St. Marys Council

BRINGELLY ROAD AND MAMRE ROAD.

THE CLAIM OF LOCAL LABOR FOR GOVERNMENT JOB.

The regular fortnightly meeting of St. Mary's Council was held on Monday evening, when there were present: The Mayor (Ald. T. Brooker), and Aldermen J. Carpenter, G. Luke, G. Scaletti, W. Millen, C. Adams, and C. Johnson.

Mayor's Minute.

The Mayor, in his minute, pointed out that at last meeting he had been asked, at the instance of Ald. Johnson, to make inquiries about seats that were at the Nepean, Picture Theatre in Penrith, which it was proposed to buy for the Council's parks. He had inspected the seats, and some of them were in real good order. The company had offered Council the pick of them at 20 for £5. The seats needed a little repairing, and cartage would cost about £1. He recommended that 20 seats be purchased, and that 10 be placed in Kingswood Park, and 10 in Victoria Park, and that the necessary repairs be effected.

With regard to the £100 Council had in hand from the main roads grant, Council had decided to apply to the Government for permission to expend it on culverts on the main road, but the one at the eastern end of the Main Western Road that Council was about to do would cost somewhere about £100, and they had the bother of getting the stuff and paying for it. He recommended paying the money back to the Government and letting it get the material and do the work..

The Mayor also drew attention to the matter of the clerk's holidays, which were now due. He recommended that Council get a man to take the clerk's place while he was away. This was a slack time.

Local Government Conference.

The Mayor reported on the recent Local Government Conference, which he attended for the three days during which it was held. Among other matters he referred to a motion placed on the business paper by Penrith Council, providing that the balance of money left over after an impounded beast had been sold and the expenses deducted be handed back to owner of the animal. As this Council had been concerned about this sort of thing, he was naturally interested, and he was pleased to say that they were able to get that motion carried. The president remarked that the proposal was only just and fair. Another motion about impounding was in Penrith Council's name. That was in regard to advertising impoundings in the "Government Gazette" and the local newspaper. That was lost on the ground that the "Gazette" published too late.

Ald. Carpenter, referring to the matter of the Western Road culvert, asked what would be done with regard to the material that Council had already carted down there.

The Mayor: We will have to make some arrangement about that.

Ald. Carpenter: It all cost money, and we will want a fair deal.

The Mayor: If we can't make arrangements we will carry the work out as we started. But the Government has met us up to now, and I am sure they will do so again.

The minute was adopted.

An Impounding Matter.

W. Webb and Co., Parramatta, wrote: We beg most respectfully to bring under your notice the fact that we lost a draught gelding early in the year, and after a number of advertisements, offering a reward of £2, in the dailies, we failed to find him. We then gazetted him in June last as lost. We eventually heard that an animal answering his description had been sold out of St. Mary's pound. Following this information, we find that it was our property. We think we should have been notified by your poundkeeper in reply to the "Gazette" notice before selling the horse. Under the circumstances we now aply to you for the amount our horse realised when sold by your Council, less the amount of the expenses. (£8 12s. was the amount claimed).

The clerk stated that he had interviewed Mr. Bluett (Local Government Association's solicitor) for information as to whether Council could refund money in this way. Under the Act there was no power to refund money paid for a horse sold from the pound. Mr. Bluett said that the only way out of the difficulty was for the man to make application to the Council, and the Council to make application, under section 504, to the Minister for power to refund the money, and there was no doubt the Minister would grant it in a genuine case like this.

Ald. Millen said that there was not the slightest doubt that the writer was the owner of this animal. He moved: "That we write to the Minister and ask for provision to pay over the balance of the money due with regard to this horse."

Seconded by Ald. Adams, and carried.

Bringelly Road and Queen Street.

The Department of Local Government drew Council's attention to delay in furnishing the Department with its application for the Main Roads Grant for 1921-22.

The Mayor moved, "That we apply for £150 for the Bringelly Road, commencing from the Penrith boundary, working in a southerly direction, reconditioning with 1½ inch and ballast where required."

Ald. Johnson: Is there any possibility of distributing that money between our main thoroughfare (Queen Street) and Bringelly Road? I think that if the Government were approached we would get a grant for Queen Street to the railway.

