Irene Rawlinson. The song, "When You and I Were Seventeen," was sung by R. and A. Meredith, who were dressed as a very old man and woman. Master F. Hughson, garbed as a colleen, sang "Mother in Ireland," assisted by pupils, who danced the Irish Jig. A violin solo by Mr. W. Dey was much appreciated. Miss P. Hughson sang "Wintertime," accompanied by a ballet of girls with Miss D. Coffey as solo dancer. A song by Miss Irma Hughson, "Danny Boy," was received with applause, and an encore was forthcoming. R. and J. de Grande, dressed as sailors, sang, "She Was Just a Sailor's Sweetheart," and a chorus danced the Sailor's Hornpipe. A duet, "Barcarolle," was sung by Misses I. and P. Hughson, the encore number was "Red, Red, Robin." A song and dance, "Just Around the Corner," was given by Miss Julie Dickens, and "Lilies" was sung by Miss Marie Baker. A bed-time story, "Peter Rabbit," was sung by Miss P. Hughson, assisted by tiny tots and Miss Julie Dickens as the rabbit danced a solo.

After the interval the duet, "You're Just a Flower," was danced and sung by Misses I. and P. Hughson, and a minuet was given by girls and boys in old-time costumes. The song, "Smilin' Thro'," was sung by Miss D. Coffey, and "Kentucky's Way of Saying Good Morning," was sung by Miss B. Dey, received an encore. "The Goblins" was recited by Baby Joan Rowe. Aerobatic exercises were indulged in by some of the pupils, followed by a duet, "In the Springtime," by Masters F. and M. Hughson. Baby Rawlinson sang, "My Treasure," A humorous duet, "Poor Papa," was sung by Misses P. Hughson and B. Dey. Exhibitions of the Charleston were given by Master F. Hughson, Misses Gwen Baker, Roda Meredith and J. Dickens. Joyce de Grande, Misses P. Hughson and A. Melbourne, as costers, and Albert Meredith and Miss R. Meredith, danced a toe dance, "La Militaire." A duet, "Mary, Mary," was sung and danced by R. Meredith and M. Hughson. The song, "Ukelele Dream Girl," was sung b yMisses I. and P. Hughson, with a ballet of Hawaiian dancing girls, and Miss Merle Neelands danced a solo. For the Finale all the pupils gathered on the stage and sang "Kentucky's Way." There were numerous presents of flowers and chocolates for the different performers. Cr. Dunlop spoke of the splendid progress Miss Hughson's pupils had made in the short time she had been teaching, and said they were indeed lucky to have her among them. On behalf of pupils and parents he presented Miss P. Hughson with a string of pearls, and Miss I. Hughson with a wallet handbag. Mr. Hughson responded suitably for his daughters. A most enjoyable evening closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

PERSONAL.

Mr. and Mrs. John Charles Hooper, "Lillieville," Darebin street, Northcote, celebrated their golden wedding on December 7, 1926.

Mrs. W. H. Turner, of Keon Street, Thornbury, leaves to-day (Friday) to spend a month's holiday up the St. Arnaud line.

Master Arch Shaw, son of Mr. A. H. B. Shaw, of Hotham Street, Preston, passed his preliminary examination with credit last week in chemistry.

Cr. Llewellyn Jones, J.P., ex-Mayor of Preston, was present at the meeting of the Whittlesea Shire Council on Wednesday, and was invited to take a seat at the council table.

Mr. J. G. Membrey, who has just returned from a world tour, and who resided for 42 years in Northcote, is about to build a residence in Kingwilliam street, Preston. He has been approached to stand for the new Heidelberg State seat.

Miss A. Kitson, daughter of Mr. Kitson, Headmaster of the Northcote District High School, and an old pupil of the Thornbury State School, has been appointed Directress of Kindergarten at the Faraday Street School, Carlton.

Mr. V. J. Bradley, C.E., City Surveyor to the Northcote Council, left on Thursday for Sydney, where he will make a short stay.

Mr. Percy E. Hatton, A.L.C.M., teacher of pianoforte and theory, 72 Herbert street, Northcote, has now been successful in securing his L.L.C.M. degree. Mr. Hatton, who is only 16½ years of age, has unfortunately lost half of his right thumb, but this apparently does not interfere with his musical prowess. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Hatton, of 72 Herbert street, Northcote. Mr. Hatton is prepared to undertake tuition in pianoforte and theory.

Last Saturday morning the Mayor of Preston (Cr. Albert E. Newton) received a telegram advising him that his brother, Mr. J. C. Newton, M.H.A., of Tasmania, who is suffering from an illness, had taken a bad turn. Cr. Newton left for Tasmania by the first boat, and so was unable to be present at the meeting of the Preston City Council on Monday evening.

On the eve of their departure from Northcote, Mr. and Mrs. Willmott and family were entertained at their home last Saturday night (December 4). About thirty friends met and gave them a surprise farewell party, arranged by Mrs. W. Broadhurst and Mrs. A. Mundy. A very nice programme of songs, dances and recitations was given. A charming item, "To a Miniature and Minuet" was sweetly sung and gracefully danced by Joyce Mundy and Blanche Bolwell in character. Mr. Jercy Johnson carried out the humorous part in his usual good style. After supper Mr. A. Mundy proposed the health of Mr. and Mrs. Willmott, and spoke of them in eulogistic terms. Mr. Aldridge (sen.) endorsed the sentiments expressed. Mr. Willmott responded and thanked all present for their good wishes and the happy evening they had spent. The company dispersed after singing "Auld Lang Syne."

"Health detectives" watch over the London docks, inspecting every alien and every cargo which would enter. In the last twelve months these officials, comprising doctors and inspectors, examined nearly 21,000 aliens in 768 ships.

GOLDEN WEDDING

MR. AND MRS. J. C. HOOPER.

A very pleasant and enjoyable evening was spent at the Austral Hall on Tuesday, December 7, 1926, when a number of friends gathered to celebrate the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hooper, of "Lillieville," Darebin St., Northcote, at a reception tendered to them by their family and the staff—past and present—of "Lillieville" Private Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Hooper are very old residents of Northcote, covering a period of 35 years. Mrs. Hooper in her professional capacity as Matron of "Lillieville" Private Hospital, has become widely known and greatly esteemed by a wide circle of friends from whom many congratulatory telegrams and letters were received. The toasts of the King and the bride and bridegroom were proposed by Mr. A. Bostock and Mr. Langdon respectively. Mr. Hooper in responding said he hoped to see all present at the diamond wedding. Dancing and games with guessing competitions were indulged in and a song by Miss Freda Northcote was much appreciated. Mr. and Mrs. Hooper were the recipients of many handsome and useful presents, including two comfortable easy chairs. Among the guests were two from Mr. and Mrs. Hooper's native town of Strond, one of whom was married in the same church.

NORTHCOTE THEATRE.

On Friday and Saturday Mrs. Wallace Reid's "Broken Laws" and "On the Go." Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday—"Madamoiselle Modiste." with Corrine Griffith; also "Tall Timbers." Thursday to Saturday, Reginald Denny in "Rolling Home" and "Lights Out," a thrilling detective drama.

CONDITIONS OF MISS NORTHCOTE 1927 COMPETITION.

The object shall be to give Northcote citizens an opportunity of selecting a girl to represent Northcote in the Miss Victoria 1927 competition, and if successful in the Miss Australia 1927 competition. Competitors will wear dark bathing costumes. The semi-finals will be decided by public vote, and the finals by a representative committee, with the Mayor of Northcote as chairman. Selections will be made on the basis of beauty of form and face, and general popularity. Each competitor must be Australian born, must never have been married, and in the case of minors have the consent of parents or guardians. A moving picture of the first 24 competitors to enter will be taken on the Northcote Theatre stage in full view of the audience, and will afterwards be shown on the screen.

Band of Hope Movement.

ST. GEORGE'S ROAD METHODIST

There was a fine crowd of members and friends at a meeting on Tuesday evening. The occasion was a gift night in connection with the forthcoming "Golden Age of Childhood" Fair. Many gifts were received for the grocery stall. An excellent musical programme was presented by Mrs. Marr and her friends. The next meeting will take the form of a Christmas treat. In the New Year special efforts are to be made to increase the membership and attendance.

LOOK FOR THE NUMBER

THE GOWERVILLE.

On Friday and Saturday "The Man on the Comet," featuring Albertina and Rene Adoree in "The Exquisite Sinner. Vaudeville, Reaco.

Monday to Wednesday—"Tall Timbers" and "The Volcano, with Bebe Daniels and Wallace Beery.

Thursday to Saturday—"On the Go" and "Don't," featuring Sally O'Neill. Lal, the musical maid as vaudeville. Matinee Saturday, "The Fighting Ranger."

THE STAR.

On Friday and Saturday "The Shadow of the Mosque" and Zane Grey's "Desert Gold," featuring Shirley Mason. Vaudeville, Reaco, the bird mimic.

Monday to Wednesday, Jane Novak and Buck Jones in "Snow Shoes Trail" and "The Dancer of the Nile." Vaudeville, Perry and Wynne, comedy sketch artists.

Thursday to Saturday, "The Blind Goddess" and "The Gambling Fool." Vaudeville, Lal, the musical maid.

APPROACHING AUCTIONS.

By S. E. Whellams and Son, Clifton Hill, on December 15, at 3 p.m., on property, 1-3 Campbell Grove, Northcote, pair 5-roomed brick cottages, rented at £150 per annum.

By Stott, Son and Watson, Dec. 11, at 3.30 on property, Murphy Grove, Preston, 5-roomed villa on land 50 x 150.

By Stott, Son and Watson, Dec. 11, at 4 p.m. on property, 22 Mutima Gr., Preston, 4-roomed villa on land 47 x 115.

By Stott, Son and Watson, and A. B. and W. R. Johnston, Dec. 11, at 3 p.m., on property, 41 Queen St., Preston, 5-roomed villa on land 54 x 162.

By W. H. Edgar and Chandler, on December 18, at 3 p.m., on premises, 6 Crawley St., Preston, land 40 x 160, on which is erected 6-roomed d.f. w.b. villa. Particulars advertised.

By Gray and Johnson, on December 18, 1926, at 3 p.m. on property, 53 Sutherland St., Brunswick West, 4-roomed s.f. villa in good position. Particulars advertised.

By Llewellyn Jones, Saturday, December 18, 2 p.m., poultry, etc., at "Allbell poultry farm, Cooper street, Preston.

By Stott, Son and Watson and A. B. and R. W. Johnston, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m., on property, 41 Queen St., Preston, 5-roomed house on land 54 x 162.

By Llewellyn Jones, Preston, on Dec. 18, at 11 a.m., on the property, "Allbell Poultry Farm," Cooper St., Preston, sale of ducks, geese, fowls, farm equipment, household furniture, etc. For particulars see advt.

Bengal's birth-rate has declined by 30 per cent. in the last twenty-five years.

A pair of cormorants will eat five tons of fish in a year. These destructive birds are everywhere on the increase.

THE SCHOOLS

THORNBURY STATE SCHOOL.

A FINE CONCERT.

On Wednesday evening at the old Thornbury Picture Theatre, High street, Thornbury, the Thornbury State school held a concert at which the prizes won during the year were presented. There was a record attendance, every seat being taken long before the programme was begun, and throughout the evening the audience showed great appreciation of the items presented. £60 was taken at the door, and the theatre was filled to capacity.

The programme was a splendid one, and was perhaps the finest achievement of the school in the way of concerts. Each item was heartily applauded, and the staging, frocking, and performance of a cantata, "Cinderella," was excellent.

Freearm exercises, a number "Dutch," by pupils under Miss Hamilton, and also another item, rod exercises, were good. The infants' defants' department, under Misses Lyell and Lee, gave numbers, the Alphabet and Bells, which were excellent. Grade 3 contributed a splendid number, "Heads and Heels," and also a Rainbow song, credit for which was due to Misses Hanlon and Sitlington. Two items, "Fairy Pipers" and "The Story Book Ball," by grade 4, under Miss Thom, were very fine, and these young stars would have shone on a professional stage; a dialogue, "A Morning at School" (teachers Miss Young and Miss Free) proved humorous, and altogether was an excellent item; grade 7, Weaving Dance, under Miss Clarke, was also good. Grade 8 gave songs "May Morning" and also "La Marseillaise" (sung in French), as the concluding item. Credit is due to Miss Sims, the teacher for these items.

Without doubt the star performance of the evening was the cantata "Cinderella," in which the children sustained their various characters well. A feature of the play was the frocking, which was superb, evidencing the great interest taken by the parents. In training the pupils for the cantata, the bulk of the work fell on Misses Evans and Dynan, and the splendid way in which the play went off speaks volumes for their patience and perseverance in training the children to such a high state of perfection.

The stage management was in the hands of Mr. Dwyer, who is also to be commended. Despite the fact that there were many inconveniences the full programme went off without a hitch.

At an interval the prizes won during the year were presented by the Mayor. The winners were:—

Infant Department.—1c—Douglas Johnson 1, Edna Gibbons 2. 1b—Willie Wyatt 1, Viola Cronin 2. 1a—Jean Hosking 1, Jack Morgan 2. 2b—Mavis Pearce 1, Harold Bardwell 2. 2a—Reg. Brownbill 1, Dorothy Evans 2.

Grade III.—Alice Hosking 1, Joyce Dowdle 2, Jack Ballantyne 3. Grade III.—Clarence Billings 1, Albert Kilby 2, Frank Dixon 3.

Grade IV.—Shirley Gallagher 1, Merna Causer 2, Betty Morse 3. IV.—Jean Close 1, Gilbert Hemphill 2, Eddie Edgeley and Dick Sheldrick 3. IV.—Alison Graham 1, Leslie Thorn 2, Jack Bamford 3.

Grade V.—Vernon White 1, Sylvia Allan 2, Doris Laurence 3. V.—Irma Myllus 1, Phyllis Burberry 2, Ernest Greenhill 3. V.—Robert Morley 1, Harry Meng 2, Enid Smith 3.

Grade VI.—Alf. Meng 1, Gordon Ewin 2, Florence Cox 3. VI.—Alex. Smith 1, Eric Paine 2, Mavis Coop 3.

Grade VII.—Maisie Blackwell 1, Maurice Rhodes 2, Myrtle Hastings 3. VII.—Lottie Le Blanc 1, Dave Bertram 2, Neil McPhee 3.

Grade VIII.—Alan Scott 1, Len Andrews 2, Suzette Dowdle 3. VIII.—Violet Burn 1, Marjorie Daniels 2, Emily Bryant 3.

The Mayor (Cr. Phil Mayer) said that some time ago the school committee had established a scholarship, to be called the J. O. Hughes scholarship, to enable three boys and three girls each year to go free to the High School. £600 had been required for the scholarship, and in the first effort £350 was raised. After the new year an effort would be made to raise the other £250 required, so that the scholarship would last for all time.

Cr W. H. Turner moved a vote of thanks to the performers, teachers and parents, saying that the costumes made by the parents were exceptionally fine. He thanked the teachers and staff for the way in which the concert had gone off, as such an effort required a good deal of hard work and patience.

Mr. H. F. Tulloch seconded the vote, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr. J. O. Hughes (head master) in responding said he was proud of his staff, parents, and the children. (Applause.)

WALES STREET SCHOOL.

At the monthly committee meeting of the Wales St. school committee, on Wednesday evening last a resolution was placed on the minutes recording the committee's appreciation of the very efficient work done by Mr. Osborne (head teacher) and staff during the year, which was reflected in the high percentage of results obtained in the qualifying and merit certificates; for the creditable quota of pupils transferred to the Northcote High School at the beginning of the year, and also for the fine surroundings at the school, especially the plantations of trees and shrubs. These are so thoughtfully arranged that at all times during the hot season ample shade is provided for the scholars. The chairman, on behalf of the committee, presented Mr. Osborne with a smoker's outfit as a token of appreciation. All present endorsed the expressions of the chairman. Mr. Osborne in thanking the committee for their gift, stated that his great desire was to give the children the best education he possibly could and to develop the best in them, so that they will be a great asset to this great Commonwealth of Australia. The Xmas break-up will take place on Thursday next, when parents and those interested are cordially invited to be present.

NORTHCOTE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL.

On Monday evening next, December 13, at the Northcote Town Hall, the first annual concert will be held. It is up to the residents of the district to show their appreciation of having a High School established, and be in attendance. They are promised a most enjoyable evening, and a fine programme will be rendered by the pupils. The gold championship medals for each form will be presented to the successful winners during the evening. All interested are cordially invited to help make the first concert a great success. Admission is 1/-; reserved seats 1/6, commencing at 8 o'clock sharp.

THORNBURY STATE SCHOOL.

MINISTERING CHILDREN'S LEAGUE.

On Saturday, December 4, a delightful day was spent at the annual picnic of the Ministering Children's League, when 120 members and friends of the Thornbury branch joined with other branches in an excursion to Queenscliff. At the "Cottage by the Sea," a cot, which has been endowed to perpetuate the memory of the late Mrs. Robert Harper (for 26 years president of the M.C.L.) was dedicated by the Rev. J. Crookston, the £1000 necessary for such memorial having been raised in two years by the combined efforts of all branches. Mr. J. O. Hughes (a one-time schoolmaster at Queenscliff and now of Thornbury), on behalf of his Thornbury branch, presented a fully equipped cot and a child's chair to the cottage. Both were the results of various efforts made during the year by the girls.

At the final meeting of the branch, held at Thornbury school on Tuesday, the vice-president, Mrs. W. Turner, expressed great satisfaction at the interest and energy with which the girls had worked throughout the year, and hoped that the fine spirit displayed in their association would be carried on in all their future work. With the help of the Senior Associate branch, we have been able to endow our own cot, costing 10 guineas, also to donate £30 towards the Mrs. Robt. Harper fund, and £9 to the Children's Hospital, besides packing two boxes for the Cottage by the Sea. This is indeed a splendid record for such a young society, whose constant endeavor is to live up to its motto: "No day without a deed to crown it."

A vote of thanks was passed to the secretary (Miss E. Sims) for her splendid work during the year, to whose untiring efforts the success has been mainly responsible.

"THE REGENT NEWS."

The Veterans of Vaudeville have come, been seen, and conquered. On Saturday, their closing night, they received a rapturous ovation from the huge audience at the Regent, and most prominent amongst the remarks made by the members of the audience was one: "Come back again." No greater compliment can be made to any act than the outspoken invitation to return. The management now announce that the return of The Veterans has been arranged as soon as they have finished their coming season at the Bijou. Ample notice of their reappearance will be given.

STUDIES IN BLACK AND WHITE.

Coming direct from the Bijou Theatre Ward Lear and Will Kenny will commence a week's engagement at the Regent next Monday. Ward Lear is as well known as the town clock as a black face comedian of the first water, and his companion in comedy, Will Kenny, more than materially assists him in providing entertainment out of the ordinary.

SCREEN FARE FOR PICTURE FANS.

Next Monday Corinne Griffith will be seen in her latest and best First National special attraction, "M'lle Modiste," in which the beautiful star has surpassed all the previous efforts in frocking extraordinary. This picture will be supported by a quick and busy film, starring the popular Billy Sullivan, champion boxer and athlete, in "One Punch O' Day." Thursday's change of programme will bring along two fine features in the shape of "Rolling Home," which is Reginald Denny's latest Universal record breaker, and Sally O'Neill in "Don't."

LOOK FOR THE NUMBER

LOOK HERE! WHERE THE BARGAINS ARE.

SEE DISPLAY ADVTS. FOR FUL LER BARGAINS . AND PRICES

For Sale.

ANDERSON'S.—885 High St., Thornbury. Music stools from 3/6; ice chests 95/- to £22/10/- Just the thing for hot weather.

ANDERSON'S.—Canvas verandah blinds, all sizes and prices. Voxola Gramophone, £8/19/- to £12/10/. Also cheaper lines from 50/-

ANDERSON'S.—British Linoleums, best and cheapest. A pleasure to have in the house.

ANDERSON'S.—Selected Australian Oak Bedroom Suites, £10/17/6. See illustrations.

ANDERSON'S.—Icy cold Ice Chests remind you of the South Pole. Get one. No charge for having a look.

ARTISTIC HOME FURNISHERS, 834 High St., Northcote. Bedroom Suites from £29/10/- Unequalled value.

ARTISTIC HOME FURNISHERS.—Her heart's desire—Dolly Pram. See this.

ARTISTIC HOME FURNISHERS.—Sideboard, would grace any home, £7/15/.

ARTISTIC HOME FURNISHERS.—Pabco Squares are the best and last longest.

ALWAYS in Stock—Electric Kettles, Fans, etc. Lamps of all descriptions. Johnston & McMillan (opp. tram sheds).

ALL Xmas Books and Annuals at city prices. B. Cuddigan, the Westgarth Newsagent.

ALL the latest Music to be had at Symond's, 250 High St., Northcote

BUZZ BIZ STORES.—Get up early; alarm clocks 3/11; worth 6/6. See advt.

BE Comfortable in Summer. Secure an Electric Fan from Johnston and McMillan (opp. tram sheds).

BARRY'S Lino. Square, 12 x 12; nearly new; cost £6/7/6; sell £4/5/. 39 Spencer St., Croxton.

BLOCK of land, Birch St., Preston, 45 x 120; fenced one side. Apply 39 Clarendon St., Northcote.

BUZZ BIZ STORES.—See advt. for Dolls from 5/11 to 8/6. All sorts. Mechanical toys.

BUZZ BIZ STORES.—Tea trays 2/3. Worth 4/6. All designs. Canister Sets (6), 4/11. See advt.

CHILD'S Bassinette, as new; cheap; 23 Kemp St., Croxton. Home Saturday.

CANE Push Cart, good order, £1. "Ayton," 39 Ashley St., Reservoir

CLACK'S ECONOMIC STORES.—Bath Towels 1/3; worth 1/11. A good line. See advt. for other bargains.

CLACK'S ECONOMIC STORES.—Men's Blue Twill Suits reduced to 68/6; youths', 59/6. Dress cheaply and well. See advt. for other bargains

CLACK'S ECONOMIC STORES.—Xmas fair in full swing. Gingham Frocks 7/6 and 6/11; worth 12/6. Ladies' Bathing Costumes 6/11, worth 9/6. See advt. for other bargains.

CLACK'S ECONOMIC STORES.—Gents' Bathing Suits 6/11; worth 9/6. Just the thing now! See advt. for other bargains.

CLACK'S ECONOMIC STORES.—Ladies' Silk Hose, plain and fancy, 3/11; worth 5/11. Get in early. See advt. for other bargains.

CLACK'S ECONOMIC STORES.—Box Handkerchiefs, ½ doz., good quality, 1/11; worth 2/11. A nice present. See advt. for other bargains.

ECKER'S MEAT is the best meat. Shops—257 High St., Northcote; also Thornbury, Croxton, Regent and Brunswick.

ECKER'S.—When you think of meat —that is, of good meat—think of Ecker. Branches everywhere.

ECKER'S MEAT.—Beef, roast 1½d lb.; ribs 3d lb.; sirloin from 6d. Mutton 2d to 4½d. Lamb 5d to 7d.

ECKER'S MEAT.—Pork—Legs 10d; pigs cheeks 1/- each. Veal—Fores 2d; legs 6d.

ECKER'S MEAT.—A LEG of PORK of Ecker's incomparable quality will be given to anyone who produces a "Leader" bearing a number corresponding to one exhibited in his High St. shop.

ECKER'S MEAT.—The best is the cheapest and only the best is worth while. Try Ecker once and you will come again.

FOR Anything and Everything Electrical—Johnston & McMillan 647 High St., Northcote (Cnr. Woolton Avenue).

FURNITURE, Poultry, etc., is best sold at HOOPER'S NORTHCOTE AUCTION ROOMS, 336 High Street (opp. Henderson's, Butcher). Goods sold at auction and privately. Large Premises for Display of Goods. We send our own waggon anywhere. Prompt settlements. Northcote 946.

GIVE Electrical Goods for Xmas Presents. See Johnston & McMillan's new Showroom (opp. tram sheds)

GADRINER AND McMULLIN.—The reliable prescription chemists. Perfumery, Colognes, cameras, etc., in endless profusion.

GIFTS for young and old for Xmas. B. Cuddigan, the Westgarth Newsagent.

GENTS' 9 and 15ct. Sleeve Links; engraving free while you wait. Walker's, Westgarth.

GRAMOPHONE Records, the latest hits. Symonds, 250 High Street, Northcote.

GOOD Xmas Gift—Mouth Organs, from 1/- to 12/6. Symonds, 250 High St., Northcote.

GAS Stove, chairs, kitchen table, dresser and few sundries. 24 Gower St., Preston.

HAVE you seen our wonderful values in Xmas Gift Stationery. B. Cuddigan, the Westgarth Newsagent.

HAVE the pleasure of a Crystal Set for Xmas. See our range. Johnston and McMillan (opp. tram sheds).

HEAD Phones for all.—See our special line, 10/- per pair. Johnston and McMillan (opp. tram sheds).

JUST Opened—New Glassware Fittings at low prices. Johnston and McMillan instal free.

JOHNSTON & McMILLAN will hire you a Vacuum Cleaner, 5/- day. Book early.

JOHNSTON & McMILLAN (opp. tram sheds) sell the Best Vacuum Cleaners.

JOHNSON & McMILLAN (opp. tram sheds) accept deposits and arrange terms. Information with pleasure.

MORIESON'S.—Ironmongery of all sorts. Ezywurk, Sanitas, flywire, etc., at low prices. See advt.

MORIESON'S.—Garden tools, rubber hose, lawn mowers, aluminium teapots. See our low prices elsewhere

MORIESON'S.—See our window display. Our motto—"Morieson's for Better Value. The Best for Less." See advt.

NEELANDS.—Timber mill, Arthurton road. Phone 770 and 1689. See advt.

NEELAND'S.—Best of everything at lowest prices. All hot weather requirements. See advt.

NEELAND'S for best values and lowest prices. Shop in Northcote.

NEELAND'S.—Meat safes and fly doors from 10/6. Garden hose, Climax oil mops, hose fittings. See advt.

NEELAND'S LOW PRICES.—Electric globes from 1/; lawn mowers 37/6 to 60/-; hose 5½d to 9d foot. See advt.

NEELAND'S.—Timber, hardware and crockery of all sorts. See advt. and call.

NELSON'S.—869-71 High St., Thornbury, and 575 High St., Regent, ironmongers. Everything for the garden—Hose, tools, mowers, clippers.

NELSON'S.—30/- carpet sweepers for 22/6. Aluminium teapots practically given away. Meat safes 10/6.

NELSON'S.—Hair brooms 1/11. Enamelled bowls 11½d. Fly doors 11/-

POWER BROS.—303 High St., Northcote; 755 High St., Thornbury. Get the habit of dealing here.

POWER BROS.—Our meat is unexcelled. Lowest prices, primest cuts.

POWER BROS.—Butchers. Get your Sunday dinner here.

POWER BROS.—Butchers. Special attention to children.

PLAYER Rolls, large assortment at Symonds, 250 High St., N'cote.

PRICE our Xmas Books and Cards. B. Cuddigan, the Westgarth Newsagent.

SEE our new range of Bead Fittings. They are select.—Johnson and McMillan (opp. tram sheds).

SOMETHING New.—A good Electric Iron for 22/6 at Johnston and McMillan's (opp. tram sheds).

SEE our special offer.—5-valve Wireless Set. Johnston & McMillan (opp. tram sheds).

TYPING, M.S.S. Envelopes. Prompt attention. Miss J. White, 37 High St., Preston.

THE STRATTON.—Get your Xmas Ham at the Stratton, already cooked. See advt.

THACKRAY'S for electroplate, silverware, Xylonite wear, watches, etc.

THE oldest Music Store in Northcote. Symonds, 250 High St., Northcote.

THE largest stock of Records and Sheet Music in the suburbs at Symonds, 250 High St., Northcote.

SPORTING FORD, racing body, balloon tyres; outside copper exhaust, 3 to 1 gear; something special; £100 or nearest offer. 13 Collins St., Thornbury.

SHARPE BROS.—1/6 Fuji de luxe for 1/- 6/11 hose for 2/11½ 1/6 sheeting for 10½d. See advt.

SHARPE BROS.—See advt. there are hundreds of other bargains. Pay little and get much, and good value too.

SHARPE BROS.' Incomparable Bargains. Watch for our fortnightly week-end special sales.

SHARPE BROS—5/11 bathing gowns for 3/11. These are extra special. 4/11 Underskirts 2/11. See advt.

SHARPE BROS.—1/- Kitchen Towels for 8½d. 7/11 Hose for 5/11. 12/6 Fuji Shirts for 9/11. See advt.

SHARPE BROS.—Make no mistake. The secret of our success is tip-top values, low prices and courtesy to everyone.

SUGGESTIONS for Xmas Gifts from 6d to 2 guineas. B. Cuddigan, the Westgarth Newsagent.

WALKER, Westgarth, stocks Waltham, Elgin, Rolex, Omega, R.G.A. at Northcote prices.

XMAS CARDS.—All prices; a wonderful assortment. B. Cuddigan, the Westgarth Newsagent.

XMAS Geese, Ducks, Fowls. Maynard, 19 Mason St., Regent. Phone Northcote 2179.

XMAS.—For Xmas dinner don't miss this chance to get Geese, Ducks, and Fowls. Auction sale of well known "All-bell" Poultry Farm, Saturday, December 18, 2 p.m. LLEWELLYN JONES, auctioneer. Phone, N'cote 4.

WHERE TO GO

PROGRAMME

for Friday and Saturday and Saturday Matinee:

Gowerville

On SATURDAY, DEC. 11

Selznic—
The Man on the Cornet
Featuring Albertini

Metro-Goldwyn—
"The Exquisite Sinner"
(Rene Adoree)

VAUDEVILLE—
REACO
Australia's Premier Bird and Animal Mimic.

At the Matinee Saturday—
"The Fighting Ranger"
and REACO

The Star

Saturday Dec. 11

Master Pictures—
"Shadow of the Mosque"

Paramount—
ZANE GREY'S
"Desert Gold"
(Shirley Mason)

VAUDEVILLE—
REACO
Australia's Premier Bird and Animal Mimic.

At the Matinee Saturday—
"The Fighting Ranger"
Also REACO

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
December 13, 14, 15
Master Pictures
"Tall Timbers"

Paramount—
"The Volcano"
(Bebe Daniels and Wallace Beery)

VAUDEVILLE—
PERRY & WYNNE
Comedy Sketch Artists

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Dec. 13, 14, 15
Fox presents—
"Snow Shoes Trail"
(Jane Novak and Buck Jones)

Mutual—
CARMEL MYERS in
"The Dancer of the Nile"

VAUDEVILLE—
PERRY & WYNNE
Comedy Sketch Artists

Thursday, Friday, Saturday,
December 16, 17, 18
Master Pictures—
"On the Go"
(Buffalo Bill Jnr.)

Metro-Goldwyn—
"Don't"
(Sally O'Neill)

VAUDEVILLE—
LAL
THE MUSICAL MAID

At the Matinee Saturday
"The Fighting Ranger"

Thursday, Friday, Saturday,
Dec. 16, 17, 18
Paramount—
"The Blind Goddess"
(Estelle Ralston and Jack Holt)

Mutual—
"The Gambling Fool"
(Franklyn Farnham)

Vaudeville—
LAL
THE MUSICAL MAID

At the MATINEE Saturday
"The Fighting Ranger"

YOUR Xmas Dinner.—Don't miss this chance to get Geese, Ducks, and Fowls. Auction sale well known "All-Bell" Poultry Farm, Saturday, December 18, 2 p.m. LLEWELLYN JONES, auctioneer. Phone N'cote 4.

4 ROOMED House, Reservoir, two verandahs, large yard: new; 25/- Apply "Ayton," 39 Ashley St., Reservoir.

Wanted.

BRICKLAYER.—E. MEDLIN, 11 Martin St., can cure your smoky chimney or copper, or build you a new one. Workmanship guaranteed. Material supplied.

DRESSMAKING and all kinds of Sewing and Renovations. Satisfaction guaranteed. Mrs. A. Whyte, 65 May St., Preston, late Reservoir.

WANTED.

GIRL or woman for housework. Good wages for suitable person; light place. Able plain cook. 211 Westgarth St., Sth. Northcote.

MAN wants anything, light work; £1 week. 292 Clark St., Dennis.

Board and Residence.

VACANCY two boarders, men, close tram and train. 13 Salisbury Gr., Northcote.

W. AYLWARD,
(Late R. Bailey),
ESTATE OFFICES—104 HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

TO LET.
SHOPS.
Northcote, Charles St. Rent 15/-

HOUSES.
Eltham, 6 min. station and electric train service—7-roomed house, E.L., dairy, fowl houses, stabling, garage, and 1¾ acres. Suit poultry farmers. Rent 30/-, or sell deposit £50; balance as rent; price £750.
Barry St.—5 rooms, garage; 30/-

FOR SALE.
Northcote, house, 4 rooms, £625.
Northcote, house, 6 rooms, £720.
Clifton Hill, house, 5 rooms, stabling for 2, £800. Deposit £50.
North Fitzroy, s.f. brick house, 6 rooms, £985. Deposit £100.
Upwards of 200 properties to select from at prices from £650.
Terms arranged, with moderate deposits.
Rents Collected.
Estate Offices:—104 High St., Northcote. Established over 40 years.
'Phone—Northcote 576.

PRINTING ORDERS

GET THEM IN EARLY.

OWING to the approaching Xmas Holidays, CLIENTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND IN THEIR ORDERS FOR PRINTING at the EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT.

We do not wish to disappoint our customers owing to the last minute rush.

D. H. MOTT & SONS,
"Leader" Office, 309 High Street, Northcote. Telephone N'cote 46.

TWO 21/- PRIZES.

Look for Numbers at "Leader" Office.

In connection with the gift campaign of the City of Northcote Traders' Association, two open orders for £1/1/- each on Northcote tradesmen will be given by Messrs. D. H. Mott and Sons, proprietors of the "Leader." To the persons presenting intact copies of the "Leader" bearing the numbers posted in the windows of the "Leader" office, 309 High street, Northcote, these orders will be presented.

The orders will be available only on business houses whose announcements appear in the "Leader."

WE require on First Mortgage at 7½ per cent. and 8 per cent. sums of £600 and £600 on new houses in Northcote and Preston. Every loan secured and guaranteed. Invest in your own district. O'DONOHUE & BREW, Solicitors, Capitol House, Swanston st., Melbourne. F3213.

YOUNG girl wanted, exxperienced in fruit business; start at once. 349 High St., Northcote.

Lost.

LOST by war widow, Child's Bag in High, Kemp or Stott Sts., containing 10/- note and silver. Reward, 54 Stott St., Croxton.

TYLER STREET SCHOOL.

A MEETING of OLD SCHOLARS will be held in Tyler Street school 13th inst., at 8 p.m. Old scholars cordially invited to attend.

A. HAMILTON, Hon. Sec.

CITY OF PRESTON.

SANITARY SERVICE.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MAKE A PAN CHARGE.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of the City of Preston intend at a meeting of the said Council, to be held at 7.30 o'clock p.m. on MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1926, to make a PAN ANNUAL CHARGE of 40/- (Forty shillings) per Pan, for a Weekly Service on all tenements (within the special area), as shown on plan in the Town Clerk's office) not connected with the sewerage system of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, to provide for the removal and proper disposal of nightsoil.

It is intended that the said charge shall be for the period commencing on the FIRST DAY OF OCTOBER, 1926, and ending on the 30TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1927, collected in TWO MOIETIES, the first moiety to be payable on the 4th day of January, 1927, and the second moiety to be due and payable on the first day of April, 1927.

The estimates prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1915, are deposited for inspection at the Town Hall, High street, Preston, during office hours.

By Order,
W. ARTHUR KELLY, C.E.,
Town Clerk.

Dated this 11th day of December, 1926.

CITY OF PRESTON.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MAKE A GENERAL RATE.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of the City of Preston intend at a meeting of the said council to be held at 7.30 p.m. on MONDAY, 20TH DECEMBER, 1926, to make a GENERAL RATE OF THIRTY PENCE (2/6) IN THE POUND on the NET ANNUAL VALUE of property assessable in the City of Preston.

It is intended that the said Rate shall be for a period commencing on the 1st day of October, 1926, and ending on the 30th day of September, 1927, and shall be collected in one moiety due and payable on the 4TH DAY OF JANUARY, 1927.

The Estimate prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1915 is DEPOSITED FOR INSPECTION at the TOWN HALL, High Street, Preston.

W. ARTHUR KELLY, C.E.,
Town Clerk.

Dated this 11th day of December, 1926.

Amusements.

THE REGENT

WHERE QUALITY REIGNS
High Street, Thornbury.

Direction: F. W. THRING.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY
Corinne Griffith in **"Madamoiselle Modiste"**
A First National Attraction.
Billie Sullivan in **"One Punch o' Day"**
A J. C. Williamson Special Attraction.

ALL THE WEEK
(Direct from the Bijou)
WILL KENNY and WARD LEAR
Cross Patter Comedians
in **"BLACK & WHITE"**

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY
Sally O'Neill in **"DON'T"**—a Metro-Goldwyn Attraction
Reginald Denny in **"ROLLING HOME"**
A Universal Attraction.

Charles Vita and the Regent Concert Orchestra.
Prices as Usual. Box Plan at Theatre. Phone N'cote 1782
No Extra Charge for Booking

TOWN HALL, NORTHCOTE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1926.

VOCAL AND DANCE RECITAL

BY STUDENTS OF

MISS EILEEN PASCOE-WEBBE

Tickets 2/- Booked Seats 5d extra. Box Plan at 205 High St., Northcote Doors open 7 p.m. Commence 7.30.

LEARN TO DANCE AND DANCE WELL.

MR. AND MRS. STRETTON,
Teachers of Ballroom Dancing
9 Woolton Avenue, Croxton.
Private Lessons. Phone—N'cote 1270

SCOTTISH CONCERT

NORTHCOTE AND PRESTON SCOTTISH SOCIETY.

TOWN HALL, NORTHCOTE.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15, 1926.

LAST CONCERT OF THE YEAR!

Artists:—
Northcote and Preston Scottish Society's Pipe Band, Northcote Reel Party, Mr. Robert Malcolm, Miss Grace Jackson, Miss Elsie Westcott, Mr. Eric Jones, Mr. Fred. Champion.
USUAL DANCE TO FOLLOW.

THE AUSTRAL PALAIS DE LUXE
419 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE
(Two Doors from Elm Street).

Hall available for Weddings, Parties, Clubs, etc.
Choicest Confectionery in Stock.
Try our Sundaes and Spiders. All Drinks on Ice.
CATERING DONE. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.
A. JORY, Proprietor.

FOR ECONOMICAL TRANSPORTATION
THE IMPROVED
for Economical Transportation
CHEVROLET
STANDARD
£195

CHEVROLET is the Lowest Priced, Largest Selling Geared Car in the world.
Ask us to explain the reasons why.

WESTGARTH MOTORS

Corner HIGH AND WESTGARTH STREETS.
PHONE—NORTHCOTE 1934.

OUR CHEVROLET SERVICE IS UNEQUALLED

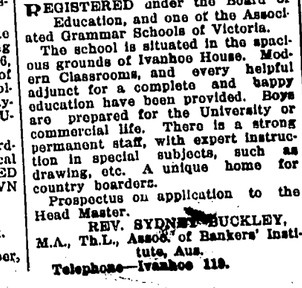
SOLE LOCAL SALES AND SERVICE.

BE UP-TO-DATE AND HAVE ELECTRIC LIGHT INSTALLED IN YOUR HOME.

Clean. No Matches. No Mantle Bills. A Pleasure to Read or Work by. Installations Cheaply and Promptly Executed by

H. P. LEE, Electrical Contractor.
228-230 HIGH STREET, PRESTON.

Every Class of Electrical Work Undertaken and Satisfaction Guaranteed. Phone—Northcote 103.



YOU DON'T PAY FOR OUR EXPERIENCE.

YOU PROFIT BY IT

You cannot trust your Leadlights to an Amateur. You REALLY DO NEED A SPECIALIST.

WE ARE SPECIALISTS

We have made a close study of "Leaded Lights," and we place our knowledge and experience at your service.
Come right in and talk it over with us.

INGLIS

188 PLENTY ROAD, PRESTON.
TIMBER, HARDWARE, JOINERY.

WHY NOT ADVERTISE AND PROSPER?

"The Leader" Small Advertisements Bring Good Results.

ADVERTISE YOUR NEEDS and look for them in "The Leader." Many thousands scan these columns weekly.

WRITE YOUR ADVERTISEMENT ON THIS FORM, AND HAND IT TO YOUR NEWS AGENT OR SEND DIRECT TO THE OFFICE.

Minimum space two lines, about six words of average length to the line. Each abbreviation counts as a word. Up to four consecutive figures count as a word. Rates—14 words, 1/- (two lines), each extra line or part of line 6d. Answers to advertisements may be addressed in care of "The Leader" free of charge.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

IVANHOE.

REGISTERED under the Board of Education, and one of the Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria.
The school is situated in the spacious grounds of Ivanhoe House. Modern Classrooms, and every helpful adjunct for a complete and happy education have been provided. Boys are prepared for the University or commercial life. There is a strong permanent staff, with expert instruction in special subjects, such as drawing, etc. A unique home for country boarders.
Prospectus on application to the Head Master.
REV. SYDNEY BUCKLEY, M.A., Th.L., Assoc. of Bankers' Institute, Aus.
Telephone—Ivanhoe 118.

LOOK STYLISH!

HAVE WELL FITTING CLOTHES
Made by

PAULINE PAERSCH

Frocks also tacked and fitted.
"MOSELLA," SHARP STREET, Off Crawley St., between Spring St. and Railway, Regent.

MISS E. McGANN, A.L.C.M.
TEACHER OF PIANOFORTE, THEORY and HARMONY. Terms moderate. Address—68 Southernhay St., North Preston.

LOOK FOR THE NUMBER

JAMES & HOBSON

REAL ESTATE AGENTS.
(REGISTERED.)

AUCTIONEER. SWORN VALUATOR.

EXPERT CITY AND COUNTRY PROPERTY SALESMEN.

Head Office : 119 HIGH STREET, WESTGARTH.

ESTABLISHED 20 YEARS. PHONE—NORTHCOTE 165.
With Branches—SMITH ST., THORNBURY. N'cote 1077.
TYLER ST., PRESTON. N'cote 968.

We build to your order and Finance You. Land taken as Deposit

AUCTION SALES CONDUCTED IN ANY SUBURB.
NO SALE—NO COMMISSION.

MONEY TO LEND on City and Suburban Freehold. Lowest current rates of interest, from 6 per cent.

SWORN VALUATIONS made. Estates managed for absentees.

RENTS COLLECTED personally by motor. Regular monthly statements rendered. Satisfaction assured.

BUYERS MOTORED to inspect by appointment. Call N'cote 165.

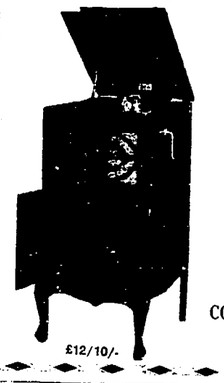
Agents for GUARDIAN ASSURANCE CO. LTD.

FIRE, ACCIDENT, MOTOR and WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE, ETC.

JAMES & HOBSON.

THE BLUE BIRD GRAMO SERVICE

339 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE.



GRAMOPHONES

FROM

2/6 WEEKLY.

RECORDS

FROM 2/9 EACH.

COME AND SEE OUR XMAS STOCK OF GIFTS.

IT IS AN ACKNOWLEDGED FACT

That all the woodwork about your house must be painted—and kept painted—if it would be properly preserved and present the best appearance possible.

Your spare time could not be spent to better or more satisfactory advantage than protecting and decorating your home.

We have everything you require for painting, papering or general decoration. We will estimate the quantities you need and offer expert advice and suggestions, gained from years of experience, gladly and freely.

THE PRICES ARE THE LOWEST.

These few lines here picked at random will give you an idea of the lowness of the prices now ruling at Pridgeon's.

PAINTS, ETC.

FERGUSSON'S WHITE LEAD	67/- cwt
AUSTRALIAN RAW LINSEED OIL	5/- gal.
CALCIMO	2/6 pkt.
MIRROR BRAND READY MIXED PAINT	13/- gal.
FRESCOLINE COLD WATER PAINT	1/10 pkt.
MILL WHITE	7lb. tins. 4/9
3in. BRISTLE BRUSHES	from 2/-

AGENT FOR RICKSHA PAINTS. GOODLASS WALL PAINTS, ETC. BERGER'S PAINTS. TAUBMAN'S STAINS, ETC., MAJORA PAINTS, ETC.

WALLPAPERS, ETC.

WALLPAPERS	From 4d Roll.
SANITAS ENAMELLED CLOTH	2/3 yard.

Call in to-day and select your needs. Remember it's an acknowledged fact that good paint preserves, and it is also an acknowledged fact that PRIDGEON'S is the best-value store for Paint and Wallpapers.

PRIDGEON'S

PAINT AND WALLPAPER STORE,
391 High Street, Northcote
Phone N'cote 163

STOCKTAKING SALE.

EXTRAORDINARY VALUES IN

BEST BRITISH LINOLEUMS

WRITE FOR PATTERNS.

A special shipment of these Best Quality Linoleums to hand. The latest and very newest designs and colorings are included. All two yards wide.

GOOD QUALITY, HEAVY QUALITY
5/11 7/11
EXTRA HEAVY
8/11

BRITISH LINOLEUM SQUARES.
EXTRA HEAVY QUALITY.
A comprehensive assortment of beautiful new designs and harmonious color schemes.
Size—7ft. 6in. x 9ft. 10ft. 6in. x 9ft.
£2/7/6 £3/5/-
12ft. x 9ft.
£3/15/-

Our Complete Furniture Catalogue Post Free.

PASSAGE LINOLEUMS

A wide range of Artistic Designs and Effective Colorings.

Width—18in.	22½in.	27in.	36in.
1/11	2/6	2/11	3/11 yard.

We Pack Free and Pay Freight in Victoria for Cash with Order

KEENEST PRICES EASIEST TERMS

Anderson's

PTY. LTD.

Complete Home Furnishers. Specialists in Pianos and Player Pianos.

885 HIGH STREET, THORNBURY.

881-891 CLARENDON STREET, SOUTH MELBOURNE. 382-388 CHAPEL STREET, PRAHRAN.

TRADERS' ASSOCIATION

CITY OF NORTHCOTE.

A meeting of the executive committee was held on Tuesday evening at the Town Hall. The secretary reported that 275 members were now in sight.

FREE GIFT.

Numbers were allotted to various traders to affix to articles which will be given to persons producing an intact copy of this paper bearing the corresponding number.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

The following is a list of shopkeepers who have joined the movement up to the present, as supplied to us:—

ACKERY, H. F., chemist.
ATLEY, GEO., tobacconist.
ANDREWS & CORNISH, MISSES millliners.
AMOR, MRS., Newsagent.
ARTISTIC HOME FURNISHING CO.
ANDERSON'S, PTY. LTD., furniture.
ARNOLD, MISS, fancy goods
AYRES, GEORGE, grocer.
ALLEN, ERNEST, tobacconist.
AVISON, SAM, fishmonger.
ATKINSON & COULSON, chemists
ERICE, A., cycle manufacturer.
BRICE, MRS., boot store.
BARNES, R., baby carriages.
BRETT, A., grocer.
BEATTIE BROS., drapers.
BURNS, L. R., bootmaker.
BURGESS & SONS, butchers.
BARKAS & SON, grocers.
BARKER, MRS., confectioner.
BRAMPIED, MRS., produce merchant.
BLUE BIRD GRAMOPHONE STORE.
BROUGH, HARRY, confectioner.
BURTON, G., mercer.
BON ACCORD, dairy produce.
BROWN, J. L., fruiterer.
BRIDGES, C. G., boot store
CARTWRIGHT, MRS., confectioner.
COX, REG., grocer.
COOPER, JAMES, printer.
COHEN, HARRY, furniture manufacturer.
COOPER, E., Tailor.
COADY, MISS, confectioner.
CHANTER, MISS, cakes and confec.
CHRISTIE, S., plumber & engineer.
CULLIFORD, W. H., boot store.
COPPOCK, MISS, ladies' draper.
CURTIN, P. J., newsagent.
COOKE, H., photographer.
CARNELL, W. J., picture frame maker.
CUMBERLAND, S., newsagent.
CROSLING, T., fruiterer.
CLACK'S ECONOMIC STORES, drapers.
CASTELOW, PERCY, tailor.
COON, J. B., boot store.
COHEN, S. M., fancy goods.
"CHARLEY'S," boot store.
CORNISH & CO., grocers.
COHEN, H. E., florist.
CUDDIGAN, F., newsagent.
CLAYTON, H., confectioner.
DON DRAPERY STORES.
DRUMMOND, MISS, milliner.
DORAN, T., printer.
DONNELLAN, WM., bootmaker.
DAVIS, W. J., chemist.
DYTE, H. C., chemist.
DALGLEISH, GEO., jeweller.
DERRETT, A., dairy produce.
DUNLOP, A., upholsterer.
DICKINSON BROS., mercers.
DIMMICK, E., tailor.
DUNKLEY, MRS. E., dairy produce.
DOWNES, A., chemist.
ELY, H., bootmaker.
EZYWALKIN, boot stores.
EVANS, MR., tobacconist.
ECKER, J., butcher.
EDMONDS, MISS, knitting manfr.
EMMERSON, A. W., photographer.
ELLIS, MRS., boot store.
ECKER, J., butcher.
FINCH, HARRY, boot store.
FONTAINE, F., cycle manufacturer
FAIFER, J., knitted goods.
FAIRWEATHER, MRS., cakes and pastry.
FILES, HARRY, boot store.
FINN, MRS., confectioner.
FRANCE, C. E., fishmonger.
FINDLAY, ROBERT, mercer.
FETTLING, F., jeweller.
GLANFIELD BROS., butchers.
GOOR, L. draper.
GARRICKS, —, gramophones.
GRIBBLE, WM., boot store.
GOODALL, MRS., confectioner.
GRAHAM, MRS., cakes and pastry.
GOATLEY, J., hairdresser.
GOLDMAN, MISS, florist.
GARDINER & McMULLIN, chemists.
GAVAN, E. J., fancy goods.
GOODFELLOW, S. K., grocer.
GRAY, SAM, hairdresser.
GATES, E. L., draper.
"GUILFOYLE'S," florist.
GARDINER AND McMULLIN, chemists.
HING, MRS., confectionery.
HARVEY, GEO., confectionery.
HARRISON, M., dyer and cleaner.
HOSKEN, MR., boot store.
HYNES, MRS., furrier.
HOOPER, G. E., auctioneer.
HOSKING, A. E., furn. warehouse.
HARDING, N., sewing machines.
HOSKING, B., butcher.
HAUSER, WALTER, saddler.
HALL, MRS., confectioner.
HEINZE, MR., jeweller.
HARRIS & SMITH, butchers.
HOLY, JACK, saddler.
HOWGATE & ROBERTS, estate agents.
HARRIMAN & CO., drapers.
HOOKEY, C. L., butcher.
HUGHES, MRS., ladies' draper.
HALL, MRS., dairy produce.
HEAD, MISSES, ladies' drapers.
HANCOCK, MRS., confectionery.
HIGHLAND KNITTING MILLS.
HARE, J., mercer.
HODGE, A., printer.
HARRIS & WRIGHT, newsagents.
HOWAT, MRS., confectionery and tea rooms.
HAWKE, W., fruiterer.
HALLIDAY, O., ironmonger.
INGLIS, MISS, ladies' draper.
JOHNSON, MR., dairy produce.
JOHNSON, WM., music dealer.
JOHNSON & McMILLAN, electric.
JORY, MRS., confectionery and hall.
JONES, MRS., Commercial Hotel.
JOHNSON & GREEN, dairy produce
JONES, MISS, ladies' hairdresser.
KNOTT, ALBERT, hairdresser.
KIRKBY, JOS., picture frame maker
KELLY, F., saddler.
KNOTT, MISS, milliner.
KELLETT, MISS, ladies' draper.
KLIMAN, MRS., ladies' draper.
LETICQ, H., dairy produce.
LANNON BROS., wicker manufac.
LANE, MRS., tea rooms.
LOWE, JAS., dairy produce.
LATHAM, S. M., boot store.
LAMB, A., butcher.
LOPICESTO, C., fruiterer
LOW, C., tailor.
LEES, ERNEST, estate agent.
LAURICALLA, S., fruiterer.
LEEDEN & BOCK, drapers.
LAMB, A., butcher.
"LEADER" OFFICE, newspaper.
MOORE & WORLE, MISSES, ladies' drapers.
MAGNET CASH AND CARRY STORES, fancy goods.
MASSONS (J. FRENCH), ironmon.
McCLEAN, ROY., furrier.
MORRIS, A. E., furniture warehouse
MARLOW & MORTON, headlight manufacturers.
MUNDAY, JOSEPH, hairdresser.
McENTEE & POOLE, paperhangers, etc.
METCALF, R., cycle manufacturers.
MILLER, MRS., confectionery.
McRAE, MR., dairy produce.
McCORMACK, WM., dairy produce
MURDEN & SON, grocers.
MARTIN, J. G., fancy goods.
MILES, MISS, milliner.
MORRIS BOOT STORE, boot man.
MURPHY, W. J., grocer.
MORIESON, J. P., ironmonger.
MARSHALL, MRS., fancy goods.
MOYLE & SON, grocers.
MOTT & SONS, D. H., printers.
NICOL, W. D., bootmaker.
NEELANDS, W. S. PTY. LTD., ironmongers, timber merchants.
NOAR, A., fancy goods.
PERRETT, MISS, confectionery
PHILLIPS, MRS., confectionery
POCOCK, MISS, ladies' draper.
PEARCE, MRS., confectionery
POLLOCK & KNIGHT, ladies' drapers.
PARLINGTON, MR., draper.
POWER BROS., butchers.
PAINE, L., crockery and hardware.
PARRY, E. J., cycle works.
PRESTON, MRS., ladies' draper.
PICKFORD, S., boot store.
PASCOE, D., baker.
PRIDGEON, WM., painter and decorator.
POWER, J., butcher.
POWELL, MRS., draper.
ROBERTSON & O'DONNELL, electricians.
ROBERTS, B., dairy produce.
RODGER, DAVID, dairy produce.
RUSHTON, MRS., dairy produce.
ROBERTSON, JNO., florist.
ROSE, M., dealer.
"RENOWN," hatter and mercer.
ROSS, MR., financier.
RAWLINSON, MR., tent maker.
REDMONDS PTY. LTD., ironmong.
ROSS, MR., furniture warehouse.
ROBERTS, L., butcher.
ROBINSON, MISS, ladies' draper.
RALPH, MR., music store.
RODWAY HOME MADE CAKES
SHANDS, ARTHUR, tailor.
SYMONDS, E., music stores.
SHARP BROS., drapers.
STEPHENSON, MRS., confectionery
STEWART, MISS, confectionery.
SLATER, H., fruiterer.
SHAW, ARCH., grocer.
SMITH, F. G., draper.
STEELE, T. E., ironmonger.
SUMMERS, C. L., mercer
SEEGER, J., pastry cook.
SHEARER, H., draper.
SAGEMAN, MR., confectioneer.
STOTT, SON & WATSON, estate agents (and at cnr. Dundas St.).
SYMONS, MRS., fancy goods.
TOULEN, MRS., dairy produce.
THORPE, MRS., confectionery.
TARRANT, G., ladies' hairdresser.
THOMAS & WOOD, MISSES, millliners.
TAYLOR, L., bootmaker
TADICH, L., garage.
TORODE, F., butcher.
THARRATT, ironmongers.
THACKRAY, W., jeweller
VASSETT, R., fishmonger.
WORFOLD, MRS., confectioner.
WILSON, MISS, ladies' draper.
WEDGWOOD, E. C., ironmongery.
WALLACE, PETER, bootmaker.
WILLIAMS, MISS, milliner.
WEST, J., confectioner.
WARREN, D., furniture.
WOOLCOCK'S, dairy produce.
WILLMOTT, MISS, costumiere.
WOODCOCK, MRS., confectioner.
WHITE, L. C., mercer.
WHITE & OLIVER, ladies' drapers.
WHITCOMBE, W.
WINTER, MISS, milliner.
WILLIAMS, MR., watchmaker.
WILLMOTT & CO., estate agents.
WAKEFIELD, MISS, ladies' draper.
WALES, A., estate agent.
WHILLINGTON & KIDD, garage.
WEAVER & MARK, ladies' drapers.
WATERMAN, MR., dyer and cleaner
WARD, MISS, milliner.
WOOD, MR., electrician.
WEAVEN, MISS, ladies' draper.
WALKER, WM., jeweller.
YOUNG, H. L., tailor.
YOUNG, MRS., confectioner.
ZOLLER, MR., cooked meats.

BOWLING.

THE THORNBURY CLUB.

The pennant matches will be resumed to-morrow, after a break of two weeks, while the preliminary rounds of the V.B.A. Champion Rinks Tournament were being played. The second round of the home and home games start to-morrow, and Thornbury's fixtures are as follow:—

The "A" team play Flemington at Flemington; the No. 1 "C" are at home to Fairfield; and the No. 2 "C" team are also at home to Caulfield Park. Members are requested to make a special effort to meet their engagements in the various tournaments as soon as possible, and thus eliminate any trouble that may arise through some members being away over the Christmas and New Year Holidays.

It has been decided to run a promiscuous rink tourney one night each week, when four trophies will be given each night, and in addition to these trophies a trophy will be given at the close of the season for the member who has scored the highest number of points for the series of games. Next week's game will be on Thursday night.

Next Tuesday night four rinks will play four rinks from the Fairfield Club at Fairfield. List on notice board.

Entries are now being received for a pairs tournament, electric light.

Arrangements have been completed for the annual church rink tournament, entries will close on January 25, and the first round will commence on Thursday, February 1, 1927.

"SHOP WHERE YOU SEE THE SIGN"

And Thereby Help Yourself and Help Your Town.

This issue of the "Leader" is produced under the auspices of the Northcote Traders' Association, and at their request the day of publication has been altered to Friday instead of Saturday.

Announcements from the principal business houses appear in this issue, and all are striving to emphasise the undeniable fact that Northcote is a fine shopping centre; that the prices charged are fair and reasonable, and the goods reliable. Residents are requested to patronise the business people who show that they have the good of the city at heart, and who are trying to help the progress and prosperity of the town. Money spent with such broadminded business people confers a lasting benefit on the customer, as by creating business and keeping money in the town, everybody benefits doubly. The opposite is the case where the money is "swagged out of the town wholesale." Moreover, there is such a thing as loyalty and patriotism. Both of these begin at home. To deal locally saves money, time and inconvenience, and also helps the town along. Therefore Be Patriotic and Be Loyal to Your Town by buying from accredited members of the Northcote City Traders' Association. All accredited members sport the circular slogan sign: "Shop in Northcote, the City of Low Prices." Trade where you see the sign!

HOW TO GET A FREE PRESENT.

Each copy of this issue of the "Leader" bears a number. Numbers have been allotted to numerous business houses, who will attach them to goods displayed in their windows. Upon production of a paper bearing a similar number to the one attached to the goods, the article will be handed over entirely free of charge. It will be advisable for all readers to make a very careful scrutiny of all slogan shops in Northcote City, both in High street, St. George's road, and other thoroughfares. There is no need to look in non-slogan shops, as they are not giving away presents.

It should be borne in mind that no official of the association and no member of the staff of the "Leader" is eligible to win a prize.

Watch this Number

It may win you a Prize

No 6774

YOUR BLOOD TYPE.

Transfusion of blood, formerly attended by considerable uncertainty, has, thanks to modern methods of blood testing, become a recognised and powerful remedy in cases of severe hemorrhage and pernicious anaemia. As is generally known, there are four different types of human blood, and the safety with which the operation may be performed lies largely in the choice of a suitable person as donor.

In any group of one hundred people, chosen at random from the population of this country, something like the following would be found:—Forty-five persons having type 4 blood, forty type 2, ten to fifteen type 3, one or two, and seldom more than five, type 1. Before a transfusion of blood may be given, one of two things is essential. The donor must have the same type of blood as the recipient, or he must belong to group 4.

Type 4 blood, which, fortunately, is the most common, has the property of being able to mix with any other type of blood, and a person of this group is a universal donor. Once classified, he may, at any time, give blood to any patient irrespective of the group to which the patient may belong. Indeed, in practice, it is usually only after failure to get a universal donor that the patient's blood is tested with the object of finding a donor of similar type.

The foregoing remarks, however, do not apply in those rare cases where the patient belongs to group 1. This type is a universal recipient, having the peculiarity of being able to receive blood from its own, or any of the other three groups. Comparatively small among Europeans, this group is larger among Indians and other coloured races.

The reason of the importance of a proper selection of type lies in the nature of the red blood corpuscles. Corpuscles of any type of blood, when mixed with the blood fluid of a type other than their own, or type 1, gather together in groups and form clots. This agglutination, as it is called, provides a simple and infallible test of blood type.

Two small sealed glass tubes are used. One contains a drop of blood from a known type 2. From this the red corpuscles have been extracted, leaving a colourless fluid. The second tube contains a similar serum from a known type 3. The contents of each tube are blown, an inch or so apart, on the surface of a glass slide, and a drop of blood from the finger of the prospective donor mixed with each serum.

The slide is held up to the light and tilted slightly to allow the fluid to run gently from side to side. When first mixed this fluid has a smooth and milky texture. As it runs over the plate it may be observed that the texture of one or the other has changed, and trailing in its wake is a small quantity of grit like minute grains of sand. These are coagulated corpuscles, ordinarily invisible to the naked eye, but easily enough seen when they have grouped together.

It may not at first be very clear why only two sera are used when there are four types of blood, but a very little reflection will show that they will reveal all that is necessary. We know, for example, that type 3 blood will not mix with type 2, therefore if No. 3 serum remains unchanged and No. 2 becomes gritty, the donor must be a type 3. We know that he is not a type 4 because if he were his blood would mix with both type 2 and type 3, and both fluids would have undergone treatment.

THORNBURY BABY HEALTH CENTRE BUILDING

FOUNDATION STONE LAID BY MAYOR.

On Wednesday afternoon, in the presence of a large gathering, the Mayor of Northcote (Cr. Phil. Mayer) laid the foundation stone of the new baby health centre building, which is in course of erection in Clarendon street, Thornbury.

The weather was fine, though warm, and the gathering was a representative one, including councillors and their wives, representatives of the central executive of the Baby Health Centres Association, members of the Northcote Baby Health Centre committee, and many other leading citizens. Among those present were Mr. J. Cain, M.L.A., State member for Jika Jika, and Mrs. Cain, and Mr. Frank Brennan, M.H.R., Federal representative for Batman, and Mrs. Brennan.

Mr. Cain, in introducing the Mayor of Northcote, said that some councillors had regretted the fact that the building was to be erected on what might be termed "park lands," but the council in its wisdom had decided that such was to be the case. Small park areas such as this would be very valuable in years to come, and he personally regretted that portion of one of those small areas had been utilised, instead of securing another site.

Mr. Brennan said he was very pleased to have had the opportunity of being present. In politics men had differences of opinion on many subjects, but there were some matters on which all were agreed, and one of these was that too little had been done in the past, and more should be done now for the preservation of child life. The country had suffered much in the past through ignorance, and any movement that would educate the people for the benefit of child welfare should have the support of everybody. However much people disagreed about assisted migration, there was no disagreement about the necessity for sheltering the early lives of the children, who were, after all, a country's best "migrants." The purpose for which the gathering was held was to lay the foundation stone of a unit of the Baby Health Centre, which was doing one of the noblest works ever conceived. He wished the movement "good speed," and trusted that the building would be completed at an early date, and said he felt that as generation succeeded generation, the people would bless the present citizens and council of Northcote for inaugurating a work that would go on for ever. (Applause.)

Mr. Cain, on behalf of the Northcote Council, presented to the Mayor a silver trowel, suitably inscribed, with which to perform the ceremony.

The Mayor expressed appreciation at the representative attendance, amongst whom he welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress of Collingwood (Cr. and Mrs. Kane), and the president of the Shire of Heidelberg (Cr. Coates). Ex-Cr. McDonell, Sir George Cuscaden (Central Executive Baby Health Centres Association), and representatives of the Baby Health Centres Association and of the Northcote Centre. He said that when Northcote became a Borough in 1885 the population was 1800, and the revenue £2,600. In 1890, the boom year, the population was 6,245, and the revenue £15,000. During the period of depression following the boom the revenue dropped to £7000 and it was not till 1911 that it reached £17,500 again, with a population of 17,210. In 1925-26 the population had reached just on 40,000 and the revenue from all sources over £125,000. The first baby health centre was opened in 1921, and later a second was established in temporary quarters in 1923. Attendances at the centre in 1922 were 2,764, and visits paid by the sister to homes numbered 1,527. By 1926 (two centres) the figures were 5,552 and 1,928 respectively. During the five year period the attendances at the centres totalled 20,469, and the nurse's visits 7,840, or to put it another way, that for every day in that five year period sixteen babies per day visited the centres and received attention at their homes. Thus, continued the Mayor, the need for the baby health centres had been definitely proved. When the first centre was established, the Government and the council each contributed £125 per year towards its upkeep, and since the second one had come into being the respective apportionments had been doubled. He commended the central executive and the Northcote branch for their fine efforts in their welfare work to preserve child life, saying no more noble sphere of activity could be entered up. He felt it a good move to establish the centre in Thornbury in the midst of a thickly populated area, and trusted that the building would be well fitted for the purpose for which it was intended, and that the citizens would consider the money nobly spent.

The Mayor declared the foundation stone well and truly laid.

The foundation stone bears the name of the Mayor and councillors, those of the town clerk, city surveyor and builders, and also the date.

A photograph of how the centre building will look when completed, appears elsewhere in this issue.

VISITORS ENTERTAINED.

At the conclusion of the ceremony of laying the foundation stone, a number of those present were entertained at afternoon tea at Normanby Hall by the Mayor and Mayoress.

Among those present were the Mayor and Mayoress (Cr. and Mrs. Phil. Mayer), Cr. and Mrs. B. E. Johnson, Cr. and Mrs. S. Dennis, Cr. and Mrs. J. Sutch, Cr. and Mrs. A. H. Oldis, Cr. and Mrs. J. L. Dunlop, Cr. and Mrs. W. H. Turner, Cr. and Mrs. A. McDonald, Cr. and Mrs. W. Olver, Cr. and Mrs. H. Mitchell, Cr. W. Hayes, Cr. J. Cain, M.L.A., and Mrs. Cain, Mr. F. Brennan, M.H.R. and Mrs. Brennan; Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Warr (Preston), Mr. J. A. Thomson (town clerk) and Mrs. Thomson, Dr. Sir George Cuscaden, Dr. V. Scantlebury, Mrs. W. Bartle Ryan, ex-Cr. A. A. McDonell, Dr. and Mrs. Rosanove (Mayor and Mayoress of Collingwood (Cr. and Mrs. Kane); president Heidelburg Shire (Cr. Coates), Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Hawthorn, Sisters Simonds and Jones (Centre Nurses), Mr. J. Bennell, of Bennell and Sons, the contractors), and a number of others.

A number of toasts were proposed, including "The King," by the Mayor; "Parliament," by Crs. Dennis and Hayes, to which Mr. Cain and Mr. Brennan responded; "Neighboring Municipalities," by Crs. Olver and Dunlop, to which Cr. Kane (Collingwood) and Cr. Coates (Heidelburg) responded; "Baby Health Centre Association," by Cr. Johnson, to which Dr. Sir Geo. Cuscaden replied, and "The Mayor and Mayoress," by Cr. Sutch, to which the Mayor responded.

CRICKET.

REGENT V. CROXTON.

On the first day Croxton had been dismissed for 128 and Regent had lost six wickets for 66. Continuing on Saturday, Regent made a good recovery, and thanks to a fine display by Ryan, the total was carried to 139 before the last wicket fell. Ryan 70 and Newbegin 20 were the most successful batsmen. For Croxton R. Smith four for 59 bowled well. In their second innings Croxton lost one for 86 and closed (Otto 52 n.o. and Hopgood 29 n.o.), leaving Regent with 45 minutes to get 75 runs for an outright win. Regent went after the runs and in an exciting finish were successful in the last over of the match. Finishing with four for 83 they won by six wickets. Nicholson 17, W. Cranston 20, Newbegin 17, and J. Staveley 25 n.o. all showed good batting form. R. Smith, two for 36, again bowled well for Croxton. Both teams are to be congratulated on the fine sporting spirit in which the match was played.

U.A.O.D. COMPETITION.

Preston concluded their match against Shamrock last Saturday, the scores being—Preston 103 and 56 (Cassidy 45, Bigmore 30 n.o., Look 13, Smith 11; Grattidge 3/11) Shamrock 120 and four for 57 (Harper 44; H. Hancock secured 12/59). The game this afternoon is against Mona, at Royal Park.

NORTHCOTE AND PRESTON CHURCHES.

A GRADE.

Northcote Presbyterians 180 (G. Johnson 29, McRae 35, Waterson 27, Steer 4/40, Weir 2/35) defeated Thornbury Church of Christ 47 and 79 (Steer 13 and 22, Stack 19, Bramby 14; Ridley 7/14, Johnson 2/12).

Northcote Congregationals 167 (Irvine 53, Baird 16, Lane 25, Johnston 22 n.o.; Friend 4/45, Gray 2/12) defeated Thornbury Presbyterians 84 and seven for 64 (Pepper 17, Willis 16, R. Patterson 17; Johnston 3/27, Wildsmith 7/21).

St. George's Road Methodists 73 and 98 (Owens 20 and 35, Mawby 30, Veevers 24 n.o.; Heffernan 6/58, Hayes 4/16, Brewer 3/66) defeated West Preston Methodists 113 and 54 (W. Rankin 25, Paddle 18 n.o., Phillips 39 n.o.; Eaton 4/38, King 3/7, Veevers 8/55).

B GRADE.

Thornbury Presbyterians 89 and 72 (Wintle 20 and 10, Brownhill 31) beat Croxton Methodist, 107 and 52 (Tippet 21, Brown 27).

St. George's Road Methodists 45 and 116 (D. Allen 29, O. Berry 12 and 14, A. Berry 53; Mannuoll 9/51, Taylor 5/15) defeated Preston Methodist A, 90 and 46 (Taylor 26, Le Page 25, Hewish 6/29, C. Stacey 4/30, Phillips 8/51).

Northcote Church of Christ 177 (Tyson 36, Campbell 30, Buzzard 36 n.o.; Spencer 2/43, Watkins 2/7) defeated Northcote Presbyterians 65 and 57 (Hyland 19, Urquhart 16; Whittaker 5/29, Urquhart 4/13, Carpenter 2/18).

St. James Church of England 99 and eight for 92 (Boxall 18 and 21 n.o., O'Connor 29, Newton 14; Webster 4/26, Stephens 4/36, Gray 4/31) defeated Croxton Methodists 91 and 7 for 98 (Turner 33 and 44, Wyatt 21 n.o., Nedder 27 n.o.; Pink 5/44, O'Connor 6/56, Newton 3/26, Banks 2/20).

Preston Methodist B five for 84 (Twey 33 n.o., Hamilton 21 n.o.; S Cosier 3/33, Rowe 2/14) defeated West Preston Methodists 21 and 17 (Rowe 19, Ellis 14; Spargo 3/17, Hamilton 7/21).

Prince of Wales Park Methodists 130 and 102 (Power 20 and 26, Risk 36, Smith 26, Lee 20; Williams 3/39, Oates 3/48, Stewart 4/52, James 3/18) defeated Northcote Methodists 101 and four for 90 (Williams 36 and 33, W. Stewart 16, D. Stewart 25 n.o.; Power 5/38, Smith 3/49, Langfield 4/40).

Pender's Grove Methodists 84 and 1 for 56 (Vance 37, Ede 19 n.o., P. Leake 23, Alexander 29; Pike 5/29, Goodluck 2/19) defeated Preston Church of Christ Footballers, 58 and 16 (Pike 31 and 22 n.o., Hackett 23, A. Leake 4/9, Bell 5/27, Gregory 4/24).

St. Mary's Church of England 120 and five for 45 (McDonald 21, Tribe 17, Tait 17, Worthington 38, Tribe 18 n.o.; Morgan 7/43, Scaife 3/59) defeated Preston Church of Christ 132 and 25 (A. Scaife 29, C. Scaife 24, Rodgers 40; McDonald 10/48, Tribe 6/63).

South Preston Presbyterian 109 and 32 (McHarg 24 and 10/38, Guppy 20; Bishop 4/29, Body 4/12) beat Methodist, 43 and 59 (Caddell 4/10).

South Preston Methodists continued their match against Yarra Falls last week. At the close of the play the previous week Yarra Falls were 103 and South Preston Methodists had lost four wickets for 68. South Preston carried their score to 93 (Davis 17, Goodman 18, Hibbert 24, Hocking 13; Thomas 6/48, R. Wilkins 2/10). Yarra Falls opened their second innings and made 122 (A. Wilkins 35, Shelton 31, Padman 18, Ludlow 15; Hocking 5/44, Bott 3/28, Davis 2/20). South Preston Methodists opened their second innings, but could only raise 84 for the loss of six wickets in the time (Davis 13, Hocking 14, C. Delbridge 13; Thomas 3/26, Shelton 1/7, Lockwood 1/14). Yarra Falls won by 10 runs on the first innings. South Preston Methodists will play Brunswick P.A.F.S. next Saturday at Gower street, Preston.

JUNIOR I.O.R.

Northcote 73 and 9 for 123 (dec.) (Hamilton 32, White 25 and 17, Dowd 13, Frawley 21 n.o., Bridgeford 12 n.o. and 19, Humphries 17 and 12; Mead 5/12 and 3/24, Ellis 3/15) defeated West Melbourne 72 and 56 (Mead 24 and 15, Sicree 15, Gootz 11 n.o.; Hamilton 6/31 and 5/15, Frawley 3/15 and 3/16) by one wicket and 65 runs.

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CRICKET

Secretaries are requested to forward reports AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, so as to ensure insertion. All reports should reach the "Leader" Office BEFORE WEDNESDAY.

Sub-district.

CAMBERWELL BEATS PRESTON.

As the result of the play on the first day Preston had compiled 107 in the first innings, and Camberwell had lost five wickets for 96 runs. Camberwell were dismissed for 215, to which Robinson compiled a brisk 4 not out (eight fours), and Walsh 38, Dr. Kerr 32, Bell 18, Maine 15, Maguire 13, and Upton 11, also made double figures. Ludlow, five for 59, was easily the best bowler. The remainder of the wickets were captured by Walker, four for 51, and Butler, one for 37. In the second innings Preston lost nine wickets for 148 runs, the chief contributors to which were Power 30, Ludlow 28 not out, Butler 26, Wallington 22, Proposch 18, and Bradford 10. A good stand by Ludlow and Power, which brought the score from 86 to 148, prevented Camberwell from gaining the outright win, which at one time seemed possible. Bell, three for 50; Robinson, two for 38; Walsh, one for 19, and Watt, one for 25, captured the wickets. Camberwell won on the first innings by 108 runs.

SECOND ELEVENS.

Camberwell, seven (closed) for 220, beat Preston, 119 and 60 (Seebeck 34, Fisher 42 n.o.; Hatch 4/37, Le Lew 5/29, Harrison 1/18, Britt 7/27, Watt 2/32).

Metropolitan League.

Northcote 9 5and five (closed) for 121 (Harvey 40, Iddles 64 n.o.; Dave 4/50) lost to McConchie, 97 and seven for 50 (Roy 31 and 4/27), Little 4/40, Collins 8/35).

Collingwood, 129 and four for 92 (Capp 46, Oakman 25 and 33 n.o.; Carter 10/99), beat Clifton Hill, 124 and six for 94 (McNeil 51 n.o., Cock 30, Mercer 31; Oakman 10/62).

North Suburban Association.

FIRST GRADE.

Brunswick Amateurs, 160 and nine for 120 (Jones 25, Harding 26, Caldwell 22 and 20, K. Heller 20, Popplelon 25, Donohue 21, Cardwell 21; Whiffen 4/52), beat Thornbury 156 (Wagstaff 44, Lovelace 26).

Postal 141 (Byron 53, Hewitt 25, Riley 5/52) beat Coburg-Bell Park 113 and 67 (Butler 30, Ivey 21).

SECOND GRADE.

South Preston Methodists 93 and six for 84 (Hibbert 24, Davis 43; Hocking 9/71), Bott 8/58) lost to Yarra Falls 103 and 122 (N. Edwards 26, A. Wilkins 35, Skelton 28).

Court Little John, 194 (Scott 74 and 2/10, Daymon 40 n.o.; W. J. Thomson 6/37, C. Scott 4/43) beat Llewellyn's, 74 and five for 60 (R. Boyle 35, O'Donnell 26).

North District, 152 and 48, lost to West Coburg, five (closed) for 263 (Campbell 80, Simpson 38, Woolfe 30, Bowen 33 n.o., McKelson 32 n.o.; Gilbey 6/28).

THIRD GRADE.

North Fitzroy United 99 and eight for 88 (Townsend 24, Lester 24; Douglas 8/77, Bagley 7/55), lost to Lyn Shoe 133 (R. Watson 41, Collin 21; L. Bell 5/59).

Brightside 101 and 93 (Seivers 29, Kitch 23, O'Brien 43 n.o.; Murray 3/17) lost to Parkwood, six for 223 (C. Moore 61, W. Hart 33, F. Bowden 27, S Moore 40 n.o., R. Ridley 36 n.o.).

Westgarth 135 and eight for 31 5/47) beat Collingwood District 49 (McDonald 44 n.o.; Parker 9/60, Sharp and 152 (Lincoln 34, Halligan 27, Skelly 29; Brown 6/29; Brown 6/29, Martin 5/25).

Regent 139 and four for 83 (Ryan 70, Newbeam 20 and 17, Cranston 20 and 6/69, Stavely 25 n.o.) beat Croxton 128 and one (closed) for 86 (Otto 51 and 52 n.o., Hopgood 29 n.o.; Smith 6/95).

Parkside, 60 and 41 (Rickard 4/9, Shepherd 6/24, lost to Brunswick Scouts Old Boys, 83 and two for 22.

Dennis 86 (Reilly 20; Blockley 11/15) beat Coles 42 and 12 (Mulkay 4/8).

Northcote Old Scholars 128 (White 42, Cotter 41; Weate 5/41) lost to Spensley Street, 142 and five for 148 (Tuttleby 65, Elliott 25, Lockhead 23, Curnick 38 n.o.).

Jika Association.

Prestonite, four (closed) for 264 (Shield 8/19) beat Scouts 48 and 58 (Pears 4/41).

Preston Footballers 160 (Skipper 33, Punch 37, Mills 28, Aked 24) beat Reservoir 114 (Coloquhon 31, Jutson 47; Hannah 4/15, Forde 4 14).

