

THE
HISTORY
OF
ST. KILDA

1840-1930

VOLUME II.

COOPER



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THE COUNCIL, 1930-31.

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THE HISTORY OF ST. KILDA

THE HISTORY OF
ST. KILDA
FROM ITS
FIRST SETTLEMENT TO A CITY
AND AFTER
1840 TO 1930
VOLUME I I.

Compiled by Order of the St. Kilda City Council
by
JOHN BUTLER COOPER

" *Aut scribenda agere, aut legenda scribere.*"
"To do what is inset to be recorded, or to write
what is worthy to be read."
[Inscription taken from the monument of John Stow, London's
16th Century Historian and Topographer]

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THE HISTORY OF ST. KILDA

VOLUME II.

CHAPTER XX.

Volunteer Movement in St. Kilda—First Meeting of Residents, 1859—St Kilda Volunteer Company Formed—Town Councillors Alleged Designs, Want Officerships -- Indignant Denials — Major-General McArthur Inspects Volunteers—Rifle Butts and Civilians' Dangers— Royal Victoria Artillery Company Recruited at St. Kilda—Lieut. Colonel Acland Anderson, Commander—A Field Battery, 1860—Some Remarkable Shooting—Major, now General, F. G. Hughes—H. M. Knox—A Military Dinner—Review of Troops, Point Ormond —A Sham Fight—A Real Fight—Orderly, Rooms, Chapel Street, 1865— Destruction of Tea Tree by Military—Major Sargood Remonstrated With—Vandalism Condemned—Replanting—Elwood Rifle Butts, and Park Street Reserve—The Final Roll Call.

The military volunteer movement was started in Victoria, in the year 1854, and it was the outcome of a Government Act, authorising the raising of volunteer corps. The reason for doing so, was the state of war, which prevailed between Britain and Russia. St. Kilda was not wanting in residents, who had the martial spirit of their race, and we presume that some of the keenest of them found their way to service in the Victoria Volunteer Artillery Corps, commanded by Lieut. Colonel Anderson, or in the Victorian Yeomanry Corps, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Ross. At a later date, these parent corps were reinforced by suburban units, or companies, that took the name of their districts. The volunteer movement, as a local unit, in St. Kilda, came into being in the year 1859 in this way. The Chairman of the Municipality, the Hon. Alexander Fraser M.L.C., received in July, a memorial, from Messrs. William

Nicholson, Bligh, Edward Sydes, a Writer to the Signet, Benjamin Cowderoy, Foxton, Wharton, Caple, and Dr. Van Hemert, a group described as helping to form the company, that made up "the most influential residents" of the municipality. Chairman Fraser gave the memorial publicity, by reading it aloud to the councillors of St. Kilda. These influential residents asked the Chairman to call a public meeting, "for the purpose of forming a rifle corps, and also, for the purpose of originating such measures, as may be deemed necessary to aid in protecting the colony from foreign aggression." Two purposes in fact disclosed in the one request, and both of them patriotic. The Chairman answered the prayers of eight memorialists, as in duty bound, since a real Highlander could do no less, by calling a meeting, to be held in the Court House, corner of Barkly and Grey Streets, on the following Monday. The Court House was a plain brick oblong room, with three or four steps leading to the court door. Some small offices were incorporated in the hall, or room, where Justice sat blindfolded. The Court would not hold many more people, than the number that could squeeze at a pinch, into the bar of the hotel, opposite, named "The Hare and Hounds Hotel;" one of the early historical hotels of St. Kilda, that followed the old English custom of having a sign showing, explanatory of its name. A picture was painted on the hotel's side wall, whereon was represented hounds, coursing a hare. It was, we think, the second hotel to be distinguished by a mention in Council minutes, March 24, 1857. While the martial crowd is assembling in front of the hotel, and Court House, we recall that the occasion of the reference to the hotel was when Councillor Thomas Hale moved, as one of the first works to be done, by the newly constituted Council "that the Surveyor, when appointed, be requested to make a survey of the Punt Road, with a view to its formation from the Junction Hotel, to the Hare and Hounds Hotel."

The Argus newspaper, reporting the meeting of intending volunteers says, "The public meeting held at St. Kilda yesterday evening, for the purpose of forming a rifle corps, was a great success. The Court House, where the meeting had been called for, was found to be too small for the purpose, and an adjournment was made to the theatre adjoining the Royal Hotel, where upwards of 500 people were specially congregated. Several resolutions were carried, amidst loud applause, and before the



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
Mitford Street.

close of the meeting, a large number of persons, who were present, had volunteered to form portion of the rifle corps. It was further resolved, that a committee should be appointed to take steps to increase the numbers, and to make by-laws for the regulations of the corps.

The chairman of the meeting was the Chairman of the Municipality. On the platform in Mooney's large room, variously called concert room and theatre, sitting alongside Fraser from Inverness, who made a shrewd chairman, were Lieut. Colonel Ross, Captain Butler Stoney, Captain Layard, Dr. Van Hemert, Dr. Spicer, Councillor B. Cowderoy, Messrs. W. H. Tuckett, Bligh, R. Nash, Down, H. Hart, J. Musson, O'Connor, McNaughton, J. M. Thomas, and others. The Town Clerk, Mr. G. E. Bradshaw, read the requisition of the meeting. Much warlike talk ensued. Benjamin Cowderoy essayed to give an account of the European question, but those present grew tired of his speech, and showed their impatience. One man described as "a working man," named William Calders, said he would enlist if he were paid to do so. The Government, he said, should place a tax on incomes, and pay men, working men who were hardy, and able to stand fatigue to fight. Another "working man" named Wall, supported what Calders had said, and added there were men in the room, who had fought in the Crimean War, and they wanted to be paid to fight.

Dr. Van Hemert moved:

"That considering the warlike character of the intelligence brought from England, by the last mail, and the unprotected state of the Colony, in the event of Great Britain being involved in war, this meeting is of the opinion that measures for its complete defence should be immediately adopted."

The motion was carried. One speaker said that, in the event of the British fleet, not arriving in time to protect Victoria, Victoria would have to rely upon itself. In that event they could send their gold away by American ships, and if the enemy interfered with these ships the fleet of America would deal with the pirates. One man said it was absurd to think that an enemy would land at Brighton, except in the circumstances of wanting a cabbage after his long voyage. He would come further up the bay. Another man said he had gone to Queenscliff, at his own expense, and he had formulated a plan of floating batteries that

would stop any of the enemy's ships entering the Port Phillip Heads. That would-be-saviour of Victoria, was, we regret to say, howled down. Another speaker said, "the meeting was all wrong." They had gone the wrong way to work. They should have settled first how much a man's widow was to receive. The speakers were quite serious, though a perusal of the remarks to-day, seems to suggest that the speakers were indulging in a little banter.

Councillor Cowderoy moved :

"That as one means of local defence this meeting is of opinion that a Rifle Corps, for the municipal district, be now formed, and that it be entitled the St. Kilda Company of the Victoria Metropolitan Volunteer Rifle Corps." This motion was carried.

Then came upon the scene Captain Butler Stoney, no mere amateur this man, but one who had smelt gunpowder, but let him speak of himself. The gallant captain told those present, in whose breasts were sprouting the seeds of military service, that he had seen war in all its aspects, and that he had served the Colors for twenty-three years. Such knowledge that he had acquired, and no one in that peaceful theatre of Mooney's hotel, doubted for a moment that the Captain knew of what he spoke, he placed at their service, and moreover he expressed his willingness to give up his time to turn them all into an awkward squad, and to pass them on transformed beyond that stage of drill, into the enviable position of the smartest rifle corps around Melbourne. Obviously, if the gallant Captain's twenty-three years with the Colors meant anything, it foreshadowed on his own promises, that he was a good drill sergeant, as well as an "officer and a gentleman." The trouble that arose was, according to the allegations, or slanders of the future rank and file of riflemen, that all the gentlemen wanted to be officers. Some newspaper correspondence took place owing to an allegation, "that several of the town councillors of St. Kilda were confidently looking forward to superior positions, in the force about to be established in St. Kilda, their claims being founded on their positions as councillors." Councillor Thomas Hale wrote in reply denying there was any truth in the statement. The councillors, he asserted, only desired to rank as full privates. If any councillors had sufficient merit they were entitled to the positions they could fill, irrespective of their office of councillorship. The

Council, at the time, consisted of the chairman, the Hon. A. Fraser, M.L.C., T. Hale, B. Cowderoy, H. Tullett, J. Mooney, F. Spicer, W. H. Cropper.

Considerable enthusiasm was shown by the promoters of the proposed corps, but not much was done, at first, in the way of progress. The meetings were opportunities to air bellicose sentiments, and to warn the enemy to beware how he trod on the British lion's tail, if he did not want the young sea lions of St. Kilda to roar at, and then to devour him. To push the project onwards, a meeting was called, to be held in the Melbourne Mechanics' Institute, now the Athenaeum Library and Theatre, Collins Street. The advertisement calling the meeting is interesting, on account the names of twenty prominent townsmen of St. Kilda, that were attached to it. The advertisement reads :-

"RIFLE CLUB FOR ST. KILDA.

"A meeting of persons, favourable to the formation of a rifle club, at St. Kilda (by way of supplement to the Volunteer Corps about to be established there) will be held this day, Saturday, July 23, 1859, at the Mechanics' Institute, Melbourne, at 12 o'clock noon.

"The distinctive features which will be submitted for adoption are :—

"1. Meetings for practice at hours convenient to business men (to be previously agreed upon), and under instructors of their own choosing.

"2. A simple, though uniform, civilian's suit, such as may without singularity be worn if desired, during ordinary business hours.

"3. Rules of the club's own framing, and including, the right of joining, and retiring at any time.

"4. The avoidance of all military discipline, or display, as unnecessary, except in the case of actual hostilities.

"The attendance of those favourable to the formation of such a club is particularly requested.

T. T. Beckett	Thomas Hamilton
Everett Bardwell	George Mackay
J. W. Brooke	George Macredie
Robert Caldwell	James Rattray
H. J. Chambers	J. Wilberforce Stephen
B. Cowderoy	E. Sandford
Edwin Fowler	J. Sutherland

W. C. Greville	M. W. Taylor
Alexander J. Gibb	W. M. Tennent
Robert Gill	T. Hamlet Taylor"

The meeting was not a success, due, it was said, to the mistake made in selecting a Saturday for holding it. Not half the persons whose names were attached to the advertisement, attended the meeting. Robert Caldwell was in the chair, and he adjourned the meeting until the following Tuesday, when a committee was appointed to draw up rules, and regulations, to govern the working of the corps. The committee consisted of, Messrs. Alexander Fraser junior, Captain Layard, Messrs. Richard Nash, H. Tullett, T. Hale, W. Sydney Smith, James Anderson, J. Mooney, and Thomas. Captain Butler Stoney's name was mentioned, but withdrawn, owing to an explanation that his commanding officer had forbidden him to have anything to do with the volunteer corps. Three of the committee men were councillors of St. Kilda, Messrs. Mooney, Hale and Tullett, while W. Sydney Smith was the Council's engineer. The volunteers enrolled numbered 56. The color of the uniform, selected for the corps, was that known as "Bombay blue." The standard height of the men was fixed at five feet five inches, and each man had, at least, to be eighteen years of age. Enrolments for the corps were taken at the Court of Petty Sessions on Wednesdays, and Saturdays, from three to six o'clock in the afternoon. The Deputy Adjutant General attended at the St. Kilda Court House on the Monday following, to enroll the men, and to administer the oath of loyalty to them as members of the new corps.

In September, 1859, the following complimentary paragraph concerning the rifle corps, appeared in The Argus newspaper:—

"The St. Kilda Rifle Corps is assuming a shape, both in regard to numbers, and efficiency very promising, and it bids far to be one of the crack corps in the Colony. A few days since Major-General Macarthur, C.B., Commander of the Forces in the Australian Colonies, was on the ground at the usual seven o'clock morning drill, and witnessed the company go through the various evolutions, under the able instructions of Colonel Pitt, assisted by Sergeant Price. The Major-General expressed his entire approbation at the rapid advancement the members of the corps had acquired since its enrolment."

Numbers of residents in St. Kilda were not so well pleased with the way some of the members sought to obtain proficiency in the use of the rifle. They wrote to the newspapers, saying that the St. Kilda Beach, along as far as Elwood, was not safe to walk upon, on account of bullets that came whistling over their heads. One writer said there were three butts, apparently between St. Kilda, and Elwood. The reply, on behalf of the corps, was that the dangers were exaggerated. One correspondent ended a long letter by saying that, "If the Government declined going to the expense of a running deer, I protest against (the volunteers) continuing to use human beings as a substitute, even though they be, as a volunteer coolly wrote some time ago 'only butcher boys'. It is reported on good grounds, that two persons have been hit, and the matter hushed up. To all remonstrances they refer us to the Colonel—, as if we cared for their colonel. Would he pay the surgeon's bill I should like to know." The letter was signed "Elwoodian." Evidently the writer assumed that there would be a surgeon's bill to pay, and not an undertaker's, so the shooting was not quite as deadly as it might have been. St. Kilda was so filled with martial spirit, at this time, that such letters did not stay the march of the St. Kilda volunteers, though, no doubt, steps were taken to stop this promiscuous shooting, from the cover of tea tree, across the line of the beach.

Closer settlement along the beach caused the authorities to close the Rifle Ranges, and the St. Kilda Battery's fortifications were demolished. The rifle ranges were moved further south along the beach, and the Elwood Rifle Range, bounded by St. Kilda Street on the east, was established in circumstances described later in this chapter. A few years elapsed and the Elwood range was closed. Where once bullets whistled through the air, nothing now more deadly flies than golfing balls, for the old range is, more or less, a portion of the Elsternwick golf links, since golfers play there at times. The meadow land is the playground of hundreds of skylarks, that on fine mornings may be heard carolling in the sky by the bathers from the Elwood Life Saving Club. The Club's building is on the site where the targets were placed. A rifle range was built on the West Beach, and near the range was a station on the St. Kilda railway line known as the "Butts Station." In the seventies building operations caused the authorities to dismantle the range; but it was

not abolished without many protests on behalf of the riflemen.

In front of the Junction Hotel, the St. Kilda Rifle Corps held its first drill, under the instruction of Lieut. Powell of the Collingwood Company. A few days afterwards the Corps was addressed by Major J. Hodgson, who said it was stated that the corps was composed more of boys than men, who were joining the corps because it gave them the opportunity of wearing silver braid. The "boys" were mostly men, according to the gallant major, and "men with families, who had something to defend." Growing warm, the major waxed almost as eloquent as a recruiting sergeant of the British Army. "If these shores were attacked," declared the major, "500 tolerable trained volunteers, extended along St. Kilda Beach, could keep off an enemy, whereas a company of regulars (60 strong) could not. The sum of £6,000 was to be spent upon the formation of rifle corps, and he looked upon it as a great honor to be allowed to drill the St. Kilda Rifle Corps."

Major Hodgson was not a St. Kilda resident. He resided at Studley Park, and his city address was the Melbourne Club. He held the responsible position of the Chairman of Committees in Parliament House. Because he belonged to another suburb, Major Hodgson mentioned the honor he felt in addressing the St. Kilda volunteers. In extolling the possible future prowess of the St. Kilda volunteers, the Major was probably having a sly shot at the 40th Regiment. The "regulars" rightly regarded the volunteers as amateurs in warfare, and smiled at them, hence the little sally. Evidence of this regimental aloofness was disclosed in the curt order given to the obliging Captain Butler Stoney, that he was to have "nothing to do with the St. Kilda Volunteers." The officers of the 40th Regiment, 2nd Somersetshire, may have felt the burden of their greatness, in the presence of colonists, mostly poor emigrants seeking places, and fortunes, but the rank and file, applefaced, good-natured, laughing Tommies as a corporate type were brothers to the emigrants, and popular, and specially were they popular with their sisters, whether those sisters were born in England, Scotland or Ireland. When the regimental band played, and it played at St. Kilda on one or two occasions, at archery, and other fetes, the young women emigrants always followed the call of the band. It was said that when the regimental band cheered the troops of the 40th regiment, embarking for China, with the pathetic tune of



BAPTIST CHURCH,
Pakington Street.



SALVATION ARMY HALL,
Camden Street.

"The Girl I Left Behind Me," that the young emigrant girls consoled themselves with the volunteers; who all had smart uniforms, though there was no volunteer uniform so smart as the silver piped one of the St. Kilda. Volunteer Riflemen, who had an orderly room built for them, on the Esplanade, next to Mooney's Royal Hotel.

The St. Kilda Volunteer Rifle Corps was recruited in July, and in the following month, August, 1859, a company of the Royal Victoria Artillery was raised in St. Kilda, under the title of the St. Kilda Company of the Royal Victoria Artillery Volunteer Regiment. The Acting Deputy Adjutant General, Captain D. Pitt took the oath of allegiance to Queen, and country, from the members of the whole company at Mooney's Royal Hotel, the Esplanade, on Friday, August 19. Captain Pitt and Colonel Pasley, expressed their "great satisfaction that the company had been formed, and they had no doubt that it would be a decided success."

Captain Pitt belonged to the Imperial Forces, and was attached to the 80th Regiment, and he filled the office of Acting Deputy Adjutant General, because of the sudden death of a popular officer, Lieut. Colonel J. M. B. Neill, H.P. Deputy Adjutant General The St Kilda arm of the Royal Victoria Volunteer Artillery Regiment was commanded by Lieut. Colonel William Acland Anderson, who was the son of Lieut. Colonel Joseph Anderson, C.B.K.H., the old Peninsular officer, who was the friend of the Aclands (the St. Kilda Dyke Aclands).

In the year 1860, at St. Kilda, a field battery of 32 pound guns, was formed, and the battery's headquarters were in the Orderly Room, Chapel Street, St Kilda. The first captain of the battery was James McCulloch (afterwards Sir James McCulloch, K.C.M.G.). He was succeeded in his command by James Balfour (afterwards an M.L.C.), and he, in turn, was followed by Frederick T. Sargood (afterwards Sir Frederick Sargood, K.C.M.G., M.L.C., and a Minister of Defence and Education *in* Victoria).

Under Captain Sargood's command, it was decided to erect fortifications on the sea shore, and the site chosen, as shown on a map of the sixties, was north of the Bluff The work was commenced under presumed war conditions. The gunners hurried forward with the work, camping on the beach at night,

until the fortifications were finished. Earth works were thrown up, gabions erected, and sandbags placed in position. u

Before the Battery possessed its Whitworth guns, some remarkable shooting performances took place in connection with the muzzle loading cannons. Once, when the gunners were firing at a target, moored in the sea beyond the Red Bluff, something went wrong. A cannon suddenly swung on its bearings, and when its muzzle was pointing inland, the charge in the gun exploded, sending a cannon ball against the wall of a house occupied by the late Douglas Dare, in Acland Street. The ball glanced off the wall, and continued its erratic flight until it fell through the roof of a washhouse into a copper, at the residence of the late Councillor S. P. Lord. This unexpected visitor so amused Lord that he placed the ball under a glass shade. The cannon was judged, from its extraordinary behaviour, to be the father of all the "Irish guns that shot round the corners."

St. Kilda seemed fated to be saluted by cannon balls. During big gun practice on a warship in the Bay, a wandering cannon ball went clean through a workshop at the residence of Mr. Stone, an organ builder on the West Beach of St. Kilda. He was one of the first residents in that portion of St. Kilda, and the father of the late Dr. Clara Stone. The cannon ball finally struck the George Hotel in Fitzroy Street, and there its career was stopped for the day.

The small arms supplied to the St. Kilda volunteers were not any better than the cannons allotted to the battery. The rifles were muzzle loaders of an inferior class, and worn out. They were the rejects of the British Army stores. The shooting made with them was often fearful as well as unexpected. On one occasion a Lieutenant, firing at the target, across the Elwood Swamp, killed a horse about one hundred yards to the right of the target, and the rifle, and not the Lieutenant, who was an expert marksman, was blamed.

A short rifle range was placed between Shakespeare Grove, and Blessington Street, and there was a nine hundred yards range from the corner of Southey Street, and Mitford Street across Elwood Swamp. An elevated pathway was made through the swamp leading to the target.

The St. Kilda Battery was the school in which many efficient artillery men were turned out, notably Major F. G.

Hughes, an ex-Mayor of St. Kilda, who was afterwards to "do his bit" in the Great War. He joined the battery as a gunner in 1875. He, it was, who went to England in 1885, in charge of the Rupertswood Battery, which represented Australia at Islington. This Battery won every event it entered, and it was the admiration of the British Army. Major Hughes, as its commander, attracted the notice of Queen Victoria. He was four times presented to Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, and was complimented by her and also given her autographed photograph. He was A.D.C. to His Excellency the Governor-General, and Lieut-Colonel, commanding the Seventh Light Horse Brigade. Another early member of the Artillery Battery, was the late H. M. Knox, who was, for many years, rate collector and municipal valuer of St. Kilda. He was secretary of the modern Rifle Club, which owed much of its success to Knox's enthusiasm.

Such pleasant social amenities as first class suppers were quite in the line of fire of the gallant volunteers. These gatherings were extolled by the newspapers, as a means to cementing fast friendships, between brothers-in-arms in the different branches of the army engaged in perfecting themselves in the arts of war. St. Kilda and Albert Park were the training grounds of the metropolitan area for the volunteers, and as the publicans of St. Kilda, and their cooks, were of the best, it followed that the volunteers looked to their efforts to appease them after spending arduous days in fighting an imaginary enemy. One such supper, typical of them as a whole, took place on Tuesday, January 9, 1861, when the St. Kilda Company of the Royal Victoria Artillery Regiment gave a supper to which were invited, the commanding officers of the different branches of the service, and a few of the 1st and 2nd St. Kilda Rifles. Among the guests present, at the supper, which took place at the Terminus Hotel, Fitzroy Street, and was presided over by Mr. Everett Bardwell, Mr. Cope acting as vice-chairman, were Lieut. Colonel Ross, Royal Yeomanry Cavalry, Major A. K. Smith of the Artillery, Captain R. Nash of the 1st St. Kilda Rifle, Captain Snee, the adjutant of the Artillery, and others. Lieut. Colonel Anderson was too unwell to attend, being overcome by the great heat. He had ridden that day 40 miles from the country for the express purpose of attending the supper. No word is given of the state of the gallant colonel's horse. Mi. Heynemann was the landlord of the Terminus Hotel. His supper

satisfied the 50 officers, and gentlemen, who sat down to it. A contemporary report states, "The convivialities were prolonged until a late hour in the morning, and the sun was not far below the horizon when the company separated."

What was considered at the time to be the finest review of troops ever held in Victoria took place at Point Ormond on July 1, 1862, in commemoration of the separation of the Port Phillip District from New South Wales in 1851. Twenty thousand persons were estimated to have been present, the day being a perfect one for such a martial display. Point Ormond was attacked by a landing party from the steam sloop of war, "Victoria," bearing the Austrian flag. She was assisted in the assault upon the land forces by the steamer "Lioness." The "Victoria" steamed within 300 yards of the shore, and fired several guns to cover the landing of her troops. They effected a landing on Elwood Beach; another party was landed on the north side of the Point Ormond. The latter, however, were quickly dislodged, for a company of Melbourne Rifles, hurrying from the Railway station to the review, met the invaders, and opened a sharp fire upon them. The "Victoria" shelled the Rifles, but they displayed the utmost valor, and refused to take the shell fire seriously.

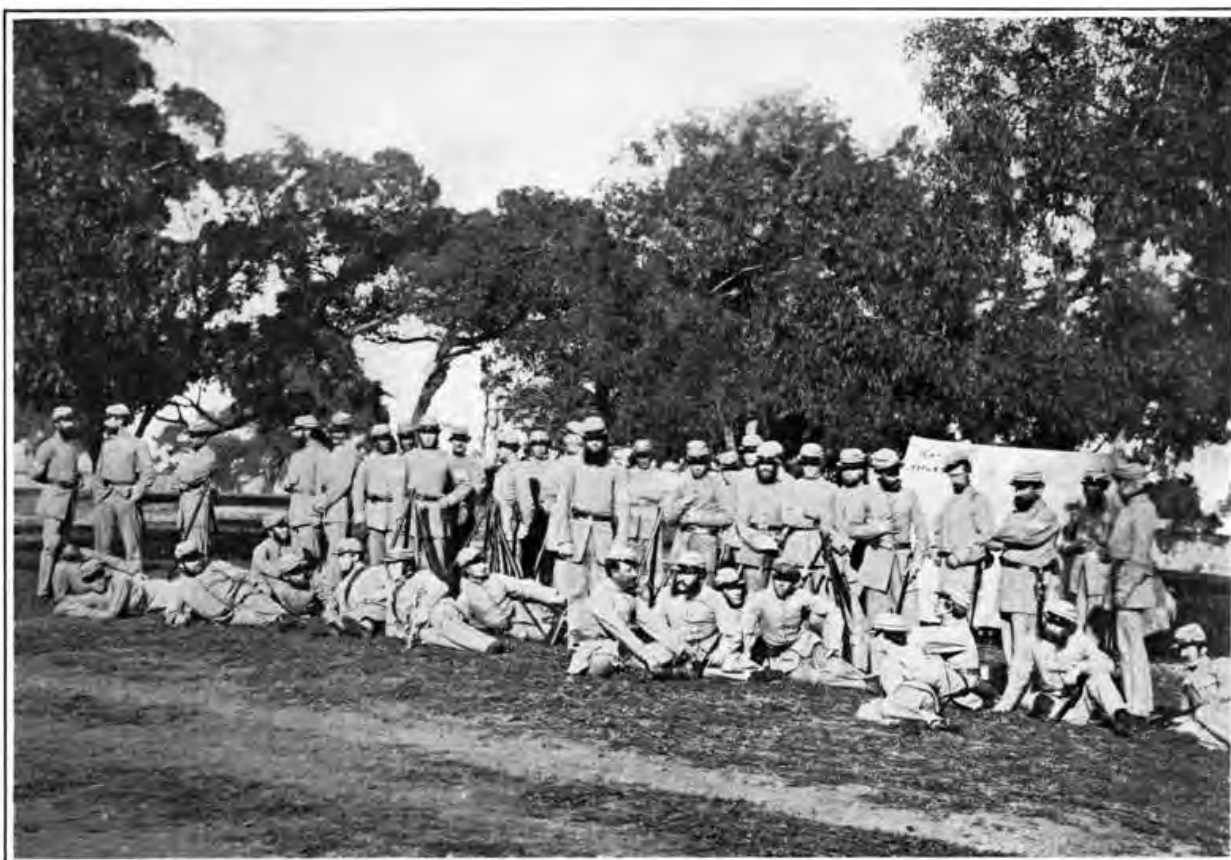
In the meantime the engineers of the land forces had constructed a bridge over the Elster Creek. With conspicuous gallantry, the Collingwood Rifles swarmed across the bridge, to repel the enemy on the south of the Bluff. The spectators greeted the brave rush of the Collingwood Rifles with loud cheers. Lieut. Colonel Anderson led the company on its desperate, and deathless charge. The Geelong, South Yarra, Hawthorn, Kew, Richmond and St. Kilda Rifles at the same time fired quick volleys into the ranks of the invaders. The invaders took to their boats, and rowed for the "Lioness" and "Victoria," the shore party, led off by the St. Kilda battery of 32 pounders, fired enough blank ammunition after the retreating boats to frighten those on board the "Victoria." When the troops boarded her, she fired a shot or two, and steamed across to Williamstown. There were 1,755 volunteers engaged in the sham fight; 981 volunteers belonged to Melbourne and the suburbs, 104 to Geelong, 412 artillery men, 30 engineers, 99 cavalrymen, and 30 engineers.

Point Ormond, or the Red Bluff, will not again be the scene of such a desperate fight. The volunteers have gone, and what would have seemed improbable to the 20,000 spectators, the sea head of the Red Bluff, and much more of the point, has been quarried away, and run on small contractors' trucks, rail road, inland to fill up the Elwood Swamp, the site of which is now covered by houses. From a lithographical copy of the orders without date, issued to officers on another occasion of a volunteer sham fight, we learn that the commanding officers of the attack were Captain Nash, 1st St. Kilda Rifles; Captain Radcliffe, Carlton Rifles. Commanding officers of the defence, Captain Ross, Artillery, Lieut. Smith, Engineers. The sketch plan of directions shows "swamp," "swamp and scrub," "scrub" and a "hollow road," none of which landmarks may be found to-day. The belts of tea tree shown on the plan occupy a considerable space on the plan. We gather from the key to "Plan of Attack and Defence," that towards the end of the battle the defenders issue "from the cover of the swampy ground," a masked battery opens fire, and the "B's," the attackers, meet "a sharp fusilade," after which they are no longer interested in the proceedings taking a place at the Point Ormond Battle to capture a magazine from a party of engineers, supported by volunteers. Such little affairs, "small wars," were not infrequent at Point Ormond. At Point Ormond there were entrenchments, sites for batteries, and other military engineering devices. The tents of the artillery men, and of the volunteers, were often to be seen along the Elwood shore line.

Volunteers were subjected to a great deal of good humored chaff from half scoffing outsiders, who professed to see something of the mock heroic in the movement. Some color of reason was given to the chaff of these ill-mannered civilians, owing to the fact that the soldiering was taken so seriously by the volunteers, engaged in the military duties when "playing at soldiers." As sometimes happens, in such cases, offenders against good taste arise, and they carry their jokes too far until they become no longer jokes but impertinences. It happened so at St. Kilda on one occasion. The scene took place at midnight, on the St. Kilda beach, and the impertinence then offered to the volunteers was the subject of a case, heard before the St. Kilda Court Bench, on January 26, 1864. The case created extraordinary interest in St. Kilda, as all except the complainant,

engaged in the case, were "influential residents" of St. Kilda, and leaders of the legal bar. The defendant was DeCoursey Ireland, son of the Hon. R. D. Ireland. He was charged with having been guilty of an assault, and with interfering with volunteers in the execution of their duty. Mr. Billing appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Aspinall conducted the defence. The court was crowded, and there was an overflow of people outside the court buildings. Many witnesses were examined. The complainant, Joseph F. Boyd, sergeant of the St. Kilda Volunteer Artillery, said he was sergeant of the guard at the volunteer encampment. From ten o'clock, till nearly midnight, he suffered annoyance from a number of young men, making a noise about the guard tent. At midnight, he heard an alarm call, "Sergeant Boyd, turn out the Guard !" an order he obeyed. His action was met with shouts of laughter. He had received orders to keep the bridge leading into the encampment, clear from strangers. The defendant refused to leave the bridge when ordered to do so. When attempts were made to enforce the order, the defendant struck him, and a fight took place, in which defendant's friends tried to assist him. The fight, and noise it occasioned, disturbed the whole camp, the commandant, Captain Balfour, and everyone else turned out. The camp flagstaff and flag were hurled from one side of the creek to the other. Eventually, the defendant was overpowered, and he was marched to the guard tent, a prisoner under arrest. He was detained in the tent until daybreak, when he was told to quit the camp, which he did, losing no time in so doing.

The defence? There was practically none offered. The excuse was made of an overflow of the spirits of youth combined with the spirits of malt. A fight had taken place at midnight, wherein a youth received a thrashing, and a rough manhandling passage to a military guard tent. The chairman of the Bench, Councillor Cowderoy, said the Justices regretted that the complaint had been made, and that the defendant had been brought into court. It was clear that the defendant had been severely punished, he had been arrested also, and detained for the night, in a guard tent. It was extremely unlikely, after the experience he had gone through, that the defendant would again visit a volunteer encampment at midnight. The case against the defendant was dismissed.



THE ST. KILDA RIFLE CORPS.

About 1858.

Under the heading "Tenders" in The Argus newspaper, dated June 5, 1865, the following advertisement appeared :—

"Tenders are required for erecting an orderly room for the St. Kilda Volunteer Royal Artillery Company, near Chapel Street Railway Station. Drawings and specifications to be seen at the office of Reed & Barnes, architects of Elizabeth Street."

The present railway station, "Windsor," was at first known as "Chapel Street Railway Station." The St. Kilda Volunteer Royal Artillery Company held a meeting on June 14, at the Court House, St. Kilda, for the purpose of considering the tenders received, and to decide upon the proposal to erect an orderly room. Captain Balfour presided over the meeting. He informed those present, that the Government had granted a site for the proposed building in Chapel Street, near to All Saints' Church. The Government had made a gift of the materials wherewith to build the orderly room, the materials coming from the old barracks in Spencer Street, which had been demolished. An examination of the tenders received for building the orderly room, showed that the four lowest tenders ranged from £333 to £349 10/, Lieut. Sargood laid the plans before the members of the Artillery Company, and also explained the financial position. The proposed building was to contain a drill room 80 x 40. On each side of that room were to be gun sheds, and in the rear of the building, apartments for the drill instructor. The plans represented, if carried out, an expenditure of about £750. Their advantages were, that the Company had the land whereon to build, and the materials wherewith to build. These assets, and the money they had in hand, and more money to come from the Government, with the prospect of recruits becoming "effectuals," say altogether about £120, would mean their assets were about £500 of the £750 required. That would leave £250 to be raised. He proposed to raise that sum by 5/- debentures, to be issued to members of the Company. The sum of 2/6 was to be paid on allotment, and 2/6 within a month. The debentures were to bear ten per cent. interest. If it was necessary, he would subscribe for an equal number of debentures taken up by the Company. The members entered into the spirit of the project. In a few minutes 803 debentures were taken up, three debentures in excess of the number required. No time was lost in building the Orderly Room.

The Orderly Room of the St. Kilda Artillery was visited in September, 1868, by the Governor, Sir Henry Manners Sutton, K.C.B., and Major General Sir Trevor Chute, K.C.B., the officer commanding the Australian Military Forces. The drill room was considered to be the handsomest in the metropolis. At that date the cost of its construction had been £1,559. Of that sum, only £176 had been received from Government allowances, but £779 had come from private sources. A debt of £605 rested on the building. The parade ground was 220 feet square, well lighted with gas. The corps had provided themselves with unusually ample means of instruction. Besides erecting a two gun 32 pounder battery, and long and short range butts, they had two Whitworth 3 pounder field guns, and were expecting four more from England. They also had a very complete gymnasium. The parade, before the Governor, included Captain F. T. Sargood, Captain W. Strachan, Lieutenant G. N. Turner, Lieutenant E. B. Hearne, Lieutenant Watson, 7 non-commissioned officers, 132 rank, and file, and 11 members of the band. Sergeant Read, and Gunners Williams, and Mann, gave a gymnastic display. The St. Kilda Artillery, at that time, consisted of 5 officers, 7 sergeants, 146 rank and file, total strength 158.

Gymnastic displays were given in the Orderly Room, and also more elaborate entertainments, called "Assaults at Arms." One display was given in the room on October 10, 1868, by the St. Kilda Royal Victoria Volunteer Company. The exhibition was in the presence of Colonel Anderson, and Lieut. Colonel Rear, and their staffs of officers, and Captain Sargood, and officers of the Battery. Fencing, and bouts with single sticks were features of these Assaults at Arms. For a time, they were very popular forms of an evening's amusement.

In 1868 the St. Kilda short range shooting butts were moved to the Elwood side of Southey Street. The work was carried out and finished under the direction of Sergeant Morton of the Engineer Corps, father of Mr. H. E. Morton, who was a municipal surveyor of the St. Kilda Council, and afterwards for the Melbourne City Council. The new butts, it was stated, were "further along the shore than the old ones, and close to the mouth of the second St. Kilda drain. No rifle shooting was allowed at the butts after the hour of 8.30 a.m., so that those who practised rifle shooting in St. Kilda had, of necessity, to be early risers.

In January, 1874, it was announced that the Government had permanently reserved, and vested in the Board of Land and

Works, 54 acres, more or less, county of Bourke, borough of St. Kilda, at Elwood, commencing at the point where the north, boundary of the reserve for the Rifle Ranges abuts on the Ormond Beach, bounded thence by the said reserve, bearing east to the one-chain road, which forms the south-west boundary of suburban allotments 9 to 20, thence by that road, bearing north westerly, and by the prolongation of Barkly Street, bearing north to the creek, forming the southern boundary of the abattoirs site, thence by that creek to Ormond Beach, and thence by that beach south easterly to the commencing point.

The St. Kilda Artillery Corps had been for some time using its rifle butts, on sufferance, as the line of the ranges crossed some private ground. It was decided (1874) that new butts should be erected further along the shore towards Brighton. In order to save the funds of the Corps, the members volunteered to do the work themselves. A commencement was made on January 23, when sixty members of the Corps went under the command of Major Sargood, and began the formation of the 300 yards range butts. On the following Monday, Colonel Anderson, wishing to assist in the work, sent to the site fifty men belonging to the Garrison Corps, who worked at the erection of the butts from 2 o'clock till 7 p.m. When it was found there were not enough tools for each company of men, the Garrison Corps was marched back to the Barracks. The St. Kilda Borough Surveyor reported to the Council on February 9, 1874, that Major Sargood had cut down a clump of tea-tree, for the purpose of constructing the rifle butts, on the northern side of the Elsternwick swamp. Having heard that the Major contemplated cutting down more tea-tree on the southern side, he had written to him on the subject. The Mayor replied that his men only cut down dead tea-tree, it was Colonel Anderson's men who cut down the living tea-tree, as they were anxious to assist in the construction of the new butts. Councillor Tullett thought that it would be a proper action to write to the Major, a very strong letter, calling upon him to replace by young trees quite as much of the scrub as was cut down. Until the Major did so, the Major would not be doing his duty. Since the scrub had been destroyed, the place had *become* quite a desert, whereas he well remembered the time when it was a nice green sward. Other councillors agreed with the remarks made by Councillor Tullett, and it was decided to write a letter to Major Sargood, expressive of regret at the destruction

of the scrub, and to suggest that he replace the same with some young trees. Whether Major Sargood, afterwards the Hon. Sir Frederick T. Sargood, K.C.M.G., M.L.C., and Lieut. Col., winner of the first prize at the first meeting for rifle shooting, held in Victoria, under the auspices of the Caledonian Society, did so replace by young plants the matured tea-tree which had been cut down we do not know, but being the man he was, if he realised the enormity of the vandalism done, by the military, to the groves, he probably did as he was asked to do. The attempt to restore the trees, on the beach land, by new growths must have been a failure since the Elwood Beach has not yet recovered from the assault made by the military upon its tea-trees. Such trees are more easily destroyed on beaches than young ones may be grown to replace them. Nature in the kindly art of tea-tree growth is a better gardener than man. The wild self-sown tea tree has a hardiness of growth that the plantation tea-tree is very slow in acquiring. We can suffer more readily the disappearance of the volunteer movement than we can withhold our regrets for the untimely disappearance of those "groves of tea-tree" marked as existing on the early maps of Elwood.

The military was by no means the first offender, nor the last, to be engaged in cutting down tea-trees. It was stated in *The Argus*, August 31, 1859, that in broad daylight persons may be seen destroying the charming little belt of trees near the beach towards the Red Bluff by chopping the trees down and carting them away in a dray. "Not many years before," continues the writer of the complaint, "the space between St. Kilda, and Sandridge, facing the sea, was one beautiful thicket of trees, but what remains now?" Such contemporary complaints show that, before the year 1859, the beaches were being stripped of their tea-tree groves by residents wanting cheap firewood.

The task of attempting to restore the beach lands, so far as the growth of tea-tree was involved at Elwood, into something resembling their pristine condition, was left to devolve on a modern St. Kilda Council. On April 12, 1926, the St. Kilda Council approved of a recommendation made by its Parks and Gardens' Committee that "to preserve the existing tea-tree, and to hasten new growth at Elwood Park, the triangular reserve, immediately north-west of Bluff Road, and Ormond Esplanade be enclosed with a close picket fence, and the tea-tree thereon trimmed up, and grass sown in the enclosure; also that the

north-west end of the large reserve, from Bendigo Avenue towards Bluff Road be similarly treated. Further that the new planting of tea-tree be carried over the balance of the reserve."

The Victorian volunteer force was disbanded in January, 1884. The Government issued a memorandum, thanking the officers, the non-commissioned officers, and the rank, and file, of the volunteer force, for their services. The St. Kilda Artillery held its last muster—its final roll call—at the Orderly Room, Chapel Street, Captain Hacker, commanding the fine body of men for the last time. The men fell in on parade. Captain Hacker read the order from Lieut. Colonel Sargood, disbanding the battery. He tendered his thanks to officers, non-commissioned officers, and gunners, and so ended the honorable career of the St. Kilda Artillery. The new Militia Infantry Force, for the District, started by enlistments, at the Southern Rifle Orderly Room, in Punt Road, on February 13, 1884. The first enrollment showed that eighteen members of the St. Kilda Artillery had joined the new military organisation, so the martial spirit of the old battery lived on, and still does so. The drill room is now officially known as No. 7 Drill Room 2nd and 4th A.F.A. Brigade.

The Defence Department, at the request of the St. Kilda Council and the Brighton Council, and the Yacht Clubs closed the Elwood butts against Rifle Clubs at the end of June 1907. The Elwood rifle range was 500 yards maximum and .303 rifles were used. For a while, after the range was closed, cadets, firing with Francotte rifles that carried a bullet the distance of 200 yards were permitted to use the range. Then miniature ranges up to 50 yards came into vogue, and the old butts were finally dismantled.

CHAPTER XXI.

The Genesis of Albert Park—The Melbourne City, Corporation and the Proposed Home Park—The Lagoon and Marshy Land—West Beach Land Affected—Proposals to Turn Lagoon into Lake—The Engineer in-Chief's Report—Pumping Water from the River Yarra to the Lagoon—Emerald Hill Council Covetous—Wants Part of Park for Burial Ground—St. Kilda Council Successfully Objects—Hon. Gavan Duffy Sells Park Frontages, 1865—Political Opportunists, Messrs. Kerford and Casey, Follow Duffy's Example, 1875—Broken Ministerial Promises—St. Kilda Council's Protests—The Alpaca Park—Why so Named—The Pan Committee of Management—Its Veteran Chairman, Councillor O'Donnell—Government Park Subsidy Trouble.*

IT has been stated, in public print, that the Council of the Melbourne City Corporation, petitioned the Government, in the year 1844, that is two years after the city was incorporated, to reserve a piece of land as a park, which land is the domain that we now call Albert Park, named after Albert the Good, the Royal Consort of Queen Victoria. We have not, in our researches been fortunate enough to find contemporary authority for such a statement. What we have learnt by a perusal of the first minute books of the Melbourne Corporation, we venture to quote as authoritative. At the Melbourne Council, held on February 9, 1846, it was resolved, on the motion of Councillor Kerr, seconded by Alderman Condell, "That the Legislative Committee be instructed to inquire forthwith, as to the privileges, accruing to the inhabitants of Melbourne, in, and over, the public lands of the township." Whatever those rights were, if any, they probably included Town Common rights of grazing stock. We do not know if any action was taken by the Town Council, as the outcome of the answer to the inquiry. Some time passed, apparently, before anything further was done. In the Town Council's minute book, under date, June 20, 1853, at the Council meeting, Councillor Davis moved, and Councillor Haywood seconded, "That the Right Worshipful The Mayor, be requested to make application to the Executive Government, to grant to the Corporation the tract of land, lying between the Emerald Hill, and St. Kilda, and between the Government



THE ALBERT PARK DRIVE.

Looking across Fitzroy Street to Princes Street. From a photograph taken about 1862.

Domain, and the Bay, as a Home Park for public recreation." The motion was carried, subject to an amendment, that added the words, after St. Kilda, "as shown in the plan, prepared by the City Surveyor, as a Home Park." On November 28, a letter was read in Council meeting, from the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, in which he stated that "the Lieutenant Governor is not, at the present time prepared to make the reserve, asked for by the City Council, for Park Land in South Melbourne, but he will not alienate, from the Crown, any portion of the land applied for."

The Melbourne City Council was interested in having a Home Park reserved that should serve as a common for the city of Melbourne. There were visionaries in those days, but they had not the advantage of telescopic sight. They desired, *inter alia*, that the Home Park should act as a grazing area for the cows that were to supply Melbourne with milk. And that came to pass. The Albert Park was *used* at first, as a cow run, as were also the lands across the St. Kilda Road, the Fawkner Park. Both parks were not unlike well stocked cattle runs. Some of the dairymen had there herds of 30 and 40 cows. At about four o'clock, in the afternoon, the cows gathered at the Park gates, and mooed, in one continuous roar, wanting to be driven home to be milked, as we, in school, well remember was the case, in the year 1874, when the National School, in Punt Road, hard by the park gates, was built of corrugated iron. The parks were within the sphere of the Melbourne City Council's influence, at a time when the St. Kilda Road was only indicated, through the bush, by shallow V shaped ditches on either side, which were the surveyor's boundary lines of the yet unformed and timber encumbered road. Not so far from the park lands a track led off the unformed St. Kilda Road, striking due east through the thick bush. The track was so poorly marked, that two persons lost it, on their way to John Gardiner's cattle station on Gardiner's Creek, Malvern. The road, superimposed upon that track, is now called Toorak Road. The Melbourne Council was reaching out for dominion, but its covetous gaze was principally to the south, to the Green Knoll, to St. Kilda, where there appeared to be a prospect of a seaside settlement. It was this expansion, and the St. Kilda dream realised, that incidentally set the heart of the Melbourne City Council on having a large common—the Home Park—within its city's empty spaces. The growth of the suburban settlements, and the subsequent forma-

tion of municipalities, caused the City Council to partially retreat from its extensions. In the end, the Melbourne City fathers wisely recognised, that the neighboring councils to the Home Park, had perhaps more interest in it, than the city, specially as times and ways, had changed so considerably.

The proposed "Home Park," consisted of 560 acres, that included in its area, a lagoon. The land was part of 745 acres that was afterwards permanently reserved, in the year 1864, and since that date, kept for "the use, and the enjoyment, by the public, as a park." A list of parcels of land, issued by the Government, in 1871, showed 724 acres of Albert Park as reserved land, and the Alpaca Reserve, Fitzroy Street, St. Kilda, consisting of 21 acres, 2 roods, and 19 perches, as forming a permanently reserved part of Albert Park. In May, 1867, the lands were vested in the Board of Land and Works. Once reserved, not permanently reserved, the land lay fattening through summer, and winter, visited by few people, outside of wood thieves, or sportsmen, who went after the wild fowls that frequented fen lands. The lagoon itself, was a large sheet of shallow water, that spread out into marshy lands, and when swollen, with winters' rains, its surplus waters drained towards where the St. Kilda Railway Station is now, and so helped to increase the waters in the swampy land that, more or less, covered the West Beach, which at that time was houseless.

We have a memorandum of one of the Selwyn Smiths, wherein he states, that, as a boy, he recollected a weatherboard house known as "Carter's Folly," reputed to be haunted by the unshriven spirits of those, drowned in Hobsons' Bay. It was the only dwelling, except some huts of Chinese, between Kenney's Baths, and Emerald Hill. Carter was a dentist, who had forgotten the story of the foolish man, who built his house upon the sand, and, of how the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell. The seashore sand of St. Kilda, carried by the wind, lodged against the paling fences which enclosed the house, and also against the walls of the house, until of the palings, six feet in height, scarcely a foot of them appeared above the piled up sand. The passage ways alongside the house had disappeared in sand drifts. We well remember the building, in situation somewhere in the block of land now formed by the Beaconsfield Parade, Mary and Fitzroy Streets. There the house lay, a sand

choked derelict, the south-east corner of the building being swallowed up in sand. Portions of the almost submerged back verandah were used by trespassing goats as a shelter shed.

The apparent worthlessness of the Albert Park lands, from lagoon to the sea, may have been one of the factors that saved the land being apportioned and sold, left the way open for the reservation obtained by the Melbourne City Corporation. Sea shells, found beneath the surface of the park lands, suggest that the waters of the bay, at one time, covered a portion of Albert Park, and that the lagoon was left by the receding waves as a salt water marsh. The luxuriance of growth of the creeping plants of pigface, of mesembryanthemums, partial to being rooted in saline soil, found along the banks of the present Albert Park Lake is another sign, which tells the story of the sea that has receded. Indeed, the drift of the sand against Carter's old house was a modern instance of how the tendency of the shore line is towards a noticeable drift to the west, and, if further evidence of that movement is sought, it may be found in the constantly growing shoals of sand, along the West St. Kilda beach, and elsewhere, along the shore line.

In the year 1860, the Government promised a vote of £600 towards the improvement of "South Park," on the condition that at the Fitzroy Street end of the road, to be made through the Park, there should be a toll bar erected, a collector employed, and a tariff of tolls fixed, similar to the one that was in force on the Brighton Road Toll Bar. The Government required also, that a regulation should be passed, prohibiting certain vehicles, drays among them, from being driven on the road through the Park. The St. Kilda Council was in favor of the Government's proposal, but the Emerald Hill Council was opposed to any such restrictions being made. The Emerald Hill Council, speaking through its chairman, Councillor R. S. Anderson, said his Council "strongly reprobated the attempt to foster the growth of a colonial aristocracy, granting conveniences to wealthy people alone," and he alluded, sarcastically, "to the assumption of those, who were more familiar with the inside of a counter, than the interior of a carriage." The Emerald Hill Council passed a motion, declining to pay towards the expense of a toll bar.

The original minute book of the conference on the South Park Lagoon in Albert Park, 1871, is in the possession of the St. Kilda Council. The first delegates from the City Council of Melbourne

-were, Aldermen -Wragge, Bayles, Williams, Story, O'Grady, and Councillor Curtain; from the Town Council of Prahan the Mayor, and Councillors Lacey, and *Ogg*, from the borough councils of St. Kilda, Emerald Hill, and Sandridge, the Mayors and St. Kilda Councillors Lord, and Murray, Emerald Hill (now South Melbourne) Councillors Sandilands and Hoffman, and Sandridge (now Port Melbourne) Councilors Poolman, and Carrick. The first meeting was held in the Town Hall, Melbourne, on June 27, 1871. In addition to the delegates there were present, Messrs. Hood and Bage on behalf of the Albert Park Regatta Committee, Dr. Thomson, and the Town Clerks of Emerald Hill, and St. Kilda. Alderman Wragge was appointed chairman of the conference, and the town clerk of St. Kilda, Mr. George Sprigg, acted as the conference secretary. Sydney W. Smith, the surveyor of St. Kilda, had prepared a preliminary survey of the lagoon, and an estimate of the cost of deepening it. The Mayor of St. Kilda moved and the motion was carried:—

"That it is expedient that the lagoon in Albert Park be so deepened as to form a boating course."

A further motion was carried to the effect that the Government be requested to survey the lagoon, and to "furnish the conference with a trial section of a race course showing a depth of not less than four feet six inches of water, and in other portions of the lagoon, a depth of from three to four feet."

When the President of the Board of Land and Works, the Hon. James Macpherson Grant, was interviewed, on July 7, by a deputation from the Conference, the President "expressed himself as much interested in the scheme, and promised to have the required survey made as soon as possible." On January 23, 1872, the plans of the survey of the lagoon made by the Assistant Commissioner of Lands and Survey, were before the Conference, and it was decided to wait on him "to discuss the matter of cost, &c." Evidently, having called upon the Government for assistance the councils feared that following the Government's usual practice when it contributed towards cost of any- work, the Government would require some readjustment of the executive, and representation on the Boards of Management, the councils, per the Conference, decided to impress upon the Assistant Commissioner, "that in the opinion of this Conference, it is not desirable that any change should be made in the management of Albert Park."

When the Conference saw the Commissioner of Lands and Survey, he received them "most favourably." The Commissioner was so by virtue of his inclusion in Sir Charles Gavan Duffy Ministry and Grant had joined Duffy in June, 1871, and he administered the Lands Department until June, 1872, when he received the Conference, "most favourably," his days as a Commissioner of Lands and Works were numbered. He told the Conference he was willing to place £6,000 upon the estimates, "if it could be shown, that for this sum any real good could be done, in making the lagoon available for regatta and general purposes." This sum was insufficient for the original scheme, and a modified plan was favoured, the purpose of which was, to reduce the span of the proposed channel to 200 feet, and to make it only four feet in depth. The cost of doing so was estimated at £6,500. This amount was eventually placed on the Parliamentary estimates and passed by the Legislative Assembly for payment.

The lagoon was known as the South Park Lagoon. At a meeting of the Conference, held on October 10, 1872, Alderman Wragge in the chair, it was moved by Councillor Lord (St. Kilda) and seconded by Councillor J. Nimmo, "that the name of the lagoon be changed to that of Albert Lake," which was carried. Common usage refused to drop the descriptive word "Park," and the old lagoon's placename partly survives in the name the Albert Park Lake.

In the year 1873 the Government Engineer-in-Chief made a report on the "Albert Lake," and in January, 1873, the Minister of Lands invited the Albert Park Lagoon Improvement Committee to attend at his office to hear the report read. The sum of £6,500 which had been voted by Parliament, was then available for the purposes of being spent on the improvement of the lagoon. The plan proposed by the Engineer-in-Chief, was to deepen the northern half of the lagoon to a minimum depth of three feet; to raise the surface level of the water by six inches. The spoil obtained from the work of dredging the lagoon was to be deposited along the margin of the lagoon, and a bank formed thereby, while, at the same time, the spoil was to be spread, in such a way, along the lagoon's margin, that the changing spread of lagoon's area would be, to some extent arrested and diminished. In that way, the engineer purposed to do away with the lagoon's shallow, waterlogged foreshore. Water to fill the

lagoon, to the required depth, was to be pumped from the river Yarra, and to be carried from the river's bank, in a twelve-inch main of earthenware pipes leading on a regularly falling gradient to the level of the lagoon. The steam engine pump, it was stated, could be also utilised to pump the river water for distribution in the Government House domain, and in the Botanical Gardens. We have a memory of seeing that pumping plant, on the banks of the river Yarra, at work, and of being told, that the water was being pumped to the Albert Park Lagoon. With an idea of economy it was suggested that it would be less costly to flood the lagoon with salt water, but the Engineer-in-Chief, was opposed to that course because, "the salt water would become, in hot weather, extremely offensive, and also being excessively salt, would injure the vegetation, on the margin of the lagoon." The object of improving the lagoon was stated to be to create a stretch of water, that could be used for sailing upon in pleasure boats. When the improvements were finished, it was estimated that at the St. Kilda end of the lagoon there would be an increased depth of six inches of water.

The Emerald Hill Council on two occasions, attempted to secure control of the South Park, extending as far as Fitzroy Street, for the purposes of converting the park into a burial ground for its dead. Had the Emerald Hill Council been successful, the park lands, bordering Fitzroy Street, from the St. Kilda Junction to the St. Kilda Railway Station, would have been a graveyard, instead of, as at present, the site of lawns, gardens, trees, a bowling green, and the Park State School. At the time of the second attempt, to secure the South Park for burial purposes, the St. Kilda Cemetery, in Dandenong Road, had been in use for nine years. That St. Kilda was saved from having a cemetery in Fitzroy Street, stands to the credit of the St. Kilda Councils of the years of the fifties, and specially to the St. Kilda Council of 1860, headed by its indignant Mayor, Councillor Benjamin Cowderoy. The other members of the Council were Councillors H. Tullett, Edward Sydes, J. H. Kelson, Florence Gardiner, J. M. Thomas, B. F. Bunny, F. Spicer, and James Mason.

In the early part of the year 1859 Charles Gavan Duffy, President of Land and Works, in the O'Shannassy Ministry, notwithstanding the protests of the St. Kilda, and Prahran Councils, sold allotments of land that he filched out of Fawkner Park. Those allotments of land had their frontages to St. Kilda Road.

The land on the west side of St. Kilda Road, Albert Park, was not then offered for sale by Duffy; possibly he wished to avoid a glut of land sales of allotments fronting St. Kilda Road. Duffy's excuse, or explanation, for selling portions of Fawkner Park was that, "the Government wanted money, and the land must therefore be sold." Duffy drafted some conditions of purchase, in an endeavor to placate the people for depriving them of a portion of their park lands. The lands, bordering on the St. Kilda Road, were plotted into 100 feet frontages, and they were submitted to auction with the riding contract of sale conditions with each Crown Grant, that the land bought must be used, only, for the erection of a dwelling place, and the house to be erected thereon must face the St. Kilda Road. Purchasers had the right, which in one, or two cases, they exercised, to build on the 100 feet frontage allotments, a terrace of houses not less than two stories in height. The design for such houses had to be approved by the authorities of the Board of Land and Works. The Crown reserved the power, in case the purchaser did not carry out the clauses of his contract, to re-enter into possession of the land, the purchaser forfeiting all his ownership rights.

Later than the year 1859, the St. Kilda Council had to fight two political opportunists, Messrs. Kerford, and Casey, who tried to sell public park lands against the wishes of the people. Casey said "he had the power to sell the lands, and he would sell them." Though Casey was a St. Kilda resident, he was not a persona grata with the St. Kilda Council.

When James Goodall Francis, described as "one of the most popular Chief Secretaries who ever held office in Victoria," resigned his office, and the Francis Ministry ceased to be, on July 31, 1874, George Biscoe Kerferd became Premier, and Attorney General. James Joseph Casey accepted the positions of Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey, President of the Board of Land and Works, and Minister of Agriculture. During the first parliamentary recess of the Kerferd Ministry, a Government advertisement appeared, foreshadowing a sale of the frontages of Albert Park to St. Kilda Road. Parliament not being in session, the Ministry was beyond the reach of public criticism in the House by the Opposition members, but Casey nevertheless felt the hot draught of the people's disapproval. He felt it necessary to give some explanation of his actions, and he offered the

statement, that the public reserves, in size, were out of all proportion to the population of Melbourne, and of suburbs. Plainly, the Honorable James Joseph Casey's vision of the futures of Melbourne, and of St. Kilda, was not of the best.

The advertisement to sell the park lands was read in St. Kilda, with astonishment and alarm. The general impression, up to that time, among the residents, was that the land for the park had already been permanently reserved, and that the Kerferd Ministry was going beyond its powers in offering any portion of the park for sale. Enquiries showed, however, that the Government was legally within its rights, though morally the Ministry was breaking faith with the public, as represented by the St. Kilda, and Emerald Hill Councils.

The position was that, in the year 1873, the Francis Ministry made certain proposals to the St. Kilda, and Emerald Hill Councils, regarding the control of the park lands. While those negotiations were in progress, notices were inserted in the Government Gazette, that it was the intention of the Government to permanently reserve the lands of the park, for the use of the public for all time. Through these advertisements the impression was created, in the minds of the residents of St. Kilda, and Emerald Hill, that the park was permanently reserved. The order of the Governor-in-Council permanently reserving the park was not made, and therefore not published. The park lands were simply Crown Lands, and they lay at the mercy of any impecunious Ministry that chose to outrage the spirit of the compact made between the Francis Ministry and the people south of the Yarra.

The Honorable J. J. Casey, Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey, and President of the Board of Land and Works, was in a fleeting expansive mood in July, 1873. He said he would vest the Albert Park in the two local bodies interested, the St. Kilda Borough Council, and the Emerald Hill Town Council, as well as in the Board of Land and Works, and further, promised that, for a period of ten years, the Government would provide half the expenses incurred in maintaining the park. The expenses of the park's maintenance, were estimated by the Assistant Commissioner, at £1,200 per year. Casey said that the Department would contribute £600, and the two local bodies would have, each of them, to pay the sum of £300. The revenue

derived from the park—grazing licences—would be taken by the Department to defray part of the expenses of the works at the lagoon.

