

# BALLARAT AND DISTRICT

## Search for Water

Doing his own "divining" with the traditional twig, Mr. T. Wilkins, who is putting down the water bore on the Ballarat Common for the common managers, has selected a spot in O'Donnell's paddock, on the west end of the area, for the attempt to obtain water. The move was recently decided upon by the management following upon the prolonged dry period which has caused a serious shortage of water on the 3,000-acre area. On Friday the workmen were down 26ft., the latter part in broken basalt, and, according to the "divination," water should be struck about 50ft. Hitherto farmers in the locality have struck water at this and shallower depths. Mr. Wilkins is a well-known water-diviner in the Streatham district, where his services are in great demand.

## Anti-War Question

In the absence on holidays of the secretary (Mr. J. S. Miller) officials of the Ballarat Trades and Labour Council were not prepared to make any reply to the threat of expulsion by the Melbourne Trades Hall on the anti-war question. The matter will be discussed next Thursday night. Mr. A. R. Loft, secretary of the Ballarat branch and president of the Textile Workers' Union, said, "We are not very much worried with what the Melbourne Trades Hall thinks. Moreover, we do not admit the right of that body to dictate policy to us. We have always exercised local autonomy in these matters. It is rubbish to suggest that the Ballarat Anti-war Council is communist, and the suggestion shows clearly that the Melbourne Trades Hall knows nothing about it. The representatives include clergymen and citizens of all shades of thought and public life, including representatives of the Ballarat Trades and Labour Council. The Melbourne Trades Hall threat, in my opinion, will cause members very little concern."

In pursuance of arrangements recently made by the civic authorities with the Public Health Commission and the Cabinet sub-committee, which visited Ballarat recently, the engineer to the Health Commission (Mr. Hepburn), the district health officer (Dr. Brennan), and the city engineer (Mr. L. H. Finch) on Friday carried out an inspection of the Wendouree Mental Hospital drainage. The drainage was recently the source of much complaint, as it was stated that much pollution of Lake Wendouree was being caused. A report on his inspection will be made by Mr. Hepburn to the commission.

Mr. C. Gower, the Ballarat musician and conductor, has been appointed adjudicator of the musical section at the forthcoming Victor Harbour (S.A.) competitions.

Charges of having wilfully made false statements in regard to applications for sustenance were heard against nine persons in the city court on Friday, the total charges numbering about 85. They ranged, in each instance, from two breaches up to 13 in the case of Charles William Hardy, of Park street, who allegedly misrepresented the earnings of his two daughters in the Sunnyside Woollen Mill, and was overpaid £31.9. He was fined £2 in respect of the first six charges and £1 on each of the remaining seven, a total of £19. John Marone, prospector, of Skipton, who was overpaid £32.6, was fined £2 on each

of six charges, a total of £12; and Harold Edson, baker, of Albert street, who was overpaid £54.13, following mis-statements concerning his stepdaughter's earnings, was fined £2 on each of three charges. The remaining cases against the other defendants were dismissed.

Characterising as incredible the evidence given by defendants that they had gone to a butcher's shop on Good Friday to buy meat, Mr. A. Hill, P.M., in the city court on Friday imposed one month's imprisonment each upon Edward Thompson, labourer, of Buninyong, and William Thomas Flannery, convicted of having been found without lawful excuse in the yard of Dean's butchery, Peel street, on the evening of April 10. On a further charge that they had stolen an overcoat valued at 10/-, the property of Oscar William Curnow, fruit merchant, of Peel street, from whose garage the coat had allegedly been taken, both men were sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment.

The Ballarat Commercial Travellers' Social Club at a meeting on Friday night completed its financial statement in regard to the recent "Golden Apple" Day appeal for charity. Receipts totalled £1,018, with a net profit of £572. A cheque for this amount will be handed over to the Ballarat Hospital Appeal Fund on Friday week. The hospital will also benefit to the extent of £205, the result of an effort organised by Mr. W. Mong.

Although a date has not been fixed members of the Country Roads Board will next month make an inspection of the main Ballarat-Colac road, through Rokewood and Cressy. A conference of district councils held toward the close of last year urged that the road should be declared a main highway.

SUPREME.—IN BANCO.

Tuesday, March 8.

[Before the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Gordon.]

—*Decrees Absolute*—

On the motion of Mr. A. S. Blackburn, decrees absolute for dissolution of marriage were granted in the following cases:—Leslie H. Martin v. Agnes J. Martin and Thomas J. Jeffries (co-respondent), Marcus J. D. Longwill v. Alice H. Longwill and Harold Edeson (co-respondent).

—*Winding-up Petition*.—

A petition was submitted for the winding up of the Kerwick Motor Company, Limited. Mr. M. Badger, jun., appeared for the petitioner, Mr. W. S. Bright for H. S. Falkiner (a creditor), and Mr. George McEwin for Cornell, Limited (another creditor). The petition set out that, although the assets of the company were valuable and appeared sufficient to pay off and satisfy all debts and liabilities, the company had no funds and desired to be wound up. Counsel for the creditors offering no objection, an order was made for the winding up of the company.