The Mayor pointed out that Bringelly Road was gazetted as a main road, whereas Queen Street was not.

Ald. Johnson: Is not Queen Street a main road? It runs to the same place as Bringelly Road. I think you might explain to the Government, and ask it to expend a little on this road. I don't know why they should not.

The Mayor: The clerk informs me that an application was made to have Queen Street gazetted a main road, and the chief engineer distinctly said he would not allow it.

Ald. Adams: Yes; I was in the office at the time he was there, and I fought very hard for it, and he wouldn't listen to it. Still we can try again.

The Mayor: We can try again to have this road put on as a main road.

Ald. Johnson: I can't see that it is a fair go to the municipality to expend the whole of the amount on that road (Bringelly). It is not for the quantity of traffic that is coming to St. Mary's from there. I think it takes it away from St. Mary's. I think it is up to the likes of me as an alderman to get some of the grant spent on this other road. If you spend the whole of it on Bringelly Road it will run us into £200.

Ald Millen: You have to remember that the people of Orchard Hills have to use that road. It does not matter whether the traffic comes to St. Mary's or not.

Ald. Johnson: To be candid, I think you have spent quite sufficient on the road.

Ald. Millen: There are men there who spend £70 or £80 in rates, and I say there has not been 70 or 80 shillings spent there in the last three or four years.

Ald. Johnson: Well, you are going to get a fair go now. For the last two or three meetings here it has been nothing but West Ward. It is not a fair go to Central Ward or East Ward.

Ald Scaletti: What about the traffic on Mamre Road now?

Ald. Millen: It is not in dispute. I say there is a lot of traffic on Mamre Road, but it is not in dispute.

Ald. Carpenter: I think we should try to get Queen Street put on as a main road. The money should be spent more on the main feeders that carry the main traffic to the railways. Queen Street is getting out of repair. When it is raining you will find pot-holes that will jolt the sulky. It is the duty of the Council not to let that roadroad get into a bad state irrespective of whether we will get money from the Government for it or not. It seems to me that the main feeders are neglected, and the outside places are getting most call.

Ald. Millen: You can make application, but you will not get anything in time for this grant.

Ald. Scaletti: If you apply to the Government for the grant for Bringelly Road you will have to spend £150 of the ratepayers' money on it, whereas here is a main artery of the town town (QueenStreet) on which you are putting nothing at all.

Ald. Millen: But the aldermen must not lose sight of the fact that there are a lot of people along the Bringelly Road who are living in the municipality and paying rates, and who are compelled to use that road. That is their main outlet. They can't possibly come along the main road. It would be very well if we could bring all the traffic into St. Mary's, but we can't.

Ald. Millen mentioned several places along that road that were paying big rates, and added that, to his knowledge, for the last three years Council had not spent £10 a year on that road. It was not a fair thing to those ratepayers.

The Mayor: I don't remember anything being done there since I have been in the district, until we put a man on it recently, and he is trying to make it a bit trafficable.

Ald. Carpenter and Ald. Luke referred to the bad condition of Bringelly Road, and Ald. Johnson said he was quite aware that the road required doing up.

The Mayor's motion, which was seconded by Ald. Millen, was carried, Ald. Scaletti voting against it.

The Government's Western Road Job.

The Local Government Department asked for Council's concurrence in the work being done by the Government in re-conditioning the Main Western Road through St. Mary's municipality. The estimated cost of the work within the municipality was £32,400. Plans and specifications were forwarded.

Ald. Millen moved: "That the letter be held over for consideration." This was a much more important matter than might appear on the surface. Until Council got some particulars with regard to its share of the cost it was not in a position to discuss it.

Ald. Johnson protested against the Government not employing more local men on this work. Seeing that the people here would have to pay for the work, it was perfectly right that local workmen, with horses and drays, should get a bit of the work, instead of its being let out to a contractor living miles away.

Ald. Carpenter spoke in endorsement.

Ald. Adams: I consider it is a disgrace the way the money is being wasted on the job.

Ald. Carpenter: Wasted! I could get a washerwoman to do better.

Ald. Adams: I had it from a man who knows that it will cost about £100 a chain. I consider it a disgrace.