The St. Kilda Council was astounded to learn that the Government was paying a slim approximating £1,200 per year, in wages, and other expenses, for the supervision of the park. Such an outgoing, in the circumstances of poor returns, appeared to the councillors to be ridiculous. When they sought further particulars, with a view to an understanding of how such a sum was appropriated, they were not given any information, but were told that inner workings of the park's management concerned the Department, and not the Council. In those circumstances the Council thought, that the sum of £150 was an ample subsidy to pay for a share in the control of the park. The Department's ministerial head evidently believed half a loaf was better than no bread, for in two months' time he had gone round to the Council's way of thinking.

On November 25, 1873, a deputation from the St. Kilda Council, and the Emerald Hill Council, waited on the Minister of Lands, and informed him that, in reply to communications, received from his department, the Councils of St. Kilda, and of Emerald Hill, had agreed to contribute the sum of £150 per annum each, for ten years, towards the maintenance, and the improvement of the Albert Park, the Government providing an equal sum, viz., £300, thus furnishing a total of £600 for the purpose, on the condition, that the Park be immediately conveyed to the Board of Land and Works, and to the two Council in trust for public recreation, for all time. At the end of ten years, the Board of Land and Works, was to retire from the trust, and to leave the management of the Park solely to the St. Kilda Council, and the Emerald Hill Council.

Without consulting the St. Kilda Council, the Emerald Hill Council accepted the proposal of Government' to take 'control of the park, in conjunction with the Board of Land and Works. The contract to do so was on the eve of being signed, when the St. Kilda Borough Council discovered that the Emerald Hill Council, and the Board of Land and Works had quietly agreed to obtain the control of the Alpaca (Park School) Reserve, and the St. Kilda cricket ground. The St. Kilda Council's very strong opinion was that each municipality, in conjunction with the Board of Land and Works, should have control of such



PRINCES STREET AND DRIVE THROUGH ALBERT PARK.
(About 1864). Reproduced from an old photograph lent by the Misses Hart.

portions of the park as were within their own boundaries, and further, the St. Kilda Council objected to the Emerald Hill Council having any control of land, within the Borough of St. Kilda. The St. Kilda Council acted promptly. Next day the Mayor of St. Kilda, the Town Clerk, and the Surveyor, waited on the Minister of Lands, and Agriculture, and stated to him the views of the St. Kilda Council. It was not legal, the St. Kilda Councillors said, for the Emerald Hill Council to spend any money outside its own boundary line, and therefore the park lands in St. Kilda territory could not benefit by the control of them being vested in the Emerald Hill Council. In the end the St. Kilda Council's right to control the lands in question had to be admitted. A meeting of representatives from the three corporate bodies interested was then held, and though some of the councillors of Emerald Hill were churlish enough to object to the St. Kilda Council coming into the agreement as they asserted "at the last moment," the Minister (Casey) suggested that the two Councils should meet, consult, and agree, and afterwards submit to him a memorandum of agreement for his consideration. The two Councils did meet, and they did agree to submit the following memorandum to the Minister :-

"1. That Albert Park be permanently vested by deed of grant in the three corporations—the Board of Land and Works and borough councils of Emerald Hill, and St. Kilda for ten years."

"2. That the revenue shall be received by the said corporations, and the balance necessary for maintenance shall be borne equally by the three corporations for ten years."

"3. At the end of ten years, the park to be managed by the corporations of Emerald Hill, and St. Kilda, equally, and solely at their expense."

The Minister of Lands, and Agriculture, signified his acquiescence in this agreement, which was then signed by the councils' representatives, but not as, was discovered afterwards, by the Minister. The councillors supposed everything was in order, but at the St. Kilda Council meeting, held on September 20, 1875, the Mayor reported that the agreement was, that the Board of Land and Works, and the Emerald Hill and St. Kilda Councils, were to each contribute one third of the cost of the management of Albert Park, and to have, in return for the pay-



ST. KILDA RAILWAY STATION.

From a book of engravings published by Sands, Kenny & Co., Melbourne, 1862, and presented to the Council by Cr. Geo. Cummings.

ments, a share in the management. Clearly that was the intention, and the agreement was signed by the councils on that understanding. The Minister had not completed the contract by signing the agreement, and the document was not a legal one. It had no force whatsoever to bind the Government since, lacking the Minister's signature, the Government was not yet legally a party to it. The councils now learnt that the Government wished to receive the councils' subsidies, but that the Minister did not intend that the councils should participate in the control of the park !

This extraordinary conduct, upon the part of a Minister of the Crown, was generally condemned, as being unworthy of a Government political departmental head. It was difficult for the councillors of a purely beneficent corporate body, like the St. Kilda Council, to understand why the Government was guilty of such covetous perverseness, displayed with regard to the Albert Park reserve since, in theory, at least, the Government was desirous of creating public parks to be used for the recreation of the community of Melbourne, that found its pleasures in out-door amusements. There could be no question of the St. Kilda Council's good faith, and that its wish to be given a share in the management of the park arose solely from the desire of the Council to improve the park lands, lands that would be to the general body of the ratepayers of St. Kilda, a source of expense, far in excess of the value the majority of them would receive from such park lands. The reservation of the park lands, for all time, lay behind the St. Kilda's attempt to share in the stewardship of the park. On the other hand, the Government looked upon the Crown lands as an asset that, did it become necessary, could be, by public auction, turned into cash, an assertion that is clearly proved by the constant nibbling of the Government at park lands. In South St. Kilda the land that is now the Brighton municipal golf links was surveyed in part for a Crown Lands Sale, which was only averted by strenuous municipal opposition.

In February, 1875, the following paragraph appeared in the St. Kilda Advertiser: "It has been decided by the Government to permanently reserve the Albert Park lagoon, and the greater portion of the park, for recreative purposes. At present, there is nothing to prevent the whole area being cut up, and sold, in building allotments. A strip of the park, facing the St.

Kilda Road will not, however, be permanently reserved, but will be sold for villa sites, on certain building conditions. By this means, it is anticipated that handsome residences will be erected there, as is the case on the opposite side of the road, and the approach to Melbourne, from the south, will then be something worthy of a great city. The sea frontage to the park will also be reserved for building sites, to be disposed of at some future day."

The Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Wilks, convened a public meeting of the residents of St. Kilda, on March 4, 1875, for the purpose of taking into consideration, the Government proposal to sell the frontages of Albert Park, and to determine what steps should be taken to have the whole park permanently reserved for the use of the public. The Mayor, at the meeting, reviewed the actions of previous ministries, with regard to the reservation of the Albert Park. He alluded to the notices given in the Government Gazette for the permanent reservation of the Alpaca Reserve, and the approval of the Government to the Council being made trustees of the reserve. He described the steps taken for the vesting of the Albert Park, in the Board of Land and Works, and the councils of St. Kilda and Emerald Hill. He related how in the year 1873, the Government made a proposition to the councils, that if the two local bodies each contributed £300 a year towards the maintenance of the Park, the Board of Land and Works, would add £600 per annum, and that for ten years the land should be vested in the two councils with the Board of Land and Works, but the arrangement proposed was not to the liking of the councils, and it was rejected. Notices had appeared in the Government Gazette that the land was reserved, but the notices were not "notices of permanent reservation."

The following long resolution was carried, on the motion of J. B. Hughes, seconded by J. Matheson :-

"That this meeting has heard with surprise, and regret that the Government propose to sell for building allotments the land in Albert Park, fronting the road from Melbourne to St. Kilda, and Fitzroy Street, and from that road to the St. Kilda railway station. This meeting therefore requests His Worship the Mayor, and the Municipal Council of St. Kilda, to form a deputation to the Premier to ask the Government to permanently reserve, as a public park, for the health and recreation of the people of Victoria, the

whole of the land in Albert Park, between Emerald Hill and St. Kilda ; and between the Melbourne Road, and the St. Kilda Railway, now, and for many years, set apart, enclosed, and used, as such public park; or that further action, in regard to the proposed sale, may be postponed until after the next meeting of Parliament. This meeting further requests that the corporation of Melbourne, and the municipalities of Prahran, Emerald Hill, and Sandridge, be invited to join in the proposed deputation, and this meeting pledges itself not to cease agitating until the reserves are placed in the hands of trustees so that it will be impossible for the Government to make away with them."

One speaker, at the meeting, McNaughton, said that he thought the public had a legal right to the land, because the sum of £7,000 of public money had been just spent on the lagoon improvements, and the drainage from any houses to be erected on the lots proposed to be sold, must go into the lagoon.

The Council had received a letter from the Secretary of Lands, stating that the frontages to the St. Kilda Road, and the allotments at the back of them, fronting the Albert Park would be sold, also some allotments in Fitzroy Street, the land being subject to special conditions as to the building, similar to the conditions under which the allotments, on the east side of St. Kilda Road were sold.

At the meeting of the St. Kilda Council, held on June 28, 1875, a letter was read from the Secretary of Lands, stating that the Hon. the Minister of Lands and Agriculture, had become aware, during a debate in the Legislative Assembly, that the sale of certain lots, without building conditions, was contrary to a letter written to the St. Kilda Borough Council in March, and he had therefore decided to cancel the proposed sale. Instructions had been given to an officer of the Department to so modify the survey, that the whole of the Fitzroy Street frontage, embracing the Alpaca Reserve, and the cricket ground, shall be included in the park. "The allotments not interfering," the letter said, "with the cricket ground, and Queen's Terrace will shortly be offered for sale, subject to building conditions."

The Alpaca Reserve, or Paddock, is a recurring place name in the history of St. Kilda. The Alpaca Reserve was the paddock extending from the line of railway east to the Park Road, and bounded on the north by a line running about the south base

of the Albert Park Lake, with Fitzroy Street as the south boundary of the paddock.

This place name, though now obsolete, is another instance of the often remote, and extraneous influences that are responsible for the naming of places. Before 1853, the residents of St. Kilda, and probably few in Australia, had ever heard of Don Manuel Antonio Flores of Bolivia, and it is doubtful if many of them ever did hear of him; nevertheless Don Flores was the Spanish don who was indirectly responsible for St. Kilda having its "Alpaca Paddock."

In a Hobart Town paper of June, 1853, a paragraph appears, which was copied into The Argus of June 11, 1853. The paragraph reads: "A correspondence has taken place with reference to a proposal made to the British Government by Don Manuel Antonio Flores, of Bolivia, to export a number of alpacas to Australia. The Duke of Newcastle referring to the subject instructs the Lieut.-Governor, should he find the colonists of this island favourable to the export, to communicate with the British Consul at Lima, who has received the necessary instructions. The subject, therefore, deserves the attention of the colonists."

The outcome was that some alpacas were imported into Victoria from Bolivia. There were nineteen animals in the herd, and they were landed from the ship "Goddess," at Sandridge, in the early morning of February 10, 1859. For a time they were confined in a paddock, at South Yarra, next to Dr. Mueller's residence. The animals were afterwards taken to the Royal Park. The St. Kilda Council always had at the back of its corporate mind the thought that a park should contain deer, and if not fallow deer, since they were unprocurable, why not "smaller deer" in the form of alpacas? The Baron, as the doctor afterwards became, was always a close civic friend of the St. Kilda Council, so it was not surprising that the Council contrived to secure some of the alpacas for the South Park. On January 8, 1864, a paragraph in The Argus newspaper states, "We understand that six alpacas, from the flock in the Royal Park, are to be placed permanently in St. Kilda Park, which consists of twenty acres of land, well adapted as a nursing ground for the South American strangers." Later, we learn, from a report of a meeting of the Acclimatisation Society, that the "six llama alpacas had been placed in the South Park, in accordance with

the request of the St. Kilda Borough Council." The animals did not thrive in the Park. A skin disease attacked their coats, destroying the hair. The St. Kilda Council returned the animals to the Royal Park, but the place of their enclosure in the Albert Park survived for many years in the place name of the Alpaca Paddock.

The Crown Lands Bailiff reported to the Assistant Commissioner of Lands and Survey, that Albert Park keeper Ritchie, had complained to him, that "some of the young gentlemen of St. Kilda are in the habit of playing at football, in the portion of the Albert Park, enclosed for the Alpacas, and that they cause much damage to the fences, by climbing over them in going, to and leaving the ground." The St. Kilda Council was asked by the Assistant Commissioner, in a letter dated July 21, 1864, to restrain the "young gentlemen of St. Kilda" from doing such things.

We do not purpose to review the whole of the many acts of the Albert Park Committee, a body of men, in recent years, under the chairmanship of the esteemed St. Kilda citizen, Councillor O'Donnell, that has made the Park the pleasance of public resort which it is to-day. The Committee under its wise chairman's leadership has had to fight many battles. The St. Kilda Council has always listened with interest when Councillor O'Donnell, as chairman of the Albert Park Committee, speaks of the Park and of what is being done there. On October 4, 1920, he reported to the Council that the Albert Park Land Bill had passed the Legislature. This Act provided that £1,250, being the purchase money, less £100, of the Orderly Room, would be paid direct by the Albert Park Committee for sewerage purposes. The Act also provided for an easement to enable the Commonwealth authorities to obtain access to the old Orderly Room site. The Committee, at that date, was preparing a scheme for carrying out the sewerage of the Park. On November 15, the Council received a letter, from the Albert Park Committee, stating that the laborers in the Park had asked for an increase of their wages from 12/- per day, to 13/- per day. Thirteen shillings was the basic wage per day for municipal employees. Under the arrangements that existed, the three parties to the Albert Park Trust, shared in any amount paid over the rate of 9/- per day each laborer. Seven men were concerned in the application. The Council agreed to share the additional cost of increasing

the men's wages to the basic standard. And so the tally of the work of the Albert Park Committee goes on, from year to year, under the guidance of its veteran chairman.

A fair measure of an energetic and wide awake council's business is comprised in the act of the councillors girding their loins, and going forth to interview the Ministers of various departments, who are in power, and who, in some way or other, contemplate acts that are not to the interests of the municipality the councillors have the honor to represent. Any student of municipal activities, in relation to the acts of councils, wherein the Government of the day is concerned, must come to the considered conclusion that the public at large owe more to the municipal councils than to the Government, inasmuch as the Government repeatedly designs to do acts or to undo acts, that have been done, which designs are, in either case, very often detrimental to the common welfare. Successive Governments, without local knowledge of what has gone before their advent, come to decisions to commit what are public administrative blunders, which had they fortified themselves with the necessary local knowledge would have been avoided. Perusal of an official file of papers, no doubt, discloses to the official mind, a record of transactions that have taken place, but so far as the spirit of a work is concerned the file bears about as much relation to, say a trust body's doings, as a dictionary of words does to a well written tale. The tendencies too of Governments are to float and to finance a trust responsibility undertaken jointly by a council, and say the Public Works Department, and then, when some years have passed, to intimate that the Government can no longer give any subsidies, and so, of necessity, the council must find the money for the upkeep, say of a park, over which the council only exercises a permissive control in the interests of the general public, and not necessarily for the council's own citizens, and ratepayers; indeed, such a stewardship, restricted to purely local interests, does not exist in St. Kilda, and we doubt if it does elsewhere. Yet the Government's attitude of holding aloof from pecuniary obligations, would lead one, who did not know, to presuppose that the Government was a power that had no direct obligation to do as much, and more, for the people in these trust responsibilities, than any good natured council that assumes control, and pays a portion of its rate revenue in the assumption, and rightly so, that it is serving the interests of the

general public, quite as much as the welfare of its own residents. The fact that honorary members of these trusts are well accredited men, and very often shrewd business men who place their knowledge, at the service of the public, and give their time to the work of the trust seems to be overlooked by the Government, and the Departmental authorities, who are well paid for their services, even when those services are carried out, in such a way, as to- embarrass the men who are undertaking the honorary work.

The vast volume of work done for the public weal, by the great army of honorary workers, occupying positions on municipal councils, board trusts, and kindred bodies, is beyond computation. The paid parliamentarians are a mere handful of men, and it is abundantly clear that they have but a small measure of credit due to them for the social welfare of the people, compared to the debt owing to the honorary workers, whose gratuitous services must save the country every year thousands of pounds.

An instance of one of these threatened and unwarranted embarrassments, was when the St. Kilda Council was informed by the Albert Park Committee of management on November 27, 1922, that the Government threatened to withdraw its annual grant towards the maintenance, and the improvement of the Albert Park. The Hon., the Treasurer, the Council was informed, had been asked to receive a deputation on the subject, and the St. Kilda Council, being one of the trustees of the Park was asked to appoint a representative. In addition to the representatives on the Albert Park Trust, Councillor Clarke was appointed to attend the deputation. A discussion ensued in the Council, as to what would be the situation, in the event of the Government withdrawing its financial assistance. Councillor Clarke moved, and Councillor Unsworth seconded, a motion, "that the constitution of the Albert Park Committee of Management, and the St. Kilda Shore Committee, from the point of view of representation in relation to contribution be considered at the next meeting of the Public Works Committee. Councillor O'Donnell moved an amendment, which Councillor Allen seconded, "that the matter stand over pending the result of the deputation to the Treasurer. The amendment was put and lost, and the motion carried, the voting being 6 to 5, the members of the Shore Committee voting against the motion. At the St. Kilda

Council meeting held on January 22, 1923, Councillor O'Donnell reported, that as the result of a large deputation from South Melbourne, and St Kilda, the Hon. the Treasurer had agreed on the reinstatement, for the present, of the Government grant, to the Albert Park Committee of Management, the subsidy to be paid in quarterly instalments. Councillor O'Donnell stated the Minister intended to call a conference of the municipalities to consider the future of the Park. The St. Kilda Council decided to pay its subsidy to the Park Committee quarterly.



OLD TOWN HALL AND RECONSTRUCTED COURT HOUSE.

From the original water-colour design by Mr. Sydney W. Smith, then Surveyor to the Municipality.

CHAPTER XXII.

The Town Hall—Foundation Stone Laid, 1859—Town Hall Finished—Description of Building—The Memorial Tablet Question—The Word "Honourable?"—Fighting Tactics in Council—Melbourne Amused—The End—No Inscription on Town Hall—Opening of Town Hall—Council's First Sitting in Town Hall, January. 4, 1860—A Notable Ball—Additions to Town Hall Proposed—The 1869 Town Hall Agitation—Councillors and Ratepayers—Supreme Court Judgment—The New City Hall —The 1883 —The Battle for Sites—The Organ Bait of James Mason —Carlisle Street Site Selected—Opening of the City Hall—City Statistics—Proclamation of the City of St. Kilda by Lord Hopetoun—Counoillor O'Donnell Mayor—The City Hall—Alterations and Additions—St. Kilda New Police Court and Station—The Town Hall's End.

IN the year 1859, the St. Kilda Council obtained from the Government a grant of Crown land, at the junction of Acland and Barkly Streets. Permission was given by the Government to sell the land, and to devote the proceeds obtained from the sale to the two-fold purpose of forming a new road, from Carlisle Street West, to Acland Street, and the Esplanade, and also to apply the moneys towards building a much needed Town Hall and Municipal offices. Before the councillors were able to purchase the land to open up this roadway and thereby do away with the street's blind end, they had prolonged and tedious negotiations with the owners. After many days they succeeded in buying the land they required. They made the road, and also built a bridge over an open drain. In May, of the same year, the Council directed the Town Surveyor, Sydney W. Smith, to draw plans, and specifications, for the erection of a town hall. The plans were prepared, and approved of by the Council, and the work of the building of the town hall was commenced. The foundation stone of the St. Kilda Town Hall, without any inscription being placed upon it, was laid on July 12, 1859, by the chairman of the municipality, the Honorable Alexander Fraser, M.L.C. A silver trowel, with a suitable inscription, was presented to the chairman by his brother councillors "as a mark of the esteem they entertained for him."

In the month of September, 1859, the Town Hall building was nearing its completion, and the councillors anticipated that the offices would be ready for occupation in a month. Councillors admitted that the building was, "without any great pretensions to architectural excellence. The mount, at the disposal of the Council, was merely sufficient to carry out the work on the strictest economical principles, nevertheless the edifice," it was said, "will prove an ornament to the municipality, and reflects great credit on the architect." The first Council meeting, in the new Town Hall, was not held until January 4, 1860.

A description of the building, evidently from the hand of the Town Surveyor himself, states: "Both fronts are in the Roman Doric style with Italian windows. The facade to each street is 63 feet in length, and the depth of the building is 58 feet, 6 inches, thus forming nearly a square. On entering the Town Hall, from Grey Street, there is, on the right hand, and, on the left, entering the building from Barkly Street—the municipal chamber where the meetings of the Council will be held. This room extends the whole length of the building, viz., 58 feet, 6 inches, with a breadth of 32 feet. There are two entrances to the chamber, from the lobby, one close to each porch. That near Grey Street, opens on to the main body of the hall, appropriated to the public, whilst the door, at the Barkly Street entrance, will lead to a moveable dais, 21 feet by 32, which will be for the members of the Council. In this portion of the hall will also be situated the reporters' box. The ceiling of the large hall is what is termed an elliptical cove ceiling, 21 feet in height, and the architect hopes, that by the manner in which it has been constructed, he will be able to secure a perfect sound, without laboring under the disadvantage of an echo. A Roman Doric cornice for the internal, as well as the external decorations, is in that style. It extends round the four sides of the room, and is supported by Doric pilasters. A large, and handsome centre flower piece is placed in the middle of the ceiling. By daytime, the hall will be lighted by the windows at each end ; viz., two ordinary windows on either side of a bay ; at night, it will be illuminated by two large sunlights, fixed in the ceiling, and supplied with gas. On the left hand of the lobby, which is 9 feet, 6 inches in breadth, and facing each street, is the Town Surveyor's room ; an apartment 18 feet by 15 feet, and 17 feet in height. Immediately at the back of it, and with doors

communicating with it, as well as with the lobby, is the contractors' room, 18 feet by 12 feet. Next to that room, and with an entrance, both from the lobby, and the Town Clerk's office, is the committee room, for the use of the members of the Council. This chamber is the same size as that of the contractors."

"Behind the Committee room, and facing Barkly Street, is the Town Clerk's office, 18 feet by 15 feet. All the offices are of the same height, viz. 17 feet. Each room will be lighted by gas, having brackets fixed in the wall. The ventilation of the building has been well attended to, there being four ventilating shafts, along the whole of the building, on either side. The walls of the edifice, which are of brick, are covered with Portland cement. The elevation from the ground is 26 feet. The municipal chamber, besides being appropriated to the use, to which it was specially destined, will be eminently adapted, from its large size, to many other purposes, such as public meetings, balls etc. In this respect, it is soon intended to turn it to account, as the Wesleyans purpose holding a bazaar in it towards the close of the year." The bazaar was held to raise funds to pay for the brick chapel, in Fitzroy Street, which had superseded a wooden chapel.

Continuing the description, the report states, that "The members of the Church of England, resident in St. Kilda, have also been thinking of a similar proceeding. In addition to this, there is some idea of inaugurating the opening of the Town Hall by a dejeuner, to be succeeded in the evening by a ball. The building, which has been erected on ground, granted for municipal purposes to the Council, by the Government will cost, when completed, about £1,850, a sum which will include the gas, fittings etc. The contractor for the Town Hall is Mr. William Allen of Robe Street, and the contract has been carried out under the superintendence of Mr. W. Sydney Smith, the Town Surveyor and the original designer of the edifice."

"In addition to the building of the Town Hall, a considerable improvement to the Court House is in the course of being effected, by the erection of a handsome portico with pediment, and flight of steps, facing the angle, formed by the junction of Grey, and Barkly Streets, and on either side of the portico, facing the two above named streets, is a colonnade of pillars in the Roman Doric style. This alteration, in the Court House, is being carried out at the expense of the Government, which

granted £500 for the purpose, but the design was prepared by Mr. Sydney Smith, although the plans, and specifications, were submitted for the inspection of Mr. Wardell, the Government architect, whose approval they met with. As soon as the Town Hall is ready for occupation the two offices in the Court House, now tenanted by the Town Clerk, and Town Surveyor, will be given up to the Bench, and will be available for the use of the magistrates, and the Clerk of Petty Sessions, for whom, at present, there is no accommodation."

Whether a memorial tablet should be placed upon the Town Hall building, and, whether the names of the councillors, showing their honorable prefixes, should be graven upon the tablet for posterity to read, were questions before the St. Kilda Council on Thursday, November 24, 1859. The proposals formed the subject of acrimonious discussions, at the Council meeting, and these discussions continued for successive meetings. The core of the trouble was, whether the words, "the honorable," were to appear on the memorial tablet, prefixed to the name of the Council's chairman, Alexander Fraser, M.L.C. The year before, 1858, Fraser had been elected to the Legislative Council for the Western Province. The majority of the St. Kilda councillors was of the opinion, that Fraser was entitled to be described as "The Honorable," in the wording of the record, that was to inform the residents of St. Kilda, and others, who would come hereafter to gaze on the Town Hall, that the building was erected in the year 1859, and the Chief Citizen was an honorable member of the Legislative Council of Victoria. That was it, the honor was one of Parliamentary distinction, associated with Her Majesty, the Queen's councillors. Those in favor said it ill became municipal councillors to sniff at such an honor, conferred upon a man who was their colleague. The opposition said in effect:

"If, Fraser is an honorable man,
So are we all, all honorable men:"

When the question was put to the vote Fraser as Chairman of the Council, gave his casting vote in favor of the words being placed upon the tablet. He said, in doing so, that there was no reason why he should be shorn of the distinction conferred upon him by Her Majesty the Queen. The minority consisting of Councillors Spicer, Tullett, and MacNaughten put up a stone wall made of recurring amendments. Their ingenuity in



HOLIDAY MAKERS ON THE LAWN,
Near the Catani Arch.

doing so was not exhausted, till Councillor MacNaughten said, "They had discussed the subject *usque ad nauseam*." The last amendment, moved by Councillor Spicer, was that the tablet should not be paid out of municipal funds, but that each councillor should subscribe 110 towards the object. This amendment was carried unanimously, in the absence of two councillors, who had withdrawn from the chamber. Councillor Spicer then gave notice to the Chairman, that, at the next meeting of the council, he would move, "That the whole proceedings should be upset on the ground that they were illegal." He pointed out that his own amendment, which the Council had passed, was in direct contravention to the one previously agreed to, on the *same* subject, by the Council.

At the following meeting of the Council, Councillors Spicer, and Tullett, lodged a protest against the resolution involving the councillors in the payment of 10 pounds. The Chairman refused to receive the protest. He ruled the protest was not couched in courteous language. This decision provoked a sharp discussion. To abate heated argument the Chairman put the question to the vote, and the chairman's ruling to reject the protest was confirmed, but the victory was only won by the Chairman again exercising his right to give his casting vote. The protest was ordered to remain in the Town Clerk's custody. Councillor Spicer declared he would have the protest published, and then, when it was in the news sheet, the public could judge whether it was discourteous. There was not, he said, anything discourteous in the protest. It demurred at the Chairman's ruling; it stated that the majority of the Council, on the tablet question, was vacillating, and inconsistent, as shown by the majority councillors arriving at three opposite resolutions, on the same subject.

Councillor Tullett gave notice of motion, "That, at the next meeting of the Council, he intended to move a protest against the non reception of the protest." On the majority side, Councillor Hale gave notice of motion, that at the next meeting of the Council, he would move, "That the Town Surveyor be instructed to call for tenders for the inscription, and erection of the Tablet, in the manner considered orthodox by the majority of the Council."

Melbourne was beginning to take an interest in what was known as, "The Tablet Question, at St. Kilda." To outsiders,

the position continued to develop humor. The forlorn fight put up by the minority councillors had something of the mock heroic in its incidences. To them, the determination was fixed to prevent the attachment of the Tablet to the wall of the Town Hall, so long as the municipal chairman was described as "The Honorable," on the tablet. This mighty to-do about a trifle, was the most amusing debate the St. Kilda council had yet provided for the gaiety of readers of municipal news. It was thought that the minority councillors must be beaten in the long run, that they must come to the end of their tactics of opposition. In the meanwhile the "tablet question" became an amusing serial story in the newspapers with the addition of "To be continued in our next."

When the St. Kilda Council met on December 1st, Councillor Hale moved, "That a call of the Council be made, for Wednesday next, to rescind the resolution arrived at, during the temporary absence of certain of its members, with reference to payment for the tablet ordered to be erected by the Council." Councillors Spicer, and Tullett, were the two councillors who opposed this resolution. They were still fighting in the last ditch, but their fight appeared to be a hopeless one. The motion was carried. Then Councillor Hale launched, with every prospect of success, the motion that was drafted to score a victory over the minority, and to place the tablet on the walls of the new town hall. His motion was, "That the surveyor be instructed to carry out the resolution of the Council of Wednesday last, viz.: That the tablet be erected, in accordance with the recommendations of the Public Works Committee No. 119 Section 2." Strange to say not one councillor could be found, who would second the motion. The majority, with victory within sight, made no move to obtain the laurels. The St. Kilda councillors were sick of the "Tablet Question". The motion was allowed to lapse. With the abandonment of the motion came the end of "The Tablet" question. No attempt was ever made again to revive the proposal to place a record, on the first Town Hall, of the names of the Councillors of St. Kilda, at the time of the building's erection. The absence of such a memorial has been commented upon by those who had not any knowledge that the reason was, that the word "honorable" on the tablet, was distasteful to a fighting minority of the Council, and the majority was so wearied by marches, counter marches, and

public criticisms, and witticisms, that they were glad to abandon the prospect of being immortalised, in name, on a brass tablet rather than to sustain a fight for the amusement of the people of Melbourne.

Melbourne newspaper readers learnt, from their daily news sheet, on December 19, 1859, that "an inaugural lecture, to the members of the St. Kilda Mechanics' Institute, which has been recently established at St. Kilda, was delivered last evening, at the new municipal hall, of that place, by Archibald Michie, Esq., M.L.A. The subject selected by the learned lecturer, was one of peculiar interest to all namely : Colonists Socially, and in Their Relations with the Mother Country.' The interest taken by the inhabitants of the district, in the opening of what has, of late years, become a distinguishing feature, in all newly proclaimed townships, and municipalities, was testified by the large attendance of ladies and gentlemen, last evening, the room, some minutes before the hour of 8 o'clock, being completely filled. On the platform were, the Hon. Mr. Fraser, M.L.C., the Chairman of the Municipality, and the members of the Council, also Colonel Pitt, the Rev. Messrs. Seddon and Currie, and Messrs. Johnston, M.L.A., Nash, Jennings, Hart, Powell, McDowell, Trenchard, Burnie, Worsley, Rolfe, J. Smith, D. Blair and Rusden. On the motion of Mr. Kelsall, seconded by Mr. Cowderoy, the Hon. Mr. Fraser took the chair. The Chairman stated that he felt much pleased to meet so many people present that evening, the occasion of the opening of the Town Hall, and the inauguration of the St. Kilda Mechanics' Institute."

The Argus newspaper states, in its issue of January 5, 1860: "The St. Kilda Council signalised their entrance into the new Town Hall yesterday evening, which was then occupied by them for the first time, the furniture, and other fittings, being just complete, by resolving to appropriate a sum of money for the erection of rifle butts, within the municipality, for the benefit of the local volunteer Company. The resolution was arrived at, *in* consequence of an application from Lieutenant Nash, who estimated the expense at about £60."

The Council informed the ratepayers in March, 1860, that the Town Hall, and fittings, were completed. The hall was lighted with gas, the hall filled with seats, and there was ample accommodation provided for the purpose of holding public meetings. With money supplied by the Government, the Council

had been enabled to complete the portico, and colonnade, to the Court House of Petty Sessions. Such works were designed and carried out by the Council's surveyor, Mr. Sydney W. Smith. The Council congratulated the ratepayers in the saving thus effected. It was believed, at the time, to be the only Town Hall, in the colony, for which premiums for the design, and commissions to the architect for superintendence, had not been paid. In March, 1861, we learn that "Those portions of the walls of the Court House of Petty Sessions, which were not finished, have since been cemented, to correspond with the remainder of the work, and the Town Hall, thereby greatly improving the appearance of this important block of building." The Councillors, and the burgesses of St. Kilda, were proud of their new town hall.

Not only was the Town Hall a building that enhanced the corporate dignity of the Council, but it also served as the centre piece of the public social movements, and a place for philanthropic societies, and committees of charitable movements, to use as their head quarters. The spacious hall—for the hall was considered to be a spacious one in those days—enabled the residents of St. Kilda to give balls, as well as other entertainments, and the facility for doing so was freely used. When the new city hall was built the old town hall of St. Kilda was used for the purposes of the St. Kilda Police Court. By that time its past glories were forgotten, and it had fallen from high favor. It was a dingy depressing barn-like place, that seemed to be a not unfitting housing for much of the human misery that became articulate there. The flooring boards, no longer polished for a dance floor, had become roughed by the footsteps of many litigants, police, and people, and few persons who attended the St. Kilda Police Court, held in the old Town Hall, knew that the inhospitable place, with its faded yellow colored walls, its weather and water stained cornices, its large broken centre flower piece, its cracked ceilings, was once the hall wherein the intellectual giants of Melbourne displayed their oratorical powers, and showed the fruits of their erudition; a place where the first ladies in the land, squired by their men, preened themselves in the mazes of fashionable gatherings ; a flower clad hall, wherein beauty found pleasure in the citizens' delightful balls that were held at St. Kilda. Here too, in the old Town Hall, Grey Street, was the arena of many a hard fought political

battle. Then was the hall crowded to almost suffocation with electors, and the windows opening on the street, were filled with the heads of electors, who were unable to gain admission to the hall, and so, perforce, they thrust their necks, as far as they were able to do, inside the window frames to listen to the political speeches of a Michie, a Fellows, and others.

Into this dingy room, before its declension, had come the Government House party to attend a ball at St. Kilda. Here is a report of a ball held in the St. Kilda Town Hall, on Wednesday evening October 28, 1863. "The St. Kilda Spring Ball took place last evening, and proved in every respect equal to its precursors. The company included the élite of the neighbourhood, and must have numbered nearly 200. His Excellency the Governor was absent through indisposition, but Lady, and Miss Darling, were present, attended by Captain Tyler, and Mr. H. L. Warde, His Excellency's aide-de-camp, and private secretary. The St. Kilda Town Hall, and its admirable suite of apartments, offered all the conveniences needed for such an occasion. The handsome council chamber, which was decorated with flags, and floral devices, was the *salle à danser*. Supper was laid in the petty sessions court, light refreshments were served in the magistrates' room; the apartment sacred to the Town Clerk, was placed at the disposal of Lady Darling, and the office of the town surveyor was converted into a ladies' retiring room. Lady and Miss Darling, arrived at about a quarter past nine o'clock, and their entrance into the ball room, was signalized by the performance of the National Anthem. The ball was opened immediately afterwards by Miss Darling, and the Hon. Matthew Hervey, with a quadrille. Polka, waltz, lancers, and other dances, followed in rapid succession, until midnight, when supper claimed, for a while, the attentions of the party, but after a short interval, the attractions of the ball room again resumed their sway, and it was not until an advanced hour the festivity terminated. The supper was provided by Mr. James Collins of the Prince of Wales Hotel, St. Kilda, and thanks to the completeness of the arrangements, and the polite attention of the stewards, the *réunion* was of the most exceptionable character."

This report, with its jewelled French phrases, is indicative of the elegant literary furnishings of a genteel newspaper writer of those florid Victorian days. Linger in the heart of the

report is the subtle aroma of powdered beauties. Thoughts come of ball room gowns, with flowing trains, that had to be looped, and held up, by the maids, and dames, as they danced the dances of other days.

Six years after the St. Kilda Town Hall was completed, Councillor Tullett tabled a motion in June, 1865, to the effect—"That the Surveyor be instructed to prepare plans, and estimates of the cost of additions, and improvements to the Town Hall, embracing a hall, with say twice the present accommodation ; a library, committee room, strong room, and clock tower." At the Council meeting, held on June 19, 1865, there being present Councillors Bunny, Cowderoy, Tullett, Peterson, Turner, Oldham, and Ford, the Town Surveyor delivered his report, and plans, in connection with the proposed new Town Hall. After discussing the propriety of calling a public meeting of the ratepayers, for the purpose of obtaining their opinion, upon the proposal to build a new town hall, it was decided the better course to pursue, for the time being, was to place the plans for the new town hall on view for the period of one week in the Council chambers. Whatever the ratepayers thought of the proposal, their judgments were colored by the thought, that a new town hall meant an increased rate, and that thought, possessing ratepayers, has usually a wilting effect upon any of their expansive civic impulses. Councillor Tullett's idea like a spark, gleamed for a moment upon the municipal stage and then went out into darkness.

A certain restlessness was noticeable among the residents of St Kilda, who lived on the crown of the hill, and they desired to place a new Town Hall, with increased accommodation, in the vicinity of their properties. This restlessness was expressed on December 3, 1866, when a petition was prepared, and presented to the Chairman of the Municipality. The petition read: "We, the Ratepayers of St. Kilda, having heard that the Council has before them the propriety of purchasing a site of land suitable for a new Town Hall We, the undersigned, would submit to the Council, that it is self evident, that such a step is not only necessary, but expedient, and would therefore respectfully urge, that the land offered for sale, to the Council by Mr. Mathew Hervey, situated at the corner of High Street, and the Alma Road, is in every way from its commanding position, suitable

for the purpose, and in trust that no delay will be taken in securing the same, providing it can be obtained on suitable terms."

Ratepayers to the number of 108 attached their signatures to the petition. Among the signatories were G. Connibere, draper, High Street; A. G. Arnold, chemist, High Street; T. W. Feasey, grocer, High Street ; T. Thompson Bates, importer, Thomas Adcock, baker, Alfred Tartakover, pawnbroker, Joseph Fitch, poulterer, Ann Taylor, greengrocer, John Sundercombe, bootshop, all of High Street. George Gissing, tailor, Fitzroy Street, J. Crouch, architect, Waterloo Street. The petition was read, and it was filed, and it still remains a fruitless document.

In September, 1868, the interior of the Town Hall, and the Court of Petty Sessions, and the Public Library were painted and otherwise renovated.

The small Court House, from a street view of the building, had passed out of recognition. A paragraph in a Melbourne newspaper, October 10, 1868, seems to suggest that the St. Kilda Court was no longer held in the small court house, the narrow little building that occupied the apex of Grey, and Barkly Street. Probably the Court was held in the Town Hall, and the first Court House had become the Clerk of Petty Sessions' office. The paragraph reads :—"There is in St. Kilda, a neat commodious little Court House, but this, for some reason, has fallen into disuse, and is to be given up to other purposes." The Court House was used for the purposes of the St. Kilda Mechanics' Institute, i.e. the public library.

In the year 1869, the councillors were of the opinion that the St. Kilda Town Hall was lacking the necessary accommodation for the proper discharge of the business of the municipality. For this reason, they proposed to make certain additions to the Town Hall, but the burgesses strongly protested against the municipal funds being spent for that purpose. As the councillors, the Mayor, Henry Tullett, and Councillors B. F. Bunney, S. P. Lord, Charles Gray, W. G. Murray, W. C. Biddle, John Oldham, Florence Gardiner, and T. J. Crouch, persisted in their determination, the ratepayers invoked the assistance of the Attorney General.

A ratepayer, acting for his fellows, George Rolfe, lodged a formal complaint. On the strength of that complaint, the

Attorney General began a suit in Equity, to obtain an injunction, to prevent the Council from making the proposed additions to the Town Hall. The application for the injunction was heard on June 25-26, 1869. The facts disclosed were, that before the Council struck its rate, an estimate of the expenditure for the year was made, and the whole of the estimate, and receipts, for the year, amounting to £9,111.15.0 were thereby appropriated to the annual expenses of the borough, and certain specified public works, a rate being levied on the basis of that estimate. After this estimate had been received, and approved, a proposal was made, that the sum of £10,000 should be borrowed, of which sum £4,250 was earmarked for the cost of alterations, and additions, to the Town Hall. In April the Council advertised for designs for the alterations, offering a premium of £100 for the plans. Differences of opinion existed in St. Kilda towards the proposal, and to satisfy the burgesses, the Council decided to have a poll on the subject. A poll was taken, and a majority of fifty three ratepayers was found to disapprove of the proposed expenditure on the Town Hall. On May 31, the result of the poll, on the proposal, was reported to the Council. A majority of the Council nevertheless decided to carry out the alterations, and the additions. On June 10, a design was accepted, and tenders were called for the work, to be sent in on June 21. There was a sum of £3,000 of borough funds in hand, which had not been expended on works set out in the last year's estimate.

The Council's case was, that the Town Hall (commenced in July, 1859) had not sufficient accommodation, and that the Council had the surplus moneys mentioned in hand, as well as £1,900 arrears of rates owing to it, which amount had not been included in the estimate. Mr. J. W. Stephen, and Mr. Holroyd, appeared for the Attorney General, and Mr. Webb, for the Corporation of the Borough of St. Kilda.

Mr. Justice Molesworth, in delivering judgment, said that the councillors were about to do an act that they could only do, either by incurring a prospective liability, or going beyond the ways, and means of the current year, and running themselves into debt, neither of which things they had a right to do. Dealing with the case simply on that ground, His Honor thought it right that the councillors should be restrained from proceeding further, and he granted the injunction.

The question of a Town Hall with adequate accommodation rested in abeyance until the year 1883. In February of that year, the Council waited upon the Government, and asked that a piece of land, in the centre of the Borough, at the corner of Brighton Road, and Carlisle Street, valued at £15,000, might be permanently reserved, for the purpose of a site for a new Town Hall. The Government granted the request. The land had been temporarily reserved as a market site for St. Kilda, and it abutted on a section of land, already permanently reserved, and utilised, for church sites by the Anglican and Methodist authorities. The market site had a frontage of 550 feet to Carlisle Street, and 462 feet frontage to the Brighton Road. Householders, after the custom of their kind, in the vicinity of vacant land, with a no-man's land appearance, found it convenient as a dump for domestic, and garden rubbish. At one time, it was clearly swampy creek land, sweepingly described by some of the scoffing St. Kilda residents, as of "no use now, whatsoever, and it never will be." Later, the low lying land was utilised as an authorised municipal rubbish tip, the ultimate purpose of which was to reclaim the land. When the work of reclamation had advanced sufficiently the Council made use of it as a municipal storage yard. The creek, to become eventually one of the main drains of St. Kilda, threaded the land, and the difficulties that the creek, or drain, presented, were such that the early residents did not foresee that it was possible that the land, some day, might be reclaimed.

In 1886, the St. Kilda Council advertised for the submission by sellers of other sites, suitable for the purpose of erecting the proposed new Town Hall. Several sites were offered, but none of them were regarded with favor by the Council. In 1887 the Council resolved to float a loan of £100,000 for the carrying out of a large number of public works, including the erection of a new municipal Hall. At the same time a poll of the ratepayers was to be taken to determine where the site of the building should be. The Council intended that the poll should be cast in favor of the reserved land in the South Ward, with an area of 2 acres, 3 roods, and 10 perches, known as "The Greyhound site," or for an extension of the lands of the old Town Hall, the site of which had an area of one rood, and three perches. The ratepayers in the North Ward, put in a claim for the building to be erected in their ward, and claimed, as a

right, that a site to be submitted by them should be included in the ballot. After discussion in the Council, and some display of feeling, the request of the North Ward ratepayers was agreed to. The North Ward ratepayers then disclosed their site, which was known as Rankin's corner, after Dr. Rankin, who lived there. It was situated at the south western corner of High Street, and Alma Road. The price asked for the corner, which had an area of three roods, was £9,850. The site was a portion of Crown Section 70A of ten acres, with 170 feet frontage to Alma Road, and 503 feet frontage to High Street.

For seven months the battle raged over the question of the site for the new Town Hall. The newspapers were inundated by letters from ratepayers, keen in their advocacy of the "best site." Slandorous rumors were abroad. Charges of concealed interests, and of hired advocacy, were not wanting. The Australian Natives' Association promoted a mock trial of "The Sites" that created amusement. Some of the St. Kilda councillors took part in the farce, the Mayor, Councillor George Turner, acting at the trial as the Clerk of Courts. On July 25, 1887, the Council decided that two polls of the ratepayers should be taken, one on August 11, and the other on August 25. Something in the nature of a "bolt from the blue," in the shape of a letter, appeared in The Argus newspaper of August 8, three days before the date of the first poll. The letter was signed, "A St. Kilda Ratepayer," and the writer stated his intention, in the event of the "Greyhound site" being selected, to present a sum of £1,000 to the Council towards the erection of an organ in the new building. The writer enclosed a bank draft for £1,000 which the editor of The Argus held, pending the result of the poll. It transpired that the "Ratepayer", who conditionally offered the £1,000, was Ex-Councillor James Mason.

The Council considered that the most suitable form of voting would be one that would test the "survival of the fittest" site. At the first poll each voter was directed to strike out only one site, and on the result of the second poll the final decision was to be found. The first poll resulted in the following figures:—

North Ward Site.. ..	.. . . . .	1240 Votes
West Ward Site..	.. . . . .	2101 "
South Ward Site.. ..	.. . . . .	1551 "

The North Ward was struck out in the running, and the second ballot, on August 25, resulted as follows:-

South Ward Site	.. .. .	1665 Votes
West Ward Site	.. .. .	1291 “

At a meeting of the Council, held on September 5, 1887, the decision of the ratepayers was accepted, and confirmed.

Many of the ratepayers, dissatisfied with the result of the poll, made, from time to time, efforts to prevent the wishes of the majority from being carried out. Undeterred, the Council, in September, had the necessary documents prepared to float a loan of £100,000. The amount to be spent out of the loan for the erection of the Town Hall was fixed at £16,000. On December 12, 1887, the Council finally resolved to float a loan of £100,000 at 4½ per cent. for the erection of permanent works within the borough. Plans were prepared of the proposed works, the specifications, estimates of the cost, and the statements required by the Local Government Act, were submitted to, and adopted by the Council. No objection to them was received from the ratepayers, and therefore the various orders were made. The loan was floated in April 1888, in London at 4½ per cent., realising a premium of £6/4/-. The Council appropriated the net premiums of the loan towards the cost of the building.

Five different designs were sent in for the Town Hall, and that of Mr. William Pitt, was selected in December 1887. The plan provided for a tower to rise to the height of 178 feet. The pediment of the tower was to be enriched by an allegorical design of Neptune, and the figure of Britannia. The Council accepted the tender of Messrs. Clark & Smith, contractors, for building the Town Hall, on May 16, 1888, at a cost of £23,000, but that sum did not include the cost of building of the tower, which the Council decided could be erected at a later date.

Doubts having arisen, as to the legality of the Council spending more than £16,000, the sum set out in the loan schedule of works for the cost of the Town Hall, and also, as to the Council's action in appropriating the premiums of the loan for building purposes, a certain section of the ratepayers, led by a Mr. George Read, brought a suit in Equity against the Council, to restrain the Council from spending the moneys in the way that was proposed. The councillors had fortified themselves by obtaining the opinions of learned counsel, Dr. Madden, who said that all that it was necessary for the council to do was to spend

all the £16,000 in erecting the Town Hall, and that, as the council had placed the full £100,000 to the credit of the loan account, it could use the net premiums as it had determined, and that the council was perfectly justified in acting in the manner it proposed, and that anyone, who thought differently, should "think again" before bringing a suit against the council.

Public meetings were held, at which Mr. Edward O'Donnell was chairman, and as an outcome of these meetings, two deputations waited on the council. Mr. O'Donnell said that what the section of the ratepayers he represented, desired was, that they should be given an opportunity to express their views by vote, as to whether the sum already earmarked for the erection of the Town Hall, £16,000, should be exceeded. The council, by a majority, refused to submit the question of the expenditure to the ratepayers. Another section of the dissentients then obtained the legal opinion of Sir Bryan O'Loughlan, Mr. Hodges, and Mr. Isaacs. These learned counsel were in conflict with the opinion given to the council by Dr. Madden. Shortly, they said that the council had acted illegally and contrary to, the provisions of the Local Government Act. In the end, George Read asked the Supreme Court for an injunction which was refused by Mr. Justice Williams.

Clark & Smith's contract did not provide for the completion of the building. To complete the design a further sum of from £12,000 to £15,000 would have been necessary. The newly erected building was occupied by the council, for the first time, on June 23, 1890. Invitations had been issued to past mayors, and councillors of St. Kilda, to mark the occasion. After the council meeting, an informal social gathering was held in the mayor's room, and "Success to St. Kilda" was toasted. In replying to a toast, ex-Councillor Oldham, stated that he remembered stone walling tactics in the council, when he was mayor. He had sat in the mayoral chair, until 2 a.m., the councillors playing chess, and he himself asleep, with a glass of water before him, the councillors hoping he would give in, and leave the chair, while he was as determined that he would remain.

On the north front of the building, facing Carlisle Street, is a stone attached to the Town Hall building, bearing the following inscription:—



FACADE OF THE CITY HALL, SHOWING NEW PORTICO.

55 OPENING OF TOWN HALL

"ERECTED 1890.

MAYOR
CR. EDWARD O'DONNELL, J.P.

COUNCILLORS:

S. E. JEANS	GEO. TURNER
GEO. PILLEY	H. JENNINGS
R. MARRIOTT	S. JACOBY
GEO. CONNIBERE	JNO. STEDEFORD

JNO. W. BROWNE
TOWN CLERK.

WM. PITT
ARCHITECT.

MESSRS CLARK & SMITH
BUILDERS."

The opening of the Town Hall was celebrated by a ball of unusual splendor, given by the mayor, Councillor O'Donnell.

On August 24, 1892, the City Hall organ, built by Fincham and Hobday at a cost of about £2,000, was opened in the presence of His Excellency, the Governor, the Earl of Hopetoun, and a locally distinguished party of councillors, and residents, invited by the mayor, Councillor Marriott. The organist, on the occasion, was the City Organist, Mr. H. J. Inge. A civic concert was given to the residents on August 26, and a Masonic choral service was held on August 28.

Ex-councillor James Mason, and Mrs. Mason, were present at the opening of the organ. Before the organ was tendered for, the council, anxious to secure a fine instrument, appeared to Mason to be delaying the purchase. This opinion led him to withdraw his gift of £1,000 towards the cost of the organ. The council was not alarmed. The gift was a conditional one. The ratepayers had accepted the gift, by carrying out the conditions Mason imposed upon them as the price of its acceptance, and the council held the donor's cheque.

In the council's possession is a photograph of Councillor James Mason in frock coat, standing stiff at attention, with a silver headed malacca cane, and a pair of gloves in his hands. The photograph is a good portrait of James Mason. Though somewhat choleric, he had very generous and charitable impulses, which had full advertisement. A notable gift of his was that of 165 acres of land to the Government to establish the

Epileptic Hospital at Clayton. He donated the Casualty Ward to the Homeopathic Hospital and the Alfred Hospital shared in his benefactions. He made substantial donations every year, while living, to hospitals, and other helpful institutions, and he left instructions, in his will, that such donations were to be continued, until the whole of his estate was gone. He was a shrewd man, who lent money on mortgages over bricks and mortar. For real estate he favored hotel properties, and he owned hotels in St. Kilda, Prahran, and elsewhere. At one time he was the owner, and licensee of the Royal George Hotel, Prahran. It was said that Mason's efforts to place the new town hall of St. Kilda, the City Hall, in Carlisle Street, were not altogether unconnected with the real estate interests of ex-Councillor James Mason.

Music could not have had any great charms for Mason, because he was so unfortunate as to be more or less deaf, a distressing infirmity that increased greatly towards the end of his long life. A hand cupping one ear, a slight stoop, and a frequent raucous "Eh ?" was James Mason's settled habit, when anyone bravely attempted to surmount the difficulties of carrying on a conversation with him. James Mason died at "Alfriston," Brighton Road, St. Kilda, on Tuesday, October 6, 1914, at the age of 94 years. He claimed to be the father of the first Local Government Act. He was a member of the St. Kilda Council 1861-62.

No one can doubt now, that, in view of St. Kilda city's wonderful expansion, in the only direction it could expand to the south, and south-east municipal boundaries that the 1,655 ratepayers, who voted for the new City Hall to be placed on the Greyhound site, in September, 1887, were right in their selection, though their majority, of 364 votes, was not, in the circumstances, a great one.

During the municipal year of 1868-69 the borough of St. Kilda was divided into wards. The councillors at the time of the division were—Mayor, Henry Tuned, Councillors Florence Gardiner, B. F. Bunny, T. J. Crouch, W. G. Murray, W. C. Biddle, John Oldham, S. P. Lord and Charles Gray. The ward system was in force at the municipal elections of 1869-70, when eleven councillors were returned to represent the ratepayers for the three wards. The three wards were the North, South and West. The assessment books of 1870, show us that the number of tene-

ments in the city was divided as follows:—North Ward 62" South Ward 502, West Ward 498. The assessment was, for the North £35,729, South £26,840, West £38,335. The annual return from rates, North £1,786 9/-, South £1,342, West £1,916 15/-. The number of ratepayers, North 845, South 851, West 684. Population, North 2,794, South 2,535, West 2,861. These figures show how the borough had progressed since the first assessment was made in 1857.

Assessment of 1870.

Number of Tenements	1,627
Assessment	£100,904 0 0
Annual Revenue (Rates)	£5,045 4 0
Total Revenue	£11,318 16 8
Number of ratepayers	2,380
Population	8,190

Since 1857, the population of St. Kilda, had almost quadrupled itself; the number of ratepayers had more than doubled itself, while the number of houses had almost trebled itself. The actual assessment only shows an increase of £5,000, but this is accounted for, by the fact that when the first assessment was made, suburban land prices were inflated by the early boom in land. Two extracts, from an early assessment roll, show that a brick house of six rooms, situated in Hoddle Street, was valued at the sum of £60, while the gross assessment of a more pretentious structure, containing 13 rooms, was £400, a rental of over £7 a week. A block of land possessing 250 feet of frontage to Brighton Road was assessed at £100. Councillor John Oldham occupied the position of mayor in 1870, and his councillors were, Councillors Lord, McNaughton, Welshman, Tullett, Johnston, Crouch, McIntyre and Gray, while the Town Clerk of the Borough, was Mr. George Sprigg.

In 1880 we find the number of tenements was, North Ward 871, South 716, West 556. The assessment roll showed that the assessment was, North £47,741, South £32,182, West £42,138. Revenue, North £2,807 South £1,885, West £2,428. Number of ratepayers, North 1,008, South 1113, West 828. Population, North 4,098, South 3,157, West 3,050. The sum totals are

Assessment of 1880.

Number of Tenements	2,143
Assessment	£122,061
Annual Revenue (Rates)	£7,120

Total Revenue	£12,806 16 8
Number of Ratepayers	2,949
Population	10,283

In round numbers, these figures show an advance upon the 1870 records of some 600 ratepayers, of over 2,000 of the population and over £20,000 in the rateable value of the district. The occupant of the mayoral chair, in 1880, was Councillor George Pilley, and his councillors were Councillors Balderson, Tullett, Dixon, Shaw, Johnston, Duckett, Newton and Simpson, with Mr. George Sprigg as the Town Clerk.

In the year 1890, when Councillor Edward O'Donnell was Mayor of St. Kilda, he proposed that St. Kilda should proclaim to the world, that it had in the amount of its annual revenue, attained to the distinguished right to be proclaimed a city. It was decided to have a poll of ratepayers taken, in order to guide the St. Kilda councilors, upon the question for, or against St. Kilda being proclaimed a city. The poll was declared at the St. Kilda Council meeting, May 12, 1890. The voting was:-

FOR THE PROCLAMATION.

North Ward ..	204	
South Ward	281	
West Ward ..	155	
	<u>640</u>	votes

AGAINST THE PROCLAMATION.

North Ward .	32	
South Ward ..	22	
West Ward ..	32	
	<u>86</u>	votes

Majority in favor of the proclamation of St. Kilda as a city 554 votes.

The Mayor, Councillor O'Donnell, said it was his duty to move that application be made to His Excellency the Governor to proclaim St. Kilda a city. Councillor Pilley expressed his surprise at the little interest ratepayers took in the proposal. Out of 3,160 voting papers the council had sent out, only 726 had been returned. The Mayor said when the motion was carried, that "it was pleasing to think, that they were going direct into a city. It was the first time, in the history of the Colony, that a borough had been made a city direct."



PORTICO OF THE CITY HALL.
Erected 1925.

On September 8, 1890, at the Executive Council Chambers, Melbourne, there being present His Excellency the Governor, John Adrian Louis Hope, K.C.M.G., Earl of Hopetoun, Councillors Gillies, Deakin, Dew, Patterson, Anderson and Dr. Pearson, St. Kilda, in response to a petition presented under the common seal of the Borough of St. Kilda, was, by Lord Hopetoun, declared to be a City, by the name of the City of St. Kilda. Its revenue for the year ending September 30, 1889, was declared to be not less than £20,000.

On September 29, 1890, the old municipal buildings in Grey Street were sold to the Government for the sum of £2,500.

In October, a public meeting of the ratepayers was held, in the City Hall, to decide how the commemoration of the proclamation of the city was to be honored. The day set apart for the Proclamation, was December 2, 1890. The streets of St. Kilda were decorated with flags. School children lined High Street, for a distance of half a mile. They were formed into a procession, and accompanied by the St. Kilda cadets. The children numbered about five thousand glad youngsters, clad in holiday attire. The majority of them waved small banners as they marched to the St. Kilda cricket ground where various sports were enjoyed.

At noon, the Mayor, Councillor A. E. Moore, accompanied by the Town Clerk, Mr. John Narberth Browne, and Councillors O'Donnell, Turner, Jacoby, Kelly, Marriott, Stedeford, Jeans and Jennings the members of the reception committee, and their secretary, Mr. Frederick Tullett, met, and presented Lord Hopetoun with an address of welcome. Afterwards, Lord Hopetoun passed under a triumphal arch, and then he was driven along the city boundaries, Beaconsfield Parade, the Esplanade, Acland Street, Barkly Street, Elwood Road, St. Kilda Street, Glen Huntly Road, Brighton Road, Hotham Street, Dandenong Road, Wellington Street, Crimea Street, Alma Road, Westbury Street, Carlisle Street to the City Hall. At the City Hall His Excellency held a levee, and about 500 citizens were presented to him. After a light repast, His Excellency read the proclamation of the City, and then he planted a tree in the grounds of the City Hall, immediately before the main entrance to the Hall. Then he drove to the Cricket Ground, where the 5,000 children gathered there sang the National Anthem. In the

evening a fireworks display was made at the end of the St. Kilda Pier, and thousands of spectators gathered, on the Esplanade, to watch the illuminations.

Behind this gaiety lay concrete evidences of St. Kilda's advance in wealth, and increase in population. St. Kilda had passed from the stage of a puling infant in the arms of its nurse, the first council, past the stage of the lusty youth, and had entered into its manhood of a city. Its number of tenements was, North Ward 1,303, South 1,715, West 1,038. Assessment, North £94,113, South £107,784, West £103,609. Annual revenue, North £5,882, South £6,737, West £6,475. Number of ratepayers, North 1,110, South 1,482, West 930. Populations, North 6,006, South 7,184, West 5,245. The following are the totals with a table of the figures of 1857. The total income of the borough in 1890 from all sources was £33,426 3/6.