Gowerville 136 and seven for 69 Barklem 34, Virtue 21, Torrens 26) beat Stewart and Davies, 124 and six for 80.

East Ward 130 and 73 (Maskill 5/29, Colsen 4/38) beat East Northcote 102 and seven for 107 (Parasienne 10/54, Armstrong 39, Maskill 28, Colsen 22 n.o.).

Preston Soccer 116 and four for 8 beat Preston United 137 and 48 (C. Prince 62, 25, and 9/63, Doncaster 66).

Other Matches.

Preston P.A.F.S. six (closed) for 233 (Seebeck 129 and 6/25, Worsey 54, Crump 29 and 4/16) beat Malvern 59 and 48 (Tansley 29; C. Burge 6/19 and N. Burge 4/14).

South Melbourne 201 and none for 17 (Nixon 52, A. Smith 34, A. Budge 20, V. Budge 22, Layfield 20 and 5/52; Emery 4/55) beat Northcote P.A.F.S, 157 (Rowe 28, Ward 37, Emery 37).

Preston Hibernians 58 and seven (closed) for 145 (Jones 45 and 7/32, White 40, Martin 21 and 6/45) beat Brunswick 141 and 20 (Walsh 43 and 7/78; Fitzgerald 5/68).

Northcote I.O.R. (seniors) 106 and five for 67 (T. Williams 31, L. Williams 28, Scott 24 n.o., Johnson 20; Evans 9/64) beat Clifton Hill, 147 and 25 (Bone 55, T. Williams 11/52, Brown 3/23).

Alphington 163 beat Fairfield 88 (S. Tembly 26; Burrows 4/42, and seven for 156 (S. Tembly 91, Ridgway 36 n.o.).

Alphington Footballers, five (closed) for 163 (Thompson 77 n.o., Whelahan 63) beat Rosanna 49 and four for 133 (Greig 50 n.o., Fowler 21).

North Ivanhoe 210 beat West Heidelberg 36 (Taylor 5/13) and 70 (Anderson 27 n.o.; Taylor 5/22. Balfour 4/32).

Northcote I.O.R. (juniors) 73 and 130 beat West Melbourne 72 and 56.

Northcote Returned Soldiers, 44 and five for 78 (Beavis 53 n.o., Reid 33; Busbridge 4 9, McShane 4/16) lost to Williamstown 124 (Jewell 32, Tweedjoy 31, Parsons 19; Fagan 5/40, Jones 5/51).

Prahran 132 and three for 74 (Lenne 46, Jewell 40, E. Falkingham 37 n.o., Shillito 23; Holland 7/69, Watson 6/67) beat Preston Returned Soldiers 116 and five (closed) for 83 (Holland 63 and 36 n.o.; Bickford 8/11).

Richmond 118 and six for 31 (Woodward 36 and 2/5, Cross 21 and 9/42, Gibb 18; Allnutt 8/56) beat Fairfield Soldiers 65 and 80 (Petrie 21; Harris 20 and 4/16).

Northcote C.Y.M.S. 88 and seven for 124 (Ogden 12 and 53 n.o., Coghlan 10 and 21, Dynan 20 n.o., Mithen 21) lost to North Melbourne 117 and nine for 91 (Hillman 42, Newcombe 26, K Condon 16 and 30 n.o. and 16/81; Ogden 12/78, McDonald 4/11).

Northcote Baptist 191 (Ryan 60, Burton 27, Walpole 25 n.o., Emmersen 24, Thomas 23) beat Footscray (Garden St.) 63 and seven for 83 (Fisher 27, Griffith 22 and 2/55, Emmerson 6/40, Keeble 5/14).

Wardrop House Y.M.C.A. 11 and 68 (Wheeler 34 and 5/14; Young 9/23, Vincent 4/10) lost to Port Melbourne Juniors 102 (Cassidy 53).

Shamrock 120 and four for 57 (Harper 41, Clancy 25, Gratidge 21 and 4 11; Clayton 6/21, Rodwell 5/41) beat Preston U.A.O.D. 103 and 56 (Cassidy 45, Bigmore 30 n.o.; Hancock 13/59).

Northcote I.N.F. eight (closed) for 200 (J. Hickey 60 n.o., A. Borland 53) beat Carlton-North Fitzroy, 66 and 162 (A. Wells 16, J. Stapleton 45, D. Cullen 40 n.o.; Saunders 7/67, J. Conway 4/39).

NORTHCOTE MUNICIPAL CLUB.

Northcote and Preston finished their match at Preston on Saturday. It was very exciting at the finish, Northcote winning by 3 runs on the fir t innings. Scores:

Preston, first innings, 112; second innings 94. Bowling—Foster, 2/39 Grover 1 11, Broadhurst 1/28, Griffiths 5 27.

Northcote, first innings, 115 (Rome 20, Murray 49, Mathieson 19 n.o.). Bowling.—Murray 3/43, Harrison 8 71, Barnes 7/10.

Northcote play Prahran at McDonell Park today.

TENNIS.

NORTH SUBURBAN ASSOCIATION.

Scores:—

Croxton 49 d. South Preston 45.

Northcote Baptists 69 d. Clifton Baptists 45.

Eaglemont H. 59 d. Eaglemont I. 58.

St. Andrews 65 d. Thornbury Presbyterians 43.

Northcote Methodist I. 69 d. Westgarth 45.

Preston 63 d. Northcote Methodist H. 52.

POSITION OF CLUBS.

A Grade.- Northcote Baptists 28, South Preston 24, Northcote Methodist I. 16, St. Andrew's 16, Preston 16, Westgarth 12, Croxton 12, Eaglemont I. 12, Northcote Methodist H. 12, Eaglemont H. 8, Thornbury Presbyterians 8.

B Grade.—South Preston 24, Ivanhoe 20, Croxton 20, Clifton Methodists 20, Alphington 12, Westgarth 8, Northcote Baptists 8, Clifton Baptists 4, Thornbury Presbyterians 4.

RATS IN PRESTON

At the meeting of the Preston Council on Monday evening a letter was received from Mr. J. A. Hogan, secretary Northcote West Ward Progress Association, complaining about rat nuisance in Oakover road tip, and asking that the matter be given attention. It was stated that "rats could be seen in thousands," and also that great damage was being done to houses.

Geo. Pritchard, secretary Preston West Ward Progress Association, also complained about the Oakover road tip and the rat nuisance.

The engineer said that some time ago a special rat catcher was asked out to catch rats at a bonus of 3d per head. There were no takers, and boys had claimed bonuses on a lot of them. There was a large number of rats at the tip, and it was a difficult question to know what to do with them.

Cr. Robinson said they did not want to develop a plague of rats, and means should be devised to deal with the menace.

The matter was referred to the inspector.

RING NORTHCOTE 1218.

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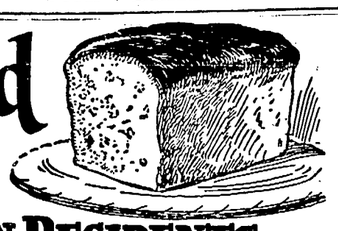

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Wm. THACKRAY

313 High St., NORTHCOTE.

CASE BREAKS DOWN

WAS IT A FRAME UP?

Frederick Schultz, of Preston, was at Northcote Court on Tuesday charged that on November 1 he unlawfully assaulted a little girl aged 7½ years.

The little girl was not sworn, as she did not appear to understand the nature of an oath. She said that on the day in question she went to a chemist's shop in High street to get some eucalyptus. At the shop a man served her, and there was no one else there at the time. When he gave her the bottle of eucalyptus the girl alleged that the man interfered with her.

The girl's mother, who lives in Johnston street, Croxton, said she sent the child on a message on November 1, and she returned crying and said "I don't want to go that shop any more," and complained that she had been interfered with. Witness went to the shop with her husband, and there saw two men. Witness asked which man had served the girl. Defendant said that he had, and said he had asked the child to come to the end of the counter to see a bottle sealed, but he denied that he had interfered with her.

When asked by defendant's counsel if the whole thing did not look like a "frame up," the witness paled, and did not answer.

Const. Frank Henderson said that in consequence of a message he went to a chemist's shop in Croxton. He saw a girl there, also the girl's mother and defendant. Witness said: "What is the trouble." The woman said: "I sent my little girl to this shop to get some eucalyptus, and she came back crying and said she had been interfered with." Witness said to the girl: "What did the man do to you?" She said: "He told me to come to the end of the counter, and then he interfered with me," and she also said that Schultz was the man concerned. Defendant denied that he touched the girl. Defendant said there was a man in the shop whilst the girl was there.

Cross-examined—The shop was brilliantly lighted, and if anything had occurred it could have been seen from the street. The girl was medically examined. As far as he knew defendant bore an excellent character.

Senior-const. F. Besant said that at about 8.55 p.m. on November 1 defendant went to the police station and made a statement.

Counsel for defendant submitted that the case must fail, as there was no corroboration of the child's story. After hearing the mother's story defendant had sought the police, and had also insisted that the child be examined by a doctor that same night. His client bore a stainless character, and in the court were a dozen witnesses who could testify to his character.

The P.M. (Mr. D. Grant)—We believe that the corroboration required by the Act is not present, and defendant will be discharged.

PRESTON RED CROSS AUXILIARY.

At the monthly meeting last week the Mayoress (Mrs. A. E. Newton) presided. There was a good attendance. It was decided to hold a bazaar on a later date. Three new members joined and one was proposed. The auxiliary will go into recess until Wednesday, February 2, 1927. The Mayoress entertained all present with afternoon tea.

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THE COBBERS' CLUB

CONDUCTED BY UNCLE PHIL.

Dear Cobbers,—I wonder if you have all finished your exams at school, and how you got on? I hope you all did well, and will go into a higher class next year.

I have a Christmas card here for each of you, and I would like you all to call and get them before December 18 if possible. I will post our Whittlesea and Yan Yean Cobbers theirs, as I know they won't be able to come for them. I hope you'll like them.

Cobbers, we have got to welcome another Cobber from New Guinea. Do you know where that is? Up at the north of Queensland. My word, the boys are beating the girls wholesale. Wake up, girls, and try and beat them. Life won't be worth living with Jacko soon, if you don't do something.

With best love from

UNCLE PHIL.

P.S.—I wonder how many of you will have a Christmas tree this year?

Birthday Greetings to Cobbers.

All the Cobbers, the pets and Uncle Phil wish the best and happiest of birthdays to

birthdays to Jack Banks (Dec. 12).

"JACKO."

This is a photo of Jacko.
When he's naughty I give him a smacko!
It is often the case
That he scratches Dad's face,
And then runs off with his tobacco.

OUR MAIL BAG.

1 Archbold St.

Dear Uncle Phil,—It is a long time since I wrote, so I am writing to the club again. For pets I have a cat named Mick and two canaries. I have passed in the exam at school, and my mother and father are giving me a fishing rod, so I can go fishing. I have got a small camera, and I have taken several photos with it.

(GOOD.) Len Fulton.

I am so pleased you passed, Len. Do you like fishing? You must tell me if you catch any fish. I have a camera too, but I don't use it very much.

62 Beavers' Rd., Northcote.

Dear Uncle Phil,—Last Saturday I read Jacko's adventures and thought them very nice. My brother made a mistake in saying that we couldn't write to you when we went away at Christmas, because we shall be able to write. I am sending some jokes this week.

(GOOD.) Fred Smith.

So glad you will be able to write. Jacko seems to think I should print something he says each week. I don't think I will, though.

Thames St., Northcote.

Dear Uncle Phil,—I received my half a crown safely, and am buying my mother a Christmas present with it. My cat is all right now, so he could not have been poisoned. We are just having our exams, which I hope to pass. I am sending in a Christmas story and some jokes. Hoping that Jacko and yourself are quite well.

(GOOD.) Frank Johnston

Your mother will be pleased, Frank. Jacko says you will pass because you are a boy, but then he thinks boys can do anything. Your story is good

98 Flinders St., Thornbury.

Dear Uncle Phil,—Just a few lines hoping this finds you quite well. Has Uncle Peter returned yet from his holiday? If so I hope he is feeling much better. We are very busy at school just now with our examinations. I am trying to pass, to go up to the sixth grade. We have 24 little ducklings. I hope you are making good friends with the monkey and able to teach him some tricks. I nearly forgot to mention that my birthday is on Sunday next. I will now close.

(GOOD.) Jack Banks.

I haven't heard from Uncle Phil lately, but I think he must like Queensland. Jacko is very pleased with himself when he shows off his tricks. He says he will tell you about some of them soon.

19 Christmas St., Northcote.

Dear Uncle Phil,—I hope you and the pets are quite well. I think Jacko must feel a bit lonely without his relations, but never mind, as long as he has plenty to eat he should be satisfied. Give him plenty of nuts. I should think he would like them. By the way, how does Bluebell regard our new pet? Are the two of them friendly or hostile? I suppose you are trying to make friendly relations between the two. On December 9 the school will be holding its annual concert to raise funds for the Christmas tree for the little ones. As I have no more news I will close now.

(GOOD.) Harley R. Bardwell.

Bluebell is away with Uncle Peter and I hope is quite happy. I'm sure he'd be jealous of Jacko, who loves nuts.

Vitu, New Guinea.

Dear Uncle Phil,—I would like to be a member of your Cobbers' Club. I am enclosing a coupon filled in. Have you any other Cobbers from New Guinea? It is lovely up here, but we don't have any twilight. Nearly as soon as the sun goes down it is dark. There are many beautiful birds and all sorts of tropical flowers and fruits. Sometimes it is very hot and again it pours with rain. I haven't any more news now.

(GOOD.) Phil. Garlic.

We are glad to welcome a Cobber from so far away. I hope you like the Cobbers' Club. Do you recognise your story? I will forward you your certificate in due course. Write again, please.

OTHER LETTERS.

Ida Owen.—I love your story Ida. I remember you suggested Jacko for a name. Someone else did too.

Harley Bardwell.—I won't have room to print your lovely story this week, but will put it in as soon as possible.

Colin Junor.—Your contributions to hand. Are you going away for Christmas?

Edna Lynch.—I have some very good contributions of yours in hand, and will use them as space permits.

Gordon Bardwell.—Are you better now? How did you like Jacko's adventures. He is such a funny little fellow.

Lottie Le Blanc.—Your other joke appeared last week and was sent in by Alan Angus. Send in some more, please.

Anna Crow.—Your riddle to hand; am printing it. More letters will be welcome.

STORIES TOLD BY COBBERS.

THE COCOANUT PALM.

Do you know how cocoanut palms grow? One day a man was cast ashore on a desert island. He had been out fishing and a storm suddenly blew him out to sea. He was wrecked and just managed to reach the shore safely. The beach was just perfect in the sun, but there was nothing on the island but sand and rocks surrounded by salt water. The man was nearly dead from thirst and starvation when Tamboran, a spirit, appeared as a beautiful girl. To show her pity she turned herself into a cocoanut palm full grown. This gave him food, drink and shelter. As long as a cocoanut palm grows on an island, a native is never afraid of thirst or starvation.

(BETTER.) Phil Garlic.

BOBBY'S MAGIC BALL.

Bobby was a little boy of five years old. He had a big round ball of all colors given to him by his uncle. Bobby would not play with anything else but his ball, and he even took it to bed with him. One morning when he woke up the ball had grown much bigger and brighter, but everyone thought they must be dreaming, so they did not say anything about it. The next morning it was different again, so Bobby said he was going to stay awake all night to see what happened. After midnight Bobby heard a noise, and he saw his ball come open and a dozen little men carrying torches jump out of it. They were coming up to Bobby, so he closed his eyes. Then they chuckled and said: "We are too smart for him." Away they went and began dancing about. Suddenly they stopped, for out of the ball came another of the little men carrying a wand. He touched the ball with this wand, and it became all dazzling colors. Bobby gazed at it in wonder. Then the clock struck one, and they all disappeared inside the ball with this wand, and it went all morning Bobby surprised everyone by saying: "Now I know why my ball changes color; it is a magic ball, and I shall watch it every night." At that moment there was the same noise as he had heard at night, and out jumped the little men and, taking the ball with them, disappeared. Bobby was sorry to lose his ball, and his uncle brought him another that looked just as nice, but it wasn't a magic ball.

(BETTER.) Ida Owen.

THE CATCHING OF FATHER CHRISTMAS.

It was Christmas Eve, and Elsie happened to be quite determined that she would see Father Christmas somehow or other. She knew that it would be no good trying to keep awake till he came, because she had tried that last year, and it was so difficult. So she decided that she would have Toby, who was her mother's little dog, to sleep in her room, so that Father Christmas should come Toby would bark and wake her up. For Toby happened to like barking at things better than anything in the world. So when it was time for bed Elsie made Toby comfortable on the hearthrug, hung up her stocking and went to bed. After she had been asleep for some time she woke up. Toby was barking, and from the chimney came a very unhappy noise, as though somebody had been coming down and suddenly decided to go up again. Then very nice toys came tumbling down from the chimney, and they rolled on to the floor and made Toby bark louder than ever. Suddenly there was an extra large noise, and Father Christmas shot down very humpily on to the fender. He looked very surprised and agitated, and he told Elsie to take Toby away at once, or he would turn them into peppermints. Then Elsie was very interested, and she asked Father Christmas such a lot of questions that he didn't leave her any toys when he went.

(BETTER.) Frank Johnston.

HEALTH HINTS.

Drink without eating and eat without drinking.

Five glasses of water a day, none with meals, will keep you free from doctors.

Short shoes and shoes that do not fit cost a lot in the long run. Warm feet and a cool head need no physician.

A bath, cold if you please, hot if you must, with a good rub, starts the day right.

Dress cool when you walk and warm when you ride.

Your nose, not your mouth, was given to you to breathe through.

Do not sit still with your wet feet. Walk until you have a chance. Never let a day pass without a long brisk walk on foot.

See how high you can hold your head and how deeply you can breathe whenever you are out of doors.

Hot water, quick, is the best for a sprain.

(BETTER.) Edna Lynch.

"Petunia," 146 Elm St., Northcote.

Dear Uncle Phil,—I have only been at school two weeks. I would like to be a Cobber and when I can write better will send lots of times. I am glad Dave's cat was good enough for a prize. I did not see it, but they told me our cat actually licked it when it was on the table! I am sending some little things from our play shelf for the tree. Love from

Kelvin Bensley.

Good for you, Kelvin. That's a real compliment your cat paid to Dave's cat. Will be glad to enroll you and

My first is in Len, but not in Tom.
My second is in powder, but not in bomb.
My third is in lead, but not in steel.
My fourth is in cod, but not in eel.
My fifth is in white, but not in black.
My sixth is in Eve, but not in Jack.
My whole is the paper that all ought to buy.

Answer—"Leader."

(GOOD.) Leslie Beecher.

I have a head, but I do not think.
I have a mouth, but I do not drink.
I have no feet, not even one;
I am never still; I always run.
I travel far, I travel fast,
But always lie in my bed at last.

Answer—A river.

(GOOD.) P. L. Kerr.

WORD SQUARES.

To squander; a player; fourteen pounds; a medicine; upright.

W A S T E
A C T O R
S T O N E
T O N I C
E R E C T

(GOOD.) Marjorie Govan.

To peruse; a girl's name; small insects; a rush.

R E A D
E D N A
A N T S
D A S H

(GOOD.) Gordon Bardwell.

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT

If you are puzzled for a Christmas present to give to a friend, here is an idea. Get a piece of suede six inches by three. Cut a fringe at the bottom. Above this stick one of those little calendars you can buy for a penny. Above this paint or stencil a black cat. On the top corner of the calendar paint "For Luck," and on the other side of the cat paint "A Merry Xmas." Make a hole to hang it up by and your present is complete.

(BETTER.) Aubrey Singleton.

HAVE YOU READ

"Faster and Faster," by G. Upp.
"Out of Sight," by Bob Down.
"Indigestion," by Henrietta Stone.
"The Broken Chair," by Willie Mendit.
"The Mystery of the School," by Ivor Clue.

(GOOD.) James Hartnell.

GUESS IT.

Take the height of one's ambition; add a serpent; subtract a flight of steps; add a road; subtract part of a fence; and discover what the remaining letters will spell.

Goal plus adder, minus ladder, plus rail, minus rail, leaves goat.

(GOOD.) Sid Singleton.

A GROWING SUM.

The boy that by addition grows
And suffers no subtraction.
Who multiplies the thing he knows,
And carries every fraction.
Who well divides his precious time,
The due proportions giving.
To sure success aloft will climb,
Interest compound receiving.

(GOOD.) Edna Lynch.

VERSES.

Work, work, and gain one hundred
If Uncle Phil you want to please.
Work, work, and gain one hundred;
Until ten do not ease.
Every Cobber should work and long
Work with all his might
Even if his contribs. are a bit wrong,
Uncle Peter will set them right.

(GOOD.) Colin Junor.

WHEN GRANDMA WAS A GIRL.

Her dainty curls were, oh, so neat.
She'd mittened hands and slippered feet.
Her gown was made of filmy lace:
A flowered, trimmed bonnet framed her face.
A posy in her hand she bore.
Her skirts reached almost to the floor
That was what the people wore
When Grandma was a girl.

Little miss, pretty miss,
Blessings light upon you.
If I had twopence a week
I'd buy a "Leader" for you.

(GOOD.) P. and J. Murray.

SMILERS.

What dress lasts a lady the longest?—Her house dress, because she never wears it out.

Then She Backed Away.—Lady—"Where will I get the bus, constable?" Constable—"Well, you'll get it in the middle of the back, if you stay there, ma'am."

When is a sailor not a sailor?—When he is aboard.

When is a door not a door?—When it is ajar.

(GOOD.) Jack Banks.

Pat was lying injured on the road one night. When taken to the hospital and asked by the doctor what had happened he said: 'Oi was walking along the road and saw two lights coming at me. Oi couldn't dodge 'em, so oi walked beteween them." After being told that it was a motor Pat said that they should not be allowed on a public road.

(GOOD.) Lottie Le Blanc.

A sportsman who had been shooting on a highland moor became lost in a sudden mist. He tramped about hopelessly until dark. At last, becoming really anxious, he heard a sound of footsteps near at hand. "Hello, hello there," the hunter shouted. "I'm lost." Out of the storm came a cautious voice. "Aye, I hear ye; but is there any reward for findin' ye?"

(GOOD.) Gordon Bardwell.

Bobby—"What insect can a blacksmith make?" Larry—"The firefly of course."

A Tongue Twister.—Seven silly sick goats saved a pair of socks.

(GOOD.) Doris Smith.

An absent-minded man is one who thinks he has left his watch at home and pulls it out to see if he has time to go home and get it.

Mrs. Jones—Are you lost, little boy?" Tommy—"No. Boo-hoo. But I've found a street I don't know."

William—"The horse was goin' " Teacher—"Don't forget your 'g.' " William—"Gee! The horse was goin.'"

(GOOD.) Fred Smith.

Dad (on holiday with son)—"Just think, Bobby. Nature made all those beautiful mountains." Bobby—"So could I if I had the dirt."

(GOOD.) P. and J. Murray.

Tailor (having measured customer for suit)—"And how would you like the pockets, sir?" Scot—"Weel, just a wee bit deefecult to get at."

(GOOD.) Hilda Hartnell.

Sympathetic Old Lady (meaning well, to street singer—"Your singing is very good. It brings to me dim memories of my childhood days when I lived on my father's farm. As I close my eyes I can hear the old gate creaking in the wind."

(GOOD.) Frank Johnston.

A lad with rather large ears was boasting of his pugilistic powers, when one of his listeners interrupted. "Bill Black says he'll pull your ears when he meets you." "Oh, will he?" replied the lad, "if he tries to pull my ears he'll have his hands full, I can assure him." Then he wondered why they laughed.

(GOOD.) Harley R. Bardwell.

What is the name of a city used in bottles?—Cork.

What is it that has feathers and four legs also?—A feather bed.

(GOOD.) A. Angus.

"Call these safety matches? They are no good—they won't strike." "Well, guv'nor, wot could you 'av safer than that?"

(GOOD.) Leslie Beecher.

Lady—"How much are the chickens?" Boy—"Five shillings, madam." Lady—"Did your father raise them himself?" Boy—"Yes; they were four shillings yesterday."

(GOOD.) Anna Crow.

RIDDLES.

What parrots never speak?—Stuffed ones.

What is the difference between a hen and a musician?—One lays at pleasure and the other plays at pleasure.

What are the best sort of berries?—Brad-burys.

Which is the quickest way to fatten a lean chicken?—Throw it out the window, and it will come down plump.

(GOOD.) C. Junor.

His Way of Looking At It.—Angry Customer—"Look here, I've worn these calfskin shoes only two months, and now look at them." Bootman—"My dear sir, you must remember the calf had already worn that skin five months, making seven months' wear, which is very good, I think."

(GOOD.) Aubrey Singleton.

"Where is the manager's office?" "Follow the passage until you come to the sign reading 'No Admittance.' Go upstairs till you see the sign 'Keep Out.' Follow the corridor till you see the sign 'Silence,' then yell for him."

Grocer—"I want a lad who's not afraid of early hours." Boy—"That's me, sir. I don't mind how early you close."

(GOOD.) Sidney Singleton.

A Scotsman, invited to a golden wedding was told that each guest would be expected to take a golden present. He took a goldfish.

(GOOD.) Beryl Lomas.

RIDDLE-ME-REES.

My first is in watch, but not in time.
My second is in poetry, but not in rhyme.
My third is in boy, but not in girl.
My fourth is in Betty, but not in Pearl.
My fifth is in ear, but not in foot.
My sixth is in dirt, but not in soot.
My seventh is in sick, but not in ill.
My eighth is in medicine, but not in pill.
My ninth is in hull, but not in poop.
My tenth is in run, but not in coop.
My eleventh is in buckskin, but not in leather.
My whole is a thing which joins us together.

Answer Cobbers' Club.

(GOOD.) Colin Junor.

DO YOU WANT IT?

A monkey will be given to the lucky Cobber who wins certificate 379. Who will it be?

A CHRISTMAS STAR.

(Continued.)

Synopsis.—To-morrow is Christmas Day and Gerty's birthday. Her mother has promised her a Christmas tree and party. That night the gnome of the Christmas tree comes and takes her away. She walks and becomes tired and a tiny coach appears. Read on.)

First she walked one step and then another. Smaller and smaller she grew and at last was able to fit in the coach. "But my dress is much too big now," and indeed you could not see any Gerty for it. The gnome whistled and a spider came down on the end of a silk thread. "Weave a dress for this little lady," ordered the gnome, and the spider instantly went to work. In a few minutes it was finished. A most beautiful design, and here and there a dewdrop was imprisoned and shone in the moonlight like a pearl. Now Gerty was ready. She stepped into the coach, and the gnome mounted one of the beetles, and off they went. After a little while they stopped at a bush all hung with cobwebs. At first Gerty thought so, but when they opened the doors it was a beautiful hall, filled with laughing gnomes and beautiful fairies. But no one had such a beautiful frock as Gerty, and she was proclaimed the Gnomina. (That is the gnome's name for a queen.) In one corner of the hall stood a marvellous Christmas tree, and alongside it was a mossy bank. Here Gerty sat and watched the gnomes and fairies dance. They danced and sang and played and laughed till nearly dawn, and Gerty, after she had forgotten her shyness, was just as merry and happy as they. Then they brought out the Christmas tree. The tree was wonderfully decorated, with presents for everyone and bowers for the Gnomina.

(To be continued.)

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They will be printed and marked—Good, Better, or Best. Good, 5 marks; Better, 10 marks; Best, 15 marks. Cut out all your own and keep them until you have 100 marks. Then send to Uncle Phil, and say if you prefer a cash prize of 2/6 or a book. If a book, say the title.

Will Marjorie Govan please call at "Leader" office for the toys for the Collingwood Kindergarten.

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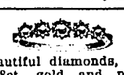

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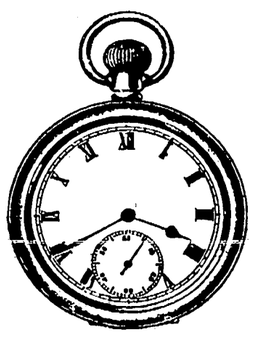

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NORTHCOTE'S EYESORE--ST. GEORGE'S ROAD

HOW TO BEAUTIFY IT.

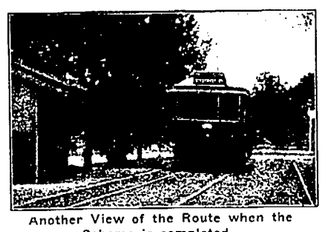
A COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME IS OUTLINED.

One of the necessities for progress in a city is a proper and concerted scheme of beautification. Fresh air, open spaces, fine streets, and plenty of parks are an absolute necessity. St. George's road, which for years has been nothing but a dusty and untidy nightmare, really lends itself to a wonderful scheme of beautification. We are pleased to state that the Northcote City Council have on hand a scheme to achieve this object. One of the greatest eyesores is the pipe track. Covered with debris, partly surrounded by dilapidated apologies for fences, and regarded as a recognised depot for depositing rubbish and garbage, this wilderness has existed undisturbed.

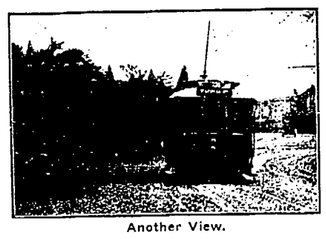
(Extract from the Northcote "Leader," Saturday, June 27, 1925.

The pipe track running along St. George's road, Northcote, has been in existence for about 60 years, but as during the first 40 years of that period there were few houses in the vicinity, and for the greater portion of that time there was nothing but a track through the paddocks through which it passed, few people took any notice of the pipe track.

However, by 1905 a fair number of new houses had been erected in the vicinity of the track; St. George's road had been opened up, and certain residents with an eye to beauty brought into being what was known as the St. George's Road Progress Society.



Another View of the Route when the Scheme is completed.



Another View.

This worthy band of citizens approached the Metropolitan Board of Works with the object of having the road beautified, and after many conferences and much agitation the Board agreed to partly accede to their request. The society was amazed, however, afterwards, to find that all the Board would do was to place a fence, portion of which still exists, along the track. Whether the secretary of the organisation died of heart failure or not records do not state, but the society quickly became defunct, and nothing further was done.

During later years the Northcote Council was appealed to by interested ratepayers, with the result that many requests were made to the Metropolitan Board, the only practical result being that a few trees were planted here and there within the enclosure. These trees were not more than a foot high, and as horses were allowed to graze in the enclosures they were speedily destroyed by the horses or removed by vandals.

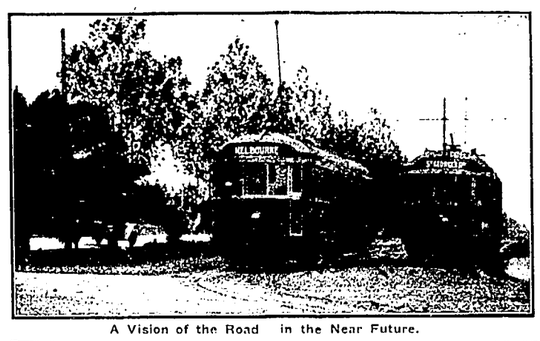
In 1919 the road was completed right through to allow the new electric tram service to run to Tyler street, and as land in the vicinity had been speedily built on, a further impetus was given to the idea of beautification.

In March, 1924, Messrs. Dunlop, Baker, Hoyle and Stevens, of Arthurton road, set about the formation of the Arthurton Road and District Progress Association, with the beautification of St. George's road as its chief object. At the inaugural meeting 80 members joined, and from then on it has grown so rapidly t..... the membership is now over 325. During the short period this body has been in existence scarcely a month has passed but that they have either approached the Northcote City Council or the Metropolitan Board of Works concerning the beautification, with the gratifying result that these bodies have now decided to conjointly spend £2,906 on the beautification of the road. The scheme is to have lawns, shrubs, and a rock edge, and when completed it will indeed make a beautiful and picturesque highway, leading to the capital, quite surpassing our most optimistic dreams. A majestic road so beautiful cannot fail to increase the desire for property in the district, and when the scheme is completed it will become the principal pleasure run from the city to the open spaces of the north.

But while the responsible bodies have agreed to this expenditure, they have not commenced the work, and the Progress Association is urging that the matter be immediately put in hand, and are eagerly looking forward to the sight of horses and men and scoops and ploughs on the work.

When the task is completed the association hope by the aid of appeals to erect drinking fountains, seats, and other comforts, and if their present energies are an indication of the future, then the road will indeed be a majestic highway.

With the duplication of the electric tram line, which in some sections is already in sight, and on others promised by the Tramways Board, and the carrying into effect of the proposals for beautification, this district will be able to boast of one of the finest, if not the finest, boulevards in the city.



A Vision of the Road in the Near Future.

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MR. MEMBREY'S TRAVELS

HE VISITS ALD. WREN IN HERTFORD, ENGLAND.

Mr. J. G. Membrey, of Northcote, who has just returned from a world tour, sends us the following clipping from the "Mercury," Hertfordshire, England:—

ALDERMAN WREN AND AUSTRALIA.

MEMORIES OF 36 YEARS AGO.

A VISIT FROM THE HON. J. G. MEMBREY.

Thirty-six years ago Alderman Josiah Wren, the Deputy Mayor of Hertford, left Australia to come home to the Motherland, where he has since settled down in the county town of Hertfordshire, and has a very flourishing business. On his departure from "down under" he lived in Euroa, Victoria, where he made a number of friends. He was also superintendent of the Sunday school, and on leaving was presented with a bound volume of Shelley, and given a hearty send-off by 200 school children, who sang "God be with you till we meet again."

Last year, when Alderman Wren was Mayor of Hertford, he wrote to the postmaster of Euroa, asking if he knew of anyone who would remember him. Mr. Wren received three letters as a result. Further than this, the Hon. J. G. Membrey, of Melbourne, who was visiting this country, was asked to call on Alderman Wren on behalf of the people and pay their respects to him. The visit took place on Tuesday, when our representative was given an opportunity of hearing something of the great continent of Australia and of the great farming prospects for emigrants.

The Hon. J. G. Membrey was in the State Legislature of Victoria for 11 years, and a Minister of the Crown for upwards of three years, but owing to ill-health about six years ago had to retire from public life. He subsequently accepted a seat on the Metropolitan Tramways Board. The journey to this country was taken for health reasons and pleasure only, but during the trip across Europe he has been able to study the habits and customs of the people, which, he said, has proved most interesting and educative.

The distinguished visitor was taken to the Castle by Alderman Wren, where he was shown the Corporation plate and regalia. He was then entertained to lunch at the Dimsdale Arms Hotel, when the Mayor and Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs. A. P. Ginn) and Alderman and Mrs. Wren were present.

One of the great problems that they have to solve in Australia to-day, he said, is how they can evenly distribute the people over the land. The cities were occupied by a great percentage of the population. There was scarcely anything that cannot be made to grow in one part or another of that vast continent. Victoria, one of the smallest States, is the most densely populated, but there are great opportunities in each of the States for young fellows, particularly those who are prepared to work and have a certain amount of grit. "The facilities offered by the Government are of such a character that it seems a thousand pities that we are not able to secure a greater number of British people to settle in the country districts," said Mr. Membrey.

The richness of the land in many parts is now well known, and has been freely advertised in Great Britain. Western Australia offers the biggest inducement at the present time, but strange to say, although it is the first port of call, it has been kept in the background for many years. In Western Australia some of the richest products are found. A vigorous effort is being made to induce youths to emigrate to this fine country.

Asked what kind of people were required for the country, he said that his own personal opinion was that boys who emigrated to Australia had a far better chance than those older in years, as they accustom themselves to the climate and to the people and grow with the development of the country. "I don't know of any case where youths have failed who have come to Australia," he said, "but on the other hand a percentage of the emigrants who have gone to Australia have been those who have not been able to make a success of life in their own land, and on coming to the new country have been disappointed owing to their not being able to adapt themselves to the circumstances, which are demanded of them."

A hearty welcome is given to all emigrants, and churches and various organisations are now becoming exceptionally active in seeing to everything that can possibly be done to secure the comfort of those going to the shores of Australia is provided for.

Talking of the things that struck him in Europe, he said that one of the greatest surprises to him had been the way in which Italy, as a nation, was pushing itself to the front. It was also pleasing to note that almost every available area of land in that country was being utilised. He also passed through Germany and Belgium, but in France he was surprised to find the ill-feeling that was being manifest towards the British race. "As an Australian," he said, "I expected to find a people full of the spirit of gratitude for all that had been done on their behalf during the Great War."

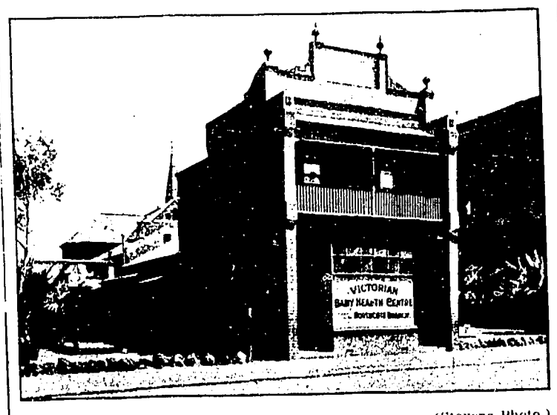
After spending several weeks on the Continent, Mr. Membrey said he was glad to set his feet on British soil, and for the first time in marvellous London, the "hub of the universe." He was struck by the public buildings and also the thronging crowds, and the "immense traffic from early morn till late at night."

"The London police are finest body of men I have ever seen," he said, "and the way they direct the traffic is simply wonderful. In addition to directing the traffic they are at all times prepared to give every possible assistance to strangers and to direct them to the various places of the great city."

In passing through the rural districts of England, he came to the opinion that the land generally is not producing all that it might for the great population of England. He saw large areas of land not being used for its legitimate purpose, and that was a problem that undoubtedly would have to be tackled by the statesmen of the Motherland. He had visited Scotland and Ireland, and the same thing applied there. He thought that far more wheat could be grown.

Finally, one could not but help notice the splendid characteristics of the people as a whole, especially after the times they had passed through in recent years. He unhesitatingly asserted that with the fine courageous spirit at all times shown by the people the British Isles and the Empire generally will stand in the forefront of all other nations.

Mr. Membrey has been doing his part in advertising Northcote in the old world.



(Stevens Photo.)

NORTHCOTE BABY HEALTH CENTRE.

AUSTRALIA'S WONDERFUL DEVELOPMENT.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—Visiting public men are prone to urge us to get to work busily to develop our country, and many of our own leading publicists, like parrots, echo the querulous demand. What more they want us to do has never been clear to me. Truth to tell, this country of 6,000,000 people stands head and shoulders above all other nations when the acid test of accomplishment is applied.

To-day I reckon there are 117,000,000 people in the United States, 50,000,000 in Great Britain, 60,000,000 in Germany, and 40,000,000 in France, and not one of them can show equal production per capita with Australia. Excepting "us statisticians," everybody hates figures, which must be used to topple over the silly theory that Australian expansion ought to be thrust forward faster and excitedly. What follows shows that the Australians individually are doing well. The Commonwealth collectively is borrowing too much money in a frantic effort to get the very utmost out of the country and its industries in quick time. And the Commonwealth and States are wasting too much money. In 54 years, from 1871 to 1925, by decades, the average population of Australia has been 3,878,352, chiefly children, and here is what it has done:

Yearly Averages of Production—	
Agricultural	£41,800,000
Pastoral and Dairying	68,143,000
Mineral	17,016,000
Manufacturing Output	278,065,000
Oversens Trade	134,071,000

This is a surprisingly splendid record. In case my method of averaging the statistics be questioned, let me state the figures for 1925:

Population	6,000,000
Agricultural production	£107,096,000
Pastoral production	167,080,000
Mineral production	24,600,000
Manufacturing output	380,843,000
Overseas trade	299,915,850

Can you beat that tale of hard work anywhere on earth? No, decidedly not! Visitors and critics, home and foreign, ought to take notice that Australia is a relatively poor agricultural country, and is destined to become a great manufacturing nation. In any case, we shall always be able to feed ourselves, and that is what few European countries do perfectly.

—Yours, etc.,

G. D. MEUDELL, F.S.S.

An amateur gardener from Nottingham claims that his plants are drawing energy from his wireless aerial. Cucumbers and tomatoes are said to be peculiarly susceptible.

Goldfish range in price, according to variety, from 6d to £3 apiece. The most expensive comes from America, and is called the Lion Head.

The Great Western train that runs to the Cornish Riviera burns about four tons of coal for a distance of 225 miles. It evaporates over 7,000 gallons of water.

Air forms from forty to fifty per cent. of the contents of ice cream.

PHONE—NORTHCOTE 279. PHONE—NORTHCOTE 279.

NELSON'S

869 and 871 HIGH STREET, THORNBURY, and at 575 HIGH STREET, REGENT (opposite Wood Street).

Great Annual Xmas Fair

ASTOUNDING BARGAINS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS

8/6 4-PINT ALUMINIUM KETTLES FOR 6/6.
4-Pint Aluminium Kettles, with shaped spout and cool wood grip; usual price 8/6; Xmas Fair Price 6/6.
11/- 6-Pint Aluminium Kettles, same as above, for 8/-

3/- ALL HAIR BROOMS FOR 1/11.
Good Serviceable All Hair Brooms. Usual price 3/-. Xmas Fair Price 1/11.

3/- SALAD BOWLS FOR 1/9.
Large Glass Salad Bowls, measuring 10in. across. Usually sold at 3/- Our Special Xmas Fair Price 1/9.

30/- CARPET SWEEPERS FOR 22/6.
A limited number of Special Carpet Sweepers, revolving brush, fitted with best Heir's rubber cushion or corners to prevent bruising furniture. Usual price 30/- Xmas Fair Price 22/6.

7/6 SET OF CANISTERS FOR 4/11.
Set of six Canisters, in cream color and gold letters, to hold Flour, Sugar, etc. Usual Price 7/6 set. Xmas Fair Price 4/11.

2/- SHAVING MUG FOR 1/6.
A large assortment of Shaving Mugs, in very pretty designs. Usual Price 2/- Fair Price 1/6.

5 TUMBLERS FOR 1/-
Nice Thin Tumblers, usually sold at 2/- half dozen. Xmas Fair Price, 5 for 1/-

4/- VACUUM FLASKS FOR 1/9.
One Pint Vacuum Flasks, in black enamel and aluminium, will keep liquor hot for 24 hours. Xmas Fair Price 1/9.

3/6 CHINA SALT BOXES FOR 2/11.
A lovely line of China Salt Boxes, with hinged wood lids; to hold 2lb. salt. Usual price 3/6. Xmas Fair Price 2/11.

2/11 JAPANNED TEA TRAYS FOR 1/7½.
Nicely decorated Japanned Tea Trays. 18in long x 13in. wide. Usual Price 2/11. Xmas Fair Price 1/7½.

4/- ALUMINIUM FRY PANS FOR 1/9.
Heavy Gauge Aluminium Fry Pans, polished inside and out, measuring 9in. across. Usual Price 4/-. Xmas Fair Price 1/9.

ALUMINIUM TEA POTS.
Special bargains in Aluminium Tea Pots, in three useful sizes, 4-cup, 6-cup, 8-cup. Usual price 5/6, 7/6, 9/6. Xmas Fair Price 3/9, 4/9, 5/6.

7/6 ALARM CLOCKS FOR 4/9.
Good sound reliable Alarm Clocks, splendid timekeepers. Usual price 7/6. Xmas Fair Price 4/9.

1/9 ENAMEL BOWLS FOR 11½d.
Large, strong Enamel Bowls. Usual price 1/9. Xmas Fair Price 11½d.

1/9 CHILDREN'S CUP, SAUCER AND PLATE FOR 1/-
Large size Children's Cup, Saucer and Plate, good china and nicely decorated. Usual price 1/9 set. Xmas Fair Price 1/- set.

4/- HALF-DOZEN TUMBLERS FOR 2/9.
A beautiful line of Cut Glass Tumblers, with ring bottom. Usual Price 8d each. Xmas Fair Price, 2/9 half dozen.

3/- CHINA SALAD BOWLS FOR 1/10½.
A very pretty line of China Salad Bowls, nicely decorated. Usual Price 3/- Xmas Fair Price 1/10½.

1/6 GLASS TOMATO SAUCE JUGS FOR 10½d.
Glass Tomato Sauce Jugs, with ground glass stoppers. Usual price 1/6. Xmas Fair Price 10½d.

5/- 4-PINT ENAMEL KETTLES FOR 3/11.
4-Pint English Enamel Kettles, will give good service. Usual price 5/- Xmas Fair Price 3/11.

10/- DOUBLE HANDLE SALAD BOWLS FOR 7/6.
Large two handled Queen Ann Table Glass Salad Bowls. Have been sold everywhere at 10/- Xmas Fair Price 7/6

13/6 MEAT SAFES FOR 10/6.
Strong Meat Safes fitted with loose button and shelf, with hook in dome for hanging joints; painted aluminium color and covered with perforated zinc, with tight fly-proof door. Xmas Fair Price 10/6.

1/- FOOT RED WATERSHED HOSE REDUCED TO 9d.
It is built of selected red rubber, first grade British canvas; will stand highest water pressure; guaranteed for three years. To every purchaser of a 60ft. coil we supply free a complete set of fittings.

Garden Rakes, 10 tyne, 1/-; 12 tyne, 1/2; 14 tyne 1/4.

Strong Hand Weeding Forks, 7½d.

5in. Dutch Hoes 1/-

Garden Spades 2/6, 2/11, 6/9, 8/6.

Garden Forks 4/9, 5/3, 6/-, 6/9.

Tyzac's Hedge Shears, 8in., 4/9; 9in., 5/6.

Gallon Water Cans, 4 qt., 3/-; 6 qt. 3/9; 8 qt., 4/6; 10 qt., 5/

Hurricane Lanterns, just the thing for camping. Fair price 3/11.

Fly Wire Doors, 6ft. 6in. x 2ft. 6in., 6ft. 8in. x 2ft. 8in., 6ft. 10in. x 2ft. 10in., all one price, 11/. Made of Oregon and covered with galvanised fly wire.

Half and Three-quarter Hose Menders or Joiners, 6d each.

Tap Union 1/3 Rose Directors 1/9.

A Good Black Rubber Hose at 6d per foot. Will give satisfactory results and stand severe climatic conditions. Supplied in the following lengths, complete with fittings—15ft., 11/-; 20ft., 13/6; 25ft., 16/; 30ft., 18/6; 35ft., 21/-; 40ft., 23/6; 45ft., 25/-; 50ft., 28/6 60ft., 33/-

Our Special Line of Tool Sets. These sets are put up by us and are composed of real tools that can be used with profit and pleasure by boy or man. Encourage your son to be useful by giving him one of these sets. Don't forget they are real tools and are sold at the price of toys. 5/11, 8/6, 10/6.

Nelson's, 869-71 High street

KEEP YOUR MONEY IN YOUR OWN DISTRICT AND INCREASE THE VALUE OF YOUR OWN PROPERTY

TO-DAY'S "LEADER"

NEW PLANT USED IN ITS PRODUCTION

THE PRINCIPLE OF TRUE CO-OPERATION.

SPEND YOUR MONEY IN YOUR OWN TOWN.

Readers will probably be interested to learn that this issue of the "Leader" was printed on a new high speed Miehle machine, specially built to the order of the proprietors. This was built in New York, and is absolutely the latest model in Australia. It is driven by a specially designed 6 h.p. electric motor and controller, built into the machine, which permits of eight different ranges of speed. The machine is of very heavy construction, which necessitated putting in extra large concrete foundations to carry the huge weight and save vibration. The Miehle weighs over 12 tons, but so excellent is the workmanship that it is practically noiseless in operation, even at high speeds.

In addition to newspaper work, the machine will execute the finest half tone, three color and art printing, into which line the "Leader" are branching out extensively. The Miehle is the last word in printing machinery.

The machine was supplied by Messrs. S. Cooke Pty. Ltd., Queen street, Melbourne, who are the sole Victorian agents for this masterpiece of printers' engineering. It was also erected by the firm.

The type used in this issue, with the exception of the heavy display letters, was all composed on a No. 14 Mergenthaler linotype machine, completely equipped electrically. This is the best and most up-to-date machine of its class in the world..

It will thus be seen that the proprietors of the "Leader" believe that nothing but the best is good enough. This is exemplified by the extensive alterations and improvements, made within the last few years, and shows that the proprietors have every confidence in the district and the future of Northcote and Preston. This lead could with advantage be followed by others, and the example set of not going outside of Northcote or Preston for any goods that can be purchased locally (even at a slightly higher cost.

In producing this huge issue all the work has been done locally. The photos are the work of Mr. Cyril Stevens, of Northcote, and the ink used was made by Morris, Barrow and Co., Preston. Thus all the money laid out is expended with artisans who distribute it in the district, and so make business all round. This is the way to push the district ahead.

WIRE STITCHING MACHINE.

For stitching books, pamphlets, etc., we have installed a wire stitcher which feeds from a roll of wire. It will make a stitch any size, and will go through from two sheets to over an inch of tightly pressed paper. Besides being a great labor saver, it also gives stronger work. This machine was supplied by Messrs. S. Cooke Pty. Ltd., Queen street, Melbourne.

Amongst other machinery recently installed at the "Leader" office is a 32in. Diamond self-clamp cutting machine. This machine weighs over two tons and requires 4 h.p. to drive it. It will cut through five inches of paper by a length of 32 inches, and will make 25 cuts a minute if necessary. It is made by Payne, Dawson and Elliott, Ltd., Otley, England, and is in the highest class of machinery for this purpose.

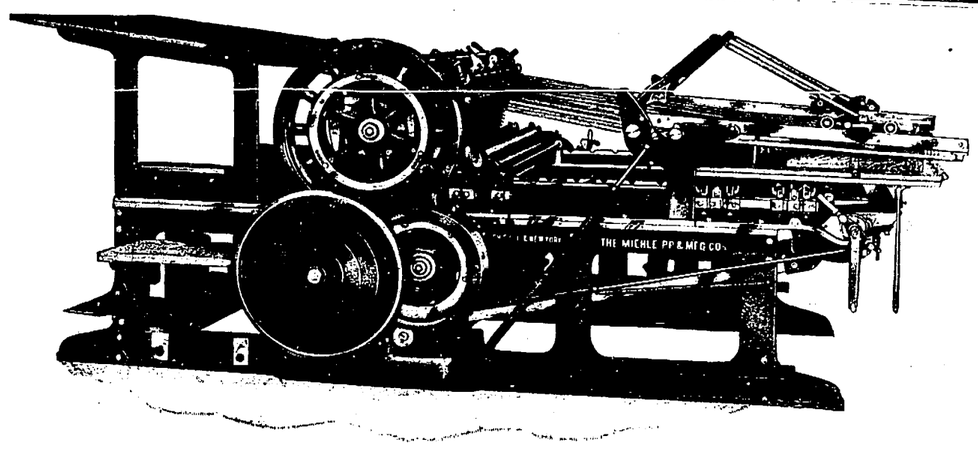
MORE ADDITIONS IN TRAIN.

Other extensive additions to the large plant are already in train, and several new machines will be installed early in the New Year. These will still further enable the "Leader" to maintain its proud position of being the best, the largest and the most extensively circulated suburban newspaper in Victoria.

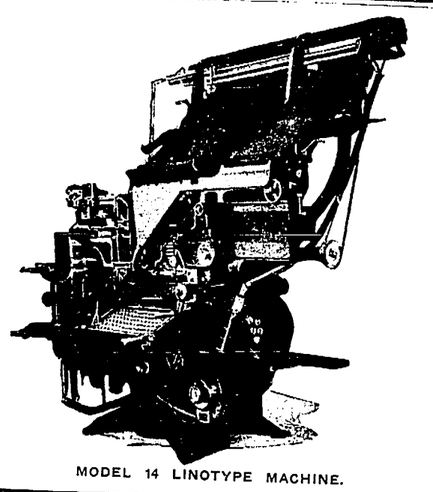
All that is required is for residents and business people to support the paper and extensive printing plant conducted in their midst, and not ask people to shop with them per medium of circulars, etc., printed in the unhealthy slums of Melbourne, Fitzroy and Collingwood.

NO MEN ALLOWED.

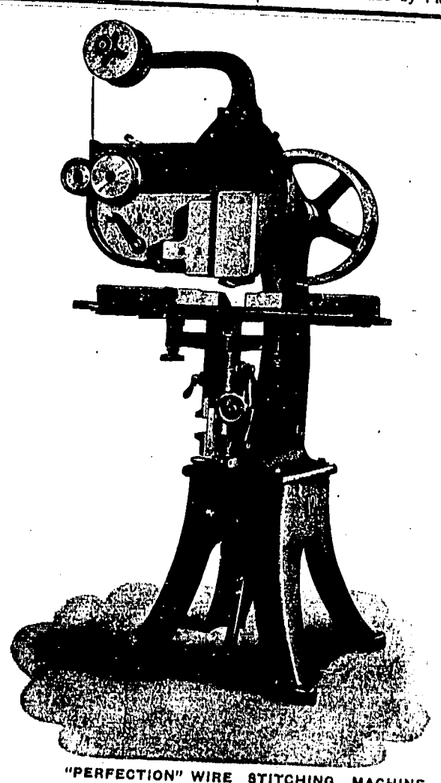
Friday is the Mohammedan Sunday. Among the followers of Mahomet the worship of the dead is a serious matter, and the people try to visit the graves of their departed as often as possible. During all the week-days the men take possession of the cemeteries and no women are allowed to enter. Sunday, however, is different, for on that day no men are allowed to enter any cemetery, but women are privileged to enter. They go in droves, lay aside their veils and picnic and gossip among the quaint graves.



MIEHLE PRINTING MACHINE.



MODEL 14 LINOTYPE MACHINE.



"PERFECTION" WIRE STITCHING MACHINE.

BOOST YOUR OWN CITY!

ACHIEVEMENTS POSSIBLE BY COMBINED EFFORT.

Read What is Being Done and Help Also.

In every field of effort the necessity springs up for organisation, concentration and perseverance, and it is only where these three forces are actually employed that success can be achieved.

The Northcote City Traders' Association came into being because there were other forces in the field of commercial activity that were sapping the trade from local shopkeepers, and they were becoming alarmed at the inroads being made into their commercial life. Unfortunately, the awakening came a little late. Nevertheless to be up and doing even at a late hour is much preferable to quietly laying down the gauntlet and being trodden upon by the foe.

Since coming into being the executive appointed by the association have been meeting from time to time, and many schemes have been considered which will be brought into operation at reasonable intervals until the slogan "Shop in Northcote, the City of Low Prices" becomes a household word.

To-day's issue of the "Leader" marks another step forward, and it will well repay readers to keep this issue intact, with the object of seeing if any of the numbers attached to articles in various shop windows in the city from now to Xmas Eve correspond with the number on your paper, production of which will entitle the holder to the article displayed.

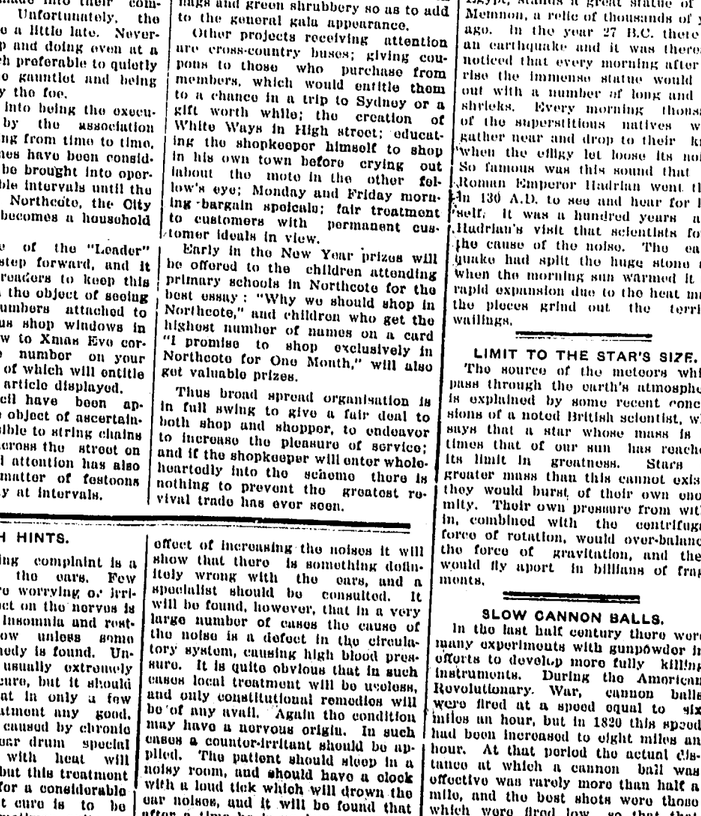
The City Council have been approached with the object of ascertaining if it were possible to string chains of colored lights across the street on Friday nights, and attention has also been given the matter of festoons across the roadway at intervals.

In connection with Xmas stopping, Shopkeepers are being urged to brighten their business houses with flags and green shrubbery so as to add to the general gala appearance.

Other projects receiving attention are cross-country buses; giving coupons to those who purchase from members, which would entitle them to a chance in a trip to Sydney or a gift worth while; the creation of White Ways in High street; educating the shopkeeper himself to shop in his own town before crying out about the mote in the other fellow's eye; Monday and Friday morning bargain specials; fair treatment to customers with permanent customer ideals in view.

Early in the New Year prizes will be offered to the children attending primary schools in Northcote for the best essay: "Why we should shop in Northcote," and children who get the highest number of names on a card "I promise to shop exclusively in Northcote for One Month," will also get valuable prizes.

Thus broad spread organisation is in full swing to give a fair deal to both shop and shopper, to endeavor to increase the pleasure of service; and if the shopkeeper will enter wholeheartedly into the scheme there is nothing to prevent the greatest revival trade has ever seen.



32in. DIAMOND SELF-CLAMP CUTTING MACHINE BY PAYNE, DAWSON AND ELLIOTT.

HEALTH HINTS.

A most distressing complaint is a constant noise in the ears. Few things can be more worrying or irritating, and the effect on the nerves is bound to be bad. Insomnia and restlessness will follow unless some really effective remedy is found. Unfortunately, it is usually extremely difficult to find a cure, but it should be remembered that in only a few cases is local treatment any good. Where the noise is caused by chronic thickening of the ear drum special massage combined with heat will usually give relief, but this treatment must be continued for a considerable time if a permanent cure is to be effected. It is sometimes quite a good plan to wear a tight band round the neck, but if this actually has the effect of increasing the noises it will show that there is something definitely wrong with the ears, and a specialist should be consulted. It will be found, however, that in a very large number of cases the cause of the noise is a defect in the circulatory system, causing high blood pressure. It is quite obvious that in such cases local treatment will be useless, and only constitutional remedies will be of any avail. Again the condition may have a nervous origin. In such cases a counter-irritant should be applied. The patient should sleep in a noisy room, and should have a clock with a loud tick which will drown the ear noises, and it will be found that after a time he is no longer affected by them. Above all, the temptation to take drugs of any sort should be vigorously resisted.

SHRIEKS FROM A STATUE.

On the plain of Thebes, Luxor, Egypt, stands a great statue of King Memnon, a relic of thousands of years ago. In the year 27 B.C. there was an earthquake and it was thereafter noticed that every morning after sunrise the immense statue would cry out with a number of long and loud shrieks. Every morning thousands of the superstitious natives would gather near and drop to their knees when the effigy let loose its noises. So famous was this sound that the Roman Emperor Hadrian went there in 130 A.D. to see and hear for himself. It was a hundred years after Hadrian's visit that scientists found the cause of the noise. The earthquake had split the huge stone and when the morning sun warmed it the rapid expansion due to the heat made the pieces grind out the terrible wailings.

LIMIT TO THE STAR'S SIZE.

The source of the meteors which pass through the earth's atmosphere is explained by some recent conclusions of a noted British scientist, who says that a star whose mass is 50 times that of our sun has reached its limit in greatness. Stars of greater mass than this cannot exist; they would burst of their own enormity. Their own pressure from within, combined with the centrifugal force of rotation, would over-balance the force of gravitation, and they would fly apart in billians of fragments.

SLOW CANNON BALLS.

In the last half century there were many experiments with gunpowder in efforts to develop more fully killing instruments. During the American Revolutionary War, cannon balls were fired at a speed equal to six miles an hour, but in 1820 this speed had been increased to eight miles an hour. At that period the actual distance at which a cannon ball was effective was rarely more than half a mile, and the best shots were those which were fired low so that that they would bounce around and kill soldiers, hit or miss. As is well known in the recent World War, projectiles were sent seventy odd miles.

CAMELS EAT DATE STONES.

Algerian natives save the stones of the dates to feed their camels as they return, weary from their long marches in the desert. The beasts object to the hard stones, so the owners tie the camels so they cannot move and then force the pips down their throats, the idea being to fatten and strengthen the hump.

Order your Xmas cards now from "Leader" office. Prices from 7/6 dozen, with envelopes. Your name and address printed on.

The only period in a woman's life when she gives any thought to dress is between the cradle and the grave.

F. G. SMITH'S DRAPERY STORES

One of the most enterprising firms of the northern suburbs is that of F. G. Smith's Drapery Stores of Northcote.

The firm was established about 45 years ago by the late F. G. Smith, who conducted business in Chapel street Prahran, for over 20 years. It has been acknowledged that the business principles and reputation of the founder of the business has been a great asset in the building up of the influence of this well known firm. Some 22 years ago Mr. Smith decided to open in Northcote, where he purchased the business of the late J. B. Mankey. Just at that time Mr. Smith died very suddenly, and since then the business has been continued by Mrs. F. G. Smith and her sons. For some years the business at Northcote was unprofitable, but when once it began to extend, through the close attention and energy of these in charge, it has continued to prosper.

The first step forward was when the local business of W. Dimmick was purchased, and the shop was required for the ever increasing men's trade.

Up till that time all departments had been housed in the shop now occupied by the clothing and mercery department. Another forward move was when the firm purchased the vacant land between Hawthorn road and Arthurton road, and built thereon the finest and largest shop in Northcote. The building itself—of brick, lofty, two storey, spacious and particularly well lighted, with up-to-date window display—is of recent construction, and is looked upon as one of the best planned drapery establishments of Melbourne. On vacating the old shop the rapidly growing men's and boys' wear department, requiring extra accommodation, it was found necessary to remove from the smaller shop now occupied by R. White Ltd., and move into the adjoining shop, which was more suitable and commodious.

Since these local extensions the firm has extended to the surrounding districts, and has established strong businesses in Fairfield, Thornbury and Preston. The firm carries the largest and best assorted stocks in each of these districts.

It has always been the policy of the firm to give the best possible value at the lowest possible price, and, judging by the continued success and advancement, the public of the districts where the firm is in business have learnt that its prices compare most favorably with those of the City of Melbourne. To show the progressiveness of the firm, it has recently opened an office in London, through which it is able to buy in the cheapest markets of England and the Continent. The name of F. G. Smith's drapery stores is so well known that business has extended beyond the immediate districts of Northcote, and that an increasing mail order department has been opened. The firm is anticipating a large Xmas trade, as already large stocks of useful presents for men, women and children are on show. The firm is specialising in handkerchiefs, napery, stationery, soaps, fancy goods, gloves, hosiery, shirts, ties, braces, etc. The firm has for many years specialised in building up a strong general household trade, and consequently the Manchester, dress and clothing departments have grown beyond that of an ordinary suburban business.

You are welcome to visit F. G. Smith.

PEAT FIRES FOR ALL.

A peat fire is a familiar sight in Scottish and Irish households, but though it is suitable as a domestic fuel there are several drawbacks that have, until now, made it impossible for industrial uses, such as heating boilers or furnaces. The greatest of these is the large amount of moisture that is absorbed in it so thoroughly that pressing will not drive it out.

A Canadian firm now announces that it has devised a practical method for eliminating this water, and it is now commencing to develop the enormous peat bog at Alfred, Ontario.

GYROSCOPE CAMERA.

One of the disadvantages of the film camera is that the scenes have to be arranged and photographed in stages, as up to the present no device has been produced which would enable the operator to follow, say, an actress from room to room, filming as he walked. It has nearly always been necessary to use a tripod. But now an English firm has produced what the writer calls a gyro-camera, which is an ordinary film camera with a gyroscope incorporated. This makes it possible to carry the camera and take films when walking. The gyroscope is stopped and started by electrical means, and actuated by a press button

LEEDEN and BOCK

NORTHCOTE'S BUSY DRAPERS 279-281-283 HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE

BARGAINS BARGAINS BARGAINS

SHOP IN YOUR OWN SUBURB

INCREASE YOUR SHOPPING CENTRE, WHICH MEANS INCREASING YOUR OWN PROPERTY.

WE ARE GIVING ONE EXTRA SPECIAL FROM EACH OF OUR DEPARTMENTS DURING NORTHCOTE'S SHOPPING WEEK. THESE GOODS CANNOT BE REPLACED AFTER SHOPPING WEEK IS OVER. ALL GOODS THROUGHOUT OUR STORE REDUCED DURING NORTHCOTE'S BUSY SHOPPING WEEK.

YOURS FREE FOR LOOKING.—LOOK FOR THE NUMBER ON YOUR "LEADER" AND SEE IF IT CORRESPONDS WITH OURS.

AT 1 3 PAIR.—Ladies' Bloomers in White or Colors. Our usual price 1/11. Special Shopping Week Price 1/3.

AT 1/—Colgate's Ribbon Dental Cream. Our usual price 1/11. Special Shopping Week Price 1/-

AT 3 11 PAIR—Artificial and Silk and Silk Hose, all colors. Our usual price 5/11. Special Shopping Week Price, 3/11 pair.

AT 1/11 PAIR.—Fancy Suede Gauntlet Gloves. Our usual price 2/11. Special Shopping Week Price 1/11.

AT 9½d yard.—Double width Reversible Ginghams, splendid washing, and suitable for Tub Frocks. Our usual price 1/3 yard. Special Shopping Week Price 9½d yd.

AT 2/4½ YARD.—80in. White Twill Sheeting, "Osman" make, and carries our guarantee to wear well. Our usual price 3/6. Special Shopping Week Price 2/4½ yd.

AT 14 11.—Men's Pure Felt Hats; worth 21/- of anybody's money. Special Shopping Week Price 14/11.

DICKINSON BROS.

329 HIGH STREET,

FOR THE VERY LATEST IN

MEN'S WEAR

HATS, SHIRTS, PYJAMAS, ETC.

LARGE RANGE OF TIES AND FANCY HALF HOSE.

You cannot do better than visit DICKINSON BROS. for your XMAS PRESENTS.

BOOTS! BOOTS! BOOTS!

ELLIS' MARVEL SHOE STORE

267 HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

PHONE—NORTHCOTE 748.

LADIES—WHY GO TO THE CITY

When you can get the famous SHARWOOD'S TASCOT SHOES, andWHYBROW'S, BEDGGOOD'S and HUGH THOMSON'S far lower than city prices.

QUALITY SHOES. EVERY PAIR GUARANTEED.

CHILDREN'S WHITE BUCK BARS, 2's to 6's, 1/6 pair.

LADIES' WHITE ONE BARS, 2's to 7's, to go at 2/11. Beautifully finished.

BUY EXCLUSIVE XMAS GIFTS

WHERE THE PRICES ARE RIGHT.

You are Cordially Invited to Inspect Our Range of XMAS PRESENTS.

NEWEST PATTERNS in ENGLISH DINNER and TEA SETS Just Opened.

J. W. FRENCH (Late MASSON'S)

LEAD, OIL, COLOUR, CROCKERY & HARDWARE MERCHANTS,

252 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE.

PHONE—NORTHCOTE 222.

T. A. SANDS

333 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE,

LEATHER MERCHANT.

Good Solid Hide 14in. Kit Bags, only 12/6 each.

28in. Fibre Suit Cases, with two locks, eight Vulcanite corners, 7/6 each.

Child's Lunch Cases, 1/- each.

COLLAR BOXES. GENTS' WALLETS.

Everything Suitable for Christmas Presents.

With every purchase of goods to the value of 5/- or over, we are giving a Good Ball. This offer does not hold good with repairs.

Lovely Leather Suit Cases from 35/- each.

26in. Vulcanite Cases 22/6. We recommend this case for good honest wear.

BY DEALING IN NORTHCOTE YOU ARE GIVING YOUR CITY A FAIR DEAL AND GETTING ONE YOURSELF

GOOD NEWS FOR SHOPPERS

SHARPE
Bros.

Announced recently their intention to keep Northcote Shoppers in their own district, and realise the only way to succeed is to place before you incomparable values. This we intend to do at a series of regular FORTNIGHTLY WEEK-END SPECIAL SALES, when goods will be offered at prices which defy competition, either in the city or elsewhere. Pay us a visit on FRIDAY, DECEMBEER 10, and you will be convinced we are not making idle statements.

Read Only a few of our Specials.

5/11 BATHING GOWNS 3/11.

A limited quantity only of Ladies' Bathing Gowns, trimmed with contrasting shades. Worth 5/11. Friday only **3/11**

4/11 UNDERSKIRTS 2/11.

50 only Ladies' White Underskirts, trimmed with deep flouncing embroidery. Worth 4/11. Friday only .. **2/11**

12/6 QUILTS 8/11.

50 only new colored Single Bed Quilts; could be used as bed spread; in new furnishing tones. Worth 12/6. Friday only **8/11**

2/6 SHEETING 1/6.

100 yards only Double Bed White Sheeting, 72in. wide pure cloth. Worth 2/6 yd. Friday only . . . . . **1/6 YD**
Five yards limit to each customer.

7/11 MEN'S PYJAMAS 4/11.

50 pairs only Men's Pyjamas, in all sizes; made of good quality pyjama cloth. Worth 7/11. Friday only . . . **4/11**

2/11 FROCKS 1/9.

A limited quantity only Babies' Corduroy and Cotton Cash. Frocks. Worth 2/11. Friday only **1/9**

7/11 HOSE 5/11.

100 pairs only New Pointed Heel Hose, in all the smartest shades. Worth 7/11. Friday only . . . . **5/11 PR**

1/- KITCHEN TOWEL 8½d.

100 dozen only good size Kitchen Towels, large sizes. Worth 1/- Friday only **8½D**

12/6 FUJI SHIRTS 9/11.

A beautiful assortment of Gents' Stripe British Fuji Shirts, in all smartest stripes. Worth 12/6. Friday only **9/11**

SHARPE Bros

"THE BEEHIVE," 266 HIGH STREET
NORTHCOTE

WE TAKE CASH ORDERS

Personnel of the Northcote Council

CR. P. H. MAYER, J.P.,
Mayor of Northcote (West Ward).

CR. W. HAYES, J.P.
(North Ward.)

CR. C. TIMMINS.
(South Ward.)

CR. A. H. OLDIS, J.P.,
(East Ward).

CR. A. C. BEARD.
(West Ward.)

CR. ANGUS McDONALD.
(North Ward.)

CR. J. CAIN, M.L.A.,
State Member for Jika Jika.
(South Ward).

CR. B. E. JOHNSON, J.P.
(East Ward.)

CR. W. H. TURNER, J.P.
(West Ward.)

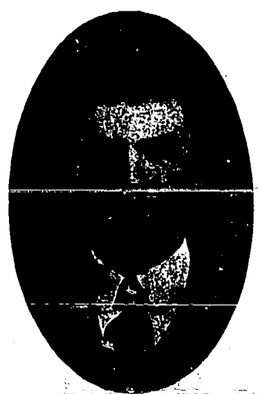
CR. W. J. OLVER.
(North Ward.)

CR. S. DENNIS, J.P.,
Water Commissioner for Northcote City Council.
South Ward.

CR. W. GLANFIELD,
(East Ward).

CR. J. SUTCH, J.P.
(Ex-Mayor of Northcote.)
(Central Ward.)

CR. H. MITCHELL.
(Central Ward.)



CR. J. L. DUNLOP.
Secretary and Organiser Northcote City Traders' Association (Central Ward).

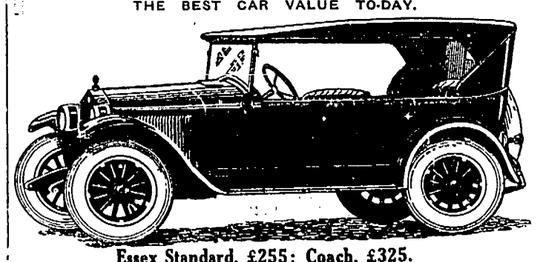
WEDDING.

LONG—JOHNSON.

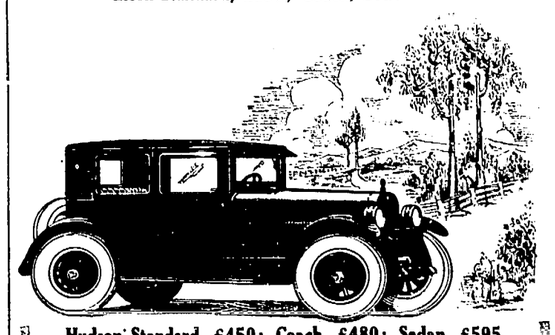
The Church of Christ, Northcote, was the setting on Saturday, November 27, for the wedding of Dorothy, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Johnson), and James H., eldest son of the late Mr. J. Long and Mrs. E. Long, of Preston. The ceremony was performed by Dr. Henrichsen. The church was artistically decorated by friends of the bride, who entered the church with her father. Her sleeveless frock of silver tissue, with an overdress of ivory georgette, was trimmed with silver lace and pearls, the lace train being caught to the shoulders with orange blossom, over which fell a tulle veil. A sheaf of Christmas lilies was carried. Misses Rita Vosswerg (cousin of the bride) and Gladys Long (sister of the bridegroom) wore sleeveless frocks of peach pink georgette, trimmed with gold lace and tiny pink rosebuds. Tulle bands were worn on their hair, and they carried shower bouquets of gladiolus to tone with their frocks. Dorothy Langcake (niece of bride) acted as trainbearer. Her dress of pale blue georgette was trimmed with tiny frills and silver ribbon. Mr. Fred Elston acted as best man and Mr. Allen Johnson as groomsman. During the signing of the register songs were rendered by Miss B. Jonas. After the ceremony a reception was held at Normanby Hall, Croxton, there being eighty guests present. After the breakfast music and dancing was indulged in.

CARS CARS CARS

THE WONDER HUDSON AND ESSEX SIX.
THE BEST CAR VALUE TO-DAY.



Essex Standard, £255; Coach, £325.



Hudson Standard, £450; Coach, £480; Sedan, £595.
Sales and Service on the Premises. Finance Arranged. Old Cars taken in Part Payment. DEMONSTRATIONS WITH PLEASURE.

THE CAR AND GARAGE WITH A PUNCH.

SOLE DISTRICT AGENT AND DISTRIBUTOR FOR NEAL'S MOTORS.

L. H. TADICH
CERTIFIED "A" GRADE MECHANIC,
801 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE.
PHONE—NORTHCOTE 1016.

MR. J. A. THOMSON, L.I.C.A.,
Town Clerk City of Northcote.

MR. V. J. BRADLEY, C.E.
City Surveyor to Northcote City Council.

MARVELLOUS GROWTH OF NORTHERN SUBURBS.

One cannot view the huge growth of the cities of Northcote and Preston without considering the important part that Messrs. Stewart and Davies have played in it. The total number of dwellings built in this district by this well known firm exceeds 1,200. Many of those who have settled in this district have inspected properties in other suburbs, and have finally decided to reside here. This is due largely to the wonderful transport and shopping facilities provided, and to the fine class of home offered.

The firm is now expanding in other directions, and "Stewart and Davies" has become a household word amongst home purchasers.

To meet the ever increasing demand they have secured extensive offices at Nicholas House, opp. St. Paul's Cathedral, Swanston street, city.

The firm will in future be known as Stewart and Davies Pty. Ltd. Their field of operations is now unlimited, and homes will be constructed in all suburbs. Land has already been secured at Kew, Newport and Essendon. The firm anticipates that the present yearly production will be more than doubled. See illustration elsewhere in this issue.

ANOTHER RECORD FRIDAY

SHARPE
Bros.

The Bargain Giving Northcote Drapers, announce a SPECIAL WEEK-END SALE, to commence on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10th. Following our unwavering policy to provide our numerous customers with something sensational in the way of Bargains. This week-end is to be no exception. Remember, these prices are for week-end only, and we advise all intending purchasers to SHOP EARLY.

Read Every Item Carefully

1/6 FUJI DE LUXE 1/-

300 yards of 30in. Plain Fuji De Luxe; an ideal material for Underclothing and Frocks. Worth 1/6. Friday only **1/**

1/6 BLOOMERS 10½d.

20 doz. Ladies' Stockinette Bloomers, in pale green shade only. Worth 1/6. Friday only . . . . . **8½D PR**

5/11 MEN'S FASHION SHIRTS 3/11.

200 only Gents' Woven Stripe Zephyr Fashion Shirts, in all sizes. Reinforced necks. Worth 5/11. Friday only **3/11**

1/- HANDKERCHIEFS 7½d BOX.

100 boxes only Child's Fancy Handkerchiefs. Worth 1/- Friday only . . . . . **7½D BOX**

2/11 BOY'S SHIRTS 1/11½.

100 only Boys' Striped Shirts, made of good strong shirting; in all sizes. Worth 2/11. Friday only **1/11½**
Two limit to each customer.

1/6 SHEETING 10½d.

Five pieces Single Bed Unbleached Sheeting. Worth 1/6. Friday only . . . . . **10½D YD**

3/11 FROCKS 1/11½.

50 only Ladies' Zephyr Frocks, made in strong good washing material. Worth 3/11. Friday only **1/11½**

6/11 FROCKS 4/11.

75 Ladies' Floral Marocain Frocks. Worth 6/11. Friday only **4/11**

6/11 HOSE 2/11½

25 dozen Ladies' Pure Silk Hose, reinforced with Artificial Silk; in all shades; slightly imperfect. Worth 6/11. Friday only **2/11½**

SHARPE Bros

"THE BEEHIVE," 266 HIGH STREET
NORTHCOTE

WE TAKE CASH ORDERS

LOOK FOR NUMBER OF THIS PAPER. A CORRESPONDING NUMBER APPEARING IN HIGH ST. ENTITLES YOU TO A FREE GIFT

LET THE SEARCH END

The CHRISTMAS SEASON approaches and Keen Shoppers are on the lookout for suitable trinkets to give to their friends as a mark of esteem and friendship, and to chronicle the close of another year.

XMAS SHOPPING is a trying and anxious task, but if the shopper calls on

W THACKRAY

Where a splendid selection of keenly priced and properly displayed stocks can be seen, many difficulties will be overcome

Our stock comprises:—

ELECTROPLATE — ARMLETS
SILVERWARE — TOILETWARE
WATCHES — BRUSHWARE
XYLONITE — RINGS
JEWELLERY, ETC.