## POLICE.

ADELAIDE: Tuesday, August 23.

(Before Messrs. G. W. Halcombe, S.M., A. Kelly, and T. O. B. Woods.)

Edwin McRostie, a young man, admitted having neglected to comply with an order for the maintenance of a female child. Mr. C. J. Philcox (of the State Children's Department) appeared to prosecute, and stated that the defendant was in arrears in his payments to the amount of £23 18/6. He understood that the defendant had had £15 telegraphed to him that morning, which he was prepared to hand over. The defendant said that was so, and the case was adjourned until the following morning, in order to allow McRostie to make arrangements with the department.

The following motorists were fined for exceeding the speed limit:—Ernest R. Beach (West terrace on August 5, 25 miles per hour), £4; George H. Medlow (North terrace, August 8, 22½ miles), £1 15/; William J. Hayes (North terrace, August 11, 20½ miles), £2 15/; Walter L. Thomas (King William street, August 9, 21 3-7 miles), £2 15/; Frank E. Gladstone (King William road, August 8, 22½ miles), £2 15/; Clem G. Mason (Hutt street, August 13, 25½ miles), £2 15/; James E. Hennessy (King William road, August 9, 28½ miles), £4; August de Bawcy (Wakefield street, August 15, 21 3-7 miles), £2 15/; Thomas Tait (Bay road, August 12, 21 3-7 miles), £2 15/; Owen Rodda (Wakefield street, August 15, 20½ miles), £2 15/; Thomas A. Hall (North terrace, August 8, 21 3-7 miles), £3; Cyril J. Palm (King William road, August 15, 30 miles), £4 15/; Robert B. Hardy (King William road, August 16, 22½ miles), £2 15/; John Hobbs (King William road, August 15, 22½ miles), £2 15/.

Lloyd Golding was charged, on the information of Inspector Love, with having sold adulterated milk at Lower North road, Chicago, on July 15. Mr. Gordon Campbell appeared for the prosecution. The defendant pleaded guilty. Mr. Campbell said this was a very bad case. The analysis showed an addition of between 12 and 13 per cent. of water. When spoken to the defendant said he "had only put in six pints of water." Golding, in Court, said, "I always understood you could put some water in. I did not think I was doing so much harm as I was." Fined £7, counsel's fee £1 1/, and Court fees 15/—£8 16/ in all.

William J. Inwood, dairyman, was charged on the information of Inspector Love with having sold adulterated milk at Prospect on July 8. He pleaded not guilty. Mr. Gordon Campbell appeared for the prosecution. Inspector Love stated that he purchased a sample of milk from the defendant on the day in question. On analysis it showed that a fraction of under 10 per cent. of water had been added to it. The defendant said, "I purchased the milk from Golding on the Lower North road. I get about 12 gallons a day from him." The defendant in answer to the Court as to what his defence was, said, "That I am not guilty of adulterating the milk." The S.M.—"Unfortunately, you are not charged with that. You are charged with having sold milk that was adulterated, not with adulterating it. You appear to be the victim of unfortunate circumstances." The defendant—"I only required a small quantity of milk, and as soon as I discovered what Golding was doing I purchased extra cows." The S.M. said there was no doubt that the defendant was the victim of unfortunate circumstances, and the Court would therefore inflict the lowest penalty under the Act. Defendant would be fined £5, Court fees £1, and counsel's fee, £2 2/—£8 2/ in all.

John Hayes, woodyard proprietor, who did not appear, was charged on three informations laid

John Hayes, woodyard proprietor, who did not appear, was charged on three informations laid by Cyril C. L. Palm, licensed motor driver, with having failed to pay him legal fares incurred on three motor trips. Mr. A. S. Blackburn, V.C., who appeared for the prosecution, said the defendant had promised to pay on several occasions, but had failed to do so. The fares incurred were £1, £3 10/, and £4. Palm asked for £1 compensation on each information. The Court awarded Palm £5 4/4 on the £1 information; £7 14/4 on the £3 10/ information; and £8 4/4 on the £4 information—£21 2/ in all.

Harold Edeson was charged on the information of his wife, Comfort Edeson, with having neglected to comply with an order of the Court made on May 13, 1919, for the payment of £1 11/8 weekly for the maintenance of herself and her child. Mr. C. J. Philcox appeared on behalf of the State Children's Department, and Mr. C. L. Abbott for the defence. It was stated that the arrears amounted to £4 14/9, and that the informant had been living on the Soldiers' Fund. Mr. Abbott stated that since October, 1920, the informant had been receiving £2 17/6 a week from the defendant through the Military Department. The order made by the Court was by the consent of the parties. The information was dismissed.

A charge was laid against Stanley Ettridge of having been on the Victoria Park Racecourse on August 30 for the purpose of unlawful betting. He pleaded not guilty. A penalty of £6 in all was inflicted.