	1857	1890
Tenements	900	4,056
Assessment	£95,613	£305,506
Revenue Rates	£4,780	£19,094
Ratepayers	1,000	3,530
Population	2,700	18,435

Ten years later, viz. in 1900, the figures were:-

	1890	1900
Tenements	4,056	4,236
Assessment	£305,50	£182,113
Revenue (Rates)	19,094	£18,211
Ratepayers		3,611
Population	18,435	19,863

An important decision, regarding the City Hall, was made on August 7, 1922. For some time previous to that date experience had shown that, with the volume of municipal business growing greater every year, a readjustment of the civic offices, and of the facilities for work was necessary. The City Hall committee placed certain recommendations before the council and they were carried. Among the more important of those recommendations was the one, suggesting that competitive designs be invited for the erection of a portico to the City Hall, and the remodelling of the entrance vestibule, and stairways, including also the rearrangement of the cloak rooms. When the original design of the City Hall was carried out, several drawbacks were found to exist, when the plans on paper were translated into bricks and mortar. Hence, years after-

wards when it was possible to remove the architectural disadvantages, and to also improve the municipal offices, the opportunity was taken. At the council meeting, where the Town Hall Committee's report was adopted, Councillor Unsworth expressed his opinion that the Council should complete the unfinished portion of the Town Hall. He probably referred in part to the naked brickwork, though some of its nakedness is veiled with a fairly wide-spread growth of virginia creeper, the foliage of which, in autumn, shows so many beautiful and diverse tints, the City Hall building, at that season presenting a delightful picture of artistic harmonies. The creeper was planted on the suggestion of His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Victor Lemme.

Councillor Unsworth was very keen to have the City Hall completely finished and he moved resolutions to that effect. They were supported by Councillor O'Donnell. However, as it happened the majority of the councillors thought differently. A prize of £75 was offered for the best design of a portico submitted, and another prize of £50 for the best plan for remodelling certain sections of the City Hall. A Committee of the Institute of Architects judged the plans submitted. Messrs. Sale & Keage, architects, won both prizes. When the alterations were made, and the portico added to the main entrance of the City Hall, it was seen what a remarkably fine civic building had been evolved, from what was an unsatisfactory structure. A stone commemorative of the work was placed at the portico. It reads—

"THIS PORTICO ERECTED AND ALTERATIONS
IN THE MAIN STRUCTURE MADE
1925.

MAYOR CR. J. B. LEVI, J.P.
COUNCILLORS:

E. O'DONNELL, J.P.	R. H. MORLEY, J.P.
J. G. ALLEN, J.P.	R. T. TAYLOR
BURNETT GRAY	T. UNSWORTHY
S. T. ALFORD, J.P.	F. L. DAWKINS
G. B. RENFREY, J.P.	G. CUMMINGS
E. B. CLARKE	

FREDK. CHAMBERLIN.
TOWN CLERK

MESSRS. SALE & KEAGE. MESSRS COCKRAM & COOPER
ARCHITECTS. BUILDERS."

The Council, at this time, bought the massive wrought iron double entrance gates that had been in use at "Corry," the late Sir Lachlan Mackinnon's house, in Toorak. The gates were made by Bayliss of London, and they are wonderful examples of honest craftsmanship, in the difficult work of making wrought iron gates. Viewed from the City Hall's upper windows, as they stand, facing the intersection of Carlisle and High Streets, their fine iron work has the appearance that delicate lace patterns present when held up to the light. They are probably the finest wrought iron gates to be found in Melbourne. Examined closely they appear to be flawless. Even the keys of the gates are of solid British workmanship, with artistic mouldings, the like of which in key making is not seen today.

Inseparably linked with the history of the first town hall in St. Kilda are the court office, and contiguous police offices. The police offices in the beginning were situated at the Junction, then they were moved to Robe Street, and then they settled for years at the corner of Barkly, and Grey Streets. They ante-dated the town hall. The court became a projection of the town hall, the nose of the building at the point of the streets junction. The little building of naked brick was clothed in cement to correspond with the newly erected town hall. The police court served its day as we have already narrated. Time did not improve either the town hall, or the police quarters, more especially as the Government would not expend money on them for repairs. Some day there was to be a new court, a modern building conforming to the rules of sanitation, and to the requirements of the civil, and police business, in petty sessions, of a city of the status of St. Kilda. In the meanwhile, the court business had to be transacted under conditions that were a reproach to the Chief Secretary's Department, or to the Government, that would not provide the necessary money to enable the deplorable court, its offices, and the police quarters to be replaced by a modern building. Prompted by the chairman of the St. Kilda honorary magistrates, Councillor G. B. Renfrey, the St. Kilda Council again, and again, made efforts to have a police court, and offices erected, or repairs done to the dilapidated buildings. The Chief Commissioner of Police was written to, also the Under. Secretary of the State, who controls the police administration, but to little purpose. The descriptions of the court house given



NEW POLICE STATION AND COURT HOUSE,
Chapel Street.

by the Council were admitted to be true, but, it was answered, there was "no money available for repairs, and other police stations had requirements more urgent." Letters are easily answered. The Council decided to beard the Under Secretary in his office, even though he intimated to the proposed deputation that the position was as he had explained. Still the St. Kilda Council, with that spirit of persistence, which is its heritage from 1857, continued to knock at the door of the Chief Secretary's Department. The Nationalist member for St. Kilda, the Hon. Frederic William Eggleston, who, in keeping with the best political traditions of parliamentary representatives of St. Kilda, was a Minister of the Crown, being the Attorney General, bought a site for the new police court, and offices, in Chapel Street, on the east side, close to Carlisle Street. That was the foundation step of the building. Then came a parliamentary election, the Labor Party defeated the McPherson Nationalist State Ministry, and a new Attorney General of a Labor Government came into power, the Hon. W. Slater. The steps for the new court house and offices, were then so advanced, thanks to the St. Kilda Council, and Mr. Eggleston, that the new Attorney General felt it incumbent upon him to approve of the building of the court house. In the year 1928, the tender of Wood & Jarvis, contractors, Eildon Road, St. Kilda, for the erection of the new police station, was accepted at the contract price of £5,636.

The new court house and offices were opened on Wednesday morning, January 22, 1930, by the State Attorney General, Mr. Slater. The Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor G. H. Robinson, and Councillors, accompanied by the Town Clerk, Mr. Fred Chamberlin, represented the city and citizens at the ceremony, supported by the local honorary justices of the peace. Though the court house, and the police offices were outside the ambit of the St. Kilda Council's authority, the creation of the court house, and its appurtenances, was due to the Council, and to St. Kilda's then Parliamentary representative, F. W. Eggleston, and to Councillor Burnett Gray, M.L.A. The proceedings at the opening of the building were under the Chief Magistrate of the City, the Mayor, who invited the parliamentary member for St. Kilda, Councillor Burnett Gray, to address the gathering. Councillor Gray mentioned that he held in hand, through the courtesy of St. Kilda's very old resident, and ancient photographer, Mr. George Wall, the "Municipal District of St. Kilda's Roll, for 1859." In

that year, the number of ratepayers was 1250. The population of St. Kilda in the year 1930 had reached the total 43,000. The oldest local justice, Mr. Joseph Levi, was present at the opening. His honorary service to St. Kilda citizens covered a period of 29 years. It was Mr. Levi who proposed the usual vote of thanks to the Attorney General, and the Police Magistrate, Mr. E. R. Stafford, who was to open the first court, endorsed Mr. Levi's words, as did also Sub-Inspector T. Cullinan for the police, and Mr. L. Jones for the lawyers. Immediately afterwards the court was opened, and the first case listed was called.

At the time of writing (August, 1930), the old court, and police offices, are abandoned, untenanted, unguarded. The police quarters, with its four bluestone cells, are no longer locked up. The winds from the four quarters of the heavens, have free entrances and free exits. Bolts, and bars, there are in plenty, but they no longer hold prisoners. The old court house doors are shut. The appearance of the whole building is that of a dead thing. Deserted, dead, yet it stands in the midst of city life, with the electric tramcars rushing past its closed doors, and its dusty windows. Truly a strange fate for the once St. Kilda Town Hall, the pride of the citizens of St. Kilda in the year 1859. The abandoned building belongs to the Government. The Crown authorities have yet to decide what they will do with the historical derelict. Its passing is not without its sadness to those citizens of St. Kilda, who associate many civic, and legal, memories with the yellow brown, water-stained old Town Hall and court building.



FACADE OF THE OLD COURT HOUSE AT OLD TOWN HALL SITE.

CHAPTER XXIII.

The Railway Lines in St. Kilda.—Railway, Companies, Their Proposals—Melbourne to St. Kilda Railway—Street Crossings at Emerald Hill—Work Leads to Fights and Police Court and Supreme Court Cases—St. Kilda Council Objects to Grey Street Tunnel—Passage of Railway Bill Opposed—Council Successful—Brighton Railway, Agitation for Railway Stations by St. Kilda Residents—Fitzroy Street Encroached Upon for Railway Station—Council Protest and Fight—Fitzroy, Street Compromise—Two Chains in Width—Line Opened May 13, 1857—The Loop Line to Windsor—Description of Line—Proposals for Railway to Elwood—The Commissioner of Railways Scheme Around Esplanade—Councillor O'Donnell Denounces Scheme as "Outrageous"—Scheme Abandoned—The Electric Street Railway to Brighton—Council Moves for New Railway Station at St. Kilda.

THE St. Kilda-Melbourne railway line was built by the Melbourne & Hobson's Bay Railway Company, as a branch line of the Sandridge (Port Melbourne) railway. At one time, two railway companies proposed to intersect St. Kilda with railways. The St. Kilda and Brighton Railway Company, by a direct line from the St. Kilda terminus of the Melbourne & Hobson's Bay Railway Company to Brighton, passing through St. Kilda, partly by a tunnel, under Grey Street. The Melbourne & Suburban Railway Company, proposed to lay a line, via Prahran, through the eastern part of St. Kilda.

An advertisement appeared in the Government Gazette, August 3, 1853, regarding one of these railways. The advertisement was signed by Trenchard & Brookfield, solicitors, and parliamentary agents. They gave notice of their intention to apply to the Legislative Council, for an Act to incorporate a joint stock company to be called, "The Melbourne, St. Kilda, and Brighton Railway Company."

During the latter part of 1856, and the first four months of the year 1857, the Melbourne to St. Kilda railway line was in the process of construction. The line was not a popular one with the Emerald Hill (now South Melbourne) council, nor was it favored by the residents of the Albert Park division of Emerald Hill. Several disputes arose over the construction of

level crossings, which were the main works that the ratepayers objected to. The temper of the ratepayers was echoed in, the Emerald Hill Council, and the Council's employees took their attitudes from the spirit of the Council. On one occasion, it was only the intervention of the police that prevented what would have perhaps been a serious fight between the men of the Company, and the employees of the Council. Court cases arising out of assaults between the navvies, and the council employees, were heard in the Emerald Hill police court. Litigation also, was started between the Emerald Hill Council, and the Directors of the Company. Lawyers were seeing ahead the prospect of large bills of costs ; barristers were receiving generous fees for considered opinions, and also for retainers. In time the Council, and the Company, remembered the fable of the oyster, the lawyer and the shell, and they saw if they continued to bark at each other along the costly, and labyrinthic paths, leading to the law courts, the only persons who would enjoy the oyster would be the legal gentlemen. Therefore they held a meeting, in a friendly spirit of compromise, and then, and there, at that meeting for peaceful solutions, it was decided that both parties should stop what was termed by them "the childish nonsense of fighting at law about trivial details." After that satisfactory reconciliation the construction of the railway line moved along under more peaceful conditions. The lawyers sighed, they had to be content to draw up their bills of cost for the work already done.

One of several letters, to the Melbourne newspapers, was written by the newspapers' ancient friend, "Old Subscriber." We reproduce it as an echo of the year 1856, when St. Kilda residents "talked railways." He wrote the letter to The Argus in November of that year asking "whether the railway was not got up by the Hobson's Bay Railway for their advantage or for the benefit of the St. Kilda residents? If the latter, as far as I am able to judge," he wrote, "from where the terminus is to be, namely on the swamp, on the north side of Fitz Roy Street, about halfway between the Junction, and the Bathing ship, it is likely to be entirely a failure, as regards the majority of the inhabitants of St. Kilda. If the line is to be carried further, taking Grey Street as the route, and continued, about a mile, it should at once be clearly defined."

"Subscriber" further said, that he wanted to know what the Company intended to do so that he would know, whether or not, to avoid the trouble, and expense of building in Grey Street. He was afraid he would suffer the loss of the houses, he contemplated building, by having them taken away from him by the Railway Company, and that he would not be able to obtain sufficient money for the injury so done to him, under the terms of compulsory arbitration. At the same time, he was anxious for the convenience of a railway, as the residents wanted to see the end of the omnibus service to Melbourne. They were tired of waiting on the roads for the omnibus to come along, and "getting wet through, or scorched in the broiling sun" while they waited.

The St. Kilda & Brighton Railway Company was assessed in Brighton at the annual value of 136; in the district of Prahran at the annual value of £491; in the district of St. Kilda, at the annual value of 12,427 which was reduced, on appeal, to £2,200. In the half yearly report of the Company, issued in August, 1859, the directors, addressing the shareholders, say "with regard to this last, and excessive assessment, your directors can only express their extreme regret, that this municipal body of St. Kilda should have imposed so heavy a tax upon an undertaking of this nature, which, as the best road that can be made, is calculated materially to increase the value of property in the district, and thereby promote the best interests of the municipality." One of the shareholders regarded the clause as offensive to the St. Kilda Council, and he sought to have the offending sentence expunged, but he was unsuccessful. Charles Hobson Ebdon, was the chairman of the directors, and the Company's charter was contained in "An Act intituled the St. Kilda, and Brighton Railway Company's Extension of Powers Bill."

The St. Kilda Council deemed the St. Kilda and Brighton Railway Company's scheme, with its proposed tunnel under Grey Street, as "detrimental to the interests of the town. The Council was supported by the opinion of the inhabitants generally, the Council's chairman opposed the passing of the bill for making that line, in the House of Assembly, and at the close of the half year" (we are quoting from a council report, dated 1857) "negotiations were in progress, for uniting the lines

of both companies by a loop line, from the Hobson's Bay railway, through Windsor, and continuing by a united line from Chapel Street, through the Eastern part of St. Kilda to Brighton. Such a line, the Council had all along in view, as the best for St. Kilda, and, at the time this report is prepared, the object is likely to be accomplished."

Originally it appears to have been the intention, when the loop line was decided upon, to run from Chapel Street Railway Station (now Windsor Railway Station) direct to Bay Street, Brighton, without any intermediate railway stations ; a decision that suggests the directors of the railway company did not consider, that the density of population would give a profit on intermediate stations. The residents viewed the railway from the point of its public utility, more than as a joint stock company's venture created to pay dividends. The residents declared that railway stations were required, and they took steps to try to obtain them. In September, 1859, a meeting of district residents was held, in the Elsternwick Hotel, Brighton Road, for the advertised "purpose of securing railway stations at Carlisle Street, and Glen Huntly Road, from the St. Kilda and Brighton Railway Company. The librarian of the Melbourne Public Library, Augustus H. Tulk, was in the chair. A number of locally distinguished men were present at the meeting, among them being George Rolfe, R. Wash, F. J. Sargood, William Peterson, T. Hart, E. Agg, W. K. Thompson, J. Houstin M.L.A. and others. The meeting passed a resolution that, forwarded on to the Company's directors, had the desired effect. The resolution was the cause of the Balaclava Railway Station, and the Elsternwick Railway Station, being placed where they are. The resolution read, "That this meeting is of opinion that permanent stations at the Glen Huntly Road, and Carlisle Street, are positively wanted to meet the requirements of the neighbourhood."

In March, 1858, the St. Kilda Council stated, in its half yearly report, that as reported at the close of the former half year, the Council has the satisfaction of stating, that the opposition made by it to the Railway bills, before Parliament, was entirely successful, and that Acts for the construction of the railway line to St. Kilda passed the Legislature, in accordance with the Council's views, the effect of which will be, that the line to Brighton will pass from the present station through East St.

Kilda, by way of Windsor, the suburban line from Melbourne through Prahran, joining the St. Kilda Railway, near Chapel Street. In the language of the "Enabling Act" the St. Kilda railway terminus was to have been "at or near Norton's Store," which store was opposite the corner of Barkly and Grey Streets. The property holders along Grey Street supported the Council, and protested strongly against a tunnel being driven through the hill. The railway stopped at Fitzroy Street. The Company extended its line to a point more than half way across Fitzroy Street, encroaching on a street that was intended to be a road of three chains in width. This trespass on Fitzroy Street, brought strong objections from the residents. The St. Kilda Council joined forces with its ratepayers, and a public meeting of protest was held. The Council, and the burgesses were engaged, for a long time, in endeavouring to adjust the question with the railway company. The company argued that its works were within the limits of its grant, though its engineers had narrowed Fitzroy Street to a little more than one chain wide.

After many argumentative negotiations, wherein the Government was disposed to support the views of the Councillors, it was considered advisable, by a public meeting of the inhabitants to compromise, and to consent to the street being limited to two chains in width. The Council, after some hesitation and discussion, finally concurred in that view. The railway authorities then partly withdrew from their trespass. As a sop to injured public feeling the Government agreed to lay down an ornamental plantation within the park fence at Fitzroy Street.

On May 14, 1857, the Melbourne Morning Herald published the following paragraph:—

"The Melbourne and St. Kilda railway line was opened yesterday to the public, and the trains were well patronised throughout the day. The time-table was not very accurately observed, but every allowance must be made for beginnings, and no doubt when the line comes into regular working order, in a few days, the necessary punctuality will be enforced. We regret to learn that an accident to one of the railway men, which it is hoped will not prove serious, occurred during the morning at the St. Kilda terminus." At a later date the paper says :—

"The St. Kilda Railway is one of our greatest luxuries, and the most useful of our institutions. All the world—that is Melbourne—lives out of town, and as St. Kilda is on the Bay, and the Bay and the scenery around it are very pretty, Melbourne transports a very large portion of itself to that locality, by means of a three-mile railway and a ten minutes ride. Every passenger of course has a grievance, and ninepence a day is equally of course too much to pay for riding backwards and forwards, as often as you like, during sixteen hours. The ordinary day trains are crowded, and at holiday times the passengers are numbered by thousands, and tens of thousands. The station is a neat brick edifice, containing refreshment, and waiting rooms for ladies, and the indispensable accompaniment of a large bar, and a pretty barmaid."

What more could the residents of St. Kilda ask for, or desire? When the line was opened the directors held a banquet in the room where the, booking office is now, and made such complimentary speeches as they deemed suitable to the occasion.

John Wakefield, of Salisbury Street, Caulfield, was aged 94 years on March 25, 1930. It was he who, as a booking clerk for the Melbourne & Hobson's Bay Railway, issued the first railway ticket at the St. Kilda Railway Station, Fitzroy Street, when the railway was opened on May 14, 1857. Eventually he advanced from the position of a ticket clerk to the one of secretary of the Railway Company.

A newspaper complained, in February 22, 1859, that some of the rails on the St. Kilda Railway had cracked, that the railway carriage oscillated, that the rails were loose, and that the pigeon box, at the St. Kilda Railway station, where passengers obtained their tickets was rushed, and that "the unprotected female, the historical character, can scarcely be served at all."

On March 9, 1859, a meeting of the shareholders of the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway Company, was held in the offices of the company, in Flinders Street, Melbourne, when a motion was put, and carried, to authorise the payment of £5,000 to the Brighton and St. Kilda Railway Company, upon the completion of the loop line to St. Kilda. On April 27, a new line of rails was laid down on the St. Kilda railway. We are told that "these rails are much heavier than the old ones,

the weight being 80 lb. They have been furnished by the Government, with the understanding, that when those ordered by the Company arrive, an equivalent shall be returned. Captain Pasley has inspected the line, and reported favourably thereon to the Government. A second line of rails, of the same weight, will be laid when they arrive from England." In May, the inhabitants of St. Kilda, who were in the habit of travelling on the Hobson's Bay Railway, were preparing a petition to the directors of that line. The petition requested that the rate for monthly tickets might be lowered, from thirty shillings, to twenty shillings. The petition, by May 18, was signed by 300 travellers. The Herald newspaper, stated that, "If the course set forth, in this memorial, be adopted by the directors, it will probably, in the long run, tend to their advantage, as it will induce more persons to reside at St. Kilda." The directors refused to lower the price of the railway tickets, on the ground that if they did so, the railway would not pay the costs of its upkeep, and running expenses.

The St. Kilda & Brighton Railway Company was authorised to construct a loop line running between the St. Kilda railway terminus, in Fitzroy Street, and the Windsor Railway station. Starting from the St. Kilda Railway station the first portion of the loop line to Windsor, consisted of an embankment, fifteen feet in height, and it extended in a north easterly direction, for a distance of between 600, and 700 feet in length. To avoid, as far as possible, the complete severance of the Albert Park lands, the railway line was, from the termination of the embankment, carried across the lower end of the Albert Park lagoon, by a wooden viaduct, between 600 and 700 feet in length. This viaduct was supported by blue gum posts, thirty feet in length. They were driven into the swampy ground, to a depth of fifteen feet. At each end of the viaduct was a carriage way, spanned by a strong arch, with two side arches, of ten feet in span, over the footways in the park. The viaduct was terminated by bluestone abutments, which acted as supports to the earth work. The remainder of the railroad to the St. Kilda Road consisted of an earth embankment. These embankments were built up with the earth that was excavated from the hill of St. Kilda at the spot which is now the Windsor railway cutting, between the Windsor Railway Station and the Dandenong Road.

The St. Kilda railway loop line to Windsor, was projected across the St. Kilda Road by an underpass bridge, the abutments, and the wing walls, being built of bluestone. The intervening piers, supporting the bridge, were formed of double rows of blue gum poles, from which an arch, with a forty two feet spring, stretched across the centre of St. Kilda Road, at a height of fifteen feet from the crown of the road, to the under surface of the arch. Two side arches between the piers, and the stone abutments, provided for footways of twenty feet in width. From this bridge, the line continued, by an embankment, which gradually decreased to a level crossing at Union Street, Windsor. The embankment, at Punt Road, was again extended by means of a bridge across Punt Road, the bridge being similar to the one that spanned St. Kilda Road. The railway loop line curved into the Windsor Railway Station, then called the Chapel Street Railway Station, through, what are now, the railway yards and wood sidings. After leaving Chapel Street station, the train entered the cutting, as trains do today going to Brighton, and on the submerged line of rails, crossed the line of Dandenong Road, spanned by a bridge, and the railway track on its way, through Alma Park to North Brighton. The railway cutting was approximately a mile in length. Its greatest depth was thirty two feet. The substance of the cutting was stiff clay, and ferruginous sandstone. For years after the loop line was demolished, a portion of the railway embankment was standing in the park, alongside the St. Kilda Road. The embankment was much scored in its sides, by runs of water in rainy seasons, and we recall the red cliff-like appearance the embankment had, its color due to iron sandstone disintegrations. Some of the earth that formed a portion of the embankment was disposed of as filling for the south end of the Albert Park lagoon's swampy marsh that extended south west towards Fitzroy Street. The disused railway embankments on the St. Kilda Road were regarded by many travellers as offensive to their sense of beauty. They clamored for the removal of the embankments, which were later carted away.

At the half yearly meeting held on August 9, 1859, of the St. Kilda & Brighton Railway Company, the Chairman, the Hon. C. H. Ebdon, M.L.A. stated that the financial statement exhibited as principal items, shares and calls in full 161,772 ; Hobson's Bay Company's Instalment £5,000, other creditors £21,084.9.10.



RAILWAY VIADUCT OVER ST. KILDA ROAD.

Line from St. Kilda Station to Windsor Station. From a book of engravings published by Sands, Kenny & Co., Melbourne, 1862, and presented to the Council by Cr. Geo. Cummings.

The total debtor account was £88,010.3.4. On the debtor side appeared the following: Land and compensation, £28,087.11.3 ; arbitration and law charges, £1,181.1.6 ; preliminary expenses, 1706.7.8; advertising etc., £340.7.9; incidental expenses, £675 10.2; Engineering and survey, £2,001.16.6; contractor 152,275; other charges, £2,100 14/-; old materials, £26; interest, £611 16.6; petty cash, £3.18. Total £88,010.3.4.

The first train travelled over the St. Kilda to Windsor loop line railway on Saturday December 3, 1859. This special train was run the entire length of the line. The passengers, in the pioneer train, consisted of the chairman, and directors of the railway company, some of the principal shareholders, and a few selected individuals, interested in the undertaking. At 12 o'clock the train, which comprised an engine, and two carriages, containing about 40 persons, left the terminus of the Hobson's Bay Railway Company, in Flinders Street. After a short delay, at the St. Kilda station, the train entered upon the new loop line. The distance from Flinders Street, four and three quarters of a mile, was traversed in about twelve minutes, the speed of the train being occasionally slackened, to enable the passengers to examine work done, along the line of the railway. The arrival of the train, at Bay Street, Brighton, was loudly cheered by the men employed on the line, who, having been, in honor of the occasion, indulged with an adequate supply of beer, were as demonstrative as navvies usually are, on such favored occasions. Two three horse omnibuses conveyed the railway guest party from the Bay Street railway station, to the Brighton Hotel where a sumptuous feast was waiting for them. There they ate, and made complimentary speeches. At the dinner were prominent St. Kilda residents, who were large share holders in the company. Among those present were, the Hon. T. T. a'Beckett, M.L.C. who lived in Alma Street, East, Messrs. D. S. Campbell, Jackson Street, W. Brooks, Argyle Street East, J Badcock, Brice F. Bunny, Inkermann Street E., Alex Stephenson, High Street, and—O'Neil, and the secretary of the Company, W. R. Johnson, and the Engineer, of the line, Charles Swyer, who lived in Dalgety Street, Joseph Randell of Clyde Street, the contractor, and J. F. Higgins, Maryville Street, the contractor for the Melbourne and Suburban Railway. When the members of the party returned to Bay Street, they were greeted with loud hurrahs from the assembled navvies. The

well fed guests were flattered by such disinterested expressions of good will, on the part of the thirsty men, who had been engaged in the labors of constructing the St. Kilda loop line railway to Brighton. The passengers in acknowledgment hastily improvised a foot race for the navvies. The race was run off in heats, and the prize was a purse of money. The sober train, with its well satisfied passengers, reached Melbourne at five o'clock. Later the Government engineer inspected the line of railway, and passed it as safe to use. Ten days after the time the first train carried the celebration party, from St. Kilda to Brighton, the railway, St. Kilda to Brighton, was open for general traffic. No trains travelled past St. Kilda to Windsor after seven o'clock at night. The St. Kilda and Brighton Railway Company, from the date of the opening of its railway, 1859, until 1862, when the Company was bought out by the Melbourne and Suburban Railway Company found the "loop line" railway was an unprofitable "link". It was therefore abandoned by its new owners. The last journey made by a train along the loop line was on September 20, 1862. The loop line venture had cost £70,000.

In February, 1864, the St. Kilda Council sued the St. Kilda and Brighton Railway Company for its municipal rates, so deplorable a pass had that Company reached. No opposition was made to a court order in favor of the Council, with 5/- costs. And yet the railway prospectus of the first proposals said among the reasons why the proposition to build a railway was likely to be profitable was because "By the industry and wealth of the colonists, Melbourne has become one of the most extraordinary cities of the world. By railway connection the towns, and villages, will make gigantic strides towards the attainment of a secure position."

Enterprise in building houses was the outcome of the railway coming to St. Kilda. Easy communication with Melbourne opened up a new phase of life in St. Kilda. The close family conservatism of the one time "little village," was invaded by other interests. "Strangers" came into the community that had once enjoyed a sort of genteel isolation from Melbourne, and their coming meant that the old scheme of village life was to pass away for ever.

The land where the St. Kilda Bowling Club, and the Park State School are situated originally sloped down west towards

the beach. It was low lying, more or less swampy, and under water in winter. When the Melbourne to St. Kilda railway was built, the railway embankment cut the direct drainage to the west off, and the water had to find an outlet along the base of the embankment, beneath an embankment bridge, still in use, a short distance from the railway station. The land upon which the station stands is made-up land, and was held on the west, in its position by a supporting wall. Past the railway station on the north west side of Fitzroy Street the land levels continued to fall, and the whole of that land was formerly more or less a swamp, extending to the West Beach.

Where the Balaclava Railway Station now stands, was a portion of the Blenheim Park Estate, consisting of 178 allotments of land, that were offered for auction sale on October 6, 1857. The estate had, for its boundaries, Balaclava, Chapel, and Nightingale (Government) Streets, and it fronted two Government reserves. One was the market reserve, upon which is now erected the City Hall, and the other reserve, adjoined the market reserve, and it was the church reserve, whereon now is the Holy Trinity Church Balaclava, and the Methodist Churches. Fifty-four of the allotments faced Marlborough Street, and fifty four Rosamond Street, these street place names being contemporary with the time of the sale. The auctioneers were Symons and Perry. They sold the land in a tent, and they provided a champagne luncheon, served in the tent at noon. The estate was described, as one remove in title from the Crown, and as "the most valuable unsold large portion of land, in the municipality of St. Kilda."

On June 26, 1899, a petition was presented to the St. Kilda Council, from a body of St. Kilda ratepayers, which had been formed calling themselves the Elwood Railway League. The object of the League was to secure the extension of the St. Kilda railway line, through Elwood, South to Brighton, to encourage settlement in a portion of the St. Kilda, and Brighton municipalities, then only sparsely populated. The Government had just completed the reclamation of the more or less swamp land, bounded by Barkly Street, Mitford Street, Dickens Street, and Glen Huntly Road. The first meeting of the Elwood Railway League was held in the Village Belle Hotel on June 19, 1899. The Hon. Thomas Loader was in the chair, a man of some prominence in the commercial world of Melbourne as chairman

of the now defunct City of Melbourne Bank, and of some trading companies. He lived in South St. Kilda from the very early days of its settlement. We have seen a trade description of him as an ironmonger, St. Kilda, and this may imply that he was an early ironmonger of St. Kilda. In an old lease, we have perused, he was called "a cow keeper." After settling in St. Kilda, he went into partnership with another early resident Sydney James. James knew James Mason's tailor's shop in High Street, Walsall, the same James Mason who made his fortune in Victoria and who, in after years subscribed £1,000 towards the municipal city hall organ. James was a son of the owner and Master of a large foundry, the James Foundry of Walsall. Sydney James did not follow the calling of an iron founder, but learnt instead the trade of saddlers' ironmongery, for which Walsall was famous before the days of motor cars. He, and Loader, started as wholesale saddlery ironmongers in Elizabeth Street, at the heyday of the times of Cobb & Co's coaches, and of the importation of American buggies, and of a thousand articles for the diggings. Loader and James, among other things made money out of importing discarded silk ribbons, and silk selvages from Coventry, England, the town of the silk industry. The silk remnants were sent out crushed into light barrels, and they were sold freely throughout Victoria for crackers for whips ; drivers of bullock teams specially, favoring the silk crack that snapped with a report like a pistol shot. A strange way whereby to make money out of a waste product, but that it was done shows the possibilities of the profitable trading days of the gold fields. James knew George Watson, the St. Kilda resident of coach and racing fame, and he had ridden to the hounds in Ireland under Watson's mastership. When James settled in St. Kilda he bought land at Elwood, and he also renewed his acquaintance with Watson, who was then the master of the Melbourne Hunt Club. James hunted with the Melbourne hounds under Watson's leadership.

Sydney James was one of the foundation members of the first masonic lodge in St. Kilda, the Lodge St. Kilda No. 917, E.C., later No. 634 E.C. The first Worshipful Master was Isaac —; Foundation Members, Edmond Thomas Bradshaw, Town Clerk of St. Kilda, Francis John Bligh, merchant, of the firm Bligh & Harbottle, Barkly Street, Edward Sydes, Sydney James, Martin A. Krohn, all merchants, Henry Carroll,

Clerk of Petty. Sessions. (There were two Carrolls on the St. Kilda Ratepayers' Roll for 1859, Darby and Patrick, but no Henry.) Reginald Scaife, insurance broker. The first initiate was Robert Brunnett June 14, 1854. Two of the members were William Kenny, initiated July 5, 1860, Edward Duckett, ironmonger, initiated, 1862. In the year, 1854, the lodge met at the Royal Hotel, Esplanade St. Kilda and in 1862 at Pitts Hotel, Robe Street, St. Kilda. The lodge lapsed on June 5, 1882, and was erased from the register June 5, 1889.

In the year 1900 the late Sydney James told us that he had followed the hounds through paddocks bordering on the south side of Wellington Street onward to Malvern. It was with the greatest difficulty, having been away from St. Kilda, for many years, that he could recognise places he once knew. When gold was found in New Zealand, James left St. Kilda, and went to Dunedin, with a shipment of Irish salted butter for sale to the diggers. He did not return to Melbourne till about forty years had passed. For many years, he was the secretary of the Dunedin Jockey Club. When he died, his son succeeded to the position. James's partner Thomas Loader remained in Melbourne, entered politics, and became the Minister of Railways in 1861, which he may have deemed a qualification for being the Chairman of the Elwood Railway League in 1899. His son was a well known resident of South St. Kilda, and a solicitor by profession. In such movements (1899) as the removal of the Elwood abattoirs, Frank C. Loader, solicitor, was in evidence. His father's last public appearance we think, in St. Kilda, after his many years association with it, was at this meeting of the Elwood Railway League.

The Hon. Thomas Loader, by which title he was invariably addressed, in opening the meeting at the Village Belle Hotel, said that within his memory, he had seen high festivals held on the vacant lands, opposite the Village Belle Hotel, on every New Year holiday. The greatest event was the roasting of a bullock. The roasting of that particular bullock is a story that no early St. Kilda resident ever omitted to tell, though such ancients of the village green must be very hard to find to-day. The longevity of the story is great. Later we tell of the occasion of the incident. The ox was roasted in a paddock alongside the Village Belle Hotel. The carcase was spitted on specially made griddles. The roasting was far from a success, and the resulting roast

created among the spectators more laughter than appetite. A few strips of beef were cut off the carcase, but the meat was not only underdone, but it was raw beneath the burnt outside. The bullock, slaughtered to make a Royal holiday, served its purpose, and also drew a large crowd to the Village Belle Hotel.

At the Elwood Railway League meeting, one of the speakers, who followed the Hon. Thomas Loader, said he was the oldest resident of Elwood, by name John Broadbent. He settled in Elwood in the years of the fifties, on the strength of a promise that the St. Kilda Railway would go through Elwood. He had waited forty years for the railway line, but he did not expect to live to see the line constructed.

Victor Lemme, an ex-schoolmaster from the Geelong Grammar School, and afterwards an estate agent in St. Kilda, and Melbourne, was the driving force of the Elwood Railway League. The League's alluring proposals found great financial support from those most nearly interested in increased prospective values of their properties. A powerful accession in strength to the League was when the Railway Commissioner, John Mathieson, supported the League's proposals. In Mathieson's opinion the best way to carry out the railway extension was to make the railway a part of the line, which would junction with that to Brighton, at a point between Balaclava, and Elsternwick. Originally the idea was to take the line through St. Kilda, by a tunnel under Grey Street, but that proposal Mathieson said could be improved upon. New station buildings might be erected upon the city side of the Esplanade, and the line from thence extended round the Esplanade, and on to the point of junction, with the Brighton line. It was proposed to abolish the existing St. Kilda Station, and have one in the vicinity of Loch Street in its place. There was to be a station at Elwood, and another at the Bluff. The Railway Standing Committee, in 1883, had recommended an extension of the St. Kilda Railway, running along Grey Street, for a short distance in a tunnel then the line was to divert slightly towards the Esplanade, crossing the cable tramway line before its terminus, passing on through Elwood to the Red Bluff, and thence forward, to connect with Brighton railway near the Middle Brighton Station. This line would have been about five miles in length (the other proposed line was two and a half miles) and like the Railway Commissioners' project, would have, with the

Brighton line, constituted a circular railway, so that trains could run out from Flinders Street, on one line, and return to their starting point by the other.

The League's proposals, in the abstract, were taken up with considerable interest, though public opinion was divided as to the best route. Many letters were published in the newspapers on the subject. Among the letters that appeared was one from M.M. Ward Cole of "St. Ninians," Brighton, who stated the line as "originally intended was to be through St. Kilda, viz., Grey Street, but the people in St. Kilda, I have heard my father (the late Captain George Ward Cole) say, would not allow it, as they thought that Brighton would have everything as there was a strong political party living there then." Captain Cole, R.N., must have known what he was talking about when he gave his son that information for he was an M.L.C. and had been resident in the Colony since July, 1840. The well known Coles wharf in Flinders Street West (where H. C. E. Childers, St. Kilda's first church organist, acted as tally clerk) was constructed and owned by Captain Cole. He also built, in 1851, "the City of Melbourne" screw steamship, the first screw steamer that was seen in Australia.

Not without some alarm, did the St. Kilda Council watch the actions of the League members. They advocated a railway line, plotted so that it would destroy the beauty of the Esplanade, and of the sea front. The Council itself favored the original proposition, made when the railway to St. Kilda was first constructed, and that was by tunnel, under Grey Street, thence on to Elwood, and Brighton. We have the evidence of the Enabling Act, that after passing under Grey Street, the first station of the railway was to be "at or near the site of Norton's store." The store was a well known shop of St. Kilda, called "Melbourne House." The place belonged to William Norton and Co. When Stubbs & Son, auctioneers, sold by auction in 1861, Norton's store, they said 'the spot was the very nucleus of the trade at St. Kilda, and that the Railway Company had in its report recommended Norton's store as the best situation for the terminus of the railway.' Norton's store, by the way, was that of a grocery, provision and wine and spirit warehouse, opposite the old police court. There was also connected with the property an ironmonger's shop. Had the terminus of the St. Kilda Railway been made in High Street the history of that street as an

avenue of trade would have been one of more profitable ventures than it is. The expense of a tunnel, and the opposition of property holders, were the two factors that eventually halted the St. Kilda Railway in Fitzroy Street.

To return to the subject of the Elwood Railway League. The St. Kilda Council Chamber was crowded with interested property owners, when the Elwood Railway League, and its supporters, presented a petition to the mayor requesting him to call a public meeting, for the purpose of bringing pressure to bear on the Government, to have the proposed railway constructed. The Council had no uncertain views on the subject, and the councillors had no time for what Councillor Edward O'Donnell described as Mr. Mathieson's "outrageous scheme." Any attempt, said the councillor, to carry the railway, "on stilts," around the Esplanade, would be opposed by the Council, with "tooth and nail." The proper route was from the St. Kilda station, under Grey Street, on to Elwood. At the Council meeting held on July 10, 1899, Councillor O'Donnell moved "with regard to the proposed extension of the St. Kilda Railway, from Fitzroy Street to Elwood, this Council opposes any railway being extended along the beach, on the ground that such railway would take in the beach frontages, and also damage the Esplanade, upon which the Council, for years past, has spent large sums of money, so as to render the beach one of the most attractive spots in the southern hemisphere." Councillor Connibere seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mathieson replied to the Council's criticisms, stating he had no idea whatever of carrying the line "on stilts" around the Esplanade. His scheme was to keep to the low level, the line to take a curve beachwards, several hundred yards on the city side of the present St. Kilda station site, to pierce the rise intervening between that point, and the Beach, and to proceed along the Esplanade on the low level. He added that a great portion of the proposed extension would pass through Government land, and going a short distance beyond the Bluff, to sweep back on to the Brighton Line, joining it near Elsternwick.

A vast amount of work was done by the Elwood Railway League, many speakers spoke many words during the agitation, numerous meetings were held, sheafs of pamphlets were printed, but such efforts proved to have made for nought. Electric power was becoming a recognised factor in railway service, and an

electric tramway, or railway along Grey Street, appeared to experts to be the right way to deal with the problem of railway connection, from the St. Kilda Railway Station to Brighton.

On November 30, 1904, an Act, was passed by Parliament called the St. Kilda and Brighton Electric Street Railway Act, which provided that the line was to commence at, or near, the cable tramway terminus, Acland Street, St. Kilda, and to terminate at, or near, the intersection of St. Kilda Street, and Grosvenor Street, in the municipality of Brighton. On further consideration, Parliament passed, on September 26, 1905, the St. Kilda and Brighton Street Electric Street Railway Extension Act. This extension completed the line from the St. Kilda Railway Station, in Fitzroy Street to Grosvenor Street, Brighton. The line's total length is a little more than three and a half miles, and it passes through Grey, Barkly, and Mitford Streets, thence along Ormond Road to St. Kilda Street, and along that road to Grosvenor Street, Brighton. The cost of construction of the first line exclusive of rolling stock, was under the Act 1904, not to exceed £19,500, and that of the extension line, under Act 1905, was £8,000. Guarantees were required from the St. Kilda, and the Brighton Councils, St. Kilda's guarantee against loss was a maximum £600 per annum, and Brighton's guarantee was £300, the period being for 20 years. The first spike in the first rail was driven by the Hon. Thomas Bent, Premier and Minister of Railways, and the second spike by the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Henry B. Gibbs, and the third spike by the Mayor of Brighton, on Thursday, October 19, 1905.

The St. Kilda Railway Station building has not altered a great deal since it was first built. In old photographs it is quite easy to recognise that the building, as it exists to-day, is practically the same building as when the Melbourne to St. Kilda railway was first opened. The platform has been lengthened, and a few structural alterations have been made, but such innovations have not changed the main lines of the old building. Naturally, after the passage of years, the railway station buildings are quite out of harmony with the palatial buildings in Fitzroy Street. St. Kilda City is overdue for a modern railway station that shall be worthy of the city it serves. That St. Kilda has not a worthy railway station in Fitzroy Street is not for want of asking for it. Councillor Thomas Unsworth, who is one of the representatives of the West. Ward, in which the railway

station is situated, has been persistent in his demand for a modern railway station. In July, 1923, he was still agitating, still pressing the question of the remodelling, and the rebuilding of the St. Kilda Railway Station. In the Council he referred to the mixture of materials used in the existing buildings, some parts of which had stood for 50 years. He condemned the Railway Commissioners for making shift with patchwork repairs. Of course all the councillors then agreed with their colleague. The councillors decided to speak with the Railway Commissioners. The result of doing so was, in Councillor Unsworth's words, "distinctly disappointing." The councillors had been favored with a long dissertation on railway management, which they went not to hear. The remodelling of St. Kilda Railway Station, they were informed, was connected with constructional work that was contemplated. The station would not lack attention to repairs when it was necessary. Other councillors did not express themselves as entirely in accord with Councillor Unsworth's views. They confessed that they listened, with interest, to the "exposition" of what the management of a railway system meant, and that they had learnt that the primary producers had the first claim for consideration in railway development. The Council had submitted a good case to the Chief Commissioner, but he, Mr. H. Clapp, on the other hand, had rebutted it with a stronger case wherein the Council was asked to consider the question from its national aspect, instead of an altogether parochial standpoint. In the course of the discussion it was stated that the volume of traffic, passing through the St. Kilda railway station, was second only to that flowing through the Flinders Street railway station. The old historical building, the first St. Kilda railway station still stands, still more or less serves its purpose, in this year of 1931.

CHAPTER XXIV.

The St. Kilda General Market—Agitation for Market in 1867—The Site Question—Stormy Meeting of Ratepayers—The Inkerman Street Site — Meetings of Protest—Inkerman Street Site a Swamp—Council Market Committee Buys Site—Bellman Engaged, "Oyez! Oyez! The Market's Here!"—Market Sheds Erected, 1868—Market Opened—Not a Success—A Privately Owned Market—The Trade. Stream in St. Kilda—Council and Primary Producers—City's Corporation Tips—Search for Destructor Sites—Residents' Hostility to Sites—The Elsternwick Park Lost to St. Kilda—South St. Kilda Residents' Good Citizenship—St. Kilda Council Erects Refuse Destructor in Inkerman Street.

ON April 10, 1867, a meeting of residents was held in the St. Kilda Town Hall to give public expression to the wish throughout the borough for the establishment of a general market. Councillor Henry Tullett was chairman, and the Town Clerk of St. Kilda, Mr. Bradshaw, read the notice convening the meeting. Speakers in favor of the proposal, commented upon the absurdity of market gardeners passing through St. Kilda to Paddy's Market, Melbourne, with their loads of vegetables, when a portion of the vegetables had to be brought back to St. Kilda for sale, being enhanced in price, owing to toll gate dues on the St. Kilda Road.

Dr. F. T. Van Hemert, public vaccinator, and Registrar of Births and Deaths for St. Kilda, said that householders were "compelled to diet their servants on bread or potatoes, and that if there was a market in their midst, where cabbages could be got, it would be a great boon to all concerned."

One speaker, R. Whitelock, said he was against the proposal because "St. Kilda was an aristocratic suburb, and that few working men, who eat the most, lived in it." A resolution in favor of the market, and that the Borough Council be "forthwith solicited to co-operate for the selection of a site for the market," was carried.

Difficulties quickly followed the meeting. Contending parties arose to fight with considerable spirit, and some personal bitterness over which site was the most suitable one. Residents in High Street wanted the market placed there. Others sup-

ported a site in Inkerman Street. Among the members of the deputation, sent by the meeting, to wait on the council, were well-known early St. Kilda men, including Messrs. Tullett, Van Hemert, Wilson, Gemmell, Nimnis, H. S. Smith, P. Matthews, H. S. Wheeler, J. Mattheson, W. G. Murray, F. J. Sargood, Hon. George Home, H. Palmer, and R. Elworthy.

A newspaper critic said the meeting in the Town Hall was a "mere burlesque," because the Town Clerk, after reading the requisition, asking the Mayor to convene the meeting, and when proceeding to read some few names, was peremptorily told by the Chairman to "sit down." Ratepayers, attending the meeting, had been snubbed by Councillor Tullett, and treated as "plebeian burgesses," because they did not reside in Grey Street, where Messrs. Tullett & Co. wished to place the market, without consulting the ratepayers' wishes. Councillor Tullett had described himself as the "meekest man in the world," and then *he* had asked if the sixty-three ratepayers, in High Street, thought that they could take the remaining ratepayers by the throat, and dictate to them, what should be done? "Uproar" followed this bellicose question.

As the fight for the site advanced, the High Street site advocates clamored for a ballot. Assertions were made, that the burgesses of East St. Kilda, had been "sold for a mess of pottage, and that the whole market business was a regular dodge." When advocates of the High Street site saw that they would probably fail, they criticised the Council in severe terms, and decided to hold a public meeting of protest. This meeting was held in the Orderly Room, Chapel Street. Resolutions against the proposed site in Inkerman Street were carried. The meeting also affirmed, that a ballot of the burgesses should be taken, as the "only true way of ascertaining the wishes of the ratepayers."

The land suggested, as suitable for a market site, in High Street was near the Pembroke Hotel. It had a frontage of 110 feet by varying depths of 169 feet and 200 feet. Upon it were three wooden shops, which were let at a rental of 10/- each per week. The owner was Joseph Taylor, and he asked £750 for the land. When the resolutions, in favor of the High Street site, were received by the Council, Councillor Bunny said the ballot would lead to no satisfaction, as the ratepayers con-

cerned were not agreed among themselves as to the most suitable site. Inkerman Street site was in a swamp, and the one the resolutionists desired was no improvement on. Inkerman Street site, because the drainage from High Street, and from the surrounding properties, flowed into it. Councillor. Tullett described the meeting as one held by the residents of High Street, and not by ratepayers living in East St. Kilda, though the promoters of the meeting pretended it was. He hoped that the market sheds would be erected before Christmas. He thought that the letter, with the resolutions, should be merely "received," and he moved an amendment to that effect, against a motion to refer the letter to the Public Works Committee. Councillor Tullett's amendment was carried. A market committee was appointed consisting of the Mayor, Councillor W. Ford, and Councillors Tullett, Lord, and Oldham.

The Council waited on the Commissioner of Crown Lands, for the purpose of asking for permission to dispose of the market reserve, and to be allowed to apply the purchase money towards buying the proposed Inkerman site. The Commissioner decided to consult his colleagues. Three months afterwards, the Council was still waiting for the Commissioner's reply. Councillor Fowler said in Council, that the councillors knew "perfectly well that the request was not entertained."

On Monday, September 16, 1867, the Market Committee reported to the Council that it had agreed with Messrs. Nicholson, and Purvis to buy 220 feet of their land, west of the proposed continuation of Greeves Street, by a depth of their entire block, and to pay for the land £200. This agreement to purchase, was made, on the condition, that Nicholson and Purvis gave, without cost, 60 feet of land, for the continuation of Greeves Street, and 40 feet, for the continuation of Blanche Street, to Barkly Street, and also, 30 feet, for a street, west of the proposed market, called, in Mr. Jackson's plan, Clarke Street, the Council agreeing to form, and metal Greeves and Blanche Streets, within twelve months, from the date of the conveyance. It was asserted that the ratepayers had, by a large majority, consented to the site, and to the whole scheme. Councillor Fowler said the Committee had exceeded its powers, and that the basis of the agreement was not tenable. The council had not obtained the sanction of the Government for the sale of the ground,

reserved for market purposes, nor had the Committee taken steps to secure the best, or even a suitable site. The site proposed was dear at any price, for it was the lowest part of St. Kilda, and the main drain would be a perfect nuisance to a population settling in that locality. In reply to Councillor Fowler it was asserted that the Council had the power to purchase the site, without the proceeds of the sale of the market reserve being obtained from the Government. After a long discussion, the report was received, and the Market Committee's actions ratified.

Before purchasing the land in Inkerman Street, or going any further towards creating a permanent market by erecting sheds, it was decided to give a market, to be held in Inkerman Street, a three months' trial. To overcome any mud the street was well blinded with sand. This street market was held on Wednesdays, and Saturdays. Its first opening was notified, throughout St. Kilda, by a lusty-throated bellman calling, "Oyez! Oyez! *The market's here!*" From 15 to 20 market gardeners, with their carts, attended on the first market day. At the end of three months' time over 100 market gardeners, and their carts, crowded into Inkerman Street. Contrary to their expectations, the High Street shopkeepers found that the market benefited them, because the market gardeners spent with them about £250 every Saturday market day.

George Walstab, Mr. J. H. Jackson's agent, wrote to the Council, stating he had received a communication requesting him to put under offer, to the Council, two or three hundred feet of Mr. Jackson's land to be used as a public market. He drew their attention to the fact that the land was already used as a public market, without his consent, and he wanted to know why? before he consulted Mr. Jackson's solicitor, about the trespass. The Council informed him that it had given no authority to trespass on the land in question, and that the market was held in Inkerman Street. Walstab replied saying he would himself deal with those who trespassed upon Jackson's land on market days.

Jackson was in England, and the Market Committee found that his representative had no power to sell the whole of the land for the market. The Committee recommended that the land be taken compulsorily under powers which the Council possessed



DANDENONG ROAD, 1931.

but eventually the land was acquired by arbitration. Jackson wanted £1,800 for the land, the Council estimated that £650 was a fair market value. It was calculated, by the Council, that the building of the markets would cost £2,500, and that sum might be obtained by debentures, and a special rate levied.

On November 18, the Council accepted the tender of John Morris, for the erection of market sheds, the price was £1,520. Morris had rivals, if not enemy critics. D. McNaughton, on February 29, 1868, wrote to a newspaper, saying that 28 gauge iron, instead of 24 gauge iron, as specified in the contract for building the market, was being used by Morris. This lighter weight iron, McNaughton alleged, made a difference in price in Morris's favor of £59/11/41. McNaughton said: "The broken-backed appearance of the market is highly picturesque." The work went on notwithstanding Mr. McNaughton. A press comment *says*: "It will not be long before the St. Kilda people have a market place worthy of their borough. Porters have been appointed for the market, so that purchasers can have their goods carried to any part of the district, at a small charge." The "porters" engaged by the Council were "six boys of good character."

The St. Kilda market was opened, in the presence of many ratepayers, and others, on Saturday, April 4, 1868. The buildings faced Inkerman Street, and the central avenue was 380 feet *long* by 20 feet wide, with smaller divisions on either side, 14 feet wide, for market gardeners' carts. The occasion was one of a municipal ceremony at which the Mayor, Dr. Patterson, reviewed the commencement, progress, and completion of the markets. He stated that opposition to the markets had ceased. The Municipal party then adjourned to the Town Hall and partook of luncheon. John Morris gave a hogshead of beer, to those present, wherewith to drink success to the market. Stalls to the number of 29 were let for the current quarter, and the amount realised on the first day by the collection of dues, Wednesday, April 9, was £46/13/-.

The first market inspector was Mr. Wilson, the librarian of the Town Hall Library. Officially, it was stated in Council that the principal reason for appointing the literary Mr. Wilson was "to save expense, as by advertising for a market inspector the Council would have been put to great expense, and the

Council might have had to pay to such a man, a salary of £150, per annum," whereas, if Mr. Wilson, the librarian, at certain hours and days, was turned into Mr. Wilson, the market inspector, that shuffle would only cost the Council £50 as an addition to the librarian's salary. The appointment of Mr. Wilson to be the market inspector was severely criticised in the street, and in the newspapers. In the criticisms that were published in the newspapers, "the expense of advertising" was called "all moonshine, because anyone knew that the plain facts were that the Council had a pet lamb." Wilson was the "pet lamb," who grazed on the somewhat starved fields of literature, in the St. Kilda Public Library, and his lamb-like nature was hungry and human enough to enjoy his occasional freedom among succulent Brighton cabbages, in the St. Kilda market, when for doing so he received £50 per annum. A strong feeling existed that William Brotherton, who was one of the active forces in bringing about the markets, should have received the position of the first market inspector.

The success of the markets minimised the profits of the St. Kilda abattoirs, and the lessees, Edington Brothers, complained to the Council that a number of butchers, from other districts, wherein cattle were slaughtered, sent meat for sale to the St. Kilda markets. On those grounds they asked for a reduction of the rent they paid for the slaughter house, and yards. Market stall holders complained that market gardeners forestalled the markets, and hawked vegetables through St. Kilda, to avoid paying market dues, which were for a cart 6d., for a waggon, 9d. The Council checked that practice by passing a punitive by-law. In September the Council decided to fence in a portion of the market grounds with corrugated iron, and to use the enclosed space as a municipal store yard.

Hugh A. Hunt, one of a line of market lessees, complained to the Council in September, 1874, that he had made grave losses, owing to the hot weather. The supply of vegetables usually brought to the market had ceased. The new weighbridge installed in Dandenong Road was more convenient for many market gardeners and others. The custom that once was his at the St. Kilda weighbridge was then *going* to the lessee of the Dandenong Road weighbridge. The charges posted up on the board in the St. Kilda market were not legal, and he had,

turning this way, and that, for a living, to take, in the way of fees, what the market gardeners would give to him. Possibly Mr. Hunt survived his troubles.

The remarkable thing, about the old market was, that up to 1919, the Council's board, that proclaimed the market dues, was still attached to the old market building. Since then it has been removed, to the City Hall's store room, where it is housed, as a minor historical relic. The writing on the board reads:-

BOROUGH OF ST. KILDA.

PUBLIC MARKET.

Dues Chargeable at this Market.

For each stall (butchers excepted), £1/1/- a quarter.

For each standing do., ditto.

Articles with basket, or barrow, 6d. per day.

Cart, or Waggon, 1/-.

Butcher's stall, 4/-.

Butcher's stall, Wednesday, and Saturday mornings, 7/-.

Wood cart with two wheels, 6d. a day.

Wood cart with four wheels, 1/-.

Space for each stall, or standing, 8 feet.

Passed by special order of Council, 3rd March, 1868, and confirmed on the 6th day of April, 1868.

JAMES PATTERSON, Mayor.

E. BRADSHAW, Town Clerk.

The reason why the market board of fees remained in its place for so long a period, was a curious one. It was left since 1868, because it served a legal purpose, and that purpose ceased to exist on January 1st, 1919. The St. Kilda Council, and the St. Kilda Market Committee in their excitement, when bringing the market into existence, forgot to have the place gazetted as a market. Through some legal difficulty the neglect could not be remedied. The market board floated as a raft in the sea of trouble, and saved the rights of the Council. So long as the board was exhibited the Council could prosecute any hawker, who sold his wares without a license, within the municipal boundaries of St. Kilda. The board has, in years past, been photographed, and the photograph produced, and sworn to in Court as a photograph of the market board of St. Kilda, still exhibited in the market place, in order to prove a case against

a hawker who had not paid his St. Kilda fees. The St. Kilda Council's inspector, before he could succeed in a market prosecution had to show that a market in St. Kilda was in existence, at least in official existence, if not in fact, and this was proved by the board, though the Borough of St. Kilda had never been gazetted as a place, wherein a market was held. The Hawkers' Act, 1919, obviated the necessity of retaining the old market board of 1868.

The hopes of the men of 1867, were not completely realised. The market, after its preliminary success, gradually wilted away. The market gardeners preferred to cart their produce to Melbourne. They could sell their vegetables there with more profit. The trade in St. Kilda was too poor to keep them. The market was in its dying phases, waiting for an undertaker, in 1882. The town clerk, Mr. Fred W. Chamberlin, remembers seeing for sale, cooked meats in the market in 1882. Possibly the meat pies he saw were the cooked meats of the funeral feast. Evidences of a demand by thirsty market men and women survives in the Newmarket Hotel. At the time of writing, the iron sheds remain. Some of the market land is now used as a site for the St. Kilda rubbish destructor.

A deputation, from the St. Kilda Branch of the Australian Labor Party, waited on the Council on March 19, 1923, to urge the re-establishment of a general market in St. Kilda. The deputation was introduced by Councillor G. B. Renfrey. The members of the deputation based their application on the following resolution, passed by the local Labor branch :—"That this Branch wait upon the St. Kilda City Council, and urge the consideration of the establishment of a market in St. Kilda." The deputationists desired a municipally-governed market, not a privately controlled one. A market, in their opinion, would increase the trade done by shopkeepers. Reference was made to the passage through St. Kilda of market gardeners, with their carts, laden with fruit, and vegetables, on their way to the markets of Melbourne. Not anything the spokesmen urged was new to the councillors. The Mayor assured the deputation that, its request would receive every consideration.

The members of the deputation were not the only persons who thought it an anomaly that market gardeners with vegetables, should pass through St. Kilda to sell their produce

in Melbourne. The reason is, that the vegetables on the carts are, in most cases, already sold to middlemen market buyers in Melbourne. In some cases, acres of growing cabbages, are sold in advance of their maturity. The market gardener's task is, when the harvest is ready, to deliver the cabbages, which have been already counted, to the wholesale middleman in Melbourne, before he can receive his final payment for his vegetables. Relatively, the conditions now for direct trading are more difficult than they were in the days when the St. Kilda Council had a market bellman.