Best Selection. Latest Designs. Keenly Priced at

W. THACKRAY'S

313 HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

A DEPOSIT SECURES ANY ARTICLE.

SEWING MACHINES. SEWING MACHINES.
XMAS SPECIALS.

Singer Drophead, round shuttle	£9 0 0
A.N.A. Drophead	£6 0 0
Tyanko Drophead	£4 0 0
Singer Hand Machine	£2 0 0
Wertheim High Arm	£2 10 0

WRITTEN GUARANTEE.

Obtainable only at the Cheapest Depot in Melbourne—

HARDING'S

348 HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

EARLY SETTLERS AND FIRST COUNCIL.

The first settlers coming to Northcote in the forties had to cross the Merri Creek by way of a ford. Subsequently a low log bridge was erected by the Government or the day about 1850. Northcote and Clifton Hill was then bush country, very heavily timbered. Natives used to camp about the creek, near the end of McLachlan street. The Aborigines Protector (Mr. Thomas) used to live in Holden street, North Fitzroy, near the creek and annually members of the Yarra and other tribes came to this camping ground to receive blankets, etc., which were supplied by the Government. On such occasions corroborees were held, and the natives had a great time. The site on the Fitzroy side of the creek, where the Old Colonists' Homes and the new railway station is being erected was an old battle ground of the natives, and many differences were settled there in the old native style with spear and club. In the very early days, it is said, two chiefs of the Merri tribe were buried on that piece of land now occupied by the Presbyterian Church in James street.

One of the first settlers to open up business in Northcote was Mr. Shade, who with his wife and family came in 1848, when the locality was practically a forest of gum trees. He pitched a tent amongst the trees at about 319 High street, where Mr. F. G. Smith carries on his drapery establishment to-day. The business was chiefly ironmongery, the store being in a tent about 358 High street. Later he built a two-storey brick shop, which is still there.

As the timber was cleared away about Westgarth, a great deal of cultivation took place, and one old farmer in particular, by the name of Loveday, sent cabbages to Melbourne and received fabulous prices for them. He was a typical farmer of the old school, and wore a smock frock which came down to his knees, similar to the dress of the period in some of the old shires of England.

The first council election for Northcote was held on July 19, 1883, the following councillors being elected, the numbers following being the votes recorded in favor of each:—Edwin Bastings 325; William Henry Dennis (father of Cr. S. Dennis) 291; Francis Beaver 281; Andrew McIntosh 280; Charles Joseph Verso 249; Richard Weaver 213; John W. Plant 200; John J. Morris 196; Charles Jackson 194. Cr. Bastings was unanimously elected Mayor. The council established an office at the Wesleyan Church room at a rental of £15 per annum, the staff using a small room, and the meetings of the council being held in the schoolroom. A large drawing board on trestles was used as the council table, and the chairs, the property of the church, and a small cupboard, were about the only other appointments in the room. There were at this time about 360 houses in the borough, averaging about eight to the acre, about 2¼ miles of road to maintain and very little revenue. The rate was one shilling in the pound, and realised about £1,090.

CHURCH OF EPIPHANY

NEW CHURCH TO COST £10,000

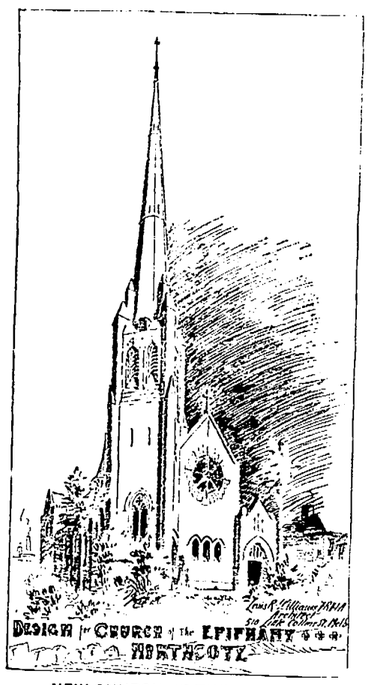
FOUNDATION STONE TO BE LAID ON DECEMBER 18.

On Saturday afternoon, December 18, the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne (Dr. Harrington Lees), will lay the foundation stone of the new Church of the Epiphany on Ruckeer's Hill. Already good progress has been made with the building which, when completed, will cost £10,000 without the spire.

The church is being built from the design of Mr. L. Williams. The frontage is to Bayview street. The full length of the church proper is 113 feet, while the nave has a width of 41 feet, with a seating capacity for 400 people. The height of the tower is 81 feet. A special feature will be two 12 feet rose windows at the sanctuary and baptistry ends.

It is expected that most of the ecclesiastical furnishings will be donated by members of the congregation and their friends. Already Mr. A. E. Emery, the choirmaster, and the choir have made themselves responLadies' Guild are giving the sanctuary and choir carpet. The altar, sanctuary chairs, and an altar cloth are being donated by Mrs. Pugh. Mr. J. O. Hughes is donating the pulpit in memory of his wife. Members of the Vizard family are donating a brass eagle lectern and Bible in memory of their brother Godfrey, who was recently killed in Tasmania. Miss B. Cohen is donating an altar cloth, and Mr. and Mrs. F. Moorman a brass alms dish. The baptism font is being given by members of the congregation in memory of the late church secretary, Mr. C. J. Buxton. Several members of the congregation are donating sible for the choir stalls, while the pews.

The vicar, the Rev. T. Cole, ThL., under whose guidance, and by whose energy the church has reached such an advanced stage, began the fourth year of his ministry on the first of the month. The ladies of the congregation have invited the visitors and members to afternoon tea in the Parish Hall after the laying of the foundation stone. It is hoped that a generous collection at the service will materially assist the building fund.



NEW CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY,
Cnr. Bay View and High Sts., as it will look when completed.

MAYORS OF NORTHCOTE

FROM 1883 TO 1926.

E. BASTINGS, J.P., 1883-4 (also 1899-1900).
W. H. DENNIS, J.P., 1884-5.
HON. F. E. BEAVER, M.L.C., 1885-1886.
A. McINTOSH, J.P., 1886-7.
C. J. VERSO, J.P., 1887-8.
E. C. YEOMANS, J.P., 1888-9.
G. H. PLANT, J.P., 1889-90 (also 1890-91.
R. CANDY, J.P., 1891-2.
W. SMITH, J.P., 1892-3.
W. HUTTON, J.P., 1893-4.
E. C. YEOMANS, J. P., 1894-5.
T. H. McLEAN, J.P., 1895-6 (also 1896-7).
G. H. PARSONS, J.P., 1897-8 (also 1898-9).
F. J. PLANT, J.P., 1900-1 (also 1901-2, 1903-4, 1904-5, 1905-6).
W. H. DENNIS, J. P., 1902-3.
T. L. TAYLOR, J.P., 1906-7.
A. E. THARRATT, J.P., 1907-8 (also 1908-9).
W. HAYES, J.P., 1909-10.
R. ARCHBOLD, J.P., 1910-11.
H. E. BASTINGS, J.P., 1911-12.
S. DENNIS, J.P., 1913-14.
A. E. THARRATT, J.P., 1914-15.
A. B. MASON, J.P., 1915-16.
W. WILLIAMS, J.P., 1916-17.
W. J. GRAY, J.P., 1917-18.
W. GLANFIELD, 1918-19.
R. ROBERTS, J.P., 1919-20.
C. W. TIMMINS, J.P., 1920-21.
A. A. McDONELL, J.P., 1921-22.
P. J. SLATER, J.P., 1922-23.
W. H. TURNER, J.P., 1923-24.
A. H. OLDIS, J.P., 1924-25.
J. SUTCH, J.P., 1925-26.
P. H. MAYER, J.P., 1926-27.

WOOL FROM WOOD.

Experiments fraught with great possibilities for the British textile trade have lately been carried out by leading firms in Lancashire and Yorkshire. They concern the production by artificial means of a new wool fibre, arrangements for manufacturing which on a large scale have already been made. Known at present as "snofil," the new synthetic wool is the invention of an Italian. In appearance it is a downy, silk-like substance, and it is said to have the textile strength of real wool. While it is unlikely to replace real wool, "snofil" is expected to influence the production of the cheaper grades of clothing, the price of which will probably be substantially reduced. A company to make the new fibre has been formed, an da suitable site for a factory is now being sought.

Algernon (to cab-driver)—"I say, my good man, will you drive me to town?" Cabby—"Yes, if I can get the harness to fit you."

GIVE KNITWEAR FOR XMAS

Gift Hints

LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S CARDIGANS AND PULLOVERS.

Yes! We make to order and measurements Children's Cardigans from 5/6; Ladies' Cardigans from 16/6; Children's Pullovers from 4/11; Ladies' Pullovers from 15/6.

If you order now you will not be disappointed Shop in Thornbury—you use commonsense—And you save Pounds, Shillings and Pence.

FOR YOUR HOLIDAYS.

KNITWEAR is Warm, Comfortable, Handy; will not crush and is light to carry.
For your Knitwear wants see—

E. M. EDMONDS 769 HIGH ST., THORNBURY.

COSTUMIERE AND KNITWEAR SPECIALIST,
(Nearly opposite Salvation Army).
SPECIAL DISCOUNT FOR XMAS IF THIS PAPER IS MENTIONED.

XMAS HAMS! XMAS HAMS!

Not merely Hams, but dainty, tender and delicately cooked hams are what we are offering. The best go first.
ORDER NOW AND SAVE DISAPPOINTMENT.

XMAS DELICACIES

Large stock of delicacies are now on hand, and prices are right. Do not fail to call and place your order.

DAIRY PRODUCE

Have you tried our FRESH BUTTER AND EGGS? Special arrangements have been made, and large supplies of fresh country butter, the BEST PROCURABLE, are always on hand.
COOKED MEATS A SPECIALTY.

One address only—

THE STRATTON

343 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE.

BE UP-TO-DATE AND HAVE ELECTRIC LIGHT INSTALLED IN YOUR HOME.

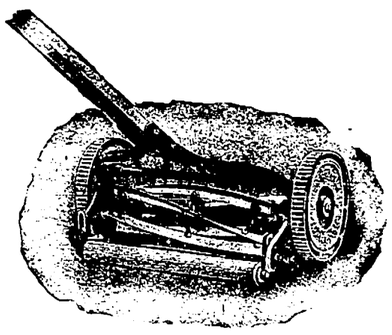
Clean. No Matches. No Mantle Bills. A Pleasure to Read or Work by. Installations Cheaply and Promptly Executed by

H. P. LEE, Electrical Contractor.

228-230 HIGH STREET, PRESTON.

Every Class of Electrical Work Undertaken and Satisfaction Guaranteed. Phone—Northcote 103.

NEELANDS for
Low Prices - Quality - Service - Efficiency



CALDWELL'S HARDWEAR MOWER

BLADES ADJUSTABLE.
12in., 37/6 14in., 42/6.
BALL BEARING.
12in., 57/6 14in., 60/-

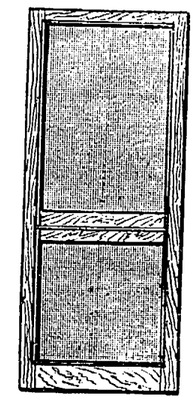
NEW 230 VOLTAGE ELECTRIC GLOBES

ALL TESTED.

16 to 50 Candle Power, 1/- each.

SPECIAL OREGON FLY DOORS

GALVANISED WIRE.
Three sizes only. Not in Special Sizes. 10/6.
6ft. 6in. x 2ft. 6in. 6ft. 8in. x 2ft. 8in. 6ft. 10in. x 2ft. 10in.
Spring Hinges, Fittings, etc., are extra.



SUPERIOR TO GALVANISED.

24in.	1/3
26in.	1/6
28in.	1/8
30in.	1/9
36in.	1/9
36in.	1/10
42in.	2/10

BRONZE FLY WIRE.

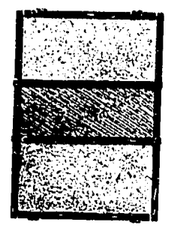
24in.	3/9 yd.
30in.	4/9 yd.
36in.	5/6 yd.

DECORATOR'S PREPARED HOUSE PAINT

A PRODUCT OF VICTORIAN VARNISH CO.

COLORS.		WHITE.	
1 Gal.	19/6	1 Gal.	20/6
½ Gal.	10/6	½ Gal.	11/-
¼ Gal.	5/6	¼ Gal.	5/9

RED OXIDE ROOF PAINT.
1 Gal., 15/- Gal.

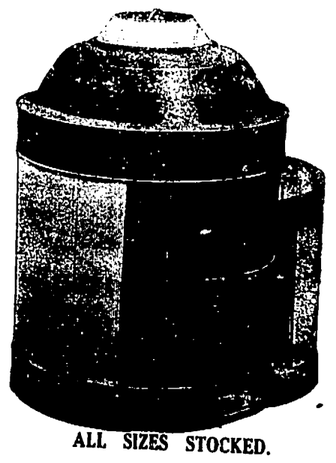


FLY SCREENS

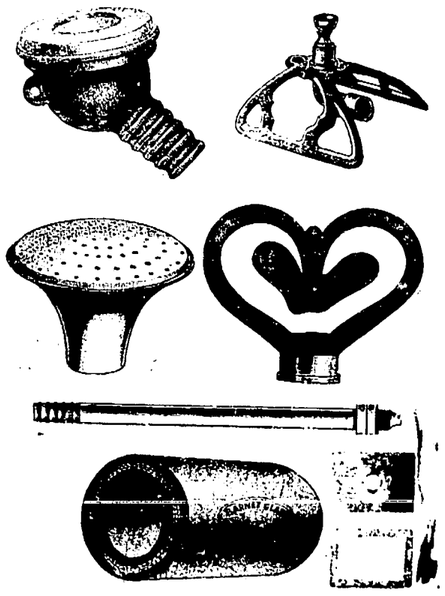
ALL STEEL GALVANISED WIRE.

Extension, Fits Any Window.	
No. 1	5/3
No. 2	5/6
No. 3	5/11

MEAT SAFES



ALL SIZES STOCKED.



GOODYEAR GARDEN HOSE

Half-inch, 3-ply Elm, 7½d ft.
Half-inch, 3-ply Rubber, Ribbed. A quality Hose, 9d.
ALSO HOSE FROM 5½d FOOT.

W. S. NEELANDS Pty. Ltd.

TIMBER MILL & YARDS, JOINERY SHOP — HARDWARE & CROCKERY DEPARTMENT

ARTHURTON ROAD, Opp. Railway Station. Phones—Northcote 770 and 1689.

353-355 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE 'Phone—Northcote 1283.

CLIMAX OIL MOP

CLEANS, DUSTS, POLISHES IN ONE OPERATION.
2/11 each.

DODGE THE FOREIGN TRADER WHO SPENDS NOTHING LOCALLY AND "SWAGS" ALL MONEY OUT OF THE DISTRICT

HARDWARE HARDWARE

XMAS AND NEW YEAR SAVINGS

AT

MORIESON'S, IRONMONGER

365 HIGH STREET (Opp. E.S. & A. Bank)

NEAR SEPARATION STREET, NORTHCOTE.

Too many bargains to list. Here are a few:-

Ezywurk 7d. Brasso 9½d. Shinoleum 10d.

Sanitas 1/11 yard. Hessian, double width, 8½d yard.

Galvanized Flywire, from 1/- yard, 24in. All sizes in stock, including 42in., at 1/9 yard.

Rake Heads, new pattern, very strong. 8 tooth, 10d; 10 tooth, 1/2; 12 tooth, 1/4; 14 tooth, 1/6.

Scissors.—For price and quality unequalled value.

Hair Clippers from 3/9

230 volt new Electric Globes, 1/-.

Splendid quality Best Red Rubber, ½in. Garden Hose, three ply, at 6d foot. Other Hose at 5½d foot.

English Mowers at Keen Prices.

Suitable Gifts in Aluminium Teapots, Saucepans, Kettles, etc., in great variety.

Polish Mops, in tins, ready charged, with handle, 2/11.

Mop Oil, 9d bottle. Mop Oil, 1/- pint. Mop Heads from 1/8

SEE WINDOW DISPLAY. USE OUR LAY-BY SYSTEM

Remember—MORIESON'S FOR BETTER VALUE.

THE BEST FOR LESS AT MORIESON'S.

GLANFIELD BROS., BUTCHERS

HIGH STREET, WESTGARTH.

HIGH STREET, CROXTON (Opp. Darebin Street), and SEPARATION STREET, NORTHCOTE

5lbs. Chops, Steak and Sausages, 1/-

Corn Beef 2d lb.

THE BUTCHERS FOR QUALITY AND LOW PRICES.

McALPIN'S Malto-Pepsin Self Raising FLOUR

THE ONLY MALTO-PEPSIN FLOUR

ACTUALLY SAVES SPONGES, SCONES AND CAKES

They retain their original freshness and there is no waste owing to staleness.

SUPER-MILLING MEANS A BETTER BALANCE

It ensures better aeration and a higher degree of lightness—goods baked are more eagerly eaten.

HERE'S GOOD NEWS FOR MOTORISTS

If any of these sizes fit your car, then you are very lucky, because these are brand new Tyres which we are clearing out.

TYRES AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES.

SIZES—30 x 3½, 31 x 4, 815 x 105, 857 x 105.

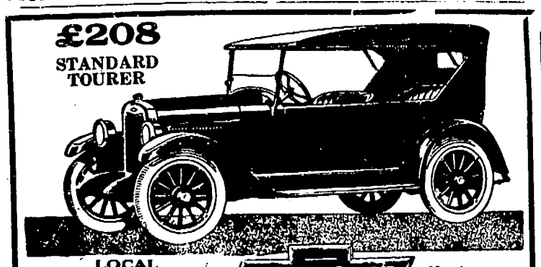
This is a job lot; there's only a few of them, so it's a case of first come first served. Get in early!

NORTHCOTE MOTOR TYRE WORKS PTY. LTD.

465 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE.

£208

STANDARD TOURER



LOCAL **Chevrolet AGENT** CHEVROLET **Motors and Trucks**

Authorised District Service Station—Day and Night Service. Phone 1394

Call on Westgarth Motors. Demonstration and full explanation of Quality Features cheerfully given. Full Stock of Spare Parts Always on Hand.

Westgarth Motors, Cnr. High St. & Westgarth St., WESTGARTH.

VARIABLE CONDENSER DESIGN.

The recent "low loss" craze has certainly had the effect of making manufacturers improve their components in details which had hitherto been neglected or looked upon as of little importance. The result is that components are of a much higher standard of efficiency than those that were obtainable in the early days of broadcasting, but it must be recognised that it is of little use trying to bring a receiver up to a higher standard of efficiency by putting in one or two components of improved design, and neglecting the remainder. For an all-over increase of efficiency in the receiver to be apparent, the standard of all the components must be raised.

An important component which has undergone a great improvement is the variable condenser, and for the benefit of readers who intend purchasing and wish to know the points to look for in the design of this component, a few remarks are given below.

The condenser should be of a strong mechanical design, with bearings of ample size, which will take up any wear, and which do not allow of any end or side play, as the clearance between the moving and stationary plates is usually very small. The rotation of the moving plates should be smooth and without chatter, but no "sloppiness" should be apparent. The best condensers have ball bearings, which allow the bearings to be fairly tight and yet allow free rotation. The connection between the moving plates and end plates should preferably be through some form of flexible connection, as if reliance is placed on the moving surfaces of the bearings for electrical connection crackling is apt to occur, due to grit, etc., intruding between the surfaces.

The plates are best made of brass for mechanical reasons, and care should be taken that the spacing between them is accurate. The moving plates should be equidistant between the stationary plates, otherwise an even increase in capacity is impossible.

A great deal of attention has been paid to the distribution of the insulating material between the moving and the stationary plates. This insulating material should be reduced to the smallest possible quantity, consistent with good insulation, as all solid dielectric allows a certain amount of dielectric losses, and it should be placed outside the strong field of the condenser. The best dielectric is air.

All the best condensers have specially shaped plates to allow the wavelengths when tuning to increase at an even rate. This is known as square-law design. Others are shaped to allow the frequencies to increase at an even rate, and are known as straight line frequency condensers. The ordinary shaped plates allow an even increase of capacity, but this crowds all the stations into one end of the scale.

The moving plates should preferably be electrically connected to the end plates, which should be connected to earth in order to minimise hand capacity effects. The dial should be of a large diameter, otherwise the degree graduations on the dial would come too close together, making difficult the reading when critical adjustments are being made.

If the purchaser makes certain that the condenser he buys contains all these features, he will have bought a really low loss component, and nothing but satisfaction will result.

A typical example containing these features is the Igranic Low Loss Square Law Variable Condenser. This is one of the outstanding examples in this new era of condenser design.

Shop locally and buy from people who trade with you!

STATISTICS CITY OF NORTHCOTE 1926-27.

The following are statistics for the various wards, giving area in acres, population, increase and decrease, valuation, revenue, number of houses, and areas of parks:—

South Ward—385 acres: population 7,68, decrease 12; valuation £81,772 10/-, increase £2,605; revenue £10,221 11/3; houses 1,923, inc. 31; park areas. 15¾ acres.

East Ward.—315a; population 5,396, inc. 503; valuation £62,419/10/-, inc. £4,542/10/-; revenue £7,802/8/9; houses 1,406, inc. 126; park areas 5¾a.

Central Ward.—220a; population 4,185, inc. 229; valuation £60,052/10/-, inc. £3,537/10/-; revenue £6,256/11/3; houses 980, inc. 65; park areas 13a.

West Ward.—750a; population 11,215, in. 329; valuation £131,704/10/-, inc. £6,850/10/-; revenue £16,463/1/3; houses 2,893, inc. 68; park areas 19¼a.

Nort Ward.—1,180a; population 10,907, inc. 120; valuation £106,814 10/-, inc. £6,157; revenue £13,351 16/3; houses 2,619, inc. 84; park areas 33 1-3 acres.

Totals.—2,850 acres; population 39,371; increase 1,169; valuation £432,763/10/-; inc. £23,692; revenue £54,095/8/9; houses 9,281; increase 374; park areas, approx. 87 acres.

PARKS.

South Ward.—Northcote Cricket Ground, 14 acres; St. George's Reserve, 1¾ acres. Total 15¾ acres.

East Ward.—Johnson Park, 13 acres. Total 13 acres.

Central Ward.—Merri Reserve. 13 acres. Total 13 acres.

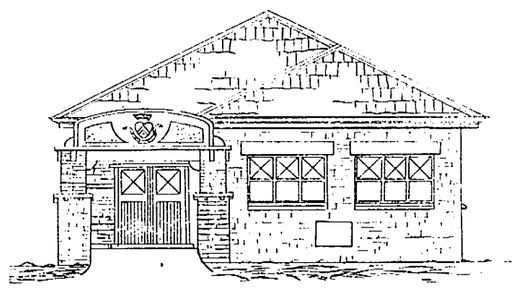
West Ward.—Henderson Park, two acres; Mayer Park, 13 acres (approx.); Batman Park, 4¾ acres. Total, 19¾ acres.

North Ward.—McDonell Park, 21 acres; Pender's Park, 4¾ acres; and five small drainage blocks, totalling 1¾ acres. Also new park now being purchased, Hayes Park, 6 1-3 acres. Total, 33 1-3 acres approx.

Grand total—87 acres approx.

MR. W. S. NEELANDS.

Chairman Executive Committee City of Northcote Traders' Association.



NEW THORNBURY BABY HEALTH CENTRE, CLARENDON STREET, AS IT WILL LOOK WHEN COMPLETED.

SCOTTISH CONCERT.

The usual monthly concert of the Northcote and Preston Scottish Society will be held in Northcote Town Hall on Wednesday, December 15. Amongst the performers are the Society's Pipe Band, Northcote Reel Party, Mr. Robert Malcolm, Miss Grace Jackson, Miss Elsie Westcott, Mr. Eric Jones and Mr. Fred Champion. The usual dance will follow. As this is the last concert of the year a big attendance of "brither Scots" and others is expected.

Buy locally and improve the value of your own property!

TRAMWAY WORKS AT DUNDAS STREET, PRESTON.

These works can turn out three cars weekly at a cost approximately of £3,500 each. Over 200 cars have been built so far. (Photo courtesy "Argus.")

CLACK'S ECONOMIC STORES

377 TO 385 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE

Xmas Fair Now in full Swing

89/6 Men's Blue Twill Suits, Indigo dye, smartly made and cut in the latest fashion. Fair Price 68/6.

79/6 Youths' Blue Twill Suits, Indigo dye, well tailored in the latest style, with cuff and hip pocket. Fair Price 59/6.

10/6 Men's Cream Tennis Trousers, well made and soft finish; a splendid hard-wearing trouser, and suitable for holiday wear. Xmas Fair Price 8/6

22/6 Men's All Wool Blazer Coats, showing in splendid make, with contrasting cord. Fair Price 15/11.

32/6 Boys' Navy Serge Suits, Indigo dye, well made and lined throughout; excellent cut and finish. Fair Price 25/-

4/6 Boys' White and Striped Tennis Shirts, well made, double sewn and gusseted. Fair Price 2/11.

9/11 Boys' All Wool Navy Blazers, with contrasting cords; well cut and nicely made. Fair Price 7/6.

15/11 Motor Coats, made from extra strong Crash, full belt, in sizes 3 to 7. Fair Price 11/6.

12/6 Gingham Frocks, best quality, in newest designs; smartly made; suitable for holiday wear. Fair Price 7/6 and 6/11.

38/6 Stripe Fuji Silk Frocks, extra heavy quality, in newest stripes and Checks. Fair Price 22/6 to 25/-

1/- Box of Children's Handkerchiefs, in play designs, nice quality. Fair Price 6½d box.

9/6 Ladies' Bathing Costumes, in newest combination style; smart colorings. Fair Price 6/11.

9/6 Gents' Palm Beach Bathing Costumes in a large variety of colors; all sizes. Fair Price 6/11.

4/6 Crepe Nights, in all shades, including Hello, Pink, Sky, White, and Saxe; well made and large sizes. Fair Price 2/11.

3/11 Children's Zephyr Dresses, made from best quality Zephyr, splendid colorings and well made. Fair Price 1/11.

5/11 Silk Hose, superior quality, in plain and fancy stitching, with mock seam at back, in all the newest shades. Fair Price 3/11 pair.

35/6 Floral Voile Frocks, in several styles, short or long sleeves, some with colored borders. Fair Price 17/11.

2/11 Box Handkerchiefs, containing half dozen good quality lawn handkerchiefs, in fancy box, suitable for gifts. Fair Price 1/11.

6/11 Fuji Silk Bloomers, elastic at waist and knee; guaranteed good sizes in Sky, Pink and Hello. Fair Price 4/11.

20/- Boys' Pinchback Tweed Suits, in all sizes. Fair Price 16/11.

1/6 Double Width Check and Plain Colored Gingham, very strong and good washing; suitable for young or old. Fair Price 10½d yard.

12/6 Fringe Lace Curtains, 2½ yards long; very good quality and newest designs. Fair Price 9/11.

2/11 Colored Curtain Net, extra heavy quality and nicely covered designs; all colors and guaranteed fadeless. Fair Price 1/11 yard.

1/11 large size Colored Bath Towels, heavy weight, very suitable for boys' use. Fair Price 1/3 each.

2/11 Double Bed Unbleached Twill Sheeting, extra strong quality; free from filling; very suitable for heavy wear. Fair Price 1/11 yard.

10½d Jap. Crepes, in all shades; good heavy weight. Fair Price 7½d yard.

CLACK'S ECONOMIC STORES

CLACK'S ECONOMIC STORES ARE NOTED FOR GOOD VALUE

FOR XMAS THE BEST IS ONLY GOOD ENOUGH TO GIVE.

A fine range of PERFUMERY, COLOGNES, CAMERAS, XYLONITE WARE, SCENT SPRAYS, XMAS NOVELTIES, Etc., is available for your selection.

As usual our Prices are Lowest Possible.

GARDINER & McMULLIN

CHEMISTS,

287 High St., Northcote; 615 High St., Croxton; also at Flinders St., City, and North Melbourne.

HULLO EVERYBODY!

FOR ALL YOUR XMAS PRESENTS—

CARDS, BOOKS, ALBUMS, PENS; PENCILS, GIFT SETS, STATIONERY, PIPES, POUCHES, CIGARS, CIGARETTES, etc., See

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509 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE.

Phone—Northcote 714.

SHOP LOCALLY.

PAYNE'S

BUZZ BIZ STORES

689 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE

OPPOSITE TRAM SHEDS.

Direct Importers of CROCKERY, HARWARE, FANCY GOODS.

LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICES. HIGHEST POSSIBLE VALUES

The Buzz Biz is now crammed full of XMAS NOVELTIES AND TOYS.

If you like GIFTS OUT OF THE ORDINARY, the BUZZ BIZ is just the place to get them.

Sleeping Dolls, with eyelashes 18in. long, worth 7/11. Buzz Biz Xmas Special, 5/11.

Sleeping Dolls, with eyelashes 24in. long, worth 10/6. Buzz Biz Xmas Special 7/11.

Walking and Talking Dolls, 22in. long, worth 9/11. Buzz Biz Xmas Specia' 8/6.

Mamma Dolls, 22in., selling most places 9/11. Buzz Biz Xmas Special 7/11.

14in. Baby Dolls, usually 5/11. Buzz Biz Xmas Special 4/11.

Mechanical Toys of Every Description.

Pretty Afternoon Tea Trays, in red, green, orange, and blue, with gold edge. Suitable for Gift Giving; worth 4/6. Buzz Biz Xmas Special 2/3.

Good quality Tumblers (not Japanese), 5 for 11½d.

China Cereal Sets—Sugar, Tea, Coffee, etc., 15 pieces in all. Buzz Biz Xmas Special, 37/6 set. Limited Number.

Aluminium Tea Pots, 4-cup size, 3/8½. Larges sizes priced very low.

Lightwork Stains, 7½d tin.

Fly Papers, 8½d dozen.

Kleano Oiled Mops, in tins, worth 3/11. Xmas Special 2/6; with handle

Tea Sets, blue band, 18 pieces. Buzz Biz Xmas Special, 5/11 set.

8oz. American Tumblers, special for shops, 6 for 2/1½.

Just Arrived.—50 Beautiful Imported Figures. See them before deciding on others.

Good Looking Alarm Clocks, worth 6/6. Buzz Biz Xmas Special 3/11.

Canister Sets of six, worth 8/6. Buzz Biz Xmas Special, 4/11.

Keep this copy of the "Leader," and if the number corresponds with FREE GIFT in our window, the Gift is Yours.

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CRAFTSMAN FURNITURE

Lasts a Lifetime. Every Stick Guaranteed.

Buy Direct from the Maker, ensuring the Best Workmanship at the Lowest Possible Price.

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T. E. REDMOND PTY. LTD.

480 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE,

HARDWARE MERCHANTS, OILS AND COLORS. CEMENT WARE MANUFACTURERS.

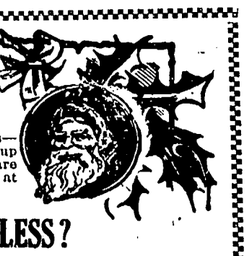
Get a quote for your REQUIREMENTS for those JOBS ABOUT THE HOME.

OUR DELIVERY SERVICE IS QUICK AND FREE.

SPECIAL LINES THIS MONTH.

36 x 2 x 19 Fowl Netting, 27/6 100 yards roll. O. Cedar Mops 2/11.

THE GIFT MOST APPRECIATED



is something that everyone enjoys—something that will help to brighten up the home and "live" for years. Such are the gift suggestions now presented at ROBERTSON AND O'DONNELL'S

WHY NOT WIRELESS?

Here you will find all radio goods. Sets in all sizes from crystal to big valve sets, accessories of every kind—all priced at very lowest levels.

ELECTRIC TORCHES, IRONS, KETTLES, SHADES, TOASTERS, FANS, ETC.

Are also here in such variety and offered at such prices that quickly and pleasantly solve the problem of "what to give." Call early—to-day—and let us help you select.

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CONSULTING ENGINEERS & ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS,

465 High St. 'Phone, N'cote 408. NORTHCOTE.

BUY FROM NORTHCOTE TRADE CARNIVAL. SECURE THE BETTER BARGAINS NORTHCOTE TRADERS HAVE TO OFFER

HIGH GRADE MEAT CHEAP

J. ECKER

WISHES THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON TO ALL, AND BEGS TO INTIMATE THAT HE HAS JUST SECURED A LARGE CONSIGNMENT OF CATTLE AND SHEEP DIRECT FROM THE STATIONS AT A VERY LOW RATE

OUR CHRISTMAS CHEER CONSISTS OF DAIRY FED PORK, OX TONGUES, MUTTON, HAMS

NOTE A FEW OF OUR PRICES---

BEEF

Roast from	1½d lb.
Ribs from	3d lb.
Sirloin from	6d lb.
Corn Brisket	2d lb.
Corn Roll	4½d lb.
Silverside	6d lb.

MUTTON

Sides	3d lb.
Legs	4½d lb.
Forequarter	2d lb.

LAMB

Sides	6d lb.
Hindquarter	7d lb.
Forequarter	5d lb.

PORK

Legs from	10d lb
Bellies from	10d lb.
Pigs' Cheeks	1/- each

VEAL

Legs from	6d lb.
Fores from	2d lb.
Sugar Cured Mutton	7d lb.

WATCH OUR WINDOWS FOR PRICES

Anyone presenting the "Leader" with the number corresponding with the Number in our High Street shop will receive a Leg of Pork.

Please Shop Early and Avoid Disappointment

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THE HIGH GRADE BUTCHER, 257 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE

Branches at Thornbury, Croxton, Regent and Brunswick

Only the pick of the Market

Retailed by

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WATCH FOR THE SHOP IN NORTHCOTE SIGN

BEWARE OF THE FOREIGN OCTOPUS

NORTHCOTE IN 1950 ---A RETROSPECT

WHAT LOYAL CO-OPERATION HAS ACHIEVED.

(By OLD TIMER.)

The following short article has been written for the "Leader" by an old resident, who appears to be endowed with breadth of vision, and an ability to see into the future. We trust sincerely that his prophecies may come true.

To-day is January 1, 1950, and I am writing my impressions of Northcote as things appear to-day. I am an old man, and have seen much—much that I have pleasure in recalling and also much I would pray God to allow me to forget. But things have changed and, on the whole, have changed for the better. Life now is not so strenuous. Labor saving machines have done away to a great extent with hand-work, and have almost entirely obliterated drudgery and mechanical manual labor. In these respects things have improved. But, by eliminating initiative and inventive genius, the world has been left the poorer. Working hours are still 48 a week, and it is rightly contended that any person who cannot work satisfactorily for this period should make way for someone who is a useful member of society, and who is willing to do so. Artisans have learned that the go-slow policy does them more harm than it does the employer. They merely rob the employer of a little money for the time being—that is, till he wakes up to it and the employee starts looking for another position—but they rob themselves of what cannot be estimated in terms of money—of their self-respect. And even the most low down person has some self-respect concealed somewhere in his make-up—if it could only be found. It is now realised that the person who robs society by taking money for work he does not perform is a criminal, who increases the cost of living for every other person. In some cases he is reckoned as a person of unsound mind, who should not be punished, but treated medically.

Nowadays there is plenty of time for recreation, and amusements and recreation are cheap and universally recognised as a physical and mental necessity. Railroads and trams have disappeared. The rails have been torn up and the tracks are used for fleet electrically-propelled rubber tyred vehicles. The land at the sides of the tracks is used for parking vehicles. Not a horse is to be seen, and small children beg their parents to take them to the Edwardes Park and other reserves of a Sunday to see these prehistoric animals, a few of whom are still preserved as relics of the old days. No cable or electric trams stir up the dust, and fill the air with hideous noises. There is hardly a sound in the well-kept wide streets, and an entire absence of dust. Aeroplanes of all sizes, from the one passenger runabout to the huge Goliath fly through the air on their charted courses, and suitable landing places are placed in handy positions.

THE GREAT FIRE.

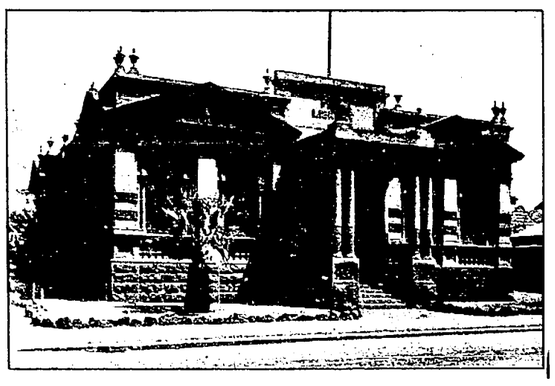
A huge fire occurred in Northcote about 1930, and a big section of the closely congested residential quarters, chiefly comprised of wooden houses, disappeared. This holocaust proved a blessing in disguise, for a wise council, imbued with the civic spirit and a full understanding of the benefits of town planning, had the city resurveyed and remodelled. The destroyed streets were made wider, and a better class of house erected on decent sized areas. This led the way to a complete reorganisation. Wider lanes were made compulsory, through which all essential services are carried out. Gas, water, sewerage electricity and heat mains all traverse these easements, so that the streets are never torn up and left disfigured for days at a time like deserted mining fields as in the past. All overhead wires have disappeared from the streets, and everything possible is underground. Street verandahs are of a uniform cantilever principle, and carry a second footpath, on to which display windows of shops abut. Loading and unloading of goods in main streets is against the law. All main thoroughfares have been widened to 1½ chains, and roadways and footpaths are well drained and made of imperishable material. Should any repairs be necessary, they are effected and completed at night, ready for the next day's traffic.

As for St. George's road—no resident of 1926 would recognise this present day boulevard. Planted with trees and shrubs, no longer a dumping ground for unwanted rubbish and deceased animals, its smoothly paved roadways, divided by green lawns, provide an enticing spectacle. Band concerts are given here of a summer's eve, and the conditions are to be described only by the word "idyllic." Gone are the unsightly shanties and the moth-eaten fences; the unsightly dumps of dust and rubbish have disappeared, to be replaced by tinkling fountains and the voices of children playing.

EDWARDES PARK LAKE.

Round the Edwardes Park lake have arison splendid groves of magnificent shade trees. The lake has been enlarged and its pellucid waters teem with fine fish of all sorts, which have been acclimatised. Swift electric launches flit about, lit up like firoflies, and soft and alluring music stealing across the moonlit waters is soothing and restful of an evening.

On Sundays and on holidays free buses, provided by the city council, convey residents to the seaside suburbs or to the mountains, for it is recognised that it is cheaper and easier and more pleasant to retain good health, strength and vitality than to attempt to restore it when disease and sickness have laid hands on the populace. Besides Edwardes Park there are numbers of other open spaces, recreation grounds and playing fields, for fast and cheap transit has enabled the outer suburbs to be reached very quickly.



NORTHCOTE FREE LIBRARY.
(Stevens Photo.)

DEPARTMENT STORES DEPART.

Erstwhile suburbs have grown into cities and themselves possess suburbs for residential purposes. Everywhere the civic spirit has been fostered and residents hold it as a point of honor to obtain everything possible within their own boundaries. For they recognise that money "spent in the family," as it were, remains in the family and makes all prosperous in turn, while money sent abroad to foreign traders is lost for ever and renders their own position less prosperous, and curtails employment. Hence there is no general exodus of thoughtless people chasing the rainbow of non-existent bargains. Business people are able to keep extensive stocks, to sell reliable articles at reasonable prices, and to build up a lasting and valuable goodwill. It is a point of honor with all to "buy in your own city." The days of the octopus department stores are gone, for people trade where they live, and the customers of these establishments have to be recruited from the residents in their neighborhood.

Numerous schools, institutes, libraries, technical colleges abound for the benefit of the young people who are taught early in life that knowledge is power, and that an unskilful tradesman or professional man is a disgrace both to himself and to the community. Drunkenness is unknown, and insanity and disease are fast dying out. Better living conditions and deeper knowledge are rapidly achieving this desirable state of affairs. Crime of all sorts is decreasing. There is employment for all, for each person who works helps to provide work for someone else. Prices of commodities have decreased, despite increased wages, owing to efficient and loyal service, the elimination of waste time and waste products. It is recognised universally that waste of any sort is a crime against society.

Fine hospitals are maintained in the outlying suburbs amid health-giving surroundings, but preventable disease is kept well under control. Everything possible is done for the preservation of infant life, to ensure healthy infancy, adolescence, and adult life.

In short Northcote, which has now a population of 100,000, is a model and complete and self-contained city, healthy and prosperous and peopled by intelligent citizens, who take a pride in their city and its surroundings, and who live useful and happy lives.

THE DOG DOCTOR.

In this article I propose to deal with the subject of their teeth. A puppy is born without teeth, but these very quickly begin to show themselves. By the time it is five or eight weeks old, a puppy should have its first complete set of teeth, consisting of twenty-eight. These first teeth are known as puppy or milk teeth. Generally speaking, the growth of the first teeth does not occasion any pain or discomfort to the puppy, except in the case of toy dogs. It does not, however, retain the milk teeth for long. A puppy begins to lose its milk teeth when it is about four months old. In some cases the changing process takes place even earlier than this, and about a month later it should have a complete new set of teeth. But instead of having only twenty-eight, the new set will consist of forty-two or forty-four. The toy dog is however an exception. In this case the puppy does not commence to change its teeth until it is five months old, and the dentition is sometimes not completed until he is eight months old.

Dodge the foreign trader who spends nothing locally and "swags" all money out of the district!

KEEP YOUR MONEY IN YOUR OWN TOWN

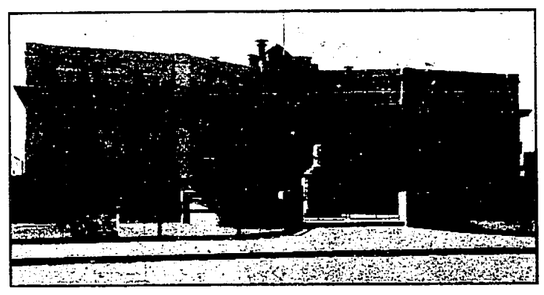
NOTHING TOO SMALL; NOTHING TOO LARGE.

Owing to the octopus-like methods of big metropolitan organisations, many of which are financed by Yankee dollars, business for several years has been drawn away from the suburbs and concentrated in the cities and other suburbs. This is not singular to Victoria, but is the universal trend thorughout the world. The mail order business is another branch of this question. By the use of every conceivable means the huge corporations lure buyers to their stores and spread universal ruin around them. The only weapons to combat this alarming state of affairs are, first the keeping of adequate stocks by suburban business people, the selling of reliable goods at fair market prices, and the cultivation of a spirit of loyalty in suburban residents.

What is wanted is an association such as has been started in Northcote, and of which Cr. J. H. Dunlop has been appointed secretary and organiser. Its efforts are to prevent local business in goods and service being taken away by the city business people from the suburbs. Such a league should be permanent and active, and not weak and loose-jointed like the voluntary traders' associations, most of which wither and die. It is a movement calling for support from suburban municipal councils, newspapers, professional men and women, trades, clubs and associations and property owners.

Combines, trusts, rings, monopolies, amalgamations in business are the order of the day—the feature of the times. They are often unfair, unjust, and hurtful to the man in business who is not in their inside, and who does not belong to them. Hundreds of tradesmen, shopkeepers and professional men in the suburbs who have been established for years, and have built up good businesses by hard work have to witness an extraordinary daily exodus of their friends, customers and clients to the city to do business with the big combines and department stores. Anybody can do the same thing, but nobody has the organisation. These huge stores have been built up by publicity. Suburban traders can easily imitate, yet they cannot succeed individually. It demands co-operation. They must club together to supply the funds for publicity, for advertising, for printing, for appealing to local people to support local industries. Therefore to succeed as they have done, copy their methods and customs and follow the golden rule: "Do unto them what they are doing unto you." Go after their clients and customers. Stop the absurd influx of women and children into the city to shop and to buy things they don't need, yet see displayed. Tempt your own rightful buyers back home. Men are nearly, if not quite as bad as the women. Why buy your fruit, papers, tobacco, boots, hats, ties, cakes, fish, meat or sweets in Melbourne? Why get your hair cut in the city, or your teeth drawn? Give the man nearest your home a chance. His welfare, in a hundred ways, is to your benefit indirectly. The more prosperous the tradesmen of your neighborhood are, the better will be their service in all sorts of ways. Better kept roads and paths, better lighted streets, more playgrounds for the youngsters, more amusement and pleasure nearer home, and better food and better clothes at cheaper prices. City rents make the cost of living higher. Community co-operation is the gospel of united service. It has no legal powers. It rules solely by persuasion; it accomplishes by the power of combination. In fact, by creating a suburban spirit, a neighborhood spirit. Individuals cannot do it because they have no time. A united body can employ men to do it for them. The objects are to band together as many as possible of the traders, business and professional men and women who have shops, offices, stores, workrooms and studios, and who follow an occupation in the suburbs.

It is desirable by every legitimate method and specially by publicity, to counteract the growing habit of buying and spending money in the city instead of at home.



NORTHCOTE SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL HALL.
(Stevens Photo.)

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GOOD QUALITY PRIME MEAT.

No Rent to Pay Means—GREATER EFFICIENCY, LOWER PRICES and BETTER SERVICE.

During hot weather all Stocks Kept in LITMAN REFRIGERATOR Our big turnover gives us an advantage when buying. It means FRESH STOCKS AT BEDROCK PRICES.

YOU CAN'T **BETTER BURGESS BEEF**

SMALL GOODS, MUTTON, ETC., IN KEEPING.

One Address Only:

692 HIGH ST., CROXTON.

SAVE MONEY. SHOP IN NORTHCOTE.

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RENE MILLINERY PARLORS

FOR THE XMAS AND HOLIDAY SEASON

Something out of the ordinary in Smart Millinery is Called For. Rene Millinery Parlors have just received their smart creations for the Holiday Season at prices that will suit all.

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Cnr. HIGH ST. and BEACONSFIELD PDE.

'Phone—Northcote 2130.

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STATION STREET (Near Darebin St.), FAIRFIELD.

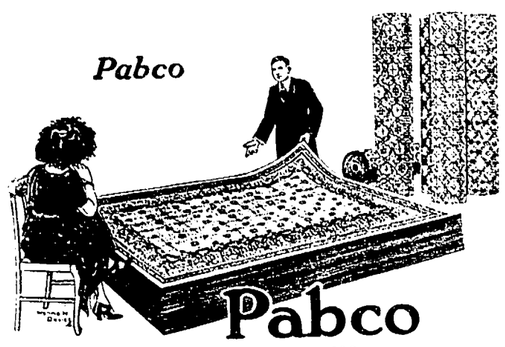
ALL CLASSES OF TOURING AND COMMERCIAL CARS BUILT. DUCO FINISH DONE.

We specialise in Repainting, Covering Hoods, and All Repairs.

Only Best Materials Used. Workmanship Guaranteed.

The Artistic Home Furnishers Pty. Ltd.

10 PER CENT CASH DISCOUNT SALE NOW



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WINDOW BLINDS.

SEE US BEFORE ORDERING FOR YOUR NEW HOME.

Made by Experts. Measured and Fitted Free.

A Good Blind in Brown or Blue, 6 x 3, complete 4/6.

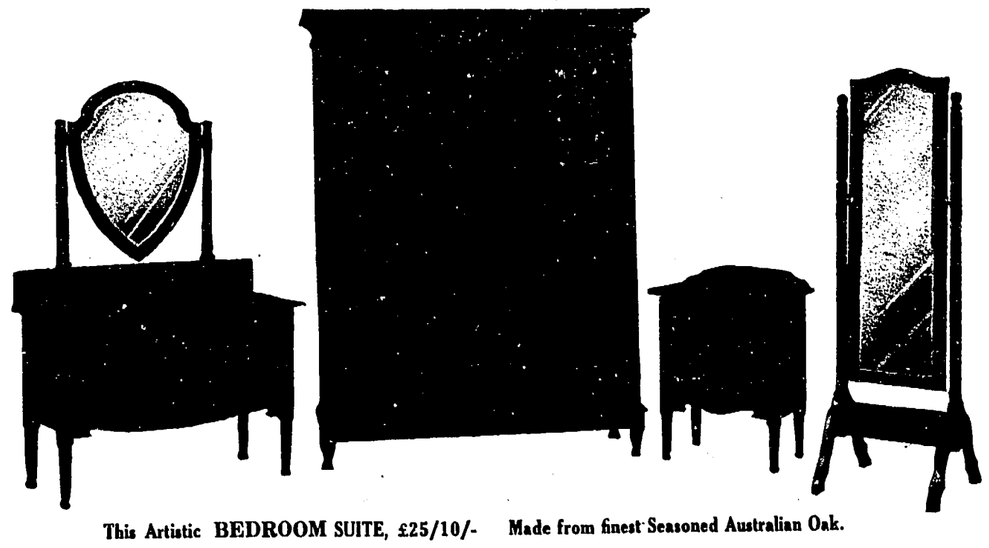
HER HEART'S DESIRE.

A REAL DOLLY PRAM.

OUR VALUE IS ATTRACTIVE CALL AND INSPECT

THE INDUCEMENT TO SHOP LOCALLY

PRICE, QUALITY, ASSORTMENT, CIVILITY—ALL OBTAINABLE AT THE ARTISTIC.



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TOYS! TOYS! TOYS!

NOTE THE NUMBER of this Paper. Compare it with that on the DRESSED DOLL in our Window.
We are showing a splendid assortment for girls. DOLLS—Sleeping Dolls, Speaking Dolls, Walking Dolls, Prams, Teddy Bears. For Big Girls and Little Girls.
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HANDSOME SIDEBOARD.

MADE FROM SELECTED BLACKWOOD—£7/15/-

A UNIQUE CHRISTMAS PRESENT—

THE ART FONO GRAND.

At half price. Hand Made Cabinet; Double Spring Motors; Patent Amplifier, giving a Perfect Reproduction of the Voice. Plays all Records. 20/- Deposit; 5/- weekly.

THE PRINCESS SULKY—THE BEST MADE.

BUY YOUR FURNITURE IN NORTHCOTE AT 834 HIGH STREET (OPPOSITE THE CABLE TRAM TERMINUS)

DODGE THE FOREIGN TRADER WHO SPENDS NOTHING LOCALLY AND "SWAGS" ALL MONEY OUT OF THE DISTRICT

NINETY YEARS' GROWTH

FROM NATIVE HUNTING GROUNDS TO CITY.

A little over ninety years ago Northcote was the happy hunting ground of the natives. On May 29, 1835, John Batman, on the good ship "Rebecca," entered Port Phillip Bay and landed near Geelong, afterwards exploring the Werribee and Saltwater rivers. Meeting friendly natives, he was guided to the Merri Creek, where the whole tribe was encamped. The following day on the Northcote Hill, overlooking the grass-covered flats (now Collingwood) and the sombre forests (now Carlton and Fitzroy) he endeavored to purchase from the natives 600,000 acres of land reaching to Geelong, the upset price being a quantity of scissors, knives, blankets, looking glasses and other oddments to the value of about £200. Thus Northcote has pride of place in land bargaining in Victoria. The natives were the Dulegalla tribe, the leader being Jaga Jaga. Melbourne was founded two days later. Batman in his records stating that the place would be a suitable place for a village.

To-day Northcote consists of 2,850 acres, being 385 in the South Ward; 315 in the East; 220 in the Central; 750 in the West, and 1,180 in the North. The valuation for rating purposes is well over £100,000.

Among the first house owners in Northcote and district were Captain Clarke (later Sir Andrew), who owned a place near Clarke street and St. George's road, which is still standing. He had a sheep run from there to Fairfield. Near what is now known as Bullen's drain was a bluestone house with French windows, belonging to the Woolton Estate, and Job Smith's dairy farm was near Smith street, near the Merri Creek. Smith's paddocks were used extensively by bullock drivers carrying provisions into the north country and returning with wool and produce.

The Pilgrim Inn was where the Croxton Hotel stands to-day, and was a place for great merriment among bullock drivers. Captain Hutton's house was due north from the inn, and over High street was Pender's homestead, the only house at that time between High street and Darebin Creek.

Northcote came under Government rule in 1864, being at that time bush country, but portions were later cleared by labor from the prison stockade, which was at the corner of Nicholson and Reilly streets, Fitzroy.

High street was surveyed in 1839, and later Rucker's Hill was cut down by Mr. G. H. Plant, the contractor. In 1850 and 1860 Northcote Heights were looked upon as the aristocratic suburb of the city, and many fine residences were erected there. Mr. Rucker's residence was demolished in 1925, after standing the test of storm and weather for 70 years at the corner of Bay View street and High street.

On this site is now being erected the fine new Epiphany Church. Mr. Rucker's residence was known as "The Alpines."

In Arthurton road, near the creek, was the residence of Major-General Macarthur, who was acting Governor of Victoria in 1856. He could be seen any day riding along the road on his white charger, adorned with his cocked hat and plumes.

Water was first supplied from the Yan Yean mains in 1869. Previously the residents of Northcote journeyed to the Darebin and Merri creeks on washing days.

The first religious services were held in Northcote in 1851, when a bluestone building 25 feet square was erected in High street by the Methodists. About 1854 the toll system was in operation in Victoria, the toll gates for the district being at the Merri Creek, but later were moved to about Westgarth. The charges were—One horse and vehicle 6d; two horses and vehicle 1/-; bullocks with dray, 6d each, and mobs of horses and cattle, 3d each.

Northcote came under the administration of a governing body about 1860, the area including Preston and Epping. In 1883 it became a separate entity—the Borough of Northcote, with a population of 1,700, and a town in 1890. During this time about the only means of transit to Melbourne was by a two-wheeled vehicle known as the "Albert Cab," the fare being 6d each way. The driver carried a bugle, and played tunes as he progressed along Brunswick street to the city. About this time there was a strong fence along High street, behind which pedestrians would run when vicious cattle passed along the street.

In 1888, at the height of the land boom, the cable tram was constructed along High street to Preston. In 1892, owing to the great amount of distress in Northcote, Arthurton road was constructed from St. George's road to the creek, the wages paid on the job being 4/- per day. As food was very scarce about this time, drives were arranged into the country to capture rabbits and hares for food for the poor. About this time the banks suspended payment and there was considerable distress everywhere. A good five-roomed house could be had at that time at a two and sixpence rental.

In 1914 Northcote was proclaimed a city, the first Mayor and Mayoress being Cr. and Mrs. S. Dennis.

To-day Northcote has a population of 40,000, and rateable property valued at over £400,000; its revenue is over £60,000, and it is among the six chief municipalities of Victoria. The progress that has been made in recent years has been tremendous, both in houses and street construction, and with the progressive policy of our City Fathers to-day it is hoped that in a few years we shall find ourselves on the map among the principal cities of Victoria, noted for good roads, clean streets, happy, contented people and plenty of educational and recreative facilities.

"SHOP LOCALLY"

"Shop Locally" is the slogan of the moment in Northcote, and there is every reason why it should be a permanent slogan. It is a wrong thing to concentrate all business in the heart of the metropolis, towards which such strenuous endeavors are being made at the present time, and the local shopkeepers have done wisely to band themselves together in order to checkmate it. They have invested their capital in the building or renting of shops, and in stocking same with goods, and it is up to the people surrounding them to give them a full measure of support. This, after all, is only an act of citizenship, for without such support it is quite impossible to build up one of those fine business streets which are always a source of civic pride. The greater the support, be it remembered, and the greater the opportunity and incentive for the local merchants to increase and vary their stocks and to sell at keener prices, so the benefit is an all-round one. Is not this a far better policy than being lured away from your home town by the baits of promised bargains whose genuineness, or rather want of genuineness, may be measured by the fact that those offering them have hundreds of thousands of profits to divide after paying interest on millions of capital. Once let the public, as a mass, show a desire to shop locally, and it will follow that the merchants will strain every nerve to cater for their demands. Then will have come about the happy position that the local people will know that they can get practically all their wants supplied in their own shops, and while their time will be saved, as well as their money in fares and other etceteras, they will also have the satisfaction of knowing that they are striking a blow at centralisation and monopoly, which are evil things in any community. The movement to "Shop Locally" may be cordially wished a complete and enduring success, as it must make for a better served people and a more imposing and prosperous city.

What will be the largest aeroplane in the world is at present under construction at Friedrichshafen, on the Lake of Constance, to order of the Japanese Government. Accommodation will be provided in the body of the boat for 100 persons.

The observation station at Rossitten established on the Isthmus, lying at the most north-eastern corner of Germany, represents the most frequented migratory bird route in Germany.

C. L. Summers

(Late G. R. SAUNDERS),

707 HIGH STREET, THORNBURY.

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Shirts, Hats, Ties, etc.

All Lower than City Prices.

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MAKE A NOTE OF ADDRESS:

230 HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

"SHOP IN YOUR OWN TOWN"

"BEWARE OF THE FOREIGN CORMORANT."

Much has been said, and many excuses made by people who do not shop in their own suburb. Such phrases as "You cannot get any selection locally," "Prices charged locally are out of all reason," "Better attention is given in the city," etc., are so old they have commenced to grow beards.

"THE BOOSTERS."

The American method of boosting has been followed with great success by several huge Melbourne firms, who have unlimited capital, probably American, and tremendous resources. Their idea is to bring people into their establishments by advertising a few household lines, such as tooth paste, powder, etc., at prices below cost. Hundreds of ignorant shoppers who really require nothing at all are lured into believing that "tremendous reductions" are being made in every line in the establishment. Many people who do not know values, purchase goods at what they think are "bargain prices," when their own local traders often are charging the same price for the particular article.

THE "BARGAINS."

The only articles really reduced in price are "dead stock," such as last season's goods, or unsaleable stock that has been on the shelves for months (in many cases years). It is generally out of date and damaged through storage. Legitimate reductions are certainly made on a few "draw lines," but these "give out very early in the day," and the would-be bargain hunter has a full purse and a day in town before her.

THE NATURAL INCLINATION.

The natural inclination of the weaker sex (in business at any rate) is not to return home empty handed, but to look around and see what her money can be spent upon. Speaking from experience I have known of hundreds of cases where women feel disappointed if they have returned at the end of a bargain hunting day without being laden with unnecessary articles they could well have done without.

INCONVENIENCE TO OTHER TRAVELLERS.

At the close of a busy day bargain hunters return most often during the "peak period" of traffic laden with more parcels and packages than can conveniently be carried, much to the annoyance of fellow travellers.

DISILLUSIONMENT.

Arriving home the "treasures" of the day are laid out upon the bed (in the case of my wife, at any rate, and she is fairly typical), and carefully examined. The wonderful "bargains" which the shop assistants have taken such pains to impress the lady shopper with are gone over, and it is soon discovered that those two little bright-eyed monsters, "hustle" and "bustle" have concealed a multitude of sins.

THE LOCAL TRADER.

The effect of hundreds of bargain hunters trooping out of the suburb daily in the vain search for mythical bargains, has its effect on the local shopkeeper. It means a decrease in turnover, which in turn means a decrease in the amount of stock carried. Hence the selection becomes more limited. The profits also suffer. If allowed to go on, this falling off of business becomes general, and many of the smaller establishments are forced to close their doors. This affects not only the individuals immediately concerned, but also all others in the district, as good times mean general prosperity, but bad times cause an anti-climax.

HOW THE RESIDENT IS AFFECTED.

The householder owning or purchasing a home is financially interested in the success or otherwise of the business streets, as general and increasing prosperity mean that the value of his home must increase. On the contrary, the value of his home or property must fall if business drifts away or prosperity departs.

MAKE A RESOLUTION—AND KEEP IT.

All thinking residents can easily realise that they to a large extent hold their own futures in their own hands. It behoves them to make a resolution and give the local trader a chance, and stick to him through thick and thin.

OUR ADVERTISERS.

Advertisers who have announcements in this issue are clearly indicating that they have some stake in this wonderful city of ours. Help them, help yourselves, and also help this paper by noting who are advertisers and who are not.

Dodge the foreign trader who spends nothing locally and "swags" all money out of the district!

JOHN SHAW

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ESTABLISHED 20 YEARS.

Cnr. Wimble and Bastings Sts., Northcote.

REAR NORTHCOTE PICTURE THEATRE — Phone N'cote 96 — LATE ADDRESS 443 HIGH ST.

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AT

A. H. B. SHAW'S

A full supply of XMAS DAINTY SPECIALS just arrived.

NUTS, RAISINS, PUDDINGS, CAKES, TINNED FRUIT, ETC.,

ALL FRESH STOCKS.

Prices Lowest. Quality Highest. Service Best.

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Cnr. HIGH ST. and BEACONSFIELD PARADE.

YOUR HOME SHOULD COME FIRST

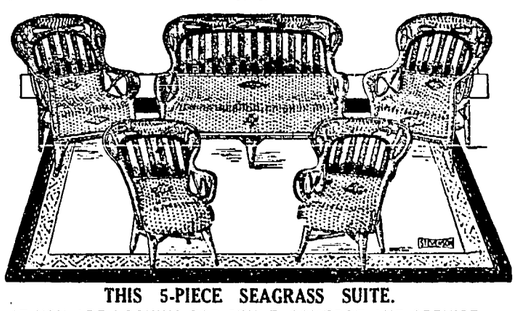
Furnish Now During Our Xmas Sale

PROSPECTIVE HOME FURNISHERS.

OUR XMAS SALE OFFERS A SPLENDID OPPORTUNITY TO FURNISH YOUR HOME ECONOMICALLY.

ARTISTIC MUSIC STOOL.

In highly polished blackwood, fitted with upholstered box seat. A smart piece of furniture 37/6.



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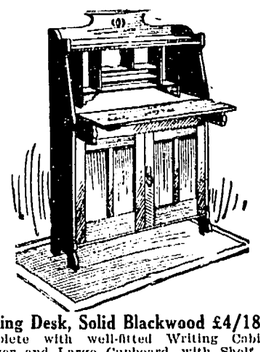
IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR STYLE, COMFORT AND SERVICE—Then you MUST see this Suite! Made from finely woven seagrass on solid cane frame, and upholstered with fadeless striped poplin. FOR £7/10/-



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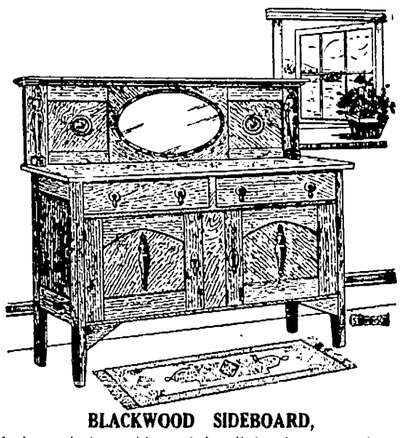

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In latest design, with oval bevelled mirror, two large drawers and two convenient cupboards; beautifully polished in solid blackwood £7/10/-

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COMPLETE HOME FURNISHERS.

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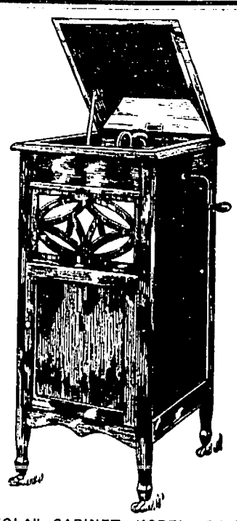

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£17/10/- "VOXOLA" CONCERT MODEL, A high-grade instrument of faultless construction. Twelve months' guarantee. 12 SELECTIONS FREE.

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PORTABLE PHONOGRAPHS, excellent tone and superior construction. Fitted with reliable Swiss motor 50/-

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OVAL DINING TABLE in Oak or Blackwood color. Size 5 x 3 55/

SOLID BLACKWOOD EXTENSION TABLE.

6 x 4. Superior construction, £8/15/-

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6 x 8	32/6	6 x 8	38/6
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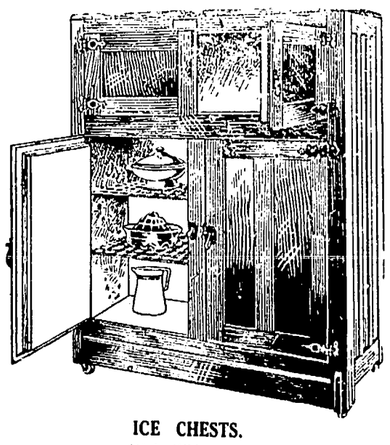
IN SELECTED AUSTRALIAN OAK,

Comprising 3 pieces, of modern design—4 foot Wardrobe, with shelf and roomy hanging compartment fitted with ample hooks; 3 foot Dressing Table, with bevelled Swing Mirror, and Pedestal Cupboard to match. Beautifully finished in Australian Oak. SALE PRICE £10/17/6



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THE LEADER, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1926

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BY BREATHLESS WAYS

BY
BEN BOLT.
Author of "Love in the Wilds," "Love Finds the Clue," "Linked by Peril," etc., etc.
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CHAPTER XXIII. (Continued.)

"Ivy," he whispered. Stopping, he groped carefully with his hands. "Old and thick," he commented. "It would carry a gorilla, let alone myself. Keep watch. I'm going up. I've climbed ivy scores of times."

He stood for a moment feeling about for hand and foothold, and a moment later swung from the ground, and agilely began to ascend, whilst Westaway watched him breathlessly from below.

CHAPTER XXIV.

The mood of despair which had forced from Catherina Vospero her heart-broken cry as she thought of her lover, and of her father, lasted for quite a long time. With her face buried in her hands she sat thinking, thinking, and finding no light anywhere. Unless some opportunity of escape presented itself there was nothing for it but to abide the issue, and that such opportunity would occur she had not the remotest hope.

The hours passed by with leaden feet. Her watch had stopped, but somewhere in the house there was a chiming clock, and when this struck one, there came a knock at the door, the key turned in the lock, and the man Vincente entered, bearing a tray with a cold lunch.

"I am desolated, senorita, that we should offer you so poor a collation," he said apologetically, "but there is no cook in the house. I trust, however, that you will be able to eat what our resources enable us to offer."

Catherina glanced at the tray. The lunch, as the glance told her, would have been counted satisfactory in any decent hotel; but having realised that, she looked away, without vouchsafing any reply.

"I trust that you will not refuse to eat, senorita. There is nothing gained by starving one's self. Food strengthens the spirit as well as the flesh." He waited; but still Catherina did not reply; then he continued:

"If there is anything that you desire, senorita, I trust that you will not hesitate to mention it. A pot of tea, perhaps——"

"Thank you, I should like some tea," answered the girl, speaking for the first time.

"You shall have tea with all expedition, senorita."

He turned and left the room, locking the door behind him, and in a few minutes came back, bringing the tea with him.

"If I may be permitted," he said, and pouring out a cup of tea, added cream, and brought it to her. "The most refreshing liquid in the world," he remarked smilingly. "I trust you will find it so, senorita."

Catherina took the tea and began to sip. Vincente watched her with calculating eyes; then he said suddenly: "In an hour or two we expect a friend of yours to arrive."

The girl started at the abruptness of the statement, and instantly her mind flew to Wogan. Did these men know of her relation to him? Were they resentful of his interference in their affairs; and was some evil designed against him? The thought that it might easily be so shook her out of the apathy which despair had set upon her.

"Indeed!" she said, quickly. "I cannot imagine what friend of mine would come here."

"No?" Vincente smiled at the quickness of her interest. "But Senor Concha will no doubt be delighted with the surprise awaiting him."

"Senor Concha!" Catherina was surprised by the name and a little dismayed also. Remembering the diplomatic promise she had made him on the previous night she had a sudden thought that among other reasons, she had been brought to this lonely place to ensure the fulfilment of that promise.

Vincente was clearly a little puzzled by her attitude. He spoke quickly. "You were not expecting that name, senorita?"

"No," answered Catherina truthfully.

"But Miguel Concha is a friend of yours, is he not?"

Something in Vincente's manner moved the girl to answer his question. "I do not think of him as such."

"Indeed!" Vincente showed surprise, and was clearly puzzled, then, as a thought came to him, he shrugged his shoulders and smiled. "Ah, I understand. Like all ladies, you would save a friend from his misdeeds by denying his friendship. But senorita, you are wasting time. What is it these English say—it will not wash; no, it will not wash at all, for you see we have definite information."

"You may have," answered Catherina with spirit, herself in pursuit of information. "That is nothing to me, if it is incorrect, and though Miguel Concha has pressed me to marry him, I do not count him as any friend of mine."

"Madre de Dios!" As he cried the words Vincente stared at her incredulously. "To marry you, senorita. To marry you."

"Yes."

"And the inducement, senorita, for Miguel Concha himself cannot be considered in that light. Tell me, senorita, I implore you. Be very frank, and, as you do not love Miguel Concha, nor count him as a friend, tell me all."

Catherina reflected that little might be lost and much gained by telling the man the truth, and she did so simply and in a few words. "He said that my father had killed Salvano, which was not true, though I did not know it at the time, and he threatened to denounce my father to the police if I would not promise to become his wife."

The Salvadorian stared at her in amazement.

"Senorita!" he cried. "You are sure of this?"

"Quite sure," answered Catherina quietly.

"But why?" cried Vincente. "But why should the dear Concha threaten your father, when he is his secret friend?"

"My father does not think so——"

"By the Mass!" cried the Salvadorian. "No! He is no man's friend. He sells us to your father, and your father he will give to the police if you do not become the Senora Concha, and——" He broke off sharply. "I have it! The Judas! That was his game. He would enrich himself at the expense of San Salvador, at the cost of your father's life, and at your hand would receive the price of his perfidy. I called him Judas, but the Betrayer, set beside him, deserves to be canonised as a saint, for he betrayed only his Master, whilst Concha would betray his country also."

"I am afraid I do not understand," said Catherina, thoroughly interested.

"No! One would not expect you to, senorita. There are depths of baseness to which only the devils of the pit descend, and Miguel Concha has plumbed them. But I will explain. Your father would not kill Salvano, a very amiable young man, and his devoted friend. No! And Miguel Concha knows that but one thing will save your father, not from the English police, but from the patriots of San Salvador——"

"What is——" interrupted Catherina quickly.

Vincente held up a hand to check the interruption. "I was about to tell you, senorita. Your father is a clever man. He can fight, and fight well. Two months ago when he saw the tide setting against him in San Salvador, he transferred his private fortune to England——"

"But surely there can be no objection to that?"

"None whatever, senorita. But that is not all. Pursuing his plan of campaign against the patriots, he also transferred to England, in his private name, all the marketable securities and all the gold of the State of San Salvador, and so, when he fled before the patriots, left the Republic bankrupt—not an unusual action on the part of fugitive presidents, but one which this time we have sworn to have remedied. The price of your father's life is these securities and this gold. If he can be induced to restore these, we might consider other courses than the one on which we have decided. You, senorita, may perhaps persuade him. The thought of your safety may be an inducement to that end. I hope that when he comes here——"

"You are sure that he will come?"

"Very sure, senorita. Juan Vospero does not lack courage, and if he should come, your persuasions added to the other—er—inducements may prevail on him to yield."

"But Miguel Concha?"

"He knows of this money. He knows that it is in your father's name, and no doubt he thinks of you as your father's heiress. If he could have married you, and your father had perished, that money, a vast sum——"

"Ah, that was what my father meant," cried Catherina, suddenly recalling some words of her father.

"Juan Vospero also reached my conclusion. Good! Miguel Concha will very shortly be not a happy man—the Judas who betrayed us, and who for his own ends would have betrayed your father to the English police or anyone else—that he might be put out of the way. But I must go. There will shortly be a very interesting meeting under this roof, and I must prepare for it. But the bell is there, senorita. Anything you need, you will ring for."

Vincente withdrew, and Catherina turned to the lunch tray. Her heart felt wonderfully lighter. If her father came there was still a chance that he might save his life, and ensure his freedom and her own. When he saw no way of escape, he might make terms, and in that case all would be well.

She made a good luncheon, and then set herself to pass the time as well as she could. Very slowly the afternoon wore through to evening, without anything happening, and with the long waiting she began to experience the sickness of hope deferred. The sounds of much coming and going reached her. Several times she caught the noise of cars appearing and leaving, but still nothing happened to relieve the tension or to lift the depression which began to overwhelm her anew. Darkness set in, and a cold dinner was brought to her by the man with the cruel eyes, who did not speak to her; and then, when her growing despondency was once more becoming despair, she caught a sound that seemed to come from one of the windows. She listened. Yes! There it was again—the sound as of someone clambering the outer wall.

Startled, and with her heart leaping with a wild hope, she stared at the window, and a moment later beheld the face of her lover. A glad cry rose from her lips, but was checked at the sound of the key turning in the lock of the door. She made a hasty gesture of warning, and then swung round as the door opened to admit a smiling Vincente.

"Senorita, I have the pleasure to invite you downstairs to meet the ex-President of San Salvador!"

There was a light of triumph in the man's eyes as he spoke, and, divining that her father was in the power of his enemies, despair surged within her. Then she remembered Wogan's face at the window, and pulled herself together. With her lover so near at hand, there was no need for despair. She dared not look at the window again for fear of betraying Harley Wogan's presence to Vincente, and without a word to the Salvadorian or a sign of her lover, she followed the messenger out of the room.

CHAPTER XXV.

Vincente conducted Catherina down the stairs, and to the door of the room where she had first seen him. Opening the door with a gesture he commanded her to enter, and as she did so the first person on whom her eyes alighted was her father. He was seated in an easy chair, apparently quite calm, and behind him stood a man with a pistol, the man with the cruel eyes, upon whose face was a look of triumphant exultation.

As the ex-President saw her, his face hardened a little, and a shadow of anxiety came into his eyes, but he did not speak, and for the moment Catherina was too overcome to do so. His eyes wandered round the room and met the gaze of two people whose presence there surprised her. The first was Miguel Concha, who sat on a settee visibly ill at ease, and whose face, as she met his eyes, grew dark with apprehension. The other was Inez Valdores, whose dark eyes were full of concern, and who bowed to her as their eyes met. There were four other men present, besides Vincente, who had followed her into the room, men whom she did not know, but who evidently looked to him as their leader, and who waited for him to speak. He waved a hand towards Catherina.

"As you see, Vospero, this claim of ours was not a bluff. We do indeed hold the winning card—the Queen of Hearts, shall we say?"

The ex-President smiled grimly. "Yes," he said. "It is the winning card that you play. I am prepared to do as you wish on conditions."

"Conditions!" cried Vincente, with a harsh laugh. "It is we who make whatever conditions are to be observed."

"Pardon me, senor. You want the treasure and securities of the Republic of San Salvador, which are in my keeping until the return of a more trustworthy government. I can understand your anxiety. There are even better reasons for it than you yet know——"

"Better reasons," ejaculated Vincente. "What——"

"In good time, Vincente, you shall know them. Just now we are driving a bargain, and we will dispose of that first, if you please. In return for this specie and the securities, you are prepared to set free my daughter——"

"That is so, senor. The alternative you know."

For one moment Juan Vospero's strong face flushed, and a stormy light came in his eyes. Manifestly it was only with a very great effort that he was able to control himself, but he succeeded in doing so, and when he spoke again his voice was cool and level.

"And myself?"

"No, senor."

The answer came from Inez Valdores, in a voice that rang with determination, and Juan Vospero turned to her with a look of interest on his face.

"You seem very assured in your answer, senorita," he said quietly. "Perhaps it will be as well if I remind you and your friends that the treasure will be quite beyond recovery if I die."

"Nevertheless, you will surely die. There are some crimes that not all the gold in the world would atone for and you are guilty of them."

It was evident that Inez Valdores believed that she spoke the truth and Catherina, forgetting her own situation for the moment, looked from her father to the senorita with questioning eyes. Juan Vospero caught the look and smiled.

"Perhaps, senorita, you will particularise."

"Particularise! What need?" cried Inez Valdores. "With the blood of your victims crying from the stones of the Plaza for vengeance. Those whom you tortured—those whom you massacred——"

"Stop!" broke in Juan Vospero in a voice of thunder. "If you are referring to the executions after the last Pedro insurrection, I plead not guilty. I gave no order. I was in a condition to give none. And there is more than one person in this room who can prove that. There is Manuel Vincente. He was in a position to know what went on in the Presidency. He knows that, when the things of which you complain were done, I was in an extreme case, with a wound that it was feared would prove mortal. Though the facts were not published abroad, some men among both my supporters and my enemies knew, and Vincente was among them. Do I speak the truth, Vincente?"

"And there is another man present who knows that I gave no orders, but who knows who did give them so that the blame fell on me." He turned sharply. "Speak up, Concha. Bear your testimony to my innocence, and unfold the secret knowledge that you have."

The consul's face blanched and a wild look came into his eyes. He moved sharply as if to protest, then fell back and began stammeringly: "I—I—do not——"

"Flo, Concha, why deny the truth? Sooner or later it must find its roosting place. Gentlemen, the man who issued the order by which so many of your friends died was——"

"Miguel Concha!".

Again the cry came from Inez Valdores, amazed conviction in her tones, and she sprang swiftly to her feet.

"Santa Maria!" came Vincente's voice, as the revelation Vospero had been about to make had been about to make broke upon his mind. Then he cried out in sharp protest, and sprang as he cried.

"No, Senorita!"

A shot rang out, but Vincente had been in time to knock up the senorita's arm, so that the bullet plugged the ceiling, and whilst Concha cowered in his seat unhurt, and the Salvadorian struggled for the weapon, there came an unlooked for interruption. The door of the room was flung suddenly open and a voice cried sharply:

"Hands up! All of you."

(To be continued.)

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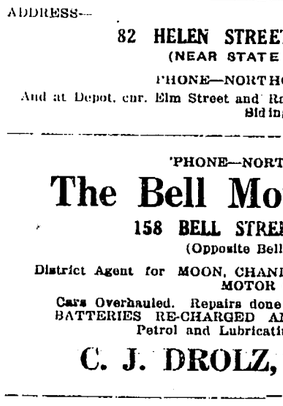

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WHITTLESEA COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8.

The last meeting of the year was held on December 8. Present—Crs. B. McCormack (President), L. W. Clarke, J. Downie, W. Thomas, R. Reid, T. Hurrey, D. Murphy, T. M. Browne, J. Butler, C. E. Brownhill, P. W. Clark, D. Funston. Cr. L. Jones (ex-Mayor of Preston) was given a seat at th ecouncil table.

Correspondence.

Chief Commissioner of Police, stating that arrangements have been made for additional police protection in the shire at week ends and public holidays during the summer.—Commissioner to be thanked for complying with the request of the council.

Inspector Woodhouse stated that the drain on the east side of Church street, Whittlesea, does not carry the water in a proper manner. The drain in Boland's lane, South Morang, is in an unsatisfactory condition. The drainage from the Commercial Hotel is unable to get away. He notified Mr. Bartlett, Epping, that he must not boil down bad meat and rubbish. Morang House, Plenty road, Morang south, has been registered as an eating house by Virginia O'Connor. H. S. Phillips, Epping, asking permission to build a two-roomed house.—Referred to the engineer.

