

MORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

published monthly, except December

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm
in St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Hall

Vol. 8 No. 5

MAY 1992

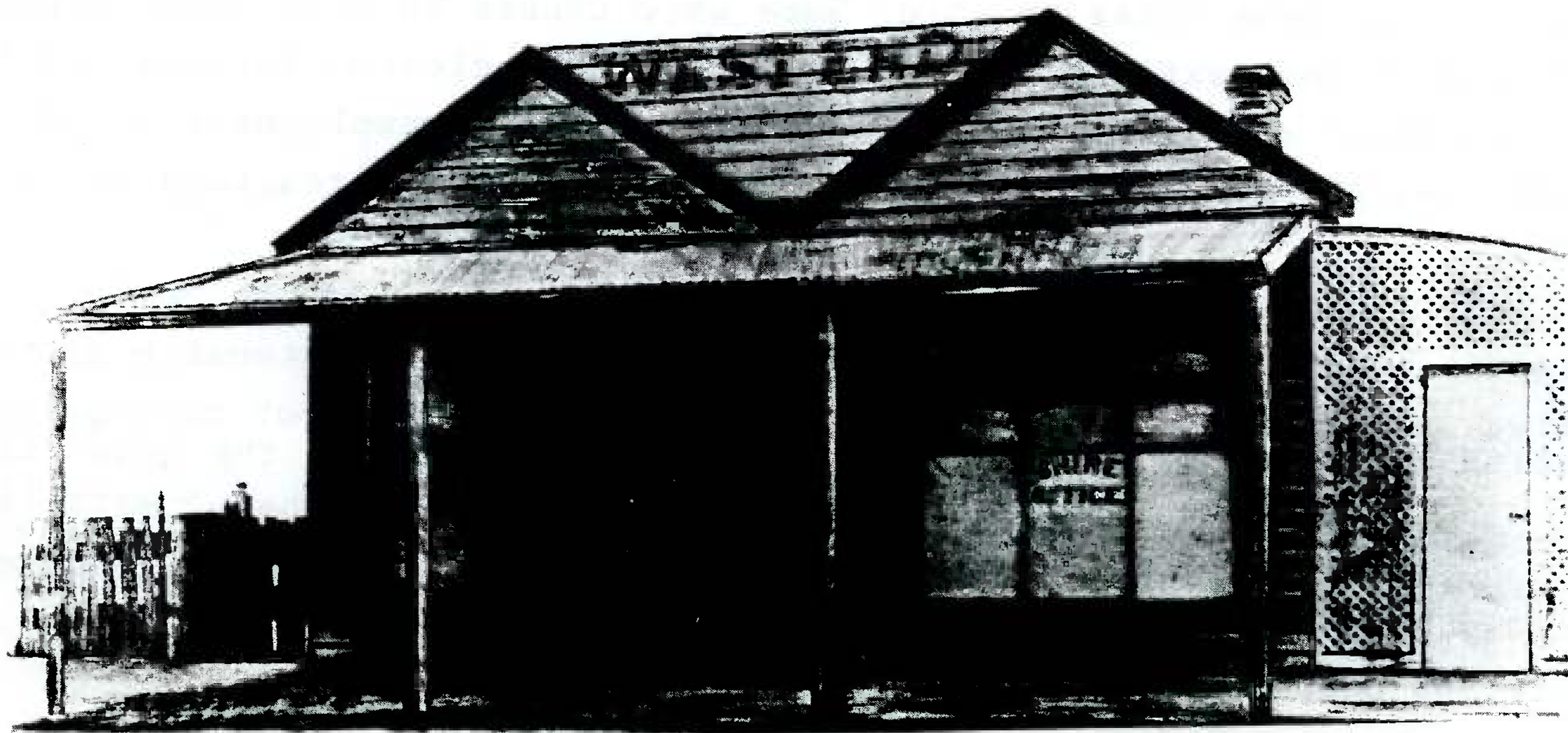
WELCOME TO THE MAY NEWSLETTER.

The big news in Morwell in May 1892 was the severance of the West Riding from Traralgon Shire and the creation of the new Shire of Morwell. On May 23 and 24, 1992, there will be a weekend of celebrations to mark the Municipal Centenary and our members will be in the thick of things. We will report on these activities next month.

"HEART OF THE VALLEY", Stephen Legg's history of Morwell Municipality, will be launched on May 24. Order forms (at pre-launch privilege price) are available at the Civic Centre, Morwell.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE! Membership subscriptions for 1992-93 are NOW DUE. Failure to pay your subs within the next three months will incur the cruellest punishment known to man- your name will be struck off the Newsletter mailing list!!

MORWELL'S FIRST SHIRE OFFICE



EDITORIAL

(Reprinted from Traralgon & District Historical Society's latest newsletter - Vol.23 No.2 May 1992 - by kind permission of the Editor).

As April was the month during which we celebrated Heritage Week, it seems to be an appropriate time to look back a century and compare the conditions of 1892 with those of 1992.

The population of Australia had reached almost 4,000,000 people by 1891, with 41 per cent (473,000) of Victorians living in Melbourne, making it the 22nd largest city in the world and the largest in Australia. It was a city of fine buildings - the centre of commerce, industry and entertainment and the port for the products of the pastoral industry.

The government had borrowed heavily to help finance its rapid expansion, mainly from British money-lenders. A large proportion of these loans was spent on non-income-producing projects.

Speculation was rife. Land was sold at extremely inflated prices but this land boom came to a sudden end when sufficient funds could no longer be raised overseas. Extreme drought in the wheat and wool growing areas had greatly lowered the pastoralists' income and considerably reduced exports, as well as forcing those on the land to increase their overdrafts.

This news, together with accounts of conflict and unrest between employers and workers, including major strikes, caused a loss of confidence in Australia as a place of investment. A crisis arose. Many purchasers of land couldn't keep up their payments and so lost their land and their money.

The government was in a dilemma. How could they pay the interest on their borrowings?

Between July 1891 and August 1892, 41 land and finance companies in Sydney and Melbourne failed, with liabilities of some £18,000,000 including £4,000,000 owing to British depositors. This caused a run on the banks which, at that time, were obliged by law to pay on demand, the value of bank notes in gold. Some were unable to meet their obligations and in the next two years a number of them closed, thereby causing the financial ruin of many people and increasing unemployment drastically, which resulted in widespread poverty. This depression remained for a few years.

Exports of primary produce gradually increased, aided by better climatic conditions and easier transport owing to the extension of the railway system during the '80s. The recent introduction of refrigeration enabled butter to arrive in London in good condition and the quantity increased due to the growing number of butter factories being established as dairy farms were being extended and methods improved. Primary exports greatly helped the gradual economic recovery.

Let us hope ... !

Morwell and Wirrao Gazette.

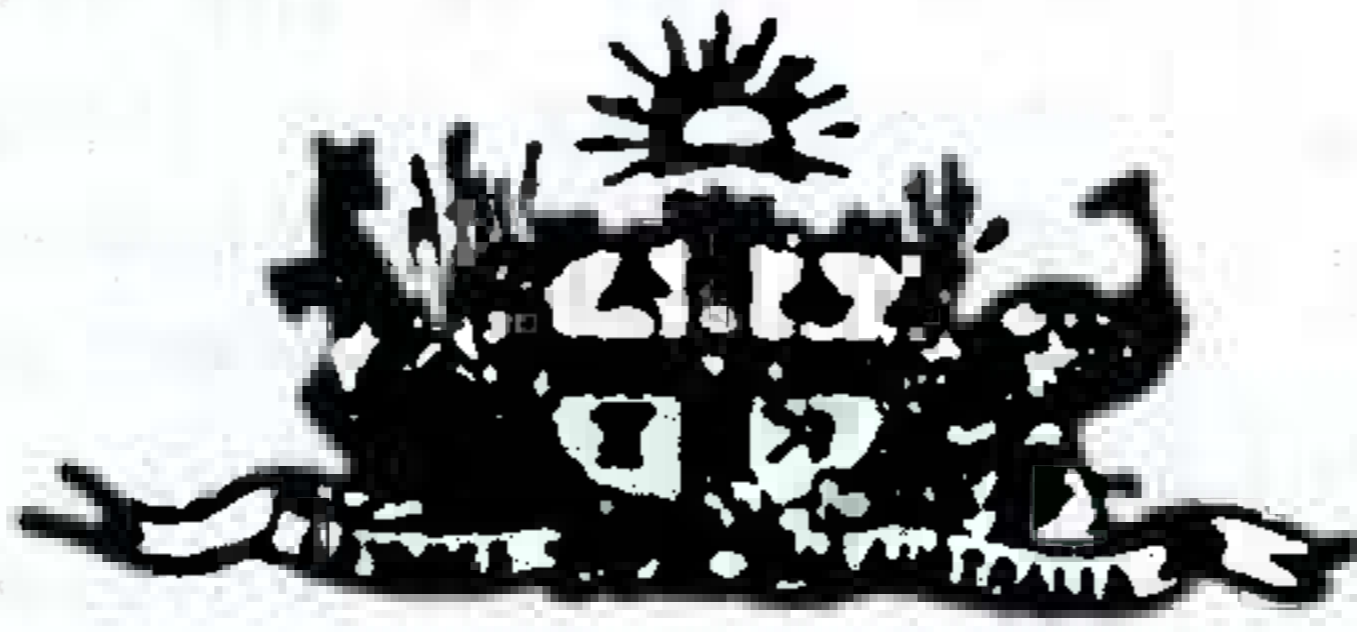
Beneath the rule of men entirely just, the
pen is mightier than the sword.