A company established a privately-owned market on the site of the old tramway sheds in Acland Street in 1928. The market was declared open on June 15, by the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Dawkins. The market is laid out under one roof, with several passage ways 16 feet in width. Shops, or stalls, 12 x 12, extend on each side of the passage ways. On either side of the main entrance, is a parking ground for motor cars. The cost of erecting the market is stated to have been £20,000, and that 10,000 visitors inspected the market on the opening day.

In 1879, St. Kilda shopkeepers decided to start a Tradesmen's Club. In 1879, the business hours of shopkeepers were from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., and there was no general half holiday. The first president of the Club was T. E. Pittitt, a draper in High Street, and he held the office for two years. The members of the executive committee were W. E. F. Nichols, James Euson, R. J. Punshon, A. W. Clapham, J. O. Prescott; secretary, William Christian; and treasurer, George Hooper. The second president of the club was G. D. Carter, M.L.A. for St. Kilda, and after him commenced the line of presidents from the Mayors of St. Kilda, starting in 1885, with W. H. Ellerker. This line of Mayors has been broken on one occasion. An election to the Mayorship of St. Kilda at one time was tantamount to an election to the presidentship of the St. Kilda Tradesmen's Club. Each year the club extended its influence, and its past progress was due in some measure to the services of the club's secretary, the late H. M. Knox. The club owns in its own right a club room in Inkerman Street. The club, we are assured, tries to live up to its motto

"Life is the river, and man is the boat,
That over its surface is destined to float.
Joy is a cargo so easily stored,
That he is a fool that takes sorrow on board."

High Street, St. Kilda, was a section of Brighton Road, along which a flowing stream of trade ran. The road was the main arterial highway to the southern districts of Brighton and its neighbours. High Street hill was an obstacle over which the trading stream passing through St. Kilda had to flow. When the traffic came from Brighton, along High Street, shops were built to attract the passing immigrants, and other market garden settlers, from Dendy's Special Reserve. Some of those shops are still standing, and they have the appearance of old shops in an English town. Some years passed before the builders of such places, or the architects, discarded the style of house, and shop building, that was brought from England, where the heat of the summer's sun did not suggest the necessity for verandahs, and blinds. Unadorned windows set in uncompromising plain brick walls suggest the English spirit. High Street, before some of the old buildings were pulled down, to be replaced by modern buildings, was a street that might have been lifted out of an English town, and set down in St. Kilda. The street, as a duplication, was quite true to its English forebears. This impression was further strengthened by the Bay View Hotel, and by its position, which was that of an hotel set back from the street's alignment, sufficiently far back to allow of two, or three, market gardeners' waggons, and their pairs of horses, to stand within the line of the street's alignment, in front of the wooden water trough of the hotel, and such standings regularly took place.

High Street was, at one time, a good trading highway, and property in the street was valuable for that reason. In the ordinary way, when the railway came to St. Kilda from Melbourne, and the train stopped at a dead end terminus in Fitzroy Street, the trade stream might have been disturbed, and gone to Grey Street, and Fitzroy Street, had not the foreign trade, as opposed to domestic trade, passed along High Street, that thoroughfare being for the market gardeners (who constituted the "foreign trade,") the nearest way home. Another obstacle to trade in Fitzroy Street was the Government reserves, and the

fact too, that to the west of the railway station was the swampy ground. Grey and Fitzroy Streets were already residential areas, and there was no room for any shop expansion, even supposing that the railway traffic carried with it a stream of trade. The George Hotel, Wise's boot shop, Hennessy's, the baker, and perhaps, one or two other tradesmen had a footing in the immediate vicinity of the railway, but they were the exception. The one outstanding building that served a public want was the Assembly Hall, in Grey Street. This Assembly Hall is continually referred to in newspaper reports of the day of social affairs taking place in St. Kilda. We have a note, from a Council report (1882), which reads :—"The Assembly Hall in Grey Street was converted into a coffee palace." In the heyday of its prosperity the hall was used for holding concerts in, for electioneering meetings, for fancy fairs, and for charitable entertainments. Master John Kruse made one of his first public appearances, as a violinist, in this hall, when he played for the charity of the Sick Children's Hospital.

Public offices sometimes act as a magnet to group shops about them. In St. Kilda the placing of a small brick court house, at the apex of the angle, formed by the junction of Grey and Barkly Streets, had no such effect. The Hare and Hounds Hotel, changed its name, some said "the hare was jugged," and it became the Court House Hotel. At another corner of the cross roads, was a grocery store, Melbourne House, and in the vicinity a butcher's shop, and a few small shops. The St. Kilda Town Hall did not affect, in any great measure, the place as a trading centre. Grey, and Barkly Streets were streets of private houses, and there was no vacant land in them for the erection of shops, in such numbers, as to make a shopping centre. Inkerman Street had more vacant land, and the street led into High Street, an advantage, where shops were concerned, since a shopkeeper in Inkerman Street might chance to divert to his shop the trade flowing down Inkerman Street, on its way to High Street. A portion of Inkerman Street was occupied by the St. Kilda market, and a municipal storage yard, and that land was not available for shop building. The electric tramcars, from Brighton to the St. Kilda railway station in their *passage* along Barkly Street, and down Grey Street, were but cars of passage, that left no trade in their wake.

A trading question that involved a brick wall in High Street, close to Carlisle Street, was before the St. Kilda Council in October, 1914. The promoters of the Wholesale Meat Market and Distributing Depot, bought a piece of vacant land, in High Street, upon which they purposed to build a storage house, and cool chambers, and a wholesale market for the sale of meat, destined to be distributed, from that place, to the surrounding district. The building was designed so as to have a dead wall, 150 feet in length, along High Street, with one opening in the wall, for an entrance to the meat store. Property owners in the vicinity, protested, on the ground, that the presence of the meat store would divert business. The probable unsightliness of the wall was also referred to, and its effect on breaking the line of shops. Considerable discussion took place on the subject. A deputation of ratepayers, presented a petition to the Council, protesting against the store, and Councillor Renfrey made out a strong case for the petitioners. When, in November, the question of store, or no store, was put to the vote the voting was equal. The Mayor gave his casting vote in favor of the erection of the store.

Carlisle Street has become a very busy shopping thoroughfare. When the City Hall was built, in Carlisle Street, the conditions were in favor of a street of successful shops. Land values in Carlisle Street increased amazingly. Land in Carlisle Street sold at the rate of £80 per foot. A property, adjoining the Balaclava railway station, consisting of five shops, with dwelling, and also land, 30 x 110, sold for £5,750 to George Pleasance, the chemist. Tester's estate, which had been bought for £7,000, sold for £12,000. One of the agencies for the advancing prosperity of Carlisle Street, in its shopping area, was the coming of the electric tramway. The cars stopped at the Balaclava railway station. In consequence too of the population lying south from Carlisle Street, the street was filled with housewives. This steady volume of trade is reflected in the modern shops of Carlisle Street ; in the excellent goods offered for sale. Further, South Elwood has an isolated trade stream of its own. The numerous housewives of Elwood are well catered for by the shopkeepers of Elwood. A picture theatre, a dance palais, and a post office, are to be found on places where once in swamp land the hollow-sounding note of the bittern boomed.

In later days, even with the Council holding out a hand to primary producers of fruit, and vegetables, there was no cordial acceptance of the help that would have been possibly afforded them by establishing a market. At least that conclusion must be drawn from a trial made in the month of November, 1920. Councillor Burnett Gray urged upon the Council, and he was supported in his efforts by Councillor Cummings, the desirability of establishing a local fruit market or markets. He referred to the activities of the Commonwealth and State Parliaments in settling people on the land, but he regretted that provision for the sale of the settlers' produce was not given equal attention. The friendly attitude of the St. Kilda Council, towards the welfare of primary producers in offering to provide them with profitable street stands for the sale of their fruit, was of such a nature that one would have supposed that the Council would have found a grateful response, but such was not the case. When the town clerk wrote to the Melbourne and District Fruitgrowers' Association, he received an indifferent reply, stating "the Association was considering an extension of the system to other suburbs," a reply that was wide of the mark, so far as St. Kilda's activities on behalf of the fruit-growers were concerned. A letter was sent to the Association, stating the Council was disappointed that the Association did not avail itself of the facilities so promptly afforded by the St. Kilda Council at the request of the Treasurer of the State. Later the Fruit Growers' Association called a conference of municipal representatives. Councillor Burnett Gray attended the conference, and reported that markets had been established at Richmond (2), Collingwood (2), Hawthorn, and Coburg, at which places 60,000 cases of fruit had been sold. The Association suggested that out of 1/6 charged per day, by the municipalities, as rental for the market sites, 1/- should be handed to the Association to defray the cost of organisation. The St. Kilda Council agreed to do so when a local fruit market was established. The Council had no desire to derive revenue from the project, but only to help the fruit growers.

Before the days of burning in powerful up-to-date destructors, a city's daily refuse, from thousands of homes, such rubbish had to be buried in tips more or less suitable, for the purpose. At the best the practice was not in accordance with

accepted hygienic rules. Usually, the refuse was used for filling in low-lying lands, and so the work of disposing of the rubbish was co-ordinated with the task of the reclamation of inhospitable lands. In Prahran large clay holes of worked out and abandoned brick kilns were utilised for tipping the city's rubbish into. In St. Kilda, swampy ground was filled in. In the year 1921, the St. Kilda Council had still in use what was known as the corporation tip in Albert Park. The rubbish was placed in trenches, and as each trench was filled, it was closed up with a covering of earth. Rubbish that would burn was set fire to, and consumed in the trenches. The invention of an incinerator, capable of dealing daily with tons of a city's garbage, and so contrived that the garbage itself fed the fires of the furnaces, revolutionised the method of destroying city garbage, by dealing with it in a sanitary, and scientific manner, there being no greater purifier than fire. In the year 1912, the St. Kilda Council received notice from the Public Health Department, that the disposal of refuse, by burial in tips, must be discontinued after the date of September, 1914. Evidently the notice was not confined to the St. Kilda Council. The Brighton, and Caulfield Councils were also notified. The installation of a destructor was an expensive undertaking, and the Councils thought the cost might be shared between them, and that by the installation of a destructor, with sufficient furnace capacity to deal with the rubbish from the three cities, the difficulties of expense they were faced with might be minimised. The first trouble the Councils had to surmount was to find a site agreeable to three Councils whereon to place the destructor. Scarcely anything arouses property-holding ratepayers so quickly, as a proposal, by a Council, to place a rubbish destructor, in the neighbourhood of their properties. They cannot be convinced that no nuisance comes from the destructor itself, even though some of the latest ones consume their own smoke smuts the usual subject of complaint. The passage of the covered-in rubbish carts, through the streets is another source of protest, and one of the reasons why the destructor should be placed anywhere, but within the zone of their residence.

After due consideration, between the three Councils, a site for the destructor was agreed upon, on a piece of Crown land,

abutting on to the Elster Creek, between New Street, and Brick-wood Street, at South Elsternwick. The Minister of Lands agreed to the Department making the land available to the Councils, and the Board of Health approved of the site. Apparently everything was well in train for the success of the proposed joint municipal destructor to be placed upon this piece of ground. The site was within a stone's throw, the breadth of the creek, of the Garden Vale State School. This school, though a small one, had a very active parents' committee, the members of which, when they learnt that it was proposed to build a refuse destructor, in the neighbourhood of the school, at once made a local call to arms of every householder, within a quarter of a mile of the school. The call was responded to, in such a way, that almost all the property-holders joined their forces to those of the School Committee. The opposition to the Council's proposals thus started, betook upon itself something of the nature of a rolling snowball. It gathered bulk in the shape of recruits, as the movement spread. Strange to say, the force, and vigor of the opposition, actually infused enthusiasm in the corporate heart of the Education Department. Whether it was the joy of fighting, that is said to be inherent in the Anglo-Saxon-cum-Austral race, the fight by the School Committee, the residents, and the Education Department against the opposing forces of the St. Kilda, Caulfield, and Brighton Councils, was a very lively one, and of a nature in which the interest did not flag—for the issue was in doubt on both sides up to the time of the actual decision. We tell the whole story because it illustrates how an active faction of a determined school committee, can wage a fight, and continue to wage a fight in a way that almost seemed to compel victory, and that too against three allied powerful Councils, and also against the great influence which they undoubtedly wielded.

Inspections were made of the site, and much measuring from the school to the site proposed, took place. The parties agreed—it was the only thing that they did agree upon—that the school was eleven chains away from the site. In vain, the Councils tried to combat the tide of the local opposition. In September, 1914, the School Committee was gratified to learn that the Premier declined to receive a deputation from the councils, concerning the site, on the ground that no purpose

would be served by such a deputation. The Cabinet, he intimated, would not re-open the question!

That intimation was a surprising one to the Councils, but a more surprising piece of information to the Councils was the startling news that the whole of the paddock from Brick-wood Street to New Street, within which lay the proposed site, had been granted to the Education Department, for school purposes! Such an act was conclusive, and looked uncommonly like victory for the valiant, and chuckling school committee. The Councils were chagrined. They expressed the opinion, and they were justified in doing so, that the Government had not kept faith with them, and that the councillors had "received the greatest discouragement, instead of assistance, in effecting this necessary sanitary reform." The Councils had been misled, so far that, believing they had won the day, they sent a cheque in payment for the land for the site of the destructor! This cheque was returned, with the intimation that "the Government is not disposed to agree to the proposals of the Councils for the sale of the land desired."

The opinion of the St. Kilda Council regarding this sudden surprising negation, was expressed by the Mayor, in somewhat sarcastic phrasing, when he said that "the Government had now discovered an area eleven chains from a school, and abutting on an open drain, was required for school purposes." Comment was also made on the extraordinary rapidity with which the transfer of the land had been made to the Education Department. The St. Kilda Council, for its part, leaving the allied Councils to do theirs, passed the following resolution :—"That the Council protests against the rapidity of the transfer to the Education Department of the land required by the municipalities of Brighton, Caulfield, and St. Kilda, as a destructor site, in view of the long delay in dealing with the Councils' application." And the protest remains there, in the St. Kilda Council minute book, in black and white, to what good beyond the assertion of a protest, no man knows, and yet, what other gesture could the defeated Councils make, but to protest, as they withdrew, beaten in their bloodless fight with the Garden Vale State School Committee?

On February 24, 1915, the Councils waited as a deputation on the Minister of Lands, to ask for a certain site in the Elstern-

wick Park for the purposes of a destructor. The special Advisory Committee of the Councils was not sanguine of success, but it thought that the refusal to grant a site in the Elsternwick Park would, at least, give the Councils the opportunity to inform the Government that they were justified in looking to the Government for some assistance, to enable them to comply with the order of the Public Health Department, calling upon them to close their municipal tips, within a certain time.

What may be called the moral rights of fair allotment should have governed the control and disposal of the Crown lands that now are known as Elsternwick Park. Its area is excised from St. Kilda. Had a line been drawn south from Hotham Street, as far as Head Street, which becomes Park Street at its west end, the Elsternwick Park would have rested within the boundary lines of the St. Kilda municipality, and the park should have done so. In the years of the fifties, the land, in question, was an extensive swamp, consisting of three, or four, reed-covered stretches of water, their undefined bank lands being waterlogged. These swampy conditions extended across New Street, to as far as the Garden Vale railway station, causing a boggy creek crossing at New, and Cochrane Streets, and one also across St. Kilda Street. The early Councils avoided, so far as they were able, having anything to do with swamps, lest they should be put to the expense of reclaiming them. Neither St. Kilda, nor the Brighton Council, wanted the swamp lands, and they remained Crown lands, and only remained Crown lands because, as swampy land, the Government could not sell them. Remarkable, as it may appear to be to-day, the beautiful stretch of golf links and playgrounds, known as Elsternwick Park, is the result of the accident of swamps in its area, rather than any intention of any Government to reserve the lands in the beginning for the people. The Brighton Council had more interest in the swampy moorland, than St. Kilda, because its percolating overflow, caused the Council expense in keeping its then main arterial road, New Street, open to traffic. Market gardeners' carts, on occasions, were bogged in the creek crossing in Cochrane Street, but in New Street, where the creek crossed it, was a bridge. Due to this interest, the Crown lands, forming Elsternwick Park, drifted more towards a possibility of control by the Brighton Council than by the St. Kilda Council.

The St. Kilda Council having its resources heavily taxed, in other directions, was not perturbed, because the Brighton Council, under the overlordship of the Board of Land and Works, assumed an ill-defined control over the bleak moor, with its swamps, and marsh lands.

Residents of South St. Kilda, and the hamlet of Elsternwick, formed themselves into a planting committee, for the purpose of fencing the Crown land, and of planting it with trees. One of the best known of the group was Henry Figsby Young, the publican, who owned the Elsternwick Hotel. It was then— we speak of the years of the sixties—a wooden wayside inn, that had, as its principal customers, the market gardeners of Brighton, and of the outlying districts. Young's interest lay in having the Crown lands made as attractive as possible as a future sports ground. He, living to a great age, saw his hopes realised, while still retaining the ownership of the hotel, which had been rebuilt in brick. Along the Glenhuntly Road, inside a three-railed fence, facing the boundary line of St. Kilda, pine trees were planted. They established themselves, and grew to be large trees, but most of them were cut down, by unauthorised persons, and taken away for their own purposes. Two or three of the large pine trees till recently remained in the vicinity of the Elsternwick municipal golf house. Along New Street, on its west side, inside the fence, was planted a row of tamarisk trees to serve as a hedge. Other trees were planted in various parts of the park's area, but the swampy soil was too salty for the trees to live in. The brackish water, from the swamps, prevented anything growing, except the hardy desert tamarisk trees, inured by centuries of suffering until trees of their order seem to be able to withstand almost anything.

This praiseworthy display of citizenship by publican and sinners, shows that the residents of South St. Kilda, in the sixties, took a great interest in the park, since they put their hands in their pockets to find the money to fence, and to plant it. When the Melbourne Gas Company desired to place gas retorts, and a gasometer on the ground, about where now is the cricket and football ground, the residents fought the Ministerial intention to sell the land to the company, and, in the end, they prevented the gas works being established. Later,

a Government desired to sell the land by auction, and the plans, showing allotments of land, having frontages to Glenhuntly Itoad, were drawn, and the arrangements, for the contemplated sale, well advanced, when the residents of South St. Kilda made such a vigorous protest, that the Government abandoned its intention. Then a man, by some chance, obtained a miner's right over the land. He intended to quarry for stone, the red ironstone which outcrops in the Brighton Road, at the corner of Brighton Road, and Cochrane Street. The saddle of red stone runs west to the sea, and one of the ridge's terminations there formed the Red Bluff of St. Kilda. Before the man could start his quarry, the residents of South St. Kilda once more sent their protests to Ministerial offices, and the miner's right was withdrawn. Later again, the land was leased to the Elsternwick Racing Club, and the club made the first efforts to drain the land. Some years afterwards, when the club's lease was not renewed, and the racing club, at Elsternwick, ceased to exist, the committee surrendered its tenancy to the Lands Department. The land then was in a much better condition, due to reclamations, than when the committee first took possession of it. The mounds of earth, thirty or forty feet in height, to be seen to-day in the golf links are the remains of the hill earthworks which abutted on the grandstand.

At the extreme south of Elsternwick Park, in Head Street, the most famous of the early cricket clubs around Melbourne had its playing grounds. The Coast Cricket Club, was at one time of more importance than the Melbourne Cricket Club. Its committee was the first in Victoria to employ a professional bowler. One of the club's bowlers, who was not a professional cricketer, but a market gardener, was named Thomas Bent, the man who afterwards became the Premier of the colony.

Governments have a strong policy of caution, when they are approached by local residents, with a request to have any particular piece of land permanently reserved. "Temporarily Reserved Lands" are not difficult to obtain, but "Permanently Reserved Lands" are. In the first case, the Government may revoke its conditional reservation, and put the land up for sale. South St. Kilda residents, and the Brighton Council, only succeeded in having the Elsternwick Park permanently reserved in odd patches. This patchwork condition left certain pieces of

land "temporarily reserved," with the Ministerial power of sale still hanging over it. Thus it was possible for the Melbourne Gas Company to obtain in the Elsternwick Park, a piece of land, and to place an enclosing fence upon it, but that was as far as the company got with its scheme. Public opinion in St. Kilda, Elwood, and Elsternwick (not Brighton), created an opposition which was too strong to permit such a piece of vandalism, and so the Elsternwick Park lands were saved from having a gas works, or a gasometer, placed upon them.

We have outlined how, in the first instance, the Crown lands, which are now the Elsternwick Park, inclined more to the control of the Brighton Council than to the St. Kilda Council. When a body entitled the Elsternwick Park Committee of Management was appointed, the Brighton Council's interest dominated the situation, and the St. Kilda Council had no representation upon the committee, and yet, were the equities of the position to be judged by the claims of the St. Kilda municipality, whose South St. Kilda ratepayers first took such an interest as to expend their own moneys on the park lands, then the St. Kilda Council had the first claim to the control of the Elsternwick Park. In February, 1922, the Public Works Committee of the St. Kilda Council recommended "that the Elsternwick Park Committee of Management be approached with a view to the inclusion of representation of this Council, having regard to the fact that in the territory under its control, there is the area of this municipality, formerly the rifle butts." In May, the Council received a letter from the town clerk of Brighton, stating that his Council did not see its way clear to accept the suggestion for the reception of the St. Kilda Council, on the Elsternwick Park (proper) Committee of Management, but so far as the management of the area, known as the "Old Rifle Butts" was concerned, the Brighton Council had no objection to the St. Kilda Council being represented on the Committee appointed by the Government to control that reservation. The St. Kilda Council referred the reply to the Public Works Committee for consideration. The reply showed with what tenacity the Brighton Council clung to a control that it had, in a way, usurped from the St. Kilda Council at a time when the St. Kilda Council had more pressing things to do than to secure the control of a swamp at the Cinderella end of its municipality. At the



VIEW FROM THE BAND ROTUNDA, ESPLANADE,
Showing the amusement centre in the distance.

St. Kilda Council meeting of May 29, a letter was received from the Secretary of Lands, stating that action was being taken to remove the area, formerly used as a rifle butts, from the control of the Elsternwick Park Committee of Management, and again to place it under the control of the St. Kilda Council. In July, the Council was gazetted a Committee of Management of the Recreation Reserve at Elwood (the Old Rifle Butts), excepting the portion permissively occupied by the Elwood Life Saving Club.

The powers of the Government, exercised in the alienation of Crown lands, were in force, when the St. Kilda, the Brighton, and the Caulfield Municipal Councils, sought for a site on which to build a destructor for their cities' garbage. "Japhet in search of a Father," or "Doctor Syntax in search of the Picturesque," were not more zealous in their personal quests than was the trinity of southern Councils to find a site whereon to build a destructor, before the wrath of the Health Department descended upon them, because of the continued use of municipal rubbish tips.

Howsoever it may have been with the Brighton and Caulfield Councils, the search, so far as the St. Kilda Council was concerned, was but a resumption of an old one. On June 16, 1890, the St. Kilda Council waited on the Acting Minister of Lands, and asked to be granted a site, to be excised from Crown lands at Elwood, whereon to place a desiccator. Obviously that quest failed. Many years afterwards the problem of the disposal of the city's rubbish had become so acute that the proposal was revived.

The Destructor Advisory Committee was well enough, and not without wisdom in its reports to the Councils. Since legal obligations, on the part of the Government did not exist, it became necessary to put forward the intangible, yet potent phrase of "moral responsibility," which re-echoed in the Minister of Land's mind, with sufficient force, that he said "he recognised there was some moral responsibility, on his shoulders to assist the Councils, in arriving at a reasonable solution of the difficulty. Direction should be given to his officers to make an independent investigation, as to the feasibility of any site, for a garbage destructor on the Elsternwick Park. His officers' report when received would be referred to the Cabinet." At

the meeting of the St. Kilda Council, held on March 15, 1915, a letter was read from the town clerk of Brighton, Mr. J. H. Taylor, in reference to the "House Refuse Destructor Site." The Brighton town clerk enclosed a communication from Mr. William Snowball, M.L.A. for Brighton, stating that the Cabinet's decision was that the allocation of a site for a destructor in the Elsternwick Park "could not be" entertained."

The Councils were in a quandary. Every effort had been made by them to secure private land for the purpose of the site, and every effort had failed. One site considered, and rejected was situated a mile away from the municipal boundary of St. Kilda. That site, if agreed to, was calculated as likely to cost the St. Kilda Council the sum of £500 per year for cartage. With the reality of the Health Department behind them, the wrath of which might become active any day, the Councils, anxious to obey the orders already given, made another attempt to secure a site in the Elsternwick Park, on the advice of the Destructor Conference Advisory Committee. A deputation from the Councils waited on the Minister of Lands, on September 29, and once more explained how worried the three Councils felt, and told him how he could relieve their troubles by the granting of a site for a municipal destructor in the Park. The Minister referred the deputation to the Cabinet's decision on the occasion of the last application for a site. He, however, promised that he would approach the question from a different angle, by calling for a report from the Park Committee of Management. The Park Committee of Management were constituted to protect and to control Elsternwick Park. The secretary was the town clerk of Brighton, who was also the secretary of the Advisory Committee. This duplex position created a race between two desires, one of which was the salvation of a portion of the people's park, and the other was to end the trouble that a search for a destructor site was causing the three Councils.

The Minister of Lands informed the Councils that if the proposal was approved, the Cabinet would have to bring in a bill to allow of the alienation of the park land, but he said it was not probable that the Cabinet would do that, nor would it be a party to taking park lands to be used for the purpose of a destructor. A report was current, in December, that the

majority of the members of the Elsternwick Park Management Committee was in favor of granting a site the Councils had indicated would suit their purposes, to the east of the electric power house, which already occupied the south-west corner of the park. The finality, so far as the park site was concerned came on February 14, 1916, when the town clerk of Brighton forwarded a copy of a letter, received from the Lands Department, stating that the Council's joint application, for a piece of the park lands, upon which to erect a garbage destructor, was refused.

In March, 1916, the West St. Kilda Progress Association alleged to the St. Kilda Council that the corporation tip, in Albert Park was a nuisance, when the easterly winds blew smoke, laden with unpleasant odours, and that smoke enveloped the dwellings of members of the Association. The Association's assertions were minimised by the Committee of Management of the Park saying it felt "pleasure at the good order in which the tip was maintained." A deputation of the West St. Kilda Progress Association waited on the Council. The Council also received a letter signed by 160 ratepayers who desired that the deposit of rubbish in the park should cease. On June 19, the St. Kilda Progress Association forwarded the following resolution to the Council:—"That it having appeared in the press, that a suggestion was made to erect a destructor in the Albert Park, this Association enters its emphatic protest."

In the end the St. Kilda Council made up its corporate mind to send the surveyor of St. Kilda, Mr. R. T. Kelly, C.E., to Sydney to inspect the municipal destructors in use there. On September 8, the Public Works Committee of the Council, recommended the adoption of the surveyor's report which contained the fruits of his investigations in Sydney, upon the treatment of household refuse. He was directed to forthwith prepare specifications and plans, on which to invite tenders for the installation of an incinerator. This was one of the concluding steps in the problem of ways and means to deal with the garbage of the city of St. Kilda. Pendant to the work was the abolition of the old rubbish tips, such as the old corporation tip in Albert Park in September, 1921, levelled off at a cost of £200.

In October, 1919, the Council decided to instal a refuse destructor at the Council depot, Inkerman Street, on its own

land held under Crown grant. In February, 1921, the Council entered into a contract with Messrs. Arthur Leplastrier & Co. for the erection of an incinerator, capable of destroying not less than 20 tons per day of 9 hours, under average working conditions, or 50 tons per day of 24 hours, divided into three shifts of 8 hours each. The total grate area was specified at 75 square feet. The contract price was £13,925.

The schedule to the contract provided for the supply and erection of one front feed three grate Meldrum Patent Regenerative "Simplex" type refuse destructor; one boiler water tube type having 1426 square feet of heating surface with feed pump and settings, injector and fittings complete, working steam pressure 160 lb. per square inch; steam jet system in conjunction with Meldrum's patent regenerator, and all necessary settings; external coal fired furnace with necessary front grate fittings, bonds, ashpits, etc., complete; combustion chamber, firebrick linings, carcase door and fittings complete; steam pipings between boiler and steam jet blowers ; air conduits ; buildings, including roadway, chimney stack 140 feet from the ground line, and plant per building specification and plan annexed thereto; accessories and spares detailed in the specification.

The completed destructor was taken over by the Council in October, 1923, at an actual cost of £15,857. At the time of installation, refuse at the rate of 5616 tons per annum was being treated. To-day (June, 1930) 8670 tons are being treated, showing an increase approximately of 52 per cent. in the nine and a half years.



MUNICIPAL DEPOT AND DESTROYER,
Inkerman Street.

CHAPTER XXV.

Early Postal Services at St. Kilda — A Public Meeting — Council Resent Interference—Post and Telegraph Offices—Adverse Opinions Concerning Site—Deputation of Burgesses to Council—A Notable Petition—"Hillites" and "Flatites"—Village Belle Post Requirements, 1924—Elwood Post Office—The Motor Buses' Trouble—The Routes' Question—Public Meeting—Council Declares Meeting's Views not Representative—Old Residents and Some Details—Thomas Monahan, William Howard Smith, Edmund Ashley, Thomas Headen, George Brunning, The Taylors, and Others.

ISAAC HARDING, of St. Kilda, wrote to The Argus newspaper in March, 1857, complaining that there was no delivery of letters at St. Kilda, and that he had to walk nearly a mile to the post office to obtain his letters.

Other sources of information disclose that the whole of the postal business of Early St. Kilda, was transacted in the chemist's shop of Patrick Matthew's in Robe Street. On July 7, 1857, Matthews ceased to be the principal postal agent, or acting postmaster in St. Kilda. The postal office was removed to High Street but it was arranged with Matthews that a portion of his shop was still to be used as a receiving place for unclaimed "ships' letters," and others, and for their distribution, if possible to the missing and nomadic addressees. A large batch of letters was expected by the incoming English mail, in the mail steamer "Columbian", and arrangements were made, with Matthews, to retain his position, until after he had seen that mail delivered, and his office cleared of the letters. At that date the postal authorities decided to cease sending the letters by the train from Melbourne to St. Kilda, in favor of having the letters taken to St. Kilda by carriers. This decision, apparently, was not acted upon at once. On December 28, of the same year, the Post Master General wrote to Benjamin Cowderoy, the chairman of the municipality, informing him that after the 31st instant, a postal receiving box would be opened opposite the Greyhound Hotel, in Brighton Road, and one at Mr. Matthew's shop. It was intended, the Post Master General said, after January 1st to make up a mail bag every day, at the General

Post Office Melbourne, at 5.30 p.m. to allow of letters posted up to that hour, to be forwarded by the first regular Melbourne to St. Kilda train, for early delivery the next morning in St. Kilda. Ebenezer Phillips, High Street, appears to have acted as a post master in High Street, but he soon relinquished the position resigning on June 4, 1858, whereupon the Chairman of the Council wrote to the Post Master General, telling him that the Council favored the appointment of George Slater, an applicant for the vacated position of post master, "if it was considered desirable to have a central Post Office for St. Kilda, under the new postal regulations."

In November, 1859, there were 32 unclaimed letters lying at the St. Kilda Post Office that had come from overseas, letters known officially as "ship's letters." The names of the people to whom the letters belonged were advertised in the Government Gazette; a practice the Government followed, from time to time, as the letters accumulated. Every post office had a large bundle of "ship's letters" waiting for some one to claim them. The unsettled migratory state of the population of Victoria, during the years of alluvial diggings, accounted for the non delivery of the letters, and also for the more or less pathetic notices in the Government Gazette, and the newspapers, seeking missing relations, and friends. The appalling frequency of murders, in the lonely bush, must have accounted for some of those emigrants who had set out so hopefully on their journeys, and of whom tidings were never more heard by their friends. The brute instinct of red tooth, and claw, came to the surface very often, in the years of the fifties. Numerous lurking thieves about the outskirts of the gold fields were ready to murder diggers and others who travelled carrying gold without armed escorts. The Government Gazette advertising the municipal district of St. Kilda, in 1855, contains several notices of rewards for murders, for highway robberies, for arson, for escaped prisoners, and for missing people.

Alfred J. Ogg, then a resident of St. Kilda, and being the acting Government Immigration Agent, had an advertisement in the Government Gazette that stated, "important information was waiting at the Colonial Secretary's Office, William Street, Melbourne, for Margaret Chapple, passenger by the ship "Merchantman," which arrived in 1854. The emigrant was engaged

by Mrs. William Nicholson, on May 6, 1854, and she is described as "lately in her service at St. Kilda."

Postal services, in the year 1873, were unsatisfactory to the residents in the outlying portions of St. Kilda. Gunn's cab ran daily from the Village Belle Hotel to the St. Kilda railway station, where there was a post office receiving box for letters. The cab driver carried forty letters, on an average, per day to post at the railway station. It is within our knowledge, that when the Gardiner Road Board was first formed, at the place now called Malvern, that letters, for the Chairman of the Board, and tenders for the Board's works, had to be addressed "care of the post office, St. Kilda."

Mrs. Charles Marden, who was a Miss Stringer, sister of the late Councillor Arthur Stringer (1900) was born in St. Kilda, seventy-five years ago. She, still clear and intelligent, tells us that letters for St. Kilda residents were, when she was a small girl, left by the mail cart, at the Bay View Hotel, High Street, "to be called for." With other messengers, she went to the hotel, to collect letters for her parents.

The first post office, in St. Kilda, was in High Street, near "Alma Street," but it was a poor place wherein to transact the business of a suburban branch of the Melbourne Postal Department. The office was in one room, off a chemist's shop. The space available for the work necessary was quite insufficient. The Borough Council of St. Kilda protested, on several occasions, to the Postmaster General, but without any improvements being made in the existing conditions. The primitive ways in force, are suggested by the acceptance of a tender, by the Post Office Department, from Daniel Molony, for the conveyance of an additional letter carrier from Melbourne to St. Kilda, six days a week, from May 26, 1873, to June 30, 1874, with payment, at the rate of one shilling per day. Evidently the letter carriers serving in St. Kilda, came each day from Melbourne. The post office room, in High Street, was apparently only a receiving station, and it had to serve the whole district. In March, 1873, the St. Kilda Council made a strong protest against the inadequate postal facilities to the Postmaster General. The Postmaster General, the Hon. Edward Langton, was awakened for a week or two, but then he appears to have been overcome, with the task of thinking of how he could improve the postal facilities at St. Kilda. Anyway he did not give the relief sought. Resi-

dents of St. Kilda grumbled, and continued to do so, until the month of July, when words of complaint were transformed into actions for a remedy. Thomas Taylor of Fitzroy Street issued circulars, July 19, 1873, calling a meeting of the residents of St. Kilda, who were interested in obtaining for the borough better postal services, to devise steps towards obtaining those services. At first, it was intended to present a memorial from the meeting to the Mayor, urging him to make efforts, to obtain adequate postal services for St. Kilda, but when some of the residents present, pointed out that the St. Kilda Council had done all it could do, and that still St. Kilda suffered from the scarcity of postmen, post offices, and postal services, the meeting decided, that a deputation, from those present, should wait on the Postmaster General, to raise their voices, in complaint, in such a way that he would be forced to give St. Kilda an improved postal service. The deputation was formed by Peter Davis, Henry Hull, John Wilks, J. Denham St. Pinnock, manager of the Commercial Bank of Australia, and the Hon. Nathaniel Levi, M.L.C., who lived in Princes Street. The councillors resented the action of this meeting of residents, because the Council considered, it had the position well in hand, and though, it was not clear to the meeting that action was proceeding, yet the Council had negotiations for a post office in progress.

It was known to the St. Kilda Council on September 20, 1873, that the Government had completed the purchase of a piece of land, at the south-east corner of High, and Inkerman Streets, St. Kilda, as a site whereon to erect post, and telegraph offices, for the borough. The St. Kilda Council held a meeting on September 22, when Councillor McNaughton moved:

"That the Government be requested to delay selecting a site for post and telegraph offices, until the matter has been submitted to the full Council."

According to Councillor McNaughton, it had been decided, at a private meeting of the councillors, that the site of the post office should be between Inkerman, and Argyle Streets, and, on that condition, he, Councillor McNaughton had given way, but the Mayor, Councillor W. G. Murray, had acted most unfairly. The question of the site should, in his opinion, have been referred to the Council, as the councillors, at the private meeting, could not agree. He regretted that the Government did not pay more attention to a petition from the ratepayers.

Strong dissatisfaction was expressed by the ratepayers, at the site the Government had chosen. In the Council an amendment was moved, by Councillor Barrett, on Councillor McNaughton's motion, "that the Council approve of the site, at the corner of High Street, and Inkerman Street, for a post and telegraph office."

The Mayor said, that the St. Kilda post office, in High Street was a most miserable place. When he found that no money had been placed, on the estimates, for a post and telegraph office, at St. Kilda, he had consulted with the Honorable the Treasurer, R. Murray Smith, and the Treasurer promised that he would endeavor to remedy the omission. He, the Mayor, had been asked to suggest some sites privately, so that there should be no excessive land value increases by vendor, as it was probable there would *be*, if they sensed that the Government was a probable purchaser. As the land, at the corner of High Street, and Alma Street, was not sufficiently central it was determined that a site should be chosen between Inkerman and Argyle Streets, and he considered, that both of those streets were within the population centre of St. Kilda. Councillor McNaughton had pointed out a site on the upper part of Waterloo Street. The ground opposite the Buck's Head Hotel, in Inkerman Street, was available for purchase, for the sum of £700. The Postmaster had sent an official to St. Kilda, to see if he could find the required land. The selection of the site, for the post office, was the difficulty to be overcome, before the building could be erected.

In January, 1874, the Council was acquainted with the type of the building proposed to be erected, because tracings of the plan had been sent by the Postmaster General to the Council. Pending the removal of the differences of opinion that existed, in the borough, as to where the post office should be erected, the question was allowed to remain in abeyance, so far as the postal department was concerned. The delay in the erection of the Post Office was made the subject of a question (September, 1874) in the Legislative Assembly. The Post Master General, the Right Hon. Robert Ramsay, said that "the lowest tender for the erection of the post office building at St. Kilda, on the plan originally proposed was £3,649, and that was considered too high a price to pay for the work required

by the department. As soon, however, as the vote for public buildings for the year 1874-75 was available, it was intended to call for tenders for the St. Kilda post office on a less expensive plan than the previous one."

The postal inconveniences suffered by the residents continued, until, at last, they determined to make another effort to obtain a post office service, capable of serving the constantly growing requirements of the borough. With that object, a deputation of burgesses, headed by Peter Davis, waited on the St. Kilda Council, on February 8, 1875, and presented a "memorial, signed by 211 of the most influential, and business people, in St. Kilda." The purpose of the memorial was to ask the council, to use its influence, with the Government, for the erection of the new post, and telegraph office in what they considered a more central position, than at the corner of High, and Inkerman Streets—the site which had been chosen. The memorial is interesting, from a local historical point of view, quite apart from its immediate object. Its value lies, in its disclosure of the views, that 211 burgesses had with regard to St. Kilda. We enjoy the reading of the direct story of the conditions of St. Kilda—an authenticated document, descriptive of the times, by the side lights revealed in it. The memorial reads:

"To the Worshipful the Mayor and Councillors of St. Kilda.

Gentlemen, in view of the erection of a Post Office building, so far away from the St. Kilda centre of population, as Inkerman Street, or the Flat of St. Kilda is—we, the undersigned burgesses of St. Kilda, beg respectfully to submit, for your consideration, the hardship, and injustice, involved in this arrangement to the principal inhabitants of St. Kilda viz.—to those who reside in the hill parts, to whom it would be very inconvenient to go so far as to the Flat, either to transmit messages, or to post letters. We beg, therefore, in the first place, to call your attention to the fact, that almost the entire of the business of the Telegraph, and Post offices, of St. Kilda lies with the residents on the Hill portions of St. Kilda. The Cottagers, who reside in that portion of St. Kilda, known as 'The Flat' seldom, if ever, require telegraphic communication. For proof of this, we beg to refer you to the statistics of the St. Kilda Telegraph office. As the southern portion



POST OFFICE, HIGH STREET

of St. Kilda, beyond The Flat, is, for the most part, built over, being laid out in large blocks and occupied by gentleman's large residences, St. Kilda cannot further spread in that direction—if, by spreading is meant, increasing population—at least it cannot spread in this sense more than the North Ward, or East St. Kilda can spread. Under these circumstances, our respectful request is that, in the event of a Post office building being erected in St. Kilda Flat, the telegraph wire, and postal arrangements, now going on, at the top, or centre of St. Kilda, be continued at, or near the present Post office site. By so doing the supporters of the Post and Telegraph services of St. Kilda, will still have offices in their midst, and time will show, we think, conclusively, the superior convenience of the present site, for the above works. We, the undersigned, therefore beg that the Mayor and Councillors of St. Kilda, will use their best endeavors to secure to us a continuance of the telegraph and postal arrangements, referred to in this memorial, whether it be in the name of a Receiving House, or Post Office matters not.

The reference to the telegraph wire takes us a long way back in the history of St. Kilda, and its postal and telegraph facilities. A deputation of the St. Kilda Council, waited on Dr. George Samuel Evans, the President of the Board of Land and Works, on Monday, April 18, 1858, to request him, in his capacity, as Post Master General, to extend the electric telegraph to St. Kilda. The councillors, in support of their application, said that, "they considered that the number of legal, and mercantile gentlemen, resident in St. Kilda, who were interested in parliamentary proceedings, and the arrival of the mail, that the electric telegraph to St. Kilda would amply repay the cost of laying it." The Post Master General, in reply, said, "he hoped it would. The Sandridge extension (Port Melbourne) did not return a gross sum of more than six shillings, per week, although, from its propinquity to the shipping, great things were expected of it. The expense of the extension to St. Kilda had been roughly estimated at £600. So soon as Parliament met together, without waiting for the estimates, he would move a special vote for that purpose."

A contract was signed on April 22, 1875, for the erection of the St. Kilda Post Office, for a sum of £3,380. The contrac-

tors were Walker and Halliday of Carlton. The building, at the corner of Inkerman, and High Streets, was completed on January 24, 1876, the total cost, with extras, being £3,423.2.5. The post office was opened, for business, on March 11, 1876, and the first departmental official in charge of the new St. Kilda Post Office was a woman—Postmistress Jane Constable.

One might reasonably suppose that, after a period of fifty years had almost passed, that the postal facilities in St. Kilda, and more particularly in the vicinity of the Village Belle, would not be a source of complaints from the Council, and residents ; that the days, when a resident had to entrust his letters to a cabman, had been superseded by an up-to-date post office and postal service, yet the facts were, that in the year 1924, the postal facilities, at the Village Belle section of St. Kilda, were still lacking. In August of that year, Councillor G. B. Renfrey, J.P. one of the Councillors for the Central Ward, reported to the Council that he had attended a deputation to the Hon. the Post Master General, relative to the necessity for better postal facilities, at the Village Belle. Councillor Renfrey told the Council, that the Right Hon. W. A. Watt, P.C., M.H.R., member for Balaclava, had introduced the deputation and the Hon. F. W. Eggleston, M.L.A. for St. Kilda, had given the deputation his support. The Post Master General promised the deputation that he would visit the locality. On April 27, 1925, the Council learned through Mr. Watt that the Post Master General, had consented to give the Village Belle district better postal facilities and that a Post office had been established in the old bank premises, at the corner of Barkly and Mitford Streets.

The Post Master General was not unfamiliar with the faces of the St. Kilda councillors, who came to him, in due form, with the Federal member of the district, and sometimes they were accompanied by the State member. Two years before the Post Master had granted the request of the Council for the Village Belle post office, that is in October, 1923, the Council had waited upon him to obtain a post office at Elwood. The Council, on that occasion, urged upon him the necessity of placing a post office, on the site, reserved by the State, for public purposes, at the corner of Glen Huntly Road and Broadway. The Post Master General told the councillors that newspaper reports of the Commonwealth having bought a site for the

Elwood post office were not quite correct. State and Government authorities were still negotiating upon the subject of the purchase. Money for the cost of erecting a post office on Broadway, Elwood, would be provided for, in the next year's estimates of the Commonwealth. In November, 1924, the Council received word that £500 had been set aside, towards the cost of a new postal building at Elwood. Sketch plans were to be prepared, for consideration by postal officers, by the Works and Railways Department, and later, the Council learned that tenders had been called for the erection of a post office, on the corner of Glenhuntly Road, and Broadway.

A common slang word, in use among cabmen, at St. Kilda, and elsewhere, was "duck shoving." The cabman who indulged in the illegal act, along St. Kilda Road, of "duck shoving" was not a popular individual with cabmen. An early St. Kilda resident, David Blair, defined the term as expressing, the "unprofessional trick of breaking the rank, in order to push past cabmen on the stand, for the purpose of picking up a stray passenger or so." David Blair, does not in his definition, go far enough. Wagonette-cabs, such as Gunn's St. Kilda cabs ran to a time table, and passengers waited along Fitzroy Street, and other roads for them, much in the same way as passengers of to day wait at the various tram stops. A "duck shover" ran ahead of the licensed cab, and picked up passengers waiting for it. "Duck shovers" were prosecuted, and fined, in the St. Kilda Court, since such pirating acts led to breaches of the peace among cabmen. A variation of "duck shoving" was brought about with the coming of motor omnibuses upon the roads of Melbourne, and a very serious position was created in the year 1924, for the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board. The private owners of motor buses entered into competition with the Tramways Board along its own legal routes, and the motor buses were so freely patronised by the travelling public, that the Tramways Board began to suffer a marked financial loss, indeed, so great was the falling off of the receipts from tram fares that the Chairman of the Tramway Board foretold a deficit, and the eventual depreciation of values in the whole tramway system. The tramway authorities' point of view was that the tramways belonged to the public, and that the touting for passengers by motor bus proprietors along the established tramway routes lessened the number of the tramways' passen-

gers. In the event of a tramway revenue deficit, the Tramway Board had power, under "The Melbourne & Metropolitan Tramways Act 1918" to call upon the municipalities to make up the loss, and this power, if exercised, would have the effect of -causing the Councils to increase their rates, and so the ratepayers, the public, eventually would have to pay for depreciating the revenue earning capacity of their own property, the tramways, through their own acts of patronising the motor buses.

Many people, and councils, took the view, that the motor bus proprietors could not be allowed to be a law unto themselves, and to select their own passenger routes, though some jurists said, yes, that they could do so, contending stoutly that the unrestricted use of the King's Highway was the established right, by law and custom, of every man engaged in a lawful purpose, a view thousands of Melbourne citizens held.

The real issue at stake in the end was evaded by a compromise. Motor omnibuses were permitted to run on selected routes that would not interfere with the tramway's business of carrying passengers. The motor bus proprietors were robbed of their right to the King's Highway, in that fashion, being dragooned into obedience by "The Motor Omnibus Act, 1924," relating to the defining of motor omnibus routes. The selection of these routes, through various municipalities, quickly brought the metropolitan councils into the fray of tramway cars and motor omnibuses. Apart from the monetary aspects of passengers changing their seats from tramway cars to those of motor omnibuses, the omnibuses were heavy lumbering vehicles, shod with powerful wheels, that began to damage the councils' various roads, in a most destructive manner. In short, the traffic was too heavy, too constant, for roads, not designed for the passage of such vehicles. The roads went to pieces under the strain. A minor phase of the damages done by the motor omnibuses was the shaking of some houses to their foundations, since their passage caused vibrations that weakened the walls, and also caused plaster to fall. Specially was this so in High Street, St. Kilda, when the omnibuses were going up the hill, the hill for some reason being resonant, and it trembled to the rhythmic oscillation of the heavy buses, made still heavier by full loading.

This sudden motor omnibus invasion into the city of St. Kilda was one that had to be faced and legislated for, in com-



ELWOOD POST OFFICE
Glenhuntly Road

mon with other suburban councils, that were also affected by the motor omnibuses' services that had sprung up in a night. The St. Kilda Council held a special meeting, all councillors present, on January 19, 1925, "to receive, and deal with the letter, and annexments, from the Public Works Department, under the provisions of Section 3, of the Motor Omnibus Act 1924, relating to the prescription of motor omnibus routes." The Council dealt with no less than twelve routes of the motor omnibuses which impinged upon St. Kilda, and these routes were used by the Trak Motors, the Melbourne General Omnibus Coy, the Greater Melbourne Transit, A. W. Press, the Grey Motors, the Kintrak Motors, Ramsay, Black & White Motor Omnibus Company and by some others. Since these companies have all disappeared, the routes upon which their buses ran do not concern us. In two instances, we have, in the St. Kilda Council's attitude, a foreshadowing of the civic troubles caused by heavy traffic, destroying roads. In the Council's decision, at this special meeting, it was resolved to inform the Advisory Committee to the Public Works Department, that the Council did not approve of applications for the use of Barkly Street for motor bus traffic, unless, the conditions be laid down, that the omnibus must be fitted with pneumatic tyres, and that it shall not weigh more than three tons." Somewhat the same conditions were made regarding motor buses travelling along Alma Road.

On February 5 the Council received a deputation of four ladies, Mrs. Glencross, President of the Central Executive of the Housewives' Association, and also of the St. Kilda Branch, Mrs. Watts, Vice-President; Mrs. Mair, and Miss Robinson, Hon Secretary. The ladies were introduced to the Council by Councillor Gray. The deputationists were indignant at the decisions of the new Advisory Committee with regard to the buses, and the manner in which some of the bus owners, who were about to be ruined, had been treated. They asked the Mayor to call a public meeting of citizens to consider the question. The Mayor agreed to do so, and at the same time removed some misapprehension regarding the usage of the Alma Road motor bus route. So far as the Council was concerned, the Council had not desired the immediate withdrawal of a motor omnibus from Alma Road, nor did the Council know the reason why that bus had been withdrawn.

Councillor Gray, at the Council meeting, held on February 2, 1925, moved: "That in view of the action taken by the Commissioner of Public Works, the Hon. G. L. Goudie, M.L.C., and the Treasurer, Sir Alexander Peacock, in advising the Governor to *sign* an executive Act which has deprived the City of St. Kilda of a very necessary means of transport, essential to its progress, and thus penalised the ratepayers, and which will greatly reduce the revenue of places of amusement, that this Council immediately urge our Parliamentary representative, Mr. Eggleston, Minister of Railways, to demand, that the Premier should convene an urgent meeting of the Cabinet, and take the necessary steps, to authorise the bus routes (approved by this Council) that have been refused by the Commissioner of Public Works on the advice of the Advisory Bus Board."

In submitting the motion, Councillor Gray enumerated the thirteen applications for routes referred by the Advisory Board to the Council for an expression of its opinion, and the decision by the Council on each application. Objection was taken by the Council to the use of the word "demand," and when the word "ask" was used to replace "demand," the motion was carried.

The dissatisfied section of the St. Kilda residents held a public meeting in the St. Kilda Town Hall, for the ostensible purpose of condemning those who, it was alleged, "deprived the City of St. Kilda of a very necessary means of transport essential to its progress," &c. The outcome of this meeting was hostility to the Nationalist member for St. Kilda, the Hon. F. W. Eggleston, the Minister of Railways, for the part he was incorrectly alleged to have taken in preventing St. Kilda from having the bus routes. The St. Kilda Council passed the following motion, "That this Council sincerely regrets the unfair hearing, granted to Mr. F. W. Eggleston, at the meeting, held in the St. Kilda Town Hall, on Monday evening, February 9, 1925, and expresses a feeling of confidence in Mr. F. W. Eggleston, and his administration, of his office." The motion was moved by Councillor Thomas Unsworth, and seconded by Councillor R. H. Morley. A further motion was moved by Councillor E. B. Clarke, and seconded by Councillor F. L. Dawkins, "That this Council informs the Commissioner of Public Works, the Hon. G. L. Goudie, that in, its opinion, the public meeting held in the St. Kilda Town Hall, on February 9th, regarding the bus routes, was by no means representative of St. Kilda ratepayers." This

motion was carried. Councillor Gray desired that his vote should be recorded against the motion. At the subsequent parliamentary elections, Councillor Gray, who occupied the position of Mayor of St. Kilda at the time, standing as an Independent- Liberal was returned as the member for St. Kilda. At the St. Kilda Council meeting held on April 11, 1927, he was congratulated by the councillors, upon his success at the parliamentary election held on the previous Saturday. Some little feeling, the outcome of differing political views, was shown by the councillors, but, as a body, the Council congratulated its Mayor, Councillor Burnett Gray.

We now turn to the personal side of life in St. Kilda, to pass in review some of the old residents. They were a part of St. Kilda, a section of the borough's daily life, before strangers who knew them not, came in large numbers, with the intention of taking up their abode in St. Kilda. The result of the influx was inevitable. The old residents dribbled into the background, and only their own cronies knew that they belonged to the past. It cannot be expected that a full record can be made here of notable residents of St. Kilda, since in the legal, commercial, and political worlds the St. Kilda residents, who were outstanding men of their day, either by ability, wealth, or position, were numerous. The memories of some of these residents linger more than others either by reason of their picturesque careers, or some outstanding trait of a strong personality. Take a man like Thomas Monahan, who bought so freely of the lands in South St. Kilda, bordering on Elwood. Monahan lived at "Erindale," Brighton Road, St. Kilda, and he died there at the end of May, 1889. He was born in Dublin, in the year 1812. He left Kingston to join the ship "North Britain," which left London for Sydney on August 13, 1839. Much overladen, she carried 360 emigrants for Australia. Of that number no less than ninety emigrants died on the voyage, due to "ship fever," typhus, arising from the awful insanitary conditions prevailing on these early emigrant ships, the want of fresh water, the lack of proper food, the crowded conditions of the cabins, or holds, the long periods over which these voyages of death extended. To Monahan the tragedy of the "fever ship," "Glen Huntly," must have seemed a mild one, when he recalled memories of the coffin ship, the "North Britain," in which he, an Irish youth, travelled to the land of his adoption, where he was to make a large for-

tune. He had every reason to have a close acquaintance with the fever cases of the "North Britain," since he had served as an hospital assistant for seven years at Kildare, and it was as an hospital assistant he embarked on the "North Britain." When he landed at Sydney, in the beginning of 1840, the doctor on board the "North Britain," gave to him a testimonial unrestricted in appreciation of Monahan's worth. On February 22, 1841, he married Miss Timms of Sydney. In the same year he left Sydney, and came to Melbourne, where he opened the Port Phillip Club Hotel, in Lonsdale Street. In 1845, he built the Queen's Arms Hotel in Swanston Street, the site of which is now occupied by the State Savings Bank, at the corner of Flinders Lane. Not so long before Monahan's arrival at Port Phillip, the Melbourne Hospital consisted of a log but of two rooms, which served the settlers as a post office, a police office, and a hospital. Later, a house in Little Collins Street, at the back of Temple Court, was used as a hospital. When, in 1846, the foundation stone of the hospital in Little Lonsdale Street, was laid, Monahan was one of the first subscribers to the institution. He also donated to its funds £20, and became one of the first life governors of the hospital. Another St. Kilda resident, the Hon. Dr. A. F. A. Greeves, was appointed in July, 1847, one of the hospital's first surgeons.

The Hon. J. Alston Wallace married, in 1875, the second daughter of Thomas Monahan. Wallace came to Melbourne in 1852, engaged in hotel, store, and mining activities, on the gold fields, and made a large fortune. His future father-in-law, Monahan, tried a mining adventure at Buckland, where Wallace had been successful, and he lost £7,000. After that he confined himself to building. Like his rich neighbor, James Mason, he favored hotel properties. Both had acted as publicans, both made fortunes, both were well known characters of St. Kilda. Monahan had a somewhat florid complexion, with an Irish type of face, and he wore a white beard. He was a well set, sturdy man, and he collected his own rents. We have seen him enter the Queen's Arms, Swanston Street, evidently for that purpose. So well known was he as a Melbourne character, that we have heard bystanders say in Swanston Street, "There goes Tom Monahan." It was said of Monahan, in "The Victorian Men of the Time" that "he never gave a bill, or a bond, an I.O.U. or a mortgage, but that he had taken many. He always paid in cash,

for great, or small things." He was what is called, a "self made man," who had a natural talent for finance, but it was Mrs. Monahan, skilled with the pen, who kept his books. It is noteworthy that Tom Monahan, a very early resident of St. Kilda, owned valuable property in Swanston Street, and that another very early resident, Germain Nicholson, also owned an even more valuable property than that held by Monahan, in Swanston Street, and that both of them bought freely of St. Kilda lands. Monahan lost money in mining, but Nicholson, wiser than he, made money by buying gold from miners. Another St. Kilda resident who made money out of miners was Thomas Alston, J.P. He lived in High Street, and became a merchant draper, the senior partner of the old Melbourne drapery firm of Alston and Brown. He has related how the diggers, and their temporary wives, spent their money freely in his shop, before they drove out in a drag to Mooney's Hotel, St. Kilda. Alston was one of the most constant among the justices in his attendance on the St. Kilda Bench.

Another outstanding St. Kilda resident was Captain William Howard Smith, who lived at "Moreton," on the Esplanade, St. Kilda, and died there on March 23, 1890. He was a man of sterling integrity, and had the enterprise of a sea adventurer of the best type ; one of the breed of seamen who have made the ocean highways but as the backyards of Great Britain. He was born at Yarmouth, in the year 1813, and he came of a seafaring family. His father owned a number of vessels, engaged in the trade to the Netherlands, and they carried the mails to Rotterdam, and Antwerp. In 1834, Captain Smith was employed by Malcomson Brothers, a shipping firm, and he made voyages in their ships to Dutch, Spanish, and South American ports. In 1854, he decided to emigrate to Australia, and with E. Skinner, he bought the steamer "Express," and Skinner acted as her chief engineer. Captain Smith brought his wife and five children with him to Melbourne. He went into the spirited Geelong trade, wherein was much competition for carriage between Geelong and Melbourne. Records say, there was some wild work between competing shipmasters. Above suspicion, Captain Smith remained in the Geelong trade for eight years, and then he turned to Newcastle, and made that coal venture, contemporaneous with the one made by Captain Kenney with the chartered ship "Antelope." Smith succeeded where Kenney failed

This led to Captain Smith returning to Europe in the year 1864. He bought a steamer then running from French ports to the Black Sea. He renamed her the "You Yangs," and when she was in Australian waters employed her in the Newcastle coal trade. Then he bought the ill-fated steamer, "Dandenong," that perished with a loss of almost all hands. To write the subsequent history of William Howard Smith is to record the rise, and the growth of the Australian great shipping firm, "Howard Smith Limited." The founder, who spent the evening of his life, like Captain Kenney, within sight of the sea, was keenly interested in yachting, and was a St. Kilda yachtsman for many years.

