

CITY COUNCIL

FORTNIGHTLY MEETING.

The fortnightly meeting was held at the Town Hall yesterday, present the Mayor (Cr. W. Beebe), and Crs. Curran, Abbott, Andrew, Wilkie, Murphy, Ross and Humberger. An apology was received from Cr. Dunstan.

FINANCE.

The treasurer (Mr. W. Honeybone) reported that the receipts for the fortnight ended December 20 totalled £3671 8s 11d; the main items being: Rates, £20 8s; Cattle Market tolls, £15 19s 9d; abattoirs, £24 0s 9d; Fish Corner, £23 8s; miscellaneous, £24 15s 7d; markets, £18 2s; interest, £23 8s. The pass-book showed a debit balance of £880 12s 7d, as compared with a debit balance of £7666 6s for the corresponding period last year. Accounts, amounting to £2276 18s 5d, were passed for payment.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From head teacher Bendigo Domestic Art School, thanking council for the street sweepings supplied for the school garden.—Received. From shire secretary Marong, advising that council has no funds at present to comply with the City Council's request for tree plantings at Kangaroo Flat, but the matter will receive attention.—Received.

REPORTS.

Curator Griffiths reported having undershared and removed dead wood from trees in a number of streets, and carried out all routine work. Mr. Griffiths also reported regarding the request made by Mr. J. K. Walker for the removal of a pine tree opposite his dental surgery in Hargreaves Street. He considered that the removal of a few of the higher limbs would meet the complaint.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

Cr. Andrew moved—"That the matter of placing gravel on footpath in Violet Street be referred to surveyor for attention, also that the bad state of the road and footpath near Falkett and Wilmot Streets receive attention."—Carried. Cr. Humberger moved—"That the city surveyor have the asphalt footpath between theatre and Forest Street, in McKenzie Street, repaired forthwith."—Carried. Cr. Ross moved—"That the surveyor have some repairs effected in front of entrance to the Violet Street School."—Carried.

AN EXTRA RATE.

MANDURANG RIDING'S MOVE.

GOOD ROADS DESIRED.

A requisition was presented by Crs. J. S. Hargreaves and F. Osborne for the monthly meeting of the Strathfieldsaye Shire Council yesterday requesting that an extra rate of threepence in the pound be levied in respect to the Mandurang riding. The total amount proposed to be raised by such rate is £195 1s, and the purpose was for gravelling and maintaining the roads that have been graded in the riding. This requisition was the outcome of a statement made by Cr. J. S. Hargreaves at the November meeting—that ratepayers of the Mandurang riding were determined to have good roads, and in order to obtain them were agreeable to pay the extra rate. Cr. Keck did not agree with the purpose of the rate. It stipulated "roads that have been graded." Cr. J. S. Hargreaves replied that he was not objecting to the general rate being judiciously spent otherwise. Cr. Somerville held the opinion that definite action should be deferred to the next month to allow the secretary to give notice to ratepayers as to how the money was to be expended. Cr. Osborne considered that members of the riding should definitely agree as to how the money should be applied. He was willing to "make it" general repairs. Mr. R. B. Brennan (secretary) pointed out that the Act stipulated that definite work should be specified. Cr. Keck said he desired the rate to be applied to the whole shire to prevent one riding borrowing from another. He was not, however, opposed to the extra rate for one year. On the motion of Cr. J. S. Hargreaves, it was unanimously agreed that the clerk of works be instructed to make the necessary estimate in accordance with the section of the Act with a view of making an extra 3d rate in the £1 in the Mandurang riding for one year.

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MEMORIALS OF THE BRAVE.

HONOR ROLL OF STATE SCHOOL SCHOLARS.

At the Recreation Hall, Strathfieldsaye, on Wednesday evening, an interesting gathering was held on the occasion of the unfolding of a roll of honor containing the names of scholars who formerly attended the State school at Strathfieldsaye and who have enlisted and gone to the front. The roll was prepared at the instance of the Strathfieldsaye branch of the Red Cross Society. There was a large attendance of parents and friends of the school who had taken an interest in the movement. The president of the shire (Cr. Somerville, J.P.), occupied the chair and was supported on the platform by Sir John Quick and Cr. W. S. Dunstan. The roll consisted of an illuminated tablet beautifully framed and containing the following names of Strathfieldsaye volunteers—Oliver Somerville, Walter Somerville, George Jones, Ernest Jones, Thomas Jones, Rector Jones, John Whitcombe, Gerald Nolan (killed), Alfred Manning, Stanley Webb, Henry Teague, John P. Teague, James Cairns and Jack Dobbie. The president, on opening the proceedings, congratulated the ladies of the Red Cross Society on the action they had taken in establishing such a roll of honor to commemorate the names of Strathfieldsaye soldiers.