THURSDAY, MAY 26.

MUNICIPAL MATTERS.

EVERYTHING comes to those who wait. This is the old saying, and can be aptly applied with reference to the granting of severance whereby the West Riding of the Shire of Traralgon has been constituted a new shire, to be called the Shire of Morwell. There can be no doubt that the success of the movement is mainly to those members of the severance committee who have worked so assiduously not only in obtaining signatures to the petition, but by laying facts and figures before the Minister which were irrefutable. The opposition movement has been strong, and certain tactics have been resorted to which placed the petitioners in rather an awkward predicament. On the merits of the case there could be no defence, and finding this to be so every effort was made to bring in party influence and wire pulling. It is therefore all the more gratifying to find that justice has been meted out, and that the Minister has not been misled by the wild and totally irrelevant assertions of those who were actuated by that very party spirit which they would have everybody in general and the Minister in particular believe was the motive which prompted the petitioners in their action. However, now that the West Riding has obtained that which it so badly needed, we can afford to laugh at the tactics which our opponents resorted to in order to frustrate our designs for progress, and desire to break the bond which has too long bound us to our penniless neighbor.

No doubt the ratepayers will be pleased to hear that the annual meeting has been again adjourned, owing to the indisposition of Mr. Peters, the Government auditor, and his inability to make the special audit of the deposit account. The adjournment this time is indefinite, and the engineer is under suspension, so that the shire works are likely to get in a bad way for want of looking after. It is about time we had severance, when the whole system of the shire has been proved to be rotten to the core. The Minister of Public Works has been asked to appoint another auditor in place of Mr. Peters, and when that is done and the special audit completed the council will meet and try to bring order out of chaos.



"Fiat justitia ruat calum."

THE Morwell Advertiser.

FRIDAY MAY 27, 1892.

SHIRE SEVERANCE.

"Severance is granted!" Long and patiently have we waited to be able to write those three words, so we may be pardoned for feeling a little exultation at success attending our efforts at last. For two years we have badgered away at our neighbors in Traralgon. We pleaded, we reasoned, we abused, but all in vain, we could not shake off the incubus. The 'governors of Traralgon' clung to us with a tenacity worthy of the opossum. But we have never faltered nor trimmed. What we meant we said fearlessly, and if we have made enemies it is only because the truth is sometimes unpalatable. We were fighting a good cause. We have won! And now we have said enough about ourselves. There are others who deserve if anything, more praise than we do, viz., the Severance Committee—Messrs. Vary, Murdoch, Walsh, Wolfe, and Marshall. They deserve special thanks, for they have worked as hard as any one could. Time, trouble, and money have not been allowed to stand in the way. They have gone to all sorts of bother, and spent their time and money in the public benefit. In fact if it had not been for the energy and business tact of these gentlemen Morwell would still be a dependent of Traralgon. We heartily congratulate them on the success attained and can assure them they have the best thanks of a grateful public. And now we come to another all important personage in the drama—Mr. John McCoull, the secretary to the movement—and we can honestly assert that too much cannot be said in Mr. McCoull's favor. He has done the real work; he has borne the heat and burden of the day; and he has done it well; he has done it as no other man in the district could do it. He has done more, too, to aid the severance movement, through other channels. We refer to the straightforward and honest way in which he carried out the duties of Local Auditor.

'OUR OWN IDENTITY'

We feel certain that "Shire muddle" weighed considerably with the Minister when giving his decision. There is an old saying: "Give a man rope and he'll hang himself." That is just what Traralgon has done. If long ago they had listened to reason and acted straight, it would not have been Mr. McCoull's unpleasant duty to act as a sort of Crown Prosecutor in showing up the books; neither would it have been Cr. DRAFFIN's unpleasant duty to make serious charges to the Minister; neither would it have been Cr. TURNLEY's thankless task to move for the suspension of the engineer. Neither would the *Advertiser* have been called upon to denounce the whole system of Municipal government as rotten. All these things militated against whatever like hope the Traralgon people had of any longer foisting their company upon us. Now we have managed to get our fetters knocked off, we don't want to show ill-feeling, and would say to councillors and others, "Go and be wise in future. Take an example by Morwell. Never champion anything but a good cause, and above everything be honest. It maybe that oftentimes you will be called upon to do most unpleasant things in the interests of those you represent, and in such cases we would say, 'Never again let friendship dominate over duty; be true to your sincere convictions and you will be true to those you represent; and with these few words we will leave you in the hope that you will take a lesson by the past and be better boys in future, for now you must remember you are alone; you have no longer the arm of an elder brother to support you in distress; the purse into which you have so long dipped is closed, and after next August the strings will be drawn tightly.

New Shire of Morwell.

The following appeared in last Friday's "Government Gazette"—

Whereas by the Local Government Acts it is amongst other things enacted that, subject to the provisions of the said Acts, the Governor in Council may from time to time make orders, amongst other things, to constitute any part of Victoria containing rateable property capable of yielding upon a rate not exceeding one shilling in the pound on the annual value thereof, estimated under the provisions of the said Acts, a sum of five hundred pounds a shire; to subdivide or re-subdivide any municipal districts into any number of sub-divisions not exceeding eight; to alter the boundaries of or abolish the subdivisions existing in any municipal district; to determine to alter within the limits prescribed by the said Acts the number of councillors assigned to any municipality; and to alter and adjust the boundaries of contiguous municipal districts, and determine any questions arising out of such alteration and adjustment: and whereas it is further enacted that every order under the provisions of Part II. of the Local Government Act 1890 shall be published in the Government Gazette, and shall take effect as from the day of such publication; and whereas a petition has been presented to the Governor in Council in accordance with the provisions of the said Acts, signed by a majority of the ratepayers of portions of the shire of Traralgon and the shire of Narracan, praying that a certain area described in such petition, being the West Riding of the shire of Traralgon and part of the East and North Ridings of the shire of Narracan, be severed from the said shires and constituted a separate municipality under the name and title of the Shire of Morwell: and whereas the substance and prayer of such petition have been published in the manner directed by the said Acts: Now therefore His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, with the advice of the Executive Council thereof, doth hereby make an order constituting a shire to be named the Shire of Morwell, the boundaries of which, as also those of the said Shires of Traralgon and Narracan as reduced, shall be those hereunder set forth and described; and doth hereby abolish the West Riding of the Shire of Traralgon, and alter the boundaries of the East and North Ridings of the Shire of Narracan in the manner also set forth and described hereunder; and doth hereby further order that the council of the newly constituted Shire of Morwell shall consist of six members and that the said new shire shall not be subdivided at present:—

MORWELL SHIRE CONSTITUTE AND DEFINED.

Commencing at a point where the Tyers river intersects the north boundary of the shire of Traralgon; thence southerly by that river to the river Latrobe; thence easterly by the latter river to a point opposite the north-east angle of allotment 29, being the selection of John Lindsay, parish of Maryvale; thence southerly by a road to the north-west corner of allotment 3, Joseph Smith's selection, same parish; and thence south to the old Melbourne and Sale road; thence east by said road to the west boundary of the parish of Traralgon; thence following that boundary southerly to the north boundary of the parish of Jeeraling; thence east by that boundary to the road leading to the west boundary of Allan Walker's selection; thence southerly by said road or continuation thereof to its intersection with the road from Rosedale to Foster; thence south-westerly by that road through the parishes of Jumbuk Binjari warri, and Wonyin to the south-east angle of allotment 13, parish of Gonyah Gonyah; thence north by the eastern boundary of that parish to its north-east angle; thence west by the north boundary of said parish to the Morwell river; thence north-westerly by that river to a road forming the north boundary of allotment 62, parish of Mirlwo; thence west by said road being the north boundary of allotments 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, and 68, to the north-west angle of the allotment last named; thence north by the west boundaries of allotments 57, and 52; thence further north by a line to the south-west angle of allotment 15; thence north by a road being the west boundary of allotments 15, 14, 7, 6, 5, to the south-west angle of Mr. Rout's selection; thence north-westerly and north-easterly by the western and north boundaries of that selection to the intersection of the north boundary of same with the Mirboo Railway; thence westerly by said railway to the west boundary of the township of Dirdindurka; thence north by that boundary to the south boundary of the parish of Narracan South; thence west by that boundary to its south-west angle; thence north by the west boundary of said parish to the north-west angle of allotment 28; thence east by a road to the north-east angle of allotment 29; thence north by a road to the north-west angle of allotment 26; thence east by a road to the south-west angle of allotment 6; thence north by the west boundary and easterly by the northern boundary of said allotment to its north-east angle; thence north easterly and east by the western and north boundaries of allotment 20 to its north-east angle; thence northerly by a road, being the western boundary of allotments 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 66, Narracan Smith, and 26 and 23, parish of Narracan, to its intersection with McDonald's Track; thence northerly by McDonald's Track to its intersection with the Ginneland railway line; thence easterly

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"MORWELL
ADVERTISER"
JUNE 3, 1892

continued
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by said railway to a point on same due south of the highest point on the Haunted Hill; thence due north to the Haunted Hill; thence further north by a line to the river Latrobe; thence easterly by that river to a point on same due south of the south west angle of allotment 18, parish of Tanjil East; thence north to and by the west boundary of that allotment and allot. 54 to the north-west angle of allot. last named; thence east and south by north and east boundaries of allotment 54 to the north boundary of allotment 15; thence east by the north boundary of said allotment to the west boundary of allotment 16; thence north and east by the west and north boundaries of said allotment 16 to the west boundary of allotment 51; thence north and east by the west and north boundaries of allotment 51 to the west boundary of allotment 69; thence north by the west boundaries of allotment 69, parish of Tanjil East, and 104 and part of 105, parish of Boola Boola, to the commencing point.