When the ship "Himalaya," Captain Burns commander, anchored off Williams Town on February 26, 1842, he had among his emigrant passengers, a young man, twenty-four years of age, named Edmund Ashley, who was well equipped to seek his living in a new land, where craftsmen, with a knowledge of mechanics, were wanted. Ashley was born at Tupton, near Chesterfield, in Derbyshire. He was apprenticed to the craft of a wheelright, agricultural implement maker, and house carpenter. When he arrived at Melbourne, after a voyage lasting five months, he reached the rising city, by the way of the Yarra, in a small steamboat called the "Governor Arthur." He landed at Coles Wharf, near by to tea tree groves, and green banks. He, with two other emigrants, lived in a house close to St. James Church, owned by a man named David Duncan. In April, 1842, Ashley was employed by Robert Langlands and Thomas Fulton, engineers. While there he invented a lever rack for wool presses, that found favor with squatters. Then he made a bellows for a blast furnace, and in other ways, won the esteem of his employers. In 1846 he, with six others, built the paddle boat, "Democrat," which the crew drove by pedalling. The crew, all pedalling, could drive the boat on the Yarra faster than the steamer "Vesta" could steam, but, after a burst of speed, they were glad to have the "Vesta" to take the "Democrat" in tow. The adventurous crew had on one occasion taken the "Democrat" across to Williams Town. The end of the boat was to be cap-sized. It is believed that when she did so one of the crew was drowned. Ashley was well known to early colonists, and recollections recall that he was usually in his walks abroad, accompanied by his old dog "Darby."

In the year 1852, Ashley entered into partnership with Richard Heales, as importers of coach materials, and general merchandise. Heales had been apprenticed to a coachbuilder, and had emigrated to Melbourne, with his father, in 1842. Quite likely he was a fellow emigrant with Ashley, for at Heales' death in 1864, Ashley was one of the executors of Heales's will. Heales was Premier of the Colony in 1860, and a brass tablet in Christ Church, South Yarra, records his virtues. His one time partner, Edmund Ashley, and Mrs. Ashley, have a memorial window to their memory, in Holy Trinity Church, Balaclava.

Heales & Ashley wanting blackwood for the manufacture of carriages, found there was blackwood growing in the Dandenong Ranges. They decided to start a saw mill at the foot of the ranges and to haul and sledge the blackwood tree trunks to the mill. This determination made them the pioneers who opened up the now well known Fern Tree Gully. A track was cut through the dense scrub, wide enough to allow a team of bullocks to drag a timber carriage through to where the tree trunks had been carried on sledges, which were sent sliding down the hills. Once the sledges started they went over the greasy soil with such an impetus that the trunks crashed the small scrub to the ground, so that more and more way into the bush was made for the bullock teams.

Edmund Ashley occupied several public positions. He was the chairman for many years of the Melbourne Benevolent Society. In that connection he was appointed a member of one of the Royal Commissions on Charities. In the year 1861, he was appointed a justice of the peace.

Edmund Ashley lived at the house he named "Chesterfield," Tennyson Street, and he died there in December, 1892, in the 75th year of his age. He took an interest in his garden that had an area of an acre and a half. The garden was originally formed by a Mr. Welshman, a former owner of Ashley's house. We do not know how it is now, but in 1874 Ashley's garden was considered unique in the horticultural world of Melbourne, since it contained an eight foot, in height, specimen of the rare *Araucarias*, which had been brought from New Caledonia, by W. Duncan, a collector of garden novelties, for J. J. Rule, of the Richmond Nursery. Though other specimens of the plant were brought to Victoria, very few of them lived, and none of them grew like the one planted at "Chesterfield." Edmund Ashley left behind him an estate worth £61,000.

One of the tradesmen of early St. Kilda was Thomas Headen, a builder. He settled in "The Village" in the years of the fifties. He was born at Birkenhead on October 24, 1831. When the news of gold finding reached Birkenhead in a letter from his brother, who was digging up the Victorian gold fields, Headen decided to emigrate to such a wonderful country. Unfortunately, he had not the money wherewith to pay his passage in the ship. He found it was possible, by a bribe, to a ship's officer, to be taken aboard a ship as an able seaman, at the wages of one shilling per month. He paid £5, and was rated as one of the crew of the ship, "Australia." She took 110 days to cover the distance, and Headen, with others, landed at Williamstown in 1852. One of the first tasks he, with his brother, and cousin, were engaged upon was building a small wing to the Royal Hotel on the Esplanade. The work occupied the party six weeks, and their earnings worked out at £110 per man, after they had paid for their board and lodgings. Another cousin of Headen's came from England, while they were at work on the wing, which was put up mainly to provide room for a bar. The newly-arrived cousin contracted to cover the floor of Mooney's hotel stables with pitchers for the sum of ten guineas. The work occupied him three days. Mooney paid him £10, and went to the bar to obtain the ten shillings. After the publican had gone, Headen's cousin ran away, and he told Headen that he did so, because he was ashamed to take the 10/- so little work had been done for the £10 10/-. Headen said that James Mooney was the proprietor of the hotel, and Joshua Mooney owned the coach, that ran to and from Melbourne, the passengers being charged 2/6 each way. Sometimes a party of residents would charter the coach for the purpose of being driven into Melbourne, and out again at night. Their object was to attend performances at the theatre, the "Old Iron Pot" as the place was called, because it was constructed mainly of galvanised iron. G. V. Brooke, the famous tragedian, was the lure that took them to the theatre in the years 1855-56. According to Headen, Captain Kenney's baths were not the first to be established on the St. Kilda Beach. "Before Kenney's Baths were," Headen says, "Mrs. Ford and her family came down from Castlemaine, and my brother, and myself, put up their bathing tent on the point, where the old ship was afterwards beached. They did not carry on the baths there long, but moved down opposite the Royal Hotel, and I

think Captain Kenney subsequently bought out Mrs. Ford. My brother married Mrs. Ford's daughter."

Headen relates that when on the goldfields, he was passing through Ballarat with his cousin Tom Hilton, when he met John Camm of Charles Street, St. Kilda, who had come up to Ballarat with some goods, he being a carrier. Headen went back with Camm, and this decision led to his introduction to Miss Camm, and to Headen subsequently marrying her. Miss Camm was a native of Liverpool, and arrived in Victoria in August, 1854. Mrs. Headen states that after she married Headen, she went with a party for a picnic to Brighton. They made the journey in a dray. On their return, the driver of the dray sought a short cut to St. Kilda, along the margin of the Elwood Swamp. They were well into the swamp, with its slimy mud bed, when the horse became frightened. The animal refused to go either way. The wheels sank somewhat in the mud. The dray was bogged, the party marooned. The men had to carry the women to the lagoon's margin, where there was firmer land, and, in doing so, the men sank in the mud as far as their knees. Headen built many houses in St. Kilda, and a number in The Avenue, Windsor, for W. Templeton, P.M. Headen says Templeton said to him that he would name the street, "The Avenue," and he did so. Afterwards Templeton planted silver poplars in it. The Headens lived to celebrate their diamond wedding. They were surrounded with 27 children and grandchildren.

Mrs. Elizabeth Harvey, a daughter of Samuel Morey, states she arrived with her parents from Tasmania, in December, 1836, and that she can remember the appearance of Port Phillip Settlement in 1841. With her parents she lived in Malakoff Street, St. Kilda, in the year 1845. Her father was on the Ratepayers' Roll in 1859. Samuel Morey, was the first builder, and contractor to settle in St. Kilda. He built the Royal Hotel on the Esplanade, and also the Inkerman Hotel. William Round, who arrived in 1852, and lived in Prahran, for fifty years, says his favourite Sunday afternoon walk was from Melbourne to St. Kilda. The road from St. Kilda to Melbourne, lay along the edge of the lagoon, and near the Domain Road corner led over a steep hill, where the house for the residence of the commandant was afterwards built. Before the present St. Kilda Road could be formed, a portion of the then forest had to be felled, and the opening thus made presented a grand appearance to the eye of

the passer-by who witnessed it. Referring to Mooney's hotel, he says he knew the bar that was included in the additions Mooney made to the Royal. The bar was accustomed on Sundays to be thronged by a pushing, and struggling set of men, impatient to obtain a drink. Outside the hotel would be a line of 20 or 30 vehicles, left there by their owners. When Round was married he, and his expectant bride, and the wedding party, formed a procession of two and two, and they marched from Cecil Place, Prahran, to Christ Church, St. Kilda, where the ceremony was performed by the Rev. David Seddon. At that date, such wedding processions from Prahran to St. Kilda were not uncommon. Another instance was when the daughter of John Craven, the first Town Clerk of Prahran, was married at St. Kilda.

The Rev. C. Stuart Ross states that on the discovery of gold, in 1851, and the consequent incoming of population into the Colony, in the immediately succeeding years, St. Kilda made rapid progress, and became a favourite residential suburb. "Two friends of mine—city men—kept 'Bachelors' Hall' there. They were Mr. Gabriel, a solicitor (known socially among his more intimate friends as 'The Archangel') , and Mr. Lilly, secretary to the Melbourne, and Suburban Railway Company. In the early days St. Kilda was infested with native cats, and Mr. Gabriel devised an ingenious trap, in which many of these animals were captured. Two of them, preserved by Gaskel, the well-known taxidermist of those days, have now a place in the Marischal College Museum, in Aberdeen." S. Gabriel lived in Dalgety Street, and a Clark Ross lived in Alma Street, East, in 1860.

Edward Frederick Christian Ritter was, in the year 1853, a well-known resident of St. Kilda. He was also an extensive gold buyer. His office in Elizabeth Street, was often full of diggers with gold to sell. On March 17 of that year, St. Patrick's Day, Wednesday, the Melbourne banks were closed, notwithstanding that the Melbourne newspapers had criticised the impending closure as unbusinesslike towards gold buyers. Ritter, like other gold buyers, was unable to place the gold, it was presumed, he had bought from diggers, in one of the banks, and that presumption was acted upon by the lawless bush- ranging element, numbers of which, ex-convicts and their kind, hung, like predatory wolves, on the outskirts of Melbourne. Ritter left his home, with his brother-in-law, Samuel Maxwell Alexander, at eight o'clock on Thursday morning in a chaise,

and drove along the unmade St. Kilda Road bush track to Melbourne. His daily custom was to water his horse at a swamp, east of Canvas Town, on the slope of Emerald Hill, not a quarter of a mile south from the Prince's Bridge over the Yarra. He was in the act of doing so, on the morning of St. Patrick's Day, when his chaise was surrounded by six, or more men. One of the men seized his horse's head, and he and his brother-in-law were covered by them with pistols. A basket in the back of the chaise was pulled off the vehicle, but it did not contain anything of value to the bushrangers. Ritter, knowing he had but sixpence and a key in his pockets, was fearful of ill-treatment by the ruffians. Maxwell had fourteen shillings with him. The fraternity of bushrangers and foot-pads, at this time, had made it a practice, when the contents of their victims' pockets did not yield enough money or gold to please them, to beat their victims so severely as to often leave them on the ground bleeding and insensible. Ritter, in fear of like treatment, therefore began to flog his horse to cause the animal to plunge, and so break away. At the same time he struck, severely, the bushranger holding the animal's head, and the man was compelled to let go of the horse. Desperate then, at least four of the bushrangers discharged the contents of their pistols at Ritter. Six, or seven, shots were fired, and five balls hit Ritter, some lodging harmlessly in his dress. Pistols of those *days* were indifferent weapons. One ball entered Ritter's leg at the shin bone and inflicted a severe wound. He was taken to Melbourne, where Dr. O'Mullane attended to the wound, but the ball was not extracted at once. It is recorded that Mr. Ritter's "lady" came to town, and stayed with her husband. Men's wives in those days were often in the newspapers referred to as "ladies," and not as wives, though they were, let us hope, both. This bushranging hold-up on St. Kilda Road, said to have been the third of its kind, created some excitement in Melbourne. The newspapers referred to troopers wasting their time in the streets of the town, when they should be patrolling, day and night, the roads to the out-lying villages, such as St. Kilda, Prahran, Richmond, and other places. Arrests of suspected men, hidden in houses of ill repute, in Little Bourke Street, were made on the night of the robbery, and other arrests followed. Some of the suspected men were released, but there seemed to be no doubt about the identity of four of the men with the highway men.

They were identified by Ritter and Matthews, and subsequently convicted of the crime of highway robbery. The fact that such a highway robbery could take place in the bush of St. Kilda Road within sight of Melbourne town, is a striking illustration of the condition of that road, and the state of the times. It was not till April 4, 1853, that the Central Road Board, sitting for the first time on March 15, 1853, decided "to take the usual steps to have this road from Prince's Bridge to St. Kilda Junction surveyed, and all its trees removed with a view to its immediate construction and levelling." We have seen and perused pages of the first minute book of the Central Road Board, which was found, after a search, in the vaults at the Lands Office, Melbourne. We acknowledge our indebtedness to Mr. T. H. Taylor, chief clerk of the Lands Office, for information given, extending over years, on obscure land questions that have arisen during the compilation of four suburban histories. No trouble, whether in searching the vaults of the Lands Office for minute books, or in turning up old records, has been too much for Mr. Taylor to take in the interests of accuracy and public historical information.

In December, 1859, Professor Irving of the Melbourne University, was bailed up by a bushranger in St. Kilda Road. The Professor had been dining with a friend at St. Kilda, and was returning home on horseback. He was close to the toll gate, when two men rushed out upon him, from the side of the road, and attempted to catch hold of the bridle of the horse. The Professor was carrying a heavy riding whip, with which— he made a blow at the nearest ruffian. The bushranger was quick enough to evade the blow. At the same time the Professor put his spurs into his horse, and he managed to ride clear of the men, and reached Melbourne in safety.

An "Old Identity" of St. Kilda was John Findley, J.P., who died on August 15, 1887, and who lived in Inkerman Street. At the time of his death, he held the record of having attended the St. Kilda Court from an earlier period than any of his colleagues. Names we recall at random are those of ex-Councillor Johnston, with eighteen years of civic service. He died on November 26, 1888. Ex-Councillor and Mayor W. H. Ellerker, who died March 30, 1891, and ex-Councillor Dixon, who died December 5, 1886. Ex-Councillor Shaw, Mayor and Chairman of the Bench 1881-82, died June 2, 1894, and later we have the well-known Frederick

A NOTABLE ST. KILDA SHOEMAKER

Wimpole, J.P., the proprietor of the George Hotel, St. Kilda. He was first elected to the St. Kilda Council in 1875, and he was Mayor of the city in 1886-87. He died at his residence, "Farn-don," Fitzroy Street, on March 21, 1905.

One of St. Kilda's minor identities was a man who talked politics, from morn to night, as he hammered at his last, for he was a shoemaker. His shop was close to Henessey's baker's shop, or four doors from the George Hotel, in Fitzroy Street. Many of the orders to repair boots came from visitors at the George Hotel, who confided their damaged footwear to the hotel boots, who passed them on to the bootmaker, J. G. Wise. He advertised that he mended boots under vice regal patronage. This touch of vice-regality exalted him, far beyond the limits of a mere journeyman bootmaker. No other shoemaker in Melbourne, squatting on his three-legged stool, could say he was under vice regal patronage, though we doubt if the vice regal representative ever wore a boot of Wise's. Yet let the man speak for himself. His card ran:—

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR VISCOUNT
CANTERBURY K.C.B.
V. (Royal Arms) R.
J. G. WISE
(Formerly of London)
BOOT AND SHOE MANUFACTURER
FITZROY STREET ST. KILDA
NEARLY OPPOSITE RAILWAY STATION, ST. KILDA
Jockey and Riding Boots.

Wise, or otherwise, in his political opinions J. G. was a genial, if a combative cobbler. He has long since gone to a place where soleing and heeling will not trouble him, nor vice regal patronage be of any avail.

A photographer, who carried on the business of portrait taking in St. Kilda, in the early municipal stages of the town's development, was a man named Van Berckelaer, whose studio was in High Street near to the Junction. His portraits of men show that the fashion of shaving the chin clean prevailed. Very often only a fringe of hair was retained round the face, and under the jaws. In barbers' slang of the day, the fashion was

called "The Newgate cut." The St. Kilda Council has in its possession a portrait of Councillor Florence Gardiner, taken by Van Berckelaer. Gardiner wore his abundant hair in large curls. Another picture, but not the work of Van Berckelaer, is that of Councillor Frederick Brice Bunny. In the portrait he wears a white waistcoat that makes a sharp contrast to his black beard. He lived in Inkerman Street. On June 2, 1885, he died at the age of 65 years.

Among the well known men in the second decade was John Oldham J.P. who lived in Enfield Street. He entered the Council in 1864 and was Mayor of St. Kilda in the year 1869-70. He died on March 21, 1905. Edward Sydes, Dalgety Street, who was elected to be a councillor in 1860 did not die until March 3, 1906. T. J. Crouch was a councillor, and ex-Mayor, a man whose name is associated with the life of his day in St. Kilda. His name appears on the first ratepayers' Borough roll as living in Barkly Street. Benjamin Cowderoy lived in Fulton Street. He attained to the great age of 93 years, dying on Sunday, October 1st, 1904. He retired from the Council in 1866. At the time of his death, he was one of the oldest Justices of the Peace in the State. Cowderoy died at Notting Hill, near Oakleigh.

Theyre Weigall, a barrister, was an early resident of St. Kilda, and he supported the swimming sports that were held in Captain Kenney's Bathing Ship. He was present on one occasion, in March 1861, when a swimmer was almost drowned through having his head caught by a rope line that was stretched below the water. Several attempts were made to rescue the man by diving, but at first without success. A kanaka named Kamimenoo, dived several times, but failed in releasing the man. A well known boatman of St. Kilda, George Craddock, also tried and at last achieved success. The rescued man eventually recovered. Theyre Weigall was the father of Theyre a'Beckett Weigall, who was born in 1860, became a distinguished barrister and K.C., 1906. He was named a'Beckett after a St. Kilda resident, the Hon. Thomas Turner a'Beckett, M.L.C., who had a son, Edward a'Beckett born in 1844, an artist who was taught in the Royal Academy, England. He was the first pupil entered on the school roll of the Church of England Grammar School, Melbourne, and he painted the portraits of the three first headmasters of that school. His mother was the president of the St. Kilda (Ladies') Benevolent Society. Another woman

who had a very wide circle of friends in St. Kilda, was Mrs. Grace M. Hadfield, wife of John Hadfield the school teacher with 35 years' of memories of St. Kilda boys. Mrs. Hadfield had lived in the famous "Canvas Town," and when she died on January 18, 1899, at the age of 69 years, she had completed her 46th year as a colonist.

An emigrant who came to Victoria in the s.s. Ganges, in the year 1853, and to St. Kilda in 1860, was well equipped to make a start in a new country, and he had the knowledge of a calling that diligently followed was sure almost to command success. His name was George Brunning and his place of residence in 1860 in St. Kilda was Argyle Street. He was born at Lowestoft, Suffolk, England, and he learned his profession of a gardener at Somerleyton Hall, Suffolk' England, then in the possession of two large railway contractors, named Morton & Pete. George Brunning bought land in Brighton Road, St. Kilda, and founded the nurseries, that afterwards were household words, with all lovers of gardens, throughout Australia. Brunning's Nurseries, St. Kilda, probably advertised St. Kilda in places where the name of St. Kilda was, in those first years, scarcely known. The combination of the two names as the years went on, and by their constant usage became, or appeared to become, indissoluble. Brunning's Nurseries, St. Kilda, was the best known nursery in the Southern Hemisphere. About fifty years ago the sons of George Brunning were admitted to partnership with their father, the firm being G. Brunning & Sons. The sons' names were George Edward Brunning and Herbert John Brunning. George Brunning, senr., died in 1893. The business was carried on until the end of 1926, and then the famous nursery, as a nursery, closed its gates for the last time. The land had become far too valuable to be kept for nursery purposes. The surviving partners decided to sell the land, and to retire from business. When the St. Kilda Council learned that such was the Brunning Brothers' intention, the Council, on November 22, 1926 wrote to the firm, expressing its regret that such an old established firm was terminating its useful career. The firm made a generous gift of plants to the municipality. Where the nursery once was is now covered by a nest of houses on the town planning system. Anyone curious years hence, to know where Brunning's St. Kilda nursery was will find an indication of the area in the name of Brunning Street, running

East from the Brighton Road, to the railway line. Another firm that started in a small way in St. Kilda, and progressed so far as to become an extensive establishment was the firm of Gainers & Klaer, plumbers.

A well-known tradesman of St. Kilda, who became a councillor of the city in August, 1893, was Jacob Miller. His early experiences have, when told, a certain picturesqueness in their contemplation, but probably the reality was hard enough. A tour on foot of three years, wandering and working in Germany, France, Holland, Belgium and England may appear to adventurous youthful spirits to be attractive vagabondage. The pilgrimage recalls Oliver Goldsmith's wanderings on the Continent, when he paid for various lodgings by playing his flute. Miller's asset against failure was a pair of strong arms and a willingness to work. He was born on February 8, 1836, at the little village of Hof, in Rhenish Bavaria, not far from Saarbruck, where, on August 2, the French army scored a minor success in the fateful opening days of the Franco-German War of 1870-71. Miller, when a boy of fourteen years of age, laboured on his father's farm lands that were close to the Rhine. The boy of fourteen years developed the wanderlust mentioned, as he bore the tedium of the long wearisome days, working from sunrise to sunset and after. It was then he set forth to seek adventures in the wide world that was to be to him as an oyster to be opened. After labouring in the countries of his wanderings, he made still a greater pilgrimage, for he sailed from Liverpool for Launceston, Tasmania, and reached there, in the year 1854, after a voyage of 110 days, a voyage wherein some of the crew mutinied. There was some trouble to quell the discontents. Miller was then a hefty lad of eighteen years, and he stood by the captain for law and discipline. He left Launceston after twelve months stay in Tasmania, and crossed Bass Strait in the "Black Swan," arriving in Melbourne on his birthday, February 8, 1855. Taking his swag, he left Melbourne to tramp to the goldfields. He tried his luck at Forest Creek, Bendigo, McIvor, Jim Crow, The Woolshed, Maryborough and Fiery Creek. His fortunes as a digger varied as those of a gambler, and he suffered in his bush wanderings. On one occasion he was without food, shelter or fire for two days. He walked from Fiery Creek to Warrnambool. From there he



BRIGHTON ROAD, 1931.

went to Melbourne where he was given work by George Selth Coppin, the theatrical manager, who was associated with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean, G. V. Brooke, and other notable "stars" of those hustling days of the gold era. Coppin imported from England the framework of a theatre constructed of sheets of iron, and reassembled the sheets in Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. He named the theatre the Olympic. Then came the purchase of the Theatre Royal, in Bourke Street, and the creation of Cremorne Gardens at Richmond, and financial ruin. Miller remained for a long time in the employ of George Coppin. In the year 1858, he settled down in St. Kilda, was married, and thrust behind him his nomadic yearnings. He had every cause to do so, for he was, as the years passed, well anchored at the corner of High Street and Alma Road as a furniture warehouseman, with a quiver full of thirteen children. He died on May 6, 1917, aged 82 years. Two of his sons are in business in High Street. The name of Miller is honoured in St. Kilda by those who recall Jacob Miller and his wife, who was a native of Surrey, England.

Among St. Kilda's early tradesmen were men whose names, and calling, were as follow, John Marshall and T. Targett were tailors, the first in High Street, the second in Inkerman Street. There was an A. P. Targett in Brighton Road in 1859. William Perrin was a saddler, a profitable trade in the days when horses were used extensively as a means of locomotion. Samuel Jeans was a plumber, but no ordinary plumber for he invented a gas stove, duplicates of which sold freely, and Jeans was blessed by housewives. He was a councillor of St. Kilda, for a number of years, and his son (J. F. Jeans) was employed by the Council, and became Chief Clerk. He died while quite a young man, to the great regret of everyone who knew him and his promising career. The councillors lost a faithful employee, and they marked their appreciation of his merits by voting a gratuity to his wife. William Inkley's Forge was a well-known blacksmith's forge in St. Kilda, which dated from the year 1853. It was next the Greyhound Hotel, one of St. Kilda's four historical hotels, the others being the Royal, the Junction, and the Village Belle. Whiteman's shoeing forge came after Inkley's. Dando's forge was called the Junction Shoeing Forge, and was opposite the Junction Hotel. Downie & Campbell had also a shoeing

forge at the Junction till they moved next door to P. A. C. O'Farrell's Queens Arms Hotel in Inkerman Street. Alexander Downie was a blacksmith in St. Kilda for thirty years, and he lived in Inkerman Street, alongside his forge. When he took Paul Campbell into partnership Paul explained to his intending patrons, that he "had been employed as a general blacksmith, in the first establishments in St. Kilda, where he was well known. It is, says Paul "therefore hardly necessary to inform the public that he will give them general satisfaction." Poor Paul, and poor humanity! flitting for a space, in front of the screens, time stretches across St. Kilda, and then comes the silence of the past. Silent too, the public, that presumably sought fifty years ago "general satisfaction" from their blacksmith Paul! G. Rakestraw was a bootmaker in High Street, in the year 1858, and another bootmaker, or boot seller, in High Street in 1859, was John Sundercombe. Eastwood was a baker, and near by to him was William Williamson, a tailor who lived in Acland Street in 1859. L. Vanderauwera, at 138 High Street, was a draper. John Squire owned the High Street timber yard.

Some first trade names have survived in St. Kilda, by reason of sons of the original traders, still carrying on the same trades. For instance Joshua Taylor arrived in Victoria, with his parents, in the year 1852, when he was ten years of age. There is no occasion to retell in detail the oft told tale of how emigrants arriving at the gold period experienced a difficulty to find a place wherein to stay, and how Canvas Town sprang into existence, to meet the want of housing. The Taylors did not go to Canvas Town, but instead they lived for ten months, in a tent that was pitched on land in Collins Street. The family then moved to St. Kilda in the year 1853, where Taylor's mother started a grocer's, and vegetable store, at the corner of High, and Inkerman Streets. Subsequently Joshua was employed by Moses Fraser, a grocer, in High Street, whose shop was in existence in 1859. Fraser prospered, and built the Duke of Edinburgh Hotel. Some time later Joshua, with his brother Joseph, who in 1859 lived in Neptune Street, took over their mother's business. Mrs. Taylor advertised the business transfer on April 18, 1874, saying that "the grocery business hitherto carried on by A. Taylor, corner of High and Inkerman Streets, has removed to the opposite corner of Inkerman Street, and will be carried on by Joshua and

Joe Taylor. N.B.—A. Taylor thanks the public generally for past favors, and solicits a continuance in favor of her sons."

The brothers went into partnership, under the firm name of Taylor Brothers. Good business men, of the highest integrity, their business expanded, until they opened shops in different suburbs, the firm of Taylor Brothers becoming very well known. Joshua retired from the business in 1899. The High Street business was sold to A. Willis, and Joshua's two sons took over the branches. After living for so lengthy a period in St. Kilda, he retired to Highbury Grove, Kew, when he parted with the prosperous business he had built up. At the time of his death, in July 1901, he was 59 years of age. A very old friend, and also a St. Kilda resident of the stirring church days, Professor Gosman was the minister at Joshua Taylor's grave. One of his sons, Robert Tolson Taylor, is a councillor for the North Ward of St. Kilda, and he, like his brother in South Melbourne, is a grocer, the owner of the historical shop "The Junction Store," St. Kilda. He has had two generations of ancestors in St. Kilda, father and grandfather.

John Allan Smith was a grocer in Grey Street. He was born in one of the Orkney Islands, Scotland, in 1831, and emigrated to, and settled in St. Kilda in 1852. He was a trustee of the Loyal Prince of Wales Lodge M.U.I.O.O.F. for many years. He died on April 28, 1906. The grocer's business Smith carried on, was bought from William Hamilton and William Barr, who tad their shop in Grey Street in 1859. Smith had a partner named Ross, and the firm of Ross & Smith was a popular one in St. Kilda, both men being highly esteemed in the local shop-keeping world.

We recall William Pummeroy, High Street, who did contracting work for the Council. In April, 1868, he was paid £31/3/4 for cement pavement. On one occasion he wrote to the council stating he had tendered a price, and had since doing so found he would sustain a great loss if he was held to his contract, therefore he prayed that he might be released from his undertaking. Such pleas, though rare, are not unheard of by the Council to-day. Pummeroy had his prayer granted. Descendants of his still live and have their business in St. Kilda. The families of the Stringers and Mardens in time go a long way back, in St. Kilda, and their names are not in danger of dying out. Charles Marden, the founder of the St. Kilda branch of his name, was an

early butcher. His son, Charles, aged 72 years, died in 1927. The Stringers were butchers, and Charles, the son, married a Miss Stringer. Her mother was a very early resident and lived to 86 years of age. Marden was a well known painter and sign- writer, of St. Kilda, whose shop was in High Street. and he painted signs for the St. Kilda Council. In the years of the seventies the painting on butchers' carts was so elaborate, that it required a considerable amount of skill to do it. Marden was an artist of some merit, and in his younger days associated with artists. Commercially the painting of bulls' heads on butchers' signboards, and on their carts, were his chef d'oeuvres. He also painted monograms on the door panels of carriages. With changing fashions the demand for Marden's painted bulls' heads passed away

William George Apps, who died on January 19, 1918, at Robe Street, St. Kilda, was the head of a well known family in St. Kilda. He was born at Ramsgate, England, and came from a seafaring family. His grandfather was one of Nelson's sailors, and his father was a ship's chaplain. With such adventurous blood he emigrated to Victoria, where he arrived in the year 1854. He tried out his luck gold digging, and after some trials he, being by trade a cabinet maker, started as an undertaker and founded the well known firm of Apps. He at one time was one of the vice-presidents of the St. Kilda Tradesmen's Club. David Watson, a builder, was born at Aberdeen, and he came to Port Phillip in the years of the forties. He resided in Inkerman Street East for 52 years, a period that must be a record for residence in Inkerman Street.



ST. KILDA BEACH AND ESPLANADE.

(From the Old Royal Baths)

From a photograph taken about 1862 by Mr. Sydney W. Smith (then Surveyor to the Municipality) and presented to the Council by his son, Mr. Sydney W. Smith, in 1916.

CHAPTER XXVI.

The St. Kilda Upper and Lower Esplanades—Quarry at Esplanade—Prosecution for Stone Thieving—Melbourne Police Court Clerk and St. Kilda Resident, a Witness—Band on Esplanade, 1864.—Fitzroy Street Widened for Duke of Edinburgh's Visit—Gas Lighting—Electric Lighting—Beach Show, a Public Nuisance?—St. Kilda's Life Boat—First Tramway—Widening the Esplanade—Reclamation of Foreshore — Straightening Street Alignment on Upper Esplanade—Esplanade Bandstand—"Granny."

THE St. Kilda Esplanade was called at first "The Terrace." When that name was abandoned, an uncertainty arose among the residents regarding its place-name. Some of them referred to the hanging road as "The Promenade," a name that was descriptive of its uses. Others there were, who preferred the term, "The Esplanade." An interesting philological race arose between the two words, "Promenade," and "Esplanade." In the end "The Esplanade" survived and "Promenade" was forgotten.

Nature first determined the original snub-nosed point of St. Kilda Hill. Man improved upon Nature, and fashioned the sharp sweeping lines of the Upper Esplanade. Tons of red sandstone were taken from the sea face of the Esplanade, for it was used as a quarry by contractors, making roads for the Central Road Board. The Board's contractors were not diffident about filching soil, and stone, from Crown Lands, since they assailed themselves, with the thought, that the theft was for the public good. When St. Kilda became the centre of a village settlement, the residents, feeling the urge of the growing spirit of communal interests, objected to these road makers stripping stone from the St. Kilda hill lands, from the St. Kilda beach front, and more especially did they protest against the action of the contractors' men quarrying for stone at the Esplanade.

Matthew Charleton, William Charleton, Benjamin Barber, and Lawrence Thompson, were before the City of Melbourne Police Court, on January 9, 1854, charged by a Crown Bailiff, with damaging Crown Lands, by the quarrying of stone, near the St. Kilda Hotel. From the evidence given the defendants had

opened a quarry into St. Kilda Hill. W. B. Belcher, the clerk of the Melbourne City Court Bench, stated that he lived in Dalgety Street, and he saw the defendants committing the trespass on the Crown Lands. He repeatedly cautioned them to cease quarrying, but without effect. They told him they were acting under the authority of a road contractor. According to Mr. Belcher's evidence, a vast excavation had been made, in a part of St. Kilda Terrace, which was a regular public thoroughfare. The excavation was one of a very dangerous nature, particularly to parties walking along the beach. The defence set up was, that the defendants were in the employ of the contractors, under the Central Road Board, by whose directions they had acted. They denied having done the damage alleged. The Bench held that the defendants had not sufficient authority, and fined each of them £3. Years afterwards, when the St. Kilda municipal authorities were carrying out improvements at the Lower Esplanade and on the foreshore, they were somewhat surprised to discover that the natural overburden of the land, resting upon the red ferruginous shelly sand pliocene base, was gone, not knowing, at that time, what our research has since revealed, that man with pick, shovel, and cart, had been there, in the days, when St. Kilda was in its district infancy.

The geological formation of the municipality of St. Kilda, is upper silurian, with recent surface drift. The Red Bluff, now Point Ormond, was a bold headland, but it has been removed, and the spoil used, to reclaim Elwood's marsh lands. The headland, or miniature cape, was a solid mass of "thick gritty, and honeycombed ferruginous beds, interstratified with hard brown sandstone, more or less micaceous." Below that again the drill has proved there is a layer of brown coal. It is asserted, but on what authority we know not, that St. Kilda was known to the aborigines by the name of "Euro-Yroke," and that the name was used by aboriginals to describe the red brown sandstone, found along the beach of St. Kilda, in outcropping spurs, and ridges. The stone to the aborigines, in the stone age, was, we are told, a master stone, on which they sharpened their axes. Hunger, or the crave for a change of diet, may have had more to do with the aborigines visiting St. Kilda, than any desire they had to sharpen their stone axes. Mounds of mussel shells once to be seen on the beach at Elwood, and other places, along the St. Kilda foreshore told the tale of aboriginal shellfish feasts.



FITZROY STREET.

View taken from Kenney's Ship Baths, from a very old print lent by F. D. Michaelis, Esq.

Aboriginals, in the days of St. Kilda's early settlement, were rapidly deteriorating from their primitive bush independence, and becoming persistent beggars. They were regarded as a nuisance by residents. They spread themselves, so far as their camps were concerned, fairly well over the western swamp terrain of St. Kilda. The two Miss Jennings had memories of their father, Henry Jennings, taking them to see an encampment of natives, on the banks of the Albert Park lagoon.

John Augustus Gurner K.C. in his *Recollections of "Life's Panorama"* (1930) referring to St. Kilda, writes "In Albert Park there was always a number of aborigines, men, lubras, and picaninnies, accompanied by great packs of dogs of all kinds. Frequently the blacks built mia-mias for themselves out of the gumtree branches in the park."

The south end of the Esplanade was, until August, 1859, a place without an outlet on the south, by way of any public highway. The ratepayers, who were rated for properties on the Esplanade, on the ratepayers' roll for the Municipal District of St. Kilda 1859-60, were John Dinwoodie, John Dismore, Thomas Gamson, William Hardcastle, Thomas Jackson J. Jennings, J. S. Johnston, Julius Kaepfell, William Kesterson, R. W. King, George Kohler, Alexander Macfarlane, Moritz Michaelis, James Miller, — McGrath, C. S. Withers, and John Yewers.

On April 29, 1857, the second month of the Council's being, Councillor Spicer gave notice of motion that he intended to move, "for the consideration by the Council, for the placing of seats, and the planting of trees, on the slope of the Esplanade, between the Royal Hotel, and the Bathing Ship." The St. Kilda Council had been administering the business of the municipality for twelve months, when its members sought to persuade the Government to make a roadway to the jetty, the road to start from the southern end of the Esplanade. The Government refused the Council's request. The St. Kilda Council's early experiences, of the various governments of Victoria, were such, that more than one public man, residing in St. Kilda, remarked upon the persistency with which the Council was met by departmental negatives. The Council was not disheartened. Its persistency, in asking for things, was slightly greater than the Government's stubbornness in refusing to grant them. There was a margin of success, in the St. Kilda Council's favor. In the case of the refusal mentioned, the Council determined to under-

take, on its own financial responsibility, the permanent improvement of the shore face of the Esplanade, by forming an upper, and a lower roadway, which, in the words of the Council, "it was hoped, with the intervening slopes, will add greatly to the beauty, as well as to the permanent usefulness of this very important part of the municipality."

On January 8, 1864, The Argus newspaper stated that "the St. Kilda Esplanade Band will play this evening (Friday), commencing at half past seven. The visitors to this promenade are nightly increasing. The borough council are now erecting a number of seats on the beach reserve, which will add considerably to the comfort of the ladies." Contrast the following note, selected at random, from an opened minute book of the year 1924, with the paragraph from The Argus, both dealing with band recitals. The minute book records, that the Council carried a motion to the effect that, "the St. Kilda City Brass Band, to consist of not less than twenty members, in full uniform, be engaged to give, during the ensuing season, a continuous series of twenty-five recitals, on Sunday evenings, as from the 2nd November, and twelve Sunday afternoon recitals, in such localities, and on such dates, as the Council directs, at a remuneration of £7 10/- per recital payable monthly, subject to the conditions of an agreement to be entered into."

We have a note that in October, 1867, the St. Kilda Council decided to widen Fitzroy Street at its junction with the Esplanade, to its permanent width, in anticipation of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh landing at St. Kilda. Here then, was the first germ in the St. Kilda municipal mind, of a vice-regal landing, at the St. Kilda Jetty, and of a carriage drive for royalty along Fitzroy Street to Melbourne, and of the necessity of preparations for local road beautification in anticipation of the honor. The St. Kilda Council was, in this hope of a vice-regal landing in full public state, many years ahead of the times. Years were to elapse before such a public and acclaimed royal landing at St. Kilda was to take place.

On July 9, 1877, the St. Kilda Council considered a proposal to place six lamp pillars on the Esplanade. The Mayor, Councillor H. C. Fraser, said the additional lamps would beautify the Esplanade, and be of a benefit to respectable people, who might wish to walk there after dark. A discussion took place on the proposal, wherein Councillor McNaughton said, he did not think



FITZROY STREET.

Fenced on North Side (about 1864), reproduced from an old photograph lent by the Misses Hart.

the Council would be justified in going to the unnecessary expense of six lamps. He moved an amendment, which was carried, to the effect, "that four new lamp pillars be erected on the Esplanade, the two old ones to be removed." The new lamp pillars were probably iron ones, and therefore more expensive than the old ones, constructed of wood, with a short iron arm, whereto the lamp was fastened.

We digress to say that, in the year 1858 a proposal was advertised to float a St. Kilda and Prahran Gas Company. The chairman of the provisional directors was the St. Kilda Council's first chairman, Benjamin Cowderoy. The engineer was S. W. Smith, and he acted as honorary secretary till the company was floated. His address was the Court House, St. Kilda. A meeting of the shareholders was held at the Court House, on October 18. The allotment of shares was announced as 2,476, and the first call had been made of 17/6 per share. The directors, the chairman stated, had had several interviews with members of the Government on the subject of a grant of land in Albert Park for their gas works.

The amount the promoters of the proposed gas company received on deposit, and the first call on 1,066 shares, was £1,066. The provisional directors were the chairman, Councillor B. Cowderoy, J.P., Messrs. Dr. Van Hemert, J.P., George Rolfe, J.P., T. Hales, W. H. Ritchie, F. Gardiner, and W. S. Woolcott. Nothing came of this movement to establish a local gas works in St Kilda, and to prevent the Melbourne Gas and Coke Company from supplying St. Kilda with gas. In August, 1859, several private houses in St. Kilda were lighted by gas. That was before the streets of St. Kilda were illuminated by gas lamps. Not until that year, 1859, did the Council have an interview with Secretary Priestly, of the Melbourne Gas & Coke Company, with a view to illuminating some of the streets by gas lighting. The Company's charge for gas was 22/6 per 1,000 cubic feet. Streets in St. Kilda, in the year 1861, were lighted by 44 lamps, belonging to the Council ; of that number 31 were gas lamps, and 13 oil lamps. During the year the street lamps, in St. Kilda, had been painted, and repaired. The first light a traveller saw, along the St. Kilda Road, in the year 1850, when he was near to St. Kilda, was the lantern placed above the front bar door of the Junction Hotel. The lighted lantern was a legal requirement.

Hotel licensees were subject to penalties, if they did not have the lantern burning brightly after sunset. On the Esplanade, there were the three hotel lanterns to illuminate that highway. The hotel lanterns threw but feeble points of light to guide belated travellers. Frequently early police court records contain notes of convictions, against market gardeners, for travelling through St. Kilda, after sundown, without lights on their waggons. The well worn, and invariable defence, was that the lantern light had "just gone out." The conclusive police rebut, that won a fine of 5/- to the revenue of the Colony was, "I felt his lantern, your Worship, and it was stone cold."

St. Kilda is one of the best lighted cities in the Melbourne metropolitan area. Contrast, for a moment, the times when strings of market carts, returning to the districts of the market gardeners, Brighton, Moorabbin, Cheltenham, and elsewhere, went lumbering, full of manure from city stables, across the St. Kilda Junction. The horses were tired out, the drivers were sleepy, or sleeping, for man, and horse, had been travelling to the Melbourne market since the early hours. Compare this scene, with the one to be observed to-day, at the St. Kilda Junction, when that place of the meeting of the cross roads, is vibrant with traffic. Tram cars, motor cars, and other vehicles, speed, hither and thither, in such an endless line, that to regulate the traffic requires the services of a special pointsman and of a traffic constable. When St. Kilda was emerging from the nights of very feeble oil lamps into the nights of having a few lamps, burning gas, it was spoken of as a notable sign of progression. To have the municipality illuminated, in its streets, by gas, was the St. Kilda Council's ambition, and every encouragement was offered to the agents of the gas company to lay gas mains. In time, the St. Kilda Council attained to its ambition, and the municipality was served by gas lighting. Then came the introduction of electric lighting, and its use was at first confined to leading roads, and specially high powered lights, at cross roads, and "bottle necked" roads, which to St. Kilda present a serious problem, in the dangerous traffic conditions they create.

In July, 1928, the Lighting Committee of the St. Kilda Council reported to the Council that it had gone thoroughly into the question of the advisableness of changing the method of public lighting from gas to electricity. As a result it was unanimously in favor of such a change, and the Committee added



FITZROY STREET LOOKING WEST.
The Cenotaph in the distance, 1930.

that it regarded the time as opportune. The report stated that there were then 863 gas lamps installed, 622 of the single Kern type (for which the Metropolitan Gas Co. was paid at the rate of £8/5/- each per annum), 130 special lights at varying rates and 111 high and low pressure lights comprised in the high pressure system for St. Kilda Road, Fitzroy Street and the Upper Esplanade. The total candle power hours were 5291 millions. The 622 ordinary lamps were lit from half an hour after sunset to half an hour before sunrise, except for three nights at each full moon.

The Committee further reported having received authentic information of an intended revision by the Melbourne Electric Supply Company of its charges for public lighting, to cover all night lighting, from half an hour after sunset to half an hour before sunrise, every night in the year. From a financial aspect, considerable savings would be effected by the change.

The Surveyor, Mr. R. J. Kelly, was empowered to seek co-operation by the officers of the Melbourne Electric Supply Co. Ltd., in drawing up a comprehensive scheme for the electric lighting of the city involving a redistribution, where necessary, of present lighting points, and the addition of new points as may be necessary.

In December, 1928, the Lighting Committee's final report was adopted, and the Council authorised the execution of an agreement with the Melbourne Electric Supply Co.

The electric system now installed comprises 4 750 watt lamps, 13 500 watt lamps, 79 300 watt lamps, 304 200 watt lamps, 866 100 watt lamps, and 5 60 watt lamps. The total candle power hours are 767f, millions. The city was for the first time wholly lighted by electricity on the night of October 15, 1929.

Special features in the electric installation are the 48 lamps in St. Kilda Road (34 200 watt and 14 300- watt) , in panelled units known as the "Nevalux" pattern, 44 of these being placed on fluted steel columns, and 4 on brackets on tramway span poles. This is in continuation of the scheme adopted in the Melbourne portion of the St. Kilda Road. In Fitzroy Street, each centre tramway pole is fitted with a pair of 200 watt lamps in radial wave reflectors. On the Esplanade, 27 pairs of 300 watt lamps are placed on alternate tramway poles

on either side of the road. In Brighton Road, use is also made of the tramway span poles, a 100 watt lamp being affixed to each pole.

In addition to the number of lamps above quoted, the Council came to an arrangement with the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board in regard to track lighting, and contributes to the cost of maintaining 8 500 watt lamps, 77 200 watt lamps, 8 100 watt lamps, and 59 60 watt lamps.

St. Kilda was one of the last municipalities to abandon gas as the medium of public lighting, and throughout the Council's relations with the Metropolitan Gas Company were of the most harmonious character. Just prior to the change over to electricity, members of the Lighting Committee paid a "farewell" visit to Mr. Bradshaw, the Secretary to the Gas Company, and expressed their appreciation of the good service rendered by the Company for so many years.

In the year, 1861, the St. Kilda Council placed two flights of wooden, red gum, steps on the slopes of the Esplanade. One flight of steps was in a line with the entrance to Robe Street, and the other flight was opposite Thomas Leggett's Baths, afterwards Hegarty's Baths. These steps were worn out after seven years of use, and they were replaced with new ones in 1868. A tall flagstaff was erected in Alfred Square, the old Customs House Reserve, that had within its area a plot of land temporarily reserved for a bowling green. Upon the peak of the staff, on every high day, and holiday, the St. Kilda Council had the British flag flying, braving the sea breezes as of yore. We recall, that at a council meeting held on March 24, 1873, the Planting Committee of the St. Kilda Council recommended "that Alfred Square, occupying as it does such a commanding position on the Esplanade, be enclosed by a dwarf wall, surrounded by handsome iron palings, furnished with suitable gates, and that it be levelled, laid out, and planted." An estimate of the cost of the dwarf wall was £1,000. The Council was not in favor of spending £1,000 on Alfred Square so the work was not done.

On January 18, 1873, the tender of H. Turnbull, for the work of the extension of the St. Kilda Jetty was accepted at the cost of £1,430. In September 1874, the Government allocated the sum of £1,500 for the purpose of building a breakwater at St. Kilda. Step by step, the municipal records reveal the steady progress of St. Kilda, advances that were considered very satis-



ST. KILDA PIER.

(About 1864.) Reproduced from an old photograph lent by the Misses Hart.



ST. KILDA ESPLANADE, 1865.

factory when they were accomplished. Constantly the records of work, proceeding in the municipality, contain references to the Esplanade, and its general improvement, such as, for instance, the building of the Esplanade Hotel on the site of the old Criterion Hotel. The new hotel, it is stated, has a frontage of 78 feet to the Esplanade. The hotel contains 50 bedrooms. The first licensee was James Hay of the Athenaeum Club, Melbourne. An esteemed councillor of St. Kilda, Sigismund Jacoby was a licensee for a number of years.

When the Council made the Lower Esplanade roadway the waves washed against its western base. In storm periods the waves rushed over the road. To protect the roadway, "a neat low fence made out of half sheets of galvanised iron, was built. Both the Upper, and Lower roads of the Esplanade had been improved by the Council at a cost of over £3,000, of which amount the Government contributed the sum of £1,125. Later, the iron galvanised fence was removed, and a wall, made of blue stone pitchers was built. The road was raised up considerably to meet the level of the Upper Esplanade, and an easy sweeping gradient was attained that made a pleasing improvement to the north end of the Lower Esplanade.

The St. Kilda Council, in the year 1881, reported that it had been able to construct asphalted crossings over the roadways of some of the principal streets, among them the Esplanade. The red gum wood street kerbing was to be replaced with stone kerbing. And yet there is an expressive note of satisfaction in the records, dated years before, of the encouraging sign of progress visible' when the streets of St. Kilda were first kerbed with red gum boards.

We add, that in the Council's report, for the year 1881, it is stated that, "Great improvement has taken place between Melbourne and Punt Roads. Several houses have been, and others are about to be, constructed in this locality, rendering it necessary for the council to expend considerable amounts in sanitary works." Bridges, like roads, were worn out, and the bridges, over the main drain of St. Kilda required to be renewed. The bridge at Acland Street was replaced, and a new bridge was erected over the drain at Carlisle Street. Four years later, September 30, 1885, the Council's report was singing the song of progress. Important local buildings, "handsome mansions," for there are mansions in St. Kilda, as well as in higher places,

are being erected, including those of S. J. Payne, Alma Street, and H. G. Turner, in Tennyson Street. The George Hotel, built on the site of the Terminus Hotel, has had additions made to it, at a cost bordering on £20,000. Its additions were of brick, and cement, four stories in height, and surmounted with a dome. The hotel had a frontage of 202 feet to Fitzroy Street. It was, in this year (1885), that the annual valuation of rateable property, in the Borough of St. Kilda, reached the sum of £178,853, or an increase of about £22,000 over that of the previous year.

In the year 1887, the St. Kilda Council had before it, a private offer by The Victorian Pier Company, with a contemplated capital of £100,000, to build a pier 1,500 feet in length, and 30 feet in width, with a deck 25 feet in height, above high water mark. The deck was to be on the same level as the Upper Esplanade. The pier was to be placed between the St. Kilda Ladies' Sea Bathing Company's Baths, and the Royal Baths. Provision was made for a theatre pavilion to hold 1000 people, refreshment rooms, etc. The Council was agreeable to the pier being build, under certain conditions, and the Lands Department was so informed. The lack of pence, prevented the proposal from being materialised.

Provision was made, in the Parliamentary Estimates, by the Premier, Sir George Turner, in July, 1898, for extending the pier, at St. Kilda, into a greater depth of water, the sum of £2,000 being earmarked for that purpose. This sum was contingent upon the St. Kilda Council paying the annual sum of £100, for ten years, towards the cost of the extension. The Council agreed to do so, and it, on its part, arranged with Bay Excursion Companies and the Metropolitan Tramways Board to pay a portion of the hundred pounds. The allotment of annual payments was Huddart Parker & Co. £20, the Bay Excursion Company £15, The Metropolitan Tramways Board £15, Howard Smith & Co., 15 ; a total of £55, the Council paid the balance £45. The rentals of Beach showmen, for leasing portions of the reclaimed land, on the foreshore, more than paid the annual liability of £45.

The work contemplated was to carry the pier 500 feet further seaward, making the length of the pier 2,300 feet. By means of the extension of the pier, it was anticipated that a depth of 12 feet of water, at low tide, would be reached. The



VIEW TAKEN FROM THE ROYAL ST. KILDA YACHT CLUB HOUSE.

depth of water, at the end of the existing pier head was eight feet. An L shaped end, to terminate the new pier, was built, 200 feet in length, and this allowed the Bay Excursion steamers to come alongside. The extension of the pier, in width, was 18 feet, or 8 feet less than the width of the then existing pier.

The Public Works Department, in March 1899, intimated to the St. Kilda Council, that it was prepared to undertake the work of removing the "old rubble wall" from the Lower Esplanade. The description of the wall, in the newspapers, as one composed of rubble, that is a wall built of irregular fragments of stone, is incorrect. We remember the wall was built of substantial oblong blue stone pitchers. The Department undertook to place the dismantled wall, along the outer edge of land, reclaimed by the Council, between the solid portion of the pier that was rooted into the shore line, and Captain Kenney's baths. The cost of doing so was estimated at £450. The Department also agreed, to deposit, on the low lying shore land, enclosed within the line of the new wall, about 4,000 cubic yards of sand filling, from the adjoining foreshore, at an estimated cost of £50, provided the Council undertook to pay one half of the total outlay, in yearly instalments, each payment to be £50. The Council was also engaged to cover the sand filling, with a layer of schist, or other appropriate filling, to the depth of not less than eighteen inches. These compacts the Council carried out. When the work was completed the total cost to the Council was £712. A pressing, and a natural sequence to this work was that improvements should be made to the Marine Parade, which now sweeps along the seashore, a beautiful highway, as far as the southern boundary of St. Kilda, Head Street, where the Elwood Life Saving Club has its brick clubhouse. In pursuance of the works of shore improvement the Marine Parade was embanked, formed, and metalled, on the sandy portions of the road, in the same year 1899. In the winter of 1906, when work was scarce for the laboring man, the Premier, the Hon. Thomas Bent, employed, on behalf of the Government, a large gang of men to work on the Elwood, and Point Ormond (Red Bluff) improvement scheme.

During a storm the Marine Parade wall, made by the Government engineers, had to bear a severe test. The wall consisted of rubble, stone, and sand. Breakaways were caused by the onrush of the waves. The ramps, leading to the beach,

were washed away. On the contrary, a stone wall built by the then St. Kilda engineer, Mr. W. J. Woolley, withstood the wash and suction of the waves. After the storm, there was scarcely a crack in the wall, a result that gave pleasure to the St. Kilda councillors.

In October, 1899, the rival clubs, the Royal Victorian Yacht Club, and the St. Kilda Yacht Club, had a friendly difference of opinion, on their relative claims to a portion of the land, the St. Kilda Council had reclaimed from the sea, opposite to the Lower Esplanade. The dispute was settled by the St. Kilda Yacht Club retaining its site, and extending 30 feet seaward, and excising from its site, 30 feet on the land side. The Royal Yacht Club was granted a site north of the site of the St. Kilda Yacht Club. The site was 50 feet by 100 feet in depth. The Council retained control of the land to the south of the St. Kilda Yacht Club's site.

In 1926, the Jubilee year of the Royal St. Kilda Yacht Club, the club built a new club house, on the Lower Esplanade, at an estimated cost of £5000. The club was founded in the year 1876, and occupied, until 1898, a site on the West Beach of St. Kilda. From 1898 to 1903, the club had, by the consent of the Lands Department, the use of a site lower on the Esplanade, near to the pier. At that time, the club had a membership of 80. To-day it has on its roll over 300 members, exclusive of cadets.. The club has contributed generously to charitable efforts conducted by the St. Kilda City Council. The club gave £1,000 towards the St. Kilda Pier improvements, and the breakwater fund. The yacht races the club promotes are one of the many attractions of St. Kilda's beautiful sea front. The club authorities in the year of its jubilee said the club had more yachts than any other yachting club in Australia.

When, in March, 1918, the St. Kilda Dinghy Club expressed its wish to obtain a lifeboat for use, in the St. Kilda waters of Hobson's Bay, the councillors said they were heartily in sympathy with the club's application. The Council understood that the Department of Ports, and Harbours, was inclined to favorably consider the club's proposal, and in pursuance of that belief the Council suggested that the Engineer of the Department, should be asked to confer with the club's representatives, and the Council's officers, so as to settle the question of the location of the boat, and to devise means for its future manage-



THE ROYAL ST. KILDA YACHT CLUB HOUSE.
Lower Esplanade.

ment. In August, the Town Clerk, Mr. Fred. W. Chamberlin, accompanied by Messrs. Strahle, and F. Brooks, representing the St Kilda Dinghy Club, inspected a life boat, stored at the Dredging Depot, Coode Island, which the Engineer of Ports, and Harbours thought would be available for life saving purposes, to the St. Kilda Council. The Minister of Public Works had approved of the loan of the lifeboat, provided that satisfactory arrangements were made for the care and the housing of the boat. On these terms becoming known to the St. Kilda Council it was decided that the mayor should confer with the representatives of the St. Kilde Dinghy Club, as to where the boat was to be housed and to ascertain what the arrangements were to be for the management of the boat. On November 12, 1923, the Council placed an order for the construction of a lifeboat with J. Jones, of Ascot Vale, for the sum of £85.

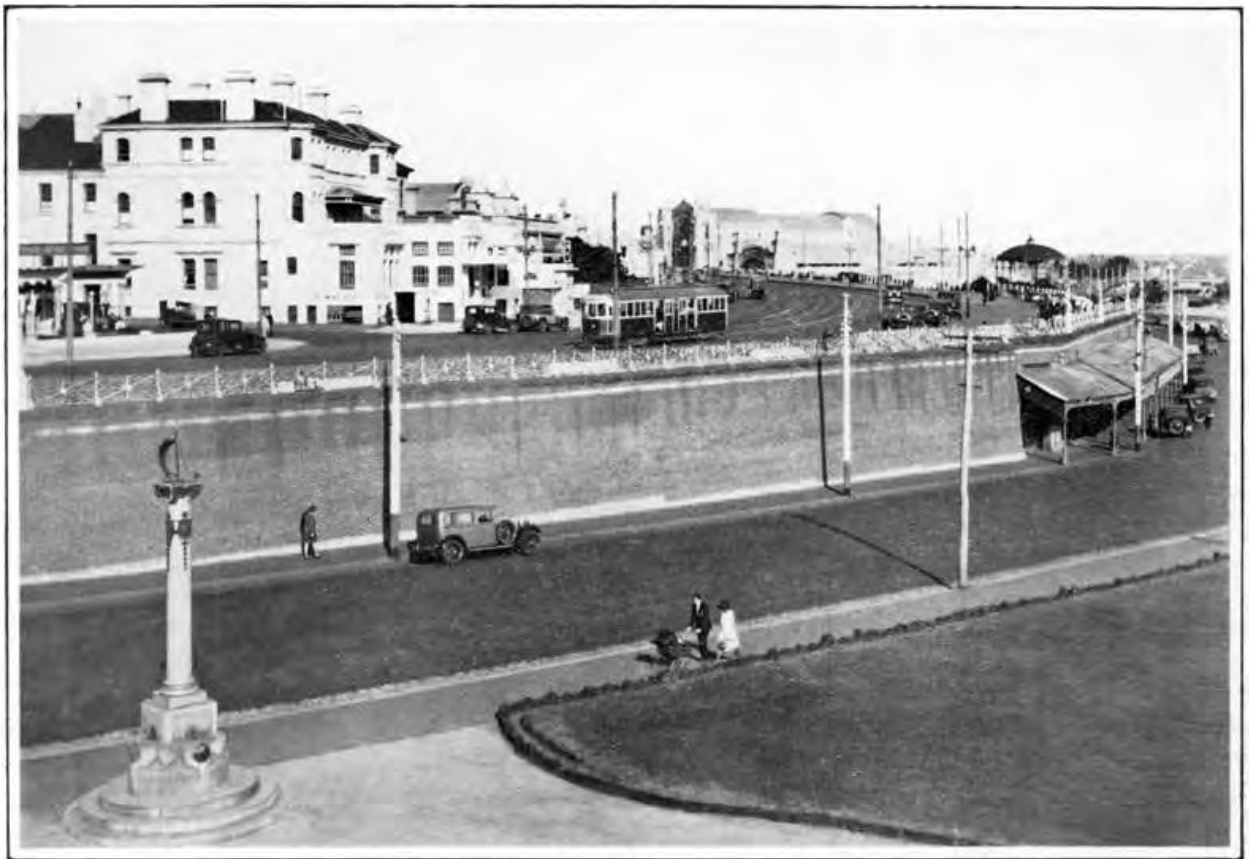
An interesting question arose in February, 1916, as to whether a beach show, a vaudeville entertainment, in a more, or less, open theatre, constituted a public nuisance. The St. Kilda Council was informed, that complaints had been received, by the Chief Secretary, regarding annoyances, caused by the noise, arising from the performances that took place in The Follies Theatre, situated on the Esplanade. The Chief Secretary conveyed to the Council that, in his opinion, the cause of the complaints was within the Council's jurisdiction, and not within his. A deputation of residents, disturbed by the noise, had waited on the Chief Secretary asking that the registration of the Follies Theatre, as a place of theatrical amusement, under Section 3 of the Theatre Act, be refused, and the leaders of the deputation urged the opinion, that the St. Kilda Council had the power to cancel the registration of The Follies Theatre. Finally, the residents stated that their complaint, in the form of a case, had been before Mr. Justice a'Beckett in 1911. The learned judge found, as a fact, that there was a nuisance, as alleged, and it was of such a nature, that, on the appellant's case, it called for restriction. His Honor made an order prohibiting the theatre managers from carrying on the theatre, in such a way as to be a nuisance.