Sir John Quick, to whom was assigned the duty of unveiling the memorial, then addressed the meeting. It was a pleasing duty, he said, to take part in any movement which placed on record the heroic services of Australian soldiers in the defence of their King and country. The Strathfieldsaye soldiers, in common with nearly 300,000 other Australian soldiers, had freely and voluntarily responded to the call of Empire, left their homes and families and belongings and went to the place of duty. They did not wait for compulsory military service. To them was due the greatest of credit as they had set a noble example of patriotism, self-sacrifice and devotion to duty which others might well follow. He said it was a splendid spectacle to see sons of the Empire in the Southern Seas going to the assistance of the Mother Country in her hour of trial and need. They should, however, recognise that they were not fighting merely for the people of the British Isles, but for their own freedom and in the defence of their own hearts and homes. It had been said that the test of citizenship was a readiness to sacrifice one's life for one's country. That was one test, but there was even a better and a more effective test of citizenship, and that was the capacity to render service in any suitable sphere of activity which might assist in saving the nation from peril and destruction. A man might render good service to his country without necessarily laying down his life. Everyone could help, men and women in their respective spheres according to their powers in this great war. Modern wars were not all won on the battlefield. The preparation for war and the manufacture of munitions and armaments necessary on the field of battle were just as important as the actual fighting in action. The factory and the workshop in which the munitions of war were prepared were as important as the firing line. The speaker greatly praised the valuable services rendered by women, not only in their mission of mercy in the relief of the wounded and the suffering, but also in other activities, as in England, where thousands of women were engaged in munition factories, thereby relieving men, who were able to go into the firing line. This great war had demonstrated the absolute equality of the sexes as regards citizenship and the rights, privileges and duties of citizenship. The mothers and fathers of soldiers who had allowed their sons, the flower of the family, to fight for their country were deserving of immortal honor and praise. The sons could say hereafter, "I was there, I fought in that battle and I helped to win." On the other hand, the parents could say, "My son was there, he helped." That would be a source of pride and consolation to those who had suffered, and given their best. Hereafter the scholars of the State schools in looking on the honor rolls which adorn the walls of their schools would be able to say, "Our boys were there and did their bit." It would be a duty of teachers to give those honor rolls a proud position in the schools and from time to time remind the pupils of the noble services of scholars who had gone before.

Sir John Quick then unveiled the honor roll and presented it to Mr. Ernest Crossley, the head master of the school. He asked him to take charge of and place it in a suitable position in the school, to be there held in trust as a memorial of service and sacrifice and a bright example and stimulus to others. Continuing, he said there were a few vacant places on the roll where other names could be filled in. It was well to understand that the war was not yet over, and that we wanted more men to bring it to a victorious conclusion. They did not want peace at any price. They only wanted peace through victory on terms dictated by the Allies. Above all they did not want to see the German colonies returned to Germany. They did not want to see North Eastern New Guinea restored again to a power which would only use it as a naval base and a constant menace to Australia. He was quite sure that his ally, Japan, would never give back to Germany the islands which they had conquered and taken possession of. Whatever happened he hoped that Great Britain and the Allies would be firm and be determined to see it through, until they were able to make a peace which would last for generations to come. (Applause.)

Mr. E. Crossley then said he had great pleasure in accepting the gift on behalf of the school and promised to find it a suitable position on the walls and to remind the scholars of the names of their former mates who had brought such honor and credit on the school. (Applause.) Musical contributions were given by the Misses Somerville and Lewis, and Cr. W. S. Dunstan expressed his great pleasure at being present to witness such an interesting ceremony, which was creditable to the ladies of Strathfieldsaye. He hoped the young Australians would be stimulated by the patriotic services of those who had gone to the front and would be prepared to make a similar sacrifice for their country. (Applause.)

The president said it was a great privilege to be present on such an interesting occasion, and, no doubt, other schools would soon have similar memorials. He moved a hearty vote of thanks to Sir John Quick, Cr. Dunstan and the young ladies who contributed musical selections. Mr. Crossley seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation. The visitors were then entertained with light refreshments supplied by the ladies of the Red Cross Society.

TICK IN LAMBS. COURT PROSECUTIONS. At the City Court yesterday morning before Messrs. R. B. Anderson, G. W. Knight and T. Somerville, J.S.P., Inspector Geo. Henderson proceeded against four men carrying tick found in the sale yards, where the lambs were offered for sale. Mr. J. P. Gleeson appeared for Paul Mitchell, W. Winfield and John Gaywood. After lengthy evidence was given Mr. Gleeson contended that ownership of the lambs had not been proved. The bench, however, took a different view and were satisfied the ownership had been proved. Fines of 10s, with 10s 6d costs, in each instance were inflicted. Mr. Luke Murphy appeared for John Cheyne, who was similarly charged. Mr. Murphy raised the question of ownership and the bench upheld his contention and dismissed the case without costs. Mr. Murphy emphatically protested against the prosecutions being launched as he contended similar prosecutions were not taken in Flemington yards. Thus patrons of the Bendigo sale yards were penalized and were discouraged in supporting the yards and send their stock to Flemington to evade the regulation. Mr. Henderson replied that prosecutions were being taken everywhere against owners who neglected to dip sheep, and also those who failed to send in proper returns. Mr. Henderson also proceeded against John Harris, who did not appear, but was guilty of leading gully. He was fined 10s, with 10s 6d costs.