Continued from page 3

Some advertisements from Morwell Advertiser May 1892

DRESS OF THE DAY.

The evening dresses that are copied from old pictures will be the most fashionable during the coming season, and those who are the fortunate possessors of old paintings and engravings may study them with advantage. The newest skirts are the good ones, made without any foundation, each breadth being lined separately. Fur will be used both for trimming dresses and bonnets. Sable is the most fashionable fur of all, but its price will prevent its wear becoming general.



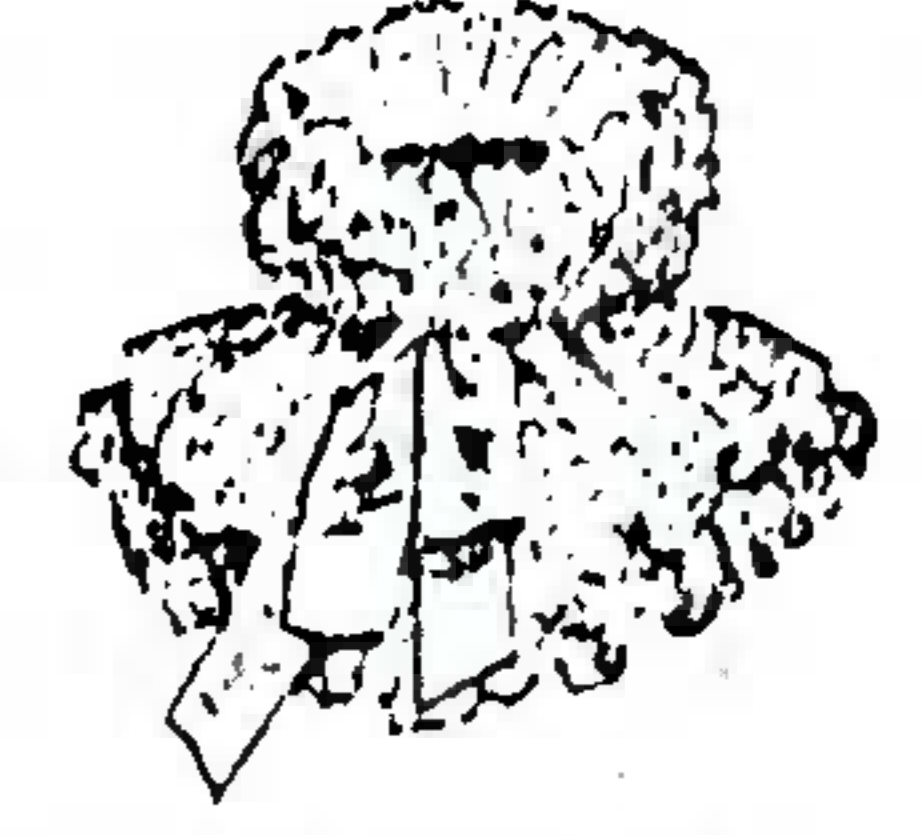
A FINE HAT.

A pleasant relief is a hat published in *Myra* this month. It at least avoids some of the hideous incongruities to which we are, in spite of ourselves, becoming more or less accustomed. We reproduce in miniature the sketch, which explains itself. A black straw hat, draped with lace, and adorned in front with black feathers.



A PRETTY WALKING DRESS.

The leaf twilled woolen, with check pattern formed of lines in black and red. Plain shirt cut on the bias, and ladies with short blouse to match, open over a shirt front and tie. Jacket of plain cloth, faced with velvet, and trimmed with black and gold braid.



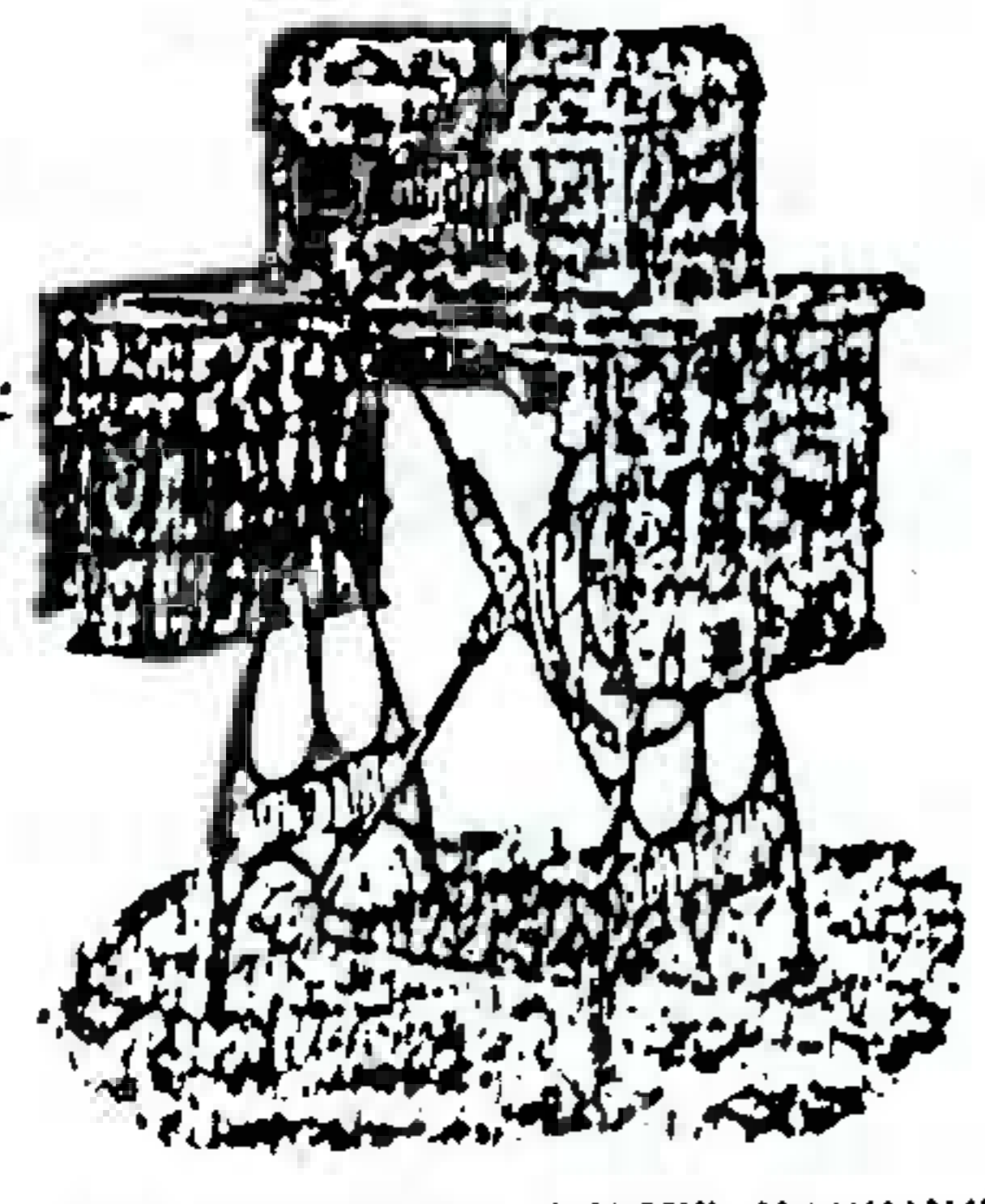
A FINE COLLAR.

This is made of two full sleeves, headed by a thick ruche, fastened with a ribbon bow. *Myra* is our authority. Feather ruffles and bows are, if possible, more popular than ever; they are still in every variety of shade. For evening wear there are cream, grey, pink, pale blue, and pure white hues, whilst for out of doors there are red, rose, jet, and all shades of grey and fawn. Large ties of silk or chiffon are much affected, especially those in a shade of bronze red. Poppy colour is another favorite for these small additions to the toilette. Tinsel ornaments are freely employed by milliners, and another fashion is to trim navy-blue hats with sea-green velvet. This is somewhat startling apparition which is not universally booming; although in a gown of the same it is *shab*. A bright heavy serge cloth had the plain skirt trimmed with bands of Chartrouse green velvet, covered with bands of jet passementerie; the bodice correspondingly ornamented, and finished off with a high collar of the velvet, edged with jet, and a ruffling of black ostrich feathers. The very latest novelty in linen stuffs is a deep model, fitting closely at the wrist, rather wide at the top, and fastened by means of a number of tiny buttons. This cuff reaches almost to the elbow, and it is generally worn with the full leg of mutton sleeves. A few of the frilled shirt fronts are still to be seen - one, which was rather well known in deep navy twilled

CAVANAGH & HARRIS'S
CHEAP CASH STORE,
MORWELL.

Full List of Prices and all other information will be found on the second page of this journal.

The Popular Favorite for Noiselessness and Easy Treadle Movement.
UNPARALLELED SUCCESS
OF THE
"WHITE" SEWING MACHINE.



THE IMPROVED "WHITE" MACHINE.