The complainants in the year 1916, said that no effect had been given to the learned judge's order. Their appeal to the Chief Secretary, was made only just at the point of the expiry of the term of registration. When the councillors considered

the merits of the case, they were of the opinion that the delay of the complainants had prejudiced their claim for consideration. The Council pointed out, that the injunction, given by the learned judge, was against carrying on the performance, in such a manner as the ensuing applause, and cat calls, to performers should constitute a nuisance. The injunction did not stop the performance altogether. The Court said, that the noise complained of was just over the border line of a nuisance. The applicants wanted the Council to do something, far beyond the powers that the Council could obtain in a court of law. The Council's restraint could only mean a closure, and there was not subject enough, in the complaint, to justify a cancellation of the registration, under the Theatre Act. The end of the plaint was that the Council informed the Chief Secretary that it had decided, by virtue of its By-law No. 79, to re-register the Follies Theatre as a place of public amusement.

The first tramway, along the Esplanade, was a horse tramway, under the management of the Melbourne Tramway & Omnibus Company. The Melbourne Tramways Trust was then (1890) in being. The St. Kilda Council succeeded in persuading the two tramway bodies to agree to substitute a cable tramway for the old horse tram, that had replaced the first company conveniences, the rattling, cumbersome omnibuses. How the cable tramway pleased the Council may be gathered from its Annual Report, 1891, wherein it was asserted that "The Esplanade Cable Tramway is regarded as perhaps the most satisfactory, and complete in the world, and is greatly appreciated by the travelling public, in and around the metropolis."

When the cable tramway was in the course of construction, it was found necessary to increase the width of the upper roadway of The Esplanade, to spend moneys in wood blocking, and on other contingent improvements, on, and about the Esplanades. To increase the width of the roadway, the St. Kilda Council set apart the sum of £5,000, out of some loan moneys. The road was widened by building an embankment wall, and filling up the space between the wall, and the road, to the level of the roadway on the Upper Esplanade. The width of the Esplanade varied from 100 to 126 feet. The filling in of the space, created by the embankment wall, swallowed down some thousands of loads of spoil, principally sand, to raise its level to an average height of nineteen feet. The embank-



THE RETAINING WALL.
Between the Upper and Lower Esplanades.



THE CLEVE GARDENS.
Corner of Fitzroy Street and Beaconsfield Parade.

ment was secured by a relay of bricks, sloping towards each end, north and south. Provision was made for ten shops on the Lower. Esplanade. The designs in connection with the work were made by the late W. B. Downe, the then surveyor of St. Kilda. The opinion was expressed, by some of the councillors, that the revenue from the shops would pay the interest on the capital, absorbed in the work of improvement, and also provide for a sinking fund, to repay the principal moneys invested. The work exceeded by £1,000 its estimated cost.

In the St. Kilda Council's annual report, for the year 1899, it states that the portion of the foreshore, lying between the Pier, and Kenney's Baths, has been reclaimed by the Council at a cost of nearly £1,300, of which amount the Government has placed £400 upon the estimates." Thus, it will be seen, that the St. Kilda Council anticipated the work of the future St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee, which did not come into being as a Foreshore trust, until the year 1906. The St. Kilda Council, prior to the Fore Shore Committee's advent, had leased some of the Lower Esplanade lands to entertainment proprietors.

The best known of them, and the pioneer one that enjoyed the patronage of thousands of children was Baxter's Merry-GoRound. It never lost its popularity since the day of its opening. Shows came to, and shows went from St. Kilda by the sea, but the prancing steeds of Baxter's Merry-Go-Round still ran their circuit to the powerful noise of Baxter's mechanical band. Many different kinds of entertainment made their appearance on the St. Kilda sands, but the managers of the vaudeville shows usually found private properties on the Esplanade, which premises were leased and converted into partially open-air theatres in summer. In the war years, the vaudeville shows were apparently prosperous, but afterwards the companies certainly were not encouraged to keep open by reports and receipts from the box offices of "a beggarly account of empty boxes." In this connection, reference is made, in Chapter XXIX., to St. Kilda beach show sites that "were not always gold mines."

Some of the work of the St. Kilda Foreshore Trust Committee would not have been so readily accomplished, on the beach front, and more especially the Esplanade frontage, had it not been for the foresight exhibited, and the work done by the St. Kilda Council, years before the Foreshore Committee was appointed to do like works. The St. Kilda Council had

shown that such beach beautification was possible, by producing an admirable sample of such seascape, or beach, gardening on reclaimed sand shoals, and so the Council gave an encouraging lead to the future Foreshore Trust Committee.

A granite drinking fountain was presented to the City of St. Kilda, in the year 1906, by *Mrs. Fairchild*, in memory of her husband, who was a resident of St. Kilda for many years. His name appears on the Municipal Roll for 1859-60 as living in Dalgety Street. The unveiling of the Fairchild memorial drinking fountain took place on Sunday February 11, 1906, at the St. Kilda Esplanade, in the presence of the Mayor, and Mayoress of St. Kilda (Councillor H. B. and *Mrs. Gibbs*) several councillors, and a large number of people. The unveiling ceremony was performed by Miss Marjorie Felstead.

A public benefactor to St. Kilda, was Mr. Sali Cleve, who has shown a fine example of good citizenship. He presented to the city the handsome drinking fountain, on the Lower Esplanade. It bears the inscription "This drinking fountain is a gift to the public, from Sali Cleve Esq., April 1911." Mr. Cleve took a great interest in the reserve, at the corner of Beaconsfield Parade, and Fitzroy Street, and much of its beauty is due to his liberality.. The Council, recognising Mr. Cleve's good works, paid him the deserved compliment of naming the reserve after him, "The Cleve Gardens."

The street alignment, of the Upper Esplanade, on the East line, was irregular, a fault due to the indifferent ways, in which the various allotments of land in the first Crown Land sales were plotted. For some years, such irregularities of the frontages of properties to the road had been the subject of passing criticism. The Council has always desired to bring the fences abutting on the Upper Esplanade into line. In October, 1923, the councillors decided to do so, by virtue of the powers, conferred upon councils, under the provisions of the Local Government Act, to take land compulsorily. The Council proceeded, in the first place, to serve notices on the owners of its intentions, and invited them to attend the Council meeting, held on October 29, 1923, to state their objections, if they had any, to the improvement. One of the properties affected, belonging to Mr. E. Hoban, had been held by one proprietorship for the space of seventy years. Some of the property owners accepted the Council's invitation, and either personally, or by their legal

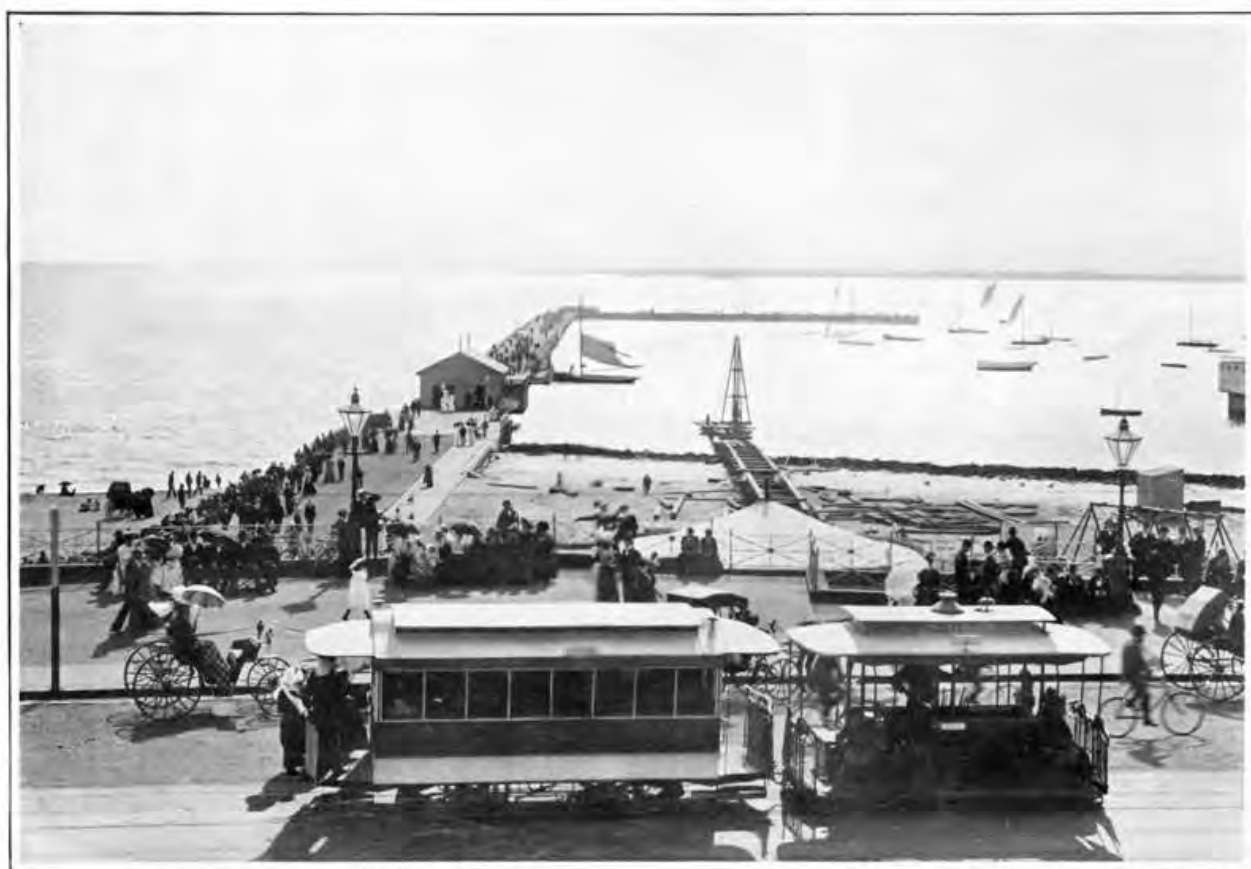
representatives, stated their objections, while others intimated that they had no objections to lodge. The main contention of the objectors was that there was no necessity to do the work.

The question was before the Council once more on December 10, 1923, when evidence was heard, in support of the suggested readjustment of the street alignment of the Eastern side of the Upper Esplanade. The Chief Technical Expert of the Town Planning Commission, gave evidence, wherein he stated that, on the invitation of the Town Clerk of St. Kilda, he had, in company with the City Surveyor of St. Kilda, (Mr. R. T. Kelly C.E.) made a visual survey of the Upper Esplanade. The widening of the Upper Esplanade to make it uniform throughout, necessitated the resumption of portion of the properties known as "Arcadia," "Symposium," "Cremorne," and "Mandalay," and the amendment of the kerb alignment, between Fitzroy and Robe Streets. The Town Planning Commission expert pointed out, to the Council, that, "the proposed new alignment was equidistant from, and follows the alignment of the tram track, and would, when effected, remove several inequalities then existing in the roadway, tending to congestion when fast moving traffic was abreast of the tram cars." He concluded some more remarks, by saying, the proposed widening of the Upper Esplanade was imperatively necessary in the public interest. Another witness was Mr. A. E. Aughtie, city surveyor of South Melbourne, who stated that the locality of the Upper Esplanade was "the most popular section of sea frontage in the metropolis, and being provided with many, and varied classes of entertainment, led to the congregation of large members of visitors. The transport of these crowds was conducted by trams, buses, motor cars, and other vehicles. Vehicles were necessarily parked in a continuous line along the Eastern kerb-line of the Esplanade, from near to the Upper Esplanade Hotel, towards Robe Street, and as the roadway was also a through route for traffic, running to other suburbs, the available width, for passing vehicles, between such parked cars, and the tram rail was reduced, and led to dangerous congestion... By increasing the width of the carriage way, the existing bottleneck would be removed, and a continuously even width, for moving traffic, would be maintained from Fitzroy Street to Robe Street, outside of the line of stationary vehicles. The width of pathway, proposed for pedestrian traffic, fifteen feet,

should be regarded as a minimum for the crowds to be accommodated."

This evidence suggests to those who know St. Kilda, the stir and crush of a holiday crowd on the Upper Esplanade. The evidence was given in the year 1923, before the tramway track on the Upper Esplanade had been electrified, and when it was stated by South Melbourne's City surveyor, that it "must be an accepted fact, that the traffic, which has greatly developed during recent years, will increase enormously, and rapidly creating a condition that demands early action to afford relief, in the congested area." Congested! What sailorman, looking across the taff-rails of the "Lady of St. Kilda," at the sea shore, dotted white with wandering seagulls, could have believed had some prophetic sea siren told him that the lonely tea tree, and gum and sheoak tree covered hill, in front of him, would ever be a "congested area" of humanity, and crowded with vehicles, such as motor cars, and electric tramway cars, vehicles of which he had no possible conception! Time's passage not only solves things, but it also produces many unlooked for changes, that are often, in their nature, marvellous surprises. Sea planes have alighted on the waters, wherein the schooner yacht's anchor lay embedded in the sands. Where the seagulls flew overhead there have been, occasions of national welcome to Kings' Sons, and to vice-regal Governors, flights of aeroplanes. Instead of a hill, covered with trees, there are houses, and mansions, breaking the skyline; in place of the sandy beach, the Lady of St. Kilda's lovely beach of sand, there are well trimmed lawns, and red gravelled pathways, to the water's edge, and the incoming waves break against a well constructed stone wall. We think that sailorman, if it were possible for him to revisit the place, would rub his eyes, and then fail to remember the seashore he once knew as "St. Kilda beach," and if he was told that, in December, 1927, the open land before him, on the crown of the hill, would fetch at auction the sum of eighty pounds per foot, as an Upper Esplanade frontage, and that lots facing Robe Street, would bring forty pounds per foot, he would not understand how such things could be.

The municipal surveyors, before the Council without any romantic flights, about other days, testified to what was then necessary on the Upper Esplanade to relieve the traffic. The St. Kilda Council was satisfied, and the following motion was



THE SITE OF THE FIRST FORESHORE RECLAMATION WORK,
Between the Pier and Fitzroy Street.



THE RESULT OF THE RECLAMATION WORK BETWEEN THE PIER AND FITZROY STREET.
Compare this view with the photograph of the initial work shown on opposite page.

passed, moved by Councillor George Cummings, and seconded by Councillor T. Unsworth.

"That the Council, after hearing all objections to the scheme, for the widening of the Upper Esplanade, which scheme involves the compulsory taking of land, and after hearing the evidence, as to the desirableness, and necessity for such work, and is appearing to the Council, expedient so to do, the Council hereby makes an order, pursuant to the provisions of Section 467, of the Local Government Act 1915, directing the work to be executed, according to the specifications, maps, plans, sections, and elevations, prepared and deposited, in accordance with the provisions of the Act."

Public spirit, on the part of the residents of St. Kilda, was not lacking, when there was an opportunity given to supply a communal want. In November, 1894, a number of residents met in the Esplanade Hotel for the purpose of arranging to take the necessary action to place a band pavilion, on the Esplanade. Councillor Edward O'Donnell was in the chair. Frederick Tullett was the convener of the meeting. It was moved by him, and seconded by A. Apps, "That it is desirable that a band pavilion should be erected in St. Kilda." For some months, prior to this meeting, a movement to improve Alfred Square had been launched. Some money had been subscribed for the purpose, by the public, but the pavilion was a citizens' endeavor though it had, as its chairman, a valued councillor. When the motion was carried, Councillor Sigismund Jacoby stated, that funds had been collected for improving Alfred Square, but the scheme had been abandoned, and the money in hand was to be used towards the cost of erecting a pavilion for band purposes.

To be known to thousands of children, as the kindly dispenser of the goodies, lollies, and fruits, that form one of the sources of the children's happiness, during a wonderful day on the St. Kilda sea sands would give any normal woman a feeling of pleasure. Such pleasure was conferred, by the children, who visited St. Kilda, upon a poor old crone, who was known to Melbourne as "Granny". She is remembered by hundreds of those thousands of children even unto today, when they have become men, and women, and have children of their own. "Granny" of the Esplanade, Councillor Tullett once said, at a council meeting, was not only a seller of apples, and of

oranges ; "she was an institution." And such was the general opinion. St. Kilda Beach—the Esplanade—without "Granny" was not St. Kilda to her hundreds of childish shoppers. They cried to see "Granny", and their mothers, had no peace on the sands, until their children were given a penny to spend at "Granny's" stall.

When James Mooney bought the Royal Hotel, on the Esplanade, a gum tree stood in front of the hotel. Mooney placed a seat that encircled the tree, for the use of anyone, who chose to sit down there. An old woman came along, carrying a basket of oranges, and lollies, and she made a habit of sitting on the seat, waiting for customers. Mooney, seeing the harmless old creature so often, started to take an interest in her endeavor to make a living for herself, in the days before the Old Age Pension was thought of; in the days when a lonely old woman, such as she was, could only look forward to becoming an inmate of the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum—the Antipodean English workhouse—if she could not, having no money saved, provide for her own living. And "Granny" did not wish to go to the colonial work house. She declared she would never do so, if she had any say in her movements. She must have reached seventy years of age when Mooney first knew her in the year 1863. Surprisingly little is known of her life, before she became an apple woman, and even her name is given differently by people, now dead, who professed to know her. Our information of "Granny" is derived from Miss Kenney, daughter of Captain Kenney, who knew "Granny" for many years. We often saw "Granny" on the Esplanade, but at a stage in our life, when we had not any call to trade with "Granny", and so we have not any recollection of having spoken to her. "Granny" was a widow, and she may have been married on two occasions, which might account for the two names she was known by. We understood her name to have been Mrs. Anderson. She was known also as Mrs. Eakes, but she was to the multitude, "Granny". Her apple basket was decorated with pink paper, and sitting on the seat she placed the basket, full of the golden spheres of oranges, at her feet. She was neatly dressed in black, with a clean white apron, and covering her head was a white grannies' cap, with the ruffles forming a frame, around the wrinkled face, that usually beamed with good nature. Mooney and Councillor Tullett took a liking to her.



VIEW OF GRANNY'S FRUIT STALL.
Upper Esplanade.

Mooney had for her convenience a cupboard built, and attached to the tree trunk. "Granny" used this cupboard, in her business, that was an expanding one, as her repute among children grew. One night, in the year of 1864, a "southerly buster" storm came, and the tree, in front of Mooney's hotel, was blown down, and the cupboard smashed. The site of "Granny's" business was wrecked. The incident was referred to in a newspaper paragraph, which conveys the impression of how well known to thousands of picnickers, the little lady was. The paragraph reads, " 'Granny's' tree was uprooted during the great storm. The wind pressure was so great, that the brick wall, of the bar of the Royal Hotel, was blown in at the same time. In the morning, looking out to sea was a wild waste of turbulent waters. The baths fencing was completely swept away. The 'Nancy Brig' was all that remained of Kenney's Baths."

"The Act of Providence" that had fallen on the tree, that sheltered "Granny" with its shade, leaving her without the intimacy of her location, was the subject of compassionate talk, among her customers, and many of the visitors to the Beach front. On the initiative of Councillor Tullett and James Mooney, assisted by leading St. Kilda residents, it was decided to promote a concert, for the purpose of obtaining funds, wherewith to build a weatherboard room, that would be suitable to be used by her as a stall. It came to pass as "Granny's" friends, and customers, wished. The St. Kilda councillors took an interest in the effort to re-establish "Granny" in her business. They granted the civic hall, without cost, for the concert to be held therein, and they did a great deal more inasmuch as they allowed her permissive occupancy of a piece of land, flush with the footpath of the Upper Esplanade, upon which the shop was built. We reproduce a photograph of the shop, with "Granny" in front of it. Upon the signboard may be read the words "Granny's Shop." Two of the children to the right are Captain Kenney's. The photograph has an intrinsic interest of its own. It is dated by the woman sitting on the seat, enveloped by a crinoline, her parasol looking in comparison absurdly small. The red gum kerbing along the footpath is entirely gone in the left of the picture. There are the remains of an old paling fence at the back of the single rail and chain fence. Some glimpses of tea tree show above the fence, and one of the last of the original she-oak trees growing on the slope of St. Kilda Hill is shown.

Below, reached by descending the red gum steps, is the Royal Ladies' Baths. We remember those sand covered steps, still in use in the years of the seventies. The only other photograph of "Granny" known to exist is the one, wherein she is to be seen, in front of the Royal Hotel, which appears in Vol. I., page 36.

Brick residence areas and shop areas were not in vogue in those days. The art of town planning had yet to be defined, but if all these civic ideals had been in existence, the St. Kilda Councillors of the year 1864, would have given themselves a dispensation to have ignored them, for the sake of "Granny", and her young holiday customers, who swarmed on the St. Kilda beach. The day came, when "Granny" found, that she was too old, and too feeble, to carry herself to, and from her apple stall. Arrangements then were made to find a home for her in the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum, where she was happy enough then to stay, for she was a contented old soul, and the officials, and nurses, made much of the famous little lady. When "Granny" was gone, her stall was taken down. Plenty of people would have rented it from the Council had their offers been entertained, but the Council said "no, it was 'Granny's' stall. 'Granny' had gone, her stall would go too." The time was about 1872, and it was not long after her going,—a few months, when "Granny" died.



THE ESPLANADE AND GRANNY'S STALL.

(About 1864.)

Reproduced from an old photograph lent by the Misses Hart.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Petitions for Annexations, and Movements for Secessions—St. Kilda and Caulfield—Boundary Mistake in Local Government Act 1874—Extraordinary Position Arises—Caulfield Shire Gains Territory—St. Kilda Council Protests—New Wards Created—Annexed Land Restored—West Beach Ratepayers Dissatisfied—Movement for Severance—Hon. Francis Longmore Insults the St. Kilda Councillors—A Public Meeting—West Beach Ratepayers Told to Go—Tricky Move by, Emerald Hill Council—Shuffle in Boundary Lines—West Beach Seceders Aided by Sir Bryan O'Loughlen—West Beach Crown Land Sales—South Ward's Proposed Secession Fizzles Out—Influenza Epidemic, 1919—Municipal Hospitals—St. Kilda Baby Health Centre—Councillor Barnet's Civic Services.

IN the days when Councils were very young corporations, many of the residents of municipalities were not quite clear, as to where the boundaries of a municipality began, and where they ended. The same remark applies today to hundreds of people living in suburban cities. They do not know the boundaries of their own municipality. The 55 householders, dwelling in a portion of the Caulfield Road District, were not, possibly, quite clear what were the boundaries of the newly-created municipality of St. Kilda, or may be they were taking no risks of being left within any portion of the Caulfield Road Board District, when on July 19, 1859, a petition from them was published in the Government Gazette, praying that the land in their locality, might be united to the St. Kilda municipality.

The petitioners' story was that they were resident householders, within the portion of the Caulfield Road District, known as East St. Kilda, which they said may be generally described as, bounded on the north, by the Great Dandenong Road, on the south, by the Glen Huntly Road, on the west, by a road, or street, called Hotham Street, and on the east, by a road called Barkly Road, Caulfield. They were desirous of being included within the municipal district of St. Kilda. They explained that the said locality adjoined the municipality of St. Kilda, that it contained an average of at least, thirty six residents to each square mile, of whom the petitioners stated they them-

selves constituted the majority, and, further, they urged that the Municipal Council of St. Kilda had expressed its willingness to accede to their proposal for annexation.

The names of the petitioners were John S. G. Webb, William Tucker, Henry G. Orme, Fredk. Geyhr, William Holmes, William Mitchell, J. R. Tuckett, F. McDonnell, Jesse East, Charles James, Dawson, W. S. Woolcott, T. L. Perie, Jas. M. Gibbs, Wm. Peterson, Josiah Chapman, H. Taylor, William Hirst, John Ferguson, B. C. Ashenden, Thomas Brown, B. Ashenden, Wilton Gardiner, George Wall, Alfred C. Cummins, Arthur Beachamp, D. Sutherland, Horatio Beachamp, Robert Campbell, C. E. Bertheau, F. T. Sargood, Henry Warland, Robert Whitelock, Daniel Andrews, Richard Borpey, Thos. Pay, Joseph Wilkie, Henry Alfred Bunn, W. T. Frost, J. W. Wilson, T. Mahnke, Robert Langford, Joseph Lane, Charles Carry, John Pinions, W. G. Lempriere, William Clarke Jnr., Charles John Arnold, Alfred Denney, John Dickson, James Fahey, Joseph Drew, Henry Lane, G. Bradley, John Eason, Frederick Tucker.

These petitioners, of the year 1859, knew better than we do what they wanted, and why they asked for it, but so far as we follow the second, and revised proclamation, of the boundaries of the newly created municipality, which appeared in the Government Gazette, in February 1857, the petitioners were obviously asking for what was already proclaimed. Had the petitions been necessary, then those fifty-five rate-payers, formerly belonging to the Caulfield Road Board District, would have been the men, whose actions enriched St. Kilda with more than half of its Eastern area. Mistakes made by residents, in boundary lines, do not cause us any wonder since Governments have been guilty of such mistakes, and still worse have proclaimed their mistakes in legal enactments causing no end of confusion, and discord.

Such a mistake was made in the Local Government Act, 1874 whereby the Shire of Caulfield had improperly incorporated, in the description of its boundaries, a portion of land, belonging to, and within the established boundaries of the Borough of St. Kilda. Rates were levied upon the residents therein, by the St. Kilda Council, and the Caulfield Council. The ratepayers had, at the best, no great welcome for a municipal tax gatherer, but when the first collector was followed by another tax gatherer the ratepayers speedily voiced their indig-

nation. Having paid their municipal taxes to St. Kilda, or to Caulfield, just as it happened, they stoutly refused to pay their rates twice over. The St. Kilda Council, on its part, commenced to enforce its claims for overdue rates. This action brought the strange position of the ratepayers with two municipal claimants for their rates, under the notice of the Government. Application was made, by the St. Kilda Council, to the Government to rectify the error of description, and to restore the section of the municipality that the erroneous description had eliminated from the Borough. The Assistant Commissioner of Roads, and Bridges, said (February 7, 1876) that the error in describing the boundaries of Caulfield might be rectified, by a short amending Act of Parliament, but that it was not considered necessary to apply to Parliament for further legislation, as the powers contained in the Local Government Act 1874, were sufficient for the purpose. The Commissioner invited the bewildered ratepayers to state, in a petition, under which Council they desired to be ratepayers. This was done, and the result was submitted to the St. Kilda Council in a report that showed, "the number of assessments, as obtained from the copy of valuation, by the St. Kilda Borough Council, to be 202; owners stated as, "unknown" 53, owners known, but names given twice, or more, in copy of valuation, 20, leaving 129, as the number of assessments. Petitioners signing admitted as correct by the St. Kilda Council 72; against being included in Caulfield Shire, 57, in favor of being included 72. Majority in favor of being included in Caulfield Shire 15.

The St. Kilda Council protested that the Government officials had no right to deduct the 53 assessments in the way they had done, because the names were not known. The Council decided to take counsel's opinion. Clearly was it unfair to make the St. Kilda Council pay for a Parliamentary blunder, but the Council's well founded protests were unavailing. The prayer of the petitioners was granted, at a meeting of the Governor in Council, held on February 7, 1876. After the boundary of the Borough of St. Kilda was redefined in the Government Gazette containing a notice of the meeting of the Executive Council, the annexed land was described as,

"East St. Kilda Riding of the Shire of Caulfield. Bounded on the north, by the main Dandenong Road, on the east, by the Orrong Road, on the south, by the Glen Huntly Road,

and on the West, by Hotham Street. The centre of the said roads and streets, to be taken as the boundary line. And the honorable Joseph Jones, Her Majesty's Commissioner of Railways, and Roads, for Victoria shall give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

ROB. WADSWORTH,

Clerk of the Executive Council."

The St. Kilda Council held a special meeting to hear the opinion of Counsel, George Higinbotham, afterwards Chief Justice of Victoria, upon the whole of the circumstances, that had arisen and deprived St. Kilda of territory. One of the results of this annexation of territory, was that it disfranchised one of the St. Kilda Councillors, Councillor P. D. Phillips. He was deprived of his Councillors' qualifications, within the Borough of St. Kilda. Counsel's opinion was that his seat was vacant. The balance of the wards was disturbed, and it became necessary to notify the new adjustment of boundaries to the old wards. This was done in the Government Gazette of March 24, 1876.

"The North Ward: Beginning at the intersection of Barkly, and Wellington Streets, thence eastward along Wellington Street, and the main Dandenong Road to Hotham Street, south along this street to, and west along Inkerman Street to Barkly Street, and north by this street to the starting point."

"The South Ward: Beginning at the junction of Inkerman Street, with Barkly Street, thence eastward along Inkerman Street to and south along Hotham Street to the Glen Huntly Road, west along this road to, and south along St. Kilda Street to Park Street, west along Park Street, and to the shore of Port Phillip Bay, northward by the shore to its junction with Barkly Street, and up this street to the starting point."

Delegates from the Caulfield Council, and the St. Kilda Council, met to adjust business arising out of the transfer. The St. Kilda delegates claimed the rate from October 1st, 1875, to February 17, 1876, the date of the proclamation, severing the locality from St. Kilda. This claim was allowed, and the Caulfield delegates undertook to see that the rate was collected, and paid to the St. Kilda Council, the St. Kilda Council to pay the Caulfield Municipal rate collector's commission. A further claim, by St. Kilda delegates, for the cost of lamp pillars, and lanterns,

erected in the severed district, was not favored. The Caulfield delegates claimed a portion of the Brighton Road toll fund, but the St. Kilda delegates declined to consider the claim. When the report of the Conference was placed before the Council (April 3) Councillor Tullett said that, in the course of three or four years, those who had been in favor of the severance would wish to rejoin St. Kilda Municipality. Several sources of revenue, which the discontented ratepayers had shared in, while they remained in the Borough of St. Kilda, notably the fees for publicans' licenses would no longer be available to them. Caulfield did not have so large a revenue as St. Kilda, and the Caulfield Council's new domain carried with it the responsibility of the maintenance of main roads.

The Caulfield Council discovered, when too late, that it was not to receive so much subsidy as its councillors thought it would have done on their increased assessments.

Councillor Phillips, sent in his formal resignation to the St. Kilda Council. About 100 ratepayers presented a petition to Richard Balderson, of Grosvenor Street, East St. Kilda, asking him to stand for election, as a Councillor of the South Ward, in the St. Kilda Council. He was elected, without opposition, and he took his seat at the Council table on April 1st, 1876.

Regarding the dissatisfied ratepayers, who had ranged themselves under the banner of the Caulfield Council, Councillor Tullett was a truthful prophet though he was not correct in his time estimate that was to elapse before some of the ratepayers sought to return to the St. Kilda fold; repentant prodigals who had found out that they had made a mistake. About the middle of October, 1886, they presented a petition to the Minister of Public Works, praying that this portion of Caulfield be annexed to the municipality of St. Kilda. Their arguments were, that they were neglected by the Caulfield Shire Council, and also that a fair share of the amount of the rates collected was not expended on their streets. Councillor Pilley, a forgiving city father of St. Kilda, was well content to open his civic arms, and to embrace and to welcome the prodigals. The North Ward, the portion of St. Kilda benefited, was prepared to kill the fatted calf, but not so the South Ward ratepayers, with Councillor Jennings as their mouthpiece. The majority of the Council differed from him, and the prodigals were rejoiced to learn that their names would once more be placed on the rate books of St.

Kilda. The notice of the reannexations appeared in the Government Gazette of October 22, 1886. The municipal area that was reannexed, in the year 1886, is contained within the following boundary lines :— On the north, Dandenong Road ; on the south, Inkerman Street; on the east, Orrong Road ; and on the west, Hotham Street. The area of the land is 160 acres, and included in its boundaries is the St. Kilda Cemetery.

The first lands to be sold, at the West Beach, are shown on a plan, issued by the Crown Lands Office, and dated August 4, 1859. This plan indicates land allotments 200 x 250, 200 x 500, and some odd area blocks, advertised for sale, on August 31. Beaconsfield Parade is described on the plan "Marine Parade". The Parade extends from the "Boundary Post, Fraser Street to Fitzroy Street." Cowderoy Street, and Patterson Street, are the only two streets indicated on the map. The plan is divided into three sections, with frontages shown to Marine Parade, Patterson Street, and a road called Park Road, bordering on "Unfenced portion of South Park, Swampy Lagoon". The depth of two sectional blocks measure 500 feet each, or together, in depth, 1000 feet, before they reach the swamp. According to scale the swamp, in breadth, varies from 1,000 feet east of Patterson Street to the railway line, and 20,000 feet along Fitzroy Street to the Railway station. Beyond the Railway Station, when the Bowling Club premises, and the Park State School now stands, a site about 700 x 700 feet is marked "Site set apart for Archery Ground." Five years later Fitzroy Street, from the station to Beaconsfield Parade, was enclosed by a post and rail fence, and to the west of the Melbourne and St. Kilda Railway line, was a long narrow lagoon, extending northward, and labelled, in a Government map, dated June 3, 1864, made by J. B. Philp, "salt lagoon."

The St. Kilda Council wrote to the Deputy Surveyor General, J. Hodgkinson, asking him to withdraw the West Beach lands from sale, and he replied, under date August 17, 1859, "this request cannot be complied with, for if the land in any one municipality be withheld from sale, with a view to future endowment, the lands in other municipal districts would have similarly to be withheld, to the very serious detriment of the public revenue, for the current year."

The land offered for sale, Wednesday August 31, 1859, was situated between the St. Kilda Railway, and the line of the

CROWN LANDS' SALE AT WEST BEACH 165

West Beach. "Considering," said The Argus in its report of the sale, "the unfavorable locality, having as yet no road approach, the prices realised were generally considered as satisfactory. Several lots, in the most swampy parts, were passed without an offer being made, and many allotments realised only a trifle above the upset price."

The parcels of land disposed of comprised 13 acres, 9 9/10ths perches, and realised £4,997, being at the rate of £382.7.3 per acre. The following are the particulars of the several lots sold, and the prices obtained for them. The upset price was £300 per acre. The names of the purchasers were, Michael Burry, James Watson, Cornelius Job Ham, John Carter, Clement Hodgkinson, Jonas Nash Hassan, William Monton, Albert Edelman, James Pipe Hyam, Joseph Glynn, Alfred Harris, George Wing, Thomas Anstey, F. A. Chave, Charles Charlton Pain, John Greaves, William Kesterton, Solomon Benjamin, James Furrier, and Thomas. Hamilton. Some of these buyers, half of whom, at least, resided in St. Kilda, bought two lots of land.

Thirty eight parcels of land were offered at this West Beach sale of Crown Lands. Lots 33 to 38 had an area each of an acre, mostly swampy land. For these lots no offer was received, nor was there any for two lots, containing two roods of land. Two acres, Lot 31, Farmer, and Lot 32, Hamilton, brought £340, and £300 respectively. The remainder of the land offered contained areas of two roods of land. John Carter paid the highest price obtained that day, for West Beach lands, viz. £395. The lowest amount paid for a two rood block was £150. Land with frontages to the Marine Parade, now Beaconsfield Parade, brought the highest price.

Remembering the adjacent swamps it was remarkable that any land was sold, except in the belief of purchasers, that the swamp lands would be eventually drained! Even the dry land was not immune from flooding, in unusually wet winters, when the Albert park lagoon's excess of storm waters sought an outlet towards the sea. Still there are men, who will buy swamp lands, if there is any prospect of being able to worry a municipal council into draining their lands. Swamp dwellers seem to be, by habit agitators for land reclamations, and none know better than they that agitation is their intention, when they drive their home-stakes into the more or less water-logged ground that they have come to, and chosen to dwell on. Very often it

happens that Councils are not able to satisfy the men of the swamps, and then the air is filled with talk of secessions, of the ratepayers' intention to join some beneficent neighboring municipality that is ready to promise to drain the self-pitying ratepayers' sodden land, at the expense of the common municipal purse. That is the story of the very early West Beach residents, told in broad lines. The details are more interesting, since the secession caused a considerable amount of hostile feeling. The West Beach ratepayers' grievances were :-

1. Insufficient drainage of their lands at West Beach.
2. Overrating for the benefits they derived from inadequate municipal services.

The first drain constructed on the West Beach, was made in the year 1869, from the plans of the then surveyor of St. Kilda, Sydney Smith. The drain work cost £2,318, half of which was borne by the St. Kilda Council, the other half by the Government. In 1875, a new drain was proposed, and the plans for it were drawn out by the then St. Kilda Borough's surveyor, R. H. Shakespear. The plans were approved by the Central Board of Health. The Board promised the St. Kilda Council, that it would influence the Government to provide a subsidy, for the construction of the new drain. The St. Kilda Council wrote to the Councils of Prahran, and Emerald Hill, asking them to *share in* a portion of the expense. Both Councils declined to do so. Then the St. Kilda Council learnt that the Government refused to allot any sum, on its annual estimates, towards the cost of the drain. The St. Kilda Council was therefore unable to build the drain, but its members did not cease to press their requests upon the Government. By means of private ministerial interviews, and by deputations to Ministers, the Council succeeded in having the sum of £3,000 included in the Government estimates, for the year 1877. This sum was earmarked for the cost of the work of draining Albert Park, and also for reclaiming the swampy ground, on the West Beach of St. Kilda. The Government proceeded with the work of draining Albert Park, but not one penny of the £3,000 was spent on the work required, at the West Beach.

The St. Kilda councillors were surprised, and disappointed, at this evasive act of the juggling Government, but they were not defeated. On the contrary, the councillors again began to interview the Ministers of the Crown. In the end their persis-

tency was rewarded. In the year 1878, the councillors succeeded in having £2,000, placed on the Parliamentary Estimates, for the work. The passing of this sum was made contingent upon the St. Kilda Council undertaking to contribute a like sum towards the West Beach drainage scheme. These actions do not disclose any evidence, that the St. Kilda councillors neglected the civic wants of the West Beach ratepayers. The ratepayers had, of their own volition, chosen a doubtful place, for their residential sites, and the St. Kilda Council, in the circumstances, had done the best it could do for them.

When the Hon. Francis Longmore who was for a period a well known politician in Victoria, went to live at the West Beach, in the year 1874, he bought land, for which he paid, at the rate of £300 per acre. The place name Longmore Street records his one time association with the West Beach lands. A drain that ran alongside Longmore's property was not of sufficient capacity to adequately drain the swampy lands.

Longmore attained to various ministerial positions, among them that of Minister of Lands, under Graham Berry. Longmore was born in Monaghan, Ireland in 1826, and he was educated at a Presbyterian Academy in the same place. He was full of the fire of a quarrelsome Irishman. He placed no brank upon his tongue, nor did he scruple to use his powers as a Minister of the Crown, in an attempt to force the St. Kilda Council to make improvements at the West Beach, calculated by him, to enhance the value of his property. Finding he could not coerce the councillors to do, as he desired, he took a violent antipathy to the St. Kilda Council. When occasion caused the councillors to wait, as a deputation, on him, in his ministerial capacity, he was boorish in his manner, nugatory in his attitude, and gross in his speech, so much so, that some of the St. Kilda councillors declined to go again before him as a deputation. On one visit he said to the deputation, "If I had the power, I would send the whole of the St. Kilda Council on to the roads." The outrageous licence he took in making such an insulting remark, becomes evident when it is known that some years before that time, it was not unusual for convicts to be employed in the work of making roads. We remember seeing, about the year 1876, a gang of prisoners, with armed warders as overseers, at work in constructing, or deepening, the ornamental lake, in the Melbourne Botanical Gardens. An old protest of

clamorous intensity was revived by the working sections of the Melbourne public, against the utilisation of "prison labor" for such and kindred works. The loss of employment caused to free men by the Government ordering convicts to do road and other work was too clear to admit of any plausible excuse to employ prison labor. Longmore's use of the phrase "on to the roads," when uttered by him, was still remembered by old colonists, and it had not lost the sting of its penal significance.

At the time, about which we write, the St. Kilda Borough Council—it became a borough in April 1863—had spent on the West Beach, and its drain, £2,000, and the Council had received, in rates, from the West Beach residents £840. For the municipal year, ending in 1879, the Council had struck a 1/6d. rate, instead of its usual municipal rate of 1/s. or 1/3d. The increase in the rate was made, to enable the Council to raise sufficient money, to take advantage of the Government's subsidy of £2,000 towards the reclamation of the swampy lands, at the West Beach, under the pound for pound offer. Thus, it is clear that all the ratepayers of the Borough were to be penalised, so that the West Beach could be adequately drained. When the Western ratepayers learned that the Council had struck a rate of 1/6 they were loud in their protests. To rate them, they cried, at eighteenpence, when they lived in a swamp, and "swallowed miasmatic air, where typhoid fever was quite a *daily* household complaint," was to make them seek to cut adrift from such an inconsiderate Council. They had suffered too much, already, to allow the St. Kilda Council to place any more burdens upon them. They would ask His Excellency, the Governor, by a memorial, wherein they would set forth their troubles, wherein too they would pray to him to allow them to be annexed to the municipality of Emerald Hill.

Some of the West Beach ratepayers were very serious, but there were others who seemed to bear the ills they had more stoically than those who wished so ardently to fly to the ills they knew not of. Indeed there were ratepayers who did not join in the public clamor. They met secretly in the house of Isaac Lazarus, Marine Parade, but what those reticent ratepayers said, or what they did were also secrets from the bulk of the curious West Beach ratepayers, waving their annexation banners in the West Beach breezes. This militant section was chagrined that the meeting of Lazarus, and his friends, had



HIGH STREET, IN THE VICINITY OF THE JUNCTION.
(About 1864.) *Reproduced from an old photograph lent by the Misses Hart.*

not been a public one. In a way they repudiated the meeting, though Lazarus still acted as one of the sponsors of the movement.

The militant West Beach ratepayers cried "Away with secret meetings! Let us proclaim our grievances from the Town Hall platform so that the world, and St. Kilda, can hear them!" Public light was what they wanted, and so they petitioned the Mayor of St. Kilda to call a public meeting, "to discuss the desirability of separation, or non-separation of West Beach, from the Borough of St. Kilda." The ratepayers, who signed the petition for a public meeting, were Frederick Harcourt, D. Duffy, C. Trewhella, Edward E. Eicke, T. Taylor, Edward O'Donnell, Wm. Macdonald, Wm. Kesterson Alex Henderson, Matthew Egan, V. M. Wyley, John J. Beck, Mary Rouse, Eliza J. Hodgson, J. Hodgson, Chas. Anderson, Archd. Mackenzie, Robert King, James Roberts, John Spottiswood, Maria Brunt.

The Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Henry Tullett, granted the petition, and he appointed the meeting to be held, in the Town Hall, on Tuesday night, January 21, 1879. Municipal opinion in St. Kilda proper was that this movement of the West Beach ratepayers was merely a demonstration in force, a piece of West Beach bluff, to cause the council to capitulate, and to offer to them, as a bribe to remain, all that they demanded, quite irrespective of any expense. The men of the West Beach lands misjudged the temper of the Borough Council the members of which, were tired of hearing the complaints of the West Beach ratepayers. They considered them to be unreasonable in their demands, and that they showed a want of consideration for the financial responsibilities the Council had in other parts of the Borough. The Council remembered too the liberal way in which the West Beach ratepayers had been already dealt with. The Council, was prepared at the public meeting to show, what had already been done, for the West Beach and then to tell the ratepayers then, and there, to quit as quickly as they could and enroll themselves under the jurisdiction of the Emerald Hill Council. At the Town Hall meeting, the West Beach ratepayers failed to put up any case whatsoever. Francis Longmore employed abuse in place of argument. The forces of the West Beach ratepayers had not been schooled for the occasion. It came as

a great shock to the ratepayers, when an opponent to the movement, one Mr. Gillespie, moved:—

"That the movement set on foot, by the ratepayers of the West Beach, to be separated from St. Kilda, and annexed to Emerald Hill receive the support of this meeting, and that the Borough Council be instructed to carry out this resolution."

The motion was seconded by a Mr. Calder. An amendment was moved by one Mr. Harcourt, and seconded by D. Duffy, to the effect

"That the ratepayers of West Beach are not anxious to separate from St. Kilda."

On the amendment being put to the meeting, four votes were recorded in its favor, for the motion the whole of those present apparently voted in its favor. The motion was declared carried. In due course a deputation of ratepayers from West Beach waited on the Minister of Lands, the Hon. Francis Longmore, who said he was in favor of the separation, and he wanted to know, from those present, whether the St. Kilda Council desired that the boundaries of the portion annexed should be Fitzroy Street, and St. Kilda Road. Now the first petition of the dissatisfied ratepayers asked, that the land, known as West Beach between the sea, and the railway line, and bounded on the south by Fitzroy Street, should be severed from St. Kilda. To that petition the St. Kilda Council had no objection, but it was an entirely different proposal, when that petition was abandoned, and in the light shed by Longmore's countenance, a second petition was prepared, which not only included the area already indicated, but extended the Fitzroy Street boundary to St. Kilda Road, thus, giving the Emerald Hill Council the control of Albert Park. By the St. Kilda Council this change of intention was regarded as a very sharp, and unneighbourly move, on the part of the Emerald Hill Council. The St. Kilda councillors regarded the second petition as one that had in it grave elements of danger to the rights of St. Kilda. With Longmore in power, and his known, and declared dislike of the St. Kilda Council, it seemed almost certain that the Council must be robbed of its municipal interests in Albert Park. It was not the first time the St. Kilda Council determined to put up, what looked like a forlorn fight, to retain its jurisdiction over what it already possessed. Everyone concerned in

the proposed annexation, including representatives from the Emerald Hill Council, waited on the Acting Chief Secretary, Sir Bryan O'Loughlen where the whole question was to be argued out.

Longmore, a big man and blustering, essayed to play a dual roll, inasmuch as being a municipal petitioner he was also a Crown Minister. He made the two positions interchangeable, as suited his mood. Some of the St. Kilda councillors sharply criticised his attitude, but to no purpose since Longmore was within the ministerial fence. O'Loughlen supported him, and opposed the councillors, saying that "any attack made on his ministerial colleague he regarded as an attack on himself, and he would not allow such liberties." Two Irishmen, each with a Ministerial shillelagh, were too much of a handicap altogether. The St. Kilda councillors had no effective weapons with which to oppose two such Irishmen, entrenched in office, and full of their own ministerial whims. They could only give voice to so much of their opinions as O'Loughlen pleased to allow them to do and that was not a great deal. The meeting was non-conclusive. The St. Kilda councillors were disgusted. No one doubted what Sir Bryan O'Loughlen's opinion was on the subject. He affected to tarry a while, to allow him to consider what had been said on both sides ! He did not wait long after the echoes of the St. Kilda councillors' footsteps had died away, in the outer passages to his ministerial office, to come to a decision to publish his assent to the secession.

The official advertisement, signed by Sir Bryan O'Loughlen, Acting Chief Secretary, Melbourne 27th January 1879, set out, among other things, "In pursuance of the provisions of the Local Government Act 1874 (No. 506 Sec. 46) the substance, and prayer of a petition, in accordance with the 39th, and 44th sections of the said Act, which has been presented to the Governor-in-Council are published viz.:—

"The petitioners state that they are a majority of the ratepayers, in the portion of the Borough of St. Kilda, hereinafter described, that from the recent removal of the rifle butts, and the filling up of the low lying land between them, and the town, of Emerald Hill, they have become naturally united, and their interests, and wants, assimilated to those of the town, that they always formed part of the Electoral District of Emerald Hill, and that whilst their interests

are identical, with those of Emerald Hill, they greatly clash with those of the Borough of St. Kilda, and that for obvious reasons the granting of their petition cannot but lead to the future advantage of the town of Emerald Hill, and this part of the West Ward of St. Kilda."

The reference to the rifle butts in the petition refers to rifle butts that lay to the north of West Beach. A railway station, on the St. Kilda railway line, close to the butts, was called "Butt's Station." Passengers, who used the "Butts Station"—riflemen—had to notify the railway guard, when they desired the train to stop at the station. Riflemen were opposed to the reclamation works in progress since the work meant that they were to be deprived of their shooting ground. This paragraph taken from the *Austral Review*, of August, 1877, represent the riflemen's point of view. The paragraph runs, "There is a strong desire to extend building operations, so as to fill up the space between Emerald Hill, and St. Kilda, now occupied by the Rifle Butts. It would be a public misfortune, if the individuals concerned, in this had their way. The butts are necessary in their present site. The volunteers ought to keep their eyes peeled, and take care they are not tricked in this matter."

Examining the old municipal official files it is obvious that a great part of the trouble that ensued from the inadequate drainage of the West Beach swampy land was caused by Francis Longmore, the Minister of Lands. The Borough Council of St. Kilda, prepared a plan, with the approval of the Board of Health, for a tidal drain, three feet six inches lower, than the one then existing. This plan was prepared, but it was rejected by the Minister of Lands in favor of another plan of his own selection, wherein the level of the new drain was the same as the old drain. Longmore's drain, apart from the mistake of following the old levels, was too small, and its designer had not provided, in its construction, for its future arching over, so as to transform it from an open, to a barrel drain. The difference between the two drains, as they were designed, was as 15 feet to 10 feet. The 15 feet was shown on the Borough of St. Kilda's design. Longmore had his way, and his drain was not one whit better than the previous drain. The lands of West St. Kilda were still swamped. The money spent in the drain's construction might as well have been cast into the old drain.

MAYOR OF ST. KILDA UPHOLDS CIVIC DIGNITY 173

While this West Beach annexation business of the Emerald Hill Council, was in progress, the Mayor of Emerald Hill gave a civic dinner to which he invited the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Tullett. The sequel was told in the Age newspaper, March 27, 1879. "Some amusement was caused at the Emerald Hill Council last night by the handing round of the following unique reply to a polite invitation to dinner:—

"The Mayor of St. Kilda has the honor to acknowledge the invitation of the Mayor of Emerald Hill for Thursday next 27th inst., but under the existing municipal position of the bodies represented, he feels it his duty not to accept the same."

The ratepayers of St. Kilda and the Borough. Council were agreed in supporting the Mayor of St. Kilda in his refusal to accept the invitation, and it was acclaimed that Councillor Tullett had upheld the dignity of his office, and the honor of the borough. The St. Kilda Advertiser newspaper said, "No doubt the Emerald Hill councillors think they are doing a clever thing in getting the whole of the park under their control, but they must conceive the losers to be something more than human to anticipate they would be placated by a cheap feed."

This incident shows that between the St. Kilda Council and the Emerald Hill Council there lay a strong feeling of resentment. The annexation of the lands of the dissatisfied ratepayers of the West Beach did not trouble the St. Kilda Council, but what the councillors did resent was the attempt by the Emerald Hill Council to deprive the Borough of St. Kilda of its interest in the control of the Park lands abutting on Fitzroy Street, the Junction and St. Kilda Road. The St. Kilda Council made the way quite easy for the Emerald Hill Council to take over the West Beach lands and the ratepayers belonging to that area. The St. Kilda Council was, in the adjustment of accounts, even generous in its financial concessions, apparently being glad to be quit of the grumbling West Beach community, even to suffering a loss in the final phases. The behaviour of the Emerald Hill Council to the St. Kilda Council was different when the time came for the West Beach ratepayers to petition to return to municipal fold of St. Kilda, because the acts of the Emerald Hill Council had not realised the ratepayers' expectations. The corporate body of the Emerald Hill Council, stalked forth, like a municipal Shylock, with a knife in one hand, in the shape of a threat of a Supreme Court Writ, and with a bag in the other hand, wherein the Council purposed to place its pound of flesh.

The West Beach seceders gained their objective, of becoming ratepayers of the Emerald Hill Council, on April 29, 1879. By the end of February 28, 1882, the clamoring spirit of seceders, had departed from them, to be succeeded by the chastened penitents. The Emerald Hill Council saw that it could not restrain the restive dissatisfied ones, who were so anxious to return to the municipal mother whom, they had, in the year 1879, so rashly disowned. The Emerald Council was annoyed. The St. Kilda Council would have to pay the Council for its administration of the West Beach from April, 1879, to February, 1882, and the statement of accounts, when drawn was to be well in favor of the Emerald Hill Council. The Emerald Hill Council claimed under the statements of accounts arising out of the West Beach the sum of £1,011.8.7. This was the amount the Emerald Hill Council, instructed its solicitor, Marcus Sievwright, a police court debt collecting lawyer of the day, to demand from the St. Kilda Council, and the lawyer wrote such a letter of demand on June 9, 1883. The St. Kilda Council expressed its surprise to the Emerald Hill Council that the Council had chosen to bring into the negotiations a threat from a lawyer. It pointed out to the Emerald Hill Council that such an act was a hasty one, and an ill-considered action, and that threats of such a nature were quite out of order, in the case of a municipality engaged in negotiations with another municipality over debatable accounts. These sharp raps over the knuckles, and the accompanying homily, on decent municipal behaviour, if they did not do the Emerald Hill Council much good, they had some effect, for no more was heard of Sievwright, as a debt collector, in the dispute. The amount demanded by Sievwright was amended, and the council claimed, on the basis of a new estimate, the sum of £1,361.15.7 from the St. Kilda Council towards the payment of which the St. Kilda Council offered a passive resistance. The St. Kilda Council was not, in this secession business, agreeable to allow the Emerald Hill Council to make a financial gain in the act of surrendering the West Beach territory, which the Emerald Hill Council had annexed from its rightful owner in the first instance, presupposing at that time, that the municipal control of the Albert Park by a barefaced shuffle would follow as the chief jewel of the West Beach dowry. The return of the prodigals bade fair to set up a dead-lock between the two councils. Eventually the two mayors were, by the councils, entrusted

MILITARY ROAD AND BEACONSFIELD PARADE 175

with the settlement of the dispute. The Mayors' solution was embodied in the following memorandum:

"Aug. 23, 1883.

"The St. Kilda Council agrees to pay to the Emerald Hill Council a cheque for £950 in settlement of accounts. The rates collected since February 27, 1882, as to which Council is to have the rates, is to be referred to the Minister of Public Works.

Joseph Stead, Mayor of Emerald Hill.

W. Simpson, Mayor of St. Kilda."

About the year 1879 the Berry Government, anxious to find work for the unemployed, set gangs to work to remove sand from the St. Kilda Beach, for the purpose of filling in the low-lying land, between Kerferd Road, South Melbourne and Fraser Street, the St. Kilda municipality's northern shore boundary. A tramway was laid down upon which to run the trucks carting the sand. When the work was done the tramway remained and in time was covered over with sand drifts. It was uncovered in 1928 through wind blowing and sand drifting. We have a note that reads, "The work was carried out in a very perfunctory manner. Instead of removing a spit from the old surface to place on top of the filling, the sand was just trucked, tipped and levelled. Consequently, whenever a strong north wind blew, thousands of yards were drifted into St. Kilda. The Hon. Francis Longmore, who was Minister of Lands at the time, lived in a house in Patterson Street close to or adjoining the house now owned by Councillor O'Donnell. After a storm I have seen the sand running over the top of his fence into the garden. About 4,000 yds. of this drift sand from Patterson Street was used in filling up the low side of Fitzroy Street, between Park Street and the Canterbury Road. During the progress of the work the men employed filling trucks on the beach on several occasions found 'treasure trove,' viz. sovereigns in some quantity."

The sweep of a road along the beach had always appealed to the aesthetic, and utilitarian senses of the St. Kilda Council. Beach land, long stretches of sand, always suggest the advantages of a picturesque highway to run parallel with the shore. It was thought that a road from Port Melbourne to the Red Bluff, St. Kilda, would not only be a bay promenade, but, also, it would serve as a military road, to allow artillery to be moved from

battery, to battery, engaged in fighting the invading enemy ships, arrived in Hobson's Bay. Such were the crude ideas of warfare in those days! In May, 1887 the St. Kilda Council persuaded the Councils of South, and Port Melbourne, to wait with it, on the Minister of Public Works, the Hon. John Nimmo, to ask him to persuade the openhanded Gillies Ministry to spend pound for pound, with the municipality to construct this military road. The St. Kilda Council's idea was to have a reserve in the centre of the road with a width of 36 feet, to be planted with trees. The roadways, on either side of the reserve, were to be width, 24 feet, and a pathway of 20 feet. The estimate of the cost to each municipality was St. Kilda, 136 chains £11,939; South Melbourne, 117 chains £12,000; and Port Melbourne, 11 chains £570, making a total of 264 chains to cost £24,509. The deputation pointed out to the Minister, that the road ran past a quantity of Crown Land, and the sale of such land would recoup the Government. The Minister was asked to place the sum of £12,000, or £13,000 on the estimates. The Mayor of St. Kilda Councillor F. Wimpole, urged that the work was a national one, a military work, and also a commercial undertaking. The road would form a suitable Jubilee memorial of Queen Victoria. The Minister, in reply, expressed his approval of the grant, and he promised to make the most favourable representations to the Cabinet, concerning the desirability of making the road.

The St. Kilda Council did not then quite succeed in having its whole scheme of beautification carried out, but it was pioneering the way for the beauty of picturesque beaches. The utility of a road, military or otherwise was conceded, and when later it was deemed desirable to find employment for laborers, at a time when work was scarce, some gangs of the unemployed were set to work to make the road commencing at Port Melbourne. The road as it is today is the evolution of successive periods of work. In April, 1890, the Councils of St. Kilda and South Melbourne were subsidised by the Government and they then constructed the beautiful Beaconsfield Parade, and the road was proclaimed as such on June 6, 1890.

The St. Kilda Council's proposal to make the military road was made in May, 1887, and in October, of the same year, Joseph Harris, M.L.A., member for St. Kilda, wrote to the St. Kilda Council stating that the Minister of Lands was anxious

that the sale of Crown Lands at the West Beach should take place at as early a date as possible, but that part of the land was under water, and that immediately the Government surveyor could get on the land, it would be surveyed and sold. The Council asked the Government to improve the projected streets, as well as the land, before selling and to insert, in the conditions of sale, that both swampy streets, and lands, must be reclaimed by purchasers.

Some dissatisfied ratepayers, in the South Ward of St. Kilda, launched a movement in February, 1888, for the formation of a new borough to be called Elsternwick. On February 14, St. Valentine's Day, the ratepayers received a sensible valentine from the St. Kilda Council, in the form of a booklet which contained facts, and figures, that answered much talk of irresponsible, and ill-informed would-be seceders. The St. Kilda Council's case against the severance showed that, although the receipts from all sources amounted to £2,904, the actual expenditure, in the South Ward, was £5,413. The Council reminded the ratepayers, that in the new municipal loan of St. Kilda, of the sum of £100,000, provision was made for the expenditure of £10,561, in the portion to be severed, that is the dissatisfied ratepayers were to receive about one seventh of the £100,000.