C. E. Howell, Whittlesea, offering 30/- for the right to remove any timber from Whittlesea Park for twelve months.—Referred to the park committee.

Morris, Barrow and Co., asking permission to erect a factory at Thomastown, for the manufacture of printing inks, etc.—Granted, subject to the approval of the inspector.

Motor Users' Association, asking permission to erect sign posts.—Granted.

Nightsoil Trouble.

M. and M. Board of Works, with reference to attending a conference to consider the disposal of nightsoil.—Cr. Brownhill, in condemning the action of the Board in retaining the depot at Bundoora, moved that no good purpose could be served by attending.—Cr. Thomas, who seconded the motion, said the council were satisfied to allow Mr. Everard, M.L.A., to act for them.—Carried.

M. and M. Board of Works, stating that the following motion was passed at a meeting of 52 representatives on Monday (with only four dissontients) —"That this conference is of opinion that the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is doing the work of disposal of nightsoil from unsewered areas in the best possible manner, and that the Government be so informed." It is desired that your members will be so good as to interview their Parliamentary representatives, and, if necessary, join in a deputation to the Government with a view to preventing any legislation in regard to the Commission's report.—On the motion of Crs. Thomas and Brownhill, it was decided to inform the board that nightsoil is not being disposed of in the best manner.

On the motion of Crs. Brownhill and Thomas it was decided to inform the Parliamentary representatives that the council is totally opposed to the finding of the conference, and asking them to oppose their motion whenever they can.

The number of pans delivered by the Eltham Council to the depot at Bundoora is 200 per week; Heidelberg 1600; Preston 2,100; Northcote 530

Soldier Settlements.

Soldier Settlement Association, outlining a scheme for righting their conditions.—The President suggested wiping off one-third of their liabilities.—Cr. Butler wanted the matter deferred for a month. After a long discussion the following clauses were approved of:—4. Immediate revaluation on productive value by competent and independent experts. The formulae used in arriving at particular values to be disclosed to the settler concerned. 9. Writing off debts unreasonably incurred. 11. No lien over a settler's produce to be exercised to an extent that would deny the settler a reasonable living or the means of farming effectively. 12. All officers of the Settlement Authority must be qualified for the positions they hold. An officer whose duty is to advise agriculturists must be a practical agriculturist. 13. A system of local, impartial advisory boards.

FINANCE.

The amount received since last meeting (including current rates £186/9/6 and arrears £9/8/2) was £312/2/-; C.R.B. account, dr. £1,367 13/10; loan account, cr. £106 0/3; bank balance, dr., £5,191/15/7. The Whittlesea Riding debit balance is £2,250/0/10, Yan Yean £993/7/9, Morang £1,895/17/2, Epping £775/10/5; total £5,914/16/2. There is a credit trust account of £587/19/5, leaving a net debit balance of £5,326/16/9. Accounts passed for payment were—General £351, and C.R.B. £2,951.

GENERAL.

Cr. Thomas gave notice of motion for taking a piece of land for a road, the property of Geo. Sutherland (Whittlesea riding).

It was decided, on the motion of the President and Cr. Brown, that 2½ chains of extension work be done on Yann's road.

On the motion of Cr. Brownhill it was decided to draw the attention of the board to the infringement of the Width of Tyres Act.

It was decided to dispense with the daymen's services for the present.

Cr. Murphy said the C.R.B. men should be put off as well—not put one lot off and keep one lot on.—The motion was lost, councillors stating that main roads must be attended to, and the council only contributes one-third of the upkeep.

The council's solicitor is to be instructed to collect overdue rates.

On the motion of Crs. Butler and Browne consideration is to be given to the main road, Woodstock.

In consequence of the dry weather, and stock having to be driven to water, Cr. P. W. Clark suggested that the ranger exercise leniency when cattle are going to and from water. This was agreed to.

As the secretary is going away for his holidays next meeting will not be held until January 19.

Cr. Thomas, as "Father of the Council," wished all the councillors "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

ENGINEER'S REPORT.

Whittlesea Riding.—The drains in the township have been cleaned out. The contract for pitching and metalling two miles of Scrubby Creek deviation should be completed by next meeting. Good progress is being made on the day labor contract on Whittlesea—Kinglake road. A commencement has been made with Chadd's Creek road, and the overseer reports good progress.

Yan Yean Riding.—All the gravel has been obtained and is being put on Little Hill.

Morang Riding.—Dr. Dick's Hill has received attention. The bad holes on the road leading to Hurstbridge have been attended to. The contract on the main Whittlesea road is proceeding satisfactorily.

Epping Riding.—The culvert at Eden Park has been completed. Five and a half chains of Yann's road has been boxed and pitched, and a start has been made with the metalling. The new fence has been erected between the hall and church at Epping. A culvert has been put in in Spring street, Thomastown. Channels have been cleaned out near Hardy's, at Thomastown.

WHITTLESEA WATER SUPPLY.

I have completed the survey and estimate, and have prepared two schemes. 1. Pumping scheme on to Sparrow's Hill. 2. Gravitation scheme from the aqueduct at Syphon Hill. The former is estimated to cost £4,500, and the annual charges work out at £509 per annum. The latter scheme is estimated to cost £5,784, and the annual charges work out at £432. Of the two schemes I favor the pumping one, on account of the better pressure. When you take into account the quantity of unbuilt on land in the water area, and the impetus to settlement which the water supply should give to the town, I see no reason why the council should not face the extra annual charge.—Referred to Whittlesea riding members.

BETTER FARMING TRAIN

VISIT TO WHITTLESEA.

For some time past the Whittlesea district has felt neglected, but the Better Farming Train has paid a visit. A large marquee was erected in the station yard, where lectures were given throughout the day. Mr. W. H. Everard, M.L.A., accompanied the train and welcomed it to the town. Mr. Everard dealt briefly with the various departments of the train, and referred to the exhibits, showing the benefits derived from top dressing pastures.

Mr. R. J. de C. Talbot responded on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, and Mr. C. Mullany or behalf of the Railway Department.

A tour of inspection through the train was indeed an education. The district being of a mixed farming community, the exhibitions on the train were made to suit. The Horticultural car, with its working model of an automatic apple grader and methods of packing apples for export, proved of great interest to the orchardist, likewise the poultry car, with its types of birds and exhibits of brooders and all the accessories was a centre of interest to the poultry farmer.

The display of wool was fine. No matter what branch of farming one was interested in, there was knowledge and instruction to be gained.

The ladies showed much interest in the child welfare lectures and talks, and cooking demonstrations.

The lectures during the day on stock breeding were instructive, and were listened to with interest. The improvement of the herd should be the aim of every dairy farmer who hopes to make a success of the business.

Whittlesea district is noted for some of its Jersey and Ayrshire herds, and a proof of this is that the stock on the train was augmented by the addition of a fine two-year-old Jersey bull "Economist of Avely," bred at the Avely stud farm; also a couple of pigs from Mr. H. W. Norman's noted stud breed. About 300 people visited the train during its stay.

It is probable that the Nile has a greater variety of fish than any other river in the world. 9,000 specimens were brought back by an expedition sent out by the British Museum.

52,118,182 inland telegrams and 11,314,458 cablegrams (including wireless messages to and from ships and foreign countries) were dealt with by the London Post Office during the year ended March, 1926.

AERIAL COUPLING METHODS.

The present congestion, due to the large number of broadcast stations transmitting, necessitates a far greater standard of selectivity than was previously required, and experimenters and radio engineers have explored every possible means of improving selectivity, with the result that it is possible to obtain considerable improvement by use of certain methods which have been developed.

It is well known that the addition of a stage of high frequency amplification, with an efficient method of coupling, considerably increases the selectivity of a receiver, but very often even this is insufficient, and also contractors do not want to add a stage of high frequency amplification for selectivity alone, when it is otherwise not required, so engineers have had to find other ways of obtaining the additional amount necessary which can be applied to any receiver, whether it has a high frequency valve or not.

It is found that selectivity can be considerably improved by using certain alternate methods of coupling the aerial to the first valve of the receiver, to the direct coupled method commonly used. The aerial and earth can be connected to a coil which is magnetically coupled to the tuned grid coil of the first valve, it formerly being customary for thir aerial coil to be tuned. Selectivity was varied by varying the coupling between the two coils, the looser the coupling the better the selectivity.

This method served its purpose excellently, but it had the disadvantage of introducing an additional tuning control, increasing the expense and making a larger panel necessary in order to mount the additional variable condenser.

It was found that the circuit was almost as effective if the tuning condenser were left out, and the aerial coil closely coupled to the tuned grid coil, as owing to the close coupling, the aerial coil became tuned by the grid coil when the latter was in resonance with the received signals, the disadvantages of the former method being thus overcome.

This latter method is known as aperiodic coupling, and depends for its success on finding the correct number of turns in the aerial coil for a given coupling, the smaller the number of turns the greater the selectivity, but if the turns are reduced too much, signal strength is affected. A definite number of turns can be found which gives excellent selectivity without sacrifice of signal strength.

A good example of this method of coupling is the Unitune Aperiodic Fixed Coupler manufactured by the Igranic Electric Co. This component is similar in appearance to the same firm's honeycomb coils, the aerial and grid coils being wound on the same former, the coupling being fixed. The correct number of turns in the aerial coil have been found for the conditions prevailing in the unit.

There are many modifications of the aperiodic coupling, the best known being that where the bottom of the grid coil is connected to the bottom of the aerial coil. Another modification consists of taking a tapping at a suitable point on the grid coil, the aerial being connected to this tapping. The principle in each of these methods is similar.

No alteration is required to the receiver, as long as the receiver was originally adapted for plug-in coils, as all that is required is to plug the Unitune Aperiodic Coupler in place of the aerial coil, and connect the aerial and earth to the two terminals provided on the coupler instead of to the terminals on the receiver as in the ordinary way.

It will be found that when aperiodic coupling is used, the tuning position of the condenser tuning the grid coil will not vary to the same extent with different aerials, as with the direct coupling. Aperiodic coupling is particularly advantageous when neutralised high frequency amplifying stages are used, as the stages can be more easily neutralised.

THE GUN.

THE NORTHCOTE CLUB.

The attendance at Reservoir on Saturday was excellent, the trophies comprising turkeys, hams, geese, etc. The initial event was at sparrows, and was divided after eight birds by Porter and "Sureite." In the shoot at starlings for a sweep and ham, on the 11th round the money was divided by "Alaya," H. E. Spry and "Sureite," and a round later "Sureite" took the ham. There were 48 noms. for the first big Christmas event. Spry won the turkey on the 12th round, while Wray, runner-up, took a pair of geese, and "Gunbower" a ham. The attached sweep was divided by Wray and "Gunbower." Strange to say, when these three were fighting it out for the trophies, each missed his ninth bird. A second similar event resulted:—First, turkey, O. R. Porter, 24 kills; second, pair of geese, G. Goodon, 23 kills; third, ham, "Alawa," 22 kills. The attendant sweep was divided by this trio and "Sureite" on the 18th round. A miss-out sweep went to Porter, G. Guest and "Yarraville," eight kills. This brought the club president's sequence to 32—the largest yet put up on the new grounds. The penultimate sweep was divided by "Alawa," "Fred," Simpson, jun., and "Robbie," three kills, and the final by "Alawa," "Fred" and "Robbie," four kills. The shoot on Saturday will be at Spotswood, but the Northcote club will hold special shoots both on Christmas Day and the following Monday.

WHITTLESEA.

The concert given by the scholars of the Presbyterian Sunday school resulted in a net profit of £13/9/2 for church funds.

Arrangements are well in hand for the annual picnic in the Yan Yean reservoir reserve on New Year's day. The new secretary, Mr. A. H. Hall, of Yan Yean, is working hard with a strong committee to bring the day to a successful issue.

It is reported from Kinglake that through the visitation of thrips the gooseberry crop will be exceptionally light, and the raspberries, which promised well, will not yield much fruit.

Harvesting operations are now in full swing, and the results right through are very satisfactory; potato planting is also being carried on.

It is estimated that the total consumption of tobacco averages 2½lb. per year for every inhabitant of the globe.

Special ships are built for the banana trade in England, and travel 3,000 miles to British Honduras in ballast, each to return with some 70,000 bunches of the fruit.

JUVENILE CONCERT

MISS MAY McPHERSON'S PUPILS SCORE A SUCCESS.

On Thursday night, Dec. 9, pupils of Miss May McPherson gave a most enjoyable concert in the Northcote Town Hall. The hall was well filled with a most appreciative audience of parents and friends, and Miss McPherson is to be congratulated on the way the concert was carried through. The overture was played by Miss Thelma Mansfield. The opening scene was a doll show, and the tiny tots were dressed as dolls. Miss Gwen McPherson and Master Gordon King sang the song. A skirt dance by Misses Jean McPherson, Jean Hales and Marjorie Files was most daintily done. Miss Kathleen King sang and danced "Maggie McGhie" and Misses Thelma and Valmai Smith were very sweet in "Poor Papa." A dance done by Misses Dora and Jessie Benson was pretty, and the song and chorus "Just Around the Corner" followed. A duet "I Do" was sung by Misses Jean Hale and Marjorie Files, and a dance by Misses Iris Savage, Florence List and Beryl Glanfield was very graceful. Two tiny children, Allison Logan and Marjorie Hughes, danced and sang "I Never Knew," followed by a Hawaiian song and dance "Hello Aloha," sung by Miss Monica Wetzel and ballet chorus. Baby Beryl Lewis gave "Who'll Buy My Lavender," after which Misses Rita and Bessie Norris danced a step dance. Master Gordon King gave a character song, "They Built Piccadilly For Me," and as an encore "Burlington Bertie." A step dance by some of the pupils was finely rendered. Miss Marjorie Files gave a song and dance "Somebody's Lonely." After a dance by Misses Dorothy Menzies and Winnie Kellett, a song and dance, "What Good is Good Morning," by Misses Peggy and Iris Savage was staged. Misses Olive Files, Allison Logan, Bessie Norris and Marjorie Hughes tripped lightly, and the McPherson Twins sang the duet "After I say I'm Sorry" by special request. This merited an encore, which was "I Want to Go." A dance by Mrs. Beryl Glanfield, followed by a skirt dance by Miss Jean Beinke, was appreciated, and the duet "Always," by Misses Dorothy Menzies and Meryle Semple followed. The last item in the first half was "That Certain Party," given by Miss Gwen McPherson and chorus. After the interval the opening item was "Paddling Madeline Home," sung by Master Gordon King and chorus of girls. A tambourine dance by Misses Rita and Bessie Norris followed, and a song and dance "Summer Rain," by Misses Monica Wetzel and Jessie Jenson was very dainty. Miss Jean McPherson showed great talent in her next dance, and Misses Thelma and Valmai Smith, dressed in the eighteenth century fashion, sang "When You and I Were Seventeen." "Pretty Little Baby" came next, sung by Miss Allison Logan, assisted by Miss Marjorie Hughes. Miss Eleanor Mountford danced, and Miss Iris Savage gave a step dance, after which followed the duet, "In Your Green Hat," by Kathleen King and Carmel Kellett. A character song "I'm Not All There," was sung by Miss Gwen McPherson by special request. The song "Lack-a-day," sung by Master Gordon King and Miss Jean Beinke was followed by a minuet danced by pupils in old time dress. Miss Nellie Bennett, dressed as a nigger, sang and danced with great gusto. "Tin Can Band," sung by Miss Bonny White and chorus of a band was a humorous item. Miss Valmai Smith and chorus sang and danced "I Wonder if You Think of Me." "Oh, How I Miss You To-night" was a song and dance nicely done by Miss Jean Hale, followed by Miss Peggy Paisley in a Scottish song and dance "Hame o' Mine." A rose ballet was cleverly danced by some of the pupils, with Miss Olive Files as a solo danseuse. The last item was a step dance to "Yankee Doodle" by the pupils. Mr. J. Cain, M.L.A., presented a tortoiseshell dressing table set to Miss McPherson, and a silver cruet to Miss Mansfield from the pupils and parents as a token of their love and appreciation. Mrs. McPherson was complimented on the dressing, which was really beautiful. Many bouquets of flowers and boxes of sweets and chocolates were bestowed on the performers by their many friends.

A caterpillar eats twice its weight of leaves every day.

THE RUBBER TREE.

Columbus, on his second journey to Haiti, noticed that the natives amused themselves with games with balls made of some strange substance which bounced unlike anything he had seen before. He did not then realise that this "strange substance" was to found an industry of great importance, and the soldiers of Cortez, who conquered Mexico, and who also noticed the strange properties of rubber, did not attach great importance to it. It was noticed that the natives used this caoutchouc as a waterproofing preparation for their cloaks, but Europe displayed little interest in the subject until the middle of the eighteenth century, when a French scientist, La Condamine, read a paper before the French Academy.

At first the only use to which Indian rubber, as it was called, was put was for erasing pencil marks.

In 1823, Charles Macintosh, of Glasgow, dissolved rubber in naphtha and spread the solution over a slab of marble. When this had dried he found a thin sheet of rubber was left, and, stitching this between two pieces of material he made a waterproof garment. This was the first "Macintosh," and was the beginning of the industry which was to develop to such gigantic proportions. The firm of Mackintosh still have factories in Manchester on the same site where the first waterproofs were made.

Some years later, Charles Goodyear, in America discovered the process of vulcanisation, which consists of heating the rubber with certain proportions of flowers of sulphur. By this method it is possible to produce a substance which can be used for manufacturing innumerable articles, such as pipe stems, fountain pens, gramophone records, surgical appliances, etc.

By modifying the proportions of rubber and sulphur it is possible to regulate the elasticity of the substance, and so such great industries as motor and cycle tyre trade, rubber toys, etc., have come into being.

This process of vulcanisation was independently discovered in England by T. Hancock, and it is to this discovery that the rubber trade owes its very existence. Crude rubber has many disadvantages; it becomes brittle in cold weather and turns soft, with an unpleasant odour, in warm temperatures. It also rots when exposed to light and air. Vulcanisation has solved these important difficulties and now nearly all rubber goods go through this process.

Until fairly recently the quantities of rubber obtained from outside South America were almost negligible, but the story of Empire rubber is so romantic and thrilling that it is well worthy of inclusion in this article.

Sir Joseph Hooker, one of the most eminent of modern naturalists, decided that there were great possibilities for rubber in the East once the difficulty of introducing it there were overcome. He met a man called Wickham, who was also investigating the same problem, and together they decided to embark on the great adventure. A Government commission was given to Mr. Wickham to go to Brazil to obtain seeds of the famous Para rubber. These seeds had to be collected in secrecy, for Brazil jealously protected her treasure, and then they had to be smuggled on board ship. The seeds were described to the Customs as valuable botanical specimens for Kew Gardens, and although this description was quite true, the Customs little dreamed of the nature of the "specimens." The seeds were extremely delicate, and could not successfully undergo the long journey to India, so they were brought to England. Late one night a man drove up to Kew Gardens in a cab, and his precious burden was carefully taken from him by eager hands. The sack contained seventy thousand seeds, and the gardeners, summoned to immediate work by telegraph, laboured throughout the night sowing the seeds, not only of rubber, but of one of the greatest modern industries.

After two weeks' careful attention, tiny green leaves appeared, and these were tended until the plants were sufficiently strong to commence their long journey. In specially constructed hothouses, under constant supervision, they were sent to Ceylon and elsewhere, and they there were planted in their final homes. Developing into strong trees they bore seed, and the gigantic task was definitely accomplished in spite of all difficulties.

The work necessary to collect the rubber from the trees is also fascinating, but there is only room for a cursory explanation in this article.

The tree is tapped by means of gashing the bark, and a cup is set at the base to collect the flow of latex. These cups, when full, are emptied into a large receptacle and the latex coagulated. Coagulation is caused by various means; sometimes by boiling in water, and sometimes by placing it in a machine similar to a milk churn.

The object, however, is the same, whatever method is used. The pure rubber must be separated from the impurities and the water solution which accompanies it. This process must be commenced immediately, for the latex rapidly deteriorates.

There is no space to speak of the various fascinating processes through which the rubber passes before it is in the state in which we usually see it, but they are the outcome of careful and patient experimenting, and we should feel justly proud of the triumphs over the many difficulties and obstacles which have occurred in the rubber industry.

There are now about 530,000 people bearing the name of Smith living, 425,000 with the name of Jones, while the Browns are well behind with 320,000.

Hitherto the main supplies of potash have come from Chile, but, according to recent reports, a vast source of supply has been discovered in Delaware, New Jersey, and Maryland. This potash is extracted from the green sand which is found in these States in enormous quantities.

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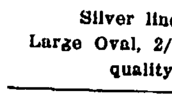
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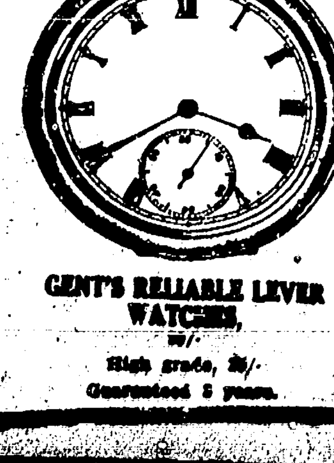

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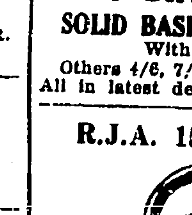
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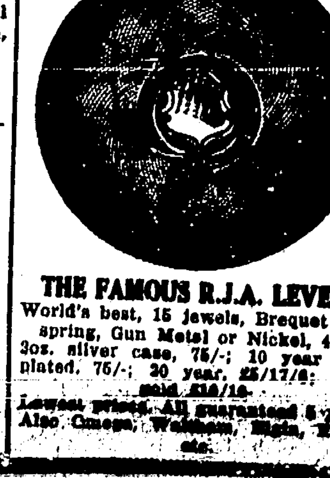

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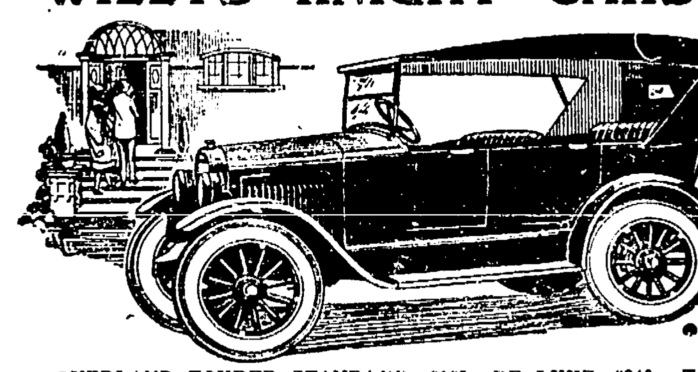

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Secretaries are requested to forward reports AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, so as to ensure insertion. All reports should reach the "Leader" Office BEFORE WEDNESDAY.

NORTHCOTE V. GEELONG.

Having the bye in the sixth round of pennant cricket, Northcote paid a visit to Geelong on Saturday last at the invitation of the Geelong Cricket Club. Leaving Northcote Town Hall at 10.15, Geelong was reached a little after mid-day, after a most pleasant run. We were met on arrival by the secretary, Mr. More, and were immediately made to feel at home. At the Embassy an excellent luncheon had been provided. A move was made to the Corio cricket ground and this prettily situated ground on the shores of Corio Bay was in excellent order, with its green sward and beautiful surroundings. Flannels were donned and a start made. Geelong batted first, and showed they had some excellent talent, and at the adjournment, with eight wickets for 163, declared. We were again entertained with afternoon tea, during which many reminiscences of cricket were exchanged. The secretary, Mr. Tom. Werry, after expressing his pleasure at being given the opportunity of bringing the team down, called on Cr. Oldis, vice-president, to express the club's appreciation of the splendid manner in which we had been received. Mr. P. Butler supported Cr. Oldis' remarks. Mr. David suitably replied on behalf of the Geelong club, and expressed a desire that they would have the pleasure of a further visit next season. Play was then resumed, and a most enjoyable afternoon was brought to a close at 6.30 with a drawn game. Northcote, 8 for 171. There is no need to comment on the individual scores, as the game was of a purely social character, but mention must be made of the excellent fielding of Geelong, equal in every respect to any pennant team playing to-day, that of Weatherhead being particularly fine. On their form with the bat much talent was also shown. Rankin's 69 was a masterly innings, playing all round the wicket with confidence. Duff 15, Mayr 18, More 12 retired, and Chambers 20, also batted well. On the Northcote side the most successful was L. Fothergill 34, McSperrin 29 retired, H. Fothergill 24, Warren 26, who also gave a fine showing as wicketkeeper. The form shown by the colts, McSperrin, Warren, Ansell, Gordon and Dickson was also very fine, but owing to the good fielding of Geelong they were not able to score heavily. The team was ably captained by P. Gibaud. At the conclusion of the match we were again the guests of the Geelong sports at a dinner at the Hotel Orient. When the time came to say good-bye all felt that the visit was all too short. So much sociability and good feeling had been showered on us that one and all regretted our leaving. Northcote club has enjoyed many fine outings, but it is safe to say none have been more enjoyable. Before leaving a promise was given by the Geelong Club to accept an invitation for them to visit Northcote, when we shall do our best to return to them some of the hospitality given to us. It is a great pity that Geelong are not included in V.C.A. Pennant—a large district to draw from; also two very fine colleges. Let us hope the day is not far distant when they will take their place amongst us. The arrangements reflect very great credit on the untiring and energetic Mr. More, the Geelong secretary, who proved himself a real "live wire." Northcote was reached at a late hour, the run home being enlivened by music, song and story by members of the club. Scores:

GEELONG.

Ingpen, b Powell	1
Greeves, c Warren, b Powell	7
Rankin, b Gibaud	69
Duff, c Powell, b Gibaud	15
Mayr, b H. Fothergill	18
More, retired	12
Brunton, c L. Fothergill, b H. Fothergill	8
Weatherhead, b Dickson	4
Sanderson	20
Chambers, not out	20
Byes	8
Total	162

NORTHCOTE.

L. Fothergill, run out	34
Heron, b Dyer	5
Dickson, b Chambers	7
H. Fothergill, b Saunderson	24
McSperrin, retired	29
H. Fothergill, b Saunderson	24
Powell, b Brunton	18
Gordon, c More, b Brunton	18
Warren, lbw	26
Ansell, not out	11
Gibaud, not out	2
Byes	1
Total	171

IVANHOE V. PRESTON.

Preston won the toss at Ivanhoe and sent Ivanhoe to bat on a wicket which had been rolled just before the start, and as a result some underneath moisture was brought up, and enabled the bowlers to turn the ball very sharply. Eddie Carroll and Gill opened to Butler and Ludlow, and runs came freely until Carroll, in trying to turn Butler, gave an easy catch to the wicketkeeper. Holt failed to score, and Kennedy carried the total to 47, when Gill was bowled for a steady 14. Kennedy was out shortly after for a nicely made 17, and Cooper was bowled with a ball that kept low, five being out for 52. Rose and Davidson added 32 for the sixth wicket, when Rose was bowled by Power. He played the rock and compiled only 5, but kept an end up when things were going badly. Dowell was also bowled by Power for 7, and Davidson was caught at the wickets off Butler, nine being down for 100. Davidson had batted steadily for 30, and hit four 4's. The innings closed for 103. Butler, four for 37; Ludlow, two for 23; Walker, two for 16; and Power, two for 16, divided the wickets. A rolling between the innings made the wicket much easier, and Brown and Proposch opened to Cooper and Davidson. Each scored 10, and Bradford, who followed, 14. Wallington, who scored 29, batted nicely, and when at one stage the board showed 86 for four wickets, Preston looked to have the match well in hand, but four wickets then fell for 13 runs, and at stumps the score was eight for 99, five runs being required to pass Ivanhoe's total. Carroll, with his slows, bowled splendidly, capturing four for 39. Davidson, coming on a second time, captured two for 13, and secured Ludlow's wicket with the last ball of the day. Brooks, one for 9, and Cooper, one for 25, also obtained a wicket.

IVANHOE.

First Innings.

Carroll, c Brown, b Butler	13
Holt, b Ludlow	0
Gill, b Ludlow	14
Kennedy, c Bradford, b Walker	17
Cooper, b Walker	0
Rose, not out	1
Davidson, not out	6
Extras	10
Five wickets for	61

North Suburban Association.

FIRST GRADE.

Thornbury, 150 (Mansell 33, Nance 54; Cockburn 4/46) v. Abbotsford Brewery, none for 22.

Coburg-Bell Park 114 (Eadie 35, Butler 25; Smith 4/26) v. Burnley, three for 41.

SECOND GRADE.

South Preston Methodist 169 (C. Delbridge 49, Davis 30, C. Keller 20; Slater 4/53) v. Brunswick P.A.F.S., seven for 75 (R. Smith 23; Johnston 4/28).

Court Little John, five for 234 (J. Scott 112 n.o., H. Scott 41, W. J. Thomson 21) v. St. Stephens.

THIRD GRADE.

Croxton 69 (E. Andrews 26 and 6/21, W. Scoulter 5/28) v. Parkwood 173 (W. Hart 35, C. Moore 35, L. Poole 40, F. Bowden 22).

Collingwood District 108 (Lyngcoln 34; Nicholson 4/10) v. Regent two for 75 (Stavely 21, Hyde 24 n.o.).

Merino Mills eight for 87 v. Westgarth, 106 (Huchens 34; Parker 5/23).

HEIDELBERG DISTRICT.

Heidelberg 162 (L. Bond 65, Slatter 26; Jowell 3/30) v. Alphington, none for 16.

North Ivanhoe 41 (McKelson 7/18) v. Fairfield Junior Footballers, 74 (McKay 21, Peart 20; Miller 4/15).

West Heidelberg 179 (Hickox 35, Anderson 26, Nihall 23; Mills 3/38) v. Rosanna, one for 28.

Alphington Footballers 119 (Hill 40; S. Temby 3/13) v. Fairfield 58 (Wall 4/37, Carter 3/6).

Jika Association.

Glenirls 72 (Walker 4/5, Pepper 3/7) v. Preston United, eight for 55 (Spoor 4/25, Doering 4/20).

Prestonite 98 (White 28, Zwar 20), v. Stewart and Davies, three for 129 (T. Downs 59, W. Brennan 24 n.o.; Peters 6/41, Morrow 3/9).

Soccer, none for 31 (Robinson 4/18) v. Reservoir 235 (T. Couch 100, O'Torde 31, Colquhoun 20).

East Northcote 112 (Boyne 20 n.o., Barnes 22 and 3/28) v. Broadhurst, five for 65 (Eason 4/33).

Preston Footballers 173 (Punch 65, Aked 30; Paroissien 4/52) v. East Ward, none for 38 (Muggleston 25 n.o.).

Scouts 66 and two for 6 (Underhill 30; Barklem 6/19) v. Gowerville 70 (Torrens 33; Albinson 5/7).

NORTHCOTE MUNICIPAL CLUB.

Northcote were at home to Prahran on Saturday. As these two teams are generally evenly matched and a good game results, a large crowd turned up to see the excitement. Cr. Mitchell was an interested spectator. He was probably trying to learn a few "wrinkles" to use when the councillors play the Municipal Cricket Club. Northcote won the toss and decided to bat. Harrison made 112, including 17 fours and one six, and well deserved the reception he got when he was well caught by Rogers off Kennedy. Murray made things lively by scoring 86, including ten fours and four sixes. Creighton batted well for 15, and Matthews made 49; Barnes 12, Decker 11 n.o., and Walker 7 n.o.; total, eight wickets for 312 runs. Kennedy, 3 wickets for 81 runs, and Farrington, 2 for 25, and White 1 for 54 were the best bowlers. The match will be finished on Saturday.

Whittlesea Association.

Whittlesea 92 first innings, and two wickets for 41 in second innings (W. Duffy 27, H. Barclay 2, and 24 not out, R. Borton 14; P. Nelson 4/24, E. Owens 5/43 and 2/20) beat Doreen 55 and 78 (E. Owens 30, K. Bassett 16, F. Bassett 13, E. Luff 2/10 and 4/1, H. Mitchell 4/9 and 3/34, S. Stainsby 3/14 and 2/30) by eight wickets.

Strathewen beat Humevale by one run on first innings.

PRESENTATION TO EX-COUNCILLOR.

At the meeting of the Northcote City Council on Monday evening, the Mayor (Cr Phil. Mayor), on behalf of the council, made a presentation of an illuminated address to ex-Cr. F. J. Jones in recognition of his six years' service as a councillor of the North Ward.

The Mayor said that Cr. Jones had given of his best to the municipality, and had striven to take an intelligent interest in the many wants of the North Ward. He congratulated ex-Cr. Jones on his work during his term as a councillor. (Applause.)

Cr. W. Hayes supported and wished ex-Cr. Jones the compliments of the season.

Ex-Cr. Jones returned thanks for the presentation. He said that at times there had been heated arguments, but the heat had always been kept inside the council chamber and not out of it. He was not a resident of Northcote at the present time, but was looking forward to the time when he would be again seeking election to the council. (Applause.)

BUNDOORA DEPOT

"WELL CONDUCTED," SAYS CR. HAYES.

At the meeting of the Northcote Council on Monday a letter was received from the acting secretary Metropolitan Board of Works, re the interim report of the Royal Commission on sanitation, 1926, stating that at a conference of representatives of 38 municipalities, within or partly within the 13 mile radius, it was resolved, with only four dissentients: "That this conference is of the opinion that the Metropolitan Board of Works is doing the work of disposal of nightsoil from unsewered areas in the best possible manner, and that the Government be so informed."

The letter was received.

Cr. Hayes reported attending the conference. Several members of the conference had expressed pleasure at the improved service given by the Board since taking over. The Board were taking every possible precaution, and from his own observation of the depot at Bundoora, he could see nothing wrong. The depot was 1½ miles from the main road and was isolated. He had seen the depot in working order, and could see nothing to cause trouble. From what he saw he could not see that any trouble would arise through drainage into the creek. As regards one of the dairymen losing his licence, there had been adverse comments on the conduct of this dairy long before the sanitary depot was established.

Cr. Mayor said he felt the Board was doing all it possibly could at this depot to conduct it in a proper manner.

The reports were received.

Two scientists, Dr. Nanji, of Birmingham University, and Dr. Paton, of Bristol University, are the discoverers of a new process of treating reeds, grasses and other tropical growths, many of which have up to now been regarded as weeds and of no value, whereby the fibres of these plants can be supplied in forms suitable to existing machinery at a smaller cost than flax, cotton, or the other staple raw materials now used.

Laying the foundation stone of the new Baby Health Centre in Clarendon street, Northcote, by Cr. P. H. Mayor, J.P., Mayor of Northcote, on December 8. (Photo courtesy "Argus.")

The most destructive of all insects is the grasshopper, which consumes ten times its own weight of vegetation in a single day.

There are 45 High Streets in the London postal list.

5,000,000 lbs. of roses are grown every year in the South of France for the perfume factories of ancient Grasse.

The English Channel averages about 110 yards in depth, the Atlantic Ocean 4,026 yards, and that of the Pacific 4,252 yards.

LOOK STYLISH!

HAVE WELL FITTING CLOTHES

Made by

PAULINE PAERSCH

Frocks also tucked and fitted..
"MOSELLA," SHARP STREET,
Off Crawley St., between Spring St. and Railway, Regent.

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A special shipment of these Best Quality Linoleums to hand. The latest and very newest designs and colorings are included. All two yards wide.

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BRITISH LINOLEUM SQUARES.
EXTRA HEAVY QUALITY.

A comprehensive assortment of beautiful new designs and harmonious color schemes.

Size—7ft. 6in. x 9ft. £2/7/6. 10ft. 6in. x 9ft. £3/5/-. 12ft. x 9ft. £3/15/-.

Our Complete Furniture Catalogue Post Free.

PASSAGE LINOLEUMS

A wide range of Artistic Designs and Effective Colorings.

Width—18in. 1/11; 22½in. 2/6; 27in. 2/11; 36in. 3/11 yard.

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KEENEST PRICES EASIEST TERMS

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Complete Home Furnishers. Specialists in Pianos and Player Pianos.

885 HIGH STREET, THORNBURY.

251-261 CLARENDON STREET, SOUTH MELBOURNE. 332-338 CHAPEL STREET, PRAHRAN.

Xmas Gifts

The Festive Season is with us once more, and folk are Choosing Gifts for Distribution in accordance with the Grand Old Custom.

Think of the Pleasure an Electrical Gift will give to your Friend or Relative. In addition to its beauty, it is of great service.

See our Show Room, where we have a fine display of EVERYTHING ELECTRICAL.
SEMI-INDIRECT LIGHTING FITTINGS, from 25/-, complete and installed.
BEADED FITTINGS, very select.
TABLE AND FLOOR PEDESTALS Handsome, Exclusive, a range of novelties.
Also RADIO GOODS for all. See our Special Line of HEAD PHONES at 10/- per pair.
Always in Stock, the ever pleasing lines—HECLA KETTLES, ELECTRIC IRONS and FANS, TOASTERS, GRILLERS, etc., etc.

A WORD TO HUSBANDS.

Would you like Santa to send your wife a fine VACUUM CLEANER?

If so just leave your order, and we will pass it on.

You may choose a "SWEEPER VAC" (with the Vac Mop attachment), The "PREMIER," "HOOVER," "LIBERTY," "VOLTA SOLUS" (the new one).

NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS:

Johnston & McMillan

647 HIGH STREET, CROXTON.
(Cnr. WOOLTON AVENUE.)

LICENSED ELECTRICIANS AND RADIO DEALERS.

BATTERY SERVICE STATION.

MOTOR GARAGE

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ALL CLASSES OF REPAIRS EXECUTED BY EXPERT MECHANIC.
"SERVICE AND CIVILITY" MY PASSWORD.
HIGH GRADE OILS AND PETROL IN STOCK.

ROBERT ALFORD PROP

THINKING OF INSTALLING WIRELESS

Then here's something of particular interest to you.

A 5-VALVE SET, complete with two high tension batteries, accumulator, loud speaker and aerial equipment. Easily receives every Australian broad-casting station on loud speaker. £21/10/-

DEMONSTRATION ANY EVENING BY ARRANGEMENT.

If it's anything for your Wireless—We've got it. If it's anything you want to know about Wireless—We'll Tell You.

UP-TO-DATE BATTERY CHARGING PLANT ON PREMISES.

E. W. BRIGHTON,

Electrical Engineer and Contractor.

897 HIGH STREET, THORNBURY
PHONE—NORTHCOTE 1648.

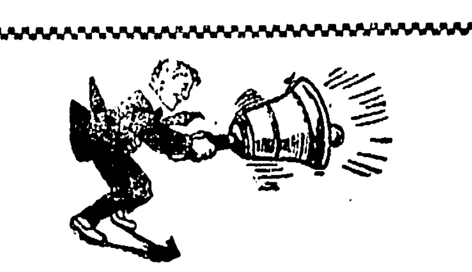
GIFT SUGGESTIONS

WITH the approach of Xmas, you would do well to consider solving your gift problems at Ladner's. The most suitable gifts for Xmas are here—and what lady would not appreciate a Wristlet Watch, a Diamond Ring or other of the wonderful presents from which you may choose. And each may be had for sums that will amaze you—for the prices will suit all.

You are invited to visit us. Inspection without obligation to buy is your privilege.

W. E. LADNER

Watchmaker, Jeweller & Optician,
282 SMITH ST., COLLINGWOOD.



HERE'S GOOD NEWS FOR MOTORISTS

If any of these sizes fit your car, then you are very lucky, because these are brand new Tyres which we are clearing out.

TYRES AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES.

SIZES—30 x 3½, 31 x 4, 815 x 105, 857 x 105.

This is a job lot; there's only a few of them, so it's a case of first come first served. Get in early!

NORTHCOTE MOTOR TYRE WORKS

PTY. LTD.

465 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE.

'Phone Northcote 2130.

UNITY MOTOR BODY BUILDERS

STATION STREET (Near Darebin St.), FAIRFIELD.

ALL CLASSES OF TOURING AND COMMERCIAL CARS BUILT.
DUCO FINISH DONE

We specialise in Repainting, Covering Hoods, and All Repairs.
Only Best Materials Used. Workmanship Guaranteed.

STOTT SON & WATSON

NORTHCOTE'S OLDEST ESTABLISHED AUCTIONEER, ESTATE AND INSURANCE AGENTS.

Largest List of Properties in Districts of Northcote, Preston, Fairfield.

IT WILL PAY YOU TO CONSULT US.

Head Office—203 HIGH STREET (Cnr. Westbourne Grove).

Branches—HIGH ST., THORNBURY, Cnr. Dundas Street.
HIGH ST., PRESTON, opposite Post Office.
RAILWAY PLACE, FAIRFIELD, opposite Station.

Phones—Northcote 684-686.

Church Notices.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, Northcote.

11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Rev. A. C. Kellaway.

HOLY TRINITY, THORNBURY. (Railway Parade.)

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT.
8 a.m., Holy Communion.
11 a.m., Matins and Sermon.
7 p.m., Evensong, conducted by young men.
Preacher at all services—The Vicar

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY, Central Northcote.
Parish Hall, Merri and Bay View Sts.

Holy Communion at 8 and 11.
Evensong at 7 p.m.
CHRISTMAS CAROLS.
Preacher—The Vicar.

SATURDAY, DEC. 18, 3 p.m.
Laying of the Foundation Stone of new church, His Grace the Archbishop.

THORNBURY PRESBYTERIAN
Rossmoyne St., near High St.

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY.
Special Christmas Choral Service at 7. Anthems, Carols. Come and bring a friend.
Christmas Day at 10.30 a.m., United Service.
Preacher—Rev. W. J. Harris.
Come and Welcome.

NORTHCOTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (James Street).

XMAS DAY SERVICES.
11 a.m., Subject—"Room for Jesus." Rev. John Bates.
7 p.m., Rev. B. T. Buntine.
Minister—REV. JOHN H. BATES.

PRESTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DAVID ST.

Services 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Minister—Rev. W. H. McCook, B.A., B.D.

NORTHCOTE METHODIST CHURCHES.

XMAS SUNDAY.
HIGH STREET.
11 a.m., Rev. W. E. Lancaster.
7 p.m., Rev. W. H. Holtham.
PRINCE OF WALES' PARK.
11 a.m., Rev. W. H. Holtham.
7 p.m., Rev. H. H. Williams.
ST. GEORGE'S ROAD.
11 a.m., Pastor W. J. Davey.
7 p.m., Rev. W. E. Lancaster
CROXTON.
11 a.m., Mr. W. H. Gray.
7 p.m., Pastor W. J. Davey.

PRESTON METHODIST CHURCHES.

XMAS SUNDAY
PRESTON.
11 a.m., Rev. McIlroy, B.A.
7 p.m., Mr. Burvill.
THOMASTOWN.
11 a.m., Mr. Elmer.
7 p.m., Rev. McIlroy.
WEST PRESTON.
11 a.m., Mr. Fawcett.
7 p.m., Mr. Beighton.
RESERVOIR.
11 a.m., Mr. Beighton.
7 p.m., Mr. Elmer.

SOUTH PRESTON METHODIST CHURCHES.

SOUTH PRESTON.
11 a.m., Rev. H. H. Williams (Director of Young People's Department). Young people's rally.
7 p.m., Rev. F. Delbridge, B.A., Special Xmas Service.
TENDER'S GROVE.
11 am., Rev. F. Delbridge, B.A. Xmas Servic.
7 p.m., Mr. Stoneman.

BAPTIST CHURCH, HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

Services 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
All Welcome.
Minister—Rev. Donald McNicol.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, High Street, Northcote.

11 a.m., Worship.
3 p.m., Bible School.
7 p.m., Gospel Service. Mr. W. H. Hinrichsen, M.B.B.S.

CITY OF NORTHCOTE.

BY-LAW NO. 38.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of the City of Northcote DID MAKE BY-LAW NO. 38, being a By-law of the City of Northcote made under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1915, as amended by the Local Government Act 1921 and the Local Government Act 1924, and numbered 38 for PRESCRIBING AREAS WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT AS RESIDENTIAL AREAS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Clause 1.—Prescribes the Residential Areas.

Clauses 2—5.—Prohibit the use of any land or the erection (including adaptation for use), or the use of any buildings for the purposes of such classes of trades, industries, manufactures, businesses or public amusements as are set out in the schedules of the By-law.

Clauses 6 and 7.—Provide for Penalties.

Clause 8.—Repeals By-law No. 3b and 37.

Schedules 1 to 8 referred to in Clause 2 are set out.

The By-law shall come into operation immediately after its publication in the Victorian "Government Gazette."

The By-law was PASSED by the Council of the City of Northcote on the 1ST DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1926, and CONFIRMED on the 29TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1926, and APPROVED by the Governor-in-Council on the 9TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1926.

A full copy of this By-law is open for inspection free of charge during office hours at the offices of the Council, Town Hall, High Street, Northcote.

By Order,
J. A. THOMSON,
Town Clerk.

Municipal Offices, Northcote,
14th December, 1926.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18.

At 3 o'clock on the land, DAREBIN ROAD (Cnr. Willmott Street), NORTHCOTE.

AUCTION SALE OF
Splendid Building Allotment.
120 x 108, made street, splendid situation and opportunity. Rapidly improving district. Motor bus passes the land.
Title Certificate. Terms at Sale.
Auctioneer—
STOTT, SON & WATSON,
Thornbury, Preston, Fairfield.

BY PUBLIC AUCTION.

THIS DAY,
At 3 p.m., on the property,
53 SUTHERLAND STREET,
BRUNSWICK WEST,
(OFF HOPE STREET).

Natty Detached S.F. Timber Villa,
Four rooms, conveniences, sewered, road made; separate bathroom; in good position.

Deposit £50; balance easy rent terms.
Solicitors—Hickford and Murray, 418 Little Collins St., Melbourne

GRAY & JOHNSON,
Auctioneer and Estate Agents, 102 King St., Melbourne; 767 and 235 High St., Northcote.

EXECUTORS' SALE.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18,
At 3 o'clock, on the premises,
6 CRAWLEY ST., PRESTON

Under instructions of the Executors of the estate of C. Crawley, deceased, fine block 40ft. x 160ft., on which is erected a
Commodious D.F. W.B. Residence
Containing 6 large and lofty rooms, kitchen, bathroom, E.L., gas, copper and troughs, etc., sewered. This property has been thoroughly renovated throughout, is centrally situated, and can be recommended as a good sound investment proposition. Title Certificate.
W. H. EDGAR & CHANDLER,
Auctioneer, 437 Collins St., Melb., and
A. F. DEACON,
Agent, 254 High St., Northcote (in conjunction).

THIS DAY,
At 11 a.m.
Clearing sale by auction of the well known
"ALLBELL" POULTRY FARM,
Cooper St., Preston, under instructions from Mr. Albert Dower, who is retiring from business.
1,500 head of Poultry, Geese, Ducks, Fowls, Feed, Chaff, Crates, Grindstone, Feed Dishes, Steam Boiler, Ladder Steps, Egg Cases and Fillers, Hand Plough, Spring Cart, Fowl Manure, quantity Firewood in 5, 10 and 20 cwt. lots. Furniture, including Wardrobe, Bedroom Suite, 8-drawer Chest, Hall stand, Table, Chairs, Lino, Werthein Sewing Machine, etc., etc. quantities of Sundries. Everything must go.
LLEWELLYN JONES,
Auctioneer, High St., Preston.

CITY OF NORTHCOTE.

ELECTRIC SUPPLY.

NOTICE is hereby given that failing a settlement of the dispute with Employes of the State Electricity Commission at Yallourn, the Commission has intimated to the Council that CURRENT WILL BE CUT OFF IN THIS MUNICIPALITY on MONDAY, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.; on MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY OF THE WEEK COMMENCING 20TH DECEMBER, 1926; WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY, 29TH AND 31ST INST., AND TUESDAY AND THURSDAY, THE 4TH AND 6TH JANUARY, 1927.

By Order,
J. A. THOMSON,
Town Clerk.

CITY OF NORTHCOTE.

HEALTH ACT 1919.

REGISTRATIONS FOR YEAR 1927.

NOTICE is hereby given that APPLICATIONS for REGISTRATIONS and RENEWAL OF REGISTRATIONS of the various premises set out hereunder must be made immediately.

Certificates of any previous Registration must be returned with the application. The following Proprietors are required to register their premises:—

PROPRIETORS OF BOARDING-HOUSES, EATING HOUSES.
MANUFACTURERS OF ICE CREAM, GINGER BEER, HOP OR SIMILAR BEER, CORDIAL OR AERATED WATERS, AND OFFENSIVE TRADES.

By Order,
J. A. THOMSON,
Town Clerk.

Municipal Offices, Northcote,
14th December, 1926.

Formerly, concrete had many disadvantages. For instance, the time it took to harden was considered a disability, especially in regard to road construction. This has been overcome by the use of a new cementing material known as "Ferrocrete." Roads constructed with this product will set sufficiently hard to be used by traffic within twenty-four hours of its setting.

Much attention is being paid to the possibilities of concrete in connection with farm building and utensils, and concrete cowsheds, stalls, calf boxes, piggeries, tanks, troughs, drain pipes, fencing posts, and even concrete pergolas and fountains are among the latest adjuncts to farming.

M. Henri Deneux, who is responsible for the restoration of Rheims Cathedral has introduced reinforced concrete into his scheme for the reconstruction of this historic building, and many of the old oak beams which were destroyed during the war are being replaced by concrete ones cast in special moulds. M. Deneux speaks highly of the lessened risk of destruction by fire concrete affords.

NORTHCOTE THEATRE

Saturday 18th, Matinee and Evening
REG. DENNY
"Rolling Home"

Also
"Lights Out"
A Thrilling Detective Drama

Monday, Tuesday, Wednes. Dec. 20, 21, 22
JOHNNIE HINES
in
"Brown Derby"

Also
"The Golden Cocoon"

Thursday, Friday, Saturday Dec. 23, 24, 25
"The Battling Oriels"
(6 part Pathe Comedy)
"Scrapping Kid"

Over £100
for
"Miss Northcote Competition"
Enter Now. FREE

PRESTON POLICE COURT

Before Messrs. C. Bricknell, J. T. Ellison and E. Lewis, J.'s.P.

Bicycle on Footpath.

Frank Temple, for having ridden a bicycle on the footpath was fined 10/-

Drove on Wrong Side.

James Appleford, Dunoon street, Murrumbeena, was charged that at Preston on November he drove a motor car on the wrong side of the street in High street.

Const. J. H. Higgins said that on November 14, at about 5.35 p.m., he saw defendant drive across an intersection at a fast pace, on the wrong side of the road. Defendant passed a lot of traffic on the wrong side.

Defendant was fined £1.

£5 Fine For Assault.

Walter John Warr, aged 38 years, Malpas street, Preston, was charged that at Preston on December 11 he assaulted Beenie Hansen. Mr. Schilling (Ridgway and Schilling) appeared for defendant.

Plainclothes Const. H. W. Marshall said he interviewed defendant at a house in Malpas street. When questioned about an assault on Beenie Marshall Warr said: "It is a b—— pity I did not kill her." Asked what he had hit the woman with, Warr said: "With a poker." Witness said: "We are going to take you to the police station and charge you with inflicting grievous bodily harm." Defendant said: "I would kill her if I thought I would not do time for it." Beenie Hansen was covered with blood from a wound in her head.

To Mr. Schilling—Defendant was a hard working man, and had never given trouble before. Hansen had been living with Warr for about four years. Witness had often been called in to stop rows before.

Const. Higgins gave similar evidence.

When called Hansen did not appear.

Defendant was fined £5, in default 14 days' imprisonment. A stay of 14 days was granted: 10/6 costs were also granted.

Wandering Stock.

The following were fined for allowing stock to wander:—S. Bolger, 6 cows, 30/- and 2/6 costs; F. Babbage, 2 head, 5/- and 5/-; A. Hall, 4 head, £1 and 2/6; W. James, 16 head, £2 and 2/6 costs; A. Short, 8 head, £1 and 2/6; H. Sykes, 2/6 and 2/6.

No Number.

Leslie Brown, Kelsby street, Reservoir, who rode a motor cycle without an identifying number in High street, Preston, on November 26, was fined £1.

NORTHCOTE COURT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14.

Before Mr. D. Grant, P.M., and Messrs. A. H. Oldis, J. Sutch, J. Cohen, P. H. Mayer and E. J. Jones, J.'s.P.

No Railway Ticket.

Albert Otway, Malpas St., Preston, was charged with having travelled

Albert Otway, Malpas street, Preston, charged with having travelled between Clifton Hill and Westgarth on November 12 without a ticket. Checker Croft said that defendant had no ticket, and said he was going to Preston, where he intended to get a ticket.

Defendant was fined 10/-, with 13/- costs.

Was "Trespass" Justified.

M. Young, Yeomans street, Westgarth, was charged with having trespassed on railway property at Westgarth on November 11.

Evidence was given that defendant left the train at Westgarth on the pit side.

Mr. Grant—Was the train crowded?

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Grant—In cases such as this where there are often 30 people in the one compartment, how can a man who is probably furthest from the door leave the train in the 20 seconds during which electric trains usually stop at a station?

Defendant was fined 5/6, with 13/- costs.

"THE LEADER"

ALTERATION IN DATE OF PUBLICATION.

In future, owing to numerous and repeated requests, the day of publication of the "Leader" will be altered to Friday mornings instead of Saturday mornings.

WEDDING.

VAUGHAN—McMILLAN.—On the 20th November, at Clifton Hill, by the Rev. Wright, Royal Edwin, fifth son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Vaughan, of Fairfield Park, to Dulcie Clair, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. McMillan, of Southernhay St., Preston.

The Leader
Published Every Friday Morning.
JUSTICE TO ALL.
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1926.

ITEMS OF NEWS.

NOTICE.

As the next issue of the "Leader" will be published on Thursday, December 23, owing to the Xmas holidays, it is requested that all advts. and news matter be supplied not later than Wednesday, December 22.

After the next meeting of the Preston Council on Monday evening, the council will not meet again until January 17.

The monthly meeting of the Northcote branch of the Sailors' and Soldiers' Fathers' Association will be held in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday evening next.

The annual distribution of prizes won during the year will be held at Westleigh College, Northcote, to-day (Friday) at 11 a.m., when the Mayor of Northcote (Cr. P. Mayer) will present the awards.

After a long discussion on Monday night, the Northcote Council resolved to purchase one 3-ton Leyland chassis, £786/5/-; one 2-ton Leyland chassis, £666, and one 2-ton "Karrier" chassis, £625, all of which are of British manufacture.

In connection with the proposal of Messrs. Nicholson and Morrow to start a large factory at Thomastown, a public meeting was held at Thomastown on Wednesday night, when the company's proposals were explained to a large gathering.

A deputation from Preston waited on Mr. Goudie, Minister for Public Works, on Wednesday, with a request that the licenses on the Spencer St. Reservoir bus route be extended for another twelve months. After hearing the deputation Mr. Goudie said he would give the matter consideration.

On Tuesday afternoon a Parliamentary party visited the tramway workshops at Preston. The Mayor of Northcote (Cr. Phil. Mayer), Cr. L. Jones (ex-Mayor of Preston), and Messrs. J. A. Thomson (town clerk, Northcote) and W. Arthur Kelly (town clerk, Preston) were also present.

A copy of the special issue of the Northcote "Leader" of last week, together with one of "The Beacon," a church paper, is to be placed in a recess in the wall by Mr. W. G. Swift, one of the churchwardens, at the laying of the foundation stone of the new Church of the Epiphany on Saturday afternoon.

Father Christmas visited the Thornbury State school on Wednesday afternoon, when a Christmas tree was held. The Mayor (Cr. Phil. Mayor) and Mr. D. Aird, of Mansfield street, took the parts of venerable be-whiskered gentlemen, and distributed toys from a Christmas tree to the infants. The function was a fitting wind-up to a hard year's work.

The foundation stone of the new Church of the Epiphany on Rucker's Hill will be laid on Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock by the Archbishop of Melbourne (Dr. Harrington Lees). The ladies of the congregation have invited visitors to afternoon tea in the Parish Hall after the event. A full report, together with exclusive pictures, will appear in our next issue.

At the meeting of the Northcote A.W.A. the following officers were installed for the ensuing half year:—President, Miss D. Worley; vice-president, Miss A. Barnett; ex-president, Mrs. Key; secretary, Mrs. Rayment; assistant secretary and press correspondent, Miss Ida Rayment; treasurer, Mrs. Schwaebsch; committee, Mrs. Kampfhenkel, Misses McDonald, H. Davis, Westwood, G. Bartlett; auditors, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Sturtevant; dispensary delegates, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Rayment.

Last Friday a fire broke out at Mr. H. Doidge's home at Bundoora, with the result that the house was totally destroyed. It is stated that the cause of the outbreak was that a chimney caught fire, and from that the roof caught. Three fire brigades attended when the alarm was given, but were unable to do anything, owing to the absence of a water supply. Besides the house, a shed containing a new engine and chaffcutter, and the stables were burned. Mr. Doidge returned home last Wednesday after a trip abroad.

George Barton, Bent street, Northcote, and Edward A. Burrell, Gladstone Avenue, Northcote, were at Preston court on Thursday each fined £1 for having allowed motor cycles to emit offensive noises whilst passing the Church of Christ, Preston, on November 7. James Davies, South Crescent, Northcote, Horace Oswald Johnson, Alanbee street, East Camberwell, and Edmund Ernest Crocker, Elizabeth street, Richmond, charged with similar offences on the same date were also fined 20/- each.

The monthly meeting of the Northcote Library committee was held on Thursday evening, December 9, those present being Cr. Hayes (chairman), Cr. Olver, and Messrs. W. S. Neelands and R. J. Whalley (hon. secretary). Correspondence included a letter from the City Council, intimating that the engineer had been instructed to report in reference to painting the exterior of the library. The number of books borrowed during November aggregated 5,755. Many new works of fiction were added during the same period. The committee decided, subject to the consent of the council, to place a notice board on the lawn in front of the library. It was also resolved to close the library over the Christmas and New Year holidays, from December 25 to January 3, both dates inclusive.

A pleasant afternoon was spent by members of the A.W.N. League on Tuesday, December 7, when at the quarterly meeting Mrs. Atchison, member of the executive, addressed members on current topics. Mrs. Atchison's pleasing personality and capable judgment delighted those present. Mrs. Bartle Ryan proposed a hearty vote of thanks, which was carried with acclamation, to Mrs. Atchison for addressing the meeting, and to Miss Johnson for her songs, accompanied by Miss Rayment. The president thanked the committee and branch members for their work during the year, and wished all the compliments of the season. Afternoon tea was provided by members of committee, after which the proceedings were brought to a close by singing the National Anthem.

The West Preston Mothers' Club terminated this year's work in the interests of school and scholars by a pleasant evening in the way of a euchre party and dance, interspersed with other items. Although the evening was hot, there was a fair attendance, and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. After the holidays the club intend to hold an invitation social afternoon for parents of children attending the West Preston school. One pleasant feature of the evening was the handing over, by the president of the club (Mrs. Watt), of a cheque for £80 for school improvements to Mr. Zwar, chairman of the school committee. Mr. Zwar in a happy speech said he had much pleasure in accepting the cheque, which had been raised by the ladies. He realised what an amount of work the ladies always put into anything which they might take up. He also hoped that the best of feeling would always prevail between the Mothers' Club and the school committee. A very enjoyable evening was brought to a close by the joining of hands and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

McEntee and Poole, house decorators and renovators, draw attention elsewhere in a striking advt. to their facilities.

The West Kinglake sports will be held on the recreation ground at West Kinglake on Saturday, February 5, 1927. Races of all kinds, and dance at night, with good floor and music. See advt. for particulars.

A. Ongarello and Co. advertise Xmas wines of all sorts. Also long cooling "wine shandies" off the ice for 4d.

NORTH WARDITES ENTERTAINED.

At the conclusion of the meeting of the Northcote Council on Monday evening, the Mayor (Cr. Phil. Mayer) entertained a number of the North Ward ratepayers. "The Visitors" was proposed by Cr. Hayes, who said the councillors were always pleased to see visitors at the council meetings. The last year's work had been strenuous, and from all appearances it looked as though 1927 would be even more so. He welcomed the visitors and wished them all the compliments of the season.

Cr. Olver supported.

Mr. Phil. McDonald, in responding, referred to the council's progressive policy, and said that with the 40ft. frontages and the present rate of progress, the North Ward would soon be the "Toorak of Northcote." (Laughter.) He wished all the compliments of the season.

Mr. Theo. Jones said he felt the North Ward members were holding their own in the council.

Ex-Cr. Jones also expressed appreciation of the invitation to be present. Whilst a representative of the North Ward he had done his best. All councillors received much abuse no matter how they tried to do their work. His business activities took him out of Northcote, and he had had to leave the council. Northcote had the makings of one of the best cities in the metropolis, and the city was progressing rapidly. As an ex-councillor, and after having seen the methods employed elsewhere, he could say that the way in which the work was carried out in Northcote compared very favorably with other places. (Applause.)

Best wishes for the festive season were expressed, and the gathering broke up.

NORTHCOTE THEATRE.

SOME ENTRANTS "MISS NORTHCOTE" £100 COMPETITION.

Commences after the New Year holidays. Enter now free. Note.—Competitors who wish to enter competitions who may not care to wear bathing costumes on theatre stage may, after having photo taken, appear in bathing cloaks.

Miss Crews, Preston; Miss S. Williams, Fitzroy; Miss Dorothy McMahen, Northcote; Miss K. Holliday, Northcote; Miss M. Mohr, Northcote; Miss D. Stubbs, Carlton; Miss Ogden, Northcote; Miss V. Bilson, Carlton; Miss M. Fry, Northcote; Miss M. Dunn, Northcote; Miss Jean Flanagan, Miss Lucy Greenough, Miss Stella Eastaway, Miss Rose Rowan, Miss Eva Rowan, Miss Ivy Neal, Miss E. Hickey, Miss N. Clayton, Miss M. Duff, Miss Alma Watson, Miss Frances Burns, Miss Violet Kidd, Miss Mary Blanks, Miss Irene Banfield, Miss Millie Crawford, Miss Dorothy Frederickson, Miss Alice Frederickson, Miss Rene Laurence, Miss Alice Cotterill, Miss Marie Oates, Miss Isobel Owens, Miss Margaret Hughes Miss Rene Ablet, Miss Nellie Wilkinson, Miss May Wilkinson, Miss Eva Weate, Miss Jean Duff, Miss Pat Lawley, Miss Beryl Locket, Miss E. Stevens, Miss Beatrice Watson, Miss Palm Warling, Miss Lucy Owen, Miss Lily Curnow, Miss Venie Curnow, Miss Bonnie Boxhall.

APPROACHING AUCTIONS.

By Stott, Son and Watson, on Saturday, December 18, at 3 p.m., on property, cnr. Willmott street, Northcote, building lot 120 x 108 to made street.

By Llewellyn Jones, Saturday, December 18, 2 p.m., poultry, etc., at "Allbell" poultry farm, Cooper street, Preston.

By Gray and Johnson on December 18, 1926, at 3 p.m. on property, 53 Sutherland St., Brunswick West, 4-roomed n.f. villa in good position. Particulars advertised.

By W. H. Edgar and Chandler, on December 18, at 3 p.m., on premises, 6 Crawley St., Preston, land 40 x 160, on which is erected 6-roomed d.f., w.b. villa. Full sales advertised.

ALTERATION OF DAY OF PUBLICATION

FRIDAYS INSTEAD OF SATURDAYS.

In future the day of publication of the "Leader" will be ALTERED to FRIDAY MORNING instead of Saturday morning. Will all our clients and subscribers please note and send in copy for advertisements and news items at the earliest possible moment.

D. H. MOTT & SONS,
Proprietors.

SCOTTISH CONCERT

Last Concert of the Year.

PRESENTATION OF CUPS.

The last concert of the year of the Northcote and Preston Scottish Society was held in the Northcote Town Hall on Wednesday. A large audience attended to see the presentation of the cups won at the competitions at the Exhibition by the Society's Pipe Band. The chief, Bro. L. Telfer, was piped in by the Society's Pipe Band, who, after the National Anthem, gave a pipe selection, strathspey and reel. The artists of the vening were Misses Grace Jackson (contralto) and Elsie Westcott (violiniste), and Messrs. Robert Malcolm, Eric Jones and Fred Champion. Songs were rendered and also a duet by Messrs. R. Malcolm and E. Jones. All numbers were greatly appreciated and received encores.

After the first item in the second part, the chief introduced Bro. Heriot, President of the Scottish Union of Victoria, who made the presentation. Bro. Heriot said he was pleased to come to Northcote, especially as he had such a pleasing duty to perform. He congratulated the band on their splendid performance, and gave the following results. For the selection they had gained 180 points, winning by one point; for the quickstep, 173 points (the next band was 165 points); and for the aggregate 353 points were gained, while the second was 340 points. The cups had been won fairly and by points each time. It was the second year the band had won, and besides winning the cups (which were worth £100, there was also a £33 cheque. He then presented the cups to Bro. Telfer, with the hope that the band would hold up its end next year.

The chief, Bro. Telfer, said he was proud to be chief of such a society. They were sending the band to Sydney to compete for the championship of New South Wales and Australia on New Year's Day, and he wished them luck. Bro. Paterson, past chief, said the band was second to none, and he thought it could hold its own even against a real Scottish Band in Scotland. Bro. J. Ackerly was also congratulated. After singing "Auld Lang Syne, members and visitors gathered in the supper room.

Mr. Eric Fox accompanied the artists in his capable manner. The usual dance followed.

The next concert will be held on January 19, 1927, but in January there will be no harmony night.

WALES STREET STATE SCHOOL

THE ANNUAL BREAK-UP.

On Wednesday afternoon the break-up ceremony took place at the above school. All the junior grades were favored by a visit from Father Xmas, and all were handed a gift from the Xmas tree. In the middle grades the prizes for the girls and boys showing the greatest proficiency were awarded and sweets distributed. The higher grades assembled in one room. Messrs Smith, Watson and Henning represented the school committee. The chairman of committee (Mr. Angus McDonald) was unable to be present on account of an injury to his leg. Short addresses were given by the committeemen.

The head teacher (Mr. Osborne) and staff were congratulated on the fine results achieved during the year. The standard set by the school is very high. The results for the year were two scholarships won to the value of £21 each; 48 obtained their merit certificates, and just on 70 received their qualifying certificates. The High School forms have done good work, and a large draft of pupils will be transferred to the Northcote District High School at the beginning of the year. Wales street school had the gratifying pleasure of knowing that the dux of the High School in the first season was won by Dorothy A'Hearn, and the junior sports championship to Mary Frencham. Both transferred from Wales street at the beginning of the year. There was great applause amongst the scholars when this was announced. Altogether a very happy time was spent, many parents being present.

PERSONAL.

Cr. Turner was absent from the Northcote Council on Monday evening, as he was on a business trip to Mildura.

Mr. L. W. Williams, assistant town clerk to the City of Preston, will spend the Xmas holidays in the Wimmera district.

At the meeting of the Northcote Council on Monday evening the town clerk (Mr. J. A. Thomson) was granted leave from January 5 to 19, and Mr. H. C. Ferguson, assistant town clerk, was appointed as acting town clerk during the town clerk's leave.

In last issue a list of Mayors of Northcote from 1853 to 1926 was given, and from that list the name of Cr. B. E. Johnson, J.P., who was Mayor in 1912-13 was omitted. The omission from the list was probably due to the fact that at the time Cr. Johnson went into the chair there had been a lot of ill feeling in the council, and Cr. Bastings, the then Mayor, resigned after having held the Mayoral office for two months. Cr. Johnson was then elected Mayor.

The Earl of Stradbroke, formerly Governor of Victoria, has sent Xmas greetings to the Mayor of Northcote.

Cr. Angus McDonald, of Northcote, has had a recurrence of ill health, and has been ordered by his medical adviser to "go slow." At the meeting of the council on Monday evening, on the motion of Cr. Hayes, it was resolved to send a letter to Cr. McDonald expressing the hope that his health would be better by next council meeting (January 24).

BRICKCARTER ASSAULTED.

AWARDED £28 DAMAGES.

At Northcote court on Tuesday Michael Hogan, brickcarter, sued Geo. Hall, otherwise known as George Rae, for £50 damages as the result of an assault on July 28.

Michael Hogan said he had known defendant under the name of George Rae. On July 28 last witness was going from Northcote to Heidelberg, and stopping, left his team. When he came back he saw a boy pelting stones at his horses. Witness smacked the boy, who ran away. About 6.30 p.m. that night, as witness was driving across a vacant block between Darebin street and Grange road, defendant jumped up on the lorry and hit him with a hard instrument about 18 inches long, and knocked him off the lorry on to the ground. As witness lay on the ground defendant tried to attack him again and witness beat him off with his feet. As witness attempted to rise defendant ran in to attack him, and witness again protected himself with his feet. After the incident witness had several stitches put in his head, and he had to go into a private hospital. He was unable to work for three weeks, and during that time lost £40 in wages. His team was idle and that cost him £3 for three weeks. He had no doubt that defendant was the man who assaulted him.

Cross-examined—The assault took place between 6.15 and 6.30 p.m., and it might have been between 8.30 and 9 p.m. that he went to a doctor. Witness could not recognise defendant definitely on the same night after the assault. The next morning he saw defendant, and was then sure that he was the man.

That was plaintiff's case.

Dr. V. J. Hattam said that on July 28 Hogan came to his place at about 8 p.m. in a dazed condition, and there was an open wound in his forehead. The wound was not bleeding, and did not look as if it had been inflicted that evening. Had the wound been properly attended to, it should have been right in a week. He had received a subpoena to attend and give evidence.

Cross-examined—Hogan could have carried on his work as a brickcarter with the wound on his head. It was quite possible that the wound might have been caused by a hard instrument about 18 inches long.

Hall said he had known Hogan for about 10 years. On July 28, when he came home from work he had tea and then went to his aunt's place, and returned home about 9 p.m. Later Hogan and a constable came along, and Hogan could not then identify him.

Mrs. Hall gave evidence that she was with her husband all the evening on July 28.

The P.M. (Mr. D. Grant) said that the court was of the opinion that the assault had been proved.

Hogan was awarded £13/18/9 for medical expenses and £15 for wages lost. No amount was awarded for pain and suffering or for upkeep of horses.

Costs £2/4/6 were also awarded against Hall.

THE GOWERVILLE.

Friday and Saturday—"On the Go," "Don't." Vaudeville, Lal the musical maid. Matinee, "The Fighting Ranger."

Monday to Wednesday—"The Golden Cocoon," "Fig Leaves."

Thursday to Saturday—"Lights Out," "His Secretary." Vaudeville, "The Six Gladstone Girls."

Special Matinee—Friday. See advt.

THE STAR.

Friday and Saturday—"The Gambling Fool," "The Blind Goddess." Vaudeville, "Lal, the musical maid. Matinee—"The Fighting Ranger."

Monday to Wednesday—"The Fighting Strain," "The Girl Who Wouldn't Work."

Thursday to Saturday—"Riding Double," "The Palm Beach Girl." Vaudeville, the Six Gladstone Girls.

Special matinee Friday. See advt.

UNJUST SCALES

GREENGROCER HEAVILY FINED.

At Northcote court on Tuesday Sydney William Lee, greengrocer, Westgarth street, Northcote, was charged that on November 16 he had in his possession a number of unstamped weights. He was also charged with being in possession of unjust scales.

Mr. C. W. Scheele prosecuted for the Weights and Measures' Union.

Defendant pleaded guilty to both charges.

Norman Henry Jones, inspector of the Weights and Measures' Union, said that on November 16 he went to defendant's place in Westgarth street, and seized a pair of scales. The scales were two ounces against the purchaser without any weights at all. He also seized several weights. A 4lb. weight was 6ozs. out. Weights could be put on the scales in such a way that they would not weigh at all. None of the weights could be stamped, as they were light.

Defendant said he had bought the business only two or three days before the inspector called. The scales had fallen from a waggon a short time before.

To Mr. Scheele—He had not examined the weights when he took over the business.

Defendant was convicted and fined £3 for unstamped weights, and £7 for unjust scales. He was also ordered to pay £2/6/6 costs.

R.S.S.I.L.A.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Northcote branch R.S.S.I.L.A. was held at the Memorial Hall on Wednesday night. There was a large attendance, and Mr. W. S. Pinney, president, presided. The annual report was adopted, of which the following is a precis:—Activities have covered all phases of soldier welfare, knowing no distinction of class or country. There is a tendency of a big majority of returned soldiers to forget that many of their less fortunate comrades at times require assistance. It is the sacred duty of every returned soldier to see to it that the general public do not forget the great sacrifices made and their obligations. The small, but enthusiastic, band of workers who have carried on here are worthy of the highest praise. Direct assistance has been given in 40 cases to the value of £70, and other assistance to the value of £372 has been obtained from State War Council, educational trust fund, United Service fund, and Red Cross funds. Loans have been granted to the value of £20, some of which have been partly repaid; every case dealt with has been personally investigated. Distraint warrants have been dealt with successfully, either by influence of the League or by having part of the debt paid, and in every one of these cases they have made good. Assistance to obtain work has been given, and a number of men have been helped. I may inform you that 95 per cent. of those assisted are not members of the League.

Anzac Day.—Anzac Day was commemorated by service in our Memorial Hall by Rev. Raverty, and many wreaths were placed on the memorial. A service was held at the Town Hall, presided over by the Mayor. The main address was given by General Slattery; the Revs. Raverty, McNicol, Holtham and Major Buiter assisted.

Anzac Appeal.—The Anzac appeal was the most successful appeal this branch has ever undertaken. The ladies of the social committee by their efforts raised £67/17/4. Mr. Blandford made it possible for us to have a picture night at the Regent Theatre, and was the means of raising £40. Mr. Blandford was made an honorary member of the branch. The total raised was £202, the third highest amount of any branch in the State.

Armistice Day.—A service was held at Memorial Hall by Rev. Raverty, where over 70, including the Mayor (Cr. Mayer) attended. Services were held in the evening by Rev. Harris at the Thornbury Presbyterian Church, and a combined service by Revs. Bates, Cole and Holtham at the James Street Presbyterian Church. The Mayor and Mayoress attended, and a collection was taken up at both services in aid of the Poppy Day Appeal.

Poppy Day Appeal.—The results of the Poppy Day Appeal were four times greater than that of last year; £1/2/- was raised by the ladies' social committee. The total amount was £80/13/7. We were again third highest of any branch in the State. The total amount raised in both appeals is the second highest of any branch during the year.

Charities.—We have raised the following amounts for charitable organisations—St. Vincent's Hospital, £4 11/-; Children's Hospital, £27/4/10; Northcote Ladies' Benevolent Fund, £5/15/-; Limbless Soldiers' Appeal, £31/4/1; total, £68/15/2.

Renovations.—The hall was renovated throughout by volunteer labor, due solely to our secretary.

Cricket Club.—A cricket club has been formed and entered in the R.S.L. competition. The club was formed mainly to develop a social spirit within the branch.

Tennis Court.—A tennis court has been built on the land at the rear of the hall. We are going to discuss terms of membership at an early date. The branch has been very forunate in having a reliable, trustworthy and energetic secretary, but the bulk of the members forget that the secretary is human, and that it is his efforts that have kept the branch together; he is worthy of far more support and assistance than he has had. The bank credit is £206/11/1.

In welcoming the Mayor (Cr. Mayer), Mr. Pinney said that the branch at a general meeting unanimously decided to honor the Mayor by making him an honorary associate member of the League. Cr. Mayer has worked hard to further the interests of returned soldiers, and had been instrumental in raising large sums of money for relief and Red Cross funds. During the war no committee was complete without him. It can be truly said of him that, though he was rejected for war service, he fought in the soldiers' cause at home. He was at all times ready to assist us, and we can feel proud of the fact that we have such a loyal gentleman as the first citizen of our municipality. This small badge I trust will be worn and honored by him not only because we esteem and appreciate him, but because he is eligible, and has a right to wear it.

The Mayor in reply said that though he had not been accepted as a soldier, he did all in his power to help the soldiers in Red Cross, welcome and other work. He had been secretary of the Memorial Hall committee, and their efforts were crowned with very great success. The hall was a fitting memorial also to those who had not returned. He thanked members for the honor bestowed on him, which he deeply appreciated, and assured them that the citizens of Northcote could be proud of them and their beautiful hall.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr. Fred. Burns; vice-presidents, Messrs. Tunstall and Hibbert; secretary, Mr. J. Fagan; assistant secretary, Mr. H. Causby; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. Williams; committee, Messrs. W. Hills, W. Trevillian and J. Reid.

OUR WALL CALENDAR FOR 1927.

HANG IT UP TO-DAY!

With this issue we are distributing our bold figure wall calendar for 1927. It will be found extremely useful during the year to come. Subscribers are requested to tack it up in a conspicuous place at once, so it will not become torn or crumpled.

COMMISSION CLAIM

Agent's Case Succeeds on Review.

At Northcote Court on Tuesday, before Mr. D. Grant, P.M., A. McDonald sued Mrs. Pugh for £25 commission on the sale of a house.

Mr. Fazio (instructed by Norris and Norris) appeared for McDonald.

Mr. Fazio said that the case had been heard at the Northcote court, and the case was dismissed. At the Supreme Court the case was referred back to the Northcote Court for rehearing.

A number of defences were raised for the defence.

Angus McDonald, auctioneer, High street, Thornbury, said on July 8 Mrs. Pugh came to his office and said she wanted to sell a house in Shaftesbury Parade. Witness took the particulars on a card (produced). Mrs. Pugh said she wanted £700 nett for the house, and said: "You can charge what you like." Witness said: "The usual commission would be £25." She said she wanted to sell the house on £100 deposit, and £1 per week, without any interest. Witness said: "This is a peculiar way to sell houses." Mrs. Pugh said she did not understand interest. Witness finally agreed to sell the house with interest at 6 per cent. During the next fortnight witness showed several clients the property. Later a farmer came along with £50 deposit and agreed to pay £1 per week and 17/6 per week interest. Mrs. Pugh said she would not accept that, as she wanted to give £100 to Mr. Woods' church. Subsequently Mrs. Pugh came to his office and said she did not want any interest. She agreed to sell the house for £700, with £100 deposit and £1 per week. The following day witness went with his sister-in-law and brother to Mrs. Pugh's house. Witness said that his sister-in-law had decided to buy the house, and to talk over the terms so there would be no misunderstanding afterwards. Mrs. McDonald said: "Are the terms £100 deposit, £1 a week and no interest?" Mrs. Pugh said: "Yes, my dear." Mrs. Pugh also mentioned that the price of the house was £725. When the question of interest was raised, Mrs. Pugh pointed to witness' brother's service badge and said: "We can't do enough for you boys." Mrs. Pugh said she would like to get Mr. Wood to prepare the contract of sale, and witness assented to this. Next day Mr. Wood called at witness' office and said: "I believe you've sold Mrs. Pugh's house?" Witness said: "Yes." Wood said: "You understand there's no commission on the sale?" Witness said: "Yes there is. What am I here for?" Wood had the title to the property. Wood also said he had had luck, as he had a buyer himself. Witness later called on Mrs. Pugh, who said there was no commission to be paid on the sale. Witness said: "There is commission. You said get £700 for the house, and I added £25 to cover the commission." Mrs. Pugh said she had meant that the house was to be sold for £725 cash and £750 terms. Witness said: "I'll waive my commission, but the house is sold." Next day he saw Mrs. Pugh and said her: "I'm told that you say the house is sold to another person." She said "Yes." Witness said: "How did that come about. You know it is already sold." Mr. Pugh said: "Go and see Mr. Wood." Witness now sought to recover his commission, because the sale to his client was not effected.