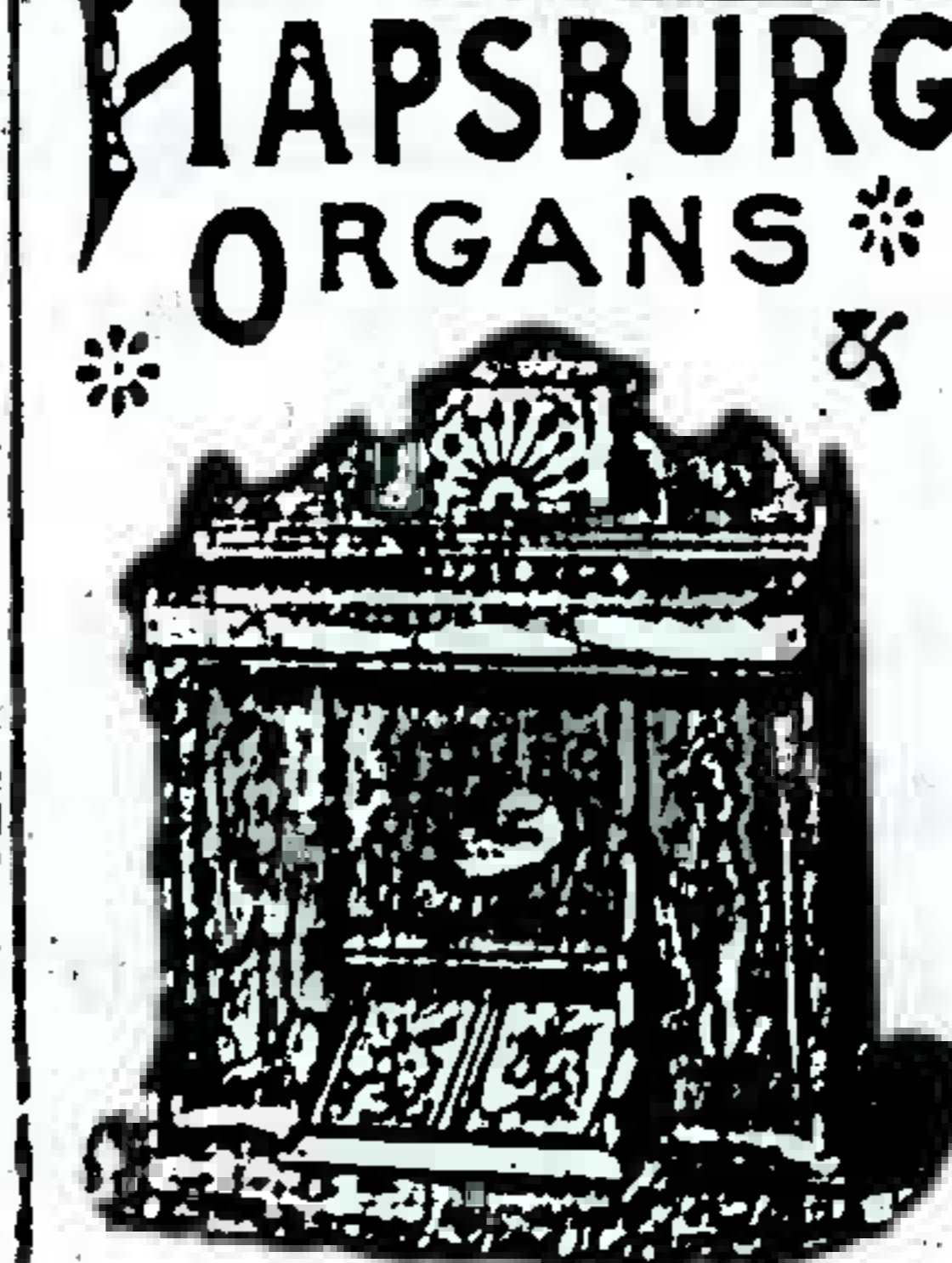
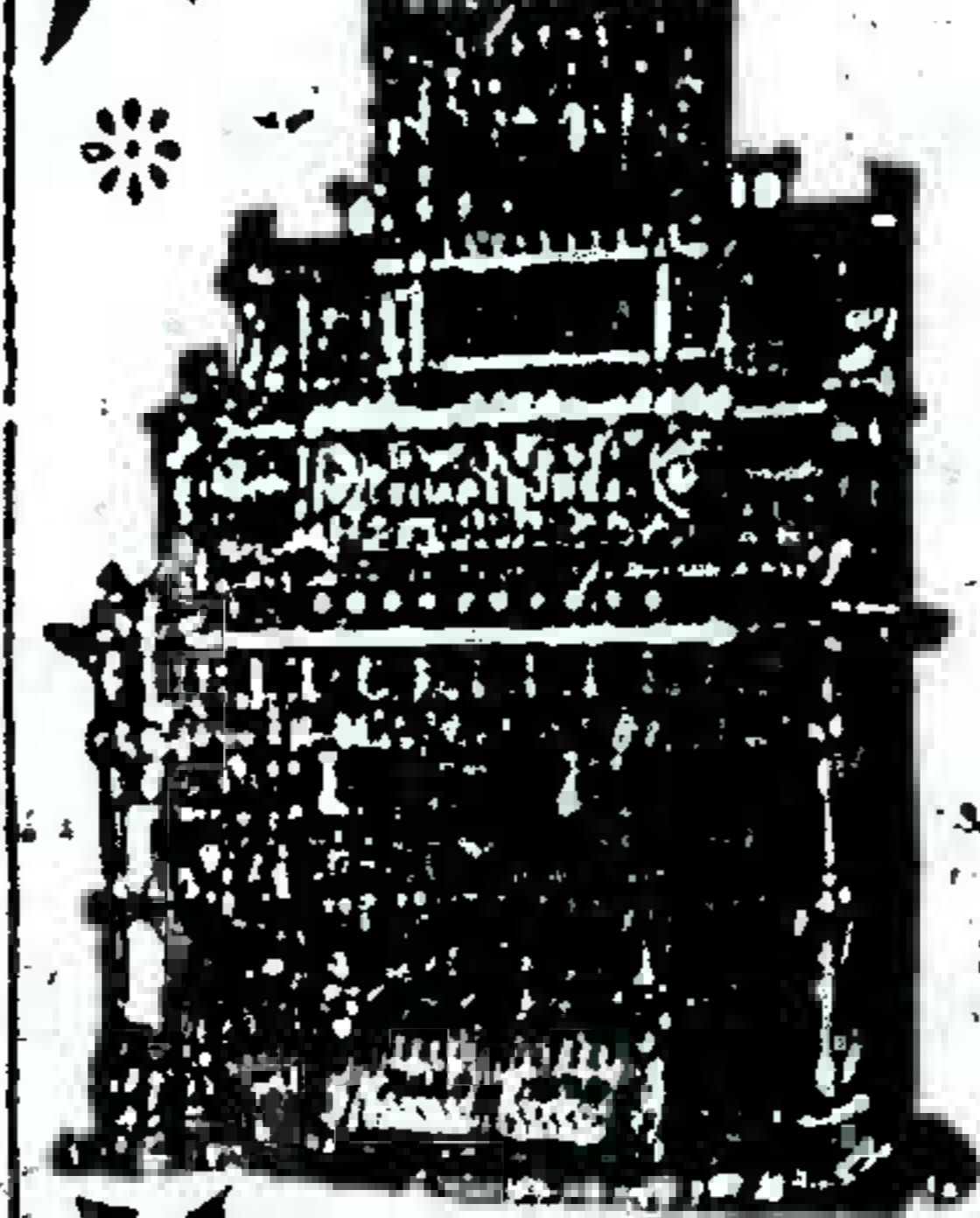
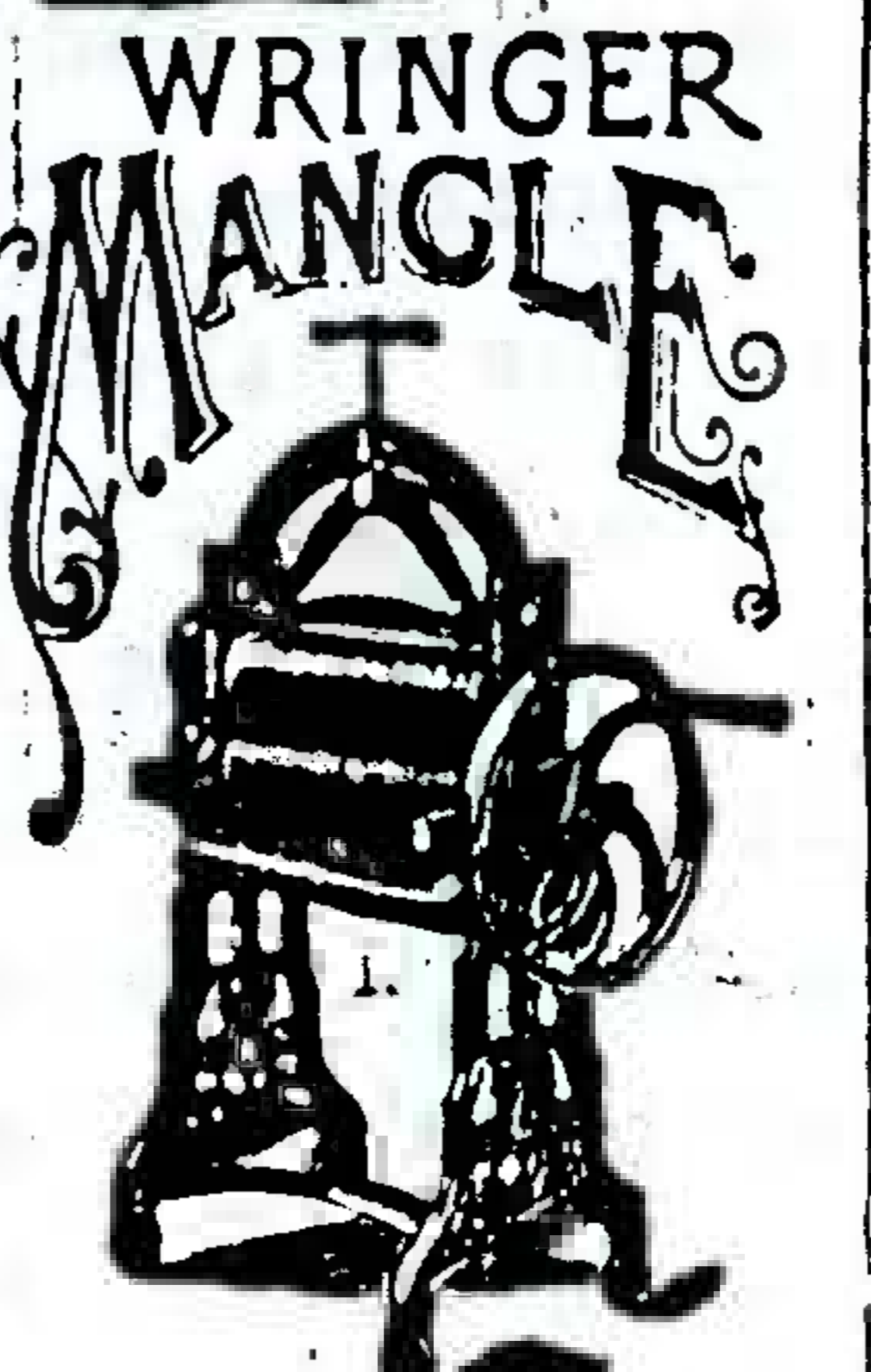
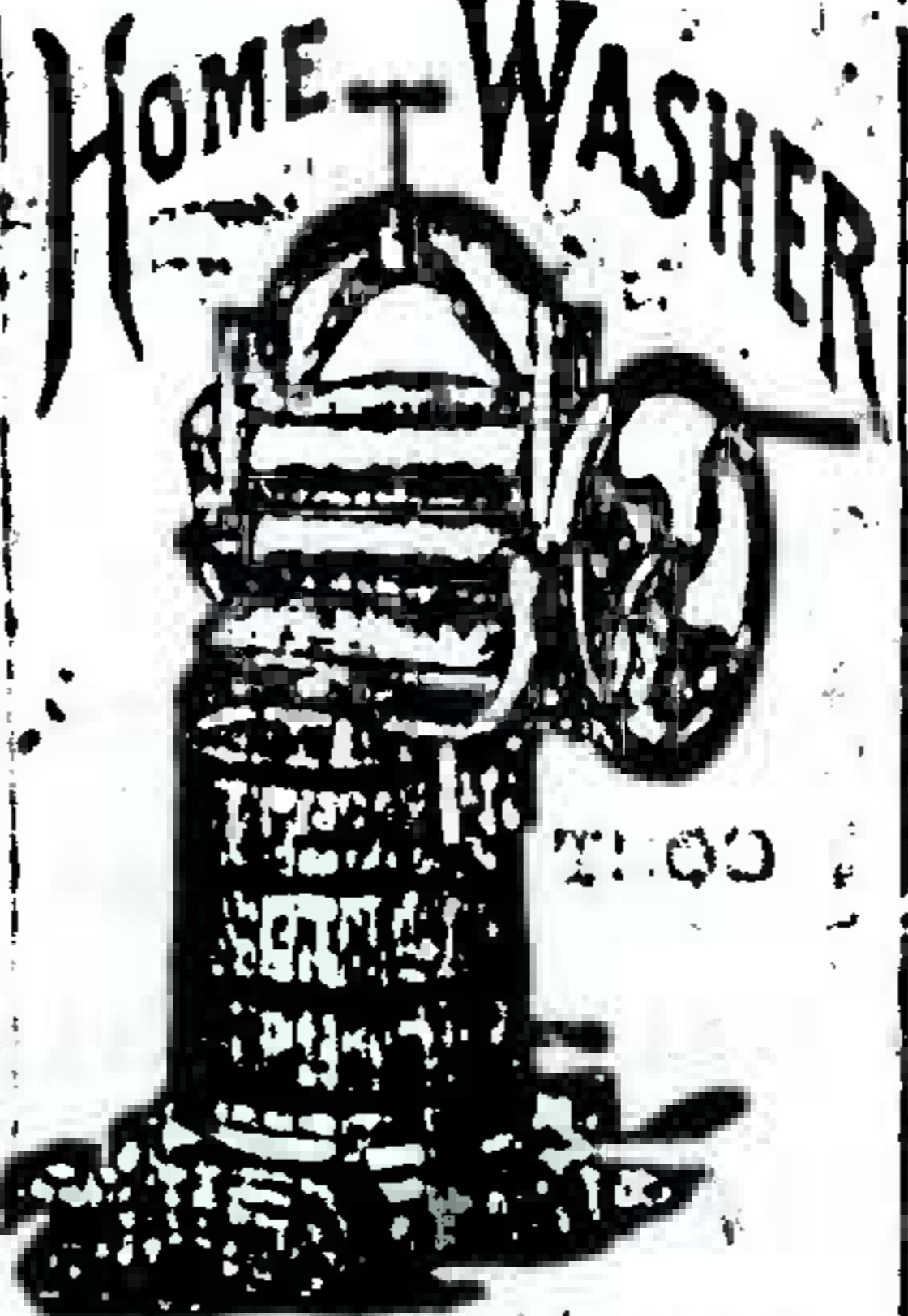