The municipal valentine stated that "The new Borough would commence with a debt of £6,750 (its proportion of the moneys borrowed by the municipalities of St. Kilda, Brighton and Caulfield). A proportion of the annual contributions to the Prince's bridge would also have to be paid. Two matters complained of—the Elwood Swamp and the Abattoirs—would, in consequence of the pressure brought to bear on the Government by the St. Kilda Council, be abolished. The erection of several new lamps in the locality proposed to be severed had been arranged for. The high cost of the construction of private roads was mentioned ; also the fact that main roads running through the district would have to be maintained. The Mayor, in conclusion, advised the ratepayers concerned to remain part of the old-established Borough of St. Kilda."

Exercising what common sense they had, the ratepayers followed the advice given to them.

There was another fruitless attempt, in May, 1907, by a dissatisfied section of ratepayers in South East St. Kilda to

become annexed to Caulfield. The Local Government Act 1903, provided that petitions for the severance, annexation, or subdivision of municipalities, shall not be presented to the Minister during the months of May, June, July, or August. This mandatory clause of the Act was overlooked by the would-be seceders. Their petition, when presented, was rejected, on the grounds that it did not comply with the provisions of the Local Government Act.

Probably the last has been heard of from restless would-be seceding St. Kilda ratepayers. Greater settlement, in these one time outlying parts, then lacking in cheap and regular transit, by the means of trains, and tramcars, has led to the consolidation of cities, and the permanency of city boundaries, and of municipal wards, allowing for adequate representation, at the council table, of the ratepayers resident within those wards. The only movement that may develop hereafter, may be the one, with the general objective of the amalgamation of outer cities, in groupings that suggest a correlation of interests for the general betterment of municipal powers, and of civic administration. The marvellous developments of the southern portion of the City of St. Kilda, that followed the subdivisional sales, by the Government, of the reclaimed lands at Elwood, was such that it disturbed the balance of municipal representation in the Council, and obviously suggested the advisability of resubdividing the city into four Wards, with the consequent increase in the number of councillors from nine to twelve. Prior to that the business of the City was carried on by nine councillors, representatives from three Wards, and that had been so from November 27, 1868, when it was proclaimed in the Government Gazette that St. Kilda was divided into three Wards, respectively, the North Ward, the South Ward and the West Ward.

The St. Kilda Council faced the position created by the development of Elwood. It received a petition from certain ratepayers desirous that a new Ward of the City should be created. A plan of the proposed subdivision, prepared in October, 1913 by Carlo Catani, at the desire of the Hon., the Minister of Public Works was approved at a conference held between the St. Kilda Council, and the petitioners. Copies of the petition were issued for signature, by ratepayers in favor of the resubdivision of the City of St. Kilda into four Wards. The official position at the



HIGH STREET AND WELLINGTON STREET AT THE JUNCTION.
(About 1864.) *Reproduced from an old photograph lent by the Misses Hart.*

time was shown by the Town Clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin in a table he prepared for the occasion:—

Ward	Valuation	Area	Population	Number of Ratepayers	Probable Future Valuation
North	£74,159	498 acres	7,204	1,580	£84,845
South	49,898	649 acres	4,466	1,444	88,974
West	102,087	523 acres	9,076	1,611	102,087
Central	65,826	425 acres	6,740	1,752	83,493

The resubdivision of the City into four Wards was gazetted on April 8, 1914.

Pursuant to the Order-in-Council made the 30th of March, 1914, re subdividing the city into four wards, viz., the North Ward, the South Ward, the Central Ward. and the West Ward, the whole nine sitting councillors went out of office, and an election of three councillors for each of the four wards was held on August 27, 1914.

The following candidates were elected.—Central Ward : T. G. Allen, J. H. Pittard, J. J. Love; North Ward : H. F. Barnet, H.B. Gibbs, F. G. Hughes ; West Ward : E. O'Donnell, R. A. Molesworth, G. B. Renfrey ; South Ward : Burnett Gray, J. H. Hewison, H. McL. Duigan.

When in February, 1919, there occurred in Melbourne, an extremely violent form of influenza, the St. Kilda Council, in common with other metropolitan councils, had as the local civic guardian of health, to put forth its strength, and resources, to stamp out the disease. Well warned by medical men, the executive bodies of the community were alive to the danger of the influenza passing from the stage of an epidemic, to that of a plague, claiming its thousands of victims. On the outbreak, the St. Kilda Board of Management of the Presbyterian Church offered its school room to be used, as an emergency hospital. The Council thanked the Church authorities, while expressing the hope that the epidemic would not so far increase, as to be beyond the receptive power of the municipal hospital, which was established in the Brighton Road State School. The Education Department gave every assistance possible, and its schools were handed over to be used as emergency hospitals. In the midst of the fight against the common enemy, the St. Kilda State Election Council of the Victorian Labor Party deemed it a fitting time to protest against the inaction of the Education Department, in not providing accommodation for the

whole of the scholars attending the Brighton Road State School. Medical advice was against congregating in groups, and the fact that the school children were not "in school", doubtless saved a number of their lives. Some of the elder pupils were taught in a room in the Town Hall, placed at the use of the Education Department by the Council.

The Brighton Road State School Hospital opened on February 12, 1919, and it was closed for the first time on March 19. During those 36 days the number of patients admitted was 59, and out of them four died. A temporary cessation of the numbers of influenza cases reported, rather suggested that the worst of the attack had passed, and in consequence of that belief the temporary hospitals established in the State schools, including of course the one in the Brighton Road State School, were closed. The hope that the epidemic was ended was not realised. In April, the temporary hospitals had to be re-opened. The St. Kilda municipal hospital in the Brighton Road State School, was re-opened on April 8, and it was to remain open until August 18, when it closed, other arrangements having been made. During the tenure of the hospital's existence, 133 days, 541 patients suffering from influenza, were treated, 45 of whom died. In the aggregate, there were 600 patients treated at the Brighton Road State School Emergency Municipal Hospital, of whom 49 died. The daily average of patients, in the hospital was sixty four. The average length of treatment was from one to ten days. The expenses, including ambulances, amounted to £5,184,10,11, and the cost per patient for treatment per day was 12/1, which compared advantageously with the cost of treatment in the Government Emergency Hospital, at the Exhibition Buildings, viz. fourteen shillings per patient per day. At the St. Kilda Town Hall, citizens to the number of 9,011 submitted themselves for preventive inoculation from the disease of influenza. The Municipal Health Inspector, by direction of the Council, fumigated many houses from where patients had come to the hospital, at a cost for the fumigation of £228,1,11.

Later an Epidemic Hospital was started in the Drill Room at Albert Park, the hospital expenses were to be shared jointly between the Council of South Melbourne, Port Melbourne, and St. Kilda, the hospital having been established to serve influenza patients from those suburban cities. Each Council had three

representatives on the Board of Management. The Government undertook to pay half the cost of the equipment of the hospital, estimated at £1,500. The St. Kilda Council had, on the closing of its local emergency influenza hospital, transferred its equipment to the Albert Park Emergency Hospital. The equipment so transferred cost £571.11.5. The Town Clerk, Mr. Fred W. Chamberlin, made a very clear financial report of the cost of the fight against the epidemic, waged by the St. Kilda Council, and we are indebted to his report for the interesting figures we have quoted. Still quoting, the Brighton Road State School Emergency Hospital's total cost was £5,835.2.4. That gross amount was lessened by the Government paying £2,695.1.5, leaving £3,140.0.11. This sum was further reduced by the sale of hospital material, bringing the sum of £145.12.1, leaving the net cost of the Brighton Road Hospital at £2,994.8.10. The amount contributed to the Albert Park Hospital, by the St Kilda Council, under the arrangement for the equipment, and maintenance of the hospital, was £666.13.4. The Council's actual proportion of cost was Building account £313.16.6; Maintenance account £106.2.4. Total Disbursement £419.18.10. The motor ambulance was the one article the Council retained, when the transfer of equipment was made.

And when the grim fight against this insidious form of death, was finished the members of the St. Kilda Council found many brave citizens, and citizenesses, to whom their heartfelt thanks were given. Recorded on the Council's minutes, is the Council's high appreciation of the valuable assistance rendered by those ladies, who organised, and worked in the hospital kitchen, at the Town Hall, and it is ordered also, that the expression of the Council's gratitude be conveyed to the ladies concerned. Doctors Blaubaum, Eadie, Laurie, and McAdam were given an honorarium of £60 each in recognition of their services, as the medical staff of the St. Kilda Emergency Municipal Hospital, and also for acting as special health officers. Bonuses were given to the following officers in recognition of their valuable work, in connection with the fight against the Influenza Epieemic, the Town Clerk £50 ; the Chief Clerk 215 ; the City Inspector £25. A letter, September 8, 1919, was sent to the Head Teacher of the State School, Mr. J. A. McAllester thanking him for his services, and also complimenting him on the excellent discipline, and the good behaviour of the school

children, while having their lessons at the St. Kilda Town Hall. Thus ended the most strenuous time, in connection with the outbreak of an epidemic, that the St. Kilda Council had been called upon to face.

On May 3, 1921, Councillor Barnet reported to the St. Kilda Council, that he had attended the conference, called to consider the report, prepared by the Town Clerks of Brighton, Prahran, and St. Kilda, Messrs. J. H. Taylor, John Romanis and Fred W. Chamberlin, with regard to the charges made by the Government for the treatment of patients, in the hospitals for influenza cases. The Conference passed the following resolutions:—

"That in view of the unreasonable and excessive expenditure, incurred by the Government, in the equipment of special hospitals, and treatment of influenza patients, during the recent epidemic as compared with the cost of municipal Emergency Hospitals, and the unsatisfactory explanations offered by the Department, this Conference recommends that the Government be offered the sum of fifteen shillings (15/-) per head in full settlement of the accounts rendered to the municipalities."

"That the Minister of Health be asked to receive a deputation, from the Conference, in order that the report of the Committee, and this resolution may be placed before him."

When, in November, the question of the acquirement of the Caulfield Military Hospital, as an epidemic emergency, or infectious diseases hospital, by the municipalities was propounded, the St. Kilda Council was quite opposed to such an action, and it recorded an "emphatic protest" against such a course being followed. The Government was not satisfied, nor was the Public Board of Health, which Board wrote to the Council some time after the Council had declared against the proposal, only to be told by the Council that it was not in favor of the proposal. The Government's undeclared policy, shown by its acts, was to saddle the municipalities with as many financial burdens, as it was possible to persuade the Councils to take, whether such burdens were such ones as the Councils should bear, while the Government, on its part, studiously avoided subsidising anything that may be termed local, which it could avoid. Two cases in point, so far as St. Kilda was affected, were the Foreshore Improvements, and the Albert Park Committee's works, though in the latter case for a time the Government did not carry out its original intention to withdraw its subsidy. Another practice of the Government was, where it was possible to do so, to intimate that it would withdraw a subsidy if the Council did not increase its original payments.

In the case of the Epidemic Emergency Hospital, the particularly desired creation of the Government, in 1924, the municipal councils, called a conference to consider, and to deal with the Government proposals, so far as they affected the financial responsibilities of the Councils. Councillor Renfrey reported the result of that conference, held on July 24, 1924, to the St. Kilda Council. The Conference resolved by thirteen votes to seven, "that the Government be informed, that the Conference was not willing for the Councils to contribute towards the cost of providing for the proposed epidemic emergency hospital. A further resolution, which the St. Kilda Council endorsed, was "that in the opinion of this conference, it is desirable that the proposed Emergency Epidemic Hospital should be erected by the State Government, and the conference wait as a deputation on the Minister of Public Health as soon as possible, and place before him the views of the municipalities, and urge him to have the present Health Act amended."

When it became known, that the St. Kilda Council, had decided to appoint a Health Inspectress of the City of St. Kilda, a letter was received from the Trained Nurses' Association suggesting the permanent establishment of the office of a nurse. The Council had well defined opinions of what services it sought to have rendered. After an appointment was made of Miss Una Behan, attention was given to the nature, and the scope of her domiciliary visits, and also what steps should be taken to apply her qualifications, in connection with nursing, and the organisation of a scheme for baby welfare. A letter was received by the St. Kilda Council on August 25, 1919 from the Committee of the Victorian Baby Health Centre congratulating the Council upon its action in appointing a Health Inspectress. The hope was expressed that before long the St. Kilda Council would establish a Baby Health Centre in St. Kilda.

In May, 1921, Councillor Hewison deprecated the delay that was taking place, in establishing a Baby Health Centre, in St. Kilda. In explanation, Councillor Barnet said the Committee dealing with the proposal, had been hard at work on the report, and that it would be presented to the Council during the month. Councillor Barnet, as the Chairman of the Health Committee, presented its report to the Council, on May 30, 1921 wherein the Committee recommended the early establishment of a Baby Health Centre in the Town Hall. It was further recommended

that (a) the Centre be managed directly by the Council as a municipal function, and that its workings be supervised by the medical officer of Health; (b) a Baby Health Centre Nurse be appointed as a full time member of the staff, at a salary of £156 per year and (c) that as the main structure affords no suitable accommodation, an addition be made to the Hall, for the purpose of a centre, at an estimated cost of £500. After considerable discussion it was decided to refer the report to the Public Works Committee for further consideration. As a result of that consideration, it was decided (June 13, 1921) that the room at the south angle of the Town Hall building would be a suitable one, if a suitable approach, in the form of a ramp, was made to it, the cost of forming which the Surveyor estimated at £150. The other clauses of the Committee's report were adopted, and it was resolved that applications be called forthwith for the position of the Baby Health Centre Nurse. Later, on further consideration, the Health Committee considered the approach to the angle room, and the room's surroundings both rendered the position an unsuitable one for a baby health centre. The Committee therefore, on June 27, recommended a revision to its original proposal, and to give effect to that recommendation the Chairman, Councillor Barnet moved, and Councillor Renfrey seconded, the following motion "That the resolution of the Council, in regard to the accommodation of the Baby Health Centre, passed at the last meeting of the Council, be, and is hereby rescinded, and that a wooden building be erected in the southern angle of the supper room, and the recent annexe, at an estimated cost of £500. Two amendments were launched against the motion, in effect only to vary the motion to one alternatively for tenders to be called for the building in wood, and in brick, and that the question of a site, for the Baby Health Centre building, be referred to the Health Committee. Both these amendments were defeated, and the Health Committee's motion carried. On August 8, the Public Committee recommended the appointment of Miss Charlotte Greene as a Baby Welfare Nurse.

In July, 1921, the Council agreed, subject to the approval of the establishment of the Baby Health Centre by the Minister of Health, to accept the tender of Henry Ryall for addition to the Town Hall to accommodate the Baby Health Centre at a cost of £608. At the time when the Council of St. Kilda had

decided to establish a Baby Health Centre the Council received a request from the St. Kilda Sub Branch of the Returned Soldiers, seeking the Council's assurance, that due preference in the appointment of a nurse to the Centre, would be given to returned Sisters. The Branch was assured by the Council of the continuance of its policy, to give preference to those who served in the Great War. Sister Greene resigned her position on July 24, 1922. Sister Vera Dobson was then appointed nurse to the St. Kilda Baby Health Centre, and she still holds that position (November, 1930). So greatly did the work of the Baby Health Centre increase that it became necessary to appoint an assistant, and Sister A. Best was selected for the position on May 12, 1926.

An important meeting was called by the Premier of the State in May, 1923, for the purpose of discussing the question of the control of Infant Welfare work. The Government's scheme, when stated, was seen by the councillors present, to be so drastic that it amounted to taking control of the movement, regardless of the vested interests that the Councils had, in the establishment of their own local Baby Health Centres. The Government foreshadowed an Advisory Board, the members of which were to have full financial powers, and a general authority in questions of vital importance. The Government's proposal did not show any studied consideration towards the Councils, and voluntary workers, who had done good work in the important activities of Baby Welfare Centres. As a bribe to the Councils, to allow the Government nominees to be placed in power, they were promised that the Government would pay 50 per cent. of the nurses' salaries of the Baby Health Centres. Councillor Renfrey was the St. Kilda Council's delegate at the meeting. When he reported the result, he was very firm in stating to the Council, that in his considered opinion, if the allocation of the 50 per cent. subsidy was to be the price of the Government's interference, with the local administration of the Baby Health Centre, the St. Kilda Council should forego the subsidy, and continue to manage its own St. Kilda Baby Health Centre as it had done hitherto. He suggested that a municipal conference, of the Councils concerned, should be called. The Conference suggested took place, and it was opposed to Government control. The Council resolved, on the motion of Councillor Renfrey, that the Council approve

of, and adopt the resolution passed at the Conference of Councils, concerning the establishment, by the Government of an Infant Welfare Advisory Board. The Council held the opinion strongly, that there was not, at that time, any need for the proposed new Central Government Control Committee as suggested by the Government. In the St. Kilda Council's opinion the present method of municipal control was proving quite satisfactory. The councillors carried Councillor Renfrey's motion unanimously.

In December 1923, Councillor Renfrey reported on the Government's proposal to appoint an Infant Welfare Board, as the outcome of a conference, held on November 30. At that conference the Council's delegates, interested in Baby Health Centres, passed a resolution, to the effect that there was no present need for the Government's proposal to appoint a new Central Government Control Committee. Thirty-four municipalities had representatives present at the Conference, and 26 of them voted against the resolution, three delegates were in favor of the creation of the proposed Board, and five delegates refrained from expressing their Council's opinions.

When, in October, Councillor Renfrey attended, as a representative of the Council, at a meeting of the Central Executive of the Infant Welfare Association, he reported that everything as regards St. Kilda was deemed satisfactory. He spoke in appreciation of the work done by Sister Dobson, and of the growth of the Baby Welfare Centre, and also of the help rendered by Miss Behan, the Health Inspectress of St. Kilda.

St. Kilda suffered a great municipal loss when Councillor Barnet, a representative of the North Ward, handed in his resignation to the Council on February 6, 1922. His colleagues, knowing of his contemplated intention to do so, endeavored to dissuade him from his purpose, but without avail. The resignation was dated February 3; and was accompanied by Councillor Barnet's sincere expressions of goodwill towards his colleagues, and assurances of his continued interest in the welfare, and progress of the municipality. It was resolved, on the motion of Councillor Alford, a representative of the North Ward, and Councillor O'Donnell, who best knew how well the retiring councillor had served St. Kilda, that "the Council place on record its keen appreciation of Councillor Barnet's services to the municipality, for nearly twenty years as a representative of the North Ward, and his enthusiasm, and



BARKLY STREET AT THE JUNCTION.

(About 1864.) Reproduced from an old photograph lent by the Misses Hart.

energy, during that long period, in all matters, making for the progress of the municipality and the welfare of the community, and that an expression of such appreciation be suitably engrossed, and presented to him."

Such civic appreciations of honorable labors are invariably compressed into tabloid form, and so, necessarily, they lack details. The time during which Councillor Barnet represented the North Ward, is the period of his municipal services to St. Kilda, but that is not everything in the way of public service that is worthy to be recorded of him. His full-hearted co-operation in every citizens' movement to advance St. Kilda was given, without hesitation, when, and where it was wanted, noticeably so in the war period. The beautification of St. Kilda Road, by floral plantations, lawns, and ornamental shrubs, is due to the efforts of Councillor Barnet. He did not cease agitating, at almost every meeting of the St. Kilda Council, for such beauty to be added to the Road. At last the councillors consented to create the road parterres in the picturesque boulevard.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Mixed Bathing—The New Pastime Confronts the St. Kilda Council—Open Sea Bathing—Regulations Made—Regulations Criticised—Ladies' Baths' Question—Dressing and Bathing Shelters—West St. Kilda Progress Association—The "Meeting of Defiance"—A Laughable Sequel—Open Sea Bathers' League—Sea Bathing at Elwood—Deputation to Council—A Progressive Scheme—Plans Prepared.

MIXED bathing, that is the bathing of the sexes in the sea, at the same time, and place, crept into practice, along the shores of Hobson's Bay, in a sporadic, and unconventional way, in the year 1908. At first, a great many people were shocked at the intimacy of communal bathing, more especially those whose early years belonged to the Victorian period, when strict chaperonage was in force for young ladies. At that time, there were in being certain prudish prejudices, that would to-day be described as false modesty. Other days, other manners. The introduction of mixed bathing was a social revolt, and even more than that, a bathing revolution by the new generation, against the restraining customs of the old generation. The propelling force of the innovation was so great, that no protests, on the score of improper behaviour, and that "such things were not done," by their grand-parents, prevailed with those who were becoming accustomed to mixed bathing. Supported with a strong body of sectional opinion, having its headquarters in church communions, and other kindred Christian bodies, civic officialdom, having control of the beaches, looked askance at the new movement, and councils hesitated to countenance the practice of mixed bathing, lest the whole thing might degenerate into the scandal, it was already declared to be by its most uncompromising opponents. Public opinion, as voiced by the youthful exuberance of young men and young women swept the chorus of protestations away by their refusal to listen, and more practically by continuing to bathe. To the unbiassed observer, strolling along the beaches, the mixed bathing was conducted with decency, and, notwithstanding the forebodings of

the "purity and decorum leagues," nothing of a dreadful or of a shocking import happened.

The St. Kilda Council, more than any other seaside council, was, as a body, in troubled waters, with the tide of the movement coming to its shores, and demanding a decision on its part, whether, or not, as a council, it would countenance mixed bathing? Hard pressed on the one hand, by sectional opinion, it had, on the other side, numbers of people who were beginning to indulge in mixed bathing, without any pretence, other than being a law unto themselves, so far as sea bathing in the open was concerned. An opinion was current, that if open sea bathing was to be permitted, it should be regulated, in such a way, that those who were not in favor of mixed bathing should have areas set apart for them. The St. Kilda Council, confronted with the new condition of things, sought in its legislation to deal equitably with those who were likely to be affected by it. A sub-committee of the Council met on September 26, 1914, to consider proposed amendments of bathing regulations, including the provision of dressing shelters, and the patrol of the foreshore. The sub-committee placed its report before the Council on October 26, 1914.

The sub-committee stated, in its report, that it was concerned, in an attempt to devise regulations that would effectually control open sea bathing. To do so it deemed it necessary to fix the boundaries of areas whereon bathers should be restricted during certain hours, and to provide dressing shelters, with attendants. Areas for open sea bathing, within certain times were specified. Separate bathing areas for sexes were provided, with specified hours for sea bathing, and on the beaches, so set apart for open sea bathing, "the sexes were required to bathe separately in their respective areas." At this time the bathing evolution that was taking place only had one phase so far as the authorities grasped the position. Open sea bathing, with sex apportioned areas, superficially appeared to meet the demand for greater liberty in public bathing, but the evolution that had quickened was more comprehensive than merely seeking official recognition of open sea bathing. The pith of the whole movement was open sea bathing, without any restrictions, upon the sexes to confine their bathing to areas specially set apart for them. We have said that the bathers "sought official recog-

nition," but that is describing the movement as if it was one that was timorous, lest official action should restrict it; perhaps even, with restraining by-laws, crush it altogether. The movement was a strong advancing wave of public opinion, a revolutionary wave, that was powerful enough to sweep aside every restriction, and to ultimately prevail. It is not difficult to see clearly, at this time, that such was the case, but when the St. Kilda Council drew up its regulations, the position was not so transparent. Open sea bathing was the question that filled the minds of the councillors, and not the innovation of mixed sea bathing.

The Council's Bathing Committee, attached to its recommendations, an explanatory note, detailing the various areas, the times of bathing, and the statement that no restriction was to be placed on children up to ten years of age, bathing on any portion of the foreshore. No bathing was to be permitted, on any portion of the beach, after 10 a.m. on Sundays, Christmas Day, or Good Friday, nor between the hours of 10.30 p.m., and 4 a.m., on any ordinary night, or morning. A dressing shelter was to be provided, in each of the four sex areas, and the shelters were to be available to the public, without charge, during the bathing season, to commence on October 1, and to close on March 31. An attendant, of the relative sex, was to be appointed for each shelter, who would be required to patrol the beach, and to enforce the provisions of the bathing regulations. Clauses, relating to suitable bathing dresses, defined in former regulations were to remain in force.

At the same Council meeting (October 26, 1914) the question of the enclosed Ladies' Baths was considered. Councillor O'Donnell moved, and Councillor Gibbs seconded, this motion : "That the Council recognises the necessity for providing baths for the exclusive use of women, and that steps be taken to acquire a lease of the site, formerly held by the proprietors of Hegarty's Ladies' Baths, and to purchase the buildings thereon." This motion was halted by an amendment to the effect, "that consideration be postponed for fourteen *days*, to allow of inquiry to be made of the authorities of the Lands' Department, as to whether in the bath area lease, recently issued to Mr. William Kenney, there was any provision, that the use of his baths must be restricted to one sex only, or has he



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At the Marine Parade, in front of the Open Sea Bathing Pavilion.

the permission to use such baths for mixed bathing ?" A reply was received, from the Lands' Department, stating that there was no provision, in the lease of Kenney's Ladies' Baths, restricting the use of such baths to one sex only. The Council's inquiry evidently showed to the Lands Department authorities what they, on reflection, considered to be an omission. On January 18, the Lands Department expressed its opinion, to the Council, saying that any lease, for a bathing area to be enclosed, should contain the condition that mixed bathing shall not be permitted within such area. The Council had passed, on December 7, 1914, a resolution to that effect, and this resolution remained unassailed until June 8, 1915, when Councillor Gray gave notice that he would move: "That the Council's resolution of 7th December, 1914, expressing the opinion that any lease for a bathing area to be enclosed should contain the condition, that mixed bathing shall not be permitted, within such area, be, and is hereby rescinded, the Lands Department to be informed that the Council had rescinded the resolution, and that it would offer no objection to the issue of a lease, free from any condition restricting the use of the baths to one sex only." At a subsequent meeting of the Council the motion, which was put to the vote, was lost.

In the midst of the various agitations, that found a fruitful forcing place in the sand of the seashore, the Council endeavored to carry out its intentions to give facilities to bathers, but it cannot be said that the Council received any thanks for its labors. On November 23, 1914, the St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee informed the Council that, the Council's proposed bathing screens were not in keeping with other structures on the beach reserves under its control. A ratepayer wrote, protesting against the erection of a dressing shed for open sea bathers on the Beaconsfield Parade, opposite his dwelling house. And so little fires of protest were lighted, concerning almost every move by the Council, until, in the end, the whole length of the beach front, was aflame with debatable questions. Unmoved, to any noticeable extent, through the turmoil walked the Council's own special committee—the Open Sea Bathing Special Committee— formed to report upon, and to deal with pressing questions of the beach and beach control. The Committee was formed of the Mayor (J. H. Hewison), Councillors Allen, Gibbs, Hart and

O'Donnell. Councillor Edward O'Donnell was the most experienced councillor of the group, well versed, for many years, in all the phases of public life. He was not the councillor to be hurried into a course of action. Civic questions were quite safe in his custody. His many years of ceaseless service in the interests of St. Kilda bore witness to that. Not only was he, in point of years of service, the father of the Council, but he was also its mentor. No one, who knew the St. Kilda Councillors, supposed that the critics, who denounced the Council, nor the dissatisfied bathers, nor the members of the sea shore leagues, all of whom proclaimed themselves as the threatening precursors of an August municipal election Nemesis, were going to have beach questions settled in the way they shouted for, nor to have bathing shelters built, where they indicated, nor to have greater schemes of bathing facilities, involving thousands of pounds, carried out because they wanted them.

By virtue of a recommendation made by the Public Works Committee, in July, 1915, the Council gave orders to its surveyor to proceed with the construction of Bathing Shelters, in such positions, as to conform with the provisions of Bathing Regulation Number 21. A new clause in the bathing regulations, provided for the Council's power, from time to time, by resolution, to fix, to alter, or abolish fees for the use of dressing shelters, and also, to charge bathers fees for the safe custody of clothes, and valuables. A re-definition of bathing areas for men, and women was made on November 8, 1915. Further emendations in the Regulations were gazetted, on April 5, 1916. They had reference to areas prohibited to horse owners, bathing their horses. This amendment was made, at the request of the Ports and Harbours Branch of the Public Works Department, so it will be seen that the beach had not been left without a plurality of controlling bodies, the interests of which have not always been identical. By inheritance, by propinquity, and by permitted control of Crown shore lands, the St. Kilda Council is the natural guardian of the seashore, which forms the western boundary line of the municipality. Lines of demarcation of Crown lands, or shore lands, are arbitrary, and have no legitimate claim to exist, 'twixt land, and water, on the boundary line of the municipality of a local corporate power.

Bathing facilities, on the West Beach, were the subject of a deputation of Open Sea Bathers, that waited on the Council, on Monday evening, December 12, 1921. Councillor Thomas Unsworth introduced the deputation, and the Honorable Agar Wynne, M.L.C., urged the Council, on behalf of the Open Sea Bathers, to provide adequate accommodation, for their needs, which were enumerated as—increased bathing shelter accommodation; facilities for the storage of life saving appliances, and gear; installation of electric arc lights, or high pressure gas lamps; men's conveniences in the vicinity of the bathing area ; separate bathing shelters for children ; provision of showers ; provision of portable refuse bins, and other steps, necessary to secure cleanliness of the beaches. Six hundred members of the Open Sea Bathers' League represented the league's roll call. The demeanour of the speakers, who followed the Hon. Agar Wynne, was provocative. When one speaker asserted that the council was "splitting straws," the councillors resolved, that the speaker be no longer heard, whereupon the deputation retired.

A note is made, in the minute book of the Council, that the Honorable Agar Wynne was not among the offending members of the deputation from the West Beach, a place that held some sea bathers, who were noisily hostile to the Council's regulations regarding beach areas for bathing. The Honorable Agar Wynne was an old resident of St. Kilda. His father was Edward Agar Wynne, who came to the colony, in the year 1853, and settled at Ballarat. He was in the Eureka Stockade riot on December 3, 1854. Coming to Balaclava, he resided in a house he named "View Hill," which he subsequently sold, when the values of properties were soaring, in the "land boom" of the years of the eighties, for the large sum of £16,000. Later, he moved to Grey Street, St. Kilda, to the dwelling called "Montacute," where he resided until his death in December, 1898, at the age of 75 years. The Honorable Agar Wynne was his eldest son.

Because some of the members of the Open Sea Bathers' League had not observed the respect, that is due to a body of honorable men as a civic body, the Council did not reply in kind. On the contrary, the Council promised the league that it would build the shed for the housing of men's life saving appliances. The Council received the league's thanks for doing so. At the

same time the secretary of the league, asked the Council to pay an account, for the purchase of life saving appliances, the league had obtained. Payments had been made to other life saving organisations on the St. Kilda Beach, but the payments so made were to provide first aid outfits, to be available, in case of accidents, but the Council did not pay for life saving appliances. About this time (February, 1922) some inciting articles appeared, in The Age newspaper, containing statements criticising the St. Kilda Council, in connection with the beach, and open sea bathing, that were incorrect. They were a part of a campaign of inspired criticism that the St. Kilda Council had been subjected to, ever since the controversies had arisen, regarding beach provisions for open sea bathing. In the articles, said Councillor Hewison, commenting, there were "wilfully inaccurate and misleading statements regarding bathing on Sunday afternoons. The Council's regulations were framed as far back as 1915, but for some years, the clause relating to bathing on Sunday afternoons had not been enforced. There were wise and good reasons for the framing of the regulations, but the Council had not, and would not, enforce the prohibition of bathing, between one o'clock and five o'clock on Sunday, while good behaviour ruled."

An inflammatory newspaper paragraph stated that the members of the West St. Kilda Progress Association were to make a preliminary demonstration against the bathing regulations, that were still under discussion of the Council. Instructions were given to those, who were to rise up in revolt, to meet at the St. Kilda railway station, at 10.30 o'clock, on Sunday morning, January 22, 1922. The gallant band of beach insurrectionists was to march to Beaconsfield Parade. Once there the heroes were to undress, with such gravity, as became the occasion of enacting a solemn rite of defiance, to a municipal phantom by-law that at the time was not in existence. This particular Sunday morning dedicated by the Progress Association as a by-law breaking day, happened to be perversely inhospitable. The sea water, too, looked with a cold shimmer at the bathers. Both day, and water, combined were more than enough to damp the fevered emotions of the members of the West Beach Progress Association. Almost all the members decided the water was cold enough to keep them out of it. About 500 people watched, and waited, for the heroes of a water-

less bathe to plunge into the sea. A dozen of these breakers of regulations entered the water, and nothing more serious happened than that they quickly came out again. No municipal representative was in sight; no policeman took their names. Nothing hostile happened. The crowd dribbled away. The progressives went home, too, to take stock of themselves.

We seek to make the position quite clear, by stating that the Special Committee of the Council, on the subject of the regulation of bathing, had submitted its report to the Council, and that the report had been made public, in open Council. Its provisions had raised a storm of protests, but the protests were directed at something the objectors feared might happen, and not at something that had been passed into Council law, by the statutory legislation of adopted regulations, by publication, in the Government Gazette. The absurdity of the farcical exhibition on the Beaconsfield Parade is self-evident. If any ratepayer considered any by-law, or regulation, of the Council to be outside the Council's powers, his remedy was to seek an injunction from the court, but that was not done, nor was such a course, so far as we know, even proposed. That the Council was within its powers, in making the regulations, was not questioned by anyone acquainted with a municipal council's powers under the Local Government Act. At this stage of the agitation, the regulations were still under consideration, and the aim of any protest could only be, to ask the Council to abandon its manifest intention to adopt, and legalise, the challenged regulations. The fact was, that the demonstrators were only a noisy minority. Councillor Unsworth, one of the representatives of the West Ward, gave the Council his assurance "that 95 per cent. of the members of the Open Sea Bathers' League were disgusted with the two or three executive officers, who either wrote, or inspired the defamatory newspaper articles. He told the Council that the "meeting of defiance" was a direct manufacture by "The Age" newspaper. The crowd, he said, assembled, at the pier, only for the purpose of having a photograph of the league taken.

This theatrical display of dissatisfied bathers did not impress any common-sense person, since it did not bring them any nearer to the attainment of their wishes. Only through constitutional methods was it possible for them to lay

their pleas for unrestricted sea bathing, before the Council with any prospect of success. Buffooning on the beach, was simply a claptrap appeal to a section of public opinion that had no material power, in the case. At a subsequent meeting of the Council, a deputation, composed of citizens of St. Kilda, interested in sea bathing was received. The Mayor, in receiving the deputation, said he desired to anticipate the remarks, that might fall from the speakers, remarks that seemed to him to be inevitable in view of recent events. His Worship stressed the fact, that the Council had given the subject of sea bathing a lengthy consideration. The report of a special committee had been adopted, and a direction given to the by-laws committee, to frame an amending regulation thereon. With regret he referred to an unseemly demonstration at Beaconsfield Parade on Sunday. An honest effort was being made by the Council to deal with the important subject of sea bathing. Had the ringleaders of the scene, on Sunday, realised the position, there would hardly have been an organised defiance to a regulation, which had not been passed. There was a constitutional way to proceed when the exact position was ascertained. The Elwood Bathing Association had adopted the constitutional method. "If," said His Worship, "the Council was not, in the opinion of the ratepayers, amenable to reason, the legislation for the regulation of bathing on the St. Kilda beaches could be tested in a court of law. It was not a question of dignity hurt, but the matter of conducting the business of the city in a constitutional manner." The Mayor also said "that no speaker would be heard by the Council, on behalf of the deputation, that evening who did not avow complete disassociation with Sunday's incident."

A deputation, from the Elwood and South St. Kilda Progress Association, waited on the Council to express the views of its members on open sea bathing. The Association was strongly opposed to the restriction of open sea bathing, as proposed by the new regulations of the St. Kilda Council. In support of its case, the speakers, for the Association said that mixed bathing was becoming universal, and the provision of shelters, along the whole of the beach frontage, was essential. They regarded the restriction of bathing, implied by the regulation that bathing had to be done before ten o'clock on Sunday morning as



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Marine Parade.

especially irksome. Reference was made to the popular bathing resorts adjacent to Sydney—Manly and Coogee—at which places the regulations dealt only with the control of the conduct of the bathers, and were silent regarding the questions of when and of where bathers might bathe. A resolution, passed by the Association was handed to the Council. It was a protest, and a request in a concrete form covering what the speakers had said. A petition handed in, at the same time, contained 300 signatures. The petitioners prayed to the Council not to restrict open sea bathing on Sundays, to before the hour of ten o'clock, in the forenoon. On the other hand, letters supporting the Council's action were received from the Prahran and St. Kilda Ministers' Association.

We have not yet conveyed to the reader the suppressed excitement there was in the Council chamber, during the reception of the deputation, and while the champions of unrestricted liberty of sea bathing were speaking. The Council chamber was filled and overflowing with interested people, representing both sides of the question. The scene was one of tense interest from a civic standpoint. An issue of greater moment might have been at stake, so electrical, with human expectancy, was the chamber. When those present considered anyone speaking on their behalf made a point, they applauded. The Mayor prohibited applause, deeming it unseemly in the Council's deliberative chamber. Though the ratepayers', and bathers' gathering, was parochial in its formation, it was far from being so in its objects, and the reversions it sought to obtain. Those people who were present formed the speaking head of a large following of sea bathers, whose homes were distributed well over most of the metropolitan suburbs. Uncommon interest was aroused throughout Melbourne. The localism of St. Kilda had no place in the assumption that St. Kilda, and its beaches, belonged to Melbourne citizens, and the St. Kilda Council, on this question, had to accept the position of a paramount Parliament, and adjudicate for Melbourne itself. The St. Kilda councillors felt the pressure of the protesting numbers, seen and unseen, but, while the councillors did so, they did not act hastily, nor did they allow those who clamored so insistently, to snatch a revision of the bathing regulations, before the Council had an opportunity to consider the whole question, in the calm

atmosphere of a committee-room. Therefore it did not come as a surprise to those, who were familiar with the procedure of the St. Kilda Council, when the Mayor announced that, "considerations of all the questions involved were deferred to the next meeting of the Council."

The fortnight intervening between the meetings of the St. Kilda Council, allowed the bathers, and their leagues, to gather opinions, protests, and resolutions, almost without number. Swimming clubs, progress associations, and others, protested, and condemned the St. Kilda Bathing Regulations. Letters appeared in the newspapers. Scarcely anyone, outside the church associations, had a good word to say for the regulations, that had been prepared with so much labor, and care by the Special Committee of the St. Kilda Council. When the Council met on November 23, 1914, the chamber was filled by the bathers. The tension once more made itself felt. Those people present nearest the rail bar scanned the faces of the councillors, in the hope of detecting some *sign*, that would give to them a clue to the Council's decision. Routine business of the Council proceeded much as usual. Though the bathers fretted at the delays, they had to wait until, under the Orders of the Day, Councillor Gray moved the momentous test motion, that was to leave the whole of the St. Kilda Beach, with one restriction, open to mixed bathing. His motion was in substance: "To allow mixed bathing along the whole of the foreshore, except between Cowderoy Street, and Shakespeare Grove, between the hours of 4 a.m. and 10.30 p.m. daily, except between the hours of 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Sundays."

The motion was defeated, as was *also* a subsequent amendment. The St. Kilda Council had faced the storm, and its assailers found that they could not dragoon the Council into accepting their opinion.

The Council's position remained unchanged. The Town Clerk was instructed to inform the executive officers of the Royal Life Saving Society, the Prahran and St. Kilda Ministers' Association, the West St. Kilda Life Saving and Swimming Club, the Surrey Park Swimming Club, the Fairfield Park Amateur Swimming Club, the West St. Kilda Progress Association, and the Elwood, and South St. Kilda Progress Association, of the majority decision of the Council to make no changes in the new

bathing regulations. We have recorded the list of the clubs, and the associations, to show what a solid press of semi-official, and club opinions, was brought to bear on the Council, but it must not be supposed that was the whole volume of influence, directed towards the councillors, with the intention of causing them to weaken in their resolution to uphold the unpopular regulations. Editors of newspapers joined with the opposing forces, and they opened their columns to a guerilla-like correspondence, by all sorts, and conditions of bathers, who fired criticisms at the Council, and they chose to do so, in many cases, from behind the hedges of anonymity. At the Council meeting, held on December 21, 1914, the By-laws Committee of the St. Kilda Council, submitted to the Council its draft amending Bathing Regulations. Upon the motion of Councillor O'Donnell, seconded by Councillor Love, the draft amending Bathing Regulations were received and adopted, and that finalised the Bathing Regulations' battle, leaving the St. Kilda Council the master of its own seaside city, and the regulation of its seashore appurtenances.

Year by year the strength, and importance, of the sea bathing problem, grew so lustily that it clamored for solution. Though there was a multitude of counsellors, there was not much wisdom apparent in their advice, so freely hurled at the St. Kilda Council. While the majority of the critics supposed, that the St. Kilda councillors were worried with the problem, that Melbourne thought was too big for them, they, on their part, were mustering the reports upon other watering places throughout the world, and learning from the experiences of those distant and fashionable watering places, what was best for St. Kilda. The Town Clerk (Mr. Fred. W. Chamberlin) saw to that. There was little the leading councillors of St. Kilda did not know that had any bearing on the subject, a fact its critics were unaware of, or perhaps they would not have rushed in so freely to where others feared to tread. At the Council meeting, held on February 20, 1922, Councillor Hewison moved: "That a committee be appointed to consider and report upon the provisions of facilities for bathing on the beach on the Esplanade frontage." Councillor Hewison admitted that the Council had felt a want of complete satisfaction with what had been accomplished, in the way of bathing facilities, but that feeling came not by the

way of recent criticisms. A tremendous amount of work, he said, had been done during the past ten years. Bathing shelters had been provided, at a cost, approximately, of £3000, for use by the public, free of all charge. As an expedient the bathing shelters had served a useful purpose, but the Council could not be altogether satisfied with them, as a permanent provision. The Council had endeavored to keep pace with the growing popularity of open sea bathing, but it had been handicapped, in having to accept conditions, existing before that form of bathing became the fashion. Enclosed baths, and kiosks, had been erected, on the portions of the foreshore, which would have been perhaps, the most suitable places for bathing in the open. The Council knew the position in regard to the Ladies' Baths, and it was aware, when the baths were purchased, that they were worn out. They had served their day. If the baths' area remained, the buildings would have to be rebuilt. Neither of the baths was structurally worthy of the position they occupied. The way that open sea bathing had developed could not have been foreseen when the baths were erected. Councillor Hewison outlined a progressive building scheme, that would lend itself to sectional additions, and when, eventually, the blocks of buildings were finished, the whole mass would make a complete, and harmonised structure. To complete it out of hand was financially impossible, since perhaps the sum of over £100,000 might be involved. The St. Kilda Council had no warrant, from its ratepayers, to pauperise itself, in dressing its shop windows, beyond its civic means.

Councillor Hewison said that the proposed building was to be of concrete, somewhat on the lines of a like structure at Coogee, N.S.W., which provided shops on the frontage to its Lower Esplanade, and dressing shelters in the rear. The contemplated building was to have a flat roof, where band music and resting accommodation would be provided, and many other details. By permission, Councillor Hewison amended his motion, and, by so doing, he was the councillor who brought into existence the Council's Special Sea Bathing Committee that was to do so much spade work. The motion, which was carried, was :-

"That a committee be appointed to consider, and to report, upon the provision of facilities for bathing on the beaches."

Opinions were expressed that representation should be made to the Government, to the Tramways and to the Railways authorities for substantial financial assistance in the execution of such a scheme. On the motion of Councillor Renfrey, seconded by Councillor O'Donnell, the personnel of the newly-created Open Sea Bathing Committee was arranged to be Councillors Alford, Gray, Hewison, Hughes, and Unsworth.

On December 11, 1922, the Open Sea Bathing Committee submitted its report to the Council. Broadly, the plan brought forward, by the Committee, was to build a structure between the ladies' baths and the refreshment kiosk, having a frontage of 440 feet, the building to be constructed of reinforced concrete. Provision was made for two shops, and a cigar kiosk, at the main entrance, that would lead to a main cafe, with an area of 68 feet by 32 feet. Ample provision was made for the convenience of women, and men bathing. The details of the whole structure was very complete. A rough estimate of the cost of the completed scheme was £45,000. Councillor Hewison, as Chairman of the Committee, after explaining the proposal, referred to the criticisms in a section of the Melbourne newspapers.

We rest here, for a small space, to say, that councils, like lesser things, have their barren years, and their years of fruitfulness. The Council that best serves the ratepayers is the one that "hastens slowly." Ratepayers, were they wise, would appreciate cautious men, who hold moderate views towards untried acts, and improvements that are being clamored for by a section of irresponsibles, who sometimes call themselves progressives. Councillors of St. Kilda have, from the beginning of St. Kilda's civic life, had their full share of the public's hostile clamor, with newspapers leading at one time, and following at another, the hue and cry, the object of which has been to jockey the Council into doing things, specially on the beach front, which the Council's finances would not permit of being done. It has been the apparent possession of the foreshore front by the St. Kilda Council as a part of the municipality that has been the source of so much criticism, by the man in the street, who knows in a day's visit so much more of how to beautify, utilise, and commercialise St. Kilda Beach, than the Council that has studied the question for over half a century of civic contemplation.

Councillor Hewison stated the Council's point of view, when he said that in years past, the Council had spent thousands of pounds, in providing facilities for open sea bathing, for which there had not been one single penny of financial return. The Council quite recognised that it would have to go considerably further, and it was in that spirit of recognition, that the scheme was put forward. After explaining the financial aspect, and that the bathing scheme, if carried out, would leave an annual charge, on the municipal funds, of £2000 per annum, he moved the following resolution:—

"That this Council approve of the provision of bathing accommodation, on the lines of the plan prepared by its Surveyor, and on the necessary consent of the St. Kilda Foreshore Committee being obtained, proceed to consider same, with a view to the final adoption of such plan, with or without modifications, and to the carrying out of the same."

This resolution was carried. A further resolution was passed to take steps to secure the consent of the St. Kilda Shore Committee to the proposal. At this point of our narrative the position is clearly defined that the St. Kilda Council was willing to obtain the "consent of the St. Kilda Foreshore Committee to the proposal." How long this position was to remain, as time passed, will be seen later.

CHAPTER XXIX.

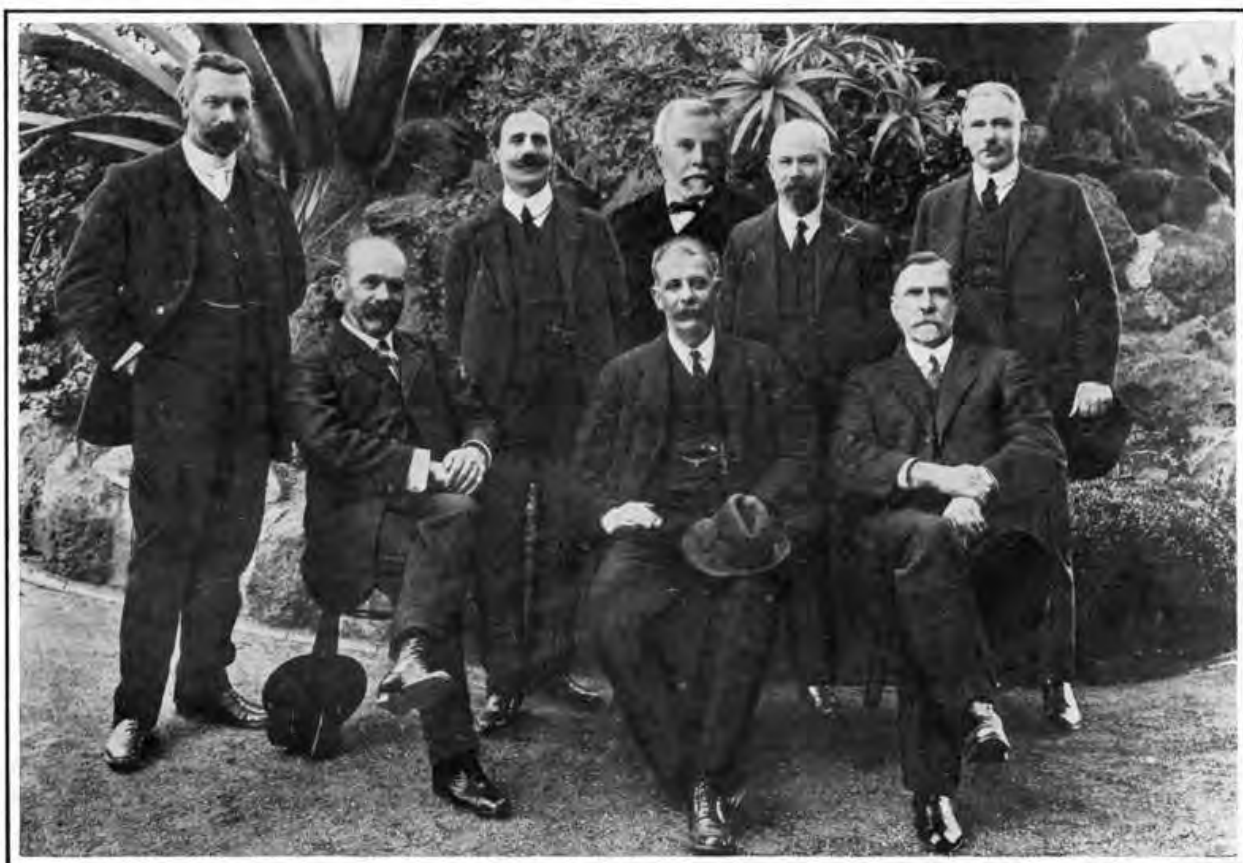
The Genesis of the St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee--Its Powers and Corporate Character—Dangers of Differences of Opinion Between Council and Committee—Open Air Beach Show Tenants—Beauty of Shorelands—A National Responsibility—Open Sea Bathing Proposals —Rift Between Council and Shore Committee—Some Sharp Criticisms —Newspaper Correspondence. Council Seeks to Retire the Fore Shore Committee.

THE corporate mind of the St. Kilda Council had realised for years, prior to 1906, that the way of improvements, at the beach front, lay in the creation of a Fore Shore Trust, the special duties of which should be the work of reclamation, and of beautification. It must have been amusing to the St. Kilda Council to observe, in October, 1923, its neighbor, the Brighton Council, suddenly wanting to call a conference of municipalities, for the purpose of taking over the whole of the foreshore of Port Phillip. This, at a time, too, when the St. Kilda Council had put its beaches in order, and was proceeding to more decorative adventures. The St. Kilda Council, experienced in the work and ways of a Fore Shore Committee, politely hinted to the Brighton Council, that it was not willing that anything of the nature proposed should take place. The reason was not far to seek. The St. Kilda Council was the pioneer in beach improvements, and it had, from the first, handled the question in such a way, that ultimate success seemed assured. And the way of it was this. On February 19, 1906, a deputation from the St. Kilda Council waited on the Hon. the Minister of Lands, the Hon. John Murray, and discussed with him the Council's suggestion that the whole of the St. Kilda foreshore, extending from Fraser Street the municipality's northern boundary, to Head Street, Elwood the southern boundary, should be placed under a joint Trust, the members of which should be representative of the Board of Land and Works, and the Council of St. Kilda. The Councillors were very fortunate in having the ear of a sympathetic Minister of the

Crown, who not only listened to their proposals, but caught some of the fire of their enthusiasm. To the last, to the time of his death, the Hon. John Murray proved to be one of those who took a personal interest in the beautification of the St. Kilda foreshore.

The object of the St. Kilda Council in having a Trust created, in the way suggested, was that jointly, the two official bodies concerned might proceed with works of reclamation, and of beautification, along the St. Kilda foreshore. The expectation then was, that the revenue, received from renting sites on the foreshore, for amusement purposes, would provide the necessary funds, wherewith to carry on the work of shore improvements. Obviously the proposal, as exhibited by the St. Kilda Council, was both a good, and desirable one. The only question that arose was upon the form and the constitution of the Trust. Both bodies were anxious to select the most suitable form of administration; one that would be alike satisfactory to the Council, and to the Government, while, at the same time, flexible enough to carry out the important work that was awaiting on the St. Kilda foreshore to be done. The question was answered by the appointment, on June 19, 1906, of a committee, by the Governor-in-Council, to control the St. Kilda foreshore. The St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee held its first meeting on June 22, 1906. The original members of the Committee were Captain A. Currie, Councillor H. B. Gibbs, Councillor G. H. Billson, Councillor H. F. Barnet, Councillor Edward O'Donnell, Mr. R. G. McCutcheon, M.L.A., Mr. Carlo Catani and Mr. F. Wimpole. Mr. H. O. Allan was appointed secretary to the committee. He was lent by the then Minister for Lands, the Hon. John Murray, on account of his knowledge of reserve questions, permissive occupancies, and regulations.

The secretary of the St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee, the late Mr. Henry Octavius Allan, was the Under Secretary of the Lands Department. He was an able and highly intelligent officer; a civil servant, who, in his day, had "done the State some service." The St. Kilda foreshore, over which the Fore Shore Committee has control, is a Government Reserve, and the Minister of Lands is responsible for its condition, whence came the appointment of the senior executive officer of the Crown Lands Department to the position of the secretaryship of the committee.



AN EARLY GROUP OF THE ST. KILDA FORE SHORE COMMITTEE.

Standing: Cr. J. J. Love, Cr. H. F. Barnet, Capt. Currie, W. Thorn, H. O. Allan (Secretary).

Sitting: Carlo Catani, Cr. H. B. Gibbs, Cr. Ed. O'Donnell.

This relationship has to be remembered, if the reader is to see and understand the different standpoints from where the St. Kilda Council and the Fore Shore Committee looked quizzingly across the sands of St. Kilda at each other. Moreover, it is pertinent to know that the secretary was not a mere recording secretary of the Fore Shore Committee, but a secretary who had his own opinions, and one, also, who was fired with enthusiastic initiative in working to aid the beautification of the shore reserves. That he was a ratepayer and a resident of St. Kilda did not lessen his sense of personal possession in the beaches and of his right of criticism as a ratepayer. He was a child, too, of his official environment in the Lands Department. As Under Secretary of Lands he was not without his genial charity towards members of trusts, who were not so experienced in lands and reserves' management as he. He may be fairly described as the official spear-head of the Fore Shore Committee.

The Fore Shore Committee, as created, was and is a constituted body of the *imperium in imperio* type; a foreshore committee, sheltered, encouraged and helped also by the St. Kilda Council. The Fore Shore Committee reigns in a place, the shore line, where the western interests of St. Kilda, a seaside city, are so largely involved. In one aspect of the St. Kilda Council's administration, the St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee was, and is, an anomalous body. The danger existed, from the first, that the incidence of two ruling bodies, with so close a merger of shore interests to each other, would give rise to differences of opinion. It was quite probable that occasions might arise when the senior, and far more important, body, the Council would grow restive, and seek to throw off the restraining hand of the Fore Shore Committee ; a corporate assertive little body of almost the Council's own creation. The Council was, however, proud of the committee, and it was no miser in its praise of the committee for its excellent work. Both of the two bodies are giving St. Kilda excellent service, but the Fore Shore Committee's reclamation work and landscape gardening borders on routine work since it works to the designs of the late Carlo Catani. Happily the bulk of those designs and landscape gardening plans were materialised into beauty under the late Mr. Catani's eye of genius. The St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee's later work did not present any great difficulties corn-

pared to what the St. Kilda Council has had to solve, in the complicated questions that were interlocked, with the provision of an adequate scheme of bathing pavilions for thousands of open seabathers on the St. Kilda beach.

It may be said, with regard to the work of the Fore Shore Committee, that, owing to the services of Government officers, like Messrs. Catani, Clark, Thorn, and Allan, not one penny has had to be expended, on account of professional fees, such as engineering, surveying, or legal work. Whatever funds have been made available to the Fore Shore Committee by the St. Kilda Council, by the Government, by private donations, and by receipts of rentals from tenants on the *beach*, have been spent in the work of the reclamation and subsequent beautification of the St. Kilda beach.

When the English Pierrots, an open-air beach show, conducted by William and Robert Thomas, established themselves in a building, which they erected, and called "The Pavilion," they, unknown to themselves, did something more than create a taste for open-air vaudeville entertainments by the seashore. They proved that the shore lands were a potential source of revenue, if sites were rented to showmen. Incidentally, a mild theatrical boom in beach shows set in for a few seasons, specially during the war years, and the years that followed immediately afterwards. Then the public's fickle taste changed. The shows were no longer profitable, and the curtains, in several cases, came down on insolvencies. Among the vaudeville shows were "The Dandies," "The Serenaders," "The Butterflies," "The Diggers"; then there were the "Paradise St. Kilda Pictures," the Palais Cinema, also the Comedy Theatre, "Dreamland" and others. Most of these vaudeville shows were on the Upper Esplanade, but "The Pierrots," who were the vaudeville pioneers, had their "Pavilion" on the beach proper, within the corner made at the junction of Beaconsfield Parade and Fitzroy Street. At first, the Thomas Brothers' entertainment was financially successful. Other showmen sought to make money by having various itinerant shows on the beach. The Shore Committee's income, obtained from rentals of that nature, was stated to have been £456. The income from all sources for the first year of the committee's existence was £1,151, and for the second year £1,377. Before those regular beach shows there



LUNA PARK, PALAIS PICTURES, PALAIS DE DANSE,
Lower Esplanade.

was, in full whirl, Baxter's Merry-Go-Round, which gave many happy minutes to thousands, and thousands, of holiday-making children, enjoying glorious days at St. Kilda, with their buckets, spades, and sand castles. Baxter's Merry-Go-Round is notable because it was the first amusement on the first piece of reclaimed shore land. The St. Kilda Council made the reclamation, winning from the sea an area of land, starting at the foot of the pier, and spreading out from there, towards Kenney's Baths. This was the initial work done, the germ of the subsequent foreshore reclamations, and the credit for the inception of the work belongs alone to the St. Kilda Council. The subsequent beautification of the foreshore of St. Kilda, had its source, in this modest beginning, upon which Baxter was allowed to place his MerryGo-Round, and so he became the first tenant, on reclaimed shore land, at St. Kilda, and the St. Kilda Council saw the prospect of returns to help to carry out further shore improvements.

Since Baxter's first venture much of the money, received as rent, that has been expended on the foreshore, has come from the firm of Phillips Brothers, Herman Frank Phillips and Leon Phillips, the beach's best-known caterers for amusements. Not only have they shown enterprise in their own business, but they have generously associated themselves with the aims of St. Kilda citizens, specially during the War period, and in patriotic efforts that included great gala demonstrations. Occupying a commanding position as tenants of beach frontages at the Esplanade, they placed the Palais de Danse and the Luna Park at the disposal of the Patriotic Committee. In later years, when visiting fleets of men-o'-war came to Melbourne, and the sailors have been invited and welcomed to St. Kilda by the Council, the Phillips Brothers have made that welcome more enjoyable to Jack Ashore by giving to sailors in uniform, free admission to their beach shows. When it was decided to present colours to the 14th Battalion, Mr. Herman Phillips was selected in the movement to represent the citizens of St. Kilda.