Ald. Johnson said he had no fault to find with the work; he did not think it was too bad. His argument was that to let the contractor have the work and then sublet it out, as had been done, was wrong.

Ald. Luke said that the local people had the same opportunity of tendering, but Ald. Johnson thought that the notice was too short.

Ald. Carpenter said that this was a tourists' road, and it was up to every council concerned to hold a conference and urge the Government to take the road over as a national road.

The motion was carried.

Tottenham Subdivision.

Mr. Stuart Lee forwarded sketch of proposed road for the subdivision of Tottenham Estae.

The plan was approved, and it was decided to send on to the Lands Department an application by Mr. Moore to open a portion of the reserve.

Dairy Inspections.

The Department of Public Health forwarded notices requiring improvements in a number of dairies that had been inspected by the board officer.

The clerk pointed out that nothing was seriously wrong in these cases, and all those concerned had been given notice when the inspector was round.

Bubonic Plague.

The Department of Public Health forwarded a circular urging precautions against the spread of bubonic plague.

It was decided that a formal notice be sent to stores and other places, where necessary, with regard to the destruction of rats; also to procure another supply of disinfectant.

Building Permit.

An application by Mr. R. W. Joiner for permission to build a cottage on Station Estate was approved.

Works Committee.

The Mayor read the following report from the Works Committee: Since last meeting the dayman have been engaged on portion of Victoria Street, Werrington, but the work is not finished, having to wait until better conditions prevail, as it is too hard and dry to make a job of it. One day was spent on Cadden's Road repairing the approach to the culvert, etc.; also on Moore Street putting in corduroy bridge, etc., and in filling in on Marsden Road; and at several bad places on the main road and on Werrington Road. Phillip Street has been partly cleared of scrub, and two Saturday mornings have been utilised in making pipes, starting with foot-pipes, which have turned out satisfactorily. A man has been on Bringelly Road filling in wheel-ruts, etc., as per the resolution passed at last meeting. With regard to Salmon's contract, the committee recommends that the account be passed for payment, subject to the work being found satisfactory.

The Mayor moved the adoption of the report, which led to the usual general discussion on works. At one stage the Mayor and Ald. Scaletti got into a little argument. The question of the Mayor's sincerity cropped up incidentally.

The Mayor: Have you ever found me otherwise?

Ald. Scaletti contended that the Mayor had been insincere, inasmuch as he had promised to carry out works in the order in which they were passed, and yet he carried out works just passed before others that had been passed months and months before.

The Mayor: What work do you refer to?

Ald. Scalletti: Bennett Road, in front of Mr. Campbell's. That was passed months ago and has not been done, but you have done work that has been passed since.

The Mayor: You know that this work could not be done while the road was being used by one of the aldermen for carting. You would have been the first to cry out that we were wasting money. It will come in its course, as soon as we can get to it.

Ald. Scaletti: I say you don't stick to your word.

The Mayor: I know we can't convince you.

The motion was carried, not without a little more disputation between Ald. Scaletti and the Mayor, in which the former made some allusion to "going outside."

Finance.

The clerk reported that after payment of that evening's accounts the bank balance would be £690.

The Sanitary Contract.

The Finance Committee reported that at a meeting held on 25th September the matter of the sanitary contract was considered, and the committee decided to recommend:—(1) That a new lease of the nightsoil depot be arranged with Mr. John Hackett for a period of five years at £6 10s. per annum rental, with the option of renewal on the same terms for a further term of five years; (2) That as the present sanitary contract runs out at the end of the present year, Mr. Upcroft be approached and asked if he will continue the present contract for another 12 months at the same rate. This will enable the labor market to become more settled, and probably enable the Council to let a contract on more favourable terms than at present; (3) the committee also recommends that an amount of £22 17s. 10d., shown in the sanitary ledger as not recoverable, be abandoned; and (4) that another half-acre be cleared at the depot.

The report was adopted.

Questions.

Several matters were ventilated under "Questions." Ald. Carpenter and Luke drew attention to portions of Luke's Lane that were in a very bad state. Ald. Johnson asked the Mayor if he had inspected Quarry Hill about that matter of the removal of stone, and the Mayor said he had, and that the gentleman concerned had paid dearly for the stone; he was making a roadway into the place; he only took a couple of big boulders. Ald. Adams asked if a report had yet been received from the engineer with regard to the water question. The Mayor said no report had been received yet, but he supposed it would not be very long before a report would be furnished. Ald. Scaletti asked when did the Mayor intend to carry out the work at Metlven's, which had been waiting for 18 months. The Mayor replied that Council was making the pipes for the job now, and as soon as they were made the work would be done.