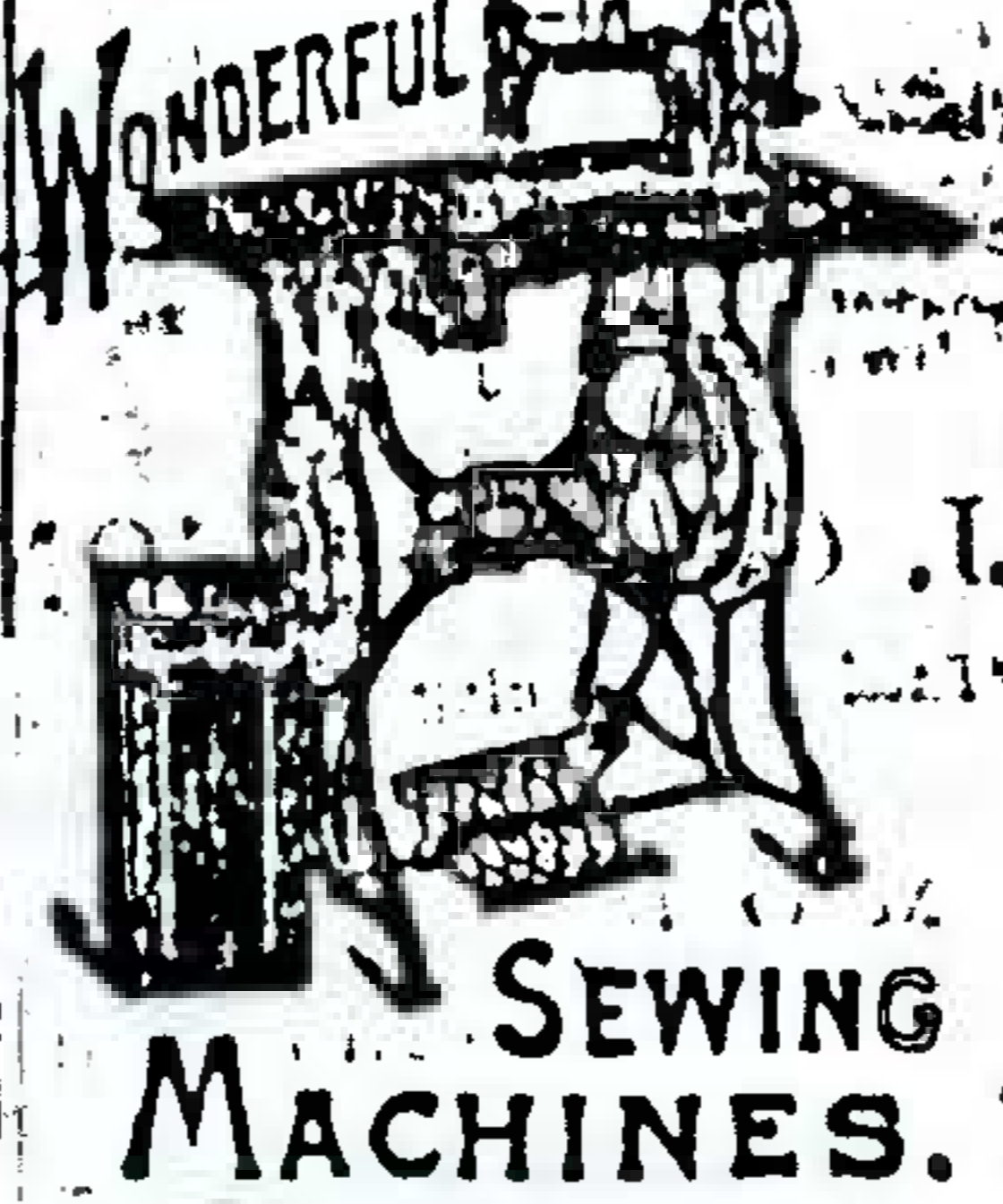
1000 Machines Manufactured and Sold Each Day.
500 Sewing Machine Dealers in England alone Sell the "WHITE."