EXPORT OF HORSES. FOR FOOD PURPOSES. Senator Story (S.A.) drew attention in the Senate to the existence in the back blocks of South Australia of hundreds of inferior horses and mares, that were not of more than £3 value each if marketed here, but which if killed and their carcasses exported to countries where horse flesh is eaten would realize from £8 to £10 per head. They were not suitable for breeding purposes, nor wanted, apparently, for anything else. Permission was asked to export the flesh to France, Italy or Belgium. Owners undertook to provide for slaughtering, dressing and shipping in Australia, if they could get this permission. So far customs officials had stopped such exportation. He asked for a ruling on the matter from the Government. Senator Russell, Assistant Minister, said he believed he was the person who stopped the exportation of horse flesh through misunderstanding the matter. Since Senator Story's explanation he saw no objection to it, and would bring the idea under the favorable notice of the Minister of Customs.

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IN MEMORIAM.

LIEUTENANT J. G. MCKAY.

On Sunday, November 17, at the Drummartin Methodist Church, an "In Memoriam" service to the late Lieutenant James Greer McKay was conducted by the Rev. T. B. Lancaster. The pulpit was suitably draped with the Union Jack and Australian flag. A large congregation assembled to honor the memory of the brave soldier, who during his short residence in the district, had endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact by his agreeable manner and cheery disposition. The preacher, in opening his address, said that he wished to take the opportunity of giving a summary of the life of a departed friend, and by a life so unselfish, so noble, given up in the cause of righteousness and Christianity when it held in store for him many hopes, to draw some lessons that would urge others to follow his example not only on the "field of honor," but in the performance of the daily round and common task. His watchword was declared "Duty First." When war was declared he first thought of returning to England and rejoining his own regiment. When Australia offered assistance to the Motherland he, after careful consideration of the matter, decided to offer his services to the Commonwealth. His previous military training and fine physique enabled him to join the First Expeditionary Force, and he sailed for Egypt in October. He took part in the memorable landing at Anzac and fought valiantly right through that campaign, and won his commission for his conduct and gallantry on the battlefield. He went with his brigade to France and shared with other Anzac heroes the privilege of taking his turn in the "first line" of trenches facing the enemy. He came unhurt through the terrible battle of the Somme, and later on the battle of Pozieres, and wrote praising the heroism of the men he led into action in these important engagements, concluding with the statement that none of them wished to be out of it until Britain stood victorious over her enemy. Although an Irishman by birth he spent most of his life at Leeds in England. He came to Australia, and the open free life of the farmer appealing to him, he made up his mind to gain experience and then settle on a farm. He cheerfully answered Australia's calls to arms to defend her liberties and his name is written on Australia's scroll of honor, the pages of which will never dim while descendants of the noble Anzac people our sunny land. In conclusion the rev. gentleman extended to the relatives in England and here heartfelt sympathy in the loss of the dear one, and also referred to the later bereavement sustained by the death of Corporal Alan McKay, son of Mr. and Mrs. N. B. McKay, and nephew of Miss Essie McKay.

At the conclusion of the service "The Dead March in Saul" was effectively rendered by Miss Nessie Nicholls, the congregation standing while the first tribute of honor was paid to the dead.

HORSE CRUELTY. APPEAL TO COUNCIL. "As he is a dumb animal," unable to complain, a universal slave, conscript to all and sundry, without appeal, it is the duty of no person, corporation or department to care for or take an interest in the protection of these dumb horses, and if any have the care of these matters they appear to have sadly neglected their duties or these daily proscribed cruelties would have been prosecuted out of existence long ago, and effective legislation would be in force to make such impossible in the future." Thus Mr. Jas. Dunn, of "Dunverton," Mont Albert, in a letter to the City Council, received yesterday, drawing attention to the cruel conditions under which horses have to work. He further stated that as there was no standardised legal load and no classification of horses, every carrier loads at present to any extent he chooses, irrespective of the capacity of the animal or animals he drives. He asked the council to take the matter up and convene a municipal conference which would ventilate the whole subject and insist on such legislation being passed as would stop for ever the evils complained of. The matter was referred to the Country Municipal Association, and to the Victorian Municipal Association.

Cr. Murphy said it was in the province of police duties to say what constitutes a cruelty. On Cr. Andrew's suggestion a copy of the letter will be forwarded to the local police. It was felt, however, that circumstances varied so much that it was practically an impossibility to frame a law or a by-law or standard legal loads. It was also decided to write to Mr. Dunn commending him for his good intentions, and informing him that the Police Offences Act provided the only possible machinery to deal with such cruelty. No Lady should be without Martin's Pills. Sold by all Chemists and Stores throughout Australasia.

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