Lenore Lane.

Ald. Carpenter moved: "That 100 yards of 2-inch hand-broken metal be placed on Lenore Lane." Everybody knew the deplorable state of that road.

Ald. Scaletti seconded.

After some discussion, the motion was carried with the addition of the clause, "Subject to the price being satisfactory."

Tenders.

Mr. T. Thompson was the only tenderer for the cartage of 50 cubic yards of ironstone gravel from Werrington railway gates to Victoria Street, and spreading, his price being 4s. per yard. This was accepted. He was also the only tenderer for carting three trucks of metal from Kingswood station to Mystery Lane. His price was 3s. per ton. This was accepted.

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Nurse Lawler, Commercial Street, Penrith, says:—"I think it my duty to say, for the benefit of all who suffer from backache or any other symptom of kidney disorder, that I have found nothing so effectual as Doan's Backache Kidney Pills. I have used a good many remedies in my time, but this one stands ahead of any in ridding the back of its aches and pains, and restoring weak kidneys to health and strength. For many years I was a great sufferer from backache, and as I could get nothing to ease the pain, I was almost in despair of getting well again. No one knows the awful agony I endured, and I am sure if I had not heard of Doan's Backache Kidney Pills, I would still be suffering. This remedy has cured me completely, and I feel as well as ever I did."

Seven years later Nurse Lawler says:—"I have been free from backache since Doan's Pills cured me over seven years ago. I need say no more, the facts speak for themselves."

Doan's Backache Kidney Pills are sold by all chemists and storekeepers at 2/9 per bottle, or will be posted on receipt of price by Foster-McClellan Co., 15 Hamilton Street, Sydney.

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Bees and Honey

A PROBLEM FOR BEE-KEEPERS.

Do Bees in Queenless Colonies Steal Eggs?

For several years (writes the Senior Apiary Inspector of the Department of Agriculture) I have noted, when examining queenless and broodless colonies, of bees, that occasionally an embryo queen cell will be found to contain an egg. Many apiarists have noted similar cases. Do the bees, then, recognise their utterly hopeless condition at having no queen and no brood from which to raise a queen, and steal an egg from another colony for the purpose of raising a queen? Undoubtedly, the egg is obtained from somewhere, and there seems to be no way in which it can be obtained other than by stealing it from another colony.

One can imagine bees in a queenless condition setting out on such a mission—their battle with the guards at the entrance of the hive it is intended to rob, their reception by its hostile little inmates, and, finally, the difficulties they must surmount in the safe transference of the egg to an embryo queen cell in their own hive. Perhaps the attempt to steal an egg is comparatively common among queenless colonies, success only being rare.

On one occasion this season at the Government Apiary, at Wauchope, there was proof that, at least on some occasions, bees do transfer eggs to embryo queen cells. A few queen cell cups used for queen-raising were left above an excluder or a colony that was about to swarm. On examination after the fourth day, one of the cups was found to contain an egg—an egg, moreover, in a fertile condition, for it eventually produced a queen bee. In this case it seems probable that the egg was transferred from the lower storey where the queen was in occupation. Both the colour and breeding of the queen point to this.

The transference of eggs as just explained gives rise to another problem: Do bees, when making preparation to swarm, transfer the eggs to embryo cells? It is usually considered that the queen lays the eggs in the cells, but from our recent experience it seems likely that the queen has no say in the matter, and the transfer of the eggs to cells required is carried out by the workers.

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WHERE AMERICA LEADS

There is no shadow of a doubt that the salvation of the American fruit-grower has been co-operation, says the Superintendent of the Government Cannery at Leeton in a report on his visit to the United States. Says the report:—

"The whole of the marketing of both fresh and dried fruit in California is done co-operatively, and practically every variety of fruit produced in any quantity has its own separate organisation for selling the crop. I visited the very large plants of the Prune and Apricot Growers' Association of San Jose, the Peach Packers' Association and the Raisin Growers' Association at Fresno, the Walnut Growers' Association, and the Citrus Growers' Association, Los Angeles, and others. As practically nothing in the way of fruit is now sold outside such organisations, the prices are fixed by these organisations, and very little produce is sold in an open market. The only large fruit market I saw was at San Francisco, and this was very poor indeed.