Cross-examined—When he saw Mrs. Pugh last she said that Mr. Wood had sold the house. Asked the price she said she did not know how much, and that witness would have to see Mr. Wood. A deposit of £5 was paid on July 20. His instructions had been to insist on a deposit of £100 on the sale of the house. At the time the sale had been revoked, he had not received that £100. Mrs. Pugh had not told witness that she could not do anything unless Mr. Wood advised her. The first witness heard of that was when Mrs. Pugh asked that Mr Wood should draw up the contract. Mrs. Pugh had agreed that his commission be £25. He knew Mrs. Pugh attended Holy Trinity Church, and that was Mr. Wood's church, and he took it that Mrs. Pugh wanted to give £100 to that church. The £100 deposit was not paid, but a preliminary deposit of £5 was paid. It was his allegation that Mr. Wood, as Mrs. Pugh's attorney, stepped in and prevented the sale.

Re-examined—When he went to Mrs. Pugh with his sister-in-law and brother, a deposit of £5 was paid, which Mrs. Pugh accepted.

Ivy Florence McDonald, married woman, sister-in-law of plaintiff, said she knew the house in question. On July 20 she inspected a house in Shaftesbury Parade, and subsequently went with plaintiff to Mrs. Pugh. Witness asked if the price of the house was £725, with £100 deposit and £1 per week. Mrs. Pugh said: "Yes." Witness said "Is there no interest?" Mrs. Pugh said: "No." Plaintiff said: "Are you quite willing to pay a deposit?" Witness said: "Yes. I will go and draw £5. Will that be enough?" Mrs. Pugh said "Yes." Plaintiff said to Mrs. Pugh: "You can consider the house sold now for £725, with £100 deposit and £1 per week, with no interest." Mrs. Pugh said: "Yes." Mrs. Pugh asked that the insurance be left in her hands, and also that Mr. Wood be allowed to draw up the contract of sale. She had not proceeded further with the sale.

Cross-examined—She regarded the £5 as a preliminary deposit. She had not paid the balance of £95, as the contract was not signed.

Re-examined—She was ready and willing to go on with the purchase of the house now.

Hugh McDonald, brother of complainant, gave similar evidence.

George Henderson, salesman to Angus McDonald and Co., said he took a deposit of £5 from Mrs. McDonald on account of this house.

Counsel for the defence argued that plaintiff had not an enforceable contract, and that not all the terms of the contract had been agreed to. Before the £95 balance of the deposit was paid, the whole thing had been ended by the vendor. He argued that the agent had not carried out his work; that there was no claim for £25.

Charles William Wood, Christ Church, Essendon, said he was at Holy Trinity Church, Thornbury, five years ago. He had an interview with Mr. McDonald in July and produced to him a power of attorney. When he went to see McDonald, witness said: "I believe you're giving away houses." McDonald said: "What do you mean?" Witness said: "About this place of Mrs. Pugh's." McDonald said: "She is throwing the house in the gutter." Witness said: "What have you done?" McDonald said: "I've sold it to my brother." Witness said: "It didn't take long for you to pick it up out of the gutter." McDonald asked about the contract, and witness said: "Mrs. Pugh did mention something about a contract, and that there was no commission payable." McDonald said: "Mrs. Pugh may be a philanthropist, but I am not." Witness said: "I am here as Mrs. Pugh's attorney, and the sale is off," at the same time producing his power of attorney. McDonald said: "I'll go and see Mrs. Pugh." Witness denied accepting the sale. Witness went to leave, and borrowed a tape from McDonald and measured the frontages of two houses belonging to Mrs. Pugh in Shaftesbury Parade.

Cross-examined—He had had one or two other powers of attorney conferred on him. He was not personally concerned that McDonald was claiming commission. One of the first things he told McDonald in connection with this was that there would be no commission payable. The house had since been sold, and he had introduced the buyer to Mrs. Pugh on July 23. As far as he knew that sale had gone through.

Emma Pugh said she told McDonald she wanted to sell a house in Shaftesbury Parade for £700, and he could get as much more on it as he liked. McDonald said he only wanted his commission, which would be £25. She said she could not do anything until she interviewed Mr. Wood. She did not at any time agree to sell the house to one of McDonald's clients on £50 deposit. She had insisted on £100 deposit and £1 a week with interest. She wanted the £100, as she had promised the money for an altar for the new Church of the Epiphany. She had later agreed to sell the place for £100 deposit and £1 a week for twelve years. When plaintiff's brother and his wife came along to see about the house, plaintiff said that Mrs. Pugh wanted £700, with £100 deposit and £1 a week for twelve years. Mrs. McDonald said: "How about the interest?" Witness said: "I'll make you a present of that." She saw plaintiff's brother was wearing a soldier's badge, and she said: "Poor fellows; we can't do enough for them." Witness did not hear any reference to a £5 deposit, but said she would have to refer the matter to Mr. Wood. After Mr. Wood had been to see plaintiff, plaintiff came to her and said: "Write and tell Mr. Wood I don't want commission."

Cross-examined—She had since sold the house for £700, with £100 deposit and the balance of £600 payable at £1 per week at 6 per cent. The purchaser was introduced by Mr. Wood. She had told Mrs. McDonald she would make her a present of the interest as long as Mr. Wood concerned. She had sold three other houses on £50 deposit and £1 a week for twelve years.

Amy Moore Davey, niece of Mrs. Pugh, said that he heard McDonald say to Mrs. Pugh: "I'm awfully sorry about the commission. The house is for my brother, and I don't want any commission. If you like to give me some afterwards you can, and if not it does not matter." Mrs. Pugh replied: "I can't do anything until I see Mr. Wood."

The P.M.—In this case the agent sues for £25 for sale of house property. The agent was the effective cause of the parties being brought together, and although no agreement was signed, a verbal agreement was arrived at. He felt the power of attorney did not affect the position. He believed the story of plaintiff and his witnesses.

An order was made for £25, the amount claimed, with £4/3/- costs.

BOY SCOUTS.

THE PRESTON TROOP.

Last Saturday we commenced cricket against the Gowerville team, and will conclude the match this Saturday. On Saturday evening last we had outdoor relay running, and finished with indoor games. Next Monday being the last parade of the Wolf cubs for the year, a social will be held. Tuesday evening will be the last parade of the scouts for the year. We have had a busy time in camp preparations, and the motor vans will leave the scout hall on Xmas morning at 8.30. So far as we know this is the largest camp touring party of boy scouts that has been conducted in Australia. We will cover approximately 600 miles in the fortnight. We will stay at Lorne until Tuesday, then proceed via Colac, Camperdown and Cobden to Port Campbell, where we will stay until the following Friday. Then we make for Warrnambool, and stay there nearly a week, returning home via Ballarat. If at all possible we intend to visit Portland, and if it can be managed will go from Warrnambool by boat. The cost, including everything in the way of food and travel, is £2/10/-, and for the older boys £3. If the boys were not at our last Easter camp, when a profit was made, the cost will be 5/- each extra. Thus we are refunding to the Easter camp boys any profit made. From every town we will be visiting we have received letters assuring us of warm welcomes. There will be about 100 boys making the trip, many being prevented from doing so on account of inability to get the necessary holidays. The troop of cubs will not hold any meetings until the camping party return. Steady progress is being made with the bazaar to be held on 24th, 25th and 26th March next. The cubs and scouts will parade as usual this afternoon and evening. A cleaning up and burning off grass at the scout grounds was made last week.

HENDERSON PARK CONTROVERSY.

MAN WHO "DIDN'T WANT TO CRITICISE."

At the meeting of the Northcote Council on Monday a letter was received from Mr. W. T. Thorn, Chrystabel Crescent, Hawthorn, re the recent criticism concerning Henderson's Park, and stating he had no desire to criticise the council, but desired to help on the movement for more playing areas. He believed the Northcote Council was doing good work in this direction.

The letter was received.

TRADERS' ASSOCIATION

FREE GIFTS.

On Friday next (Xmas Eve) thousands of smiling faces are expected in High street. Father Xmas makes his appearance about half-past nine, and will remain till late in the afternoon. His Fairyland on wheels will be on the move all day from one end of High street to the other, and about two thousand toys, handkerchiefs, prize packets and other novelties will be given to the children free. Special facilities for attending to the additional crowds of shoppers that are expected in the street will be provided by the various establishments, and during the coming week, and especially the day preceding Christmas the committee appeal to the public to support their local shopkeepers.

Altogether one hundred and fifty shops displayed gifts in connection with the issue of the special edition of the "Leader" last week. Many of them have been claimed, but there are still some valuable prizes in shop windows for seekers with the correct numbers. In connection with this issue we have received many congratulations from various sources, and so eagerly were the papers sought after that the number kept in the office was inadequate to the extent of nearly a thousand.

MEMBERSHIP STILL GROWING.

The organising secretary reports that there has been a satisfactory increase in the number of members during the week, and undoubtedly the organisation will in the near future play a very important part in the welfare of the shopkeepers of Northcote.

"THE REGENT NEWS."

Next Monday's pictures at the Regent will include Johnnie Hines in "The Brown Derby," and Gaston Glass in "The Call of the Klondike." On Thursday the change of programme brings Norma Shearer's lastst picture, "His Secretary," and in support Jack Hoxie in "The Scrappin' Kid."

GINGER MEGGS AT THE REGENT.

Commencing Monday next, the well known impersonator of that Australian national character, Ginger Meggs, will with his girl be seen every night for a week at the Regent.

GREETINGS FROM THE REGENT.

The management of the Regent wishes all its patrons a very bright and happy Christmas, and everything in the shape of prosperity for the coming year. Also the Regent thanks all patrons for the splendid support they have accorded the theatre during the last twelve months, and assures the people of Northcote that next year's programmes will be better and brighter than ever.

SOUTH MORANG FRACAS.

FRANK WITHERS CONVICTED.

At the Criminal Court on Wednesday before Mr. Justice Dixon and a jury, Frank Withers, 20 years, driver, Moreland street, Footscray, was charged with assaulting Edward Buckley, driver, Holden street, North Fitzroy, and with having caused him actual bodily harm.

The case for the prosecution was that on Sunday morning, October 10, Buckley drove a char-a-banc to the South Morang Hotel, and after having lunch he walked out of the side gate of the yard. He remembered no more until he regained consciousness in St. Vincent's Hospital. Seven stitches had been inserted in a cut 2½ inches long in his head, and he was suffering from concussion of the brain. The assault was seen by Mrs. Nellie Eaton from the pantry window. She saw accused, who had a picket in his hand, approach Buckley and strike him on the head, felling him to the ground. Accused struck a second blow, and Mrs. Eaton then ran out to Buckley's assistance. As she was approaching Withers struck Buckley again. There were several men near, but none came to the assistance of either Buckley or Mrs. Eaton. She struggled with accused and took the picket from him. Accused was taken to a char-a-banc, but the police patrol overtook the char-a-banc on the Whittlesea road. Withers denied having assaulted Buckley, and said Mrs. Eaton was making a mistake in identifying him.

Buckley corroborated this statement, and in cross-examination said that he did not know there was a fight in progress. He was sober and saw no one at the time he was struck. He had not seen accused at any time that day. He denied being in the fight, or being armed with a swingletree.

Accused, on oath, denied the assault. He said that he remained in the char-a-banc all the time, and took no part in the fight, but all the other members of his party were concerned in it. One of the party had the picket in his hand, and another took it from him. He got out of the char-a-banc to tell the others that the police were coming.

Other witnesses supported accused's version.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and accused was remanded for sentence.

YALLOURN STRIKE

POWER AND LIGHT MAY BE CUT OFF IN NORTHCOTE.

Beginning on Monday, Dec. 20.

Mr. J. A. Thomson, town clerk of Northcote City Council, notifies that failing a settlement of the Yallourn dispute, electric current will be cut off on Monday, Wednesday and Friday next week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; also on Wednesday and Friday, December 29 and 31, and on Tuesday and Thursday, January 4 and 6.

On Wednesday afternoon power was cut off for about two hours in Northcote, and caused considerable annoyance and loss. This is just a foretaste of what may happen next week.

It has been affirmed that had Sir Christopher Wren been conversant with the principles underlying the application of concrete we should not be faced with the reconstruction of the supports of the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral to-day.

NORTHCOTE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

FIRST BREAK-UP CONCERT.

The first "break-up concert" was held on Monday evening last. There was a very fine attendance. Mr. Kitson, the head teacher, and staff are to be complimented on the fine performances of the pupils. The programme was lengthy, but every item was appreciated. The singing by the choir was a revelation, considering the short time the school has been in existence, and with the same training we can always look forward to having something of a high order in the future concerts of the school. The folk dancing was of a very graceful nature, the dresses being quaint and representative of the characters. Miss Allison Kitson is to be complimented on the efficient and artistic training the pupils received at her hands. The physical display by the girls and boys was undoubtedly the best placed before a Northcote audience for some time, and shows that physical development is well looked after. The head teacher and staff and School Council deeply appreciate the generous help received from Miss Kate Hicking, Miss O. Bardwell, Miss Iris Jones, Mr. E. Granger, Mr. A. Douglas and Master Ridley Bryan. At the interval, Mr. Frank Tate, M.A., Director of Education, was introduced by Mr. Kitson, who said how pleased he was to have the Director present. In reply Mr. Tate congratulated the school on its fine work during the year under such adverse circumstances, not being in suitably equipped buildings. He urged the pupils who had just completed their first year's work to remember that they are the pioneers of the school, and if such satisfactory results had been obtained under the present circumstances, how much better results should be gained when they were housed in their new school building, which he hoped would not be long in the course of erection. Mr. Tate stressed the fact that it was up to the parents to give their children the best they could in the way of education, and to do their best, even if it meant self-denial to endeavor to give them a high school course at least up to the Intermediate certificate, if not to the leaving certificate. It would not be fair to the child or to the school just to allow children to go to the High School until 14 years and then take them away. It would be better for a child not to have attended a High School for 12 months and then be withdrawn, as his education would be far from finished. Under good circumstances it would have been better to have let them finish their elementary course up to the eighth grade, when they would have had a thoroughly rounded off elementary education. He mentioned the fact that he knew dozens of prominent lawyers, barristers, judges, engineers, clergymen, whom he knew as boys attending State schools, who had continued on. As the result of their own efforts they to-day held high positions in the State and Commonwealth. The High School was the avenue to enter on the road to efficiency and progress, and through which many desirable positions opened up to those having passed through. One pleasing feature was the united and sympathetic way in which the head teachers of the elementary schools had co-operated in helping to make the Northcote District High School what it is to-day. Although not large in numbers at present, yet from the schools in the district the brightest and most intelligent pupils had been prepared to take their place as the foundation scholars of the school. It was owing to this fine spirit shown by Mr. Bromilow, Mr. Hughes and Mr. Osborne and others that the future prospects of the success of the High School was assured. He also congratulated the Northcote district on its fine group of elementary schools, which was second to none in the metropolitan area. (Applause.) He knew the people of the district were keen on education, and trusted the time would not be far distant when the technical school, so long sought for, would be an accomplished fact, and thereby make the educational facilities complete in the district. It also gave him much pleasure in presenting the prizes awarded for the year.

The prize winners were—

Dux of School.—Girl: Marjorie Ahern (Miss Forster's prize); boy: Fred. Wiltshire (head master's prize). Dux prizes—Boy: Shakespeare in morocco, Tennyson in morocco. Girl: Shakespeare in morocco, Longfellow in morocco.

Sports Champions.—Senior boy, George Bolwell; senior girl, Evelyn Gould. Junior boy, Walter Perry; junior girl, Mary Frencham. Each received an inscribed gold medal.

At the conclusion of Mr. Tate's address the Mayor of Northcote (Cr. Phil Mayer, J.P.) tendered a hearty vote of thanks to the Director for his visit, and also for his interest in the new High School. Everything had now been done by the councils in the district in regard to their responsibilities, and it only remained for the Minister of Education to complete the work, and in the very near future he hoped to have the pleasure of seeing the bricks and mortar on the site. He also had much pleasure in including in the vote of thanks Mr. Kitson and the Misses Kitson for the work they had so successfully undertaken in training the pupils in the folk dancing, and in the designing and preparing of the costumes of those taking part; also to the visitors for their assistance in the respective items rendered.

Miss Forster, first assistant teacher, on behalf of the girls, presented Mrs. Kitson with an artistic crystal vase as a token of appreciation of the great interest taken by her in helping in preparing the items for the evening.

The programme was brought to a close by a one act play entitled "The Dear Departed." Those responsible for the cast were—Gwen Nichols, Carmen Major, Hannah Stevens, H. Clinnick, S. Proctor, F. Wiltshire. This item was greatly enjoyed, judging by the expressions of mirth during the whole of the act.

At the present time concrete is figuring largely in landscape gardening. The inflated cost of stone and the difficulty of obtaining efficient labour, has resulted in many imitations, and we now produce concrete crazy paving, sundials, bird baths, garden paths, edging, steps, terraces, garden seats, and rollers, and even concrete balustrades of intricate design.

WHERE TO GO

PROGRAMME

for Friday and Saturday and Saturday Matinee:

Gowerville

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, DEC. 17 & 18

Master Pictures—
"On the Go"
(Buffalo Bill Jnr.)

Metro-Goldwyn—
"Don't"
(Sally O'Neill)

VAUDEVILLE—
LAL
The Musical Maid

At the Matinee Saturday
"The Fighting Ranger"

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, December 20, 21, 22
Master Pictures
"The Golden Cocoon"

Fox presents—
"Fig Leaves"
(George O'Brien)

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, December 23, 24, 25
Master Pictures—
"Lights Out"

Metro-Goldwyn—
"His Secretary"
(Norma Shearer)

VAUDEVILLE—
THE 6 GLADSTONE GIRLS
Refined Entertainment

Special Matinee Friday, December 24th, at 2.30
Full Programme, including
"The Fighting Ranger"
Also REACO
Australia's Premier Bird and Animal Mimic.

The Star

FRIDAY & SATURDAY DEC. 17 & 18

Mutual—
"The Gambling Fool"
(Franklyn Farnham)

Paramount—
"The Blind Goddess"

Vaudeville—
LAL
THE MUSICAL MAID

At the MATINEE Saturday
"The Fighting Ranger"

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 21, 22
Selznic—
"The Fighting Strain"

Paramount—
"The Girl Who Wouldn't Work"
(Marie de la Motte)

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Dec. 23, 24, 25
Selznic—
"Riding Double"
(Leo Maloney)

Paramount—
"The Palm Beach Girl"
(Bebe Daniels)

VAUDEVILLE—
THE 6 GLADSTONE GIRLS
Refined Entertainment

Special Matinee Friday, December 24th, at 2.30
Full Programme, including
"The Fighting Ranger"
and REACO
Australia's Premier Bird and Animal Mimic.

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Now is the time for that Painting and Renovations to your home. Call and inspect our large stock of General Painting and Papering Requisites. We will cheerfully estimate the quantities you need, and give any advice or help needed.

NOTE A FEW OF OUR PRICES.

Ferguson's White Lead, 67/- per cwt.; Meggitt's Pure Linseed Oil, 5/- per gallon; Mill White, 4lb. tins, 2/9 and 7lb. tins 4/9; Stag-white, 4lb. tins 2/6, 7lb. tins 1/6; Zotena, 7lb. tins 4/9; Ferguson's A.F. Ready Mix Paints, 5/6 7lb. tin. Kalsomine, 1/6 per packet Calcimo, 2/6 per pkt. Ceiling and Wallpapers, from 6d roll. Enamelled Sanitas, 2/3 per yard.

CHAMPION WHITE LEAD, BLUNDELL & SPENCE'S and B.O.C. ENGLISH LINSEED OIL, Glass, Brushware, Enamels, Stains, Glass and Oil and Varnish always in stock.

Agents for Berger's Ready Mix Paints, Varnishes, Stains and Enamels.

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MADDEN AND CANDY, Solicitors and Conveyancers, "The Olderfleet," (First Floor), No. 475 Collins Street. Telephone—Central 196. Local office at 115 High St., Northcote South, where Mr. R. Candy attends Monday mornings from 9 to 10, and Wednesday Evenings from 7 to 8.15. C. R. Candy—Private address: 4 Merton Av., Ivanhoe. Telephone: Ivanhoe 483.

HOME AND WILKINSON, Solicitors, Conveyancers, etc. Commercial Union Chambers, 413 Collins St., Melbourne, and at No. 323 High St., Preston. Hours of attendance at Preston—Monday and Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Tels.—Central 853, Cent. 1807J.

W. R. VALE, Barrister and Solicitor, Conveyancer and Proctor, "Whitehall," Bank Place, Melbourne. Tel.: Central 3302. Private address—"Wyuna," 40 Darling Street, Alphington. Attends Northcote Police Court.

S. R. ROE, Solicitor, etc., 192 High St., Northcote (opp. Town Hall). 'Phone Northcote 2118, where he resides and may be consulted at any time. Loans effected; debts collected. Visits Preston (296 High St.) every Wednesday 9.30 a.m. or by appointment.

FRANK BRENNAN AND CO., Solicitors, Yorkshire House, 20 Queen St., Melbourne. Trust Money Awaiting Investment. Tels.: 7097, 7098.

R. R. GRAY, LL.B. BARRISTER & SOLICITOR. 57 James St., Northcote (six doors east of Public Library. Tel. Northcote 156. City Office—Chancery House (ground floor), 440 Little Collins St., Melbourne. Tel. Central 8818.

NICHOLAS O'DONOHUE, Barrister and Solicitor, Capitol House, Collins street, Melbourne, may be consulted each evening at his address, corner Hutton and Stott Sts., Thornbury (opp. Thornbury Station), and at Preston, High street (opp. P.O.), on Wednesday evenings, 7.30 to 9 p.m., and Reservoir, High street, Tuesday evenings, 7.30 to 8.30 p.m. 'Phones C11197; private, Northcote 1329. Money to lend on mortgage.

NORRIS AND NORRIS, Barristers and Solicitors, A. J. Norris, L.L.B.; Ewart F. Norris, Commissioner for taking affidavits. City Office—Bank of New Zealand Chambers, 349 Collins Street. Northcote Office—682 High Street. Preston Office—Star Theatre Buildings, High Street. 'Phones—Central 2542. Private: Northcote 1493, Ivanhoe 269.

GEOFFREY F. WRIGHT, BARRISTER & SOLICITOR, 94-98, Queen Street, City. Visits the office of A. A. Leahy and Co., 901 High Street, Northcote, on Wednesday Evenings, 7.30 to 9.30. 'Phones: F3712; Northcote 149.

KATHLEEN M. WALSH, Barrister and Solicitor, 1 Mary St., Hawthorn. Consultations any evening. City office—17 Queen St., Melbourne. Trust Moneys to Lend. Attends Northcote Court.

P. J. RIDGWAY & SCHILLING, BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS, 274 HIGH STREET, PRESTON. Phone—Northcote 1347. Hours—Mondays and Fridays, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., or by appointment with Mr. F. Ludlow, Estate Agent. TRUST MONEYS TO LEND. Builders' second mortgages discounted. City Offices—60 Queen St., Melbourne.

YOUR Xmas Dinner.—Don't miss this chance to get Geese, Ducks, and Fowls. Auction sale well known "All-Bell" Poultry Farm, Saturday, December 18, 2 p.m. LLEWELLYN JONES, auctioneer. Phone N'cote 9.

THE REGENT

WHERE QUALITY REIGNS

High Street, Thornbury.

Direction: F. W. THRING.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY
Johnnie Hines in "The Brown Derby"
Gaston Glass in
"The Call of the Klondike"

ALL THE WEEK
"Stud & Iris"
"Ginger Meggs & His Girl"

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY
Norma Shearer in "His Secretary"
Jack Hoxie in "The Scrappin' Kid"

Charles Vita and the Regent Concert Orchestra.
Prices as Usual. Box Plan at Theatre. Phone N'cote 1782
No Extra Charge for Booking

Start the New Year Well.

COME TO THE NEW YEAR'S DAY

ANNUAL MONSTER PICNIC

(PROCEEDS IN AID OF CHARITIES)

To be held as usual in the

YAN YEAN RESERVOIR RESERVE.

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SPORTS! SPORTS!

WEST KINGLAKE RECREATION GROUND.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1927.

Log Chops and Races for all. Sports start at 1 p.m. sharp. Entries close on JANUARY 31, 1927. Refreshments on Ground.

DANCE TO FOLLOW AT NIGHT. Good Floor and Music.
G. COOMBS, Secretary.

TOWN HALL, PRESTON.

TUESDAY NEXT, DECEMBER 21.

Physical Culture and Dancing. Display
BY PUPILS OF
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CROXTON METHODIST CHURCH.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, At 7 p.m.
Soloist—MR. ALFRED BROADLEY
Preacher—PASTOR DAVEY.

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119 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE
(Two Doors from Elm Street).

Hall available for Weddings, Parties, Clubs, etc.
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CATERING DONE. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.
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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

IVANHOE.

REGISTERED under the Board of Education, and one of the Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria.

The school is situated in the spacious grounds of Ivanhoe House. Modern Classrooms, and every helpful adjunct for a complete and happy education have been provided. Boys are prepared for the University or commercial life. There is a strong permanent staff, with expert instruction in special subjects, such as drawing, etc. A unique home for country boarders.

Prospectus on application to the Head Master.
REV. SYDNEY BUCKLEY, M.A., Th.L., Assoc. of Bankers' Institute, Aus.
Telephone—Ivanhoe 119.

CHURCH NEWS.

Notices for this column must be on hand on Wednesday mornings.

Church of Epiphany.

At evensong on Sunday at the Church of the Epiphany, Northcote, there will be a special Xmas service. The choir will render special anthems and carols.

Croxton Methodist Church.

Croxton Methodists are celebrating the Christmas season by a musical service next Sunday evening, which is to be preceded by community singing of appropriate hymns at 6.45 p.m. Mr. Alfred Broadley, the visiting tenor soloist, will sing "I have made of my heart a temple" and "King over Glorious," and the choral numbers for the service are Mozart's "Gloria" and "God from on high hath heard," by Turner. In closing the 1926 series of monthly musical services the choir and church officers wish to thank all those folk of the neighborhood who by their attendance and kindly appreciation have encouraged the musicians and made possible some particularly fine services.

Bonesails of a number of collectors' licenses were granted at Northcote Court on Tuesday.

Wanted.

BRICKLAYER.—E. MEDLIN, 11 Martin St., can cure your smoky chimney or copper, or build you a new one. Workmanship guaranteed. Material supplied.

DRESSMAKING and all kinds of Sewing and Renovations. Satisfaction guaranteed. Mrs. A. Whyte, 65 May St., Preston, late Reservoir.

GARDENING, all branches, 10/- day or contract; workmanship guaranteed. George, 17 Turnbull Grove, Northcote.

WOMAN, experienced, wants washing, ironing, half days weekly; good refs. "Reliable," "Leader" office, Northcote.

WOMAN wants above, private family; week-ends excepted; Northcote district; room self. "L.M." c/o 291 High St., Northcote.

WE require on First Mortgage at 7½ per cent. and 8 per cent. sums of £500 and £600 on new houses in Northcote and Preston. Every loan secured and guaranteed. Invest in your own district. O'DONOHUE & BREW, Solicitors, Capitol House, Swanston St., Melbourne. F3213.

For Sale.

BUTCHER'S Cart, strong movable top, and jinker. First offer. E. Shakespeare, butcher, cnr. Clyde and Wales Sts., Northcote.

DUCKS, Geese, Turkeys, Fowls; prime and cheap. Pine Ville Poultry Farm, Cnr. Darebin and Station Sts., Fairfield.

FURNITURE, Poultry, etc., is best sold at HOOPER'S NORTHCOTE AUCTION ROOMS, 336 High Street (opp. Henderson's, Butcher). Goods sold at auction and privately. Large Premises for Display of Goods. We send our own waggon anywhere. Prompt settlements. Northcote 946.

JINKER, hood, hickory, B.T. brake, lamps, strong; must sell; harness. Home mornings, 65 Arthurton road, Northcote.

PIANO Box Buggy, Rubber tyres. Black Mare, smart and showy; trial given; bargain £36. Bainbridge, 3 West St., Preston.

YOUNG Ducks for Xmas; cheap. 5 Montague St., Sth. Preston.

W. AYLWARD,
(Late R. Bailey),
ESTATE OFFICES—104 HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

TO LET.
SHOPS.
Northcote, Charles St. Rent 15/-

HOUSES.
Eltham, 6 min. station and electric train service—7-roomed house, E.L., dairy, fowl houses, stabling, garage, and 1¼ acres. Suit poultry farmers. Rent 30/-, or sell deposit £50; balance as rent; price £750.
Barry St.—5 rooms, garage; 30/-

FOR SALE.
Northcote, house, 4 rooms, £625.
Northcote, house, 6 rooms, £720.
Clifton Hill, house, 5 rooms, stabling for 2, £800. Deposit £50.
North Fitzroy, s.f. brick house, 6 rooms, £985. Deposit £100.
Upwards of 200 properties to select from at prices from £650.
Terms arranged, with moderate deposits.
Rents Collected.
Estate Offices:—104 High St., Northcote. Established over 40 years.
'Phone—Northcote 576.

Wanted to Buy.

STERLING SOAP COMPANY, Pty. Ltd., South Preston. Buyers of Household Fat in any quantities. 5/- per tin. Ask your Grocer for STERLING SOAP.

BOTTLES, Bones, Rags, Zinc, Lead, Brass and Copper. Highest price given. Cash on Delivery. Letters receive prompt attention. H. Bishop, Darebin Rd., Northcote. 'Phone 262.

Lost.

LOST in Preston last Friday, Engagement Cluster Ring, 2 stones missing. Reward. 24 Bond St., Preston.

XMAS AND NEW YEAR WINES.

Secure your supplies of Xmas wine from
A. ONGARELLO & CO.,
AN XMAS SPECIAL.
Large glass of Wine Shandy, on the ice. Beautiful cooling drink, 3d.
Note Address:—
CNR. HIGH ST. AND ARTHURTON ROAD, NORTHCOTE.

The former is, therefore, gauged in various sizes in order to reduce the possibilities of voids and "pockets" to a minimum, and the latter, which is composed of sharp sand and Portland cement acts as a filling medium. Thus, crushed stone, clean sand, and cement form one of the strongest concretes known.

We are now able to manufacture concrete kerbs, tiles, and bricks at a fraction of their former cost, and retain all the pleasing attributes of the originals. Facing bricks can be so closely imitated as to necessitate an expert's opinion to distinguish between the original and the copy.

BOWLING

THE THORNBURY CLUB.

Thornbury did the "hat trick" last Saturday, all three teams registering good wins, but unfortunately this state of affairs only happens in spasms. The A team defeated Flemington on the Flemington green, and in a sense were lucky to win, although they finished up with a margin of 18 points. This was mainly due to the fine win recorded by Frencham's rink, who simply ran all over their opponents, scoring no less than 41 points to 12. At one stage they were 24 to 3. Forth's rink was the only other rink to win; they had a surplus of 6 points, 30 to 24. Sharp's quartette did nothing else but chase their opponents all the afternoon; at no stage did they get within striking distance and finished up 5 points down, 25 to 30. The fourth rink, skippered by Whalley, had much the same fate as Sharp's rink; they were never in the picture from start to finish. As a matter of fact if it had not been for the fact that this rink scored two threes in the last two ends, and Sharp did likewise at the 25th end, Thornbury would have been in trouble. On paper both Sharp's and Whalley's rinks look the goods, but they have not struck form; the other two rinks skippered by Forth and Frencham have had to pull the games out of the fire nearly every Saturday. At all events the members of the A team feel confident that the whole four rinks will come into their own from now on. The final scores were—Thornbury 113, Flemington 95.

The No. 1 C team still go on their way rejoicing. Last Saturday they defeated a strong combination from Fairfield. Fairfield have not got an A team this season. Their A team dropped into the B section, and the B team then became the C team, but in spite of this Thornbury finished well ahead at the 25th end. The final scores were—Thornbury 87, Fairfield 59. Warren's rink again played well, beating Hill's rink by 16 points, 31 to 15. Warren's rink has not been defeated this season, having won all seven matches. Allen's rink also had a good win by 9 points, scoring 33 to 24 against Williamson. Allen's rink has not been defeated this season, but their record only shows six wins, having tied on one occasion. Weate's rink also won, scoring 23 to 20 against Brownlee. This rink's record is as follows—6 wins, 1 defeat, so that it will be seen that Thornbury's No. 1 C team is are in great fettle, and should give a good account of themselves in the finals.

The No. 2 C team is also going splendidly. They have only lost two matches this season, and occupy second place in their section. Last Saturday they were at home to Caulfield Park, whom they beat by 10 points, two out of the three rinks winning, namely Williams and Mahoney; the other rink, skippered by Whitechurch, got it where the chicken got the axe. Mahoney's rink did best, scoring 28 to 14 against Jack's rink. Williams also did splendidly, this being his initial try at skippering. His rink scored 28 to 16. The third rink, skippered by Whitechurch was completely outplayed, the figures being 31 to 15 against them. The final scores were—Thornbury 71, Caulfield Park 61.

To-day's fixtures are as follows—The A team plays South Melbourne, at South Melbourne, the latter winning by one point in the first round. The No. 1 C team is at home to Prahran, and the No. 2 C team meets City of Camberwell, at Camberwell.

Entries are now being received for the Pairs Tournament, electric light. A start will be made immediately after the holidays. Members' attention is also directed to the gymkhana to be held during the Xmas and New Year holidays. It will depend on the number of entries whether these tourneys will take place.

THE PRESTON CLUB.

A RED LETTER DAY.

A great day in the history of the club was Saturday, December 11. All teams in A and C pennants won their games, and to complete the joy the ladies also won their match during the week. In section 2, C pennant, our C 1's still hold their place with Middle Park and Elsternwick in the lead. The results speak for themselves, and we can only conclude by congratulating all concerned. The two outstanding performances were Fred Pike, jun., and Straede's rinks. In the C 1's all rinks registered a win.

A PENNANT.

Preston 102; South St. Kilda 89.—Henshaw 22, Leith 23; Ross 17, Thorpe 25; Sinclair 28, Bennett 21; Pike, sen., 35, Grinlington 20.

C PENNANT.

Preston C 1's 90; Canterbury 63.—Howe 29, Ryall 26; Pollock 24, Jolliffe 17; Straede 37, Horwood 20.

Preston 2nd 90, Hawthorn 49.

PENNANT FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 18

A's—Surrey Hills v. Preston, at Preston. C 2's—Moreland v. Preston 2's, at Moreland; C 1's will play a friendly at home with Alphington C 1's.

TEAMS FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 18.

A Pennant.—Appleton, Cohen, Burgess, Pike sen. Harvey, Condie, Broadhurst, Sinclair. Crispe sen., Siddons, Morgan, Ross. White, Pike jun., Wearne, Henshaw.

C 1's will play same as Saturday 11. C 2's.—Tribe, Kirk, C[illegible]hew, Crow, Welch, Binney, Wilby, Saunger. Goodfellow, Attyeo, G. Pike, Bellyeald.

LADIES' BOWLING CLUB.

I am afraid I have about used up all the nice words in my appreciation of the ladies' bowls, but again I have to say "Well played" and "congratulations" on beating Middle Park. For a new team to win six out of nine matches in their first year of bowls is indeed a triumph. A word about the enthusiasm of the teams. To hear the ladies' supporters of the teams and the teams themselves barrack and enthuse the teams on to victory is an education. A great spirit of loyalty exists, and with that they will go a long way.

PRESTON 36, MIDDLE PARK 32.

Mrs. Howe, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Henshaw, Mrs. Burgis 16 v. Mrs. Ault, Mrs. Plant, Mrs. Tarrish, Mrs. Hunter 16.

Mrs. Binney, Mrs. Attyeo, Mrs. Siddons, Mrs. Appleton 20 v. Mrs. Whittacker, Mrs. Gilbert, Mrs. Armfield, Mrs. Cox, 16.

LADIES' CHAMPIONSHIP.

The final of the first Ladies' Championship was held during the week. Two very popular ladies fought out the final—Mrs. W. Howe, wife of our president, and also president of the Ladies' Club, and Mrs. Bert. Henshaw, wife of an old and esteemed member and committeeman. The two ladies had evidently been well coached for, after an exciting game, Mrs. Howe became the first lady champion by 1 point. The congratulations of all club members are extended to the new champion, and also to the runner-up on the splendid fight put up by her.

V.B.A. LADIES' PAIRS.

Two pairs teams, captained by Mrs. Appleton and Mrs. Henshaw respectively entered for this competition. Mrs. Appleton and her partner met the redoubtable Mrs. Winter and partner, and after a great go lost by two. This was a very good performance. Mrs. Henshaw and partner won to the sixth round and only just lost. This was a great performance, and speaks highly of the calibre of the bowls played. You have more than justified yourselves, ladies.

FRIENDLY GAMES.

Last Tuesday night we had the pleasure of entertaining six rinks from our old friends and neighbors—Thornbury. We also congratulate them on wins in all sections last Saturday. An enjoyable evening was spent, as it is always with these good sports, with the following results:—

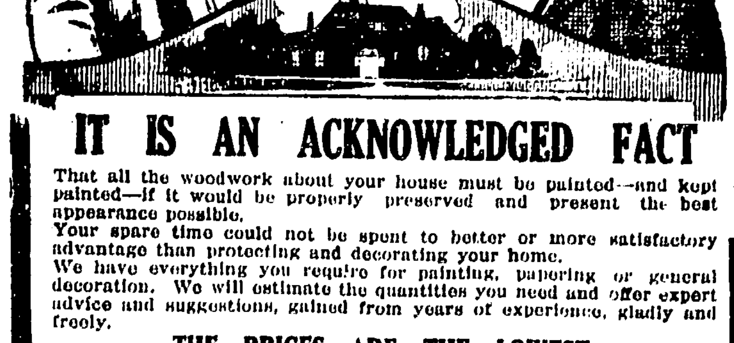
PRESTON 132, THORNBURY 103.

Howe 16 v. Whalley 19; Pollock 19 v. Allen 18; Pike jun. 32 v. Crawley 8; Sinclair 32 v. Warren 14; Salunger 22 v. Berryman 19; Pike sen. 11 v. Weate 25.

Games Ahead.—Last pennant match for 1926 next Saturday.

A MERRY XMAS.

The members of A pennant will entertain the other members of the club on Tuesday night December 21. All arrangements to be made by A skippers. This is an innovation with the purpose of wishing that goodwill that the season engenders. So roll up and keep alive that splendid spirit which already prevails, and with which we wish to close the year.



IT IS AN ACKNOWLEDGED FACT

That all the woodwork about your house must be painted—and kept painted—if it would be properly preserved and present the best appearance possible.
Your spare time could not be spent to better or more satisfactory advantage than protecting and decorating your home.
We have everything you require for painting, papering or general decoration. We will estimate the quantities you need and offer expert advice and suggestions, gained from years of experience, gladly and freely.

THE PRICES ARE THE LOWEST.

These few lines here picked at random will give you an idea of the lowness of the prices now ruling at Pridgeon's.

PAINTS, ETC.

FERGUSSON'S WHITE LEAD	67/- cwt.
AUSTRALIAN RAW LINSEED OIL	5/- gal.
CALCIMO	2/6 pkt.
MIRROR BRAND READY MIXED PAINT	13/- gal.
FRESCOLINE COLD WATER PAINT	1/10 pkt.
MILL WHITE	7lb. tins, 4/9
3in. BRISTLE BRUSHES	from 2/-

AGENT FOR RICKSHA PAINTS, GOODLASS WALL PAINTS, ETC, BERGER'S PAINTS, TAUBMAN'S STAINS, ETC., MAJORA PAINTS, ETC.

WALLPAPERS, ETC.

WALLPAPERS	From 4d Roll.
SANITAS ENAMELLED CLOTH	2/3 yard.

Call in to-day and select your needs. Remember it's an acknowledged fact that good paint preserves, and it is also an acknowledged fact that PRIDGEON'S is the best-value store for Paint and Wallpapers.

PRIDGEON'S

PAINT AND WALLPAPER STORE,
391 High Street, Northcote
Phone N'cote 163

FOR THE LADIES

LADY'S FROCK.

Printed and bordered silks are extremely fashionable just now, and very dainty. Every woman who aspires to the heights of fashion will see to it that she has frocks or patterned and bordered fabrics included in her outfit this summer. Bordered crepe de chines, of incomparable beauty and of generous width indeed, printed georgettes too, as light as the wing of a butterfly, French silk ninons; all these can be obtained at so reasonable a figure that charming gowns may be made at home at infinitesimal cost. Then, too, those requiring utility tub frocks are equally well catered for, and will surely find something to charm and please among the multitudinous designs and shades now offering in washing silks, Fuji, voiles, and other washable fabrics. The design we are showing for this week is an ideal frock for warm

weather wear, just the thing for tubbing, and very simple to make up. It is particularly suited to making up in wide borders, or patterned goods, in either silk or cotton. The frock is cut on simple Magyar lines, and has "cut in" sides, giving the required fullness at the sides. A narrow sash of contrast silk or ribbon is slipped through slots at each side of front, and is worn tied loosely at the back. A long tie to match the sash forms the trimming at the front. The small sketch marked No. 2 shows the dress made up in plain material; the sides are arranged in rows of shirring, and a narrow collar finishes the neck. The collar is optional to either frock, and may be omitted or not as desired. The pattern is No. 2584, price 8d., for medium size fittings, and can be purchased from any of the agents listed elsewhere in this issue.

UGLY MAN CONCERT.

SUCCESSFUL FINISH.

The counting of votes and declaration of the poll of the Ugly Man Competition in connection with the building fund of the Church of the Epiphany, took place on Monday evening last in the Parish Hall. Messrs. Wanless and Moorman acted as scrutineers, and the vicar as returning officer.

Mr. A. E. Emery, the church choirmaster, was declared the winner, having received 1,800 votes, followed by Messrs. Kennard and Cox, who each received over 1,000 votes. The other candidates in their order were Messrs. Burmelster, Gunst and Barson. The Rev. Mr. Cole, in congratulating the winner, referred to the pleasant social evenings they had all enjoyed in connection with the competition, the financial results of which brought the fete takings to well over £300. Mr. Emery was presented with a duographic etching of Archbishop Lees as a memento of the occasion.

Mr. Emery paid a glowing tribute to the work of Miss Isabel Lees, who had acted as his secretary for the event, and without whose assistance he would not have been the winner of the Ugly Man Competition.

Presentations were also made to Miss Isabel Lees and Miss B. Metcher for their work in the competition; also to Masters Albert Lowe and Hugo Holmes for obtaining the most votes for their candidates.

A programme was rendered during the evening by local artists. Mr. Emery's overture was well received; Miss B. Cohen was enthusiastically encored for her vocal number; Miss E. McPherson in humorous elocutionary items was at her best, "That Piece of Banana Peel" causing endless laughter; Miss D. Wyatt rendered her song, "To a Miniature," in such a charming manner that she had to respond with an encore; Mrs. Court had to give three numbers before the audience were satisfied, "Christina's Lament" being outstanding; Miss Mavis Kruger delighted all with two character numbers. Mr. V. Cox (accompanied by Master D. Cox) rendered "A Chip of the Old Block," and his encore number in a pleasantly breezy manner. Miss Ella Franzi, in both her dramatic and humorous recitals, was up to her usual high standard. The Misses I. and C. Lees produced "Shattered Nerves," a playlet which was perfectly acted, and enthusiastically received by the audience. Miss D. Lees, a young lady with a charmingly sweet voice, sang "The Songs of Childhood" in an accomplished manner. Mr. Roy Riches selected as a character representation "The Return of Quilp from the Dead," in which he once again demonstrated his histrionic ability in a very difficult representation, and for which he received the plaudits of the audience. Miss Wyatt and Mrs. Court, in a duet, "The Barcarolle," were a very pleasing item.

Votes of thanks to the artists and workers in the competition, on the call of the vicar, Messrs. Swift and Wanless, terminated the evening and closed the competition.

There are 250 railway stations within a six-mile radius of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, while there are nearly 400 within a twenty-mile radius.

WEDDING.

WATSON—HAY.

The marriage of Miss Marion Hay, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hay, of Preston, with Mr. James Alexander Watson, of Bell, was celebrated at the Presbyterian Church, Heidelberg, on December 4, by the Rev. Jones. The bride wore ivory georgette, with the bodice cut on long slim lines, the hem of which was beautifully worked in V shapes with two rows of looped satin ribbon. At the waist a diamente and pearl ornament, from which was suspended a diamente tassel, gave the frock a regal appearance, and ties, from which a pearl and diamente tassel was suspended from the shoulders down the back. Her veil was held in place by a coronet of orange blossoms and a swathing of silver tissue. The train of ivory crepe de chine, underlined with shell pink and beautifully embossed in silver, was carried by two diminutive trainbearers, Dorothy and Gladys Hay, wearing white crepe de chine, piped with silver tissue and trimmed with rows of silver lace. Frocks of apricot georgette, with an unevenly peaked hem, and daintily embossed in light tonings, with gold ribbon caught from the shoulder and gracefully hanging in loops to the waistline, and blue georgette, with silver, were worn respectively by the two bridesmaids—Miss Amelia Cook and Miss Jean Rae. Mrs. Hay, mother of the bride, chose a handsome frock of dark crimson brown crepe de chene, with tonings of fawn let in in circles. Mrs. Watson, mother of the bridegroom, wore an attractive frock of black marocain embossed in black and gold. Mr. Bruce Watson (brother of the bridegroom) and Mr. Alec. Bransgrove supported the bridegroom as best man and groomsman. After their honeymoon the young couple will make their home in Ballarat.

PRINCE OF WALES PARK METHODIST CHURCH.

On Monday evening, November 27, a large and appreciative audience listened to the well known and ever popular cantata, "Esther, the Beautiful Queen," rendered by the church choir, which was slightly augmented for the occasion. The sad story, rendered in song, of the Jewish people under the autocratic rule of the Persians, is always certain of a sympathetic hearing, and the exposition by the singers was excellent. The history of a dreadful tragedy, averted by the heroism of Queen Esther, was given with great pathos and success, and the story, commencing in plaintive softness and sadness, gradually swelling into hope, and finally into the full strength of complete triumph, sung with a full, hearty, and well trained choir of fifty voices was decidedly effective and pleasing. Mr. Langfield conducted in his usual efficient manner, and Mr. Bert Nash presided at the organ.

The leading parts were taken by the following:—King Ahasueras, Mr. W. Arblaster; Queen Esther, Miss E. Freeman; Haman, Mr. H. Dyer; Mordecai, Mr. R. Cornish; Chief Maid of Honor, Mrs. A. Johnson; Zerisi, Mrs. K. Grigg; Prophetess, Miss R. Smith; Harbonah, Mr. D. Garland; Heggai, Mr. E. Harris.

By a very strong request the cantata will be repeated, some slight curtailments and alterations being made to fit in with the usual church services.

WHITTLESEA NEWS.

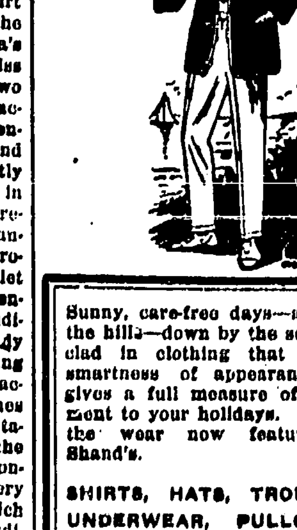
A movement is on foot to establish a bush fire brigade. Now is the opportune time, when everything is ready to burn.

In the Presbyterian Church on Monday night, at a social gathering, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Sutherland and family were presented with farewell gifts prior to their departure for Heidelberg district. Mr. Sutherland, who has sold his farm, "Richlands," intends to retire. The Sutherland family all have been fine supporters and workers in the Whittlesea Presbyterian Church, and will be a big loss to the community.

To celebrate the annual break-up at the Whittlesea State school on Tuesday, the scholars provided a concert programme. There was a large attendance of parents and friends, and a very enjoyable afternoon was spent.

On Monday night a very heavy frost visited the district and played havoc with the vegetable gardens, melons, beans, potatoes, etc., being cut back. Many crops also suffered. At Kinglake the early crops of potatoes suffered a severe check. A frost so late in the season is almost a record. Occasionally they visit the district in the early part of November, but not as late as December.

Wear for Summer and the Holidays



Sunny, care-free days—away in the hills—down by the sea—and clad in clothing that affords smartness of appearance, and gives a full measure of enjoyment to your holidays. Such is the wear now featured at Shand's.

SHIRTS, HATS, TROUSERS, UNDERWEAR, PULLOVERS, BLAZERS, SOX, BELTS, TIES, ETC.

All are here, arrayed in the newest and smartest styles, in qualities and at prices that make for REAL economy. Call at once and select your needs.

ARTHUR SHANDS,
Quality Tailor, 80 High St., Northcote.

OUR FRIEND THE BAILIFF.

There is a moral to this delightful little story of a young couple who were determined to have a holiday even if financial disaster loomed ahead. It is—be kind to the broken man.

"This suit, my dear sir, cost me twelve guineas only two months ago. Note, if you please, the exquisite cut, the fashionable lapels, and the superfine quality worsted."

The grimy Jewish wardrobe-dealer, thus addressed, fingered the garments suspiciously, and eyed the speaker with even greater distrust.

"Young man" — he threw out his hands in a gesture of mingled desperation and resignation—"I will give you ten shillings and cheat myself. It is shabby—worn out."

Barry Blake smiled. Very few people had been able to resist that smile, but, for once, it failed to charm. A ten-shilling note, as dirty and crumpled as the old clo' man, changed hands, and the Jew gathered up his black cloth bag and was gone.

Barry shut the front door and went into the little kitchen where his wife the young and irrepressible Marian was considering the problem of how to concoct an eatable dinner out of half a tin of golden syrup, a cabbage and some meat that must have been very sweet, so near to the bone was it.

"How much did he give you, darling?" she asked, looking up from he saucepans.

He dropped a gay kiss on the lips that framed the question, and sat carelessly swinging his legs, on the kitchen table.

"Ten bob farther off from starvation, sweetheart," he answered. "That makes twenty pounds nine and"—he searched feverishly in the pockets of his trousers and pulled out a few coppers—"fourpence-halfpenny."

"Funnykins," she murmured, rumpling his hair.

"Boodleums!" retorted Barry. A long kiss.

Which seems a most extraordinary way for a young couple with only twenty pounds between them and the workhouse to go on. He was a journalist and an optimist; Marian was merely an optimist. Recently, hard-hearted editors had been frowning upon the majority of the effusions emanating from Barry's pen. One of those spells of hard luck which seem to come to most people sooner or later had set in, and the culminating point of their misfortunes was reached when Marian went down with a bad attack of 'flu.

For months past they had eaten meat and drunk milk for which they could not hope to pay, while the rent was nine months in arrears. At any moment the final crash might come.

And, in the middle of it all, they sat on the table and made love. Ridiculous!!

Bang, bang, bang! They jumped to their feet hastily, as three loud and authoritative knocks sounded on the front door.

Barry went to open it.

On the threshold stood a burly, red-faced man, carrying a blue paper in his hand.

"Mr. Barry Blake?" he asked gruffly, looking the master of the house up and down.

"Yours always to command," replied Barry, with solemn portentousness and a bow that sent Marian—watching proceedings from the crack of the kitchen door—into shrieks of laughter. "Won't you come in?"

"I won't stay hout!" retorted the other, removing his greasy bowler and coming into the hall. "Hi'm the bailiff, Hi ham. Come from Mr. Fortesque, your landlord, and until you pays 'ere Hi stays."

"Quite, quite," said Barry, a soothing note in his voice. "Step into the kitchen and meet my wife."

The newcomer hesitated a moment. It was evident that he was not used to this kind of reception when making business visits. Then something of his grotesque pomposity seemed to drop from him, and with a "Thankee, sir," he followed Barry in.

Marian greeted the bailiff with a charming smile.

"Oh, Mr. —er—" She paused. The visitor vouchsafed the information that his name was Cuddington. "Oh, yes, of course, Mr. Cuddington," she continued, coming towards him and holding out her hand. "You're the bailiff, aren't you? We've been expecting you for some time."

"Take a chair, Mr. Cuddington," invited Barry. He indicated an inverted sugar-box with the air of a monarch offering a throne. "I deeply regret," he added, "the scarcity of seating accommodation. We purchased our furniture on the nothing down and less than that a month system. Our terms did not seem to suit the firm in question, and last week they called and took it all away in plain vans. Two of their very nicest men took up all lino free of charge, and we were allowed to keep what we had paid for.

"That"—he waved his hand towards the kitchen table—"is what we had paid for."

The bailiff scratched his head in perplexity. He shifted his gaze from one pair of twinkling eyes to the other, and then, flopping violently down on the aforementioned box, burst into a hearty guffaw of laughter.

"Well, you're a couple of knock-outs, you are, and no mistake about it," he vouchsafed, between wheezy gasps.

After dinner, over milkless coffee and cigarettes, Barry turned the conversation towards business.

"And how much is the jolly old landlord wanting?" he inquired.

"Sixty pound hodd, sir," said the bailiff. "As well as another six for legal expenses."

"Sixty-six pounds and a hundred and twenty pounds is—er—one hundred and eighty-six pounds, isn't it?"

"Right you are," said Mr. Cuddington.

Barry puffed reflectively at his cigarette.

"As a man of vast experience in such matters, Mr. Cuddington," he went on, after a pause, "may I ask if you see any possibility of my being able to pay that amount with a credit balance of twenty pounds nine shillings and fourpence halfpenny?"

The bailiff shook his head in silence.

For a minute or two neither of the trio spoke, then suddenly Marian sat up and put her hands on the table eagerly.

"Oh, Barry," she exclaimed, "I've got such a lovely idea!"

The two men turned towards her expectantly.

"Listen," she went on breathlessly; "it's no use trying to pay off all our debts with a mere nothing like twenty pounds. It would only be a drop in the ocean. Now, I'll tell you what we'll do. Monday is August Bank Holiday, when everyone goes to the seaside. Why shouldn't we pack up, have one glorious week by the sea, and then come back and go to prison, or—or wherever people who don't pay their debts do go?"

With a thump Barry's fist descended on the bare table.

"Darling," he cried, "how clever you are! The very thing!"

They turned to Mr. Cuddington for approval. But he shook his head gloomily—almost regretfully, it seemed.

"I'm sorry," he said, "but I can't let you do that. Between ourselves, my orders is not to let you out of my sight. Not 'out what," he added, with an admiring glance at Marian, "it's a good notion."

Some of the sunshine went suddenly out of Marian's eyes. Then Barry jumped up with a shout.

"I've got it, by Jove!" he exclaimed, jubilantly. "You must come with us, old chap."

The bailiff started back in astonishment. Before his lips could utter a refusal Marian laid a soft little imploring hand on his arm.

"Oh, do say Yes, dear Mr. Cuddington," she murmured, wheedlingly.

Even bailiffs are human, and, meeting her wistful gaze, "All right," he said, slowly, "I'll come; but it would cost me my job if I was found out. But, as you say, it's no good watching furniture that's not there. But, my word, you har knock-outs, you har, and no mistake about it!"

. . . .

Bank Holiday evening!

Those who are familiar with the Hotel Crystal, at Seamouth, will be able to picture the gay scene that that sea of holiday beauty and fashion presented. The multi-coloured lights flashed on the gilded ceiling of the ball-room, and played on the shining floor below, turning it into a veritable fairyland of romance.

You'd never guess that Barry's dinner-jacket was a hired one, so well did it fit him and so distinguished did he look. There was Marian, looking prettier than ever as she glided and swayed to the strains of the haunting waltz tune. And her partner—large, rubicund, but decidedly happy—Oh, what would Mrs. Cuddington say if she could see her husband now?

... sipping a cocktail at one of the little gilded tables, seemed to have lost some of his wonted air of gaiety. The beginning of their last week had come. After that—what?

His gloomy thoughts were dispersed by the appearance of the bailiff. With him was a little, sharp-faced man with horses written all over him. He was introduced to Barry as "my old pal, Jim Daniel."

"Jim's head lad up at Seager's training place on the downs," said the bailiff. "And what he doesn't know about 'orses and courses ain't worth knowin'."

Barry expressed interest.

"Are you going to the meeting on Friday, Mr. Blake?" asked the newcomer, when refreshment had been placed before him. "We're expecting some good sport."

"Well, it might be worth our while, Mr. Daniel," said Barry, as he rose to dance the next fox-trot with Marian, if you've got a good tip you can give me."

"I can't say as I 'ave at the moment," answered the other, "But if I do 'ear of anything, I'll be sure and let you know."

. . . .

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday—all passed in one continuous round of bathing, boating, and dancing. It would be hard to say which of the trio had enjoyed themselves most. The bailiff had never mixed in what he called "'igh sassiety" before in his life, and was extracting every ounce of pleasure from the experience. Marian was her usual gay, buoyant self; a butterfly giving no thought for the morrow. Only Barry was just a little subdued. He could not help wondering what was going to happen to them when next Monday morning came, and with it—the dreaded settling day.

But, still, he determined not to let the future spoil their present fun, and so, on Friday, all three of them arrived in gay mood on the racecourse.

Marian was frankly thrilled. The shouting of the bookies and tipsters the huge holiday crowd, and the gay frocks of the women in the guinea enclosure were sources of wonder and delight to her. Open-mouthed she listened to the remarkably convincing story of a gentleman who had a cast iron certainty for the Holiday Cup. So greatly was she impressed that she paid one shilling for a little slip of paper which told her to go all out on a horse called High Risk.

Barry was in good form that day. He lost on the first race, but managed to pick up a couple of pounds on the second.

"I'm going to put a fiver on High Risk at twenty to one," he said to the bailiff. "You've heard nothing from Daniel, have you? No? Very well then, High Risk it is. Do you mind going and putting it on for me?"

The bailiff took the money and disappeared in the crowd.

Marian and Barry took their stand by the rails. They watched the horses go down to the post and picked out their fancy, a good-looking chestnut colt. The moments seemed to drag by on leaden feet. Then there was the cry of, "They're off!" a sudden hush and the clanging of the starting-bell.

Deathly silence, then, in the distance, the persistent clop-clop of galloping hoofs. Round the bend came a flash of colour. High Risk was well ahead of the rest. Barry yelled excitedly.

Still another furlong to go! Then something happened. From the middle of the bunch of tiring horses a streak of black and gold suddenly shot out. In one bound it overtook High Risk and was past the post a couple of lengths ahead of the field.

"Paycock wins!" The universal yell of the delighted bookmakers rent the air. A hundred-to-one winner, and the favourite nowhere!

Barry turned to Marian.

"Done," he said, shortly; "absolutely skinned! So much for your tipster's cast-iron certs."

They were making their way despondently over to their bus, when the figure of the perspiring bailiff came running through the crowd towards them.

"Hurrah!" he shouted, clapping Barry on the back. "Fine!"

Barry looked at him more in sorrow than anger.

"Fine,' he exclaimed. "If you call it fine to lose a fiver, especially when that fiver is your last in the world, I don't."

"No 'Igh Risks for you, sir!" gleefully cried the bailiff, putting his hand in his breast-pocket and pulling out a bundle of crinkly notes. "On my way over to make your wager I meets Jim Daniel, and he gives me Paycock as a stone cert. He'd got ten quid on it himself, and so, thinks I, it's good for the young 'un's money.

He thrust the notes, five hundred pounds' worth of them, into the astonished Barry's hands, while Marian seized the burly bailiff and proceeded to execute a war-dance with him, greatly to the surprise of the more sedate racegoers.

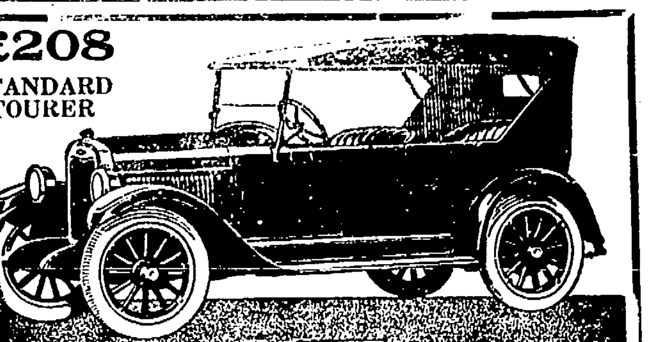
"All our troubles are over!" she cried. "Five hundred pounds! Oh, Mr. Cuddington, you are a love!" And then and there she kissed him on both cheeks.

Barry gave a happy laugh that held nothing of jealousy.

"Well," said Mr. Cuddington, his large round face wreathed in smiles, "you *har* fair knock-outs, you two, and *no* mistake about it, either!"

Civilisation has passed through so many phases that it has become the custom to distinguish certain periods of time under denomination of the word "Ages." Thus we group a number of years and call them the Iron Age, or the Stone Age. We are rapidly approaching the time which may be called by posterity the Concrete Age.

The culminating point of the concretor's art has been reached in the construction of the Parthenon at Nashville, U.S.A. This building, which houses American works of art, has been accurately copied, even down to the sculptured figures designed by the ancient Greeks, from the magnificent building at Athens, and represents a striking illustration of what can be accomplished by the application of scientific principles to art.



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To the average man and woman the word *concrete* associates itself only with building, but so fast are we progressing that it is quite reasonable to prophesy a not far distant time when concrete will enter largely into the manufacture of commodities to the extent of concrete furniture, and even down to such articles as concrete cups and saucers.

The Americans early realised the vast possibilities of concrete as a building material, and it is safe to say that the skyline of the city of New York would present a very different aspect to-day had such not been the case. Not that concrete is by any means a twentieth century discovery. It has been known to the past generations, but its application to construction was not fully realised or appreciated.

American engineers are now erecting a wonderful concrete building at Washington (Seattle). The building, which is to be used when completed as a library in connection with the University, covers an area of 242 feet by 56 feet, and has a tower 335 feet high.

Concrete is often confused with mortar. The latter is merely a mixture of cement and sand, but the former is a very different product. It relies for its efficiency upon the scientific axiom that the more closely particles in matter adhere together the stronger will be the mass. In order that concrete may be truly homogeneous the component parts are divided into two classes—namely, the *aggregate* and the *matrix*. The aggregate comprises that which is to be bound together, and the matrix the binding material.

COMMISSION CLAIM

Agent's Case Succeeds on Review.

At Northcote Court on Tuesday, before Mr. D. Grant, P.M., A. McDonald sued Mrs. Pugh for £25 commission on the sale of a house.

Mr. Fazio (instructed by Norris and Norris) appeared for McDonald.

Mr. Fazio said that the case had been heard at the Northcote court, and the case was dismissed. At the Supreme Court the case was referred back to the Northcote Court for rehearing.

A number of defences were raised for the defence.

Angus McDonald, auctioneer, High street, Thornbury, said on July 8 Mrs. Pugh came to his office and said she wanted to sell a house in Shaftesbury Parade. Witness took the particulars on a card (produced). Mrs. Pugh said she wanted £700 nett for the house, and said: "You can charge what you like." Witness said: "The usual commission would be £25." She said she wanted to sell the house on £100 deposit, and £1 per week, without any interest. Witness said: "This is a peculiar way to sell houses." Mrs. Pugh said she did not understand interest. Witness finally agreed to sell the house with interest at 6 per cent. During the next fortnight witness showed several clients the property. Later a farmer came along with £50 deposit and agreed to pay £1 per week and 17/6 per week interest. Mrs. Pugh said she would not accept that, as she wanted to give £100 to Mr. Woods' church. Subsequently Mrs. Pugh came to his office and said she did not want any interest. She agreed to sell the house for £700, with £100 deposit and £1 per week. The following day witness went with his sister-in-law and brother to Mrs. Pugh's house. Witness said that his sister-in-law had decided to buy the house, and to talk over the terms so there would be no misunderstanding afterwards. Mrs. McDonald said: "Are the terms £100 deposit, £1 a week and no interest?" Mrs. Pugh said: "Yes, my dear." Mrs. Pugh also mentioned that the price of the house was £725. When the question of interest was raised, Mrs. Pugh pointed to witness' brother's service badge and said: "We can't do enough for you boys." Mrs. Pugh said she would like to get Mr. Wood to prepare the contract of sale, and witness assented to this. Next day Mr. Wood called at witness' office and said: "I believe you've sold Mrs. Pugh's house?" Witness said: "Yes." Wood said: "You understand there's no commission on the sale?" Witness said: "Yes there is. What am I here for?" Wood had the title to the property. Wood also said he had had bad luck, as he had a buyer himself. Witness later called on Mrs. Pugh, who said there was no commission to be paid on the sale. Witness said: "There is commission. You said get £700 for the house, and I added £25 to cover the commission." Mrs. Pugh said she had meant that the house was to be sold for £725 cash and £750 terms. Witness said: "I'll waive my commission, but the house is sold." Next day he saw Mrs. Pugh and said her: "I'm told that you say the house is sold to another person." She said "Yes." Witness said: "How did that come about. You know it is already sold." Mr. Pugh said: "Go and see Mr. Wood." Witness now sought to recover his commission, because the sale to his client was not effected.

Cross-examined—When he saw Mrs. Pugh last she said that Mr. Wood had sold the house. Asked the price she said she did not know how much, and that witness would have to see Mr. Wood. A deposit of £5 was paid on July 20. His instructions had been to insist on a deposit of £100 on the sale of the house. At the time the sale had been revoked, he had not received that £100. Mrs. Pugh had not told witness that she could not do anything unless Mr. Wood advised her. The first witness heard of that was when Mrs. Pugh asked that Mr Wood should draw up the contract. Mrs. Pugh had agreed that his commission be £25. He knew Mrs. Pugh attended Holy Trinity Church, and that was Mr. Wood's church, and he took it that Mrs. Pugh wanted to give £100 to that church. The £100 deposit was not paid, but a preliminary deposit of £5 was paid. It was his allegation that Mr. Wood, as Mrs. Pugh's attorney, stepped in and prevented the sale.

Re-examined—When he went to Mrs. Pugh with his sister-in-law and brother, a deposit of £5 was paid, which Mrs. Pugh accepted.

Ivy Florence McDonald, married woman, sister-in-law of plaintiff, said she knew the house in question. On July 20 she inspected a house in Shaftesbury Parade, and subsequently went with plaintiff to Mrs. Pugh. Witness asked if the price of the house was £725, with £100 deposit and £1 per week. Mrs. Pugh said: "Yes." Witness said "Is there no interest?" Mrs. Pugh said: "No." Plaintiff said: "Are you quite willing to pay a deposit?" Witness said: "Yes. I will go and draw £5. Will that be enough?" Mrs. Pugh said "Yes." Plaintiff said to Mrs. Pugh: "You can consider the house sold now for £725, with £100 deposit and £1 per week, with no interest." Mrs. Pugh said: "Yes." Mrs. Pugh asked that the insurance be left in her hands, and also that Mr. Wood be allowed to draw up the contract of sale. She had not proceeded further with the sale.

Cross-examined—She regarded the £5 as a preliminary deposit. She had not paid the balance of £95, as the contract was not signed.

Re-examined—She was ready and willing to go on with the purchase of the house now.

Hugh McDonald, brother of complainant, gave similar evidence.

George Henderson, salesman to Angus McDonald and Co., said he took a deposit of £5 from Mrs. McDonald on account of this house.

Counsel for the defence argued that plaintiff had not an enforceable contract, and that not all the terms of the contract had been agreed to. Before the £95 balance of the deposit was paid, the whole thing had been ended by the vendor. He argued that the agent had not carried out his work; that there was no claim for £25.

Charles William Wood, Christ Church, Essendon, said he was at Holy Trinity Church, Thornbury, five years ago. He had an interview with Mr. McDonald in July and produced to him a power of attorney. When he went to see McDonald, witness said: "I believe you're giving away houses." McDonald said: "What do you mean?" Witness said: "About this place of Mrs. Pugh's." McDonald said: "She is throwing the house in the gutter." Witness said: "What have you done?" McDonald said: "I've sold it to my brother." Witness said: "It didn't take long for you to pick it up out of the gutter." McDonald asked about the contract, and witness said: "Mrs. Pugh did mention something about a contract, and that there was no commission payable." McDonald said: "Mrs. Pugh may be a philanthropist, but I am not." Witness said: "I am here as Mrs. Pugh's attorney, and the sale is off," at the same time producing his power of attorney. McDonald said: "I'll go and see Mrs. Pugh." Witness denied accepting the sale. Witness went to leave, and borrowed a tape from McDonald and measured the frontages of two houses belonging to Mrs. Pugh in Shaftesbury Parade.

Cross-examined—He had had one or two other powers of attorney conferred on him. He was not personally concerned that McDonald was claiming commission. One of the first things he told McDonald in connection with this was that there would be no commission payable. The house had since been sold, and he had introduced the buyer to Mrs. Pugh on July 23. As far as he knew that sale had gone through.

Emma Pugh said she told McDonald she wanted to sell a house in Shaftesbury Parade for £700, and he could get as much more on it as he liked. McDonald said he only wanted his commission, which would be £25. She said she could not do anything until she interviewed Mr. Wood. She did not at any time agree to sell the house to one of McDonald's clients on £50 deposit. She had insisted on £100 deposit and £1 a week with interest. She wanted the £100, as she had promised the money for an altar for the new Church of the Epiphany. She had later agreed to sell the place for £100 deposit and £1 a week for twelve years. When plaintiff's brother and his wife came along to see about the house, plaintiff said that Mrs. Pugh wanted £700, with £100 deposit and £1 a week for twelve years. Mrs. McDonald said: "How about the interest?" Witness said: "I'll make you a present of that." She saw plaintiff's brother was wearing a soldier's badge, and she said: "Poor fellows; we can't do enough for them." Witness did not hear any reference to a £5 deposit, but said she would have to refer the matter to Mr. Wood. After Mr. Wood had been to see plaintiff, plaintiff came to her and said: "Write and tell Mr. Wood I don't want commission."

Cross-examined—She had since sold the house for £700, with £100 deposit and the balance of £600 payable at £1 per week at 6 per cent. The purchaser was introduced by Mr. Wood. She had told Mrs. McDonald she would make her a present of the interest as long as Mr. Wood consented. She had sold three other houses on £50 deposit and £1 a week for twelve years.

Amy Moore Davey, niece of Mrs. Pugh, said that he heard McDonald say to Mrs. Pugh: "I'm awfully sorry about the commission. The house is for my brother, and I don't want any commission. If you like to give me some afterwards you can, and if not it does not matter." Mrs. Pugh replied: "I can't do anything until I see Mr. Wood."

The P.M.—In this case the agent sues for £25 for sale of house property. The agent was the effective cause of the parties being brought together, and although no agreement was signed, a verbal agreement was arrived at. He felt the power of attorney did not affect the position. He believed the story of plaintiff and his witnesses.

An order was made for £25, the amount claimed, with £4/3/- costs.

BOY SCOUTS.

THE PRESTON TROOP.

Last Saturday we commenced cricket against the Gowerville team, and will conclude the match this Saturday. On Saturday evening last we had outdoor relay running, and finished with indoor games. Next Monday being the last parade of the Wolf cubs for the year, a social will be held. Tuesday evening will be the last parade of the scouts for the year. We have had a busy time in camp preparations, and the motor vans will leave the scout hall on Xmas morning at 8.30. So far as we know this is the largest camp touring party of boy scouts that has been conducted in Australia. We will cover approximately 600 miles in the fortnight. We will stay at Lorne until Tuesday, then proceed via Colac, Camperdown and Cobden to Port Campbell, where we will stay until the following Friday. Then we make for Warrnambool, and stay there nearly a week, returning home via Ballarat. If at all possible we intend to visit Portland, and if it can be managed will go from Warrnambool by boat. The cost, including everything in the way of food and travel, is £2/10/-, and for the older boys £3. If the boys were not at our last Easter camp, when a profit was made, the cost will be 5/- each extra. Thus we are refunding to the Easter camp boys any profit made. From every town we will be visiting we have received letters assuring us of warm welcomes. There will be about 100 boys making the trip, many being prevented from doing so on account of inability to get the necessary holidays. The troop of cubs will not hold any meetings until the camping party return. Steady progress is being made with the bazaar to be held on 24th, 25th and 26th March next. The cubs and scouts will parade as usual this afternoon and evening. A cleaning up and burning off grass at the scout grounds was made last week.

HENDERSON PARK CONTROVERSY.

MAN WHO "DIDN'T WANT TO CRITICISE."

At the meeting of the Northcote Council on Monday a letter was received from Mr. W. T. Thorn, Chrystabel Crescent, Hawthorn, re the recent criticism concerning Henderson's Park, and stating he had no desire to criticise the council, but desired to help on the movement for more playing areas. He believed the Northcote Council was doing good work in this direction.

The letter was received.

TRADERS' ASSOCIATION

FREE GIFTS.

On Friday next (Xmas Eve) thousands of smiling faces are expected in High street. Father Xmas makes his appearance about half-past nine, and will remain till late in the afternoon. His Fairyland on wheels will be on the move all day from one end of High street to the other, and about two thousand toys, handkerchiefs, prize packets and other novelties will be given to the children free. Special facilities for attending to the additional crowds of shoppers that are expected in the street will be provided by the various establishments, and during the coming week, and especially the day preceding Christmas the committee appeal to the public to support their local shopkeepers.

Altogether one hundred and fifty shops displayed gifts in connection with the issue of the special edition of the "Leader" last week. Many of them have been claimed, but there are still some valuable prizes in shop windows for seekers with the correct numbers. In connection with this issue we have received many congratulations from various sources, and so eagerly were the papers sought after that the number kept in the office was inadequate to the extent of nearly a thousand.

MEMBERSHIP STILL GROWING.

The organising secretary reports that there has been a satisfactory increase in the number of members during the week, and undoubtedly the organisation will in the near future play a very important part in the welfare of the shopkeepers of Northcote.

"THE REGENT NEWS."

Next Monday's pictures at the Regent will include Johnnie Hines in "The Brown Derby," and Gaston Glass in "The Call of the Klondike." On Thursday the change of programme brings Norma Shearer's lastst picture, "His Secretary," and in support Jack Hoxie in "The Scrappin' Kid."

GINGER MEGGS AT THE REGENT.

Commencing Monday next, the well known impersonator of that Australian national character, Ginger Meggs, will with his girl be seen every night for a week at the Regent.

GREETINGS FROM THE REGENT.

The management of the Regent wishes all its patrons a very bright and happy Christmas, and everything in the shape of prosperity for the coming year. Also the Regent thanks all patrons for the splendid support they have accorded the theatre during the last twelve months, and assures the people of Northcote that next year's programmes will be better and brighter than ever.

SOUTH MORANG FRACAS.

FRANK WITHERS CONVICTED.

At the Criminal Court on Wednesday before Mr. Justice Dixon and a jury, Frank Withers, 20 years, driver, Moreland street, Footscray, was charged with assaulting Edward Buckley, driver, Holden street, North Fitzroy, and with having caused him actual bodily harm.

The case for the prosecution was that on Sunday morning, October 10, Buckley drove a char-a-banc to the South Morang Hotel, and after having lunch he walked out of the side gate of the yard. He remembered no more until he regained consciousness in St. Vincent's Hospital. Seven stitches had been inserted in a cut 2½ inches long in his head, and he was suffering from concussion of the brain. The assault was seen by Mrs. Nellie Eaton from the pantry window. She saw accused, who had a picket in his hand, approach Buckley and strike him on the head, felling him to the ground. Accused struck a second blow, and Mrs. Eaton then ran out to Buckley's assistance. As she was approaching Withers struck Buckley again. There were several men near, but none came to the assistance of either Buckley or Mrs. Eaton. She struggled with accused and took the picket from him. Accused was taken to a char-a-banc, but the police patrol overtook the char-a-banc on the Whittlesea road. Withers denied having assaulted Buckley, and said Mrs. Eaton was making a mistake in identifying him.

Buckley corroborated this statement, and in cross-examination said that he did not know there was a fight in progress. He was sober and saw no one at the time he was struck. He had not been accused at any time that day. He denied being in the fight, or being armed with a swingletree.

Accused, on oath, denied the assault. He said that he remained in the char-a-banc all the time, and took no part in the fight, but all the other members of his party were concerned in it. One of the party had the picket in his hand, and another took it from him. He got out of the char-a-banc to tell the others that the police were coming.

Other witnesses supported accused's version.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and accused was remanded for sentence.

YALLOURN STRIKE

POWER AND LIGHT MAY BE CUT OFF IN NORTHCOTE.

Beginning on Monday, Dec. 20.

Mr. J. A. Thomson, town clerk of Northcote City Council, notifies that failing a settlement of the Yallourn dispute, electric current will be cut off on Monday, Wednesday and Friday next week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; also on Wednesday and Friday, December 29 and 31, and on Tuesday and Thursday, January 4 and 6.

On Wednesday afternoon power was cut off for about two hours in Northcote, and caused considerable annoyance and loss. This is just a foretaste of what may happen next week.

It has been affirmed that had Sir Christopher Wren been conversant with the principles underlying the application of concrete we should not be faced with the reconstruction of the supports of the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral to-day.

NORTHCOTE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

FIRST BREAK-UP CONCERT.