Sample of Work and Price Lists Gratis on Application.
TRY A "WHITE" BEFORE PURCHASING.
No other Machine has had such a Record of Popularity.
LIBERAL TERMS TO RESPONSIBLE DEALERS.

Reliable Agents in unrepresented territory who want a Machine that with a single trial will itself, are invited to correspond with us.
Take notice that our medals were gained in fair competition against the world at the very latest Exhibitions. It would therefore be misleading for those who are about to purchase a machine, to read about prizes and medals given years ago, when our improved "White" was not in competition.

CAVANAGH & HARRIS, LOCAL AGENTS.

WERTHEIM'S



PERAMBULATORS,
FOR CASH OR BY TIME PAYMENT
AT ANY OF THE
WERTHEIM
Sewing Machine Depôts.

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MANUSCRIPT MEMOIR BY JAMES PENNYCUICK

(The following notes were written by James Pennycuick in 1932.)

" I, James Pennycuick of Motherwell, Scotland and Maggie Burnside of Overtown do. were married on 4th June 1878 - took over the business at Overtown Scotland from Mrs. Burnside my mother-in-law about 10 days after - remained there about 5 years.

Owing to the state of my brother-in-law's health (Arch^d. Burnside) it was decided that he should go to New Zealand. Mrs. Pennycuick and family were left in charge of the business while I was away.

Took train from Motherwell to London - sailed from Tilbury Docks in the S.S. "Iberia" - myself, Arch. Burnside and uncle Robert Miller. First port of call was Plymouth, then Naples (Italy), then Port Said (Egypt), through Suez Canal, called at Aden, then right on without another stop to Albany (Australia), then to Adelaide, then Melbourne. Changed from 2nd to 1st class into the S.S. "Manapouri". First call was The Bluff, New Zealand, then from there to Port Chalmers where we landed. Took train from there to Dunedin - stayed there a week or two. Bought a little farm at Blueskin on the main road to Waitati. This Blueskin is five miles from Port Chalmers and ten miles from Dunedin. I stayed there a few weeks after settling down Arch. Burnside and Robert Miller.

My mission being completed, I left there for Scotland again. Sailed from Port Chalmers in the "Ringarooma" for Lyttleton where I spent a week waiting on the S.S. "Doric" in which I sailed from that port for London via Cape Horn and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). Called at the island of St. Vincent (then) straight to London. Took train from Euston Station to Law Junction. Mrs. Pennycuick met me there and drove home to Overtown. I was away altogether between 5 and 6 months.

After being home some weeks, Mrs. Burnside, my mother-in-law, decided to go to New Zealand to join her son Arch. Burnside and Robert Miller, her brother, at the place I bought for them. I accompanied her to London and saw her off by the "British Queen". She went alone and arrived in New Zealand safely and was met at Port Chalmers.

After being at Overtown for 2 years during which time I was Factor for Mrs. Burnside and collected the rents of her property while in business there, I was also in the employ of Thos. Barr as a commercial traveller.

We decided we would all go to Australia and take up land there. My brother-in-law, James Young of Hamilton, took over the business. The party who sailed for Australia were myself and Mrs. Pennycuick, my brother Thos. Pennycuick, my son Thos. Pennycuick and my daughters Isabella and Janet, and William Miller.

6.

MEMOIRS OF JAMES PENNYCUICK (cont).

We sailed from Greenock, Scotland, in the S.S. "Mararva" (?). First call was St. Vincent (Canary Isles) then to Cape of Good Hope. As we had a mishap with our machinery (we) had to stay at the Cape for a week to effect repairs then from there to Albany (Australia). From there to Hobart (Tasmania) - called at Bluff (New Zealand) and from there to Port Chalmers where we landed - were met there by A. Burnside and taken to Blueskin. I had to hire a wagonette to take some of us. Met Mrs. Burnside and Robert Miller there. After staying at Blueskin some time, I, along with Thos. Pennycuick my brother and William Miller left Port Chalmers leaving Mrs. Pennycuick and family, Arch. Burnside and Robert Miller behind.

Called at Hobart and came on to Melbourne in the "Waibora" - from Melbourne went to Uncle Burnside's at Raplock Farm. Stayed there a short time. I, along with Thos. Pennycuick and Mr. Miller, went to Frankston to look for work but did not succeed - came back to Uncle Burnside's again. Got a job with John Duncan at Neerim. Left Tom, my brother there until we finished up at Neerim. Went with Uncle Burnside and Mr. Miller to Land Board at Traralgon.

After getting land at Budgeree recommended, Mr. Miller and I went to Yinnar and stayed there some time living in a hut belonging to D.H. Wicks. Leased a paddock from him about three quarters of a mile from the township. Did some work on same - got it exchanged for paddock behind Yinnar Rly. Stn. next Firmins.

After that, I went to New Zealand and brought over Mrs. Pennycuick and family and brought them all to Yinnar to live. Mr. Miller and T. Pennycuick lived in the hut while I built the house at Yinnar on the 2 blocks of land bought from H. Wicks some time before 1886. Bought the farm across the Morwell River shortly after (and the paddock up the river a short time after, as well), and let the house to Thos. Walsh of Yinnar and went to live on the farm.

In the meantime, Arch. Burnside and Mrs. Burnside came over from New Zealand and we all lived together for some time.

While living in the township I, along with Mr. Miller and my brother, went back and forwards to Budgeree and did some work there. Mr. Miller went to New South Wales and stayed there for some years and returned again and lived on his place.

While I was living in the town I was appointed Director of the factory and was Manager for two seasons. I resigned and we all decided to go home to Scotland, leaving Arch. Burnside and Mrs. Burnside behind on the farm, which we tried to sell without success.

MEMOIRS OF JAMES PENNYCUICK (Cont).

The party who left Yinnar for Scotland sailed per the "Oceana" - myself, Mrs. Pennycuick, T. Pennycuick my brother, my family consisting of Jim, Tom, Jen, Maggie, Willie and Minnie - from Melbourne, called at Adelaide, Albany, Colombo, Port Said, Brindisi, Malta. Landed at Plymouth - took train right through to Motherwell. Took up the business from my mother a week after arrival. Stayed there for six months, sold out and my mother removed to Dudley Cottage, Hamilton Rd.

Leaving my brother behind in Scotland we all sailed for Australia again in the "Oruba" from London calling at Plymouth, Naples, Port Said, Albany, Adelaide and Melbourne. Went straight to Yinnar. Took the store at Yinnar from T. Walsh and was there in business for 11½ years.

Went from Yinnar to Budgeree onto 160 acres I bought from H. Morris. Was there for 25 years. Jim and his wife returned to Budgeree after being away 2 years. My son Willie went to the war in 1915 and was killed at Pozieres on 25th July, 1916. Minnie and I managed the farm while Jim was away the two years.

While in the store I was Director of Butter Factory 2nd time, Secretary for 3 years and finally Liquidator when it was sold to Wood and Co. Melb. I also sold my house in Yinnar to Mr. Donaldson, Morwell, my block in the township next to it to T. Walsh, Yinnar, and my two blocks below the Hotel to John Moore who took over the store from me when I went to Budgeree.

While in Budgeree I sold the place up the river to M. Walsh, Yinnar and Deppelers (which I bought in 1906) to Closer Settlement Board. I also handed over 'Kelvin Grove' (the Budgeree property) to my son Jim and Mrs. Pennycuick and I came to live at Bannockburn with my daughter who is married to R. J. Elliot. Mrs. Pennycuick died here on 10th November 1931 and I am still living here alone on the 30th July 1932. I still retain the 277 acres of freehold land at Budgeree which I selected over 46 years ago.

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OFFICE BEARERS 1992-93

At the Annual Meeting of Morwell Historical Society Inc. in April, the following officers were elected unopposed:

President: Mr. L. Bond

Secretary: Mrs. E. McMaster

Vice President: Mr. E. Lubcke

Treasurer: Mrs. D. Taylor

Committee: Mrs. D. Bartlett; Mrs. J. Cafiso; Miss C. McRoberts; Mr. P. Mooney

From:

R.H.S.V. HISTORY NEWS



MAY 1992

WHOSE ARCHIVES?

At a recent meeting of the Australian Society of Archivists concern was expressed about restricted access to the archives of the former State Bank of Victoria because of the removal of expert staff, as well as the possible pulping of the recently printed 150th anniversary history of the Bank.

Members and member societies may like to join archivists in letters of concern about the future of OUR archives and OUR history, for the State Bank has been an important part of the lives of most Victorians.

GIPPSLAND ROUNDUP

Centre for Gippsland Studies, Monash University College, Gippsland, announces that its picture collection index is complete and entered on a data base open for general use. This includes masses of photographs collected by Margaret Carlyon for the 1960s television series 'Gippsland's Path of Time'.

INDEXING WORKSHOP

Saturday, 19 September 1992, 9.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

RHSV Council member, John Adams, is to hold a workshop for potential indexers at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Graduate School, 91 Victoria St.

The one-day course includes a basic background to indexing for historical society collections, and includes some reference to indexing newsletters, newspapers, photographs and local history publications. Participants will be given a set of notes and will be given some preliminary exercises at which they can try their hand before coming along to discuss their results at the workshop.

Cost \$35 - including notes, morning and afternoon tea. BYO lunch. Bookings with payments to RHSV by 1 September.

A GREAT GIFT - RHSV MEMBERSHIP

Have you thought of stimulating a relative or friend with the gift for a year or longer of access to the library, talks, excursions, seminars and workshops of YOUR Society? Why not give HISTORY a boost and help the Society?

SALE OF PUBLIC ASSETS

The Victorian Government is presently asking the Commonwealth to release six soon-to-be decommissioned lighthouses to it at no cost on account of their ecological settings and historic importance. The Public Assets Defence Coalition, composed of groups such as the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, National Trust, Museums Association, Victorian National Parks Association and Municipal Association, is asking the Victorian government to extend the same principles to its own asset sales program.