"Packing and grading are very thoroughly done. Grapes are packed first in small punnets, each holding about 6lb., and then packed four punnets to a box. Practically all grapes are delivered to packing houses, and thus the whole of the pack is standardised. Special facilities are made on the railways for handling fruit; all the cars in use are refrigerated, and the fruit is air-spaced in the cars with a space left right round the car, laths being tacked across each layer of boxes to prevent any movement of the cases. Californian grapes are railed 2,500 miles to the eastern states, the trip occupying six days, and I saw these grapes being sold in New York and Chicago in perfect condition.

"Citrus growers' co-operative packing houses are in a particularly strong position and absolutely rule the market. Taken all round, the distribution of fruit is much more highly organised in America than in Australia, and fruit forms a very considerable portion of the food of the people."

Penrith Public School

QUARTERLY EXAMINATIONS.

The following are the results of the September quarterly examinations at Penrith Superior School:—

Class 6A: Boys, Norman Hailstone 1, Leo Morris 2; girls, Marie Cooper 1, Alice Randall and Mona Mullis equal 2. Class 6B: Boys, Roy Paskin 1, William Jones 2; girls, Valda O'Meagher 1, Edna Tipping 2. Class 5: Boys, Gordon Roberts 1, Geo. Cowan 2; girls, Ruby Payne Scott and Nellie Deway (equal) 1, Marie Hinks and Gladys Upton (equal) 2. Class 4: Boys, Edwin Nolan and Ernie Rideout (equal) 1, Ray Hickson and Ronnie Dent (equal) 2, Arthur Stewart 3; girls, Kitty Peek 1, Sylvia Burden 2, F. Byrnes 3. Class 3: Boys, Frank Payne 1, Geoff Rees 2, Tom Errington 3; girls, Esther Allen 1, Maisie Mahon 2; Olive Blatch 3..

Infants' School.—Kindergarten: Boys, Stuart Clarke 1, Herbert Kearney 2, Harry Corr and Geoffrey Upton (equal) 3; girls, Marjorie Evans 1, Jean Dent and Annie Rideout 2, Emma Hair 3. 1A: Boys, Billy Howlett (430 marks) 1, Tom Ivery (415 marks) 2, Harold Merz and Desmond O'Meagher (410 (equal) 3. Girls, Gladys Allen and Ethel Basser (430 marks) (equal) 1, Dorothy Price (425 marks) 2, Maisie Burden (415 marks) 3. 2A: Eric Johnson (455 marks) 1, Geoff Jones and Don Ferguson (440 marks (equal) 2, Tom Densey (435 marks) 3; Louie Harrison (450 marks) 1, Sylvia King (435 marks) 2, Dvorothy Digby (430 marks) 3, 1B: Boys, Noel Brown (430 marks) 1, Jack Hamilton (425 marks) 2, Malcolm Crossman (415 marks) 3; girls, Thelma Roberts (435 marks) 1, Marjorie Giles (425 marks) 2, Eileen Easterbrook (415 marks) 3. 2 B: Boys, Tom Rideout (425 marks) 1, Max Foat (355 marks) 2, George Vaughan (350 marks) 3; girls, Celina Roberts (420 marks) 1, Phyllis Thomas and Daphne Hickson (equal) (400 marks) 2. Olive Craven, Emily Miller, and Jessie Williamson (365 marks) 3.

Attendance. — The undermentioned have not missed one day during the quarter: Kindergarten, Herbert Kearney; 1 B, Ted Hollier; 1 A, Henry East, Harold Merz, Gladys Allen, and Marjorie Brown; 2 B, Olive Craven, Hilda Fulton, Louis Rosenberg, Minnie Smith, Alfie East, Max Foat, and Clive Howe; 2A, George Barsing.

Penrith Commercial School

EXAMINATION RESULTS.