The first "break-up concert" was held on Monday evening last. There was a very fine attendance. Mr. Kitson, the head teacher, and staff are to be complimented on the fine performances of the pupils. The programme was lengthy, but every item was appreciated. The singing by the choir was a revelation, considering the short time the school has been in existence, and with the same training we can always look forward to having something of a high order in the future concerts of the school. The folk dancing was of a very graceful nature, the dresses being quaint and representative of the characters. Miss Allison Kitson is to be complimented on the efficient and artistic training the pupils received at her hands. The physical display by the girls and boys was undoubtedly the best placed before a Northcote audience for some time, and shows that physical development is well looked after. The head teacher and staff and School Council deeply appreciate the generous help received from Miss Kate Hicking, Miss O. Bardwell, Miss Iris Jones, Mr. E. Granger, Mr. A. Douglas and Master Ridley Bryan. At the interval, Mr. Frank Tate, M.A., Director of Education, was introduced by Mr. Kitson, who said how pleased he was to have the Director present. In reply Mr. Tate congratulated the school on its fine work during the year under such adverse circumstances, not being in suitably equipped buildings. He urged the pupils who had just completed their first year's work to remember that they are the pioneers of the school, and if such satisfactory results had been obtained under the present circumstances, how much better results should be gained when they were housed in their new school building, which he hoped would not be long in the course of erection. Mr. Tate stressed the fact that it was up to the parents to give their children the best they could in the way of education, and to do their best, even if it meant self-denial to endeavor to give them a high school course at least up to the intermediate certificate, if not to the leaving certificate. It would not be fair to the child or to the school just to allow children to go to the High School until 14 years and then take them away. It would be better for a child not to have attended a High School for 12 months and then be withdrawn, as his education would be far from finished. Under good circumstances it would have been better to have let them finish their elementary course up to the eighth grade, when they would have had a thoroughly rounded off elementary education. He mentioned the fact that he knew dozens of prominent lawyers, barristers, judges, engineers, clergymen, whom he knew as boys attending State schools, who had continued on. As the result of their own efforts they to-day held high positions in the State and Commonwealth. The High School was the avenue to enter on the road to efficiency and progress, and through which many desirable positions opened up to those having passed through. One pleasing feature was the united and sympathetic way in which the head teachers of the elementary schools had co-operated in helping to make the Northcote District High School what it is to-day. Although not large in numbers at present, yet from the schools in the district the brightest and most intelligent pupils had been prepared to take their place as the foundation scholars of the school. It was owing to this fine spirit shown by Mr. Broadlow, Mr. Hughes and Mr. Osborne and others that the future prospects of the success of the High School was assured. He also congratulated the Northcote district on its fine group of elementary schools, which was second to none in the metropolitan area. (Applause.) He knew the people of the district were keen on education, and trusted the time would not be far distant when the technical school, so long sought for, would be an accomplished fact, and thereby make the educational facilities complete in the district. It also gave him much pleasure in presenting the prizes awarded for the year.

The prize winners were—

Dux of School.—Girl: Marjorie Ahern (Miss Forster's prize); boy: Fred. Wiltshire (head master's prize). Dux prizes—Boy: Shakespeare in morocco, Tennyson in morocco. Girl: Shakespeare in morocco, Longfellow in morocco.

Sports Champions.—Senior boy, George Bolwell; senior girl, Evelyn Gould. Junior boy, Walter Perry; junior girl, Mary Frencham. Each received an inscribed gold medal.

At the conclusion of Mr. Tate's address the Mayor of Northcote (Cr. Phil Mayor, J.P.) tendered a hearty vote of thanks to the Director for his visit, and also for his interest in the new High School. Everything had now been done by the councils in the district in regard to their responsibilities, and it only remained for the Minister of Education to complete the work, and in the very near future he hoped to have the pleasure of seeing the bricks and mortar on the site. He also had much pleasure in including in the vote of thanks Mr. Kitson and the Misses Kitson for the work they had so successfully undertaken in training the pupils in the folk dancing, and in the designing and preparing of the costumes of those taking part; also to the visitors for their assistance in the respective items rendered.

Miss Forster, first assistant teacher, on behalf of the girls, presented Mrs. Kitson with an artistic crystal vase as a token of appreciation of the great interest taken by her in helping in preparing the items for the evening.

The programme was brought to a close by a one act play entitled "The Dear Departed." Those responsible for the cast were—Gwen Nichols, Carmen Major, Hannah Stevens, H. Clinnick, S. Proctor, F. Wiltshire. This item was greatly enjoyed, judging by the expressions of mirth during the whole of the act.

At the present time concrete is figuring largely in landscape gardening. The inflated cost of stone and the difficulty of obtaining efficient labour, has resulted in many imitations, and we now produce concrete crazy paving, sundials, bird baths, garden paths, edging, steps, terraces, garden seats, and rollers, and even concrete balustrades of intricate design.

WHERE TO GO

PROGRAMME

for Friday and Saturday and Saturday Matinee:

Gowerville

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, DEC. 17 & 18

Master Pictures—
"On the Go"
(Buffalo Bill Jnr.)

Metro-Goldwyn—
"Don't"
(Sally O'Neill)

VAUDEVILLE—
LAL
The Musical Maid

At the Matinee Saturday
"The Fighting Ranger"

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, December 20, 21, 22
Master Pictures
"The Golden Cocoon"

Fox presents—
"Fig Leaves"
(George O'Brien)

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, December 23, 24, 25
Master Pictures—
"Lights Out"

Metro-Goldwyn—
"His Secretary"
(Norma Shearer)

VAUDEVILLE—
THE 6 GLADSTONE GIRLS
Refined Entertainment

Special Matinee Friday, December 24th, at 2.30
Full Programme, including
"The Fighting Ranger"
Also REACO
Australia's Premier Bird and Animal Mimic.

The Star

FRIDAY & SATURDAY DEC. 17 & 18

Mutual—
"The Gambling Fool"
(Franklyn Farnham)

Paramount—
"The Blind Goddess"

Vaudeville—
LAL
THE MUSICAL MAID

At the MATINEE Saturday
"The Fighting Ranger"

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Dec. 20, 21, 22
Selznic—
"The Fighting Strain"

Paramount—
"The Girl Who Wouldn't Work"
(Marie de la Motte)

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Dec. 23, 24, 25
Selznic—
"Riding Double"
(Leo Maloney)

Paramount—
"The Palm Beach Girl"
(Bebe Daniels)

VAUDEVILLE—
THE 6 GLADSTONE GIRLS
Refined Entertainment

Special Matinee Friday, December 24th, at 2.30
Full Programme, including
"The Fighting Ranger"
and REACO
Australia's Premier Bird and Animal Mimic.

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TO PROPERTY OWNERS.

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NOTE A FEW OF OUR PRICES.

Ferguson's White Lead, 67/- per cwt.; Meggitt's Pure Linseed Oil, 5/- per gallon; Mill White, 1lb. tins, 2/9 and 7lb. tins 4/9; Stag-white, 4lb. tins 2/6, 7lb. tins 4/6; Zotena, 7lb. tins 4/9; Ferguson's A.F. Ready Mix Paints, 5/6 7lb. tin, Kalsomine, 1/6 per packet Calcimo, 2/6 per pkt. Ceiling and Wallpapers, from 6d roll. Enamelled Sanitas, 2/3 per yard.

CHAMPION WHITE LEAD, BLUNDELL & SPENCE'S and B.O.C. ENGLISH LINSEED OIL, Glass, Brushware, Enamels, Stains, Glass and Oil and Varnish always in Stock.

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TAUBMAN'S FLOOR STAINS, VARNISHES, ENAMELS.

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MADDEN AND CANDY, Solicitors and Conveyancers, "The Olderfleet," (First Floor), No. 475 Collins Street. Telephone—Central 196. Local office at 115 High St., Northcote South, where Mr. R. Candy attends Monday mornings from 9 to 10, and Wednesday Evenings from 7 to 8.15. C. R. Candy—Private address: 4 Merton Av., Ivanhoe. Telephone: Ivanhoe 483.

HOME AND WILKINSON, Solicitors, Conveyancers, etc. Commercial Union Chambers, 413 Collins St., Melbourne, and at No. 323 High St., Preston. Hours of attendance at Preston—Monday and Wednesday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Tels.—Central 853, Cent. 1507J.

W. R. VALE, Barrister and Solicitor, Conveyancer and Proctor, "Whitehall," Bank Place, Melbourne. Tel.: Central 3302. Private address—"Wyuna," 40 Darling Street, Alphington. Attends Northcote Police Court.

S. R. ROE, Solicitor, etc., 122 High St., Northcote (opp. Town Hall). 'Phone Northcote 2118, where he resides and may be consulted at any time. Loans effected; debts collected. Visits Preston (396 High St.) every Wednesday 9.30 a.m. or by appointment.

FRANK BRENNAN AND CO., Solicitors, Yorkshire House, 26 Queen St., Melbourne. Trust Money Awaiting Investment. Tels.: 7097, 7098.

R. R. GRAY, LL.B. BARRISTER & SOLICITOR. 57 James St., Northcote (six doors east of Public Library. Tel. Northcote 156. City Office—Chancery House (ground floor), 440 Little Collins St., Melbourne. Tel. Central 3316.

NICHOLAS O'DONOHUE, Barrister and Solicitor, Capitol House, Collins street, Melbourne, may be consulted each evening at his address, corner Hutton and Stott Sts., Thornbury (opp. Thornbury Station), and at Preston, High street (opp. P.O.), on Wednesday evenings, 7.30 to 9 p.m., and Reservoir, High street, Tuesday evenings, 7.30 to 8.30 p.m. 'Phones C11197; private, Northcote 1839. Money to lend on mortgage.

NORRIS AND NORRIS, Barristers and Solicitors. A. J. Norris, LL.B.; Ewart F. Norris, Commissioner for taking affidavits. City Office—Bank of New Zealand Chambers, 349 Collins Street. Northcote Office—882 High Street. Preston Office—Star Theatre Buildings, High Street. 'Phones—Central 2542. Private: Northcote 1493, Ivanhoe 269.

GEOFFREY F. WRIGHT, BARRISTER & SOLICITOR, 94-98, Queen Street, City. Visits the office of A. A. Leahy and Co., 901 High Street, Northcote, on Wednesday Evenings, 7.30 to 9.30. 'Phones: F3713; Northcote 149.

KATHLEEN M. WALSH, Barrister and Solicitor, 1 Mary St., Hawthorn. Consultations any evening. City office—17 Queen St., Melbourne. Trust Moneys to Lend. Attends Northcote Court.

P. J. RIDGWAY & SCHILLING, BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS, 274 HIGH STREET, PRESTON. Phone—Northcote 1347. Hours—Mondays and Fridays, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., or by appointment with Mr. F. Ludlow, Estate Agent.

TRUST MONEYS TO LEND. Builders' second mortgages discounted. City Offices—60 Queen St., Melbourne.

YOUR Xmas Dinner.—Don't miss this chance to get Geese, Ducks, and Fowls. Auction sale well known "All-Boil" Poultry Farm, Saturday, December 18, 2 p.m. LLEWELLYN JONES, auctioneer. Phone N'cote 4.

THE REGENT

WHERE QUALITY REIGNS

High Street, Thornbury.

Direction: F. W. THRING.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY
Johnnie Hines in "The Brown Derby"
Gaston Glass in
"The Call of the Klondike"

ALL THE WEEK
"Stud & Iris"
"Ginger Meggs & His Girl"

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY
Norma Shearer in "His Secretary"
Jack Hoxie in "The Scrappin' Kid"

Charles Vita and the Regent Concert Orchestra,
Prices as Usual. Box Plan at Theatre. Phone N'cote 1782
No Extra Charge for Booking

Start the New Year Well.

COME TO THE NEW YEAR'S DAY

ANNUAL MONSTER PICNIC

(PROCEEDS IN AID OF CHARITIES)

To be held as usual in the

YAN YEAN RESERVOIR RESERVE.

GOOD SPORTS PROGRAMME
FOOTRUNNING, ETC.
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MERRY-GO-ROUND. BRASS BANDS

SPECIAL TRAINS. Buses meet trains at Yan Yean Station.
ADMISSION 6d.
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SPORTS! SPORTS!

WEST KINGLAKE RECREATION GROUND.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1927.

Log Chops and Races for all. Sports start at 1 p.m. sharp. Entries close on JANUARY 31, 1927. Refreshments on Ground.

DANCE TO FOLLOW AT NIGHT. Good Floor and Music.
G. COOMBS, Secretary.

TOWN HALL, PRESTON.

TUESDAY NEXT, DECEMBER 21.

Physical Culture and Dancing. Display
BY PUPILS OF
MISS MADGE HAMILTON.

CROXTON METHODIST CHURCH.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, At 7 p.m.
Soloist—MR. ALFRED BROADLEY
Preacher PASTOR DAVEY.

THE AUSTRAL PALAIS DE LUXE
119 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE
(Two Doors from Elm Street).

Hall available for Weddings, Parties, Clubs, etc.
Choicest Confectionery in Stock.
Try our Sundaes and Spiders. All Drinks on Ice.
CATERING DONE. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.
A. JORY, Proprietor.

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MR. AND MRS. STRETTON,

Teachers of Ballroom Dancing 9 Woolton Avenue, Croxton. Private Lessons. Phone—N'cote 1270

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

IVANHOE.

REGISTERED under the Board of Education, and one of the Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria.

The school is situated in the spacious grounds of Ivanhoe House. Modern Classrooms, and every helpful adjunct for a complete and happy education have been provided. Boys are prepared for the University or commercial life. There is a strong permanent staff, with expert instruction in special subjects, such as drawing, etc. A unique home for country boarders.

Prospectus on application to the Head Master,
REV. SYDNEY BUCKLEY, M.A., Th.L., Assoc. of Bankers' Institute, Aus.
Telephone—Ivanhoe 129.

CHURCH NEWS.

Notices for this column must be on hand on Wednesday mornings.

Church of Epiphany.

At evensong on Sunday at the Church of the Epiphany, Northcote, there will be a special Xmas service. The choir will render special anthems and carols.

Croxton Methodist Church.

Croxton Methodists are celebrating the Christmas season by a musical service next Sunday evening, which is to be preceded by community singing of appropriate hymns at 6.45 p.m. Mr. Alfred Broadley, the visiting tenor soloist, will sing "I have made of my heart a temple" and "King over Glorious," and the choral numbers for the service are Mozart's "Gloria" and "God from on high hath heard," by Turner. In closing the 1926 series of monthly musical services the choir and church officers wish to thank all those folk of the neighborhood who by their attendance and kindly appreciation have encouraged the musicians and made possible some particularly fine services.

Renewals of a number of collectors' licenses were granted at Northcote Court on Tuesday.

Wanted.

BRICKLAYER.—E. MEDLIN, 11 Martin St., can cure your smoky chimney or copper, or build you a new one. Workmanship guaranteed. Material supplied.

DRESSMAKING and all kinds of Sewing and Renovations. Satisfaction guaranteed. Mrs. A. Whyte, 65 May St., Preston, late Reservoir.

GARDENING, all branches, 10/- day or contract; workmanship guaranteed. George, 17 Turnbull Grove, Northcote.

WOMAN, experienced, wants washing, ironing, half days weekly; good refs. "Reliable," "Leader" office, Northcote.

WOMAN wants above, private family; week-ends excepted; Northcote district; room self. "L.M.," c/o 291 High St., Northcote.

WE require on First Mortgage at 7½ per cent. and 8 per cent. sums of £500 and £600 on new houses in Northcote and Preston. Every loan secured and guaranteed. Invest in your own district. O'DONOHUE & BREW, Solicitors, Capitol House, Swanston St., Melbourne. F3213.

For Sale.

BUTCHER'S Cart, strong movable top, and jinker. First offer. E. Shakespeare, butcher, cnr. Clyde and Wales Sts., Northcote.

DUCKS, Geese, Turkeys, Fowls; prime and cheap. Pine Ville Poultry Farm, Cnr. Darebin and Station Sts., Fairfield.

FURNITURE, Poultry, etc., is best sold at HOOPER'S NORTHCOTE AUCTION ROOMS, 336 High Street (opp. Henderson's, Butcher). Goods sold at auction and privately. Large Premises for Display of Goods. We send our own waggon anywhere. Prompt settlements. Northcote 946.

JINKER, wood, hickory, R.T. brake, lamps, strong; must sell; harness. Home mornings, 65 Arthurton road, Northcote.

PIANO Box Buggy. Rubber tyres. Black Mare, smart and showy; trial given; bargain £36. Bainbridge, 3 West St., Preston.

YOUNG Ducks for Xmas; cheap. 5 Montague St., Sth. Preston.

W. AYLWARD, (Late R. Bailey), ESTATE OFFICES—104 HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

TO LET.
SHOPS.
Northcote, Charles St. Rent 15/-
HOUSES.
Eltham, 6 min. station and electric train service—7-roomed house, E.L., dairy, fowl houses, stabling, garage, and 1½ acres. Suit poultry farmers. Rent 30/-, or sell deposit £50; balance as rent; price £750.
Barry St.—5 rooms, garage; 30/-
FOR SALE.
Northcote, house, 4 rooms, £625.
Northcote, house, 6 rooms, £720.
Clifton Hill, house, 5 rooms, stabling for 2, £800. Deposit £50.
North Fitzroy, s.f. brick house, 6 rooms, £985. Deposit £100.
Upwards of 200 properties to select from at prices from £650.
Terms arranged, with moderate deposits.
Rents Collected.
Estate Offices:—104 High St., Northcote. Established over 40 years.
'Phone—Northcote 576.

Wanted to Buy.

STERLING SOAP COMPANY, Pty. Ltd., South Preston. Buyers of Household Fat in any quantities. 5/- per tin. Ask your Grocer for STERLING SOAP.

BOTTLES, Bones, Rags, Zinc, Lead, Brass and Copper. Highest price given. Cash on Delivery. Letters receive prompt attention. H. Bishop, Darebin Rd., Northcote. 'Phone 362.

Lost.

LOST in Preston last Friday, Engagement Cluster Ring, 2 stones missing. Reward. 24 Bond St., Preston.

XMAS AND NEW YEAR WINES.

Secure your supplies of Xmas wine from

A. ONGARELLO & CO.,

AN XMAS SPECIAL.

Large glass of Wine Shandy, or the ice. Beautiful cooling drink, 3d.

Note Address:—
CNR. HIGH ST. AND ARTHURTON ROAD, NORTHCOTE.

The former is, therefore, ganged in various sizes in order to reduce the possibilities of voids and "pockets" to a minimum, and the latter, which is composed of sharp sand and Portland cement acts as a filling medium. Thus, crushed stone, clean sand, and cement form one of the strongest concretes known.

We are now able to manufacture concrete kerbs, tiles, and bricks at a fraction of their former cost, and retain all the pleasing attributes of the originals. Facing bricks can also so closely imitated as to necessitate an expert's opinion to distinguish between the original and the copy.

NORTHCOTE COUNCIL

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13.

The usual meeting was held on Monday evening, when there were present the Mayor (Cr. Phil. Mayer) and Crs. J. Cain, A. H. Oldis, W. Glanfield, R. E. Johnson, W. Olver, H. Mitchell, J. L. Dunlop, J. Sutch, S. Dennis, A. C. Beard and W. Hayes. Apologies were received from Crs. McDonald and Turner.

Clearance of Postal Receivers.

P.M.G.'s Department, per Mr. Frank Brennan, M.H.R., re council's request that provision be made for two daily clearances of letter receiver at corner of Taylor and Miller streets, Northcote, stating that approval had been given for an additional clearance at 4 p.m. daily (Saturdays excepted). Arrangements had also been made for a night clearance at 10.15 p.m. daily (Sundays included). As from December 13, 1926, the times of clearance would be 10 a.m. daily, 4 p.m. (Saturdays excepted), and 10.15 p.m. (Sundays included).—Received.

Water Extensions.

Metropolitan Board of Works, agreeing to lay new mains in Bank street, Northcote, from Russell street east to Peel street (33 chains), thence along Peel street to Bastings street, 7½ chains, under the usual conditions.—Usual guarantee to be signed.

Control of a Park.

Department of Lands and Survey, re proposal to permanently reserve an area of 9a. 1r. 7p. of land facing Merri Creek for recreation purposes, and asking if the council would grant the Fitzroy Cricket Club the right to use five acres of it if the council were appointed a committee of management of the area.—Committee of the council

High School Council.

Town clerk, City of Fitzroy, asking that two representatives of that council be appointed to the High School Council.

The town clerk reported having communicated with the High School Council.

Town clerk's action endorsed.

Northcote Free Library.

R. J. Whalley, hon. secretary Northcote Free Library, asking that a small notice board be erected on the lawn in front of the library, drawing attention to the privileges offered by that institution.—Finance Committee.

New By-law Wanted.

W. H. Webber, secretary Shop Assistants' and Warehouse Employers' Federation, asking that council adopt a by-law providing that every person engaged in handling, serving and delivering food shall wear clean washable overalls.—Finance Committee.

New Church of Epiphany.

Vicar and churchwardens of the Church of the Epiphany, an invitation to attend the laying of the foundation stone of the new church on December 18.—Accepted.

Alleged Violation of By-law.

Secretary Carters' and Drivers' Association, reporting a case where a lad had had charge of two horses and drays, a violation of the council by-law, and asking that proceedings be taken against him.—Action to be taken.

An amendment to send the matter to the Public Works Committee was lost.

Buses Not Wanted in High Street.

L. T. Stevens secretary Arthurton Road and District Progress Association, enclosing a motion—"That this association whole heartedly supports the Northcote City Council in its efforts to abolish privately owned buses running in High street."—Received.

West Ward Progress Association.

J. A. Hogan, secretary West Ward Progress Association—(1) Complaining that motorists and carters cut across the children's playground in Shaftesbury Parade.—Referred to the police. (2) Complaining of wandering stock in St. George's road and other parts of the ward.—Already being attended to; (3) Asking that gutter at corner St. George's road and Normanby Avenue be given attention. Already receiving attention; (4) drawing attention to water lying at corner Normanby Avenue and Leinster Gr.—Public Works Committee; (5) asking that paper and rubbish in Merri Park be cleaned up—Referred to the officers; (6) requesting that the council approach the Postal Department to request the erection of public telephones at corner of Taylor and Miller streets and corner Hutton and Hobson streets.—Representations to be made per Mr. Brennan, M.H.R.; (7) complaining that nothing had been done to footpaths in Johnson street, between Kemp street and Woolton Av., and that the paths were still rough.—Public Works Committee; (8) Re drains, Rennie street, complaining that these were in a very dirty condition.—Writers to be informed the matter was now receiving attention

One Way Traffic, St. George's Road.

Secretary West Ward Progress Association, asking that council enforce the one way traffic by-law in St. George's road.

Cr. Beard moved that the police be asked to take action. It was a farce to have a by-law and not have it administered. The street was safe.

Cr. Sutch said some people observed the by-law, and it was a wonder accidents were not more frequent.

Cr. Olver said that it would be a shame to force people on to the east side. In the near future the council would be doing big construction works in this street, and then the by-law would have to be suspended. He moved that no action be taken.

Cr. Hayes said that this was not the only bad road in Northcote. If they were going to do anything, the council would have to take down the notice boards and abolish the by-law, or else let matters go on as they are.

Cr. Dennis said that some time ago the council had given instructions to do work on the east side of the road, to make it trafficable. The council had a by-law framed, and if they now let the people travel as they pleased, there would be accidents. It would be positively dangerous if all the traffic used the west side of the road. If necessary more repairs could be done to the east side of the road.

Cr. Dunlop supported the motion. He had seen many "near accidents."

Cr. Olver withdrew his amendment, and moved that the matter go to the committee of the whole.

Cr. Beard said it was the "pace makers" who used the wrong side of the road."

The motion was carried.

GENERAL.

Town clerk, Melbourne, secretary to Gas Conference, copy of letter sent to the Premier urging that legislation be introduced to amend the gas supply. The principal desire of the amended legislation is to control the quality of the gas.

The letter was received.

Metropolitan Tramways Board, re proposed erection of a third high tension electric main on tramway poles in St. George's road, Northcote, stating the Board would consent to the work being carried out provided it was done in an approved manner.—Received.

General secretary Motor Users' Association, an application to erect sign posts free of cost to the council on all roads where no provision of this nature had been made.—Public Works Committee.

J. G. Chew, offering a block of land in Clifton street, 54 x 65 ft., for £25 for a small playground.—Writer to be informed the McDonell Park was adjacent, and the council had no use for the land.

John Quinn, tendering his resignation from the council staff owing to illness.—Referred to Public Works Committee.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

Cr. Dennis moved that general accounts £2,762/10/4; street construction accounts £1,875/3/9; loan 17 accounts £44/3/-, and loan 18 accounts £365/0/9 be passed.—Carried.

Woolton Avenue Construction—That to provide an adequate parking area in Mayer Park, and so relieve traffic congestion in St. George's road on race days, the construction of Woolton Avenue be made an urgent matter, and the surveyor immediately prepare plans, etc., and the work take precedence over all other works and be carried out as soon as possible.—Adopted.

Shaftesbury Parade construction.—That in respect to proposed work in Shaftesbury Parade, the plans, specifications, etc., shall be kept open for inspection at the council's offices, between office hours, and that notice be served on all those intended to be made liable.—Adopted.

G. M. Anthony, requesting permission to build on land 28ft. x 115ft., Gooch street, with brick wall on east boundary.—There being no further land available, the application be granted.

W. J. Cottle, requesting permission to build on land 21ft. 3in. x 88ft. 8in., Separation street—Application refused.

J. H. James, requesting permission to erect two houses on land 70ft. x 115ft., Raleigh street, each having a frontage of 35ft.—Application refused.

A. A. Leahy and Co., requesting permission to erect a house on land 40ft. x 100ft., Beaver's road.—There being no further land available, application granted.

W. De Sandis, requesting permission to erect motor garage with brick wall on side boundary, Arthurton road.—Granted.

Mrs. M. A. Martin, requesting permission to erect garage, with brick wall on side boundary, James street.—Granted.

W. Abraham, requesting permission to build garage with brick wall on side boundary, Bent street. Granted.

J. R. Heath, requesting permission to erect out-building, with brick wall on side boundary, Clarke street.—Granted.

Stevens Bros., re proposed subdivision of land, William street. Approved of subject to consent of Metropolitan Board of Works.

G. F. Wright, re proposed subdivision of H. Hancock's property, Collins street.—Approved of subject to consent of Board of Works.

Central Ward apportionment.—A list of works to cost £344/5/- was adopted, and the surveyor was authorised to put same in hand.

Roberts street and lanes rear of Simpson street, between Clarke and Roberts streets. That works having cost £647/7/6, being £192/7/9 less than estimated cost, the apportionments be decreased proportionately.—Adopted.

Lane at rear High street, off Clarendon street.—That works having cost £130/10/-, being £18 less than estimated cost, the respective apportionments be decreased proportionately.—Adopted.

Lane off Derby street, rear Brooke street. That works having cost £159 13/2, being £40/13/11 less than estimated cost, the respective apportionments be reduced proportionately.—Adopted.

ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMITTEE.

Cr. Hayes moved that accounts totalling £1,718 7/11 be passed.—Carried.

T. Abbott and Co., re current for bath heaters.—That approval be given for supply for bath heaters on a flat rate of 5/- per month per 100 watts.

Northcote Citizens' Band, re park lighting. That electrical engineer be authorised to provide suitable lighting for band recitals at an estimated cost of £17/4/.

Power for stone crusher. That electrical engineer having recommended the erection of a transformer house, at an estimated cost of £407 10/-, to maintain sufficient supply of current to the crusher, authority be given for the work to be carried out.

The foregoing clauses were adopted.

PARKS AND BATHS COMMITTEE.

Cr. Mitchell moved that accounts totalling £136/19/2 be passed.—Carried.

Old transformer house, corner High and Urquhart streets.—To report that committee is of opinion that the building is necessary for storing tools, and to recommend that the gardener be instructed to extend rockery around the east side of the building, with a view of minimising possibility of nuisance; also that a suitable creeper be grown over the building.

Merri Park.—That surveyor be authorised to arrange for the expenditure of £100 on the extension of rockery border along the Sumner Avenue frontage to Merri Park, to include water service, and a post and angle rail fence at the rear of the border. Tenders to be invited for water service.—Adopted.

Hayes Park.—To report that arrangements for the purchase of land fronting Flinders street have been completed, the area acquired being 7 acres at a total price of £2,825, without legal expenses, and to recommend that the action of the Parks Committee be confirmde.

The foregoing clauses were adopted.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Cr. Johnson moved that in addition to the accounts already passed, that accounts totalling £6,555/19/6 be passed.—Carried.

G. Eaton, requesting council to take steps to take land, Newman street, under Rates Recovery Act.—That town clerk be instructed to take proceedings under the Rates Recovery Act for the sale of lot 60 Newman street, 30 feet frontage, the rates on same not having been paid for over 20 years.—Adopted.

COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL.

Cr. Hayes moved that the following clauses be adopted:—

Christmas holidays.—That the offices of the council be closed from December 25, 1926, to January 3, 1927, both dates inclusive, arrangements to be made for all urgent business to be attended to.

Dates of meetings.—That the next meeting be held on January 24, 1927, and the next meetings of the committees February 1, 1927.

Urgent business.—That the Mayor, chairmen of the various committees, the town clerk and city surveyor be authorised to deal with any urgent business that may arise prior to the next meeting of the council.

Payment of wages and urgent accounts.—That the Finance Committee be authorised to pay wages, salaries and all urgent accounts.

The clauses were adopted.

ORDINARY BUSINESS.

Cr. Johnson moved that the surveyor's attention be drawn to holes in Separation street, from Victoria road east to the boundary. The road was very bad, and he moved that it receive immediate attention.—Carried.

Cr. Beard moved a street light be erected in Comas Grove, on the third pole from Rennie street.—Electric Light Committee.

Cr. Beard moved that scarifying Normanby Avenue and Beaver's road, between St. George's road and High street, go to Public Works Committee.—Carried.

Cr. Beard referred to dangerous manhole covers at corner Spencer and High streets, also fire plug in High treet.—Referred to foreman for attention.

Cr. Beard moved that the money to be derived from parking fees at Mayer Park, when the parking scheme came into opeartion, be spent on improvements to that park.—Committee of the whole.

Cr. Dennis moved that further Public Works Committee accounts, general £2,528/18/10; street construction £184/16/11; Loan 17 £93/2/10, be passed.—Carried.

Cr. Mitchell moved that Parks Committee accounts £89/8/7 be paid.—Carried.

Further Electric Light Committee accounts were passed on the motion of Cr. Johnson.

Cr. Sutch moved that the cartage contractor's attention be drawn to the speed at which the waggons travel.

Cr. Olver said that recently at the corner of St. David and Clarendon streets, a metal truck had taken the corner so fast that the metal had been skidded off the top of the lorry. He suggested a letter be sent to the contractor asking why the speed limit was being exceeded. The metal carries were not using any one street, but were using and cutting up every street.

The motion was carried.

Cr. Hayes moved that water extensions in Victoria road be referred to the Commissioner. Carried

Cr. Olver said that in Wales street there was a shortage of water, and no water would flow at all at times.

Cr. Dennis said that he had made continuous representations on this matter. The engineer for water supply (Mr. Pitcher) had given an assurance that this matter would be rectified by laying a 9in. main instead of the present 4in. main, which had to serve a large area. He was doing his best to get the larger pipes laid to better the pressure.

Cr. Mitchell moved that the question of erecting posts at each of the corners of new streets, where pitched crossings had been abolished, go to the Public Works Committee. Concrete covers and culverts, he said, had been smashed by vehicles "cutting the corners."—Carried.

Cr. Olver moved that application be made to have a postal receiver erected at the corner of Thurratt and Flinders streets.—Public Works Committee.

Cr. Beard referred to a hoarding in High street, north of Woolton Av. There was a great deal of rubbish behind it.—Public Works Committee.

The Mayor referred to children "whipping" behind trams in High street. It was dangerous and the police might stop it.—Referred to the police.

Cr. Hayes referred to the number of boys selling papers outside paper shops in the streets. The boys ran across the streets without considering the traffic.

Cr. Olver said High street was the worst street for newsboys he had seen, dodging in and out the traffic.

The matter of boys "whipping" behind trams was referred to the police.

Cr. Mitchell referred to men behaving offensively on vacant land at the rear of the Commercial Hotel after 6 p.m.—Referred to police.

The Mayor referred to noise made by milk waggons late at night in residential streets.—Finance Committee, for consideration.

The Mayor referred to the High School, and moved that other councils which had contributed be asked to write to their State representatives and to the Minister to hurry on the erection of the school.

Cr. Cain said the department had been preparing plans, which were not altogether suitable, and they had had to be amended.

Motion carried.

Cr. Oldis moved that painting of traffic buttons in High street with an oil paint be referred to the engineer.—Carried.

The Mayor extended best wishes for Xmas and the New Year to the councillors and their wives, and to the staff.

Cr. Johnson on behalf of the council gave best wishes to the Mayor and Mayoress for the festive season.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Hartley Street Construction.

Cr. Johnson said they had not got any tenders for the street. If the council got the consent of those concerned, the work could be done by day labor, and be charged the actual cost. The street went through a stony rise, and contractors seemed to be frightened of it. He moved that the matter be deferred, with a view to obtaining the consent of the ratepayers to the work being done by day labor.

Cr. Oldis said that it might be possible by going into the matter further to cheapen the cost.

Cr. Dennis said that almost every plan that came before them was held up. He moved as an amendment that the plans be adopted. If the plan were passed the question of contract or day labor could be discussed.

Cr. Johnson said all the people in these streets were young and paying off their houses. He would like the matter re-considered.

Cr. Hayes said he could not see any chance of cheapening the cost. He felt it would be better to get a tender to have the rock taken out instead of doing it by day labor.

The amendment was carried

Supply of Road Roller.

Cr. Sutch moved that the tender of A. H. McDonald and Co. for a 5-6 ton Diesel oil roller for £960 be accepted.

Cr. Beard moved an amendment that a steam roller be purchased. The steam roller was more efficient, and was used world wide. The steam roller had a 30 years' life, and the oil 15 years. He felt they should get a steam roller, which was the advice of the city surveyor.

Cr. Mitchell seconded, saying steam was tried, and would satisfy all their wants. Diesel engines had only been in operation for five years, whilst at present there were in Australia steam rollers of this type which had been in use for over 30 years.

Cr. Cain said they wanted a roller for light work. For a heavy roller steam was most suitable, but for this work an Australian roller could be bought. The council should endeavor to build up Australian industry. An oil roller would be more convenient to run, and just as cheap to operate. An oil roller would not require firing up, but would be ready to start at a moment's notice like a motor car.

Cr. Dennis said they wanted a three wheel roller, and the one mentioned in the motion was of the tandem type.

Cr. Sutch was given leave to withdraw his motion, and the matter is still in the hands of the committee of the whole.

Lane Construction.

Construction of lane between Howitt and Leonard streets.

Cr. Dennis moved that the tender of T. Goldsworthy be accepted for £505 1/3 for the construction of a lane between Howitt and Leonard streets.—Carried.

Sharpe Street Construction.

Tenders, construction Sharpe street.

Cr. Dennis moved that as no tender had been received, that the town clerk write to the owners concerned to ascertain if they were agreeable to having the work done by day labor.—Carried.

Annual Statement of Accounts.

Cr. Johnson said the annual statement of accounts showed a very satisfactory position. Out of £51,000 revenue from rates, only £700 had not been collected, which showed the ratepayers were standing behind the council. The parks were costing about £70 a week in upkeep, and he felt that anyone coming into High street, Northcote, for the first time would compare it with St. Kilda road. The income from all sources was £119,000, and the expenditure was £113,000, leaving the council a credit balance of £5,000 approx.

The report was received.

THE BUZZ OF THE LAWN MOWER.

SCENE—A FRONT GARDEN (SUNDAY MORNING).

"Morning, Smith." Mower ceases buzzing.

"Morning, Jones. Your garden is looking bonzer."

Jones—"Not too bad; I wish I could keep the house looking as fresh as the garden."

Smith—"Yes, so do I. That reminds me of a little conversation we had coming home in the train yesterday. Brown has a scheme that if 25 people in our street pooled in 10/- a week for 50 weeks, and have a draw every fortnight, we could all have our houses painted within 12 months, each one to pay any amount over the £25. Any good, oh?"

Jones—"Not for me; who takes the responsibility?"

Smith—"Well, I suppose Brown would, as he suggested the idea, and he reckons he knows a bit about painting. You know he painted his fence last year."

Jones—"No; it wouldn't work. I've got a better system than that, and it's only 5/- per week, or 2/6 if you like. It's called 'The Original Home Decorating and Painting Club, with 55 members, and a draw every fortnight, or once a month, as the case may be. It's worked by GEO. ALLEN, the DECORATOR, 53 Shaftesbury Parade, Northcote. Here, read this." (Hands over the printed conditions.)

Smith—"Yes, that's all right, but wouldn't you have to pay through the nose for it, just like a time paymen' stunt?"

Jones—"Not on your life! It's just something like Brown's idea, only that we have no responsibility. Instead of putting away 5/- every week until there is enough saved, it is paid into the club. It's the system that does it, and it's dinkum, too. Think it over."

Smith—"I can see it all right now. You bet I'll take this on. You can send him over when he calls again. So long. I'll tell Brown about this."

Jones—"You ring Northcote 1428, and have it explained by the Decorator himself. Must do some work now."

Mower starts bussing again.

RING NORTHCOTE 1218.

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225 STATION ST., FAIRFIELD.
GENERAL CARRIER AND CARTAGE CONTRACTOR.

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YOU WILL BE WISE TO ASK THESE QUESTIONS:—
What will be the first cost of my home?
What will be the cost of insurance spread over 20 years?
What will be the cost of Painting spread over 20 years?
What will be the cost of Upkeep spread over 20 years?
If I build in Timber, will my home be free from Borers and White Ants?
Or, Will I build with materials that have stood for centuries?
We say ask yourselves these questions, and we are sure you will decide to let the

STABILITY CONSTRUCTION CO
BEST STREET, PRESTON RESERVOIR,

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THE STABILITY CONSTRUCTION CO., using its wonderful patented system of building CAVITY WALLED HOUSES IN CONCRETE, can build you a Home that will free you from the everlasting worry of Insurance, Painting, and Upkeep Bills, and the dread of White Ants and Borers, at a cost that compares favorably with Weatherboard Construction. Remember—Our Homes have a Cavity Wall and are Damp Proof, Fire Proof, and Borer Proof. You owe it to yourselves to see the manager for fuller particulars. Write to the secretary
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BEST ST., PRESTON. Phone—Northcote 1767.
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Bus Service to Preston Star Theatre every Wednesday and Saturday

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Make the most of every remaining day by shopping here where unhurried selections may be made from dependable stocks of ELECTROPLATE and SILVERWARE, GOLD WATCHES and WRISTLETS, GOLD RINGS and BRACELETS, NECKLETS, PENDANTS, CHAINS, STUDS, LINKS, TOILET WARE, BRUSHWARE, and scores of other articles of jewellery, any one of which will be welcomed for its value and prized for its usefulness by the lucky recipient

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Attractions in All Departments.

See our Big Display of Toys, Handkerchiefs, Perfumes, Stationery and Novelties.

Mothers! Bring the Kiddies Along?

THE COBBERS' CLUB

CONDUCTED BY UNCLE PHIL.

Dear Cobbers,—How many of you have begun your holidays? How did you do in the exams? Jacko says isn't anyone ever going to win the monkey and have him for good? He's sick of seeing a replica of himself who can't play with him.

I have been to such a number of break-up concerts, and I see many names on the programmes of Cobbers. I watch each item and wonder who is a Cobber, and sometimes I find out. I know quite a number of you now.

I am going away for holidays, and Jacko will run the Corner while I am away. I wonder how he'll get on?

Some of you will have lots of time to write to him, and I'm sure you will write.

We are welcoming four new Cobbers this week, one girl and three boys Mavis Baker, Freddie Baker, Harry Scholz and Kelvin Bensley. We hope they'll all be good Cobbers and write quite a lot to us.

With best love from

UNCLE PHIL AND JACKO.

P.S.—Don't forget to call for your Christmas cards before you go away.

P.S.—Hilda Hartnell has gained her 100 marks. Congrats, Hilda.

WHO WANTS ME?

To the boy or girl who wins Certificate 379, a monkey will be given.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL COBBERS.

OUR MAIL BAG.

116 Separation St., Northcote

Dear Uncle Phil,—It is a long time since I wrote last. I am put up into the sixth grade at school. We went to the Sunday school Christmas tree last night, and my three smallest brothers got presents. My aunt is staying with us for a while, and my mother says that she would spoil us if she could have her own way with us.

(GOOD.) Cyril Webb.

Glad to hear from you again, Cyril. Are your brothers going to join the club? I'm sure Jacko would love to have them. Love from Jacko.

Stanlake St., North Preston.

Dear Uncle Phil,—It is a long time since I have written to the Cobbers' Club, and I suppose you thought I had forgotten you all. I see by the "Leader" that Uncle Peter is away. I hope he will soon be better. I have not much to say now, so will close with love to Jacko and yourself.

(GOOD.) Florrie Cameron.

Your welcome letter to hand. I am pleased to hear from you. Call for your Xmas card if you can; if not, write and tell me and I'll post it.

21 Smith Street, Thornbury.

Dear Uncle Phil,—It is the first time I have written to the club since Uncle Peter went away. We have just finished our exams. at school. During the holidays we are going to Parkdale for three weeks, but as the "Leader" is sent down to us I shall still be able to write to the club and read the corner. I have got 85 marks now and I am sending in more contributions with this letter.

(GOOD.) Valma Classon.

I am pleased to hear from you again. Will you be able to call for your Xmas card? Have a good holiday.

43 Bridge St., Northcote.

Dear Uncle Phil,—It is our speech day on December 17, and I hope I will win a prize. We have two months for Christmas holidays—quite a long time, isn't it? The fete at our Sunday school was very nice. The total amount taken was £98/11/- Are you going away for Christmas? I don't think I am. Kenneth, my little nephew, has been to see Father Christmas. He calls him Daddy Crispo. He will be two on February 7, and he can say a great many things. He calls me Betti. I wonder who will get Jacko, the monkey?

(GOOD.) Betty Ryan.

I hope you win a prize too. Are you going to see Father Christmas? I will if I have time. Are you coming to call for your Christmas card?

Dear Uncle Phil,—I was very pleased when I received my certificate. I wasn't expecting one, because I thought you had forgotten me. Another thing I would like to tell you is that you mistook my name for Mary instead of Myrtle.

(GOOD.) Myrtle Pritchard.

It was a good guess that you were a girl. Will you be able to call for your Christmas card? Are you going away for Christmas?

19 High St Preston

Dear Uncle Phil,—I have won my qualifying certificate. We will soon be breaking up for our Christmas holidays. I am sending in a few jokes and verses for the corner. Hoping you and Jacko are well.

(GOOD.) Phyllis & Jean Murray.

Congrats, Phyllis. Are you going away for Xmas? Hope you have a pleasant holiday. Love from Jacko.

60 Harold St., Thornbury.

Dear Uncle Phil,—There are just a few lines to tell you that I have got my hundred marks. I will not have a book, but I will have 2/6, as I want to buy my mother and father a present each for Christmas. I am not going away this year, as relations are coming down from Ballarat, so I will be able to write to you. Are you going away this year?

(GOOD.) Hilda Hartnell

Yes, Hilda, I'm going away, but not for long. I think Jacko will accompany me, but he is so mischievous. I am pleased you have got your 2/6.

10 James St., Northcote.

Dear Uncle Phil,—I think your idea of giving Christmas cards is a very nice one. How will the Corner get on during the holidays with all the Cobbers away? My brother and I will be going to Bonalla for part of the time.

(GOOD.) Aubrey Singleton.

I hope you'll call for your cards before you go away. Come as soon as you like. I've a good mind to leave Jacko in charge of the corner. I think he could do it. Perhaps he might drink up all the ink.

Dear Uncle Peter,—Please enroll me as a Cobber. I am interested in the "Leader," and simply must join the club. I have an uncle Ulysses living at Cairns. I am in grade 4 at school, and am 10. I am sending along some jokes. Hope you will like them.

Florrie Callanan.

Please send in a form and I will grade this and your joke.

OTHER LETTERS.

Beryl Lomas.—If you will send in your jokes, I will grade and name them. I'm sorry that happened.

Annie Korr.—I'm glad you like your book. Jacko is very well, but doesn't like the cold weather. Did you get your Christmas card safely?

Phyllis Kerr.—You did win the rounder match by a lot. So you got your "Leader" all right on Monday. How are your pets?

Edna Lynch.—Your story is lovely. You can write lovely stories. Are you coming for your card?

Ken Scaddan.—Your birthday greetings will be very late, but better late than never. Are you going away for your holidays?

Anna Crow.—Your storyette to hand. Are you coming in for your Xmas card?

Freddie Baker. Are you going to write to me and tell me how you spent your holidays. I have a card here for you, Jacko is pleased to welcome you and so am I.

Mavis Baker.—We are pleased to welcome another girl. I only hope the other girls "buck up" and try and beat the boys. Send something for the corner.

Leslie Beecher.—About your rivers, No. it wouldn't matter as far as marks are concerned, but those trying to solve them would have some trouble.

James Hartnell.—I like your "Hungry Plant." It is very interesting. I want you to send things like that, but do not copy them. Read up your subject and then write it up.

Harry Scholz.—Welcome to the club, Harry. Aren't you going to write to me? I'd love to hear from you and print some of your contributions.

Cyril Webb.—The storyette about the naval officers I have had in hand for some time, so you will understand if someone else's name is under it.

Florrie Cameron.—Your joke about the inspector has been printed before. Send some more.

COBBERS' STORIES AND VERSE.

THE FLOWER FAIRIES.

Jack's father had made him a garden, and Jack looked after it carefully every day, but whenever his sister mentioned fairies and their lovely colored dresses Jack would say "My flowers are a much lovelier shade than fairies' dresses." One night Jack had a dream, and this is what he dreamt. He had not long climbed into bed when he heard the faint tinkling of bells mingled with the patter of tiny feet. He looked up, and to his amazement the room was filled with the dazzling colors from the fairies' dresses. After he had got more used to the light he saw that the fairies were dancing around their queen, who held a notice, on which was printed: "Fairy Flower Painters begin work at twelve o'clock."

When Jack had watched awhile the fairies fluttered out into the garden, and Jack followed them. He saw tiny tins of paint with brushes handed out to all the fairies by tiny goblins dressed in green. All the fairies worked hard until every flower in his garden had been repainted ready for the sun fairies to dry them. Then the light dazzled Jack's eyes again and he woke up to find the sunlight streaming through his window. Ever since that night Jack has agreed with his sister about the lovely colored dresses fairies wear.

(BETTER.) Edna Lynch.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

Christmas is coming, and aren't we glad! Every boy and girl looks forward to it and Santa Claus and his toys. On Christmas Eve all the children pick out their biggest stockings to hang up. It is very hard to go to sleep that night, as everyone is excited and eager for the next morning. At last they can lie awake no longer, and sleep comes and everything is very quiet until about 5 o'clock, when the first awake runs to see what has been brought. With a joyous cry he wakes the others and all jump out of bed to see what he or she has been given. Everyone is exchanging greetings, and giving and receiving presents. Then they have breakfast, and when this is finished, off to church. Church over, all the children are asking each other what they received. Then they go home and have their dinner, and see who gets most money out of the pudding. The rest of the afternoon is spent in playing until it is time for tea. After this they stay up for a while, but, as they are tired, go to bed and to sleep after a very happy day.

(BETTER.) Sidney Singleton.

A HUNGRY PLANT.

"Tul-Tul," as the natives call it, is the most wonderful vegetable plant in the world. It grows on certain Pacific Islands, and in appearance is like a giant turnip, but red in color. To the white men it is very tough and tasteless. To the natives, however, it is the main item of their diet. They cook it and mix it with their bread food, for it is supposed to be very nourishing. The plant grows in large ditches or swamps. Its most peculiar feature is that it has to be fed, and for this purpose the native children go all over the island collecting decayed vegetables. These are soaked in plenty of salt water, and are then taken to the plants and put in the centre of the leaf, from which leaves spread out on every side. Slowly the decayed matter disappears, the leaves stiffen out erect—signs apparently that the plant has dined heartily, for it is a case of feeding a plant. There is no opening on the stem or the leaves. The food is absorbed in a silent manner.

(BETTER.) James Hartnell.

"LEADER" DAY.

The sun shone bright one summer day,
The grass waved in the breeze,
And all the children went to play
Among the leafy trees.
But suddenly one gave a yell,
And ran towards the gate,
And all the rest rushed down pell mell
For fear they should be late.
For pa had just come in from town,
(He goes there "Leader" days),
And all the children then sit down
To hear what Uncle says.

(BETTER.) P. and J. Murray.

HOME, SWEET HOME.

'Mid pleasures and palaces,
Wherever I may roam:
Never, never do forget
To take the "Leader" home.

(GOOD.) A. Angus.

A BIT OF ALL.

JANe Macarthy lay a-grooning,
FEB rifuges left her moaning.
MARtyr she to pains so cruel,
PERoned nurses gave her gruel.
MAY be it would ease the trouble;
JUNket made the torment double.
JULep was the next suggestion,
AUGuring a weak digestion.
SEParated milk was tried,
OCTopus and turtle fried.
NOVel cures removed the pain,
DECimating germs in Jane.

(BETTER.) Florrie Cameron.

WORD DIAMOND PUZZLES.

The sixth letter in the alphabet; a period of time; the forehead; an insect; the twentieth letter in the alphabet.

F
ERA
FRONT
ANT
T

The fifth letter of the alphabet; a part of the human body; a mistake; religious people; the eighteenth letter of the alphabet.

E
ARM
ERROR
MOB
R

(GOOD.) Sid. Singleton.

WORD SQUARES.

Ensuring; or; demands; in case.

PEAL
ELSE
ASKS
LEST

From a plant; girl's name; boy's name; to paint coarsely.

SEED
ELSA
ESAU
DAUB

(GOOD.) Gordon Bardwell.

DO YOU GO TO PICTURES?

Can you guess these names:—
(Answers next week.)

1. Ming Ho ate mash.
2. Hallo, Lod Ryd.
3. Lall Gin Ishl.
4. Era Mum Ary.
5. Nit Ben Deten.
6. Dog Ran Tehman.
7. Net Pin Rub
8. Lalm Arm Wilfun.

(GOOD.) Leslie Beecher.

HOW TO CATCH.

Bet your friend a penny that he won't say "Matches" in reply to three questions from you. He will take it on as an easy way of making money, naturally. So say to him—"Right! Now place your penny on the table, and also three matches. Thanks! Now for a start. What time is it?" "Matches." "Well done! What did you have for dinner?" "Matches." "Ha, ha, ha! Hope you enjoyed them. Now, which will you have if you win our bet—penny or matches?" "Matches." "Thanks, very much," at which you pocket his penny. As you have tricked him, however, you had better give him his money back after all.

(GOOD.) Colin Junor.

HIDDEN FISHES.

Each of the following groups of letters makes the name of a fish. How many can you find? Eeacrmik; Hkddaco; Peaell; Hwtling; Retsbol; Hkddaco; Peaell; Hwtling; Retsbol; Monlas. Solution—Mackerel, haddock, plaice, whiting, lobster, salmon.

(GOOD.) Valma Classon.

A puzzle sentence.—B not x either T or. Answer.—Be not cross either before tea or after tea.

(GOOD.) Florrie Cameron.

RIDDLE-ME-REE.

My first is in milk, but not in tea.
My second is in spider, but not in bee.
My third is in play, but not in work.
My fourth is in try, but not in shirk.
My fifth is in round, and also in crossed.
My sixth is in answer, but not in bossed.
My whole wrote the poem "Paradise Lost."

Answer—Milton.

(GOOD.) Colin Junor.

STORYETTES.

Ruined His Case.—A man had entered an action against a railway company for injury to his arm in a railway accident. Opposing Barrister—"I understand you have lost the use of your arm entirely through this accident?" Plaintiff—"Yes." Barrister—"How high can you lift your arm now?" Plaintiff, with difficulty, moved it about an inch. Barrister—"How far could you lift it before the accident?" Plaintiff—"Right up there" (shooting it high above his head) Verdict for the defendants.

(GOOD.) Anna Crow.

AN INGENIOUS BORROWER.

Wilkins—"I say, Smith, will you be using your lawn mower this afternoon?" Smith—"Yes, I'm afraid I will be." Wilkins—"Splendid; then you won't be using your tennis racquet. I've broken mine."

Raw Indeed.—Assistant: "And what can I do for you, madam?" Mrs. Newlywed: "Oh, I meant to get my husband a collar stud, but I've forgotten what size he wears."

(GOOD.) Aubrey Singleton.

Economy.—Sandy had learnt from bitter experience that bacon had a most distressing habit of shrinking, so he devised a wily scheme to counteract this defect. He fried his in Lux to prevent it from shrinking.

(GOOD.) P. and J. Murray.

A woman went to a photographer and asked: "Do you photograph children?" "Yes, madam," she was told. "How much do you charge?" "Ten and sixpence a dozen." "Thank you very much," said the woman, "but I'm afraid I must call again later on. I've only got eleven."

(GOOD.) Beryl Lomas.

A Chinaman walked into a newspaper shop and addressed the clerk thus—"My bluddah him die. What me pay to get him in paper?" Clerk—"Three shillings per inch." Chinaman—"Too muchee; too muchee. Him six feet high."

Teacher—"Now children, repeat this after me—Borneo is as big as Siam." Small boy—"Borneo is as big as you are."

(GOOD.) F. Johnston.

The old gentleman was shocked. "My lad," he remonstrated, "do you know what becomes of little boys who use bad language while they are playing marbles?" "Yes, sir; they grow up and play golf."

Examining Admiral (to naval cadet)—"Now mention three great admirals." Candidate—"Drake, Nelson and I beg your pardon, sir, I didn't quite catch your name." He passed the exam.

(GOOD.) Ken Scaddan.

The school teacher was showing the infants how to form the figures from 1 to 12. After writing them on the blackboard several times, she told the children to write them out on their slates from memory. When later she looked at the slates, she found all the numbers written correctly up to 10, but instead of finding the figure 11 she found 1. "Why, what is the meaning of this, Jackie Jones?" she asked, pointing at the solitary figure. "Pup-please teacher," stammered Jackie, "I-I didn't know on which side of the 1 to put the other 1."

(GOOD.) Cyril Webb.

Doris—"Mamma, what do you put pictures on the wall for?" Mamma—"For you to look at, dear." Doris—"All right, you can take them down; I've seen them."

(GOOD.) Florrie Cameron.

Teacher—"Dear me, Sidney, your sums are all wrong. I must tell your father about this." Sidney—"But father did them for me, teacher."

RIDDLES.

Why is a grain of sand in your eye like the master's cane?—Because both hurt the pupil.

Why is a hat like a thump?—Because it is often felt.

What is always at the head of fashion, yet always out of date?—The letter F.

What magazine would you give the best report of a fire?—A powder magazine.

(GOOD.) Valma Classon.

Why should a king be only 12 inches high?—Because that is the height of most rulers.

(GOOD.) Betty Ryan.

A CHRISTMAS STAR.

(Continued.)

Synopsis.—Gerty goes to Gnomeland on Christmas Eve, the day before her birthday, and is made Gnomina of the Gnomes. They have a ball and a Christmas tree. Now read on.

But when the time came for the presents to be taken off, the gnome who had brought Gerty had disappeared. Soon he came back and in his hand was something black. He climbed on a ladder and put it on top of the tree. It lighted up, and everything glistened and shone. It was a beautiful star and was the gnome's present to the Gnomina. Gerty was delighted, and wanted to rush home at once and tell her mother she would put it on top of her Christmas tree and how beautiful it would look. Suddenly she felt cold and found she was in the wood near her home. It was daytime and she must have walked there and slept there. Gone was her cobweb lace frock, but in her hand she still held a star, and a dead, dry thing it looked. She ran home because her mother would be looking for her, and would be afraid she had been stolen. When she arrived she found everyone looking for her and wondering where she had been. When she told them they still wondered, and would not believe her till she showed them the star.

That night she would have the star on top of her Christmas tree, and when she came into the dark room, and was about to turn on the light, a voice whispered "Stop!" She stopped, and suddenly of its own accord the star on her tree glowed and glowed until it was very bright. Again a voice whispered "Thank you for believing in me. I can live for another year now." Gerty knew it was the gnome, and what had happened last night was true. She was so happy and joyous that night because her party was wonderful and the star shone, and made all the others happy. The gnome of the Christmas tree had done his part and next morning the star had disappeared, and a tinsel one stood in its place on the tree.

(The End.)

Birthday Greetings to Cobbers.

The heartiest and best wishes of all the Cobbers, Jacko and Uncle Phil to Jack Banks and Ken Scaddan (Dec. 5); Joyce Tulloch's friend, Kelvin (Dec. 7), and Irene Richardson (Dec. 16).

A happy Christmas to all the Cobbers from Uncle Phil and Jacko.

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They will be printed and marked—Good, Better, or Best. Good, 5 marks; Better, 10 marks; Best, 15 marks. Cut out all your own and keep them until you have 100 marks. Then send to Uncle Phil, and say if you prefer a cash prize of 2/6 or a book. If a book, say the title.

Wood pigeons are not popular among Devon farmers, who set a day for shooting them to keep their numbers down.

Women are adopting the side-whisker fashion; flat strands of hair are now brushed down each cheek by many of the wearers of Eton crops.

Several varieties of fish can stand being frozen in blocks of ice, and revive when conditions return to normal. In Siberia fish are actually sold while frozen in ice blocks.

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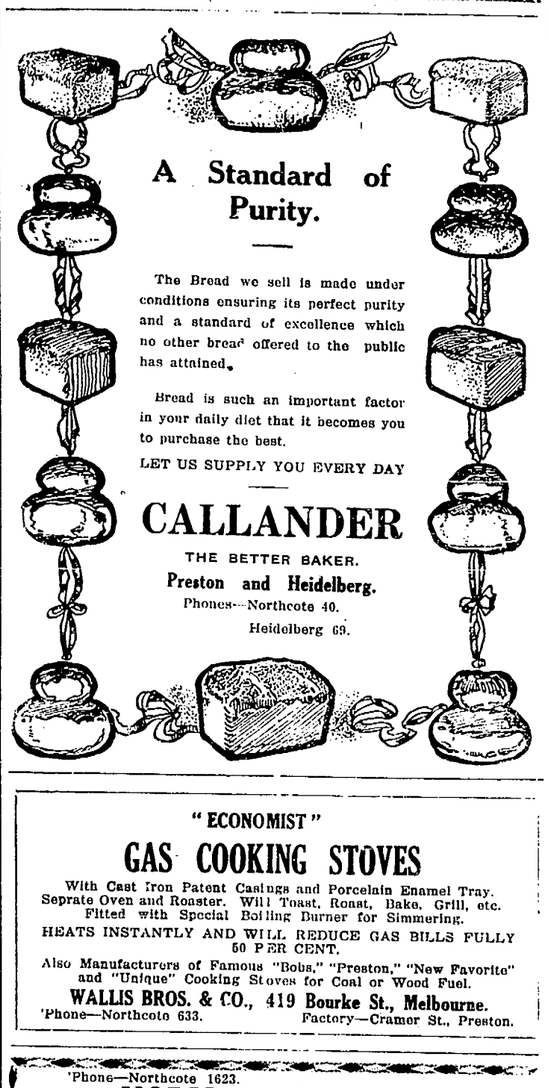

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...ILESS WAYS

BY
BEN BOLT.

... Wilds," "Love Finds the Clue," "Linked by Peril," etc., etc.
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... (Continued).

...re standing near the ...elled pistols, and, as she ...e of them, Catherina ...eled ... sat with the expression ... man on his face, knowing ...ese men who could make ...h open enemies would be ... to him who had been a both sides.

...laughed. "Gentlemen," he ...ust return to Liverpool. I ...news which Diego brought ...rnoon, and there are many ...at I must do; for I sail for San Balvador in the morning. But if you will sup with me in two hours' time in the suite at the hotel which Vincente knows well (he gave a little laugh as he glanced at the man in question) I shall be honored."

"In two hours," said Vincente considering, and frowning at Concha as he spoke. "Yes! that will give us time, your Excellency."

"Then I shall look for you, gentlemen, and we will drink to the prosperity of our beloved Republic."

"All except Concha," said Vincente firmly.

"I do not forgive traitors," replied Vospero sternly. Then he turned to the others. "We will go and prepare for our friends. It must be a feast worthy of the occasion. I have a vehicle here that will hold us all, a great touring car."

"By jove, sir," cried Wogan. "I believe you passed us on the way."

"I passed two cars a little way from here."

"One was ours; the other which we were following was the one in which Concha was brought here."

"Concha! Ah!"

Something in his tones told both Wogan and Westaway that in his mind he already numbered Concha among the dead, and that he was right in doing so the sequel proved, for as they passed down the steps a muffled report rang out.

All of them heard it, and Vospero half turned. "Ah," he said, with a grim little laugh, "the Consul of San Balvador has relinquished his office, or I am mistaken."

"Wait here," whispered Wogan to Catherina. He ran back to the room which they had just left. When he returned his face was stern.

"Yes," he said, in answer to a question from Senorita Valdores. "He had a pistol. He shot himself."

"Then my father is avenged," commented Inez quietly.

"And Salvano," said Vospero. "But there is no need that we should be sad for Miguel Concha. He was a rat, and he struck in the dark. Let us dismiss him from our minds. My car is here."

"And mine," said Wogan, "is outside the gates. I cannot leave it there. I will drive it back, and if I may take Catherina with me, sir——"

"Oh," laughed Vospero, "that is for Catherina to decide."

And Catherina had little difficulty in deciding. With her hand on her lover's arm she turned and walked with him towards the gates. Once out of the zone of light, Wogan halted.

"Catherina," he whispered passionately. "Catherina"

"My beloved!" she whispered back. He kissed her, and they resumed their way. Outside the gate the great car passed them with Juan Vospero at the wheel. Westaway and Inez were sitting together in the rear of the car, and the former cried out:

"A pleasant run, sister Catherina."

Catherina waved her hand, and as the car passed on, turned to Wogan.

"Did you know that he was my brother? I can't realise it."

"He is your half-brother," explained Wogan, "but reared in England by his mother's people. I have known him some years, but it was only the other day that he told me that the President of San Balvador was his father. It must have been a great surprise to Senorita Valdores when she learned that Westaway was your father's son, and it was a very good thing that she did not make an attempt on the President before she discovered the truth. I thought Gilbert was taking long risks the other day when he did not tell her about the relationship between them."

"And now I suppose Inez and Gilbert will be married?"

Wogan laughed. "I don't know and I don't care. They will be foolish if they are not. But I know someone who certainly will not delay."

They had reached the place where the car was sheltered, and as Wogan stopped the girl spoke, smilingly.

"And who is that?"

"Catherina!" he said in mock reproof.

"I insist on knowing."

"You do," Wogan laughed. "Then I am going to kiss her."

He did so, and Catherina blushed and laughed.

"Why," she said, "I believe you mean it."

"Mean it? Catherina, I worship you. You will not refuse? To-morrow or the day after, as soon as we can arrange——"

"There is the President to consider."

"The President!" Wogan laughed. "I fancy he has his hands full already with the affairs of that happy little Republic of his. He won't mind. Say yes." And Catherina said "Yes." But as it happened the President did mind.

"No, my children," he said that night when his late enemies had departed. "To-morrow I go to Balvador, and if you want to marry you must come with me. At the marriage of its President's son and daughter, Balvador will expect a fete, and it will be an excellent excuse for giving one. And a good thing to do at this juncture, for the wise Governor blinds the people to its large woes by these little pleasures. That is the whole art of government. So, if you would marry, with me you come, that Balvador may have the fete of fetes."

And since President Vospero is a dictator, to Balvador they went.

(The End.)

WIRELESS

PORTABLE RECEIVERS.

Most genuine radio enthusiasts are unwilling to abandon radio during the summer months, but at the same time desire to take advantage of the pleasure of being out of doors during the long evenings and warm days. The only solution of the difficulty is undoubtedly a portable receiver, that is, a receiver which is entirely self-contained, and which can be taken on the river, in the car, or anywhere where the broadcast programmes would be a welcome addition to the outdoor amusements. The increasing popularity of this type of receiver can be accounted for easily by the realisation of the pleasure which broadcast music can bring to a picnic or boating excursion.

It will be obvious that the first requirements in a portable receiver are light weight and compactness. There are a number of so-called portable receivers in use which are portable only in so much as that they can be lifted, but it is far from a pleasure to have to transport them any distance. It is quite practicable to design a receiver which will receive at least one station at good headphone strength, and which can be built into an attache case with batteries and everything enclosed.

This type of receiver is often subjected to bumps and vibration when being moved, so its construction has to be as robust as possible, and those parts which suffer if jarred should be adequately padded or sprung. The outer casing is best made of some hard wearing material, such as leather or fibre, which will not deteriorate excessively in use. Highly polished wood cases soon lose their fine finish after a few months' use. A handle is required in a convenient position for carrying.

Generally speaking, it is not advisable to design a portable receiver for loud speaker reception, unless it is of the type which is to be carried in a car, as it is difficult to keep it within strictly portable limits; not only has the receiver to be bigger and more powerful, but the loud-speaker itself is usually rather bulky. Also, a higher voltaged and consequently bigger and heavier H.T. battery is required for loud-speaker work, whereas with headphone reception one of 60 volts is sufficient.

The type of valve to be used is important, as on this depends the size of the source of the filament current. Valves with low consumption filaments are essential, otherwise large and heavy accumulators will be required. The .06 amp. 3-volt type of dull emitter valve is commonly used, and is quite satisfactory, the filament current being supplied by dry batteries, but the new .12 amp. 2-volt valve has many advantages, as it can be operated from a small 2-volt unspillable accumulator, which is acknowledged as a more efficient source of filament current supply than dry batteries. A small 2-volt accumulator will not take up any more room than dry batteries.

Another important consideration is the aerial to be used. We have three alternatives—a length of insulated flex thrown over a convenient tree can be used in conjunction with an improvised earth, or a folding frame aerial may be carried in the receiver case or otherwise, and can be erected in any convenient position when it is desired to listen in, or a frame aerial can be built into the receiver itself.

If the receiver is to be self contained, the latter is the only aerial that may be used, but it will of necessity have to be very small, and therefore inefficient. It is usually preferable to carry a separate folding frame aerial about 2ft. square, such as the new Igranic, as this gives far superior results. Although the first type of aerial mentioned can give good results, it is not very popular, and most users of portable receivers prefer the convenience of a frame aerial.

As a portable receiver is required for entertainment purposes, it is only necessary to receive one station at good phone strength, and the receiver should be built with the object of receiving the neglected station at maximum strength without consideration of others, which it might be capable of receiving. Whatever station is to be received, the aerial inductance may be entirely contained in the frame, if a frame is used, thus avoiding a loading coil with its magnetic field and bulk.

The circuit to be used will depend on the aerial and also the distance from the broadcasting station. Generally if a frame is used for reception from a main station, a stage of R.F. amplification will be necessary, but if the station is near, this can often be dispensed with. A stage of low frequency amplification is often desirable.

Light components should be chosen and controls reduced to a minimum. It is important to insert the valves in spring valve holders to avoid shocks to the filament, as the dull emitter valves used are very delicate. The Igranic "Nonmic" Valve Holder will be found eminently suitable for this purpose.

The components will have to be assembled much closer than in the ordinary receiver on account of the limited size of the case. Many refinements incorporated in ordinary receivers have to be sacrificed in portables, owing to the weight and size, but it is possible to construct a very efficient receiver with reasonable precaution.

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WESTLEIGH COLLEGE.

SPEECH DAY AND PRESENTATION OF PRIZES 1926.

The annual speech day and presentation of prizes in connection with Westleigh College took place in the school hall on Friday December 17, when the Mayor and Mayoress (Cr. and Mrs. P. Mayer) presented the prizes.

The report of the principals (Misses Gresham and Rayment) was read, and the Mayor addressed the pupils on the value of good citizenship. He congratulated the prize winners on the high standard of work attained by them during the year. The principals were presented by their pupils with beautiful bronze jardinieres, which they suitably acknowledged. Cheers were given for the King, Mayor and Mayoress, principals, teachers, dux of school, and Westleigh. The proceedings were brought to a close with the National Anthem.

PRIZE LIST.

The prize list is as follows:—

Form VI.—Dux of school, G. Cato. Honor, G. Cato.

Form Vc.—Dux, A. Rea. Honor, A. Rea, D. Callander, G. Edwards. Pass, E. Gray, J. Raymond. Special, S. Blake.

Form Va.—Dux—S. Campbell. Honor—S. Campbell, J. Pridgeon, H. Malmgren, R. Dyte, W. Broadhurst. Pass—T. Reynolds, M. Peacock, M. Raben, I. Lowry, M. Croker, I. Cooper, T. Scott.

Form IVa.—Dux—J. Agnew. Honor—J. Agnew, M. Yeomans, A. Watson, K. Batten, J. Dowd, E. Kellam. Pass—V. Booth, M. Hollow, B. Ryan, R. Raymond, R. Akers.

Form IIIb.—Dux—L. Cooper. Pass—L. Cooper, F. Turner, E. McGlynn, M. Belfield, E. Hattam, K. Collins, A. Kearney, M. Lamb, I. Lewis, K. Daly, N. Seeger, M. Wilkinson, K. Wedgwood. Special—T. Mason, R. Blake.

Form IIIa.—Dux—O. Hattam. Pass—O. Hattam, G. Riches, J. Cole, M. Bartlett, N. Edwards. Special—D. Dowlen.

Form IIa.—Dux—T. King. Pass—T. King, D. Knox, V. Smith.

Form Ic.—Dux—R Dyte and M. Brownell (equal). Pass—R. Dyte, M. Brownell, M. Bardsley, C. Cole, G. Hull, B. Ingham, B. Leahy, J. Robertson, B. Stott, S. Sharp, K. Derrett, L. Edwards. Special—C. Boyce, J. McKeon, S. Gibbons.

Form Ib.—Dux—M. Nicholson. Pass—M. Hollow, M. Nicholson, C. King, R. Hardy.

Form Ia.—Dux—L. Crawford. Pass—L. Crawford, E. Dennis, J. Hutchinson, J. Wills, P. Dwyer, B. Krygger, G. Hattam, M. Seeger, E. Flanagan, W. Canning, R. Hill, M. Leahy, J. Taylor. Progress—M. Kriiger.

Kindergarten.—Dux—V. Keech. Progress—V. Bates, R. Jeffroy, V. Keech, V. Beard, E. Boyd, K. Scott, E. Reynolds, D. Harrison, R. Hamilton, M. Brownell, J. Rea, K. Rowell, C. Malmgren, K. Agnew, W. Brownell. Special Kindergarten work (gift of Miss Mander)—D. Harrison.

SPECIAL SUBJECTS.

Scripture.—Form VI, G. Cato. Vc., D. Callander. Va., S. Campbell. IVa, M. Yeomans. IIIb, L. Cooper. IIIa, O. Hattam. IIa, I. King. Ic., J. Robertson. Ib, C. King. Ia, G. Hattam. Kindergarten, R. Jeffreys.

Attendance.—G. Cato, H. Malmgren, I. Lowry, I. King, B. Leahy, K. Wedgwood, R. Akers, J. Raymond, J. Pridgeon.

Singing (gifts of Miss Ruby Bond).—J. Pridgeon, M. Yeomans, K. Daly, G. Hull, G. Hattam, O. Hattam, R. Hardy.

Music (gifts of Miss May Rayment).—Honor, R. Dyte, S. Blake, M. Nicholson. Pass—M. Hollow, K. Daly, R. Raymond, E. Gray, P. Dwyer.

Dancing (gift of M. Paul Bibron).—J. Hutchinson. Special—E. McGlynn.

Needlework.—IVa., M. Yeomans. IIIa, G. Riches. Ib, M. Nicholson.

Elocution (Miss Finn's gifts).—Senior—R. Dyte. Junior—N. Seeger.

Drawing (gifts of Miss Ferguson).—Senior—G. Cato. Intermediate—R. Raymond. Junior—C. Cole. Special—E. McGlynn. Individual class.—Painting—J. Raymond. Drawing—E. McGlynn.

Special Order (gift of Miss Finn).—W. Broadhurst, B. Ryan.

Physical Culture (gifts of Messrs. Bjelke Petersen).—Senior—J. Pridgeon, prize and certificate. Intermediate—F. Turner and certificate. Junior—G. Riches and certificate. Boys—O. Hattam and certificate. Certificates—I. Cooper, E. Gray, M. Croker, J. Agnew, R. Raymond, E. Hattam, L. Crawford, S. Sharp, D. Dyte, R. Akers.

Conduct:—Senior School.—G. Cato. Middle school—M. Hollow. Lower school—B. Stott. Junior school—W. Canning.

School will reopen on Wednesday, February 9, 1927.

WALES STREET STATE SCHOOL.

On the last school day of the year all the teachers and as many ex-teachers of the school as could attend had lunch together. The school committee was represented by Mr. Henning, the other members being unable to be present. After most of the good things had disappeared from the table, Mr. Henning complimented the staff on the fine work they had done, and the perfect harmony that existed amongst them. Miss E. D. Green, who has been promoted to Tyler Street school, and Mr. R. Hobbs, who is going to Kyneton, were presented with mementoes and the good wishes of the staff were conveyed to them by the head teacher (Mr. J. H. Osborne). In the new year three new assistants are expected—Mr. Little, Miss Cameron and Miss O'Connor. Nine of the teachers were on the promotion list, but at least six of these will remain in their present positions.

The prizes were distributed three days before the break-up, and Xmas trees were provided for the infants.

The donation of two fine Swan fountain pens by Mr. Almond for the best boy and best girl in the school, a substantial cheque by Mr. Angus McDonald, and two prizes donated by Mrs. Frencham were very acceptable, and materially augmented the prize list. A prize was given to the best boy and best girl in each room. The following were the winners:—

IX Form.—High School class—Boy: Donald Smith dux. Girl: Leila Bass dux. Northcote I.O.R. prizes:—Robert Law 1, Leila Bass 2, Harley Bardwell 3.

VIIIa.—Maxwell Carthew, Elsie Spencer.

VIIIb.—Douglas Craig, Clarissa Waycott.

VII.—Chas. Edwards, Joyce Scrimes.

VIa.—Isla Goodwin and Dorothy Watson equal; Victor Henning.

VIb.—Leonard Grant, Isabel Taylor.

Va.—Jack Robins, Marjory Osmotherly.

Vb.—John Prince, Dulcie Thorn.

IVa.—George Smith, Elva Bowden.

IVb.—Jack Cooper, Jean Ward.

IVc.—Alan Gray, Roma Wass.

IIIa.—Leslie Wright, Doris Reid.

IIIb.—George Hines, Audrey Jenkin.

IIIc.—Donald Pitt, Verna Johnston.

THORNBURY SCHOOL REPEAT CONCERT

FOR NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL.

There was a good audience to witness the repeat concert for the Northcote High School. The programme went through with the ease of a well rehearsed pantomime, and each and all excelled themselves and won unstinted admiration from all who came to see it. Despite the sum of £60 having been already taken last Wednesday, no less than £17 has been received clear of expenses. To meet all expenses the following donated sums of 10/6:—Mr. Frank Brennan, M.H.R., Messrs. V. G. Price, F. Wilkes, E. Potts, J. Macnamara, MacGowan, L. Cooper, A. Rogerson, J. T. Downing, W. S. Neelands, K. Lambe, Dr. H. Mendelssohn, and Dr. Crawcour, and these gentlemen showed a spirit worthy of the movement. The Mayor (Cr. Phil. Mayor) distributed the merits won at the recent exams, and Mr. Frank Brennan, M.H.R., on behalf of the committee, presented each qualifying certificate winner with a Xmas card. The latter gentleman, as well as the Mayor, eulogised the teachers, parents and children for their excellent co-operation in the production of so fine a work of art as the concert proved to be. All was finished and a happy people, young and old, went home proud of all that had been done by the school.

LIST OF MERIT CERTIFICATES.

Stanley Andrews, Leonard Andrews, May Anderson, Elizabeth Anderson, Bessie Allan, Flora Adams, Richard Anderson, Ronald Brodie, Donald Broadbent, Emily Bryant, Alan Dalton Jack Davis, Suzette Dowdle, Caroline Dixon, Marjorie Daniels, Vernon Edwards, Edmund Fox, Roland Ferguson, Errol Fisher, Olive Greig, Edna Hancock, Keith Hamilton, Ted. Hearndon, Ida Houghton, Lorna Jones, Leslie Johnson, Hector Lorimer, Edward Luxmore, Keith Lambe, Edna Lynch, Nellie Mawdsley, Harold Meates, Elsie Madden, Valma Sheldrick, Alan Scott, Kenneth Swale, Herbert Sainsbury, William Thompson, Edward Webster, Ronald Wright, Laurence Wellington, Stanley Willis.

QUALIFYING CERTIFICATES.

Edna Nelson, Edwin Newbegin, Thelma Nicholas, May Ostler, Eric Paine, William Pascoe, Warwick Peirce, Ernest Pertzel, Sheila Penhall, Reginald Rawady, Florence Robinson, Irene Richardson, Francis Rippoll, Joyce Rogash, Geoffrey Robb, Marie Squires, Thelma Stabb, Alfred Sheppard, Alex. Smith, Maisie Seaborne, Phyllis Taylor, Stuart Thorburn, Noel Tulloch, Jean Taylor, Fred Trotter, Ray Todd, Russell Thompson, Beatrice Valentine, May Wall, Geoffrey Williams, Beryl Wilson, Alma Wehl, Harold White, Edwin Wright, Stanley Yields, Laurence Whitelock, Clara Anderson, Emily Burberry, Daisy Boone, Verlie Bransgrove, Gladys Brown, Ernest Brooks, John Bolger, Jessie Boundy, Edmund Burn, Mervyn Brockenshire, Morris Bell, George Cleary, Mavis Coop, Florence Cox, Reginald Cox, Alex. Downie, Alwyn Davies, Myrtle Deslandes, Dorothy Davies, Jane Diamond, Vera Disher, Walter De Jersey, John Egan, Gordon Ewen, Cyril Edgeley, Robert Elsworth, Elsie Furness, Colin Ferguson, Dulcie Gulick, Doris Grant, Geoffrey Gorman, Colin Graham, Alice Gannaway, Sylvia Ellis, Eva Greenlees, Olive Hefford, Dennis Hogg, Harold Hicks, Adeline Hammett, Elva Hanna, Dorothy Haddrick, Ila Hoskin, Phyllis Hines, Edward Jenkin, Olive Jones, John Jenkins, Victor Jones, Joyce Knight, Marjory Kampfhenkel Sydney Kupsch, Albert Kinson, Aubrey Kinsella, Geo. Liddall, Jean Merrick, Walter Mitchell, Richard Maguire, Alfred Meng, Elsie Miles, Gladys Maunder, Nellie Masson, William Marsh, Eric Meates, Harry Madden, Jean McLennan, Leslie McGough, Gwen Neal, Jean Nieumann.

THE THORNBURY SCHOOL.

Santa Claus in the persons of Cr. Phil. Mayer and Mr. D. Aird visited Thornbury school on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 15. The mothers of the children in the infant school had prepared a beautiful tree laden with a gift for each child. These were given out by Father Santa amid cries of joy and delight, and a very happy time was spent. Then each child received a bag of sweets and an ice cream, and gave hearty cheers for their friend Santa. A visit was paid to every room, to the great joy of all. Afternoon tea was provided for the teachers by the mothers, and a regal repast was spread. The Mayor thanked all for their kindness, and Mr. Aird supported his remarks. Mr. Besant spoke on behalf of the teachers, and Miss Lynch responded for the committee. Altogether it was an afternoon full of rippling mirth and pleasure.

NORTHCOTE CENTRAL SCHOOL 1401.