The Public Assets Defence Coalition is simply asking for public consultation prior to any determination to sell properties, and for a small part of the revenue raised by the sales to be dedicated to a management fund for the more important of these surplus public properties. Geelong's crumbling Ryrie Street Telegraph Station, Newport Railway Workshops, the Old Treasury, and the old Hawthorn Tram Depot are examples of public buildings which require substantial funds to conserve them, or which could be kept for community purposes such as museums if funds were available. Many other smaller surplus historic buildings, such as railway stations, court houses and schools, might likewise be restored and reused by local communities with the aid of small seeding funds.

In response to the Public Assets Defence Coalition campaign, the government has instituted a public consultation campaign which is quite unsatisfactory, providing insufficient information to be able to locate most properties, and insufficient time to respond. We are asking people to look out for lists of properties which appear irregularly on Wednesdays in the public notices of The Age, country papers and, sometimes, the Weekly Times. Contact the Ministry of Finance requesting the exact address or location of the property, its former use, and any old buildings or native flora which may be on the site. If you think that the property may have some historical, conservation, or community interest, write to the Ministry, and contact the Public Assets Defence Coalition.

David Moloney

The P.A.D.C. (see above), through the R.H.S.V., notified us of the impending sale of Budgeree school - Morwell City Council is supporting moves by Budgeree residents to retain the school as a focal point of the community.

WARRAGUL AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A special dinner will be held on Monday 25th May 1992, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Warragul and District Historical Society.

The venue will be the Elizabethan Restaurant in Warragul. Pre-dinner drinks will be served at 6.30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7.15 p.m.

Our special guest speaker will be Mr. Tony Dingle, lecturer in Economic History at Monash University, who will talk about the Currie family, one of the district's pioneering families who came to Lardner in 1875. Mr. Dingle is an authority on this family, having researched and written a number of articles about John and Ann Currie.

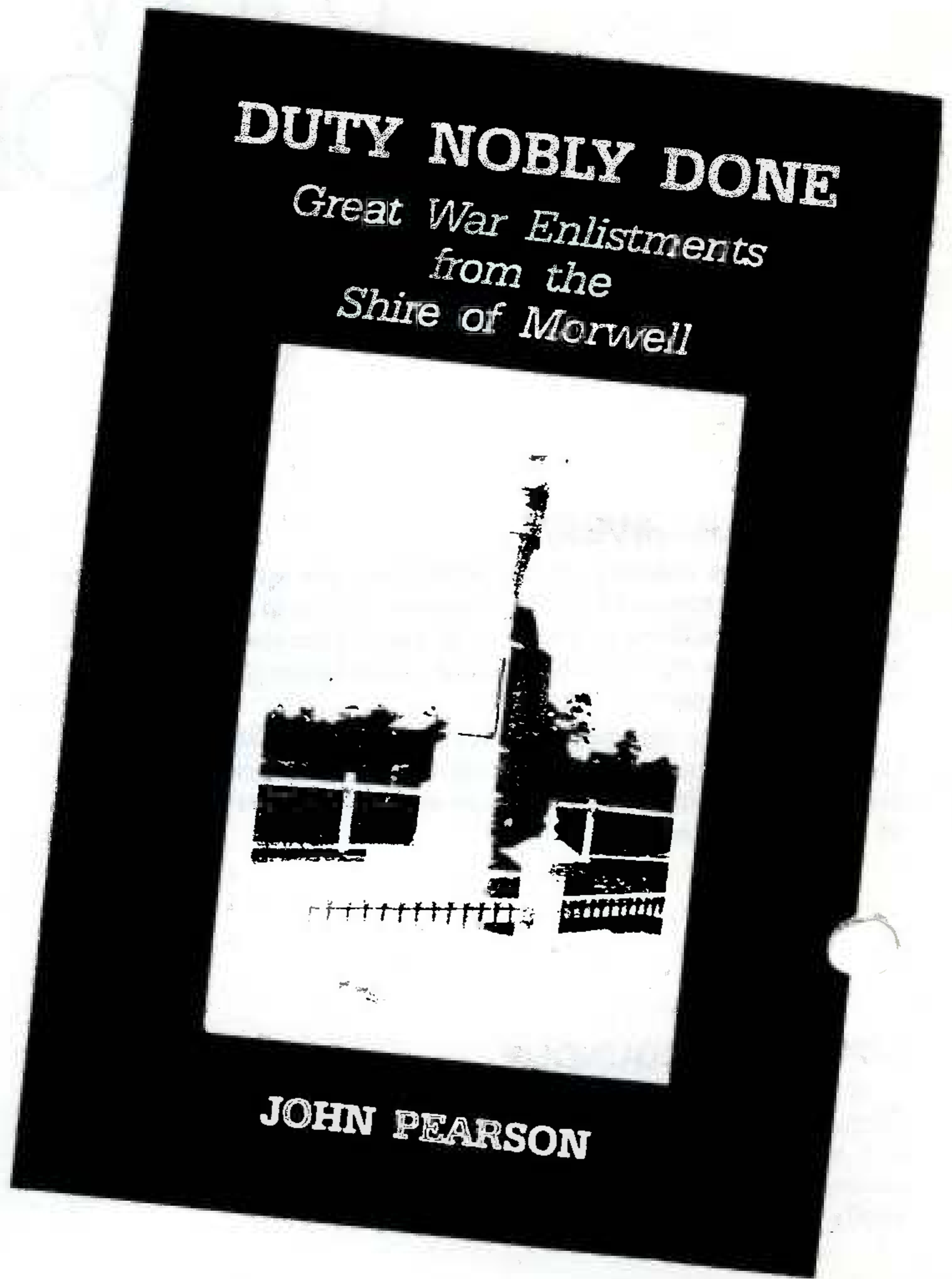
The Society extends an invitation to interested people who may wish to join members at this anniversary dinner; \$16 per person.

Please contact the secretary, Denise Nest on (056) 295-833 A.H. if you would like to attend.

DUTY NOBLY DONE

Great War Enlistments
from the
Shire of Morwell

This book presents an account of recruitment for the AIF from the Shire of Morwell between August 1914 and November 1918. Biographical, locational and military service information is presented on over 350 men, and four women, who enlisted from the Shire. The detailed analysis which is made of this information provides a regional profile of enlistments in the AIF. Similarities and differences between enlistments for the Shire of Morwell and enlistments nationally in the AIF are also noted.



John Pearson's book "DUTY NOBLY DONE" is now available. Members greatly enjoyed John's presentation, at one of our meetings, of some of his research for the book, which is available from:

John Pearson, P.O.Box 86, Churchill 3842

at a cost of \$10 per copy plus \$2 postage/packing. (Cheques payable to 'J.Pearson', please.)

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DONATIONS

Mr. Peter Leslie, Community Relations Officer with the S.E.C., has made available a video - "50 YEARS OF SERVICE" - which covers the beginnings of the S.E.C. undertakings in Yallourn and Morwell. This video was shown at our annual meeting and was very well received by members.

Mrs. Dorothy McGuinness has donated to the Society a copy of "BROWN POWER" - the jubilee history of the S.E.C., published in 1969, which was presented to her late husband in recognition of long and valued service with the Commission.'

We are most appreciative of the above items, both of which are valuable acquisitions for our library.

CONCERT AT YINNAR.

In the absence of a reporter we have to fall back on the following report contributed by "Observer."

A concert in aid of funds to purchase a piano for the Mechanics', was held on the evening of St. Patrick's Day. The attendance was fairly good, and the audience a patient one, having to wait nearly half an hour before the concert started, as the preparations for the evening performance were not completed. The concert was opened by a pianoforte solo by Miss S. Amiot, who though rather nervous at first played very well and was warmly applauded. Part of a glee party ventured to sing "With laugh and Song," but as most of the members were absent it would have better for the rest of the party to have remained behind the curtains. Mr. W. Francis sang to perfection "The Sleeping Camp." Mr. Fairbairn made use of this concert by rehearsing the song which appears on the programme for the Morwell concert, namely "The dear little Shamrock," which song was selected by one lady singer, but this gentleman did not take any notice of it in spite of the remonstrances from several gentlemen, and took the lady's book and attempted the song, being seemingly not quite acquainted with the difference of minims and crotchets, but encored for the sake of the good old song, he rendered "Dublin Bay." It is to be hoped that he will be in better form, when he has to sing in company with Mrs. Mason, Mrs. McLean and other celebrities. Later in the evening he sang "There is a flower that bloometh." Miss Southward rendered sweetly and with much taste "Killarney"; and Mr. Young, a gentleman who understands how to entertain the audience, sang "White Wings," and recalled gave "Let me like a soldier fall." The first part of the programme was concluded by Mrs. J. Jones singing with great credit "Once again in dear old Scotland," which was very much appreciated by the audience.

Mr. Guenther opened the second part with a pianoforte solo, and played the accompaniments, Miss Francis playing for Miss Southward and Mr. Francis. Mr. McEvoy's voice was heard to great advantage in "Rocked in the cradle of the deep," and Mr. Edney's song, "Just in a casual way," caused much merriment. Mr. Young delighted the audience with a performance called "The Delusion."

A farce in which Messrs. Solomon, J. Edney, Richards and Young filled the leading parts brought an enjoyable evening to a close.

Dancing was kept up till morning and was much enjoyed by the merry couples. A vote of thanks is due to the committee, who, I am sure, must have worked very hard to make the concert a success, and especially to the ladies who helped to entertain the performers so generously, refreshments having been provided by them worthy of the occasion.

"OUCH"!

Local papers a century ago were the vehicles for all sorts of community comment, some of which, if printed today, might almost attract a libel suit.