The following are the results of Penrith Commercial School examinations, the names in parenthese being those of the schools at which the pupils received their primary education:—

First Year.

Geography, Jean Collins (Cranebrook); algebra, Ken. Neale (Penrith); business principles, Jean Collins (Cranebrook); bookkeeping, Alma Handley Boolaroo) and Rob. Brell (Penrith) (aeq.); written arithmetic, Alma Handley (Boolaroo); mental arithmetic, Clyde Mitchell (Orchard Hills); English author, Jean Collins (Cranebrook); formal grammar, Clarice Messer (Penrith); mensuration, C. Mitchell (Orchard Hills); history, Annie Lett (St. Mary's); typewriting, Russel Upton (Penrith); geometry, A. Lett, J. Collins, C. Mitchell, and K. Neale (aeq.); science, A. Handley and K. Neale (aeq.).

Dux, Jean Collins (Cranebrook); second, Alma Handley (Boolaroo).

Special improvement during quarter, Hazel McKellar (Emu Plains), Mona Creevey (Wentworthville).

Second Year.

Geography, Geoff Gow (Penrith) and N. Peek (Mudgee) aeq.; business principles, Jack Orth (Penrith); bookkeeping, Alma Orth (Penrith), Will Murray (Penrith), and Eric Jay (Penrith) aeq. science, N. Peek (Mudgee); written arithmetic, W. Hinks (England); mental arithmetic, W. Hinks (England) and W. Murray (Penrith) aeq.; English author, N. Peck (Mudgee) and G. Gow (Penrith) aeq.; formal grammar, W. Murray (Penrith); mensuration, J. Orth (Penrith); history, J. Orth and A. Orth (Penrith) aeq.; geometry, N. Peck (Mudgee); typewriting, G. Gow (Penrith).

Dux: J. Orth (Penrith); second, W. Murray (Penrith).

Third Year.

Dux, Rita Brell (Werrington); second, Marjorie Lamming (Werrington).

BEFORE THE DAYS OF PAPER

Papyrus is what the Egyptians wrote on over four thousand years ago, and our word paper is derived from it.

Bladebones of sheep were used by the Arabs when paper was unknown, and many famous sayings have been found on these remarkable "paper substitutes."

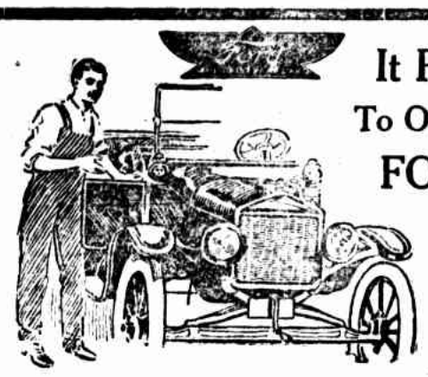
"Album," used by the Romans, was a preparation of white chalk, with which they covered the wood upon which they wrote. It is from this chalk, viz., white "album" that the modern word album is taken. The Romans carried tablets of wood or metal and a little bit of pointed iron to write with. The iron point was called a "stylus"—which suggests the present-day "stylo." Two of the tablets (sometimes covered with wax, sometimes with album), were often joined together by wire hinges, and the backs ornamented with ivory, gold, or precious stones. An expensive substitute for a double sheet of writing paper!

Leather was used by the Jews for writing purposes, and they were renowned for their skill in this respect.

Linen and silk took the place of paper as "writing materials" in many countries.

Thin plates of gold were used in Java in the production of a book before paper was made. It was written on both sides of these golden plates, and great writers, especially, Euclid, traced their designs with a stick on a table covered with common dust.

Oh, lead me where the arc-lights dazzle,
By the winter garden lake,
Join me where the jazz bands jazzle,
Swirl me in the "shimmie shakes,"
Fold me in my furs and wrappers,
I'll the ice-cold air endure,
Seat me where the frozen flappers
Sip their Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.



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MIDDLE CUT RIBS	5½d lb.	FORE QRS., from	2½d. lb.
ROLLED ROASTS	7½d lb.	MUTTON HAMS	5½d. lb.
FRYING STEAK	4½d lb.	SAUSAGES	4½d lb.
STEWING STEAK	3d lb.	FRYING CHOPS	3½d. lb.
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