1926 SUCCESSES.

1.—University High School Scholarships (9) won by Edward Hangar, Leslie Wildes, Henry Webster, Katie Brewer, Grace McCutcheon, Alma Melbourne, Jessie Carrick, Nancy Wallace, Isobel Urquhart.

2.—A.N.A. Essay Competition for Northcote schools.—1st, Alan Angus (gold medal); 2nd, Marion Le Plastrier (gold medal); 3rd, Alma Melbourne (book).

3.—Special prize donated by Mr. M. Hannah (£1/1/-), essay on "Victorian Timber," won by Katie Brewer.

4.—Victoria League of Victoria Essay Competition; two prizes of 10/- each.—Henry Plymin, Edward Scholz.

5.—Temperance Essay, "Star of Northcote" Jubilee Prizes.—1st, Alan Angus (book); 2nd, Katie Brewer (armlet); 3rd, Alma Melbourne (book).

6.—Temperance Physiology Results.—1st, Grace McCutchan; 2nd, Henry Plymin; 3rd, Marion Le Plastrier. Other prizes—Jessie Carrick, Edward Hangar, Lilian George, Katie Brewer and 26 certificates.

7.—Dux of School—Committee prizes—Katie Brewer (gold medal). Runner-up—Marion Le Plastrier (gold medal). Head of boys—Edward Scholz (gold medal). Third in form—Alma Melbourne (book).

8.—Infant Welfare Certificates, 57.

9.—Merit Certificates:—Alan Augus, Fred Smith, Henry Webster, August Reich, Edward Hangar, Laurie Peake, Henry Plymin, Edward Scholz, Alfred Whyte, Leslie Wildes, Katie Brewer, Marion Le Plastrier Grace McCutchan, Lilian Thompson, Alma Melbourne, Vera Jones, Loris Myers, Lilian White, Winifred Hooper, Vera Hatfield, Gwenda Burgess, Myra Wright, Irene Eckhardt, Jessie Carrick, Irene Paice, Isobel Urquhart, Mildred Robinson, Dorothy Jude, Lilian George, Ethel Lambie, Nancy Wallace, Lucy Patrick, Muriel Eaves, Lorna Whiteley, Edie West, Jean McLean, Leslie Smith, Ivan Rickards, Edwin Wiley.

Qualifying Examination.—78 passed.

PENDER'S GROVE STATE SCHOOL.

The above school ended its year's work on Friday, December 17. The Mothers' Club provided the children of the lower and middle school with sweets and toys. The teachers enjoyed afternoon tea, which was provided by the Mothers' Club.

PRIZE LIST.

The following was the prize list:—

Dux of School—Joyce Evans, the prize being the gift of Cr. Hayes.

VII. Grade.—1st prize, boys, Victor Wade; 2nd prize, boys, Ray Porterkin; 2nd prize, girls, Ivy Hauser. The gifts of Miss Haase, teacher of grade.

VI. Grade.—1st prize, highest marks in qualifying examination—Edward Vivian. 1st prize, highest marks for year, Lance Newton. These two prizes were the gifts of Mr. Clinnick (class teacher. Special prize—Edward Vivian (gift of Mrs. Newton).

Temperance Examination, I.O.R.—First prize, Doris Ross; second, Florence Green; third, Isabel Moulder. Gifts of Star of Northcote Tent I.O.R.

V Grade.—First prize, Donald Butler (gift of Mr. J. Curtin); second, Ronald Clifton (gift of Mrs. Geddes); third, Ruth Bradbrook (gift of Mrs. Geddes).

IV. Grade.—First prize, Eunice Lindsay (gift of Mr. J. Curtin); second, Ella Harvey (gift of Mrs. Geddes).

The head teacher (Mr. J. Bethell) thanked the Mother's Club for the work it had done for the school during the year, and spoke words of appreciation of the loyal service rendered by the members of the staff in the work of the school.

THE DOG DOCTOR.

Breeding, which is so often taken up as a hobby, usually leads to the sale and purchase of dogs. Naturally this is so, because the puppies being valuable, more or less, they are not given away, and generally speaking, no one keeps more than two dogs in a house. Therefore, to make breeding as profitable as possible, it is essential that before buying dogs for this purpose, the buyer should have a good knowledge of what constitutes a really sound dog, so that he may be able to examine the dog for himself before purchase. There are several general characteristics to look for, and, of course, many particular ones, according to the breed of the dog to be selected. First of all the dog's temperature should be taken. For this purpose use an ordinary clinical thermometer, the point of which has been well vaselined, and insert into the rectum for about two inches, where it should be left for about a minute, if a half minute thermometer is used. The normal temperature should be 101½. Anything over that point denotes fever. Temperature can also be taken in the groin or armpit.

"I wish I know what to give my girl for her birthday." "Ask her." "I can't afford that much."

REGIMENTAL BALL.

57TH BATTALION.

The commanding officer (Colonel McKenna) and officers of the 57th Battalion were hosts at a Cinderella ball, held at Preston Town Hall on Thursday evening last. The arrangements were carried out by Capt. R. Clark and Lt. L. Gunst, with the assistance of Mr. Luke, who was responsible for the splendid decorative scheme, and to whom great praise is due. The battalion colors, red and black, were draped on the walls of the ball room, and the battalion honors were seen at points of vantage, together with the country flags, giving the scene a most military air. Among those present were:—Major-General and Mrs. Brand (who wore a frock of grey chenille-embossed crepe de chene, which had shined godets on the skirt); the Mayor and Mayoress (Cr. and Mrs. Newton), who received a bouquet, and wore a black georgette and lace gown); Col. and Mrs. Raper, Col.-Com. Scott, Major and D. L. K. Richardson, Major and Mrs. C. Cate, Captain and Mrs. McCrea, Capt. Saber, Cr. and Mrs. Adams, Cr. and Mrs. L. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. McFadzean, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Thomson, Mr. and Mrs. Inglis, Mr. and Mrs. Ardnack, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Zwar, Mr. and Mrs. G. Wardell, Miss Zwar, Misses Mabel Vaughan, Irene Vodkin and Nellie Mann, Lieuts. Donaldson, Marshall, George, Bullen, Robinson, and Love; Messrs. W. Mott, C. Vaughan, G. Pike, and A. Kurrie.

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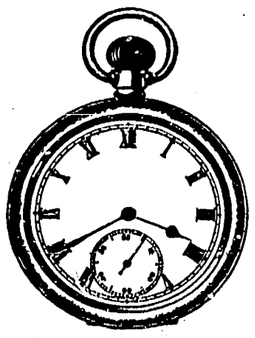

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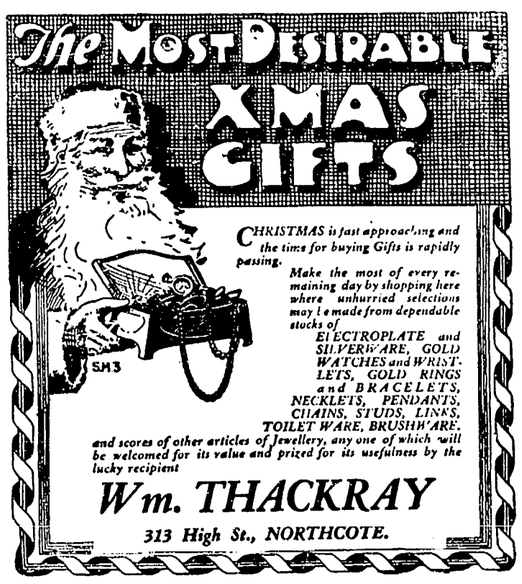

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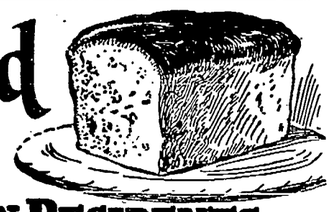

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BOWLING

THE THORNBURY CLUB.

Thornbury were unable to do the hat trick last Saturday, when only two of their pennant teams were successful, namely, the A and No. 1 C teams. The No. 2 C team were unable to muster their full strength and had to play second fiddle to City of Camberwell.

The A team defeated South Melbourne at South Melbourne. When these two teams met earlier in the season at Thornbury, Thornbury were unlucky to lose by one point, but they had their revenge on this occasion, winning by 11 points. This defeat practically puts an end to South's chance of winning their section, East Camberwell being two wins ahead of the other clubs in section three.

Forth's rink had a day out, or at least Price did; more than three-quarters of the game he could almost nominate his shots. At all events, a rink is not composed of one player, and to get the figures 36 to 13, every member of the rink must have done his bit. This rink was practically responsible for winning the match, the only other rink able to get their noses in front being Whalley's. After a great fight they finally succeeded in overhauling McInnes' rink and won by three points—22 to 19. Neither Frencham's or Sharp's rink could get going. The green, which was very heavy, seemed to worry them to the extent of putting them off their usual play. Frencham finished 4 down to Wright, 21 to 17, and Sharp 11 down to Day, 28 to 17. The final scores were Thornbury 92, South Melbourne 81.

The No. 1 C team were again in a winning vein, defeating Prahran by 25 points. Warren's and Allen's rink practically did as they liked, winning with the greatest of ease. Warren won against McMicken, 35 to 21, and Allen won against Woodfull, 32 to 16. The figures speak for themselves. The third rink, skippered by Weate, had to lower their colors for the second time this season, this time to Rust, the rink scores being 22 to 27 against Weate. The final scores for the teams were—Thornbury 89, Prahran 64.

The No. 2 C team fared just as badly as the No. 1 team did well, City of Camberwell beating them to the tune of 81 to 57. Stone's rink being the only one to give their opponents a go. This rink managed to make a tie of it—21 all. It is very pleasing to the members of the Thornbury club to see Mr. Stone again taking his pleace in the teams. Some 10 weeks ago he had a very serious operation, and although not quite in his normal health, is well on the road to it. The other two rinks, skippered by Mahoney and Williams, were both down, the scores being 23 to 33 and 13 to 27 respectively.

The pennant matches will not be resumed until Saturday, January 15, when the usual Christmas and New Year vacation takes place.

The V.B.A. Champion Pairs tourney will commence on New Year's day, when Thornbury will be represented by five pairs in charge of Murden, Price, Frencham, Carlyle, and Wardley.

The single handed championship of the Thornbury Club has been reduced to the semi-final stage, the following players being left in. In the top half Forth meets Rose, and in the lower half Smith meets Price; winners play winners for the championship.

The gymkhana arranged for the holidays has been abandoned on account of the paucity of entries.

Members are again reminded that entries close on the 31st inst. for the pairs tournament (electric light). List on notice board.

THE PRESTON CLUB.

PENNANT GAMES.

The results of the pennant games on Saturday again show the improvement in Preston bowls during this year. The A's finished the year with another win, this time over Surrey Hills. Two rinks were up and two down, and the outstanding feature was the fine win by Fred Pike sen. by 36 to 15 over his opponent. Fred has certainly justified his place since he took over as skipper, and the club wishes him a successful trip to Tasmania, where he is representing the State and also his club. Henshaw added another victory to his list, but Ross and Sinclair were not up to usual form. Ross' rink was somewhat disorganised owing to absentees, but the bowls were of a very close nature in this rink, and points were not easy to score.

PRESTON 105, SURREY HILLS 97.

White, Pike, Wearne, Henshaw 27 v. Jewell 21; Howe, Fox, Morgan Ross 23 v. Phillips 31; Harvey, Condle, Broadhurst, Sinclair 19 v. Fitzgerald 30; Appleton, Straede, Burgiss, Pike sen. 36 v. Wilke 15.

Matches to date—Won 4, lost 3.

Match with St. Kilda postponed.

C PENNANT.

C 1 had a walk over from Fitzroy and East Melbourne.

Matches to date—Won 7, lost 2.

C 2 V. MORELAND.

One has to record a good win by C 2's this week. This combination is indeed going well, and have confounded the critics. Congratulations to you all. For two weeks in succession all rinks have been up—a good record, and all members wish you success in your remaining matches. Of special note is G. Salfinger and his rink; they are having a great season; also since Billycold has taken over a rink there has been a steady improvement.

PRESTON 2ND 86, MORELAND 57.

Attyeo, Goodfellow, G. Pike, Billycold 24 v. Miller 21; Welch, Binney, Burgis, Salfinger 32 v. Humphries 20; Tribe, Kirk, Carthew, Pollock 30 v. Pitcher 16.

Matches to date—Won 5, lost 4.

LADIES' BOWLS.

Hail your champions again! A great win! Well played all. You have indeed put Preston ladies on the bowling map. Mrs. Appleton's great win of 38 to 10 was a feature of the game.

Preston 62, Cheltenham 28.

Mrs. Binney, Attyeo, Siddons, Appleton 38 v. Mrs. Gray, Lennox, Connelly, Haitch 10.

Mrs. Howe, Harvey, Henshaw, Burgis 24 v Mrs. Wedd, Taylor, Courtney, McContrie 18.

A SUCCESSFUL EVENING.

During the early part of the season, someone had a brain wave. He thought how nice it would be for the new ladies' club to entertain the mere men, and then for the men to later return the compliment. On Thursday last the ladies showed us what they could do, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. The catering was excellent, the ladies surpassing themselves in the branch for which they have always been noted. A drawing the shot competition was held first for the prize donated by Mrs. Henshaw, and was won by our president, "Bill" Howe. There were suggestions of a fake, but I think a fluke would more aptly describe it. Rink games were then played, with the ladies playing first and second. Prizes were donated by the ladies for the winning gentlemen. I am not going to mention names of winners, for it was the opinion that they did not deserve them, the only real play for the evening being the booby winners. Again, I will refrain from naming, except to say that the Far-ther the Hounds run, the quicker the Reynard went. Nuff said.

In the pavilion afterwards the president thanked and complimented the ladies on the very successful evening and bowling season. Various speeches of a happy nature were made. The compliments of the season passed, and all present were satisfied that another pleasant milestone in the club's career had been laid.

The only unpleasant feature was the ringing in by the ladies of a mysterious female called "Mother White." Ladies, beware when we return.

YANTARINGA.

The joy of bowls! Have you ever played at Yantaringa. If not you have never realised a bowler's dream of a happy game, with a charming host and hostess under the most perfect surroundings. What a lot of fine fellows with the spirit of good comradeshipship those "cocks" of the Yantaringa are. As soon as you reach the green the great hand of fellowship is held out, and all made to feel welcome. Then what a sight after the game had well started. Through the lovely garden came the hostess with her lady guests for the evening, to give that fine touch that puts Yantaringa above all like places. This is a special evening for us, as Mr. Bert. Olney, the president, is an old Prestonite, also great old Andy Walker. They have a special place in our hearts and us in theirs.

The great compliment that the Yantaringa pay us by playing a return match on our green is deeply appreciated by the club. During the evening the presentation of the winning badges—beautiful French cocks in brilliants—were presented to the winning Yantaringa rink, and speeches by Mr. Olney, Andy Walker, the General, Jim Sharp, Bill Howe, Dick Zwar all added to the success of the evening. Long may Yantaringa and what it stands for reign! A memorable evening indeed, and all who were present came away with the feeling "Well, it is good to be alive and a bowler."

Olney, Thomas, Hannah, Blandford (Y.) 22 v. Morgan, Fox, Farr, Howe (P.) 14. Baird, Furnell, Ferdich, Walker (Y.) 21 v. Pike jun, Lewis, Sinclair, Broadhurst (P.) 22. Davey, L. Sharp, Maggs, J. Sharp (Y.) 17 v. Appleton, Harvey, Pike sen., Zwar (P.) 15. Totals—Yantaringa 60, Preston 51.

HEALTH HINTS.

THE ADVANTAGE OF NOT WEARING A HAT.

It would do us all a great deal of good if, during the summer months, we were to go about without hats. Of course many people are naturally reluctant to do so. We have all joked about the "Hatless Brigade," and our natural desire not to be conspicuous makes us hesitate before discarding our hats. But there is no earthly reason why we should not go about hatless while on our holidays in the country or at the seaside. The health-giving properties of the sun and of fresh air is now universally recognised, and the head is a most wonderful sun-trap. Moreover, the effect of the sun on the hair is most beneficial, while the constant wearing of hats, which exclude the air, undoubtedly tends to bring on premature baldness. We hear of people who spend large sums of money on having artificial sunlight treatment. Let them take advantage of any natural sunlight that we may enjoy, which has the advantage of being free and is certainly more beneficial than the artificial variety. Of course, when the sun is really very hot, precautions should be taken to prevent sunstroke, and there are undoubtedly times when a hat is essential. But it should be remembered that the most vulnerable part is the nape of the neck, and if this is protected by a scarf or handkerchief, the danger of sunstroke will be considerably diminished.

Adorer—"Won't you come out with me in the car?" Actress—"Sorry, but I haven't my walking shoes on."

Nurse—"I do wish you would not drink your tea out of your saucer; it's so vulgar. Why don't you drink it from your cup?" Willie—"Because the spoon always gets in my eye."

Wife—"If I were to die what should you do?" Husband—"Oh, the same as you would yourself." Wife—"You wretch! I have always suspected it."

Solicitor—"Does your husband support you?" Woman (pointing scornfully at her husband)—"You don't suppose I married that for an ornament?"

An actress was once boasting of her world-wide reputation. "Do you know," she said, "I was once paid ten thousand to stay in America?" "Indeed," said her friend. "Where was the offer made? In England?"

A young man had just joined the theatrical profession. He had very thin legs, and at the first rehearsal they gave the rest of the company a little amusement. One man, more daring than the others, asked the newcomer his name. "John Bullock," he replied. "Oh," said the inquisitive one, "that explains it." "Explains what?" "I was only wondering where your calves had got to; now I understand—bullocks don't have calves."

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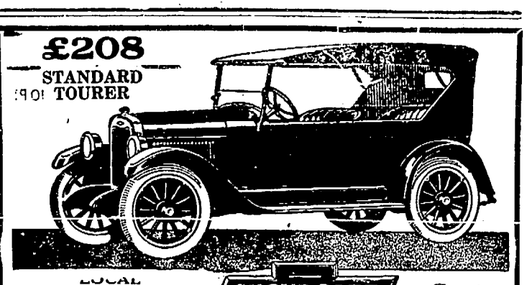

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RAILWAY PLACE, FAIRFIELD, opposite Station.

Phones—Northcote 584-585.

Church Notices.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, Northcote.

11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Rev. A. C. Kellaway.

HOLY TRINITY, THORNBURY. (Railway Parade.)

Christmas Day, H.C. 7, 8 and 11.
Sunday after Christmas, 11 a.m., H.C.
7 p.m., Evensong and Sermon
Preacher at all services—The Vicar

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY. Central Northcote.
Parish Hall, Merri and Bay View Sts.

CHRISTMAS DAY.
Holy Communion at 7, 8 and 11.
SUNDAY AFTER XMAS DAY.
Holy Communion at 8, Matins 11, Evensong 7.
Preacher—The Vicar.

THORNBURY PRESBYTERIAN Rossmoyne St., near High St.

Christmas Day United Service at 10.30 a.m.
11 a.m., "The Uses of Memory."
7 p.m., "Our Capital and Story."
Preacher—Rev. W. J. Harris.
Come and Welcome.

NORTHCOTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (James Street).

NEW YEAR SERVICES.
11 a.m., and 7 p.m., Rev. John H. Bates.
Minister—REV. JOHN H. BATES.

PRESTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DAVID ST.

Services 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Minister—Rev. W. H. McCook, B.A., B.D.

COMBINED SERVICE.

A COMBINED SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE of Northcote High Street Methodist Church and Northcote Presbyterian Church will be held at the METHODIST CHURCH, High St., on CHRISTMAS DAY (Saturday, December 25), at 10 a.m.

REV. W. H. HOLTHAM.
REV. JOHN H. BATES.

NORTHCOTE METHODIST CHURCHES.

HIGH STREET.
11 a.m., Rev. W. H. Holtham.
7 p.m., Rev. W. E. Lancaster.
PRINCE OF WALES' PARK.
11 a.m., Rev. W. E. Lancaster.
7 p.m., Mr. Murden.
ST. GEORGE'S ROAD.
11 a.m., Mr. Coates.
7 p.m., Pastor W. J. Davey.
CROXTON.
11 a.m., Pastor W. J. Davey.
7 p.m., Rev. W. H. Holtham.

PRESTON METHODIST CHURCHES.

PRESTON.
11 a.m., Mr. Gannaway.
7 p.m., Rev. McIlroy.
THOMASTOWN.
11 a.m., Mr. Beighton.
7 p.m., Mr. Gawne.
WEST PRESTON.
11 a.m., Rev. McIlroy, B.A.
7 p.m., Mr. Beighton.
RESERVOIR.
11 a.m., Mr. Johansen.
7 p.m., Mr. C. Sandland.

SOUTH PRESTON METHODIST CHURCHES.

XMAS SUNDAY.
SOUTH PRESTON.
11 a.m., Rev. F. Delbridge, B.A.
7 p.m., Mr. Gray.
PENDER'S GROVE.
11 a.m., Mr. Hales.
7 p.m., Rev. F. Delbridge, B.A.

BAPTIST CHURCH, HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

Services 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
All Welcome.
Minister—Rev. Donald McNicol.

CHURCH OF CHRIST, High Street, Northcote.

11 a.m., Worship.
3 p.m., Bible School.
7 p.m., Gospel Service. Mr. W. H. Hinrichsen, M.B.B.S.

SOCIAL EVENING TO COUNCIL STAFF AND EMPLOYES.

THE MAYOR AND MAYORESS ENTERTAIN.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Northcote (Cr. and Mrs. P. H. Mayer) entertained officers and employes of the council at a social evening in the Town Hall on Friday evening last, a number of members of the council being present. Dancing, which was freely indulged in and keenly enjoyed by those present, was interspersed with some splendid items by the following popular artists—Messrs. Maynard, Dakin, Parry and Graham.

Refreshments were partaken of in the supper room, and the Mayor in a happy speech, extended Christmas greetings to all present. Mr. W. Membrey (valuer) supported by Mr. J. Benson (quarry manager), on behalf the company, returned thanks to the Mayor and Mayoress for their hospitality.

The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought an enjoyable evening to a close.

A farm laborer was standing one day outside the village inn, when the vicar who was passing asked him if he was out of work. "Yes," he replied. "I've left Farmer Giles. About a month ago one of his chickens died, and the next day we had it for dinner. Then the cow was taken ill and we had roast beef for a week. Then one of the pigs died, and we've lived on bacon ever since until yesterday, when the donkey died, I then left."

Wanted.

BRICKLAYER.—E. MEDLIN, 11 Martin St., can cure your smoky chimney or copper, or build you a new one. Workmanship guaranteed. Material supplied.

DRESSMAKING and all kinds of Sewing and Renovations. Satisfaction guaranteed. Mrs. A. Whyte, 65 May St., Preston, late Reservoir.

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Northcote, house, 6 rooms, £720.
Clifton Hill, house, 6 rooms, stabling for 2, £800. Deposit £50.
North Fitzroy, s.f. brick house, 6 rooms, £985. Deposit £100.
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MORE PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS FOR PRESTON.

At the meeting of the Preston Council on Monday evening the town clerk was instructed to take the necessary steps to have a loan raised for the following parks and gardens:—

Park on Merri Creek	£1100	0	0
Park land, Darebin Creek	1000	0	0
Park land, Darebin Creek	4500	0	0
Park lands, Gower St.	6500	0	0
Playground, lot 79, Bailey Avenue; playground, lot 35, Sussex St.	208	5	0
Park land, Albert street	1400	0	0
Playground, lots 46 and 47, Foch street.	526	10	0
Playground, lots 84 to 88, inclusive, Hillcroft St.	330	0	0
Playground, lots 24 to 27, Walter St.	638	5	0
Playground, lot 26, Parker St.	252	0	0
Playground, lot 326, Storey road	137	10	0
Playground, part lot 25, Northernhay St.	50	0	0
Park, 5½ acres, Rosebank Estate	550	0	0
Playground, lots 525, 526, 527, McComas St.	270	0	0
Playgrounds, corner of Cramer and Jessie Sts.	1803	12	6
Park about 4 acres, Pine St. and Gloucester Rd.	1600	0	0
Playground lot 6, Jackman St.	80	0	0
	£20,946	2	6

Other works for which the loan is intended are:—

Purchase of Bitumen and Tar Sprayer	£440	0	0
Ladies' Cloak Room, Memorial Hall	150	0	0
Air Compressor Stone Crusher	420	0	0
Strathallan Cemetery Fencing	900	0	0
Strathallan Cemetery Cottage	650	0	0
Swimming Baths and land for same	6180	0	0
Road Roller	1085	0	0
Footpath Roller	450	0	0
Further land for Domestic School of Arts	450	0	0
Electric Light Extensions, etc.	20000	0	0
	£30,725	0	0

Total—£51,671/2/6.

PICNIC Van leaving for Hanging Rock, New Year's Day. Passengers apply H. McNamara, 409 High St., Northcote.

NORTHCOTE THEATRE

Saturday Night (Xmas Night)
No Matinee Afternoon.
"The Battling Oriels"
Also
(6 part Pathe Comedy)
"Scrapping Kid"

Monday, Tuesday, Wednes.
Dec. 27, 28, 29
Matinee Boxing Day.
"The Savage"
Featuring BEN LYON
Supported by
"Steele of the Royal Mounted"

Thursday's Change of Programme
"Her Big Night"
Featuring Laura La Plante

Supporting Picture:
"King of His Cattle"

See Movies Made.

The first heat of the Miss Northcote competition will be shot on the stage of the Northcote Theatre on Saturday night, January 8. Names of competitors being as advertised. Voting will take place all the week. Commencing Monday, January 10, and Tuesday and Wednesday, competitors will appear on the stage in person. Moving pictures of competitors taken at the theatre on the previous Saturday (January 10) will be screened on Thursday, Friday and Saturday following.

VOTING all the Week

OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOR.

CASE DISMISSED.

Leslie Joseph Bloomfield, 22 years of age, motor builder, Rathmines road, Fairfield, made an appearance in Northcote court on Tuesday, before Mr. D. Grant, P.M., and Messrs. J. Sutch and H. Evans, J's.P., on three serious charges, in which the principal witnesses were two little girls.

The first girl, aged 12 years, was asked by the P.M. as to what would happen if she did not tell the truth. She promptly replied: "I'll go to fire." Then the little one went on to say that on the afternoon of Sunday, October 31, she saw the accused, who lived next door in Rathmines street, misbehave himself. The misbehavior occurred again on November 9 and November 24. When Bloomfield was acting in this manner he laughed. Witness told her mother as to what had transpired on the third occasion.

In answer to Mr. Maginnis, who appeared on behalf of the accused, the witness said that "the fair haired boy" next door had offended.

"That man," said a younger sister of the last witness, "was the one who misbehaved himself."

The mother of the two little girls said she was a boot machinist, and in consequence of complaints made by her daughters to her, she interviewed Bloomfield, who denied having interfered with the girls.

The accused, in denying the three charges, said that he went in for wrestling and physical culture, and was in the habit of keeping himself "physically fit." He had not offended in the manner indicated on the three occasions mentioned by the two girls. He had a "young lady" at Heidelberg whom he visited frequently. The mother of the girls went to his (witness') home and asked where "the fair-haired boy" was. He (Bloomfield) answered: "I am the fair-haired boy. The mother said: "This is a terrible thing to have happened. We had to leave the last place we were living in, owing to a man having misbehaved himself."

John Rice, of Weber and Rice physical culture school, said that Bloomfield was a pupil at the classes, and trained well. He was a good young man.

"Bloomfield," said the witness, "won the heavy-weight prize for the best developed pupil in the school—a hard thing to win."

Mr. Grant—Do young fellows join the classes to correct a wrong sexual habit?

Rice—Yes.

The mother of the accused said that she could not wish for a better son than her's, who led a healthy, athletic life. The mother of the little girls who gave evidence in the case said when speaking to her (witness) regarding the case that she (the mother) had had similar trouble with another man, who was arrested.

Mr. Grant in dismissing the three charges said there was no reflection on the veracity of the children who had given evidence in the court. There was, however, no corroboration of their story, and the three informations would be dismissed.

The R.S.S.I.L.A. tennis courts, which have just been completed, will be officially opened by the Mayor of Northcote (Cr. P. H. Mayer) on Saturday, January 15.

An old lady was leaving the church at the end of a crowd of worshippers, when she was heard to mutter to herself: "If they all would only do as I do and stay quietly in their seats until all the others have gone out, there would not be this awful crush along the aisle."

Schoolmistress—"Do you know what a panther is?" Pupil—"A panther is a man who makes pants."

DR. W. H. HINRICHSEN
RESUMES PRACTICE
At the corner of Hutton Street and St. George's Road, Thornbury,
ON DECEMBER 18.

DEATH.

RALSTON.—On the 17th December, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Morris, 114B, Dundas street, Northcote, Elizabeth, widow of the late John Ralston, loving mother of Arthur, Siss (Mrs. Ward), Maud (deceased), Eva (Mrs. White), Fred, Bert, Ern, Wall, May (Mrs. Morris). Sister, Mrs. Mary Seccull; brother of Bill Beavis; loving grandma of 22, great-grandma of 4. Aged 72. God's greatest gift—our mother.

The Leader
Published Every Friday Morning.
JUSTICE TO ALL.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24.

ITEMS OF NEWS.

To enable our staff to take full advantage of the Christmas and New Year holidays, there will be no issue of the "Leader" next week. The next issue will appear on January 6. We wish all our clients and advertisers the compliments of the season.

The children and parents of Humevale district had their annual picnic outing to the beach at Ellwood on Thursday last. Two large motor buses were utilised to transport them, and a most enjoyable day was spent.

A pre-selection ballot of the following will be held to see who will carry the banner of the Labor Party (Heidelberg seat) at the forthcoming elections:—Messrs H. A. Chapman, N. H. Harry, H. A. Meagher, J. McHugh, H. J. Pratt,, Mrs. Joan Rosenove, G. Thomas, W. H. Turner, G. Webber, M.L.A., and W. H. Webber. Polling places are Barkley Hall, Cape street, Heidelberg; Kett's boot shop, near Underwood's motor garage, Heidelberg road, Ivanhoe; Bradford Hall, High street, Preston; and Mr. Lockwood's residence, 11 Campton street, Reservoir.

The fortnightly meeting of the Northcote I.O.R. was held on the 16th inst., the C.R. (Bro. J. C. Newnham) presiding. Three new members were initiated. It was decided to defray the expenses of the members of the junior tent at the picnic to be held at Edwardes Park on New Year's Day. The secretary (Bro. W. E. Findlay) submitted the balance sheet for the past quarter, which showed the credit balance to the sick and funeral fund at £7,863/13/1. The receipts to the management fund amounted to £595 19/-, and the expenditure £334/15/5, leaving a credit balance of £261/3/7. The total credit balance is £8,124/16/8.

A letter has been received by the Education Department from the honorary organiser of the Overseas Education League, Winnipeg, Canada, advising that three teachers are desirous of exchanging with Victorian teachers. The exchanges will take place from September 1, 1927. Two teachers are from Transcona, a few miles from Winnipeg, and live in Winnipeg, going to the school by bus or train. The third teacher is from Dauphin, a town in Northern Manitoba. Victorian teachers will be paid their present salaries during their absence while travelling and teaching for one year in Canada. Applicants must be between the ages of 25 and 45 years, must hold the first class certificate or an equivalent, and must have had at least five years' service as a classified teacher. Applications will be received until January 3.

The fortnightly meeting of the Northcote branch A.N.A. was held on December 9. Mr. J. Cohen, of the metropolitan committee, addressed the meeting with reference to the celebration of Foundation Day. A big charitable carnival is to be held at the Exhibition in conjunction with the naval and military, fire brigade, police and other bodies. A unique programme has been arranged. It has been decided to take four hundred tickets, and every member is asked to take at least one. The proceeds are to be devoted to the Lord Mayor's fund. Mr. Hulett has been re-elected a representative on the Forestry League. The syllabus for the ensuing half year has been adopted by the branch. As this will be the last report before the holidays, the president and committee extend the season's greetings to members and wish them a happy and prosperous new year.

The annual meeting of the Northcote Visiting Trained Nurses' Society was held in the Northcote Town Hall on December 16, at 3 p.m. The president, the Mayoress of Northcote, presided. Vice-presidents — Mesdames McKinnon and Sutch; hon. secretary, Mrs. Bartle-Ryan; hon. treasurer, Mrs. S. Dennis; committee members, Mesdames Bastings, Raverty, Hicks, Edsall, Mason, Cole, Dunlop, McNicol, Merrick, Garratt and Miss Bradley. The report showed that Sister Payne had attended 152 separate cases. About 1,390 visits (surgical, medical and maternity cases). Great appreciation was expressed by members of the committee in Sister Payne's work.

The following students of Miss Hattie Tait, A.L.C.M., L.L.C.M., were successful in musical examinations held during the year. London College of Music, Diploma of Associate (A.L.C.M.)—Ethel Emselle (90); honors, Mildred Cotchin (88); honors, Elsie McGann. Advanced Senior—Violet Welchelt (96), honors; Jean Gibbs (87) honors; Linda Auhl, first class pass; Gladys Lavey, first class pass; Ethel Emselle, first class pass. Senior—Carmen Major (87), honors; Elaine McCoy (85), honors. Advanced Intermediate—Edna Speedy, first class pass. Intermediate—Rita Kelly (86), honors; Isla Nankervis, first class pass. Elementary—Isla Nankervis (91), honors. Melbourne University Conservatorium:—Grade V.—Rose Watson. Grade VI.—Dorothy Tait, Gwen Kupsch, Alice Glover. Trinity College of Music:—Junior Division—Lily Powell. First Steps—Mena Robinson 93. At the annual concert of the London College of Music Mildred Cotchin was successful in gaining the advanced senior silver medal, Violet Welchelt the senior silver medal, and Carmen Major intermediate bronze medal. Rita Kelly was also awarded a special book prize for elementary division. Miss Tait will resume teaching on January 24, 1927, at 285 Tylor street, Preston.

ALTERATION OF DAY OF PUBLICATION

FRIDAYS INSTEAD OF SATURDAYS.

In future the day of publication of the "Leader" will be ALTERED to FRIDAY MORNING instead of Saturday morning. Will all our clients and subscribers please note and send in copy for advertisements and news items at the earliest possible moment.

D. H. MOTT & SONS,
Proprietors.

The Northcote Citizens' and Soldiers' Band desire to thank the Arthurton Road Progress Association for the use of seating accommodation lent on Sunday, December 19, at the Batman Park.

Up to time of going to press several minor debt cases were dealt with at the Preston police court on Thursday. There were no appearances of defendants, against whom orders were given. Several second-hand dealers' licenses also came up for renewal, to which no objection was offered.

Cases of larceny have been reported from the dwelling of Harry Smith, 230 Gower street, Preston, where £9/8/- in cash has been stolen; also from the dwelling of Mr. Eric Baldwin, Frank street, where clothing to the value of £9/10/- had been removed, whilst a hurricane lamp had been taken off the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board construction works in Oakover road.

Last Friday afternoon the junior department of the South Preston school had a Xmas tree, its branches bearing down under the heavy weight of gifts. Unfortunately the wet afternoon mitigated against the annual festivities taking place in the school grounds, but the children were presented with toys in the school building, where the customary annual break-up festivities were held. On the following Tuesday, under the auspices of the Mothers' Club, the children were given a picnic in Bell Park, which proved a most appreciative innovation. Races were duly arranged and keenly contested, whilst a liberal disposal of refreshments tended to make the occasion a memorable and happy fixture.

Postal arrangements for the holidays are:—Saturday, December 25 (Christmas Day)—Mails will not be made up nor delivery of letters effected. Saturday, January 1 (New Year's Day).—Only one despatch of mails will be made from G.P.O. to country and suburban offices. Country mails usually closed after 5.30 a.m. will be closed at 5.30 a.m. Monday, December 27; Tuesday, December 28; and Monday, January 3.—Mail arrangements will be the same as for Saturday, January 1, except that the inter-State and overseas mails will be closed at G.P.O., Spencer street, and Elizabeth street at 11 a.m instead of 10 a.m.

PRESTON CITIZEN'S BAND.

ENTERTAINED BY PRESIDENT AND MRS. ZWAR.

In the Town Hall on Wednesday evening, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Zwar entertained the Preston Citizens' Band (together with the artists who had willingly rendered their services at the monthly concerts organised) at a social evening. There was a goodly muster, who partook of the president and his good lady's hospitality, and they were also privileged to bring along a friend. The setting of the hall was dainty, and the dancers, gliding in the shadow of the electric light as it blended through the decorations, appeared to be enjoying to the full the function. The music was delightful and was rendered by Taylor's band. The Mayor and Mayoress (Cr. and Mrs. A. E. Newton) were amongst the guests, and they were accompanied by Cr. and Miss Crispe and Cr. Bransgrove.

At intervals during the dance programme, items were pleasingly rendered by Messrs. Anderson, Bunker & Palmer, their selections proving popular and appreciative.

Mr. J. Donath proved a capable M.C.

Supper being partaken of, Cr. Newton, in proposing the toast of Mr. and Mrs. Zwar, said that Mr. Zwar was always in the front whenever anything had to be done, and he was always seen doing something for someone else. The pleasant gathering that evening had been brought about through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Zwar.

Before resuming his seat the Mayor heartily congratulated Mr. Zwar, who had been selected to carry the Nationalist banner for the Heidelberg seat at the forthcoming elections. The toast was most enthusiastically drunk with musical honors.

Mr. Zwar, on going forward to acknowledge the compliment, received a spontaneous reception. In thanking Cr. Newton for the manner in which he proposed the toast, and also for his congratulations, Mr. Zwar said that if he had done anything to give pleasure to the citizens of Preston, such action had given greater pleasure to himself. He would at all times strive to help those who through unforseen circumstances were unable to help themselves. They had a splendid social committee, who were always ready and willing to assist in any movement for the betterment of the community. The band was a decided asset to the city (A voice: Hear, hear), but it was unfortunate that they were not receiving the consideration from the public that they were justly entitled to. The Band had been giving free monthly concerts to the citizens, and were deserving of better acknowledgment for their services. Anything he had done for the advancement of Preston, he was always willing to continue doing. Mr. Zwar also thanked Cr. Newton for his kindly references to his being chosen to contest the Heidelberg seat at the next election. Mr. Zwar concluded by saying that every man was entitled to his opinion. He fully realised there was a great fight ahead to win the seat, and he was fully prepared for the struggle. (Applause.) Before resuming his seat he extended to all present the season's greetings, which were duly acknowledged on behalf of the guests by the Mayor.

Cr. Newton also thanked the artists who had again given their services, to further the interests of the band.

Dancing was again indulged in till about midnight, when a most enjoyable function terminated, proving a fitting wind-up for 1926.

HEIDELBERG ELECTORATE

STATE ELECTIONS.

MR. H. P. ZWAR SELECTED NATIONALIST CANDIDATE.

A conference of delegates representing the various branches of the National Federation and the Women's National League, was held at the Preston Town Hall on Tuesday night, to select a candidate to represent the Nationalist interests in the forthcoming State elections.

Nine nominations were received from gentlemen who were prepared to contest the seat, namely, Cr. Robinson, of Preston; Cr. Ball, of Ivanhoe; and Messrs. H. H. Olney, H. P. Zwar, F. Dixon, R. F. McGill, J. F. Fitcher, G. Wild and Colonel Carroll, but prior to the conference meeting Crs. Robinson and Ball and Mr. Dixon withdrew from the contest, leaving six to face the pre-selection ballot.

There were 24 delegates present, twelve from Preston and twelve from Ivanhoe and Heidelberg.

Colonel Holdsworth, representing the head office of the National Federation, was unanimously elected as chairman.

The conference decided to allow each of the candidates five minutes to express his views, and two minutes to answer any questions that the delegates may desire to ask. The nominees addressed the conference in the order in which their names appeared on the ballot paper.

The method of voting was the preferential system, but the preference votes were not required, as Mr. Zwar received an absolute majority at the first count.

The chairman then officially announced to the candidates the result of the ballot, and Mr. Zwar who was enthusiastically received, thanked all present for selecting him, at the same time intimating that he would do all that was possible to win the seat in the National interests. He felt sure that he would be able to obtain the largest support ever recorded to any representative coming from the Preston end of the electorate. Ivanhoe and Heidelberg, he felt sure, would do their part; they had always been favorable to the Nationalist cause, and the figures would be even better on this occasion on account of the bill passed making voting compulsorily

The whole of the gentlemen who had faced the pre-selection ballot, but had not been successful, congratulated Mr. Zwar, and were all pleased to state publicly that they would do everything they possibly could to assist the candidature of Mr. Zwar.

A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the meeting to a close.

At the termination of the meeting Mr. Zwar invited all present to his home for the purpose of partaking of a little refreshment, when Mr. Strong, of Heidelberg, took the opportunity of congratulating Mr. Zwar, and at the same time proposing, in a very happy vein, Mr. Zwar's health. Ex-Cr. Warr, of Preston, supported the toast, which was drunk with musical honors. Mr. Zwar suitably responded.

Cr. Service, of Heidelberg, then submitted the toast of Colonel Holdsworth, which was supported by Cr. Beard, of Northcote. Colonel Holdsworth, in responding, gave all present some very good advice, and wished everybody the compliments of the season.

A preliminary meeting of friends and supporters from the Preston end of the electorate will be held in the Preston Town Hall on Wednesday, the 19th January, at 7.45 p.m., when it is hoped to see a record attendance.

THE GOWERVILLE.

Friday and Saturday (December 24 and 25), "The Fighting Ranger" (serial), "Lights Out" (Metro Goldwyn), "His Secretary," and Reaco, animal and bird mimic. A special matinee will be held on Friday 24, at 2.30 p.m. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, December 27, 28 and 29, a special gift matinee will be held. Each child will receive a gift. The programme is as follows:—Selznic James Kirkwood in "Lovers' Island;" Paramount, "Born to the West."

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, December 30, 31 and January 1, "The Secret of Pueblo," featuring Neil Hart a Metro Goldwyn, supported by "Money Talks," depicting Claire Windsor in the star role. Refined vaudeville will complete the programme.

THE STAR.

Last nights of "Riding Double," featuring Leo. Maloney; also a Paramount, "The Palm Beach Girl," with Bebe Daniels. The vaudeville attraction will be "The Six Gladstone Girls" in refined entertainment. A special matinee will be held on Friday (December 24) at 2.30.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, December 27, 28 and 29, a special free gift matinee to provide Xmas entertainment for the children. Free gifts will be made to every child present. The programme includes a Mutual attraction, "False Fronts" and "The Family Upstairs," with a special all star cast.

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, December 30, 31 and Jan. 1, Reed Howes will appear in "The Self Starter. A Paramount attraction featuring Poll Negri in "Good and Naughty," together with vaudeville to form the programme.

A special matinee will be held on January 1, at 2.30. The serial, "The Fighting Ranger," will be shown.

The R.S.S.I.L.A., Northcote branch, elsewhere notify that the tennis courts at the rear of the Memorial Hall have been completed, and invite application for membership from the public.

TRADERS' ASSOCIATION

UNCLAIMED FREE GIFTS.

Numbers of the free gifts appearing in High street have already been claimed. Many others are waiting to be taken possession of. Persons having a copy of the "Leader" of December 10 are advised to see if they can locate their number to-day. The competition closes on Christmas eve. Any person bringing a copy of the "Leader" to this office numbered 7,576 or 3677 will be given an order on any person advertising in the special issue (December 10) for £1/1/-

TOYS GIVEN AWAY.

Father Xmas, the old friend that brings so much joy to the children at this time of the year, arrives in High street on Friday morning at 9.30, and will remain in the street till 5 p.m. This is the first occasion on which the old friend of the children has come to Northcote to give toys away, and mothers should see that the kiddies are not disappointed by bringing them along early. He will be in a fairy carriage, and will travel from one end of the street to the other all day. The visit is being arranged by the Northcote Traders' Association.

Oceans of toys will be given away free to all deserving children.

NORTHCOTE BAND ON WHEELS.

On Friday evening special arrangements have been made for the Band to travel along High street and render appropriate music at intervals from Westgarth street to Dundas street. A specially decorated vehicle will be used for the occasion.

WATCH FOR PARTICULARS.

A campaign which it is hoped will arouse the enthusiasm of all traders, ratepayers and dwellers in the district and stimulate business to a huge extent, is at present being formulated by the executive committee. Full particulars will appear in later issues of the "Leader." Residents should follow closely the movements of the Traders' Association, who are trying to protect them, their property values and business interests in this district. Full reports of the activities of this body appear in this paper weekly.

WARNING.

It has come to the knowledge of the committee of the Traders' Association that canvassers are going about purporting to be representing the association and soliciting advertisements from traders. No one has been officially appointed to canvass for advertisements of any kind. Shopkeepers are warned, as in all movements like this armies of cadgers button themselves on to the movement with fake advertising and other schemes. These people do not live in the district, have no standing, and soon disappear, generally leaving behind many wiser but poorer friends—or enemies as the case may be. Anyone in doubt about callers of this kind should ring the secretary, Mr. J. L. Dunlop, 150 Arthurton road, Northcote, phone Northcote 1462, or Mr. W. S. Neelands, the president of the executive, or the police station.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES AT THE REGENT.

Monday next will bring Ben Lyon and May McAvoy in "The Savage," their latest First National specialty, supported by Richard Holt in "In Search of a Hero," a J. C. Williamson attraction. Thursday's change of programme will usher in two splendid features in the shape of "Money Talks," in which Claire Windsor has the stellar role, and "Her Big Night," featuring the ever popular Laura La Plante.

VAUDEVILLE AT THE REGENT.

Probably the biggest hit yet made at the Regent has been registered this week by "Stud and Iris." The audience simply won't let them go off the stage. Freshness in style and gags and novelty of costume have done the trick in this act. Next Monday Drew and Romaine open a week's season in harmony and patter, and should prove very satisfying to the public taste. We notice that the Regent's acts are improving in every way, always a good augury for the future.

PERSONAL.

On Tuesday evening a large gathering of the pupils of Miss Freda Northcote were entertained an an Xmas tea to mark the closing of the year's studies. It was a merry party, gaily capped and adorned. The students entered heartily into the games and competitions, interspersed with songs, duets and recitations. All joined in heartiest greetings to their esteemed teacher.

The many friends of the Mayor of Northcote (Cr. P. H. Mayer), who early in the week underwent an operation, will be pleased to learn that he is making good progress.

Miss Betty Jenkin, A.L.C.M., teacher of elocution and singing, at the recent London College examination gained her L.L.C.M. diploma. Miss Nita Dalton, a pupil of Miss Jenkin, gained high marks.

To show the high esteem in which Mr. J. Ecker, the well known Northcote butcher, is held by his employes, he was on Monday last presented with an enlarged photograph of himself surrounded by the photos of his 28 employes. The presentation is on view in the window of Mr. Bert. Saunders.

As the result of a motor car colliding with a cable tram on Saturday, December 18, Joseph James Harper, 57 St. George's road, Croxton, sustained fractured ribs.

The United States now has approximately 52,000 towns and post offices.

Huge spiders that devour small birds after catching them in trapdoor pitfalls, are reported to have been discovered in the Amazon Valley.

Kept alive by artificial methods, a bit of tissue from a chicken's heart has been growing in a laboratory since 1913.

Made entirely of wood, and having eighteen dials which show the time in as many cities, a clock upon which its maker is said to have worked twenty-three years, is being shown in Europe.

CHURCH NEWS.

Methodist Church, Croxton.

MUSICAL SERVICE.

Choirmasters the world over have cause to thank Edmund Turner for the beautiful range of music he has written, amongst which the Christmas anthem "God from on High Hath Heard" is worthy to rank with the best. It's interpretation by the Croxon choir last Sunday evening left little to be desired, as the members caught the spirit of the piece and gave full value to the various movements, a word of special commendation being due to the sopranos for the recit and aria "Art Thou the Christ." Mozart's ever welcome "Gloria," which was rendered later, also showed the great improvement that many of the younger singers have recently made, for some parts of the work are considered even by large choirs to be heavy and exacting, yet listeners generally agreed that this rendition was particularly good. Mr. Alfred Broadley did justice to a fine voice and a special occasion by his singing of Stainer's "King Ever Gloriuos" and "The Living God" (O'Hara), the closing phrases of the second number being worked up to an inspirational climax, the effect of which was noticeable in the congregational singing of a carol which followed. The organ work, as is customary, was by no means the least interesting part of the service, and at this the close of the year, Mr. Holtham is to be complimented on the high standard of work he has kept up for many months, so that in a word it may be said that the musical portion of this Christmas service made a fitting background for Pastor Davey's story of the angelic singers who hailed the first Christmas at Bethlehem.

Epiphany Carol Service.

The enthusiasm of the foundation stone service, held on Saturday, was reflected at the services on Sunday in the Church of the Epiphany.

A special carol service was held at evensong, the church being crowded, many of the congregation being unable to obtain seating accommodation.

The vicar, Rev. T. Cole, took for his subject the Advent message, "The Lord is at hand." At this season of Advent we are all looking forward and preparing for Christmas, and rightly so, but unfortunately many became so engrossed with the pleasure seeking side of Christmas that they forget to commemorate the birth of the Saviour. Too many think only of one side and altogether neglect the spiritual side, and so the warning note is struck, "The Lord is at hand." Prepare to receive Him, for He shall return when every eye shall behold Him. Our Lord warns us in His parables to prepare for His coming again. The five foolish virgins, although they expected the Bridegroom, had not their lamps prepared. In the parable of the wedding feast there was the man who, although warned, had not on the proper garment. So we are warned to have everything in readiness to make preparation for the second Advent. The lesson was read by Mr. Roy Riches.

A carol service, lasting for an hour, was rendered by the full choir, under the direction of Mr. A. E. Emery, and was keenly appreciated by the large audience.

The boys of the choir were never heard to better advantage as in "The Babe of Bethlehem" and "The Carol of the Star," the alto parts being taken by Masters David Cox and R. Sneddon. Another fine piece, perfectly rendered, was "Good King Wenceslas," the tenor part being taken by Mr. Emery, and the page's solos by Masters Harold Cole and R. Sneddon. Other carols included in the service were "The Manger Throne," "See, Amid the Winter's Snow," "Come to the Manger," "Sleep Holy Babe," "The First Nowel," "The Virgin Cradle Song," and "Across the Snow." Solo parts were taken by Miss Isabel Lees, Miss Dorothy Lees, Miss Bessie Cohen, and Mrs. Court.

Thornbury Presbyterian Church.

There were large congregations last Sabbath when the services took a Christmas character. In the evening the choir, under the direction of Miss Rae, rendered anthems and carols, the solo and quartette parts being taken by Mrs. Gardiner, Miss Osborne, and Messrs. A. Harris and E. Parker. The Rev. W. J. Harris gave an address on "The Babe and the World," in which he showed the social and individual blessings which had followed from the coming of Christ into the world. On Christmas morning at 10.30 there will be a united service, at which the Rev. T. D. Webb will give the address.

A combined service will be held at the Northcote High Street Methodist Church on Christmas Day (Saturday, December 25), at 10 a.m. Rev. W. H. Holtham (Methodist), and Rev. John H. Bates (Presbyterian) will conduct the service.

ANNUAL XMAS TREAT FOR ORPHAN CHILDREN.

R.S.S.I.L.A., NORTHCOTE BRANCH.

The annual Xmas treat for the children of disabled soldiers was held at the Memorial Hall by the Northcote branch of the Returned Soldiers' League on Tuesday evening, December 21.

Tea was provided at 6.30 p.m. for the children and mothers. Rev. Raverty addressed the children before tea, and told them the story of the great King who was born in a stable at Bethlehem. He asked them to help their mothers all they could, and make it a happy time for them, and to always remember their fathers with pride, for they were brave men who gave their lives for their country. The speaker wished them the compliments of the season on behalf of the R.S.L. and his worship the Mayor (Cr. Mayer) who is in hospital.

The children heartily responded. After tea a splendid programme was provided, which was thoroughly enjoyed by adults as well as children, and was quite the best programme seen at the hall for some considerable time.

Father Xmas arrived at 8.30 p.m., and was easily the most popular person there. He very ably and impartially distributed the presents from a heavily laden Xmas tree.

Within a minute after garlic is eaten by a cow, the flavor can be detected in the milk, says a well-known scientist.

CRICKET.

NORTHCOTE MUNICIPAL CLUB.

Northcote and Prahran resumed their match on Saturday. Northcote closed with 8 wickets for 317. Prahran played the stone wall game, and batted for 2¼ hours for a total of 80 runs. They followed on and lost three wickets for 84 runs, giving Northcote a first innings victory by 237 runs. Scores:—

Northcote.—Harrison 108, Creighton 15, Matthews 49, Murray 86, Barnes 12, Decker 11 n.o., Walker 7 n.o. Eight wickets for 317 (declared). Bowling.—White 1/54, Rogers 1/44, Kennedy 3/81, Farrington 2/25.

Prahran.—First innings 80; second innings—Rogers 33 n.o., Pippard 27 n.o.; three for 84. Bowling.—Harrison 5/36, Murray 4/16, Carson 2/22, Barnes 1 17, Matthews 2/19.

Northcote go to Brunswick on January 8.

I.O.R. ASSOCIATION.

NORTHCOTE V. COLLINGWOOD.

Collingwood, first innings, 101 (Bogle 35, Williams 5/45, King 2/12). Second innings, eight for 69 (Simkins 26, Scott 3/23).

Northcote.—First innings 95 (Patterson 24; Price 6/26, Hutchinson 2/2). Second innings, five for 123 (closed) (Williams 24, Dickson 28 n.o., Johnson 19; Boyle 4/21).

Collingwood won by six runs on the first innings. Next match against Fitzroy, at Fitzroy.

NORTHCOTE AND PRESTON CHURCHES.

A GRADE.

Northcote Congregationalists 129 (Irvine 16, Wildsmith 17, Lane 33) defeated Thornbury Church of Christ 72 and 59 (Steer 25, Williamson 24; Irvine 7/22, Whiteoak 7/29).

Thornbury Presbyterian 83 and eight for 203 (Watson 28 and 6, Gray 42, R. Paterson 32 n.o.; Heffernan 6/65, Paddle 4/57) defeated West Preston Methodists 58 and 4 for 110 (Paddle 51 n.o., Heffernan 36; R. Paterson 6/31, Harry 6/50).

St. George's Road Methodists 94 and 94 (Roberts 15, Owens 21 and 22; Norris 7/46, Froebel 6/47, Cameron 2/23) defeated Preston Presbyterians 37 and 80 (Froebel 22, D. Cameron 16; Veever 11/58, Owens 4/10).

Northcote Presbyterians a bye.

B GRADE.

St. James Church of England 280 (Pink 105, Osmond 19, O'Connor 17, H. Osmond 36, Claydon 26 A. Carolane 21 n.o.) defeated Preston Church of Christ 39 and 52 (Salisbury 18 n.o., O'Connor 10/31, Newton 3/12, Boxall 2/12).

St. George's Road Methodists 93 and 96 (Phillips 32, Allen 17; Rowe 4/72, Cosier 8/59) defeated West Preston Methodists 40 and 64 (Ellis 18, Rowe 17; Phillips 8/43, McRae 6/24, Hewish 5/27).

Northcote Methodists 99 and nine for 105 (Oates 48, Bird 18, W. Stewart 41 n.o.; Spencer 6/75, Carruthers 12/85) defeated Northcote Presbyterians 101 and 65 (Waterson 42, Arnold 21, Carruthers 27; Hatfield 9/48, D. Stewart 4/24, Oates 3/21).

St. Mary's 75 and 47 (McDonald 29 and 19, Tribe 13; Spargo 15/37, Hamilton 5/80) defeated Preston Methodists 38 and 80 (Spargo 17, Hicks 21; McDonald 10/46, Tribe 7/44).

Penders' Grove Methodists 157 and none for 19 (P. Leake 40, Mather 43 n.o.; Westcott 3/42, Mannuel 5/84) defeated Preston Methodist A, 44 and 123 (A. Robinson 17 and 37 n.o., Mannuel 48; Gregory 7/37, F. Leake 4/47, A. Leake 2/8).

Prince of Wales Park Methodists 101 and 92 (Lee 33, G. Smith 23, Baird 28; J. Pike 7/48) defeated Preston Church of Christ Footballers 39 and 84 (Dewar 19 and 17, Bailey 19; Westmoreland 11/40).

Croxton Methodists seven for 216 (Stevens 57, Turner 63, Bock 24, Nelder 23, Wilson 26; Tyson 2/29) defeated Northcote Church of Christ, 35 and 69 (Flynn 37; Bock 11/29, Webster 4/21).

NORTHCOTE AND PRESTON SUNDAY SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATION.

Prince of Wales Park Methodists, 4 for 212 (Bolger 86, McTaggart 78) defeated South Prestoff Methodists 85 and 45 (Bishop 41, Steele 7/27), by an innings and 82 runs.

Croxton Methodists 154 (Neilson 63, Nelder 51; Tippett 8/69) defeated St. George's Road Methodists 97 and 8 for 137 (McCusker 32 and 22, King 43) by 57 runs on first innings.

St. James C. of E. 106 (Alexander 24, Thornycroft 23; Waterson 4/19) defeated Northcote Presbyterians, 43 and 27 (Beecher 30; Wright 13/22) by an innings and 36 runs.

Preston Presbyterians 105 (Rule 61, Tuppen 17; McHarg 7/15) defeated Northcote Church of Christ 16 and 24 (Lawry 11; Stevens 6/24) by an innings and 65 runs.

Pender's Grove Methodists 80 and 130 (Nance 58, Williamson 29; Paterson 4/23) defeated Thornbury Presbyterians, 49 and eight for 60 (Jenkin 19, McDonald 14 n.o.; Nance 8/29), by 31 runs on the first innings.

Victoria Road Baptists a bye.

NORTHCOTE THEATRE.

To-night (Friday) and to-morrow, Xmas night, December 24 and 25, last nights of "The Battling Oriole," supported by seven part Pathe comedy, "The Scrappin' Kid."

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday—Matinee Boxing Day, "The Savage," featuring Ben Lyon The supporting picture will be entitled "Steele, of the Royal Mounted."

Thursday, Friday and Saturday—"Her Big Night" and "King of His Cattle."

The first heat of the Miss Northcote competition will be photographed on the stage on Saturday, January 8, and will be shown at the theatre the following Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Jan. 13, 14 and 15. The artists will appear in person on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays (Jan. 11, 12 and 13). Voting for all competitors will be continuous. Any artist having any accomplishments such as dancing will be able to exhibit same.

The concert company touring on behalf of the home at Brighton for the adult blind gave their concert at Whittlesea on Friday night, when over £15 was taken at the door.

Rugs and carpetings of beautiful designs are now being woven of paper yarn made from wood pulp.

NEW SERIAL

"IN THE FLASHLIGHT."

We will shortly commence the publication of a new entrancing and thrilling serial dealing with love, adventure and crime. It is by Bernard Rowthorne, who is renowned as a master of fiction. The exclusive publication rights have been secured for the "Leader."

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS.

Charles Melford, of Hawton Carew; Deputy Lieutenant of the County. Was formerly Owen Oldstairs.

Margaret Melford, daughter of Charles Melford. Promised herself to Noel Mayhew before he went on war service to German East Africa.

John Carston, of the Hermitage. Wealthy suitor for Margaret Melford. Has a hold on her father.

Donald Mayhew; has succeeded to Mayhew Court; death of his brother being presumed. Wants to marry Margaret.

Noel Mayhew; at first reported dead and afterwards alive, but married to a Creole.

SKETCH OF OPENING CHAPTERS.

John Carston's yacht is steaming up the Argyllshire coast. On board, besides the owner, are Charles and Margaret Melford. Both father and daughter are uncomfortable with their host; the father because Carston has hinted knowledge of a man whom Melford thought dead; Margaret, because her host reveals his desires too patently. Just as Carston has told Melford that he expects to be helped in his suit with Margaret, and threatens exposure of Melford's real identity if help is withheld, the yacht meets with disaster in the heavy seas running between Islay and Jura. They have to take to the boats in the night. Carston defies the storm, and when their boat is upturned, secures Margaret and swims to a wild shore. She swoons, and he carries her up a cleft in the rocks to a rough farmstead, where they are succored. He makes her realise that he has saved her life. After hours of suspense, Margaret's father appears, having been saved by the ship's captain. Carston suspends his ultimatum, telling Melford that Margaret's gratitude will bring her over to his suit.

A few days later, at Margaret's home, Carston tries again to win her consent, but is refused. The same day he comes across her meeting with Donald; she had loved Donald's elder brother Noel. The law having presumed Noel's death, Donald is now master of Mayhew Court. Carston divines the purport of Donald's conversation, intervenes with the pretext of a private message for Margaret's father, and seizes the chance to poison her mind against Donald, pointing out that he was court-martialled in German East Africa for failure to respond to his brother's heliographed signals for help. At the court-martial Donald withheld the fact that by Noel's death he became owner of Mayhew Court, and Carston insinuates that Donald was really his brother's murderer. Margaret scorns Carston's further pressure for her hand. He sends by her to her father a message that "the ultimatum is in force again, and Freedlam is the trump card"—Freedlam being Charles Melford's old partner, whose one dream is to be avenged. Before taking the cryptic message to her father she rejoins Donald and tells him of Carston's charges. He cannot deny that he withheld the fact of his succession.

When Margaret tells her father she has again refused Carston, and of the latter's message, her father realises the hour has come to cast himself on his daughter's loyalty, so he tells her how he and Freedlam had been engaged in illicit diamond trading, how Freedlam had been captured and sentenced, how he (Melford) had fled with their joint capital and changed his name, how Carston knows all and can ruin him. The girl is turned to ice, and sees there is no escape for her.

Meanwhile the reader is given a glimpse of events at Nairobi, where Noel is found in a remote village by Lieut. Corfield's expedition, and is slowly brought back to strength and mental clearness. While he is in coma a woman comes forward with the claim to be his wife. This story is sent home and appears in the picture papers with a photo of Noel. It is shown to Margaret by her maid on this day of storm and horrible discovery. Her father a criminal, one suitor his brother's supplanter, that brother her own false lover, her heart is turned to stone, and she becomes engaged to Carston.

Thus closes one stage of the story, to be succeeded by another even more dramatic and exciting. It is impossible in brief space to outline the crowded incidents. Noel returns to England, waits for Margaret, who is speechless with fury; she soon meets a Creole woman asking for Mr. Noel Mayhew, and this confirms her in the view that he lied when he denied being married. The woman finds Noel, but he is not her husband. They go together to Mayhew Court; Donald has gone to Africa on hearing that Noel is alive. That night Noel receives a note from the woman to say she has found her husband, and is to meet him that night. The man is John Carston.

When Carston sees the ruin of his whole scheme in prospect, he becomes reckless, with consequences first to Noel and then to others. Noel has many troubles to go through before he is cleared and attains the happiness he has dreamed of before the war.

A fine story, stirring in action, and of deep human interest.

More than 793 species of roses are known to science.

Twice as much power is required to stop an express train as to start it.

Borax was extremely rare and almost as precious as gold in early times.

A hen's egg, measuring 8¾in. on the longer circumference, and weighing a trifle over 3½ ozs., is said to have been laid by a hen owned by a man in New England.

Rotting of wood is said to be due to the activity of low forms of plant life, which nourish themselves on the wood and thus destroy it.

Approximately 6,000 new species of insects are found and classified each year by scientists.

For more than 2,000 years, it is said, laughter has been unknown to the Yeddas, a tribe of aboriginal inhabitants of Ceylon.

Stage Manager—"No. Whenever she attempts to put on any frills, I just threaten to send the photograph of her two grandsons to the newspapers."

THE NEW BROOM.

"I'm leaving, Miss Landon. He's sacked me."

Phyllis Landon looked up from her typewriter at the elderly clerk who spoke. There was an angry light in her eyes.

"What for?" she asked, in a low voice.

Albert Edgecumb shook his head slowly.

"I don't know," he replied. "He said something about having someone younger and spryer in my place. He's out after live wires and efficiency.

The girl muttered in a furious undertone, but Albert held up a warning hand.

"There's no use in getting yourself into trouble,, too," he said. "He's a hard one, is Mr. Page, young though he is. But it comes a bit hard just when my wife has to go into hospital."

"He's efficiency mad," stormed Phyllis. "Never makes any allowance for little mistakes—not he."

It was true. Arthur Page was the proverbial "new broom," and meant to sweep the office very clean. A University graduate, he had come into his cousin's office to learn something of the business, and John Mart, the cousin, welcomed him because Arthur was one day to inherit a fortune, some of which could be very profitably employed in developing the export business of John Mart and Co.

But even John Mart had not reckoned on the sudden breakdown which had taken him away to Switzerland for several weeks, leaving the new broom more or less in command.

The really important members of the staff, such as Harrison and Welsh, the assistant manager and the cashier, were not alarmed at Page's methods. They knew they were safe enough from interference. But to the lower grades, Arthur Page became a man to fear. And Edgecumb's dismissal added to their dread of him. Mr. Mart had only been gone a week. What would happen to them all before he returned.

Phyllis snatched up her notebook and pencil as the buzzer over her typewriting table sounded sharply. Even the buzzer seemed to have acquired an unpleasantly brusque note since Mr. Page had used it. The angry glint was still in her eyes as she sat down in the chair beside his desk and waited.

Something in the tenseness of her attitude seemed for a moment to pierce through the wall which Arthur Page kept round himself during business hours. He raised his eyes from the document he was studying, and for the first time realised that his cousin's typist was a remarkably pretty girl.

"How long have you been here, Miss Landon?" he asked presently, as she still sat there with eyes downcast and pencil ready, the picture of business efficiency.

"Me?" Phyllis was startled at the unexpected question. "Oh, about two years."

"Hum!" Arthur Page looked again at the paper in his hand. Then he pulled his thoughts back to duty and began dictating.

When he had finished Phyllis closed her book and rose to her feet.

"One moment, Miss Landon," Page said. "Are you thinking of asking for a rise?"

Phyllis met his eyes with a level glance, and her slim shoulders stiffened. He seemed to have read her thoughts. She had intended to ask for more money, but not from this man, whose chief delight seemed to be in making others miserable. She would not give him the pleasure of refusing her request.

"Not just now," she said coldly.

As she saw the man's face flush redly she knew that her shaft had gone home, and with sudden weakness, wished she had never shot it.

"You have only to ask," he said, his fingers fumbling with the pencils on his desk. "I know efficiency when I see it."

"I prefer not to make the request in Mr. Mart's absence," Phyllis said; especially as business seems rather—rather bad."

Her heart failed her at her own temerity.

"Business bad?" snapped Page. "What on earth do you mean?"

"What else can we think when a clerk who has been here as long as Mr. Edgecumb is dismissed!"

It was out! For the sake of the poor old man, whose misery had touched her heart, she had made her protest. Now let the bolt fall on her, too.

But it didn't. Instead Mr. Page spoke again, without raising his eyes from his desk.

"As to that, I must do what I consider best, Miss Landon. Will you please type those letters?"

He was not used to being rebuffed or corrected. He had regarded this spell of office work as a sort of trial run, as a preliminary canter to starting off on his own, and had been pleased with the success of his own methods.

And now this young slip of a girl had dared to reprove him! He tried to be angry with her, to resent her uncalled for candour, but all he could do was to feel himself quail before the cold anger of her clear eyes.

He wished now he could do something to show her that he wasn't really the tyrant she thought him—anything except take Edgecumb back again. He couldn't do that. The man had gone, with salary instead of notice. To take him back would be the end of all discipline in the office. It was impossible.

All the same, he began to regard the people who worked in the large outer office from a different angle. They ceased to be mere cogs in the wheel—they were human beings, each with his own joys and sorrows, working hard for what might mean life to himself and others dear to him.

And for Page the days were divided into the times when he saw Phyllis and did not see her. It was ridiculous, he told himself angrily, to let this girl fill his thoughts to the exclusion of everything else. He was losing his grip on things.

One day when she came in with his cup of tea, something in her face raised a wild hope in his heart. She looked kinder, even younger than ever.

"Miss Landon," he said suddenly, as she turned towards the door.

Phyllis waited obediently, while he slipped his hand into his coat pocket.

"I have theatre tickets for this evening," he stammered. "I wondered if you—"

The girl drew herself suddenly erect, and all the kindness passed from her face.

"I'm sorry," she said coldly. "I'm afraid I'm engaged for this evening."

The snub was so obvious that he dared not correct her, feared to tell her that he had intended to offer her the tickets for her own use. Evidently the idea that he was suggesting to take her to the theatre was repugnant to her. The little whiteness round her lips told him that.

"All right," he muttered, and she turned away without another word. She had nothing to spare for him.

From that day, Page's downfall began. He made little slips in his work and overlooked larger errors on the part of others, until the whole office began to notice.

Then one morning a large bunch of roses appeared on Phyllis' desk, and Chubb, the porter, greeted her with a knowing smile.

It was too much. With shaking hands the girl snatched the flowers from the vase, and even while their beauty cried out to her against the cruelty, she dropped them into the waste-paper basket. When Page passed through to his room, he saw them there, but later, as he dictated to her, he gave no sign of knowing what had happened. His face was white and drawn, but he managed to speak steadily as he answered letter after letter and passed them to her.

She wondered if he noticed how carefully she avoided any chance of their fingers touching. She was still angry with him. He had made her a laughing-stock with his flowers. The clerks would joke among themselves that she was setting her cap at the boss. Oh, it was hateful of him.

And only the night before she had been to Albert Edgecumb's house to ask after his wife, and seen the poor man's white, worried face, as he told her of the poorly paid work he had obtained, and tried to speak bravely about it.

And this man, who was the cause of Edgecumb's misery, had dared to give her flowers!

She was glad when the letters were signed and Page had gone, leaving her one or two minor things to get off. She was alone in the office save for Chubb, and Chubb would not dare to say any thing about those flowers. One withering glance had been enough for him.

She must see if there was anything to tidy up on Mr. Page's desk. With angry eyes she passed into the inner room.

Then her heart gave a sudden jump. On the desk lay an important contract, signed and witnessed, which should have been sent off earlier in the day if it was to be in time. So important was it that Mr. Mart himself had sent a long telegram from Switzerland, giving full instructions about it.

And Mr. Page had forgotten to post it, a task he should have undertaken himself, in view of what hung on the contract. Phyllis looked at it with a triumphant smile. She had only to leave it lying there, and all the slights and sarcasm which Mr. Page had heaped upon the staff for their inefficiency would be amply revenged.

Nothing that any of them could ever do would be as bad a blunder as this. It meant serious loss to the firm if that document remained unposted. She had only to leave it lying there—

Then she gave herself a mental shake. What was she thinking of? Without giving herself a moment to change her mind, she snatched up an envelope, addressed it, put on her hat, and hurried to the post office. Whatever Mr. Page might be, the firm must not suffer for his inefficiency. There was a strange pleasure in the thought that she was making good his blunders.

Next morning when Phyllis arrived she found Mr. Page waiting for her white and miserable. He called her into his private room, where Mr. Harrison was sitting, cold and stern.

"Did you see the Swindown contract on my desk last night?" Mr. Page asked her, and for a moment she was tempted to deny all knowledge of the thing. Let him suffer a little longer—it would be good for him to realise that even he was weak.

Then suddenly she saw the triumph in Harrison's face. He was rejoicing in the downfall of the "new broom." It was too much for her.

"Yes, Mr. Page," she replied.

That was all. But a sudden light of hope shone in the man's eyes

"Did you—you do anything with it?" he asked eagerly.

"It was not my business to do anything with such an important document," Phyllis replied coldly. "Those contracts have always been handled by the head of the business and not left to a mere typist."

Once again was Page dumb in the sight of her cold scorn. A sudden madness seemed to enter Phyllis' brain and she spoke again

"Then the wonderful efficiency has broken down?" she asked bitterly. "A mistake has been made, worse than anything that has ever happened before in what used to be a well-managed office."

"Miss Landon!" snapped Mr. Harrison angrily.

"Let her speak, Harrison," said Page brokenly. "I deserve it all."

His downcast face and the weariness of his voice spoke eloquently of a night spent in misery. Here was a man who had made a mistake and knew it. Never again would he judge harshly others who might slip. He had learned his lesson.

"I posted the contract last night, Mr. Page," Phyllis told him quietly.

"You!" Page faced her bravely. "You made good my stupidity."

Before she could stop him, he had snatched her hand and pressed it to his lips.

And Phyllis did not resent the caress. Instead, she stood aghast at the sudden wisdom that had come to her. From behind the mask of efficiency, so rudely torn away by Fate, she had caught a glimpse of the true man, the lover.

Mr. Harrison walked out of the room, hiding a little smile behind his hand. The other two did not know he had gone.

"What can I do to show you——" Page began hesitatingly.

"Let Mr. Edgecumbe come back," Phyllis said quickly.

"He shall. And then—" There was an eager question in his voice.

A tiny smile stole to Phyllis' lips, making them even more adorable than ever. That was all her answer, but he found it enough.

Telephone wires now stretch across the Sinai desert over which Moses and Aaron led the children of Israel.

WHERE TO GO

PROGRAMME

for Friday and Saturday and Saturday Matinee:

Gowerville

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, DEC. 24 & 25

Special Matinee Friday, December 24th, at 2.30
Including Serial
"The Fighting Ranger"
and REACO
Australia's Premier Bird and Animal Mimic.

Master Pictures—
"Lights Out"
Metro-Goldwyn—
"His Secretary"
(Norma Shearer)

VAUDEVILLE—
THE 6 GLADSTONE GIRLS
Refined Entertainment

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Dec. 27, 28, 29
Special Gift Matinee Monday (Boxing Day). Every Child Receives a Gift.

PROGRAMME:

Selznic—
James Kirkwood in
"Lovers' Island"

Paramount—
"Born to the West"

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Dec. 30, 31, Jan. 1
"The Secret of Pueblo"
(Neil Hart)

Metro-Goldwyn—
"Money Talks"
(Claire Windsor)

Refined Vaudeville in both Theatres.

Special Matinee Saturday, January 1 (New Years Day)

Serial:
"The Fighting Ranger"

The Star

FRIDAY & SATURDAY DEC. 24 & 25

Special Matinee Friday, December 24th, at 2.30
Including Serial
"The Fighting Ranger"
Also REACO
Australia's Premier Bird and Animal Mimic.

Selznic—
"Riding Double"
(Leo Maloney)

Paramount—
"The Palm Beach Girl"
(Bebe Daniels)

VAUDEVILLE—
THE 6 GLADSTONE GIRLS
Refined Entertainment

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, December 27, 28, 29
Special Free Gift Matinee Monday (Boxing Day). Every Child Receives a Gift.

PROGRAMME:

Mutual—
"False Fronts"
(Barbara Castleton)

Fox presents—
"The Family Upstairs"
(Special Cast)

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, December 30 & 31, January 1
Reed Howes in
"The Self Starter"

Paramount—
Pola Negri in
"Good and Naughty"

Refined Vaudeville in both Theatres.

Special Matinee Saturday, January 1 (New Years Day)

Serial:
"The Fighting Ranger"

PIONEERS OF INDUSTRY.

JAMES HARGREAVES AND RICHARD ARKWRIGHT.

Hargreaves with his jenny, and Arkwright with his water-frame, changed the whole character of the industry and the financial position of England.

James Hargreaves was born at Blackburn in 1745, and at an early age entered a mill owned by Sir Robert Peel's grandfather. Although Hargreaves could neither read nor write, he was recognised as a capable man, and was set to work to improve a machine for carding cotton, in order to abolish the old system of straightening the fibres by hand.

At that time the cotton trade depended to a great extent on work done at home, in the cottages and small farms, and it was purely an accident at home that led to Hargreaves' invention which has meant so much to the country and the world at large. Part of the cotton had to be spun into thread to make the warp and part into the weft which crosses the texture.

One day Hargreaves' wife was using her simple machine for spinning weft. The machine was fitted with a wheel and spindle, which spun only one thread at a time. Hargreaves by accident knocked over the machine, and the wheel and spindle becoming dislodged were thrown from a horizontal to a vertical position, but continued to revolve, thus tangling the thread. Hargreaves immediately saw that by making the wheel larger and using several upright spindles he could spin a number of threads simultaneously instead of one. He worked at his idea in secret, never thinking that he was to found a new industry.

He made the original spinning jenny, and began to manufacture yarn in such quantities as no weaver had ever thought of making. Soon the Hargreaves' had increased their output eightfold, and so helped the prosperity of everybody in the mill.

The narrow-mindedness of the people of the neighborhood, however, thought that the introduction of machinery would rob honest handworkers of their living, and the weavers of the surrounding district gathered together and marched to the poor cottage where Hargreaves lived. Having forced their way into his house, they smashed the machine and the furniture, and then marched down to Peel's mill, where Hargreaves worked, and wrecked that.

Hargreaves went to Nottingham and entered into partnership with Thomas James, who had a little capital, and together they commenced the manufacture of spinning jennies.

In the meantime a large number of dishonest cotton manufacturers were using his jennies wholesale, without paying him a farthing royalty. When Hargreaves endeavored to obtain a patent for his invention it was proved that he had sold some of his machines prior to the application for patent, and his claim was thereby declared to be invalid.

Although Hargreaves did not die in poverty, his share of the partnership was sold for only £400. Six years after his death, in 1778, there were at work in England 20,000 hand jennies of 80 spindles each.

Sir Richard Arkwright was born at Preston in 1732, and was the youngest of thirteen poor children. He did not master spelling and grammar until he was over 50 years of age. In his youth he suffered great poverty, working first as a penny barber at Bolton in 1750, and later, after having got together a little property from dealing in human hair, he became a travelling wigmaker. In 1767 he gave up this business in order the better to think out his idea of a spinning frame. No one would help the poor, ragged untaught genius, but in the end he got John Kay, a clockmaker at Warrington, to "bend him some wires and turn him some pieces of brass," to assist him in making the clockwork part of the apparatus. The first model was set up in a little room at the Free Grammar School at Preston.

Although Arkwright's original invention has undergone minor improvements, it has never been superseded or modified to any great extent.

In spite of the importance of his invention, Arkwright had to go through periods of enormous difficulties before finally coming through successfully. As soon as he reported his invention there was an outcry raised both by the manufacturers and workers against machinery, and his progress was further retarded by an Act of Parliament, which decreed that no fabric manufactured by his machine should be exported, except under heavy tax. Arkwright still struggled on, however, and patented a wonderful machine embracing the entire manufacture of cotton-carding, spinning, etc., putting the chief trade of Lancashire at the head of all competitors.

Although Arkwright was a man of great personal strength he was never in very good health, and asthma, which had troubled him throughout his life of invention, caused his death in 1792 at his works at Cromford. He died both rich and honored in the end, having persevered in face of all his difficulties; he made a fortune and received a knighthood in 1786.

ARREARS OF RENT

WERE THE BLINDS A GIFT?

Before Mr. Callaghan, P.M., and Messrs. Ellison and Lewis, J's.P., on Thursday at the Preston police court, Francis Ludlow, carrying on business in High street, Preston, as an estate agent, sued Mr. Edward A. Howard Martin for arrears of rent for seven weeks; also for money due for the supply and delivery of blinds for a property in Michel street, for which he was acting as agent.