On March 24, 1892 a report (left) on a concert in Yinnar appeared in the Morwell/Mirboo Gazette.

The following week, a reply was printed in the Morwell Advertiser. (see below).

Correspondence.

[We wish our readers to distinctly understand that we do not necessarily endorse opinions expressed by correspondents.]

(TO THE EDITOR ADVERTISER.)

SIR.—I notice, in the columns of your contemporary to-day, a sarcastic and spiteful reference to me in a report of the Yinnar concert, held on Wednesday, 17th March last. The individual who wrote it hides under the nom de plume of "Observer." Like Williams, the Windsor murderer, he is ashamed of his own name, and possibly society wouldn't think much of it if they heard it. But, however that may be, he has taken advantage of a paper which does not scruple to allow him to insult me for doing my best to aid in a concert inaugurated for a charitable purpose, and forces from me an explanation, lest the public may think me as ill-mannered a cur as "Observer." It was not my intention to sing until the last moment, and then a song was lent me entitled "The dear little Shamrock." I found subsequently that a lady present was going to sing the song, so I was not until pressed, going to sing at all, and only did so on the full understanding personally from the lady in question, that she didn't mind, and would sing another song. I don't mind fair criticism, but when facilities are given by the Press to such spiteful ignoramuses as "Observer" it is time to think seriously whether giving one's services gratuitously to aid in concerts is not laying oneself open to insult through the Press.—Yours &c.,

E. FAIRBAIRN.

Yinnar, 21 | 3 | 92.

SOME ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM 'HISTORY NEWS'

MARCH 1992

VICTORIAN SCHOOLS NURSERY TO CLOSE

The Ministry of Education advised that the Education Division of the Victorian Schools Nursery was to cease operations from 21 December 1991 and that responsibility for the operation of the Nursery will transfer to the State Training Board.

The Nursery provides a specialised service contributing to the horticultural/environmental education of Victorian children by providing curriculum leadership, materials, and resources and has assisted thousands of teachers in developing and implementing school-based horticultural and environmental programmes.

Closure of the Education Division will effectively curtail the Nursery's close ties with Victorian Schools and must ultimately lead to the demise of a unique school support service developed over a period of 81 years.

The Schools Nursery Council calls upon all who share their concern to write to the Minister of Education, strongly rejecting the move to close the Nursery Education Service.

EXCHANGE OF LOCAL HISTORIES

Caulfield Historical Society has received a collection of approximately 200 volumes of local and municipal histories. The City of Caulfield has offered to assist with the development of this valued collection by making available copies of **From Sand, Swamp and Heath — a History of Caulfield**, by Peter Murray and John Wells, for the Caulfield Historical Society to offer in exchange for other local or municipal histories. The aim is to create a History Resource Library, available to students and public, at the Society's centre at the Caulfield City Hall.

If you wish to participate, please contact the Caulfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 202, Caulfield South, 3162 or Mrs Gladys Vallati, 524 3353.

LOCAL HISTORY FAIR AT DANDENONG

A Local History Fair will be held at Dandenong, on Saturday, 4 April, 1992, from 2 - 9 p.m. Organised by the Dandenong Historical Society, other historical societies and heritage groups from the South Eastern region have been invited to set up displays and sell publications. As part of the Victorian Heritage Festival, the theme of the Fair will be "Hidden Heritage".

The Fair will be held at St. James' Church Hall, corner of Langhorne and Wilson Streets, Dandenong. Activities at the Fair include tours of the Dandenong Historic Precinct consisting of Laurel Lodge, Benga Oral History Centre and St. James' Church. A small admission fee to the Fair will be charged and light refreshments will be available for purchase. For further details telephone (03) 791 2163 (AH).

SCIENCEWORKS OPENING

Victoria's newest museum will open to the public on Saturday, 28 March 1992, 10 a.m. - 4.30 p.m. Scienceworks Museum of Victoria, 2 Booker Street, Spotswood. Mel. 56 B1. Enquiries: 392-4800.

EXHIBITION TO 20 MARCH 1992

Our first exhibition for the year in the Thomas Ramsay Gallery at the Royal Mint is entitled "The Shepherd's Hut at Four Mile Creek", depicting aspects of the early history of Port Albert. Much of the material that makes up this exhibition is on loan from the Port Albert Maritime Museum.

TOURS OF THE ROYAL MINT AND RHSV

Conducted tours of our Royal Mint premises are now being run to meet a growing demand from clubs and community groups. The tours include information on the fascinating history of the Royal Mint and on the library, archival and photographic resources of the RHSV. Tours will usually be conducted on Thursday mornings by prior arrangement. Cost \$2 per person for member societies of the RHSV, \$3 per person for other groups.

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*** NOTE: Dorothy Taylor's book: "Across the Old Bush Track" is available from Morwell Library, Morwell Civic Centre or from Dorothy herself - price \$29.50. (It will be on sale at our next meeting at special price of \$27.50).

Morwell Police Court.

Before E. C. Bell, P.M., and J. English and
W. Murdoch, J.P.

YESTERDAY.

THE SAME OLD GAME.

Once again the old veterans, Jno. Quigley and Jas. McDonald, appeared before the bar of justice. This time Jno. had got out a summons charging his friend James with using abusive and threatening language on the 26th January last, in a public place in the presence of the populace of Yinnar, to wit some 30 or 40 people.

Jno. Quigley, sworn, said he remembered the 26th January. He was on his verandah at Yinnar, when McDonald came across to him about 6 o'clock and said—"I believe there's some of my cattle in your paddock." Quigley said "Yes," and then went over the road with McDonald to the gate, and there a dispute arose and complainant said, "You fat-headed b——y b——r, you're afraid to stand out and fight fair; come out and I'll give you 5s." When he said this he was standing on the road, and there were a lot of people present amongst whom were women.

Cross-examined by Mr. Wise: Quigley said what he had stated was true. He never prosecuted McDonald for assault because his lawyer had made a mistake. McDonald and witness had a squabble inside the gate, witness said if McDonald took the cattle it would be over his corpse. He'd shoot the man who tried. McDonald wasn't on the ground with his face bleeding while he (witness) held him by the whiskers. They had a tussle, and both fell, and he (witness) wouldn't swear he was not on top. He would swear McDonald wasn't bleeding. He never heard any his friends ask him to "give it to him." It was after the scene that McDonald challenged him to fight. He objected to coarse language. There was another action pending.

Cross-examined by Mr. Bushe: It was through Mr. McDonald striking him that the scuffle took place.

John Maher, said he was a farmer of Yinnar. He remembered the 26th January and on that day saw Quigley and McDonald having a row. Heard McDonald offer Quigley 5s. to come out and fight fair, and on Quigley refusing says: "You b——y old b——r, you're afraid." He also called him a fathead, and said he was sent out here for roguery at home.

Cross-examined by Wise: Saw Quigley and McDonald on the ground when he came up. Quigley never had complainant by the whiskers. He (witness) never told Quigley to thrash McDonald. Heard McDonald ask Quigley to come out and have a square fight. Quigley wouldn't. Didn't know whether he was afraid. He was in Quigley's house when the row commenced. There were others present, amongst whom were women, but he couldn't remember anyone in particular except Jack Keogh. Keogh and McDonald had a row afterwards in consequence of the latter saying "That Quigley had his family around him." Jack Keogh said: "Settle your own rows between you, but don't bring the family into it." He couldn't remember who of Quigley's family were present.

From 'MORWELL ADVERTISER' March 18, 1892

The Bench here interposed that the evidence was most unsatisfactory.

Mr. Wise thought the Bench should commit witness for prevarication.

Jas Cahill was then called and gave corroborative evidence, adding that Quigley offered to let McDonald have the cattle by his paying 2s a head. He was sitting on the fence. He saw the row. Heard McDonald challenge Quigley to fight. Quigley's daughters were there, and they tried to stop their father. Mr. John Edney eventually stopped the row.

Mr. Wise: That's what I've been trying to get at. Edney was the only man there.

Witness continued: McDonald was bleeding after the row.

Mr. Wise said it was the most audacious case ever brought before the court, and if such proceedings were encouraged the courts of justice would be constantly pestered with like cases. The complainant in this case was in reality the aggressor. He had attacked Mr. McDonald, got him down and hold him by the beard. His face was bleeding. He was surrounded by

Quigley's friends, and not one had the business, except Edney, to interfere, not even "that great lump of a fellow" Maher. In short he was surrounded by a mob who were as bad as Quigley. Quigley himself was so enraged that he didn't know what he was doing. Their honors had heard it sworn that, notwithstanding his four daughters pleading, he still continued the fight. Under the circumstances the language complained of was justifiable. When a man was attacked by a man and was punished like McDonald was it could not be expected that he would be calm and collected.

The Bench said they had fully considered the case and it really appeared to them that the plaintiff, if anything, was the aggressor. The case would be dismissed.

WATTLE BARK.

The police proceeded against a man named John Smith, charging him with stealing three bundles of wattle bark, the property of John Dwyer. Messrs. Geo. Derham and R. Date gave evidence of a condemnatory character, and Constable Chandler further informed the bench that by virtue of a search warrant he had found the bark. Prisoner then stated that Mr. R. Date had given him one lot, and that he had stripped the other two himself. He (the prisoner) admitted subsequently having taken them from the road.

The bench said that the fact of his displaying secrecy as to how the bark came into his possession was sufficient evidence to condemn him, and sentenced him to one month's imprisonment.

As provided for by the Purification of Rolls Act the prisoner before removal was asked the usual questions and answered all in the negative.

Some minor cases having been disposed of the court rose.