Mr. Campbell appeared for complainant, and Mr. E. Norris acted as counsel for the defendant.

Defendant recognised part of the arrears as claimed. The case resolved itself into an amount of £5 which complainant swore had been credited defendant through a discrepancy on the part of Mr. Ludlow's daughter, since deceased.

After lengthy legal argument and consultation between counsel and their respective clients, Mr. Norris agreed to pay £3/5/- for the blinds (the amount claimed), if time were allowed to pay.

The bench acceded to the mutual agreement, seven days being allowed to pay, and also gave complainant an order for £8/15/-, arrears of rent, to be paid within seven days.

Mr. Campbell made a request that the costs be £3/3/- This, however, was disallowed, the court granting £2/2/-

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Collecting of balata gum, derived from the milky juice of the balata tree and used in making rubber belting, is one of the principal industries of British Guiana.

Farmer—"Your trespassing here. How dare you catch my fish without permission?" Angler—"I'm not catching your fish; I'm feeding 'em. I haven't landed one, and I've used up all my bait."

An "ocean plane" has been built by a Russian engineer after the pattern of a species of sea flea, which jumps from wave to wave, and is to be used for a flight from Marseilles to Rio de Janeiro.

THE REGENT

WHERE QUALITY REIGNS

High Street, Thornbury.

Direction: F. W. THRING.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY
BEN LYON and MAY McEVOY in
"The Savage"
Richard Holt in "In Search of a Hero"

ALL THE WEEK
Drew & Romaine
Two Boys in Harmony and Patter

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY
Claire Windsor in "Money Talks"
Laura La Plante in "[illegible]"

Charles Vita and the Regent [illegible]
Prices as Usual. Box Plan at [illegible]
No Extra Charge [illegible]

MYSTERIOUS MALADIES.

That mysterious disease "Encephalitis Lethargica"—commonly known as sleeping sickness—is,, as a result of its consistent and insidious march through Europe, seriously perturbing our medical authorities. In spite of all the science at the command of the faculty no real origin, treatment or cure can be found for this often fatal complaint.

It is comparatively new to Great Britain, and though we need not go into the symptoms and course of the complaint, it must be said that the minute virus has yet to be isolated, and in addition, the origin and birthplace of the disease is still a matter for conjecture.

Undoubtedly, epidemics have origins and birthplaces, and some of them are very curious. For instance, in 1874, the British navvies building a railway across the Andes, upon reaching an altitude of 7,000 feet above sea level, were stricken down with a plague of warts, from which only one in seven escaped alive. Now known as "Verrugas," this disease much interests medical science and zymotic disease specialists, because it is only to be found in those lofty Peruvian hills.

There is also the strange boil or carbuncle which attacks residents of Penjdeh in the Pamirs, "Pellagra," which exists only in Lombardy, and the Malta Fever from which our garrisons on that island alone used to suffer so severely. Science, however, having traced the source of the complaints, can soon find remedies.

Diseases of this kind, found only in certain well defined localities, do not as a rule spread to other places, though many fevers and other infectious diseases have a lapse of a certain number of days after the actual infection, in which time an unsuspective victim has time to cross the Continent and so spread it among his friends before he can be detected and isolated. To the medical profession this is known as the "incubation period."

The most terrible inflictions under which mankind has suffered are those great epidemics which have stalked westward across the world and killed millions as they travelled. Most of them are so ancient in origin that their birthplaces will probably never be discovered.

Plague, which in all different countries is known by a different name, has probably destroyed more of the human race than most other diseases put together. It first appeared in Constantinople in A.D. 544, and is said to have been brought across Persia. Since then it has travelled all over Asia and Europe. The worst visitation was in 1348-1350, when it carried off a quarter of the total population of Europe.

Cholera did not appear in Eastern Europe until the 19th century. In the year 1817 it accounted for five thousand people in the first five days of its appearance. In 1826 it made its first rush westwards.

Five years afterwards it first appeared in England, in Sunderland, thence sweeping right over the country and crossing the Atlantic to America. After that time came one epidemic of the disease after another. In 1848, fifty-three thousand of our people died of Asiatic cholera, and it was not stamped out by medical science until the late seventies.

Smallpox, which originally may have been one of the seven plagues of Egypt, has taken incredible toll through all the centuries, and still plays havoc wherever it appears.

Science is making strenuous efforts to crush this and yellow fever, the birthplace of the latter being principally along the Mexican Gulf coast, and the Guinea coast of Sierra Leone. It is a tropical disease, and does not travel farther north than 38 degrees north latitude, or 32 degrees south latitude.

Preventive serums have been discovered wherewith to vaccinate or innoculate people susceptible and placed liable to catch many of the contagious diseases still rampant, but at the moment the medical profession and all the scientists behind it have to admit themselves beaten in not knowing how to tackle "Kala Azar," one of the most fatal of the present day tropical diseases.

This is known as "Black Sickness," and it suddenly appeared on the coast of South Africa in 1869, when it achieved a mortality of 97 per cent., and since then has spread as far as the centre of Arabia. It is gradually moving in our direction. Will it ever appear in Great Britain? The answer rests with the science available to combat it in the medical profession.

Experiments have proved that moles may be controlled by placing teaspoonful quantities of concentrated lye in their haunts at twenty-five to fifty-foot intervals.

Teacher—"I wish you wouldn't whistle while you are doing your lessons." Willie—"I'm not doing any lessons, mum; I'm only whistling."

Oak timbers in the roof of a London building are as strong now as they were when put in five centuries ago, according to a recent test.

COME TO THE NEW YEAR'S DAY

ANNUAL MONSTER PICNIC

(PROCEEDS IN AID OF CHARITIES)

To be held as usual in the

YAN YEAN RESERVOIR RESERVE.

GOOD SPORTS PROGRAMME.
FOOTRUNNING, ETC.
HIGHLAND DANCING.
MERRY-GO-ROUND. BRASS BANDS

SPECIAL TRAINS.—Buses meet trains at Yan Yean Station.
ADMISSION 6d.

A. H. HALL,
Secretary, Yan Yean.

THE AUSTRAL PALAIS DE LUXE
419 HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE
(Two Doors from Elm Street).

Hall available for Weddings, Parties, Clubs, etc.
Choicest Confectionery in Stock.
Try our Sundaes and Spiders. All Drinks on Ice.
CATERING DONE. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.
A. JORY, Proprietor.

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Teachers of Ballroom Dancing.
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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

IVANHOE.

REGISTERED under the Board of Education, and one of the Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria.

The school is situated in the spacious grounds of Ivanhoe House. Modern Classrooms, and every helpful adjunct for a complete and happy education have been provided. Boys are prepared for the University or commercial life. There is a strong permanent staff, with expert instruction in special subjects, such as drawing, etc. A unique home for country boarders.

Prospectus on application to the Head Master.

REV. SYDNEY BUCKLEY, M.A., Th.L., Assoc. of Bankers' Institute, Aus.
Telephone—Ivanhoe 119.

The Returned Sailors' & Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia.

NORTHCOTE BRANCH.

A TENNIS COURT HAS BEEN ERECTED at the rear of the Memorial Hall.

Application for Tennis Club Membership are invited from the public.

Fees—Ladies 17/6; Gentlemen £1/1/- per annum.

Apply to
SECRETARY,
Memorial Hall, High St., Northcote.

"THE LEADER"

ALTERATION IN DATE OF PUBLICATION.

In future, owing to numerous and repeated requests, the day of publication of the "Leader" will be altered to Friday mornings instead of Saturday mornings.

One of the reasons why the flesh of the salmon is red is that it contains a pigment of that color found in sea plants.

Miners' bunks are said to have given George M. Pullman the idea that resulted in the sleeping car.

Weaving was practised in China more than ten centuries before it was known in Europe.

Recent experiments show that leather of good quality kept for ten years under ordinary conditions, does not lose more than fifteen per cent. of its strength.

Smallest of the inmates in the Zoological Gardens are some mice, tinier than bees.

Goats' tallow and beech ash were in the ingredients of the earliest kind of soap.

Not much larger than a blue-bottle fly, a hummingbird found in Central America is said to be the smallest known bird.

Pulp left after extracting oil from olives is used as fuel in Spain.

If Australia could be placed in the Atlantic Ocean it would fill up all the space between America and the British Isles.

Shoe strings made of a rubber composition, recently introduced by an English manufacturer, are said to stretch so easily that shoes can be put on or taken off without unlacing.

BOY SCOUTS.

THE PRESTON TROOP.

Last Saturday we concluded our cricket match against the Gowerville team and were defeated. In the evening we had our last parade for the year, and will not resume until the second Tuesday in January. Mr. E. W. Fielder attended the Saturday parade and wished the troop a happy holiday. The motor van tour, comprising five motor vans and 90 boys, will leave the Scout Hall Xmas morning at 9.30, and will return the following Saturday week, being on tour for two weeks. There will be no parades during the absence of the camp party. Many of our boys were unable to to make the trip on account of insufficient holidays. The troop would like to state that these camps are run at cost price, and the many boys and parents who have been connected with the camps arranged by the troop in the past can testify to the low prices charged and the good times the boys have spent. This year the boys will motor over 500 miles and be provided for two weeks at [illegible]/- for [illegible]t has [illegible]erson [illegible]s are [illegible]oop is [illegible]e ven- [illegible]mis- [illegible]ct, we would like friends of the troop to know we are making nothing whatever out of the camp, nor have we done so in times past. To the old boys of the troop and others who read our notes in the "Leader," we convey the best wishes of the troop for a happy Xmas and a bright New Year.

A DETERMINED ROBBERY.

GROCER'S SAFE BLOWN OPEN.

On Friday night, December 17, thieves entered the grocer's shop of R. Olver and Sons, Brunswick street, Fitzroy. Entrance was gained by removing a sheet of iron from the upper storey roof, cutting through the ceiling, and letting themselves down by a rope on to the first floor. A hole was then cut through the floor and ceiling of the ground floor directly above the office. The safe was then blown open, sugar bags being put around to deaden the sound. About £70 in notes and silver was removed. The thieves were very determined, as the windows and doors on the ground floor were heavily studded and barred. The roof of the building was gained by scaling the walls of adjoining cottages and travelling over the intervening roofs.

Several cheques were left scattered over the floor of the office. Detectives are making enquiries.

WASHING AND IRONING IS HARD WORK.
LET US DO IT FOR YOU AND AVOID THE DRUDGERY AT HOME.

MAC'S STEAM LAUNDRY

656 HIGH STREET, THORNBURY. Phone—Northcote 2204.

Collars, 2d each; Dress Shirts 9d; Band Shirts, 7d. Will please the most fastidious Gent.
Quilts—Single, 9d each; double, 1/- and 1/3 each.
Blankets—Single, 1/3 pair; double, 1/9 pair.
Sheets—Single, 3d each; double, 4d each. Table Cloths, 6d each.
And all Personal and Household Linen Laundered Like New.
We call and deliver any part of district. Quick Service Guaranteed.

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LOAN OF £3 UPWARDS

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THE LEADING FINANCIER

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'Phone—Northcote 1488.

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C. ROLANDS,
Authorised Dealer
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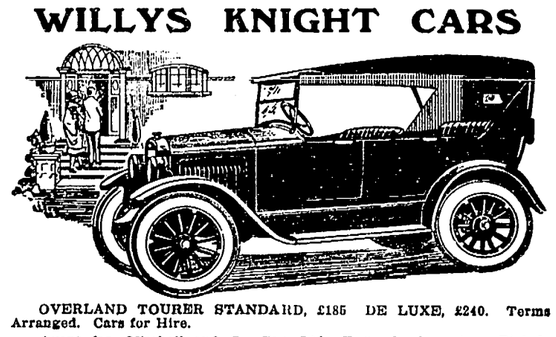
Service Station.
CHURCH STREET,
WHITTLESEA.

AND

WILLYS KNIGHT CARS



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MOTOR ENGINEERS GENERAL ENGINEERS.

(L. S. Dillon, Prop.)

514-518 High Street (Next Memorial Hall).

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Repairs and Overhauls All Makes of Cars.
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Few doors from Northcote Picture Theatre.

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ESTABLISHED 20 YEARS.

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REAR NORTHCOTE PICTURE THEATRE — Phone N'cote 96 — LATE ADDRESS 443 HIGH ST.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RELATIONS.

MAN COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

At the Northcote court on Tuesday, a laborer named Ernest Oliver Edwards, 22 years of age, was called upon to answer charges of breaking and entering the dwelling of Sadie Teresa Hayes, and stealing a lady's hat and suit case, valued at 30/-, and stealing a hat and evening frock, also shoes and stockings, valued at £4/10/-, the property of Alice May Frederickson, and one silk dress, valued at £1/5/-, the property of Dorothy Frederickson.

Sadie Teresa Hayes said—I am a married woman and live at Clarke street, Northcote, with my husband and sisters. About 8 p.m. on Sunday, December 12, I left home leaving it securely locked. Upon returning home at about 10.45 p.m., the front door was locked and I opened it with a key. On entering the bedroom I noticed that my coat was missing from off the bed, where I had left it, and a suit case was missing from the top of the wardrobe. The suit case and hat produced are my property, and I value them at £1/10/- When I left home it was securely locked up.

Alice May Frederickson said—I am a boot trade employe, and live with my mother and married sister at Clarke street, Northcote. On December 12, I was absent from home temporarily. On leaving the house, my hat, dress, shoes and stockings were in the house, but on my return on the same date, I was unable to find them. I value the missing property at £4/10/-

Dorothy Grace Frederickson said—I am a laundry employe, and live at Clarke street, Northcote. On December 12, I left a dress in the wardrobe in my sister's bedroom. When I returned later in the day the dress was gone.

Plainclothes Const. C. Leslie said—As the result of enquiries made, I interviewed the accused at his place of employment at December 12. told him that I was making enquiries regarding clothes which were reported to have been stolen from a house in Clarke street, Northcote. Accused said "I know nothing about it." I said: "It is useless for you to deny it. One suit case has been found in a lane at the rear of High street. I asked him where the missing clothes were, and the accused said he had left them in the case. Upon being asked as to how he got into the house in Clarke street accused said he opened the front door with a key, which he handed over to me. Upon being taken to the watchhouse at Northcote, I said to the accused—"Are you going to tell me what you did with the clothes?" He replied: "I can get them for you." Accompanied by the accused, I went to his home in Lennox street, Northcote, where he removed a panel from the woodwork of the bath, and placing his hand underneath the panel, pulled out two hats, two dresses, pair of shoes and stockings.

Edwards made a written statement to the effect that he was a laborer in the employ of the Northcote Brick Co. On December 12 he left home to get some cigarettes and then left for his mother-in-law's place at Northcote. He saw there were no lights in the house, and he opened the front door of the house with a key which he had in his possession. Upon entering the house the accused said he had taken the articles with which he was charged with stealing "out of spite and not for gain."

Sadie Hayes said—I am a married woman, and live with my husband at Clarke street, Northcote. My mother and three sisters reside with me. At about 8 p.m. on Sunday, December 12, I left the house securely locked up and upon returning home missed my hat.

The bench committed the accused for trial at the General Sessions on February 1, bail in £25 being allowed.

Band of Hope Movement.

RESERVOIR.

A Band of Hope has been opened at the Rosebank Estate, Reservoir, with every prospect of success. Mr. H. M. Ballard, Mr. and Mrs. Cameron and others are leading the effort. Mr. F. M. Moore, field officer of the Victorian Band of Hope Union, attended the opening meeting, and gave some items with his "Talking Doll." Some good temperance matter was "worked in" with the humorous part.

BUSES TO CONTINUE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1927.

ONLY MINOR ALTERATIONS.

Motor bus routes for 1927 were approved by the State Executive Council on Tuesday. Except for a few comparatively minor alterations, the existing routes have not been interfered with. The Reservoir-Spencer street routes, which the advisory board suggested in December should be discontinued, are among those approved.

The alterations in the existing routes are as follow:—

Heidelberg-Clifton Hill route has been extended from the Clifton Hill railway station to the corner of Smith and Johnston streets, Collingwood.

The following additional developmentol routes were approved:—

From Reservoir to Edwardes Lake; from High street, Preston, via Dundas street eastward to Station street, Northcote.

£10 FOR SPEEDING.

DEFENDANT FAILS TO APPEAR.

When Frederick Keane, of Dundas street, Thornbury, was called upon at Prahran court on Tuesday to answer a charge of driving a motor car along Toorak road on December 3 at a speed dangerous to the public, he failed to answer to his name.

According to the police evidence defendant drove at a speed of 44 miles an hour.

Mr. McNamara, P.M.—Defendant is fined £10, and his licence is suspended for six months.

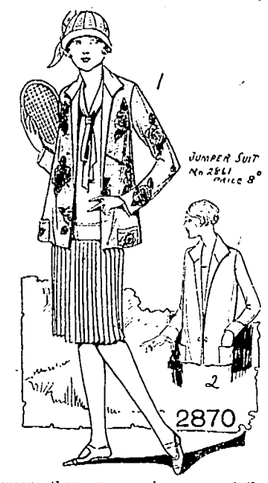
Willie—"A man and his wife should be one, but they are not. They are ten." Millie—"How's that?" Willie—"She is one and he is nought."

"Madame, the children are very naughty to-day." "Send them to me, and I will play them something on the piano." "That's no use, madame; I've already threatened them with that."

FOR THE LADIES

LADY'S SUMMER COAT.

Simplicity is the keynote of the natty little short coat which is our offering for this week, and which we recommend as being almost indispensable for tennis, or for the holiday season now upon us, providing just the little extra covering needful for our climate of quick changes. This model is decidedly chic in appearance, and comfortable to wear. It is cut on easy fitting lines, and is finished with a small collar, which turns back with the fronts to form revers. The fronts may be worn open or closed as preferred. The short coat in our illustration is shown made up in floral silk maroccin, or crepe de chine, lined with plain light silk or georgette of a light shade to tone with the floral design. Of course, if one wished to be ultra-smart they could have the coat made up in floral or plain georgette, and the appearance would be very effective. If georgette is used, the coat would not need to be lined. Then again, perhaps you require an inexpensive, yet dressy coat for utility



wear; then you can have one at the cost of only a few shillings by making it up in any of the gaily colored cotton materials now on the market, such as cretonne, cotton marocains, etc., or even in Fuji, or fancy Shantung. The large view, marked No. 1, shows the coat worn over a jumper suit of light material to match the coat lining. The jumper has a tie-collar, and long (or short) set-in sleeves. The skirt part is arranged in fine pleats all round. The smaller sketch, marked No. 2, shows the coat fastened at the front with link-buttons, and is made up in heavier materials, such as gabardines, repps, and other woollen goods of light weight, and is suitable for wearing at any season of the year; made up with a skirt or frock to match, it would form a very charming two or three piece suit, a mode that is to be one of the outstanding styles for the coming autumn. The coat pattern is No. 2870, price 8d., cut for medium size fittings, worn over jumper suit No. 2861, price 8d. Patterns can be obtained from agents shown on the list elsewhere in this paper. Send a stamp to the publishers, Demarest's, Stewart street, Richmond, for supplement of late fashions.

WHITTLESEA.

Now that the dangerous season for bush fires is with us, it is felt the time is opportune to make some preparations for emergencies. The experiences of last year with the disastrous fires shows how necessary it is to be prepared. With the object of forming a bush fire brigade a meeting was convened by Mr. John Crawford on Thursday night, December 16, in the Parish Hall. The meeting was largely attended and was very representative of the district. Cr. Funston was voted to the chair, when it was decided to form a bush fire brigade, to be called the "Whittlesea District Bush Fire Brigade. The following office-bearers were elected:—President, Mr. R. E. Dawson; secretary, Mr. James McKenzie; treasurer, Mr. J. Crawford; committee, Messrs. J. McDonald, N. Gardiner, W. Medley, P. W. Clark, L. W. Clarke, M. R. Allison, T. Jewell, J. Balharrie, R. R. Kerr. D. Murphy. Captain Jack McDonald (who showed great ability in handling the situation last year); lieutenant, John Crawford; foreman, Thos. Hurrey.

Mr. Horne, an officer from the Public Forest Commission, was present, and expressed himself more than satisfied with the meeting, and went on to explain how the Commission would help and co-operate with the local body. In the first place they intended to establish on Mount Disappointment a look-out to be manned day and night during the dangerous period, and this station to be in direct telephone communication with the Whittlesea exchange. The department would also supply a certain amount of equipment, useful in dealing with bush or grass fires. The staff of men employed by the department would be available in case of emergency. Mr. Horne gave the meeting some very valuable hints as to the methods usually adopted in forming a bush fire brigade. The meeting decided to buy six hand pumps, but these were at once donated by six people in the room. It is proposed to erect a depot in a central position to store the material where it can be obtained at short notice. The membership fee was fixed at 5/- a member. Numbers were enrolled and several donations handed in. The sum of £5/2/6 was handed over to the committee, being funds in hand from a similar movement some time ago. It was decided to approach the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works for financial support, seeing that their reservoir area is such a menace to the district in the way of fires. It was decided to affiliate with the Country Fire Brigades' Board. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Horne for being present; also to the chairman (Mr. R. E. Dawson). The meeting adjourned for a fortnight to make a further move in the matter. In the meantime the committee is to meet and frame a set of rules.

In a theatre in Dublin, the late Sir Henry Irving was soliloquising. "Oh for a window in my soul! Oh for a window in my soul!" "Wud a pain in yor belly do?" called a voice from the gallery.

PRESTON COUNCIL "BREAKS UP" FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

After the meeting of the council on Monday evening the Mayor (Cr. A. E. Newton) entertained a large number of visitors in the Mayor's room. Among the guests were ex-Crs. Warr, Robertson, Showers, Ellison, and Wilkinson. It took the form of a musical evening, followed by refreshments and a toast list.

After the guests had been welcomed by the Mayor, an enjoyable programme was contributed to by Mr. McGraw, Crs. Jones, McPherson and Bransgrove, ex-Cr. Warr, and Mr. W. A. Kelly, besides community singing by the company of some of the "latest" songs.

The supper over, and the thoust of "he King" having been honored, the Mayor proposed "The Ex-councillors." He thanked them for coming along to honor him. They were asked by Cr. Jones how they would like to have the amount of money passed by the council that night. The money was for the purpose of purchasing land for parks and playgrounds, and all must agree that it will be money well spent. Another expenditure was for the purchase of a road roller, as it was impossible for them to do the amount of road work necessary in the town without another roller. He wished them a very merry Xmas and a prosperous New Year, and hoped it would not be long before they paid another visit.

Ex-Cr. Warr said he felt proud as a citizen and a native of Preston to see the progress the place had made. He was glad to see the councillors had been wise in buying land for parks and playgrounds, because if they did not buy now, when could they buy? All the land was rapidly being built on. Mr. Warr concluded by giving some interesting reminiscences of early Preston.

Ex-Cr. Robertson said it was about 10 years since he retired from the council, and it surprised him to see the progress the town had made. Preston was one of the most, if not the most, progressive suburbs in the metropolis. The amount of money passed by the council that night was an enormous one, but it will be money well spent. He remembered some years ago when the then council passed a sum of money for park purposes the ratepayers said they were mad.

Ex-Cr. Ellison said he could look back when it was the council of Jika Jika, representing Northcote and Preston, of which he was a member. Northcote later cut off and Preston formed a shire of their own, of which he was the first president.

Ex-Cr. Showers thanked the Mayor for his invitation to be present. With regard to the large sum of money passed that night, he would say to councillors "Be careful." The town had made great strides, and he was sure it would still go on progressing.

Cr. Jones proposed the toast of "The Mayor," coupled with the name of the Mayoress. The Mayor took a lot of begging before he consented to accept the position, but they could all say they had never sat under a better Mayor. He had creditably followed in the steps of his brother, ex-Cr. J. C. Newton. Ex-Cr. Showers had told them to be careful, but he was glad to say that the councillors were unanimous in their decision in purchasing the land. They had been offered more money for some of the land since they had purchased, and if they had not purchased the land now the opportunity would have been lost. They were just as careful in spending the ratepayers' money as if it was their own. He wished the Mayor and Mayoress the compliments of the season, and trusted they would long be spared to take an active part in municipal affairs. He also hoped that ex-Cr. J. C. Newton, who has had a serious illness, would soon be restored to health.

The Mayor thanked the gathering for the manner in which they had responded to the toast, and Cr. Jones for the kind references made to the Mayoress and himself. He did have to take a lot of talking before he would consent to take the position, especially when he knew he had to follow such a Mayor and Mayoress as Cr. and Mrs. Jones, who had filled the position so creditably, and he felt he could not do the office justice. The position had been made easy for him, inasmuch that Mr. Kelly, their esteemed town clerk, had given him every assistance, while the ex-Mayor and councillors had also assisted him. Kind references had been made to his brother, who is still in the hospital in Tasmania. This he greatly appreciated, and he will convey their good wishes for a speedy recovery from his serious illness.

Other toasts honored were "The Officers of the Council," by the Mayor, responded to by Mr. Kelly (town clerk) and Mr. Scott (engineer); "The Visitors," by Cr. McPherson, and responded to by Mr. H. P. Zwar and Mr. Morgan; and "The Press," given by Cr. Pratt.

The Mayor then wished all present the compliments of the season, and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem terminated a pleasant and successful evening at 11.30.

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Recently Opened at the Newly Enlarged Premises,
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TO PROPERTY OWNERS.

Now is the time for that Painting and Renovations to your home. Call and inspect our large stock of General Painting and Papering Requisites. We will cheerfully estimate the quantities you need, and give any advice or help needed.

NOTE A FEW OF OUR PRICES.

Fergusson's White Lead, 67/- per cwt.; Moggitt's Pure Linseed Oil, 5/- per gallon; Mill White, 4lb. tins, 2/9 and 7lb. tins 4/9; Stag-white, 4lb. tins 2/6, 7lb. tins 4/6; Zotona, 7lb. tins 4/9; Fergusson's A.F. Ready Mix Paints, 5/6 7lb. tin. Kalsomine, 1/6 per packet Calcimo, 2/6 per pkt. Ceiling and Wallpapers, from 6d roll. Enamelled Sanitas, 2/3 per yard.

CHAMPION WHITE LEAD, BLUNDELL & SPENCE'S and B.O.C. ENGLISH LINSEED OIL, Glass, Brushware, Enamels, Stains, Glass and Oil and Varnish always in stock.

Agents for Berger's Ready Mix Paints, Varnishes, Stains and Enamels.

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IT IS AN ACKNOWLEDGED FACT

That all the woodwork about your house must be painted—and kept painted—if it would be properly preserved and present the best appearance possible.
Your spare time could not be spent to better or more satisfactory advantage than protecting and decorating your home.
We have everything you require for painting, papering or general decoration. We will estimate the quantities you need and offer expert advice and suggestions, gained from years of experience, gladly and freely.

THE PRICES ARE THE LOWEST.

These few lines here picked at random will give you an idea of the lowness of the prices now ruling at Pridgeon's.

PAINTS, ETC.

FERGUSSON'S WHITE LEAD ..... 67/- cwt.
AUSTRALIAN RAW LINSEED OIL ..... 5/- gal.
CALCIMO ..... 2/6 pkt.
MIRROR BRAND READY MIXED PAINT ..... 13/- gal.
FRESCOLINE COLD WATER PAINT ..... 1/10 pkt.
MILL WHITE ..... 7lb. tins, 4/9
3in. BRISTLE BRUSHES ..... from 2/-

AGENT FOR RICKSHA PAINTS, GOODLASS WALL PAINTS, ETC, BERGER'S PAINTS, TAUBMAN'S STAINS, ETC., MAJORA PAINTS, ETC.

WALLPAPERS, ETC.

WALLPAPERS ..... From 4d Roll.
SANITAS ENAMELLED CLOTH ..... 2/3 yard.

Call in to-day and select your needs. Remember it's an acknowledged fact that good paint preserves, and it is also an acknowledged fact that PRIDGEON'S is the best-value store for Paint and Wallpapers.

PRIDGEON'S

PAINT AND WALLPAPER STORE,
391 High Street, Northcote
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Xmas Gifts

The Festive Season is with us once more, and folk are Choosing Gifts for Distribution in accordance with the Grand Old Custom.

Think of the Pleasure an Electrical Gift will give to your Friend or Relative. In addition to its beauty, it is of great service.

See our Show Room, where we have a fine display of EVERYTHING ELECTRICAL.
SEMI-INDIRECT LIGHTING FITTINGS, from 25/-, complete and installed.
BEADED FITTINGS, very select.
TABLE AND FLOOR PEDESTALS—Handsome, Exclusive, a range of novelties.
Also RADIO GOODS for all. See our Special Line of HEAD PHONES at 10/- per pair.
Always in Stock, the ever pleasing lines—HECLA KETTLES, ELECTRIC IRONS and FANS, TOASTERS, GRILLERS, etc., etc.

A WORD TO HUSBANDS.

Would you like Santa to send your wife a fine VACUUM CLEANER?

If so just leave your order, and we will pass it on.

You may choose a "SWEEPER VAC" (with the Vac Mop attachment), The "PREMIER," "HOOVER," "LIBERTY," "VOLTA SOLUS" (the new one).

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BATTERY SERVICE STATION.

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ALL CLASSES OF REPAIRS EXECUTED BY EXPERT MECHANIC.
"SERVICE AND CIVILITY" MY PASSWORD.
HIGH GRADE OILS AND PETROL IN STOCK.

ROBERT ALFORD PROP

THINKING OF INSTALLING WIRELESS

Then here's something of particular interest to you.

A 5-VALVE SET, complete with two high tension batteries, accumulator, loud speaker and aerial equipment. Easily receives every Australian broad-casting station on loud speaker. £21/10/-

DEMONSTRATION ANY EVENING BY ARRANGEMENT.
If it's anything for your Wireless—We've got it. If it's anything you want to know about Wireless—We'll Tell You.
UP-TO-DATE BATTERY CHARGING PLANT ON PREMISES.

E. W. BRIGHTON,
Electrical Engineer and Contractor.
897 HIGH STREET, THORNBURY
PHONE—NORTHCOTE 1648.

GIFT SUGGESTIONS

WITH the approach of Xmas, you would do well to consider solving your gift problems at Ladner's. The most suitable gifts for Xmas are here—and what lady would not appreciate a Wristlet Watch, a Diamond Ring or other of the wonderful presents from which you may choose. And each may be had for sums that will amaze you—for the prices will suit all.

You are invited to visit us. Inspection without obligation to buy is your privilege.

W. E. LADNER
Watchmaker, Jeweller & Optician,
282 SMITH ST., COLLINGWOOD.

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If any of these sizes fit your car, then you are very lucky, because these are brand new Tyres which we are clearing out.

TYRES AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES.

SIZES—30 x 3½, 31 x 4, 815 x 105, 857 x 105.

This is a job lot; there's only a few of them, so it's a case of first come first served. Get in early!

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STATION STREET (Near Darebin St.), FAIRFIELD.

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DUCO FINISH DONE.
We specialise in Repairting, Covering Hoods, and All Repairs.
Only Best Materials Used. Workmanship Guaranteed.

PRESTON COUNCIL

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20.

Present—His Worship the Mayor (Cr. A. E. Newton), and Crs. Crispe, Robinson, Bransgrove, Jones, Pratt, and McPherson.

Aerial Photographs.

The Melbourne Air Service wrote stating they were engaged to take some aerial views of Messrs. Stewart and Davies' extensive building operations, and asked if the council would be interested in some special aerial views of Preston, which could be taken at the same time. The cost would be £5 per whole plate (negative and pictures).—Referred to committee of the whole, on the motion of Crs. Jones and Crispe.

Offer of Land.

Colin McPherson, Auburn, wrote stating that some time ago he wrote to the council offering to sell a portion of land at the corner of Plenty road and Tyler street, with the object of making Tyler street a 50 feet roadway. He would like to know if the council had further considered the offer.—Referred to committee of the whole.

Post Signs.

The Motor Users' Association wrote asking permission to erect post signs (free of cost) in the city, pointing out the distance, direction, and danger signals at crossings. Posts would be constructed of iron. Writers asked to be advised where sign posts were required in the district.

Cr. Robinson moved that approval be granted, the engineer to give directions where same can be erected. Seconded by Cr. Jones.—Carried.

[illegible] for Sale.

[illegible] and Paterson wrote stating that the land at the rear of Plenty road shop sites on plan of subdivision, adjoining Mr. Wardell on the south side, is not for sale at present.—Received.

From W. H. Webber, general secretary of the Shop Assistants' and Warehouse Employees' Association of Australia, asking the council to adopt a bye-law bringing into operation clause 30 of the cleanliness regulation of the Health Act 1923. This regulation provides that every person engaged in the handling, serving and delivery of foodstuffs shall wear clean washable overalls.—Received and referred to committee of the whole.

High School Building.

The town clerk, Northcote (Mr. J. A. Thomson) wrote stating he had be had been directed to request the council to communicate with the State Parliamentary representatives requesting them to use their best endeavors to secure the early erection of the High School building in St. George's road. The present temporary structure is entirely inadequate for the needs of the school. The matter is urgent, and it is felt that if some pressure be brought to bear on the Government, an early erection of the building may be undertaken.

Cr. Robinson moved reception of letter, and that the Parliamentary representatives for the district be urged to push on the erection of the school. Seconded by Cr. Jones.—Carried.

Road Through Council's Property.

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works wrote, drawing attention of the council to the fact that a 50ft. roadway had been provided along the western side of the pipe track, from Miller street northwards to Oakover road. There now remains only that portion between Oakover road and Showers street, in regard to which an abutting roadway does not exist—a distance of about 400 feet. The council is the owner of the land abutting upon this section of the pipe track, which will have to be fenced at an early date. Writers asked that favorable consideration be given to the question of making provision for a road through their property.—Referred to the committee, on the motion of Crs. Robinson and Crispe.

GENERAL.

From Charles Rose, manager of Federal Estates Pty. Ltd., stating that there are about 12 occupiers of houses in Broadway, and streets north of Broadway, which have not the services of removal of house garbage and postal delivery, and asking the [illegible] to have the matter attended to.—Received; decided that an effort be made to have the system extended. The removal of garbage was referred to committee.

J. Hartshorn, acting secretary of the Reservoir branch A.L.P., wrote drawing the council's attention to three nuisances existing at Reservoir, viz., dumping of sawdust on the north of Edwardes lake; the drainage of the streets on east side of the lake; and also the drainage at the back of shops in High street, extending from just below Broadway to Bedford street.—Referred to committee, inspector, on the motion of Cr. Pratt.

From J. Keating, secretary Federated Municipal and Shire Council Employes' Union, thanking council for allowing employes off at mid-day on Christmas Day, and inviting councillors and officers to a social on Christmas Eve.—Received.

Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works wrote stating that at a conference of representatives of municipalities it was decided that the conference were of the opinion that the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works were doing the work of disposal of nightsoil from unsewered areas in the best possible manner, and that the Government be so informed; also that a deputation wait on the Government for the purpose of preventing any legislation being carried in regard to the Commission's report.—Received.

From town clerk, Northcote, stating that with reference to the construction of Miller street, his council was desirous of commencing this urgent work early in the new year, and asking for a reply as to this council's attitude on the proposed work before the close of the year.—Received.

From same, re the tip used by the Preston Council off Oakover road, and inviting the representatives of the [illegible] to meet the representatives of the West Ward of Northcote on the [illegible] to discuss the complaints received re the nuisance at the tip.—Received, and a reply be sent stating that the council was doing their utmost to remove the nuisance.

Cr. Jones said he had already met representatives from [illegible] of Northcote at the site. There was a serious nuisance at the tip, as everybody knew, but the council were doing their best to remove it.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Cr. Jones submitted the report, recommending that accounts amounting to £1,157/3/7 be passed for payment.—Adopted.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

The report was submitted by Cr. Pratt, which recommended that accounts amounting to £1,996/3/10 be passed for payment.

ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMITTEE.

The report was submitted by Cr. Bransgrove as follows:—

That accounts amounting to £1,383 7/2 be passed for payment.—Adopted.

Re street lamps.—That the following street lamps be erected:—One car. Daventry and Leamington street, one Murray road, near Plenty road; two Bell street east.—Adopted.

Extension to premises of Mr. Smith, Frankston street.—That extension be granted, subject to £2 being paid, same to be refunded when a paying proposition.—Adopted.

COMMITTEE WHOLE COUNCIL.

Cr. G. C. McPherson (chairman) submitted the report, recommending—

City of Northcote, asking if this council will co-operate with the Northcote Council in the construction of the balance of the roadway in Miller street, from tram track, under joint works.—That this council is not prepared to enter into arrangements at present.—Adopted.

Federated Municipal and Shire Council Employes' Union, asking for increased rate of pay for carters with horse and dray.—That carters with horse and dray be paid £6/6/6 per week of 48 hours.—Adopted.

Re estimates for year 1926-1927.—That estimates be approved and adopted.—Adopted.

Re lands for parks and playgrounds.—That the following lands be purchased:—Lots 84 to 88 inclusive, Hillcroft street, 240ft. frontage by 125ft. deep, at 27/6 per foot—£330. Lots 24, 25, 26 and 27, in Walter street, 173ft. frontage by 118ft. for £638/5/- Lot 26, Parker street, for sum of £252. Lot 326 Storey road, 50ft. x 261ft., for £137 10/- Part of lot 25, Northernhay street, 10ft. frontage, for £50. That Mr. H. W. Grossmith be offered £550 for 5½ acres in Rosebank Estate Lots 525, 526, 527, McComas street, 180ft. x 170ft., be purchased for £270. Land in Albert street, about 4 acres, account Mrs. M. Edwardes, for £1,400. Lot No. 1, Cramer street, 67ft. x 125ft., at £6/10/- per foot. Lots Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Jessie street, 248ft. 9in. x 120ft. at £5/10/- per foot, for £1,803/12/6. Land containing about four acres, Pine street and Gloucester road, part of lot 63, lodged plan 5999, part C.P. 12, parish of Keelbundoora, for £1,600. Lot No. 6, Jackman street, 44ft. x 114 ft. 2in., for £80.—Adopted.

Re plans for proposed new concert hall, offices, etc.,—That plans be referred back to the architect to have two more rooms added; also for estimate of cost.

Cr. Crispe said he hoped this clause did not bind the council to anything. He was against spending £30,000 on the hall.

The clause was adopted.

That the town clerk take necessary steps to have loan raised for £51,671 2/6 for the purpose of purchasing land for parks and playgrounds and other works.—Adopted.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The treasurer (Mr. W. A. Kelly) reported that receipts for the past fortnight amounted to £392/9/6, and the expenditure £272/15/2. The bank overdraft now stands at £13,628/17/6.

ENGINEER'S REPORT.

The engineer (Mr. Scott) reported material carted from the quarry as follow:—Metal, 895 cubic yards; screenings, 155; toppings, 175; 6in. pitchers, 2,450; 8in., 305.

A number of private streets could not be completed owing to the failure of the contractor to supply the roller ordered last September.

Cr. McPherson moved that the contractor be informed that if the roller is not delivered forthwith the penalty clause would be enforced.

Cr. Jones said there was a penalty clause of £1 per day if the roller was not delivered in the time. He was in favor of the engineer taking the necessary steps. He did not think it right that their street making should be held up by the contractor. The engineer was getting all the abuse through the streets not being made, whereas he is not to blame.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr. J. O. Ilen reported having impounded 53 head of wandering cattle during the past fortnight. Prosecutions in the court were all won, the fines amounting to £18/2/6. The permits of six piggery establishments in Gilbert road will run out on 31/12/26.

MEAT INSPECTORS.

The number of carcases branded since last meeting were Pigs, 3,340; cattle, 392; sheep, 2,825.

ORDINARY BUSINESS.

Cr. Crispe moved that the painting of the boat sheds at Edwardes Lake be referred to the works committee.—Carried.

Cr. Pratt moved that the matter of purchasing a market site be referred to the committee of the whole.—Carried.

Cr. McPherson moved that the town clerk be empowered to have notices erected in the parks re damaging buildings, trees, etc.—Carried.

Cr. Crispe said that the right-of-way at the rear of Scotia street was in a dirty condition, dead poultry lying about. He moved that the inspector see that the place is cleaned.

Cr. Crispe moved that notices be posted at certain sections requesting motorists to toot their horns when passing.

Cr. Robinson moved that the motor bus owners be requested to meet the council for the purpose of fixing a time-table, as it was very necessary that the residents should know the times when they could get a bus.

Cr. Jones moved that the council adjourn to January 17, 1927, and extended the season's greetings to the Mayor and also to his brother (Mr. J. C. Newton) in Tasmania, saying they were all pleased to know that he is improving in health.

The Mayor thanked Cr. Jones for his kind remarks, and said he would communicate the wishes of the council to his brother.

Church of the Epiphany

ARCHBISHOP LEES LAYS FOUN DATION STONE.

A ceremony that will become historic in the annals of the Church of England in Northcote took place on Saturday afternoon last in the laying of the foundation stone of the new Church of the Epiphany, on Rucker's Hill, by the Most Rev. Lord Archbishop of Melbourne (Dr. Harrington Lees). A magnificent attendance of members and their friends marked the occasion. The surpliced choir of 60 members, and the clergy in their vestments, made a very impressive picture on the platform that had been erected for the occasion. Accompanying the Archbishop were Rev. T. Cole, Th.L., the vicar of the church; Rev. C. H. Lea, M.A., Th. Schol.; Rev. A. C. Kellaway, M.A.; Rev. R. C. M. Long, B.A., Th.L.; Rev. A. R. Maco,. B.A., Rev. J. J. McCall, Th.L.; Rev. J. W. Briggs, Th.L.; Rev. F. E. Lowin, Th.L.; Rev. J. S. Roach, Rev. J. Wagg, Rev. W. H. Holtham, Rev. W. E. Lancaster, Rev. T. D. Webb, Mr. A. E. Emery (choirmaster), Mr F. Brennan, M.H.R., the Mayor and Mayoress (Cr. and Mrs. P. Mayer), Cr. and Mrs. Oliver, Mr. L. Williams (architect of the building), Messrs. W. G. Swift, T. Wanless and J. O. Hughes, churchwardens; Messrs. R. Bohme, A. E. Edney, T. W. McEwan, F. Moorman, F. Cornish, C. V. Murray, A. H. Bloro, G. F. Barsony and T. J. Holmes (members of the vestry). Among those present were representatives of the churches, Masonic Lodges, and the various organisations in the district.

After devotions, a Biblical lesson was read by the Rev. A. C. Kellaway, M.A., vicar of the Anglican mother church in Northcote (All Saints).

Mr. W. G. Swift, the people's churchwarden, then deposited copies of the "Argus," "Age," Northcote "Leader" and the parish paper, "The Beacon," in a recess in the foundation stone.

Mr. L. Williams presented the Archbishop with a silver square, and with the words—

> "In the faith of Jesus Christ, we place this stone, in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. Amen."

His Grace declared the stone well and truly laid.

The vicar, the Rev. T. Cole, in an address of welcome to the visitors said:—On behalf of the Church of the Epiphany he wished to extend to all a cordial welcome to that service which only takes place once in the history of any particular building, the laying of the foundation stone that afternoon. He was especially pleased to welcome His Grace the Archbishop. They of the Epiphany Church, had all felt that the ceremony would not be complete without his presence When dark and cloudy days had gathered around them in the early years of the church, His Grace had by his visits and fatherly counsel encouraged and inspired them to go forward. Three years ago His Grace had inducted him in charge of the Epiphany parish, and there had been placed on his shoulders the burden of superintending the erection of a House of God. Great encouragement had also been received from His Grace at the inauguration of the present building fund eighteen months ago, therefore he repeated the service would not have been complete without His Grace's presence. He also extended to his worship, the Mayor and chief magistrate; also the councillors of the City of Northcote, a very hearty welcome. They all felt that as the church was being erected on the top of the hill in the centre of the civic and Government buildings, and overlooking the greater City of Melbourne, they could not do otherwise than erect a church equal to the city and the position. The speaker welcomed not only his clerical brethren from the neighboring parishes, but also his brethren from the other churches in Northcote. He wished to remark that for the collection that would be lifted before the close of the service plates from the Methodist, Presbyterian and Anglican churches would be used. The church, when completed, would cost without the spire about £10,000. They hoped to have in actual cash the sum of £2000 before the close of the year, and what was greater than the cash they had a noble band of enthusiastic workers, and thus they faced the future with nothing but encouragement.

His Worship the Mayor (Cr. P. Mayer), on behalf of the council and municipality of Northcote, stated he was glad to take part in the ceremony and extend a welcome to the Archbishop. He trusted that the effort would be carried to a satisfactory conclusion. On the site had been erected one of the earliest homes in the Melbourne district, the "Alpines," and he congratulated them on erecting an edifice that would be worthy of the city wherein the noble teachings of Christianity would be broadcast. He trusted that their most sanguine expectations would be exceeded, and their building freed of debt at an early date.

The Archbishop, in the course of his address, said there was no doubt about the fact that a good site for the church had been chosen. He asked: What is a mean city? and answered, a city whose citizens are ashamed of it, a city whose citizens don't live up to its opportunities and its progress. The city of Northcote was no mean city, for its rapid development was well known. Another sense in which a city can be mean was when it buttons up its pockets. In that sense Northcote was not mean, and he was sure all would be generous in supporting the building fund. You with courage, after many difficulties, began the building of your church. "May God's blessing rest upon your efforts." Our Lord said "Let there be light" and "A city that is set upon a hill cannot be hid." The very name Epiphany means a bright shining light. And it was very appropriate to a church set on a hill that it should be called the Epiphany, sending forth the light of the Christian faith. It was no good talking cream and living skim milk. We must all live up to our aspirations. The Archbishop was sure the work would not be allowed to lag, but having begun so well they would carry on to a successful conclusion. His Grace concluded a very interesting and encouraging address by expressing the pleasure he had at once again being in Northcote.

After the service afternoon tea was served in the Parish Hall by the ladies of the congregation, and a very pleasant social hour was spent examining the partly erected building, and on the tennis court, while the special offertory was being counted. When the figures were available and the vicar announced that over £400 had been received great enthusiasm prevailed, all spontaneously rising and singing the Doxology.

A reproduction of a duographic etching of His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr. Harrington C. Lees.

A general view of the laying of the foundation stone on Saturday last of the Church of the Epiphany.

Rev. T. Cole, Th.L., vicar of the Church of the Epiphany.

SPLENDID CONCERT

BY PUPILS OF MISS PASCOE-WEBBE.

On Thursday night, December 16, in the Northcote Town Hall, the pupils of Miss Eileen Pascoe-Webbe gave their annual concert. A very fine and varied programme was rendered which the large audience greatly appreciated. The dressing was at all times picturesque and beautiful, and the pupils reflect great credit on Miss Webbe. The programme was long, and commenced with a solo "Cherry Blossom" by Miss Connie Webster and a chorus of the singing class. A song and dance "Barefoot Days," by Miss Bertha Piper followed, and next came a duet and dance "Josie," by Misses Thelma Stabb and Jean Prior. Miss Vera Wilson, in a quaint old-fashioned dress, sang "Quaint Frills and Laces," and a dance "La Bebe," by the pupils showed the efficiency of the tiny tots in dancing. "Tie Me to Your Apron Strings," sung by Miss Thelma Watt, who also danced, and a duet, "Sweet Nellie Kelly," sung by Misses Joy Dunstan and Joyce Mundy were the next two items. "The Red Red Robin," as sung by Miss Thelma Stabb, merited an encore, and "Jazz Baby," a duet and dance by Misses Edna Harley and Mavis Yeomans, with a chorus and ballet of pupils, delighted. Miss Irma Knowles' dance, "La Piquante," was most dainty. Misses Nancy and Joan McConnan gave "Australian Girls" as a duet. In the next item, "Hush-a-Bye," the children were seated on stools hushing their dollies to sleep. It was sung by Miss Laurice Wright. A duet, "I'd like to talk to you," by Misses Valda Knowles and Vera Wilson, was followed by a song and dance, "What Good is Good Morning," by Miss Hazel Hall. A dance and song, "Merry Pipers," came next, in which Miss Joy Dunstan was the solo danseuse, with a ballet of older girls. Misses Mavis Kruger and Eileen Bailey sang "I Wonder," and were deservedly encored. "Pale Moon" was the next number, sung by Miss Joyce Mundy, followed by a Dutch song "Tulip Time," by Misses Joan McConnan and Joyce Courtis. A ballet "Les Jours d' Antoinne," with Miss Thelma Tolley as solo dancer, was sweetly pretty and graceful. Misses Ellen Bailey and Joy Dunstan sang a duet "Say it Again," and Miss Alma McLaughlin gave a song and dance, "I Do." The last item before the interval was "Tally-Ho," a hunting song, with a chorus of huntsmen.

During the interval presentations were made to the Misses Pascoe-Webbe and Miss Mavis Yeomans, as tokens of the love and esteem both pupils and parents have for these young ladies. Miss Eileen Pascoe-Webbe responded and thanked all for their thoughts and wishes, and also those who had helped to make the concert such a success, especially the parents for supplying such pretty frocks for the children.

The second part opened with a Hawaiian chorus, "Honolulu in Ireland," by Miss Lorna Ralston and chorus. A duet and dance, "Sweet Child," by Misses Irma and Valda Knowles, came next, followed by "Lavender Blue," sung by Miss Mavis Kruger. Miss Joyce Worrall sang "Swinging," with a chorus of older girls who swung tiny tots. A dainty duo "Just Around the Corner," by Sheila Wagg and Olive Shaw was followed by a wonderful and graceful dance, "Fairy Grasshopper," by Miss Edna Brown, and indeed she was a grasshopper! Girls, beautifully dressed in Eastern costumes, sang "Love Dreams," and a duet, "I Love the Sunshine," was sung by Misses Lorna Ralston and Connie Webster. Miss Joan Prior danced and sang "Laugh and Sing," and Miss Mavis Yeomans gave a humorous song "Shopping," and as the audience wanted an encore, "Packing" was highly enjoyed. The duet "A Cup of Coffee," sung by Misses Eileen Bailey and Joan McConnan, was a playette, and Miss Irma Knowles acted as waitress. Miss Marie Michel sang "Hum a Little Tune," assisted by a chorus of pupils. "Betty," a duet sung by Misses Vera Wilson and Joan Prior, was followed by a dance, "Legend of the Rose," by Miss Valda Knowles. "Mah Jongg," sung by Miss Edna Harley, depicted a Chinese scene, and the costumes of the chorus were gaily colored. A humorous duet, "Oh! Charlie," sung by Misses Thelma Stabb and Lorna Ralston, and the couple returned for an encore. Miss Joyce Mundy sang "Then I'll be Happy,' followed by a dancing duo, "Dancing Days," by Misses Edna Harley and Ronnie Webster. quartette, "Sweetheart," by Misses Hazel Hall, Marie Michel, Thelma Tolley and Laurice Wright, was followed by another dance, "La Violette," daintily danced by Miss Edna Brown. The next item was a duet, "They All Love You," sung by Misses Thelma Watt and Irma Knowles, and the last item was "Kentucky's Good Morning," sung by six pupils. Numerous gifts of sweets, flowers and kewpies were given to the children taking part, and after these gifts had been given, each to its owner, the whole company sang the National Anthem.

REAL ESTATE AGENTS' SMOKE NIGHT.

The members of the Northcote and district branch of the Real Estate Association of Victoria held a most enjoyable smoke social at Normanby Hall on Thursday evening last. Mr. McCrae Paterson presided.

The first toast of the evening, "The Central Executive, was proposed by Mr. A. A. Leahy, supported by Mr. S. Hamilton, and responded to by the president of the association (Mr. H. C. Costello). Mr. C. J. Watson followed with "Builders and Real Estate Agents," mentioning that he had received a telephone message from Mr. Stott, who had that day returned from his trip abroad, and who appreciated very much the cable sent him during his illness at Honolulu.

The toast of "The Builders" was proposed by Mr. James, and replied to by Mr. Geo. Armstrong and Mr. T. Nelson. "The Visitors" and "The Press," proposed by Mr. F. Ludlow, and responded to by Mr. Stuart (insurance) and Mr. D. L. Liddell (Northcote "Leader.").

Messrs. Beery (piano), Danby (ventriloquist) and Fred Champion provided an excellent programme of music and laughter, and when combined with the excellent repast provided by Mrs. Bell, nothing was desired to make the evening a success.

Reference was made to the continued illness of Mr. Angus McDonald, and also to the hard initial work put in by Mr. S. L. Willmott (secretary) and Mr. Paterson in making arrangements for the evening.

RATS IN PRESTON.

Recently Cr. L. Jones, of Preston, with the health inspector, met representatives of the Preston West Ward and Northcote West Ward Progress Association to discuss the problem of rats in the Oakover road tip. The matter was gone into thoroughly, and immediate steps were taken to get rid of the rodents. Poison was laid, and although it is admitted that there is a large number of rats in the tip, there is nothing near "the thousands" spoken of.

UNKNOWN MAN KILLED.

STRUCK BY TRAIN AT GREENSBOROUGH.

A man who has not yet been identified was struck and killed by the 10.40 a.m. train from Prince's Bridge to Eltham, about 200 yards on the Eltham side of the Greensborough station on Sunday morning. S. Bowden, the motor man in charge of the train, told the police that he saw the man walking on the railway line some distance ahead. At the sound of the siren the man left the line and leaned against the embankment at the side. When the train was a few yards away, however, the man suddenly ran back on to the line and was run over. When picked up from beneath the second carriage of the train the man had had his head severed. The body was removed to the morgue. It is described as that of a man aged about 23 years, 5ft. 9in. in height, light build, fair complexion, fair curly hair, blue eyes, dressed in a grey tweed coat, blue serge trousers, and an old grey felt hat.

THE BUZZ OF THE LAWN MOWER.

SCENE—A FRONT GARDEN (SUNDAY MORNING).

"Morning, Smith." Mower ceases buzzing.

"Morning, Jones. Your garden is looking bonzer."

Jones—"Not too bad; I wish I could keep the house looking as fresh as the garden."

Smith—"Yes, so do I. That reminds me of a little conversation we had coming home in the train yesterday. Brown has a scheme that if 25 people in our street pooled in 10/- a week for 50 weeks, and have a draw every fortnight, we could all have our houses painted within 12 months, each one to pay any amount over the £25. Any good, eh?"

Jones—"Not for me; who takes the responsibility?"

Smith—"Well, I suppose Brown would, as he suggested the idea, and he reckons he knows a bit about painting. You know he painted his fence last year."

Jones—"No; it wouldn't work. I've got a better system than that, and it's only 5/- per week, or 2/6 if you like. It's called 'The Original Home Decorating and Painting Club,' with 56 members, and a draw every fortnight, or once a month, as the case may be. It's worked by GEO. ALLEN, the DECORATOR, 53 Shaftesbury Parade, Northcote. Here, read this." (Hands over the printed conditions.)

Smith—"Yes, that's all right, but wouldn't you have to pay through the nose for it, just like a time payment stunt?"

Jones—"Not on your life! It's just something like Brown's idea, only that we have no responsibility. Instead of putting away 5/- every week until there is enough saved, it is paid into the club. It's the system that does it, and it's dinkum, too. Think it over."

Smith—"I can see it all right now. You bet I'll take this on. You can send him over when he calls again. So long. I'll tell Brown about this."

Jones—"You ring Northcote 1428, and have it explained by the Decorator himself. Must do some work now."

Mower starts bussing again.

RING NORTHCOTE 1218.

W. PARISH,

225 STATION ST., FAIRFIELD.

GENERAL CARRIER AND CARTAGE CONTRACTOR.

Trucks going to Whittlesea and Kinglake Districts Twice Daily.

Trucks for Hire Night or Day at shortest notice.

Firms' Cartage and Picnic Parties a Specialty.

RATES ON APPLICATION.

Telephone: Northcote 3140.

EDWARDES ST., RESERVOIR.

J. R. CLOWES,

CASH DRAPER AND MERCER.

Fancy Goods, Hosiery, Dresses, Household Drapery, etc.

BUY LOCALLY AND HELP YOUR OWN CITY.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

Walter A. Warne

UNDERTAKER.

ESTABLISHED 1852

Wishes to notify the public of Preston and District that he has opened a branch at

259 HIGH STREET, PRESTON

(NEXT DALGETY STREET.)

FUNERALS CONDUCTED AT LOWEST POSSIBLE RATES.

ERN. JENSEN,
MANAGER.

A Standard of Purity.

The Bread we sell is made under conditions ensuring its perfect purity and a standard of excellence which no other bread offered to the public has attained.

Bread is such an important factor in your daily diet that it becomes you to purchase the best.

LET US SUPPLY YOU EVERY DAY

CALLANDER

THE BETTER BAKER.

Preston and Heidelberg.

Phones—Northcote 40.
Heidelberg 69.

" ECONOMIST "

GAS COOKING STOVES

With Cast Iron Patent Casings and Porcelain Enamel Tray. Seprate Oven and Roaster. Will Toast, Roast, Bake, Grill, etc. Fitted with Special Boiling Burner for Simmering.

HEATS INSTANTLY AND WILL REDUCE GAS BILLS FULLY 50 PER CENT.

Also Manufacturers of Famous "Bobs," "Preston," "New Favorite" and "Unique" Cooking Stoves for Coal or Wood Fuel.

WALLIS BROS. & CO., 419 Bourke St., Melbourne.
'Phone—Northcote 633. Factory—Cramer St., Preston.

'Phone—Northcote 1623.

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Normanby Avenue, Thornbury.
Available for Weddings, Parties and Dances.

BELL'S HIGH-CLASS CATERING.

Either at or away from the Hall.
Highest Satisfaction Guaranteed. Goods on Hire.

HOOPER'S NORTHCOTE AUCTION MART,
Established 1920.
Note Address : 336 High Street.
Opp. Henderson's, Butcher).
GENERAL AUCTIONEER.

Sales in Rooms Fortnightly—FRIDAYS at 1.30. Furniture, Poultry, etc., Sold on Commission. Goods also sold privately for vendors. We send our waggon anywhere Promptly. Large Rooms for Display of Goods.

A LARGE LIST OF HOUSE PROPERTIES.
Auction Sales of Furniutre and Properties Conducted on Premises.
'PHONE—NORTHCOTE 946.

WESTGARTH DENTISTRY. (Late Mr. McKerlie's).
80 HIGH STREET, WESTGARTH.
FOR MODERN UP-TO-DATE DENTISTRY.
Extractions Absolutely Painless. Country Patients will receive Prompt Attention and their work done on shortest notice. Bring your Misfitting Dentures and Repairs. We will give you entire Satisfaction. Our Work Guaranteed.
HOURS—Daily 9 a.m. till 6 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. till 1 p.m. Evenings by Appointment.
C. McFARLANE, (Recorded by the Dental Board of (Victoria).

New Model Homes Ready for Occupation.

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THE BUILDERS. NOT AGENTS.

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SMALL DEPOSITS. RENT TERMS.

Firth's

DRAPERY AND MERCERY

SMITH STREET
(At Johnston St. Tram Stop).

SOME SPECIAL LINES

BOYS' SHIRTS, of our own make; fast colors.
Blue Hoyle's Cambric, all sizes, 5/6.
Blue Fugene, all sizes, 5/11.
Blue Tussora, 12in. to 14in., 5/6 to 6/11.
ALL WITH DETACHED COLLARS.

BOYS' BLUE HATS, Hoyle's Cambric, 2/11.

MEN'S TYANA SHIRTS, our own make.
Smart designs. Wear better than silk. 14/6.

BOYS' OSMANETTE PYJAMA SUITS.
For the Holidays. Our own make. Sizes from 5/11 to 7/6.

MANTEL DRAPES.
Red or Green Cloth, 4/11. Green Velvet 6/11, 7/6. Fawn Crash, 3/11.

DO YOUR XMAS SHOPPING AT FIRTH'S—IT PAYS.

THE COBBERS' CLUB

CONDUCTED BY UNCLE PHIL.

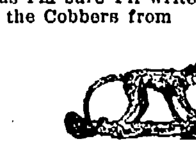
Dear Cobbers,—Next Saturday is Christmas Day, the day when Father Christmas has left toys and stockings for all the children, and they are happy playing with them. I wonder how many of my Cobbers will still be at home then? Not very many, I think. Have you written to Father Christmas to tell him what you want?

Next week there won't be any "Leader," so don't be disappointed if you don't get one. But on the following Friday there will be one with a big Cobbers' Club, I hope. It really depends on you, Cobbers. Uncle Phil will be away for another fortnight, so I'll have that week to do as well, and I'll want a lot of help, so all do your best.

I want everyone to write and tell me how they spent Christmas Day, and I'll write one too, and we'll get Uncle Phil's father, who is 88, to judge them for us. Won't that be great? Of course there'll have to be a prize for it, but I don't want to know, as I'm sure I'll write the best.

Love to all the Cobbers from

JACKO.



WHO WANTS ME ?

To the boy or girl who wins Certificate 379, a monkey will be given.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL COBBERS.

Birthday Greetings to Cobbers.

All the most sincere and best wishes for the happiest of birthdays to May Bolden, Brenda Herz and Hazel Maxwell (Dec. 21); James Hartnell (Dec. 26), and Ivan Miller (Dec. 30).

OUR MAIL BAG.

25 Thames St., Northcote.

Dear Uncle Phil,—Thanks for the Christmas card that I received on Saturday morning, and I like it very much. I often wonder do the pets ever fight between each other, although I don't think Jacko would, but the galah might fight. I am glad to see a Cobber from New Guinea, and to see it is a boy too.

(GOOD.) Frank Johnston.

No, the pets do not fight. Thank you so much for your Christmas card. I appreciate it very much; it is such a lovely one.

JACKO.

1?6 Elm St., Northcote

Dear Uncle Phil,—I got your nice certificate by post, and I thank you for sending it so quick, and putting in the first letter I ever made up. I am so glad to see what a bonza prize Dave got. I will try to beat him later. Are you going away for the holidays? I hope Jacko has a good time and also the other pets. With best wishes.

(GOOD.) Kelvin Bensley.

Good old Kelvin, to write so soon again. Uncle Phil has gone away, and I am carrying on. I love reading letters and jokes from the Cobbers. Are you going in for the new competition.

57 Normanby Av., Thornbury.

Dear Uncle Phil,—It is quite a long time since I wrote to you, but I was very busy preparing for the fete at the Eye and Ear Hospital, which was held on Saturday, November 20. It was very successful, and we will be able to pay for the crockery and give the patients Xmas cheer as well. Another Cobber, Doris Smith, and Beatrice Greenland and myself had the fancy stall, and we took £10/3/8, which they all thought was very good for three little girls. I am pleased to tell you that I got my qualifying certificate. Well, Uncle Phil, I hope that you and Uncle Peter, not forgetting all the Cobbers, have a merry Xmas and a happy new year. Kind regards to Georgina, Bluebell and Jacko. Tell him to behave himself or else he won't get a Xmas box.

(GOOD.) Jean Neumann.

I think you're right, Jean, but I do behave myself, and I hope everyone will give me a present. You did do well on your stall. Thank you for your card to Uncle Phil.

JACKO.

6 Fenwick St., Northcote.

Dear Uncle,—It is a long time since I wrote, but I read the Cobbers' page every Saturday. I have a little cat and his name is Billy. I am sure he would like to see Bluebell. I got top of the girls in my exam. I got 86 out of 90. I will close now with love from

(GOOD.) R. WASS.

I am glad to hear from you again. I guess your mother was pleased at you coming top. You must have worked very hard. I am sending your friend her certificate.

JACKO.

OTHER LETTERS.

James Hartnell.—Is your poem "The Postman" original? As soon as I know I can print it.

Frank Johnson.—You forgot to put the answer to your riddle-me-ree. I have guessed one? Is it right?

Ida Owens.—I have already printed the story about "The Whistle Fairies" not very long ago. I have sent on your card. Send some more. Congrats for coming second. We really have some good scholars in the club.

Mona Hall.—Uncle Phil would like me to thank you for the card. He will be able to keep them all to remember you by.

Albert Foote.—Welcome to the club, Albert. Did you receive your certificate safely? Write soon.

Stanley Hauser.—Another new boy Cobber? Aren't I pleased. The boys are beating the girls wholesale.

Dorothy Raine.—Glad to welcome you, Dorothy. I think it's time some more girls joined.

JACKO.

CAUSE FOR GLADNESS.

'Twas eventide. The boy stood on the bridge clapping his hands vigorously. Beyond the brow of a hill a dull red glow suffused the sky. "Ah, little boy," remarked the stranger, who was rather near-sighted, "it does my heart good to see you appreciate yon beautiful cloud effect." "Yes, sir," replied the lad, "I've been watching it for minutes." "A real poet, without a doubt. And do you often watch sunsets, my little boy?" "Sunsets? Why that ain't a sunset, sir. That's our school burning down."

P. and J. Murray.

FAIRY GOLDENWING.

There was once a pretty little fairy named Goldenwing. She was loved by the folk of Elfin Wood, where lived all the little sprites of fairyland, because she healed and cared for their sick ones. One day, when she was sitting in her fairy parlor, she heard a knock at the door, and in walked the funniest little man you ever saw. He wore a bright green suit and cap, with socks and acorn shoes of the same color. And indeed, Greensleeves, as he was called, was worried, for he had an anxious frown on his face as he sat down in the chair indicated by Fairy Goldenwing. "Dear Fairy," he said, "I want to tell you about a friend of mine. He is very sick, and I thought you might be able to cure him, as none of the other doctors of Elfin Wood can." "I will certainly come and do my best for him," rejoined Goldenwing. "Just wait a minute while I get my cloak and hat." Soon she was ready, and together they flew to the sick one's home, Goldenwing carrying a mysterious parcel under her arm. Alighting at the door, Greensleeves knocked gently and, hearing a feeble "Come in," he opened the door and went in, followed by the fairy. They sat down on two chairs by the bedside.

"Dear Redleaf," he said, "I have brought Fairy Goldenwing, and she is going to take care of you and try to heal you of your sickness. The poor elf smiled faintly. "Thank you, Greensleeves," he said, "you always have been good to me." Then Greensleeves left, saying that he must go home for dinner. When he had gone, Fairy Goldenwing unwrapped her parcel, disclosing four small bottles of her own home-made fairy medicine, and a little phial. She told Redleaf that he must take the medicine three times a day before meals, which were to be of light diet, such as locusts, milk, honey, nut-stew, and dainty elfin food like that. She gave him his first dose of medicine then and there, having made it up by four drops of the contents of each bottle, with six drops of water. The mixture, which was of a light blue color, tasted lovely, so Redleaf said. The fairy then made him a nut-stew for dinner, and had some herself to eat. She then told the patient to have a good rest, and for forthwith fell into a sound sleep, being made sleepy by a light drug in the medicine he had drunk. When he awoke two hours later after a good refreshing sleep, he felt much better. Thus the fairy cared for him for six days, keeping him well but lightly fed, and giving him regular doses of medicine before meals. At the end of this time he had quite recovered from his serious illness, thanks to the care and skill of Fairy Goldenwing, who was happy in the knowledge that once again she had done a good deed for a neighbor in need.

(BEST.) Harley R. Bardwell.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

Little Shirley was sound asleep in her little white bed on Christmas Eve. Suddenly she heard a loud knock at the door, and getting up she saw a funny little man dressed in white. He had his arms wrapped in red cloth, and he was carrying bundles of various sizes. "These bundles are for a little girl named Shirley," he said. "Take them in to her, please, as I have to travel round to-night." Shirley thanked him warmly, and took the bundles in and put them on her bed. The next morning she opened them and found a sleeping doll dressed in white and gold as Queen of the Fairies. It had a wand and crown and a pink doll's bed. She then opened the other bundles, and found boxes of chocolates, scents and handkerchiefs. She had a very happy Christmas, didn't she, Cobbers?

(GOOD.) James Hartnell.

MOTHER'S XMAS PRESENT.

It was a week before Christmas day and Pat and Molly were looking in a fancy shop window at things for sale. These children were good, and wanted to give their mother a nice Christmas present. Pat thought that the cushion with pansies on would be nice for a present, but Molly did not like it at all. Then Pat suggested that the hat with feathers in would be all right, but Molly never thought of giving any person a hat without trying it on, so they decided on a handbag, with a purse and a bottle of perfume in it, but it was 14/11, and the children only had elevenpence. "Hallo, children," cried a jolly voice, and Mr. Drake, a red faced old lawyer, came strolling up, with his spectacles perched on the end of his nose. The children liked Mr. Drake, because he was so funny and absent-minded, and you never heard him cross or put out about anything. Then Mr. Drake told the children that he had lost his spectacles and was giving a reward to the finder. The children laughed and laughed, and told him that his spectacles were on the end of his nose. The old lawyer was very pleased, and asked the children what they would like, so they told him all about the handbag and what it was for. Good and when mother saw the bag she was so pleased. This is the way Pat and Molly bought their mother a Christmas present.

(GOOD.) Frank Johnston.

MINNOWS.

"May we go to willow brook to-day, mother? For our school-mistress wants some minnows for the aquarium," said Mercy. "It is rather a long way, & Fanny is so small," said her mother, considering. "We will be very careful," promised Mercy. Soon afterwards they were trotting along the road with their fishing nets, Mercy carrying their dinner, and Fanny a glass jar to put the minnows into when caught. As they neared the brook Fanny suddenly tripped, the jar spinning away in front of her in tiny pieces, in spite of the string handle. "What shall we do for a jar?" Mercy murmured, as she picked her little sister up. But a lady passing, seeing Fanny's dismayed face, said : "I live here, and will give you a little tin, which will be safer. But you must turn the minnows out when you get home." So after all they had a happy day and carried back a few minnows.

(GOOD.) Betty Ryan.

ODDS AND ENDS.

AN OLD SAYING.

Sneeze on Monday, sneeze for danger.
Sneeze on Tuesday, kiss a stranger.
Sneeze on Wednesday, sneeze for a letter.
Sneeze on Thursday, sneeze for something better.
Sneeze on Friday, sneeze for sorrow.
Sneeze on Saturday, your sweetheart to-morrow.
Sneeze on Sunday, your safety seek;
You'll have bad luck the whole of the week.

(GOOD.) Florrie Cameron.

MEATS FOR ALL.

Peruvians eat alpacas; Thibetians eat yaks; Laplanders eat reindeer; Arabs eat camels; Russians eat bears; Tartars eat asses; Maoris eat men; New Guineamen eat monkeys; Esquimaux eat otters, seals, whales; Yankees eat possums, coons, clams; Indians eat porcupines, skunks, buffaloes; negros eat elephants, hippos, crocodiles; Hottentots eat ostriches, zebras, ants; Bosjesmen eat caterpillars, locusts, spiders; Australian blacks eat kangaroos, grubs, snakes; Chinamen eat cats, rats, dogs; Frenchmen eat horses, snails, frogs; Englishmen eat eels, oysters, hogs

(GOOD.) Colin Junor.

SMART.

Parse Cow.—Give a friend the following sentence, and ask him to parse the word cow. The sentence is Mary milks the cow. He will say common noun, but you say no, a pronoun, for it stands for Mary while she milks it.

"I say, Jack, are you good at problems?" "Fairly good, old man." "Well, here's one for you. If I gave you a two-penny bath bun and told you to go to the cinema and eat it, how long would it take you?" "Oh, about five minutes, I should think." "I say, hold hard, old chap. I don't believe anyone could eat a cinema in five minutes."

(GOOD.) Valma Classon.

Jumbled Victorian Towns.—Lawelts, Otirondp, Ruamlin, Obdenig, Turbworan, Mooe.

Answers—Stawell, Portland, Mildura, Bendigo, Warburton, Omeo.

(GOOD.) Leslie Beecher.

HIDDEN NAMES OF FLOWERS.

1. The smoke mars the beautiful gold of the sunset.
2. The sun will make the flowers bloom.
3. The flag in the cart is the emblem of the nation.
4. He lived a lonely life.
5. That cow slipped away last night.

Answers—Marigold, Sunflower, Carnation, Lily, Cowslip.

(GOOD.) Edna Lynch.

RIDDLE-ME-REE.

My first is in snow, but not in rain.
While lake, but not pond, does my second contain.
My third is in pitcher, in bowl it is not.
My fourth is in kettle, though absent from pot.
My fifth is in strait, but in no part of sound.
In both of these places my whole may be found.

Answer—Water.

(GOOD.) Frank Johnston.

TONGUE TWISTER.

Say this six times quickly:—Betty Bromfield beating butter by beetroot beds.

WORD SQUARES.

To murder; scheme; a metal; boys.

K I L L
I D E A
L E A D
L A D S

An extinct N.Z. bird; boy's name; slower than a run; fluids with which we write.

K I W I
I V A N
W A L K
I N K S

To eat; hearty; doers; opposite to east.

C H E W
H A L E
E L K S
W E S T

An animal; edge of a roof; short for evening; a tear.

D E E R
E A V E
E V E N
R E N T

(GOOD.) Aubrey Singleton.

To look; feel; girl's name; growl; of the same size.

S T A R E
T O U C H
A N N I E
R O U S E
E Q U A L

(GOOD.) Hazel Fry.

Tidy; always; an air carrier; past tense of tread.

N E A T
E V E R
A E R O
T R O D

To subdue; a surface; a food; devours.

T A M E
A R E A
M E A T
E A T S

(GOOD.) Sid Singleton.

What three numbers do I mean,
When placed together make nineteen?
From which I take the fourth of four,
And there remains an even score.

Answer—XIX.—XX.

(GOOD.) Florrie Cameron.

Answers to film stars:—1. Thomas Meighan; 2 Harold Lloyd; 3, Lillian Gish; 4, Mae Murray; 5, Enid Bennett; 6, Norma Talmadge; 7, Ben Turpin; 8, William Farnum.

COBBERS.

Aren't you ever coming [illegible] I'm ha[illegible] give them out every day and only a few of you have come along. Perhaps you don't want my photo.

TWISTERS.

Fanny Fagan's fine flossy fashionable feathers frequently flopped, flirted and flounced forcibly from fun.

Quintina Quirk quarrelled with the queer, qaint quadroon queen of Quinto.

(GOOD.) Frank Fry.

YARNS FROM EVERYWHERE.

Grumpy and cantankerous was old Potter. Nothing ever went right at home, and the domestic accounts were a source of constant trouble. One day old Potter conceived the brilliant idea of making Mrs. Potter keep a cash account, the items of which he carefully checked each week. Not long since he went over the accounts, complaining and wrangling as usual in his high pitched voice. "Now, look here, Mary," he proceeded. "Mustard plasters 1/6; four teeth extracted, 10/6; one bottle of neuralgia cure, 1/." "Well?" asked Mrs. Potter meekly. "Well, indeed," growled her hubby, "here's three items in one week spent on your pleasure? D'ye think I'm made o' money?"

(GOOD.) Gordon Bardwell.

Hot Stuff.—Schoolmaster : "An abstract noun is something that we can think of but not touch. Can anyone give me an example?" Freddy : "Yes, sir, a red hot poker."

The Pioneer.—Master : "What is an engineer?" Tommy : "A man who runs an engine." Master : "Correct. And a pioneer?" Tommy : "A man who tunes a piano."

(GOOD.) Sid Singleton.

What is a thing that works when it plays and plays when it works?—A fountain.

Traveller—"My name is Sparrow." Boss—"Eh?" Traveller—"My name is Sparrow." Boss—"Well, hop off, then."

(GOOD.) Florrie Callanan.

Smart boy, going into grocer's shop —"Do you keep fountain pens?" Grocer—"Yes, my boy, I have kept them for years." Boy (cheekily)—"Then why don't you advertise, and then you would not keep them so long."

Jones—"Well, sir, my shot gun let out a road, and there lay a dead wolf ahead of me." Bored Listener—"How long had it been dead?"

(GOOD.) Edna Lynch.

RIDDLE-ME-REE.

My first's in Japan, but not in China.
My second's in boat, but not in liner.
My third's in cat, but not in kitten.
My fourth's in Hong Kong, but not in Britain.
My fifth's in Northcote, but not in Bordeaux.
My whole is an animal you all ought to know.

(GOOD.) P. L. Kerr.

"Oh, no," said Johnny bitterly. "There ain't any favorites in this family! If I bite my finger nails, I get a rap over the knuckles, but if the baby eats his whole foot, they think it's cute."

(GOOD.) Ken Scaddan.

Getting Compensation.—When the young doctor arrived at the motor accident there was nothing to do; all the victims could walk home. The doctor was disappointed, but his chauffeur said : "Never mind, doctor. I'll run down some business going home."

(GOOD.) P. L. Kerr.

His Only Excuse.—The young undergraduate was hailed before his tutor. He had exceeded his leave by no less than two days. "Well," said the professor, "what have you to say for yourself?" "I'm awfully sorry," replied the undergrad. "I really couldn't back before. I was detained by most important business." The professor looked at him sternly. "So you wanted two more days of grace, did you?" he asked. "No, sir," said the young man, off his guard for a moment, "of Marjorie."

(GOOD.) Annie Kerr.

Teacher—"Can any boy tell me what goes in like a lion and comes out like a lamb?" Teddy—"I know, sir." Teacher—"Well, what is it?" Teddy—"The landlord, when papa pays the rent."

(GOOD.) Colin Junor.

What is that which is full of knowledge and yet knows nothing?—A bookcase.

Why is want of manners like forty porches?—Because it makes one rude (rood).

(GOOD.) James Hartnell.

Brief.—It was Tommy's usual habit when writing home his weekly letter to fill up about six pages with school news, hinting all the way that he was short of ready cash. His father, getting wise to the long letters, told Tommy to shorten them, as the school news did not interest him. Next week, instead of the usual letter there came a wire:—"S.O.S. L.S.D. R.S. V.P.—Tommy."

(GOOD.) Aubrey Singleton.

How to Join the Cobbers' Club.

Fill in form at the bottom of the page and address to

UNCLE PHIL,
"The Leader,"
High St., Northcote.

In due course you will receive a beautiful certificate to say that you are a member of the club. Join now, and tell your friends to join too.

COMPETITION CORNER.

Stories, riddles, catches, jokes, puzzles, short verses, or anything you think will be interesting to the Cobbers' Club are to be sent to Uncle Phil, the "Leader," High street, Northcote.

They will be printed and marked—Good, Better, or Best. Good, 5 marks; Better, 10 marks; Best, 15 marks. Cut out all your own and keep them until you have 100 marks. Then send to Uncle Phil, and say if you prefer a cash prize of 2/6 or a book. If a book, say the title.

NEW COMPETITION.

Write about what happened on Christmas Day and send to "Uncle Phil's Father," c/o "Leader" office, High street, Northcote. I will also compete and am sure to win. I wonder if I can write as well as Harley Bardwell or Betty Ryan.—Your Jacko.

THE COBBERS' CLUB

Please enrol me as a member of the "COBBERS' CLUB."

Name and Age ....

Address ....

Date of Birthday.............................. Present Age.............

24/12/26.

Look for "Cobbers' Club" next week.

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