Luna Park was established in 1912, and was opened in December of that year by the Federal Minister for External Affairs in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Melbourne and the Mayor of St. Kilda. During the years of the war, Luna Park was closed, and it was not re-opened until October, 1923.

The Palais de Danse was established in the year 1913, and remained open until shortly after the out-break of the Great War. The ballroom was then turned into a picture theatre. In the year 1915 it became the well-known Palais Pictures. In 1920, after the Armistice, the Palais de Danse was opened once more, on land adjoining the Palais Pictures. In 1926, when a new and more imposing front face to the theatre was in course of erection, the building caught fire, and was destroyed. Phillips Brother then, in place of the old building, erected another one, which is the present theatre. The presence of the amusement enterprises of the Phillips Brothers, on the St. Kilda beach foreshore, has undoubtedly drawn thousands of holiday-makers to St. Kilda. The amusements they provide are so varied that persons of every age are able to be selective, and to enjoy themselves. Given a fine day, the visitor to the Esplanade front will always find innocent pleasure and amusements.

One of the early shows on the St. Kilda beach was the Hall of Laughter, owned by the Princes Court Proprietary Company. The building stood on land with an area of 25 feet by 80 feet, and the Company paid for its occupation the modest rental of 30/- per week. The value of a beach frontage for a showman's stand was not then highly assessed, and the first list of rentals for early shows seems to be extraordinarily low, when it is stated that the rental of a beach frontage to-day amounts to as much as £7 per foot.

The Victory Theatre, under the directorate of Messrs. F. L. Nelson, Thos. Cope and V. C. Marshall, was opened on April 18, 1921. The structure was remodelled, and opened for the second time on March 19, 1928, the directors being F. L. Nelson, Chairman; F. W. Thring; T. Cope and G. F. Griffith.

From the St. Kilda pier to Kenney's Bathing Ship was a retaining wall. In the work of reclamation of the seashore shallows, it was purposed to extend the wall northwards, through the shore end of the baths, which was almost silted up with sand, washed up by the current that swirls along the eastern line of Hobson's Bay. The wall was to be continued for 1,600 feet, until it reached the boundary between South Melbourne and St. Kilda marked by Fraser Street. This work was designed at the time, and the design was accomplished, to enclose a large area of beach land, and so make what was once a somewhat desolate waste, suitable for the work of beautification to proceed.



VICTORY THEATRE.
Corner of Barkly Street and Carlisle Street.

Lawns and gardens were formed, with an oval 750 feet by 440 in extent. At the other end of the Esplanade, the site of a beach side show that waxed, and waned, the deserted "Dreamland," was also embraced in the scheme of shore reclamation that was in being in 1916. The Government was asked to contribute the sum of £6,000, the St. Kilda Council £2,000, while the Fore Shore Committee was to find the balance of the money necessary to complete this section of the reclamation work. These proposals were agreed to by the Government and the St. Kilda Council. The Council arranged to make its contribution at the rate of £200 a year for ten years. It would be quite extraordinary if such a comprehensive scheme, affecting the beaches, even in the direction of an undreamed-of improvement, could have been carried through without someone objecting to it for some reason peculiar to himself. In such cases one discontented, short-sighted ratepayer usually manages to infect his neighbours with the spirit of opposition. In this case, some of the residents, presumably ratepayers, protested against the erection of the wall along the West Beach, on the ill-grounded plea that the wall would prevent free access to the sands. By April, 1916, this work of reclamation was almost completed. The works, in addition to landscape cultural beauties, and other means of adornment, were the erection of a municipal tea kiosk, and of shelters, south of the baths, at a cost of £800. Lawns and rockeries were formed about the kiosk. An entrance from the beach to the shelter and to lawns was formed by a bridge, modelled in concrete, now known as the Catani arch.

An important principle was laid down by Councillor O'Donnell, and concurred in by the St. Kilda Council at its sitting held on January 22, 1923, and that principle was, that the work of the beautification of the St. Kilda foreshore was national in character, and in responsibility, and not merely a local concern of the St. Kilda Council. The occasion for the declaration arose when the Government decided to withdraw its contribution towards the work of the St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee. The Council protested. Then a letter was received from the Hon. F. W. Eggleston, M.L.A., the Member for St. Kilda, stating that the Cabinet had decided to continue its grant to the St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee. To assist the Council to complete the work the State Government agreed to contribute £500, for that

year, and the next financial year, but only on the condition, that the Council paid the Fore Shore Committee the sum of £1000 for each of those years. Should the Council, the Hon. the State Treasurer said, decide to vote a lesser sum than £1000, then the Government's contribution would be reduced in the same ratio. Councillor O'Donnell moved, and Councillor Allen seconded, a motion, that was carried, to the effect that it would contribute £1000, for two years, in consideration of the Government grant of £500 per year for the same period, but it was decided to inform the Minister:—

"(1) That the Council cannot accept his view that the work is local, rather than national, in character; and

"(2) That the Council has no objection to the Minister's letter referring to expeditious procedure with the work, but that the practice of the expedition must rest with the St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee, which has control of the work."

The problem of providing adequate bathing facilities was waiting for solution by the Council, most of these years. With the activities of the Fore Shore Committee, on the beach front, the demands for better bathing accommodation at St. Kilda were not likely to be overlooked. On March 19, 1923, a letter was received from the St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee relative to a scheme of the Council for improved facilities for open sea bathing. The Council learned, that the Public Works Department was engaged upon a plan for open sea bathing. The Committee said it was very favourable towards making provision for a site on the St. Kilda beach for open sea bathing. The Council referred the Committee's letter to the Open Sea Bathing Committee, a committee appointed by the Council from its own members. This Committee, on July 23, recommended the Council to "invite competitive designs for adequate (having regard to future, as well as immediate, requirements) accommodation, and facilities, for open sea bathing, the expenditure for immediate requirements to be approximately £45,000, and that a first prize of £100, and a second prize of \$50, be offered. Also that the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects be invited, to nominate two assessors, as provided for in the conditions of the competition." The recommendation was adopted on the motion of Councillor Hewison, seconded by Councillor Unsworth.



FOUNTAIN IN THE CATANI GARDENS.



HOLIDAY MAKERS ON THE FORE SHORE LAWNS.

It was the last motion that the energetic chairman of the Open Sea Bathing Committee was to submit. When the Council met on August 6, 1923, the Mayor, with profound sorrow, referred to the sudden death, a few days before, of one of their most able colleagues, Councillor Hewison. The Council placed on record its profound sorrow at the loss of their esteemed colleague, Councillor Joseph Henry Hewison, M.A., L.L.M. A letter conveying an expression of the Council's deep sympathy was sent to the widow and family. The councillors spoke of their late colleague's "high ideals of civic service, his essential fairness in all things, his ready willingness to give, at all times, the benefit of his legal knowledge, and also of those personal attributes, which commanded the respect and esteem of all." The Town Clerk, Mr. Fred. W. Chamberlin, added a tribute to the memory of the late Councillor Hewison. The Council adjourned for twenty minutes. What, if any, the effect of his sudden death, from a heart trouble, had on the question of adequate accommodation for open sea bathing is conjectural, but he, as the Chairman of the Open Sea Bathing Committee, was, at the time he died, skilfully piloting a complicated projection—the tentative scheme for bathing facilities—towards a possible completion.

At the Council meeting, held on June 21, 1926, the Public Works Committee's report stated that, as the subject of open sea bathing is inseparable from the question of the necessity, or desirableness of retaining enclosed areas, for the separate sexes, the Open Sea Bathing Committee is of the opinion that, to permit the formulation of any comprehensive scheme, it is essential that the Council should, as the first step, secure complete control of all present facilities, and therefore recommends the purchase from the St. Kilda Baths Proprietary Limited, for the sum of £3900, of the Men's Baths, with all assets to which the Proprietary is entitled under its existing lease from the Lands Department, such purchase to be subject to the approval of transfer by the Minister of Lands. This recommendation of the Public Works Committee, after considerable discussion by the councillors, was put, and carried.

In the meanwhile, the Open Sea Bathing Committee had held several meetings, and its members were closely considering the difficult questions that were a part of their duty to solve.

As a final determination to their labors, on November 8, 1926, the Committee presented a somewhat drastic report to the Council. The report was remarkable for disclosing what had been for some time, more, or less, nebulous in the minds of some of the councillors. It was given expression to in words that carried the force of the Open Sea Bathing Committee's official conviction. Section 1 of the report read :—

"Recommending that, as by the acquirement of both the Ladies' and Men's Baths, the Council is now in a position to deal with the provision of adequate bathing facilities, the Council to avoid the complexity of divided control in its formulation of any comprehensive scheme should forthwith seek the reversion to it of the control of the whole of the foreshore within its territory."

"Your Committee, in making this recommendation, regards the present time as opportune, in view of the completions of the beautifications, to effect which the St. Kilda Shore Committee was appointed, and which have been so admirably executed. Your Committee is also of the firm opinion that, as the provision of proper accommodation, and conveniences for bathing, involving large financial commitment, is an integral part of the recreation facilities expected of St. Kilda, the revenue derivable from amusement sites, and from all forms of amusements, and recreation, on the foreshore, should be paid into a separate fund, to be administered by the Council, and expended only in the maintenance, and improvement, of the foreshore, including bathing facilities."

Curiously enough, the elder councillors grouped together on this question, while the younger men were for the recapture of the control of the beaches. The Chairman of the Fore Shore Committee, Councillor Edward O'Donnell, and his colleagues on the Committee, were all enthusiastic in promoting the beautification of beach lands, and, it was expecting too much of human nature, to suppose that they would view, with any favor, a motion that was aimed at putting them out of action, by the conclusive act of having the Minister of Lands terminate their corporate existence as the Fore Shore Committee.

There was a clear declaration (7 to 4) of a majority opinion that the Council should resume the control of the foreshore.

To attempt to give effect to that majority opinion, Councillor Dawkins moved: "That, in furtherance of the resolution passed by the Council, at its meeting on November 8, 1926, the Council wait, as a deputation, on the Hon. the Minister of Lands, with a view to securing the reversion to it of the control, and management of the reserves, at present under the management of the St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee." Councillor O'Donnell, the Chairman of the Committee, moved an amendment: "That consideration of the whole matter be referred to the Public Works Committee." After a considerable amount of discussion, relative to leases, and sites, the amendment was put. The voting thereon was equal, and thereupon the Mayor, Councillor Gray, gave his casting vote, and the amendment was declared lost. A month later, the councillors in favor of the retention of the Shore Committee, made an attempt to rescind the motion, but they were again, on the voting, defeated, the voting being 5 to 6.

The rift in the lute between the St. Kilda Council, and the St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee was not lessened by a statement in "The Argus" newspaper, November 24, 1926, wherein the Secretary of the Fore Shore Committee referred to the St. Kilda Council's action, in deciding to seek to resume control of the St. Kilda foreshore, as a "hurried snatch at the control of the Crown reserves of St. Kilda." According to the secretary, "the whole storm in a teacup had arisen, because a sub-committee of the Council, which was appointed to report on the provision of bathing facilities, dealt with a matter so foreign as the displacement of an unoffending shore committee." The secretary refuted a statement, made by Councillor Unsworth, that the Council could carry out the work of beautification as cheaply as the Fore Shore Committee, by stating that, under the Metropolitan Board of Works Act, the Committee obtained the water it required free of cost. If the Council took over the reserves, there would be probably a water bill of £500 or £600 a year to pay." In the St. Kilda Council, reference had been made to the rent paid for the Palais Picture Theatre site. The Fore Shore secretary stated that fourteen years before the Committee fixed the ground rent at £200 a year, and three years later, it was raised to £250. In 1918, the amount was further increased to £300. Early in the year (1926) the building was destroyed by fire, and the Committee afterwards decided to grant the pro-

prietor a lease of twenty-one years at £700 a year, which amounts to £7 a year rent per foot of his frontage. At the end of the period, when the lease terminates, the right to the site is to be put up for sale, by auction, with a valuation for improvements, in favor of the outgoing tenant. The lessee was erecting a fireproof building to cost £110,000, on the site, on which he could not, if he desired, borrow one penny. Elsewhere, on the same subject, the secretary said: "A site at St. Kilda is not always a gold mine. Of about 80 enterprises, 65 have failed, including Pierrotland (in liquidation), Comedy Theatre, Daylight Pictures, Roller Coaster, the Open Air Skating Rink, and dozens of others." As to the statement that was made, in the Council, that no officer in the Lands Department should be connected with the foreshore scheme, it was a sweeping one, when it was considered that the areas are Crown Land Reserves, for which the Minister of Lands is responsible. The law forbids the expenditure of any rental return from a reserve being expended outside that reserve, for any purpose whatever, and foreshore revenue may not be legally expended on baths."

Councillor Unsworth replied to the criticisms of the secretary of the Fore Shore Committee, reminding him that the work of the Fore Shore Committee was to have been completed in the year 1916, and though, at the date of his answering the criticisms (1926) ten years later, there was still some work to do. He said that the secretary criticised the bathing sub-committee of the Council, for not having already erected on the beach, better bathing facilities, when he knew, that the St. Kilda Council only came into possession of the men's baths, six or eight weeks before he wrote, and that it was impossible for the Council to have done anything in the time that had elapsed. The only course open to the Council was to sub-let, for twelve months, the rights of the men's baths. The St. Kilda Council had two duties to perform, the first of which was its duty to the rate-payers, and, the second, a duty to the public that visited St. Kilda. Councillor Unsworth pointed out, inter alia, that the position was that of the Fore Shore Committee controlling the only possible profitable undertaking on the beach, and it was left to the St. Kilda Council to carry the expense, and risk of the most unprofitable undertaking, the provision of bathing facilities. Any loss that was incurred would have to be borne by the

ratepayers of the municipality. If the St. Kilda Council could not have control of the foreshore, it might have to ask the Fore Shore Committee to take over the responsibility of providing adequate bathing facilities for the general public. He did not think the secretary realised the tremendous responsibility to the Council the beach really was.

Continuing, Councillor Unsworth wrote that the secretary of the Fore Shore Committee did realise, that it had been necessary, in the past, for the Council to go to the Fore Shore Committee, and to ask for permission to do certain things. The proposal that the St. Kilda Council should take over the duties of the Fore Shore Committee was certainly not a "hurried snatch of control." Such a step had been openly advocated many times during the past five years. Two members, out of four members of the Fore Shore Committee were members of the Council's sub-committee, and those two had agreed to the resolution, sent to the Council, and both of them had stated that the St. Kilda Council was the proper body to control the foreshore. Four councillors were on the Fore Shore Committee, and the two other members, making together six members of the Fore Shore Committee, were St. Kilda residents. The Government had withdrawn its financial support to the Fore Shore Committee. There was no reason why the foreshore should be under the control of the Government any longer.

The question whether the St. Kilda Council or the Fore Shore Committee should be in control of the St. Kilda beach lands was further elucidated by the secretary of the Fore Shore Committee. It was quite clear to those looking on, that not only did the Council, and the Committee, view the question from entirely different pole points of view, but also, that the Fore Shore Committee, was quite satisfied with its position as the body in possession. With a comprehensive sweep of the hand the corporate body of committee men said : "Look at the beaches that we have beautified. Have we not justified ourselves ?" And the onlooker who saw only the beach scene of beauty before him agreed, undoubtedly with what was already admitted to be the case. The Fore Shore Committee had justified itself by its works. But while the Fore Shore Committee, in a somewhat self-complacent mood, pursued its good works, the Council was subject to adverse criticisms, for its alleged supineness, in

neglecting to provide this, and that convenience, upon the beach. The Fore Shore Committee was not suspected of being an impediment to any enterprise the St. Kilda Council might have displayed had the shore lands been quite open to the overlordship of the Council. Without the Council had been prepared to override the Fore Shore Committee, a difficult and unpolitic action to take, and which would probably have led to ministerial protests, and to Supreme Court injunctions, the Council had to bear the brunt of unjust criticisms, and to suffer public odium caused by the incorrect impression, and by unfair statements made by outside correspondents, appearing in newspapers.

The secretary of the Fore Shore Committee replied, on November 27, 1926, in "The Argus" newspaper, to Councillor Unsworth. The secretary says in his letter that Councillor Unsworth "states that the St. Kilda Bathing Company's site only recently came into the hands of the St. Kilda Council, and that it was too late to prepare a plan this year. There may be something in this, but the Council has bought out all private bathing enterprises on the beach, and the bathing question was vital years before it bought the baths. When it invested the ratepayers' money, surely it had a plan in its mind. If so, what is the plan? It bought the interest in the women's baths, and obtained a lease for 20 years and four months from March 1, 1919. A covenant in the lease was that it must construct new buildings within seven years of the date of the lease, and remove existing overlapping buildings on the beach, but nothing has been done."

"The St. Kilda Shore Committee offered free of charge all the land ever asked for by the Council. There has been no conflict on this point. The coveted lawns, shrubberies, flower beds, pathways, rockeries, and tea kiosks, the result of the St. Kilda Shore Committee's enterprise over 20 years, have nothing whatever to do with the bathing question. The Council assumed the responsibilities for bathing facilities. It is idle to associate the two distinct things, and to argue that any but the Council is to blame for failure to provide bathing facilities. Councillor Unsworth makes a hopeless, if valiant, attempt at justification. I unhesitatingly say that, had there been no public trust (which the Fore Shore Committee is) with one charter, purpose, and objective, there would be little or no reclamation or beautification

at St. Kilda foreshore. If proof be wanted, let me ask what has the Council done in beautification for the people of Elwood? It is the committee of management appointed by the Government to manage those neglected areas, in addition to being the Municipal Council in control. Look at the Elwood picture, right down to Head Street, Brighton, from Dickens Street, St. Kilda, and then turn to the Shore Committee's picture at St. Kilda. The Government contributed £13,000 to its St. Kilda Shore Committee. The Council contributed less than £5000, and the Shore Committee has raised £42,000. One of its members, out of his own pocket, gave about £1500, another lent £1300 and asked for no interest. One was the late Mr. Stenhouse and the other the late Mr. Carlo Catani."

"It is ridiculous to say the work is completed. Every rood that is beautified shows up the next rood. Maintenance and water connections follow. The work will never be done any more than it will be at the Botanic Gardens. 'New occasions teach new desires.' The Council's 'majority' to take away the foreshore is only the casting vote of the Mayor, who also had a deliberative vote. It is sheer presumption to state that any period was fixed for the termination of the Committee's work. Its difficulties have been financial. The Council, which contributed £200 a year, and which draws about £300 a year in rates from beach shows, might have hurried matters along had it desired. . . . I have dwelt on the national aspect of St. Kilda beach on many occasions. I again contend that it is not a local institution. I cannot, however, improve upon the words of the present Minister for Lands in his reply to the Yacht Club's recent application for more land when he said :—'These reserves are more than a small matter. They are national. They are on the edge of a large city with an ever-increasing population, visited by people from all over the country, in fact from all over the world. . . . I must look at the whole matter from a national and not a State viewpoint.' "

The Minister of Lands, in his statement, that the reserves were national, when replying to the deputation from the St. Kilda Yacht Club, was speaking to a request for a further encroachment on the shore lands, by an extension of the Yacht Club's premises, an alienation of Crown lands already dedicated permanently for the use of the public for all time. To place a request of the St.

Kilda Council to regain the control of the lands of the Fore Shore, in the same category, as a request of a private sporting club, for a piece of the land referred to as already dedicated to the use of the public, is simply mixing the issues in irrelevant confusion. The statement that the lands were national was only a re-echo of Councillor O'Donnell's remark made on January 22, 1923. The point was, too, that, if the foreshore was a national responsibility, and "not merely a local concern of St. Kilda," as Councillor O'Donnell pointed out, then it followed, that the provision of bathing facilities at St. Kilda, was a national responsibility, and the St. Kilda Council, as the administering steward of any scheme that came within the sphere of its municipality, was entitled to Government support, and Government assistance.

In pursuance of the St. Kilda Council's intention, with regard to the control of the foreshore, to wait on the Minister of Lands, the following councillors were introduced, on December 15, 1926, to the Minister, by the Honorable F. W. Eggleston: —The Mayor, Councillor Gray, and Councillors O'Donnell, Cummings, Taylor, Morley, Alford, Dawkins, and Unsworth. The Hon. Sir Frank Clarke attended to support the deputation. Contrary to the usage of Ministerial adjudication of questions, placed before Ministers, an apparently official forecast of the coming results of the interview appeared in a Melbourne newspaper. The premature paragraph stated : "It is understood that the Minister, and his colleagues, are opposed to any change, and that the deputation would be informed to that effect." If this paragraph was not "inspired," and some of the councillors had no doubt but that was its genesis, then it was, a "press indiscretion" of an ascertained fact, that was given to some pressman confidentially. If that were so even then someone, in the Department, had been guilty of divulging a foregone conclusion, and the Council deputation was judged and defeated before the councillors had an opportunity to state their case. No satisfaction was obtained from the Minister, when he was asked, by whose authority the paragraph was published? The Minister was reminded, that the Fore Shore Committee was brought into existence in 1906, by the St. Kilda Council asking the Government to create such a Fore Shore Trust to undertake the beautification of the foreshore. On that Committee, the Council was represented, and the Committee had been generously assisted by various Ministries.

During the interview with the Minister it was mentioned that the Government subsidy, towards the cost of the Fore Shore reclamations and beautifications had been withdrawn. The official report of the meeting, and the result of the deputation, in the Council minute book, is a long one, and the opposing views as to the control, or the non-control of the foreshore by the Fore Shore Committee are equitably stated. The fact remains, however, that the newspaper's "indiscretion" revealed the truth. The Minister stated he did not consider, that sufficient reasons had been advanced to justify him in taking away the control of the foreshore, from the Fore Shore Committee, and giving it to the St. Kilda Council. In other words, the request was refused.

Important recommendations were made to the St. Kilda Council, by its Open Sea Bathing Committee, on the night of March 14, 1927. The recommendations were :—

"That, in the opinion of the Open Sea Bathing Committee, bathing facilities must be provided on the beach, and that whatever scheme is adopted, provision should be made for a still water swimming pool, to provide sufficient accommodation for the holding of carnivals, and Olympic games.

"That, in order to provide for the foregoing facilities, it is considered necessary that £100,000 be provided, and before doing anything further in the matter a deputation from the Council should approach the Government, to ascertain what financial assistance, if any, can be relied upon."

The recommendations were launched on stormy waters. By a majority vote, they were referred back to a special meeting of the Public Works Committee. Feeling was tense, in, and out of the Council, on the subject. Some declared that the scheme had gone to the Public Works Committee, to have said privately over it a funeral oration as a lost hope. The proposed expenditure of £100,000 staggered some Melbourne people, and the suggestion of a dancing palais was criticised. This Dance Palais proposed was to afford material, for an official jibe, at the St. Kilda Council, and the jibe was published by the secretary of the Fore Shore Committee.

CHAPTER XXX.

The Fore Shore Committee and Its Doings—The Council's Bathing Pavilions—West Beach Residents' Protests—Fore Shore Committee's Objections—Clash of Authority—Public Want Baths—The Council Asserts Its Powers—Pavilions Are Built—Council and Committee Agree to Disagree—Carlo Catani, the Spirit of Beach Beauty—The Catani Memorial Clock Tower—Andrew Stenhouse Presents Captain Cook's Statue—Point Ormond and Marine Parade Beautifications.

THE secretary of the St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee, at the time (March, 1927) that the Public Works Committee of the St. Kilda Council, was considering, at a special meeting, the recommendations of the Council's Open Sea Bathing Committee for a comprehensive £100,000 bathing scheme, wrote a letter to a Melbourne newspaper stating that he "hailed with delight any attempt to provide adequate bathing facilities for St. Kilda." He desired to express "an opinion on the St. Kilda Council's £100,000 improvement scheme." He hoped that the St. Kilda bathing scheme was not wholly dependent on a big Government contribution. "The Government," he stated, "stopped its contribution of £500 per annum, to its own reserves, at St. Kilda, two years ago (1924), and it may be only raising false hopes for the St. Kilda Council to expect much . . ." Continuing, the secretary wrote :—"The question of providing a dancing palais in the proposed building is another detail. Already within a hundred yards of the sea we have the Palais de Danse, Wattle Path, Carlyon's, also splendid semi-private dancing accommodation at the St. Kilda Yacht Club, the Army and Navy Club, and the St. Kilda Swimming and Life Saving Club. Further, the Palais de Luxe . . . is not far distant. Would a new dancing palais, with expensive orchestra, etc., pay? I think not. The supply at present is greater than the demand.

"I fear the shopkeeping ratepayers of St. Kilda would protest if there be anything more provided than a cafeteria, with tea, coffee, etc., for visitors to the baths. The St. Kilda shore committee derives about £1,000 from its refreshment rooms and ice cream and soft drinks stall, but no other class of commercial undertaking may be allowed on the people's reserves.

"Again, is it to be open sea bathing? And what are the minimum charges? These are important details."

This candid, and critical, letter did not help the position. Though the letter purported to be a free lance criticism, it was inevitable that the public mind should associate the writer with his office, and attach official importance to a letter that was not flattering to the St. Kilda Council. The communion of interests, and of efforts, between the Council and the Fore Shore Committee were so close that anyone, considering the position, might have expected to find a co-ordination of action between the Committee, and the Council, whatever difficulties there were to be overcome, in the task of placing adequate bathing facilities, on the St. Kilda Beach, but it was not altogether so. The corporate mind of the Council, harassed by a guerrilla-like fire of irresponsible and illinformed criticism, turned to the Fore Shore Committee, and exclaimed, more in sorrow, than in anger, "Et to Brute !" The Fore Shore Committee, the corporate apostle of beauty, that the St. Kilda Council had been largely instrumental in placing on the wild wastes of the sand and rubbish- choked West Beach, became inclined to observe the letter of its powers, more than the spirit of those powers. The powers were elastic enough to allow the closest co-operation, with every gesture made by the Council, in the direction of improving the facilities for sea bathing, on the St. Kilda beach. The beach and its future, were more important to the St. Kilda Council, than the existence of a temporary committee of trust, admirable though the trust was. The committee had its work to do, and then, laden with honors, to be begone. The Fore Shore Committee had lingered, zealously working, on the beach longer than it had been expected to do. Its plea for so doing was that its work of beautification had occupied more time than had been foreseen. That was true, and quite a legitimate explanation, and accepted, without question, by the Council.

At the meeting of the Council, held on June 18, 1928, an animated discussion took place, on the question of accepting the tender of Messrs. T. R. & L. Cockram, for the erection of open sea bathing pavilions at Beaconsfield Parade, Marine Parade, and Elwood. The contract price was £31,426. The veteran councillor, and chairman of the Fore Shore Committee, Councillor O'Donnell, opposed the recommendation of the St.

Kilda Council's Public Works Committee, urging the Council to accept the tender. In support of the recommendation, Councillor Unsworth asserted that the new pavilions would attract 30,000 people to St. Kilda, and that financially the pavilions would show a profit. Councillor Taylor observed that the existing open sea bathing facilities which were free, cost the Council £1,000 a year. Tested by a majority vote, the tender was accepted to erect the three pavilions, on the resolution of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Morley.

By way of contrast, to show what changes are brought about through lapses of time, we quote from an old municipal advertisement, dated fifty-eight years ago, authorised by the St. Kilda Council. The newspaper notice warns St. Kilda ratepayers, and others, "that by-law No. 52 of the Borough of St. Kilda, dated March 11, 1872, does not allow anyone to use the beach, within the Borough of St. Kilda, for the purpose of bathing, (except within one, or other of the bathing establishments) between the western drain, and the main drain, and which two points are defined by posts, and boards, erected by order of the Council. Only children, under ten years of age, between the hour of eight, in the morning, and eight, at night, are allowed to use the prohibited area. £10 penalty. George Sprigg, Town Clerk ; D. McNaughton, Mayor." It will be observed in this advertisement that the town clerk takes precedence of the mayor.

For a month, after the St. Kilda Council accepted the tender for building the three bathing pavilions, the problem of providing for open sea bathing, on the beach, seemed to be happily solved. But no. Things were not quite so simple. The St. Kilda Council had engaged itself in contract, and it followed that if it broke the contract, it was liable to an action-at-law. There was no thought of any such breach of contract. The contractor had just to go ahead, at least, so it appeared, when, in July, the Fore Shore Committee, wrote to the St. Kilda Council, for the purpose of pointing out to the councillors, that before the Council could proceed with the building of bathing pavilions, or any other conveniences of that nature, the Council must have the Fore Shore Committee's approval of the site proposed to be selected, and also of the plans of the proposed building. The ease for the Fore Shore Committee, as stated by Councillor O'Donnell, was, that the Committee was acting within its rights.



OPEN SEA BATHING PAVILION, MARINE PARADE.



THE ST. KILDA BATHS.

Destroyed by fire, 18th November, 1925.

Complaints, he explained, had been received by the Fore Shore Committee asserting that the west beach residents objected to the proposed pavilion, and in view of that objection, the Committee wanted to know what were the facts? So far as the St. Kilda Council was concerned, the Committee merely desired that the plans should be submitted to the Committee, so that the engineers of the Committee and Council could confer on the plans.

The complaints, referred to by the Chairman of the Committee had been already the subject of a deputation to the St. Kilda Council, from some of the residents of the west beach. They had protested against the erection of a bathing pavilion on the west beach. The position was disclosed in a letter of complaint, to "The Argus." The writer of the letter said:- The Council intends to take 180 feet frontage from Beaconsfield Parade, with a depth of 46 feet seaward, thus spoiling our view. We pointed out that if these buildings were erected they would monopolise practically all sand space. The present dressing-sheds require remodelling only on the existing site. The women's dressing sheds are 70 feet long by 14 feet wide, and the men's dressing-sheds 76 feet long by 14 feet wide. If the Council altered its plan to make the sheds 32 feet wide instead of 46 feet, the sheds would be level with the clubhouse, thus leaving a little sand for children to play on. As we received no satisfaction from the Council of St. Kilda, we have approached the Fore Shore Committee."

When the powers of a body like the St. Kilda Council are questioned by a minor power, within the city's gate, two courses are open to the Council, to give way, or to proceed. The Council elected to retain its sovereignty, as a corporate municipal body, and to pass by the claim of the Fore Shore Committee to suzerainty over the sands of St. Kilda, so far as the Committee was to determine whether, or not, the St. Kilda Council was within its rights to erect, without the Committee's permission, the bathing pavilions.

The St. Kilda Council took exception to the action of the St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee in requesting, from the Council, a written application for the site, on which to erect the projected bathing pavilions. The Minister of Lands supported the Fore Shore Committee, which support was not unexpected, since the

Committee was a semi-Government body. He expressed his surprise at the way the Fore Shore Committee's letter of protest had been received by the St. Kilda Council. He said that the foreshore was under the control of the Committee, appointed by the Ministry. He asserted imperatively, but somewhat prematurely, that before the Council could proceed with any building programme, it must have the approval of the Fore Shore Committee.

Public opinion was behind the Council. The sea-side bathers of Melbourne wanted the pavilions, and the public was not in sympathy with the attempts of the Fore Shore Committee to enforce the right it claimed to possess, to say when, and where, the St. Kilda Council should build bathing pavilions. The Council did not think the Committee had that right, and decided to go on, much as the waves went on rolling when King Canute told them to stop. This little official thunderstorm cleared the heated atmosphere, along the beach front, admirably, and the parties, to the argument, agreed to agree to differ on the point raised. The Lands Department shrugged its shoulders, a wilful council must have its way ! The Council could not be arrested, for trespass within a few paces of its own front door. And so the fetish of imaginary shore boundary lines was killed by a common sense action.

Before the end of the year (November, 1928) the sun was shining once more, and the Minister of Lands was amicably notifying the St. Kilda Council, that it had been appointed, as a Council of Management of the areas, on which the new bathing pavilions, at the Marine Parade, and Beaconsfield Parade, were being erected. The pavilion area, at Elwood, was already in the official control of the Council, and was, and is, quite outside the jurisdiction of the Fore Shore Committee. The effect of the Minister's letter, pace the usual declaration in the Government Gazette, was to give the Council official control of the areas, it had already masterfully placed under its municipal wing.

At the time the Council decided to erect these three new dressing pavilions, there were six bathing sheds on the St. Kilda beaches, but their accommodation was very limited. St. Kilda has a beach frontage of 21 miles. There are three separate locations adopted for open sea bathing, viz.:—The West Beach, the Marine Parade, and Elwood. Open sea bathing pavilions



BATHS IN COURSE OF RECONSTRUCTION, 1931.

have been erected at each such locations. They are of reinforced concrete, each 180 feet long by 46 feet wide. At each pavilion accommodation is provided for both men and women. In the men's section there are 756 lockers, 8 cold water showers, 4 W.C.'s, 9-stall urinal and 3 lavatory basins. In the women's section there are 572 lockers, 8 cold water showers, 6 W.C.'s and 3 lavatory basins. The administrative section consists of two offices, and one general store, and giving separately controlled ingress for men and boys to the male section and for women and girls to the female section. The store contains six tiers of shelving to carry bathing costumes, towels, etc. Ingress is by means of turnstiles with automatic recorders, and egress by one-way turnstile, of which there are two to each section.

The enclosed swimming baths are now undergoing reconstruction, and the enclosed bathing facilities consist of two distinct pools, adjoining each other ; that for men being 190 yards by 65 yards with water practically over the whole area at all tides. The ladies' cover an area of 190 yards by 56 yards, which contains a good area of sandy beach suitable for very young children in charge of parents, and is an entirely new structure of all reinforced concrete with dressing cubicles, fresh water showers, retiring rooms with all conveniences, and area for sun bathing.

.There are hot sea water baths-19 for men and 9 for women with massage room for men. The hot sea water is provided on an up-to-date circulating system, sufficient to meet all demands.

Gymnasiums are provided for men, 82 feet x 43 feet, and women 54 feet x 35 feet, kiosks for ice cream, confectionery, soft drinks, etc. A main cafe 58 feet x 52 feet and open-air cafe 40 feet x 33 feet, kitchen, servery and retiring rooms for both sexes and caretaker's quarters. The main cafe has a parquet floor, making an ideal place for dancing, etc.

By November, 1928, the bathing pavilions, and the business concerning them, was approaching the time, when their office management would be classed as routine work. On the fifth of that month, the Public Works Committee of the St. Kilda Council, made a recommendation to the Council, which was adopted, that separate tenders be invited for the lease of the open sea bathing pavilions, at Beaconsfield Parade, Marine Parade, and Elwood,

for a period ending April 30, 1931, subject to conditions, embodying regulations for the control of such pavilions, and scale of charges, and for the facilities to be provided therein. Then we find the Council, acting as the Committee of Management of the Elwood Reserves, asking the Board of Land and Works, to make, under Section 181 of the Land Act 1915, regulations for the Management, and Use of the Open Sea Bathing Pavilion at Elwood, in accordance with a draft submitted by the Council. Regulations for the other pavilions followed. Still later, December 3, 1928, the Public Works Committee of the Council recommended successfully to the Council, the acceptance of a tender for the lease of the open sea bathing pavilion at Elwood, at a rental of £1,000 per year. By December 17, the Council is inviting tenders for the purchase of the material of the old bathing shelter at Elwood, stored at the Council's depot, and for the purchase, and removal of the old bathing shelters, at Marine Parade, and Beaconsfield Parade. On January 29, 1929, the Council accepted the tenders for the lease of the open sea bathing pavilion, at Beaconsfield Parade, for a period ending April 30, 1931, at a rental at the rate of £600 per annum, and for the open sea bathing pavilion, at the Marine Parade, for a period ending April 30, 1931, at a rental at the rate of £800 per annum. The material of the old shelters brought £11—and so ended, for the time being, the evolutionary movement for freedom for mixed bathing and for open sea bathing. For a while, anyway, the St. Kilda Council had solved the difficult problem, that provoked so much feeling, and discussion.

We have now arrived at the final phase of the beach bathing problem, for the present generation, on the beaches of St. Kilda. What may lie ahead, what further facilities for bathing it may become necessary to provide, cannot be prophesied here. The remaining baths of the old era, two baths, one for women, one for men, had reached a period of decrepitude, sun-blistered, weather-worn, sagging, worn out; totally out of harmony, with the picture of modern improvements, on the foreshore, beside the pier. The baths' days were numbered, but they remained pending the Council's decision of its next move in the bathing provision problem. The Council decided to build, on the old baths' sites, enclosed baths for men, and for women, and the Council communicated its intentions to the Minister of Lands.



NEW BATHS—LADIES' SECTION.

At the Council meeting held on November 4, 1929, a letter was received from the Minister, in which he said, with regard to the Council's proposals, for enclosed bathing facilities at St. Kilda, the Government was not prepared to make a "substantial grant," nor to provide a loan, at a low rate of interest, but the Government was willing to accept the surrender of the existing leases for the men, and women's, baths, and to issue, in lieu thereof, a lease for the proposed amalgamated site, for the maximum term of 21 years. Amending legislation, he said, would be sought, to extend the term of the lease for 49 years. The amount of insurance money, held by the Treasury, was to be made available for the new buildings. There were other contingent clauses, relating to sub-leasing, which, in the circumstances of the Council's intentions, did not apply. Councillor Unsworth moved, and Councillor O'Donnell seconded, "That the Council accepts the terms set out in the Minister's letter, of the 21st October, 1929, in reply to its representations, on the subject of enclosed bathing facilities, and that, subject to the provisions of the Local Government Act, as to borrowing of money, the Council proceed with the construction on the lines of the scheme, adopted at its meeting on February 19, 1929." At the meeting referred to, the Council decided to borrow £66,700, and of that amount, to earmark £45,000 for the building of enclosed baths for men, and women. At the time of writing (October, 1930), these baths are under construction.

Though immaterial differences of opinion are to be found that have existed in the relations between the St. Kilda Council, and the St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee, on various points, it must be understood that those variances when they had arisen, were recognised, on both sides, to be honest differences, and ones that arose from the contemplation of the foreshore from different points of view. The St. Kilda Council has not, at any time, restricted the measure of its generous praise to the excellent work done by the Fore Shore Committee. The work itself has, with the liberal aid of the St. Kilda Council, proceeded, so far as the work itself was concerned, without any friction. Many pleasant memories remain among the public-spirited men, associated together, in the task of reclaiming, and beautifying the St. Kilda foreshore.

One man's name is indissolubly linked with the beautification of the St. Kilda foreshore. No description of the beauties of the foreshore at St. Kilda can hereafter be complete, without mention of the creator of its charming shorescapes, Carlo Catani. Mr. H. O. Allan, the secretary of the Fore Shore Committee, wrote in a newspaper article :—"I cannot end this short article without paying a tribute to the late Carlo Catani. I took part with him in starting the St. Kilda Fore Shore Trust. I did the legal, literary, and financial part of the job, and he, a landscape genius, if ever there was one, the engineering work, together with the beautification. What a man ! His monuments are everywhere—at Buffalo, the Alexandra Gardens, St. Kilda, Donna Buang . . . He saw possibilities to which others were blind."

When the late Carlo Catani retired from the position of Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department, after an honourable career of forty-one years of service, the St. Kilda Council invited him on May 21, 1917, to be present at its meeting for the purpose of expressing its corporate gratification that Mr. Catani would retain his position as Government representative on the St. Kilda Fore Shore Trust. Alas for the uncertain tenure of men's lives! On July 29, 1918, the Council recorded in its minute book its great sense of loss in the death of Carlo Catani, the master of the beauty of the St. Kilda foreshore.

On August 12, a resolution was passed, by the Council, to confer with the St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee, to consider how to worthily perpetuate the memory of the late Mr. Catani, and to mark the city of St. Kilda's appreciation of his art services so generously given for the city's beautification, and advancement. Some little time was to pass, but the St. Kilda Council did not lose sight of its intention to honour, by a permanent memorial, the memory of Carlo Catani. His often expressed desire to see a clock tower erected on the foreshore beach of St. Kilda was recalled—when the question of what form the permanent memorial to him should take. The Fore Shore Committee was prepared to donate £750, provided the Council would give pound for pound.

A conference was held in March, 1930, between the representatives of the Council, and the Fore Shore Committee. There were present, Councillor Unsworth, Acting Mayor; Councillors

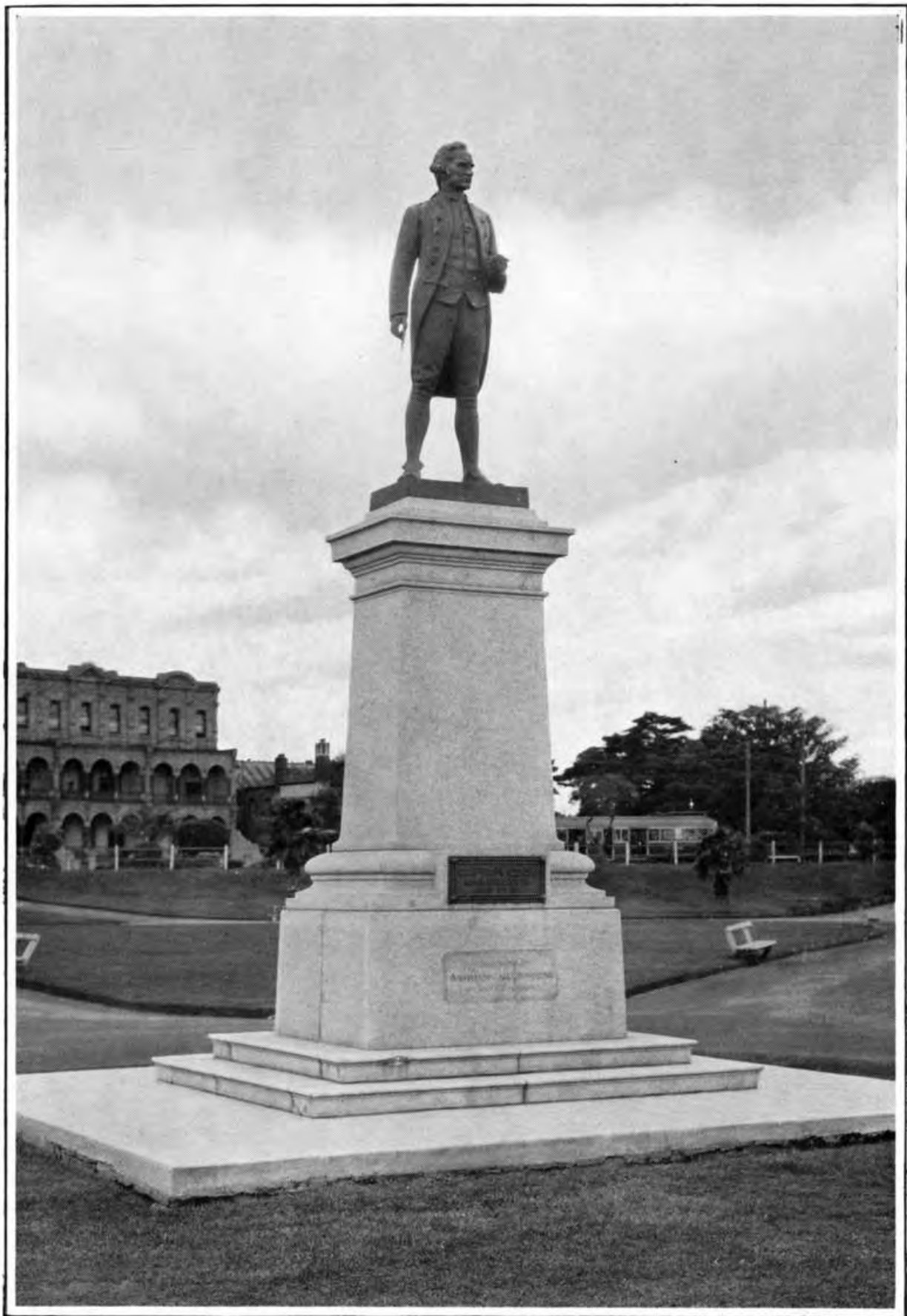
Morley, and Cummings, and of the Fore Shore Committee Messrs. Thorn, Mackenzie, Wimpole, the Hon. Secretary of the Fore Shore Committee, H. O. Allan, and the Town Clerk of St. Kilda, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin, and the City Surveyor, Mr. R. T. Kelly, C.E. Mr. Chamberlin explained that the allocations of local carnivals, in past years, had left available the sum of £635. Messrs. H. F. and L. Phillips, of the Palais de Dance, had promised to donate £50 to the fund for the Catani Memorial Clock Tower, and the St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee, and the St. Kilda Council had agreed to share equally the balance of the cost of erecting the Memorial, which it was purposed to place on the present site of the Esplanade Band Stand.

Tenders were called for competitive designs for the tower, and the President of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects, Mr. T. J. Buchan, was made the honorary assessor. He handed his report to the Council, on July 14, 1930. Forty-six designs were submitted. The design placed first was inspired by the Italian Campanile, and was based on the best traditions of Italian renaissance architecture. It will, when erected, contrast pleasantly with the War Memorial, near by to its proposed site. The architect was Norman E. Schefferle.

As one reads these records, there comes a sense of the great service members of the Fore Shore Committee have rendered to the public, a feeling admiration, for the Committee, and for the Council, both of which must be judged by their works, and by their visible works they are judged by the public, weighed in the scale, and not found wanting. The death of Carlo Catani was the greatest of losses to Council, to the Committee, and to the public. His main designs have been, broadly speaking, completed, but the personal touch—the finishing strokes will be, as far as possible, in the master's manner, but they will not be from his hand. Untimely, too, that his colleague, the forceful, loyal secretary of the Fore Shore Committee, Mr. H. O. Allan, should have died so soon after attending the Catani Clock Tower Memorial meeting. On July 14, 1930, the St. Kilda Council deplored his loss. The councillors spoke of his long, and his honourable service to the State, and of the great interest he had always shown, as a resident of the municipality, in the progress of the city of St. Kilda.

One very fine illustration of public citizenship remains permanently to impress, all who came hereafter, that among the citizens of St. Kilda, were generous men. While the statue of Captain Cook stands on the foreshore of St. Kilda, the name of Andrew Stenhouse must be associated with it, and his name remembered as a synonym for a generous benefactor to St. Kilda. Andrew Stenhouse was an old man, a retired contractor, and he lived at "Willyama," Beaconsfield Parade, St. Kilda. He was not, in the days of his vigorous manhood, a resident of St. Kilda. He followed his calling in New Zealand, and elsewhere, as far afield as Broken Hill. He built the spire of the Christchurch Cathedral, in New Zealand. He settled down in St. Kilda, in the placid evening of his days, and he was 81 years of age when he died. The work of the reclamation of the St. Kilda foreshore was going on in front of his dwelling. In his daily walks, he became interested in the work, and then, his interest took an appreciative form. At the time, 1913, the Fore Shore Committee had been in existence for seven years, and it had spent £20,000 on the beautification scheme. Mr. Stenhouse provided, at his own expense, seating accommodation and marble topped table in Shakespeare Grove, for picnickers. He paid for the erection, and equipped, at the cost of £100 each, two life saving stations, one on the West Beach, the other on Marine Parade, opened on December, 1913. These benefactions were followed by his gift of Captain Cook's statue.

The unveiling of the statue of Captain Cook, given to the people of Victoria by Andrew Stenhouse, and erected by the St. Kilda Shore Committee, upon the West Beach of St. Kilda, took place on Monday, December 7, 1914, by the Governor, Sir Arthur Stanley, in the sight of a gathering of Commonwealth and State notables, and also of hundreds of residents of St. Kilda. The Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Alderman D. V. Hennessy; the Chief Secretary, Hon. John Murray ; the Minister of Lands Hon. H. S. Lawson; the President of the Senate, Senator Givens; Hon. W. A. Watt, M.H.R.; the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Hewison ; and the Town Clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin; the Councillors of St. Kilda, the Mayors of Brighton, Malvern, and Prahran, accompanied each with their town clerk—all were there.



CAPTAIN COOK'S MEMORIAL.

Mr. Stenhouse, with a few words, presented his gift of the statue of Captain Cook. He was more concerned to pay well-deserved tributes to the admirable work done by Mr. Carlo Catani, and Mr. H. O. Allan, the Secretary of the Fore Shore Trust Committee than with the gift. The Governor, Sir Arthur Stanley, declared that Captain Cook was the supreme type of what British captains were, in the days when the world was wide, and its unknown highways called to adventurous spirits to undertake works of exploration, which they did in vessels that seamen of to-day might well hesitate to sail in, upon such perilous pilgrimages, across unknown seas.

While we witnessed the unveiling of Captain Cook's statue, on the shoreland of St. Kilda, we thought of how appropriate the situation was by the sea for a great captain, whose life had been a storm tossed one, and how the accidents of life often determine careers, in short that there is "a divinity that shapes our lives, rough hew them as we will." Had not James Cook, the grocer's boy, been accused of taking a shilling from the shop drawer of his master, he probably would never have gone to sea, and there would be no statue of him on the foreshore of St. Kilda. His master, the grocer, found the missing shilling had fallen into a crack of the drawer, and thereupon he withdrew his accusation, but young Cook, indignant, exclaimed, "Once a thief, always a thief," and he discharged himself, and, looking for work, became a ship's boy.

The statue is a replica of the statue by Sir John Tweed, R.A., which is erected on the West Cliff at Whitby, England, Cook's birthplace, the town wherein he was so badly used when a grocer's boy. The Fore Shore Committee presented Mr. Stenhouse with a small replica of his gift. The statue cost over £1,000, and the whole structure with pedestal cost £1,500. The monumental base has the inscription, "Andrew Stenhouse, 3rd December, 1914, Captain Cook, H.M.S. Endeavor, 2nd August, 1763."

When Captain Currie, one of the original members of the Fore Shore Trust Committee, died, Andrew Stenhouse was appointed a member of the committee to fill the vacated position. Later, Andrew Stenhouse supplied bronze castings for the base of the statue. These bronze plates contain the names of the officers, and the ship's company of the "Endeavor." Altogether it is an

interesting and historical monument, in several ways, and a unique contribution of distinction to the general beauty of the St. Kilda foreshore. Sir Arthur Stanley, when he spoke, at the unveiling of the monument, suggested that there should be a line of statues of England's worthies, extending along the foreshore. An attempt was made, in the year 1915, to persuade the Matthew Flinders Memorial Committee to place the statue of Captain Flinders, R.N., on the foreshore of St. Kilda. The St. Kilda Council was prepared to contribute £100 towards the expense of doing so, and the Fore Shore Committee was willing to donate £600. Though a very strong case was made out for the St. Kilda site, the statue was placed, closely tucked under the shadow of the western wall of the Anglican Cathedral, in Swanston Street, within a few yards of Flinders Street, alongside one of the most densely traffic congested street junctions in Melbourne. How the Flinders Memorial Committee reconciled that extraordinary selection of a cramped position with the calling of Captain Matthew Flinders remains, to this day, unfathomable to many who were interested in the question.

On October 27, 1928, a public gathering assembled at Captain Cook's statue on the St. Kilda foreshore to celebrate the 200th anniversary of his birth. The Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Unsworth presided, supported by the Councillors, and the Town Clerk. The memorial meeting was arranged by the Historical Society of Victoria. Professor Ernest Scott delivered an oration, in which he said that Captain Cook was the greatest navigator the world had ever had. At the celebration there were many representative bodies, including the Royal Society of St. George, and the Overseas League. Such a celebration, even if it were practicable, could not be reproduced at the foot of the statue of Matthew Flinders in Swanston Street. The setting would lack the spaciousness of the sea curtain, and of what appertains to the sea, all compressed into the lives of these two great and adventurous seamen.

Another benefactor of the city, in the interests of beauty, is Mr. Alexander Isaacson. At the south end of the Esplanade is the marble bust of a youth, which he presented to the city. In December, 1928, he gave to the Council a marble bust of a woman, the work of Bertini, the sculptor, dated 1811. It is a

very attractive piece of work, and is well called, "The Spirit of the Carnival." It stands in the foyer to the City Hall.

Change, immutable in its changing habit, is the keyword of the terrain of St. Kilda, changing conditions, changing appearances, the shore lands have changed. Point Ormond, the Red Bluff, was far enough away from human habitations to serve as the site of a quarantine station, a settlement of weatherboard houses, and tents, that indirectly gave to Elwood its first made road, for a road had to be roughed out through the tea tree to the cleared space of the quarantine ground. Time brings with its passage the cutting down of the Red Bluff, and time, too, sees every trace, even of the graves, of the quarantine station, swept away. A municipal council arises, and thoughts come of beautifying these old-time places, the historical memories of which scarcely have any lodgment in the minds of men, such a nature's eraser is time. The romantic suggestion, that seems to arise, when what existed in the past is mentioned, though the romance has not any justification in many cases, is blotted from sight by the glare of a modern extract from a Council minute book. The St. Kilda Council wrote to the Public Works Department in December, 1914, asking the authorities of that Department what they purposed doing with regard to improving the lands of the Point Ormond Reserve—the old quarantine ground has become a people's pleasure! The Minister of the Department said he had no funds available for the purpose, and added that as only about £500 was required to complete the scheme the Council might provide that amount. The St. Kilda Council was well versed in this official sparring, which generally preludes some action of a more or less satisfactory character. The Council, at heart, desired the Department to finish the scheme, and to complete the undertaking, because it was "eminently desirable that the work should be finished simultaneously, with the completion, and the opening of the extension of the tramway system, from the Elsternwick railway gates, via Glenhuntly Road, to the terminus at Point Ormond.

By February 15, 1915, the St. Kilda Council had so far made up its corporate mind, that it had agreed to inform the Minister of Public Works, that, subject to the scheme for the completion of the improvements at Point Ormond meeting with

the Council's approval, the Council was prepared to contribute one-third of the cost, not to exceed £235, of the cost of the work. The total cost was estimated at £700. The design of the improvements was plotted by the artistic genius of the foreshore, Carlo Catani. In March, everything was progressing so favourably that the Council asked the Lands Department to sanction the building of a refreshment kiosk, and at the same time delegating to the Council the powers of control necessary for it to become the Committee of Management of the Point Ormond Reserve. This power included that of leasing the kiosk. The completed designs showed a building, the cost of which was not to exceed £700, and the design was studiously made in conformity with the buildings already erected by the St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee. The Minister of the Lands Department agreed to these conditions, and the kiosk was built. Later, on March 29, 1915, the Government expressed its desire to provide £350, to pay for further improvements to the Point Ormond Reserve, provided the Council contributed a like sum. The Council, pleased at the prospect of the completion of the improvements, according to the Catani design, readily agreed to the Government's proposal, and promised to pay pound for pound up to the sum of £350. The Council, in addition, pressed upon the Government, the desirability of completing the work without delay. The Government desired to find work for the unemployed upon the Point Ormond Improvement Scheme (May 25th, 1915), and the work was set in hand. The Point Ormond Tramway Extension was opened to public traffic at 3 p.m. on June 4 of the same year. Since that time the reserve at Point Ormond has had its full share of attention from the Council. In the summer months Point Ormond Reserve is rendered attractive by having municipal band recitals given there.

During the comedy of red tape restrictions, it was asserted, by one of the official principals of the Fore Shore Committee, that the St. Kilda Council had control of the Marine Parade beaches for years, and it was asked: "What satisfactory account can the Council give of its stewardship?" A distressing picture of desolate beaches, along the Marine Parade, was word focalised and then the camera was swung round northward, to focalise the beauties of the foreshore under the control of the Fore Shore Committee. The contrast made was an effective appeal



SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEMORIAL, ALFRED SQUARE.
Unveiled by His Excellency Sir Reginald Talbot, 12th March, 1905.

to the eye of the public. No doubt the popular verdict went against the St. Kilda Council, regardless of the silent equities of the position. The Committee, too, had been subsidised, for a number of years, by the Government, with a £400 annual grant, and it had also, and has, a very profitable source of revenue, in the rentals for stands for beach shows. The St. Kilda Council has under its control (1930) a municipality with an area of 2,049 acres, upon which are built 11,115 houses, inhabited by about 42,085 people, and these people, and the streets they live in, demand many municipal services, and though the valuations for St. Kilda, 1928-29, was £1,069,478, and for 1929-30 £1,083,055, and St. Kilda's general rate 2/- in the £, and its revenue £127,942, for 1928-29, with assessments numbering 11,644, and ratepayers totalling 10,951, with a voters' roll of 9,845, it is obvious, that the St. Kilda Council has many claims on its large revenue, and also that the Council has other duties besides the one of beautifying the foreshore with its reserves. The Fore Shore Committee on the other hand, was created for the pleasant task of beautification, and that alone was its business, and its sole excuse for living, so, perhaps, the Committee's Hon. Secretary's jibe, at the St. Kilda Council, over the condition of the Marine Parade, was not quite a fair thrust.

The St. Kilda Council has been well informed, for years, on the possibilities of beautifying the shore lands and beaches, at the Marine Parade. The foreseeing Council has looked, with covetous eyes, on shoaling sandbanks, and seen how with an enclosing wall, and the subsequent filling in of the sandbanks enclosed, an area might be won from the sea, and the land, when top-dressed with garden soil, made into lawns, and beauty spots, the whole, when completed, to link up with the works of the Fore Shore Committee. The engineers of the Lands Department have conferred with Mr. R. T. Kelly, C.E., the City Surveyor, and the Councillors, and the Town Clerk, for several years, have been keenly interested in the scheme. General Hughes, when he retired from the Council, in his valedictory remarks, referred to the Great Scheme of land reclamation at the Marine Parade, with a certain longing, with a tinge of regret, with scarcely a hope, that, in his time, he would see the great work accomplished. The cost, he feared, was too great, but the thought of the foreshore line of beauty,

from the West Beach to Elwood, caused the eyes of the one time Chairman of the Parks and Gardens Committee to sparkle, in anticipation of something worth doing, still remaining to be done, to increase the loveliness of the beach front of the City of St. Kilda. Municipal dreams in St. Kilda have a way of becoming materialistic, and some wonderful things are done by the much criticised Council. At the present time (October, 1930) engineers of the Public Works Department, are engaged in checking an estimate of the cost of the sea wall, that forms part of the St. Kilda Council's foreshore reclamations scheme, at the Marine Parade. The Government has promised to contribute £7,000 towards the cost of the wall. The Council's estimated cost of the wall itself is £14,000. The dream of beauty is well on its way to become a reality.

CHAPTER XXXI.

South African War—Brighton Road State School Cadet Becomes Major-General Sir John Hoad—St. Kilda Men Enlist in Victorian Bushmen's Corps—Their Send-off—Memorial to Soldiers from St. Kilda—The Great War—Council and Citizens—Wonderful War Efforts at St. Kilda,—The St. Kilda Sailors' and Soldiers' Lounge—Councillors Who Enlisted, Brigadier-General Hughes—Lieut.-Colonel Duigan—Quartermaster Burnett Gray—The 14th Battalion—Presentation of Regimental Colours by His Excellency The Governor-General—The Rev. Andrew Gillison—His Heroism and Death at Gallipoli—St. Kilda Council's War Activities—St. Kilda Patriotic Committee—A Summary, of Work, and Collections—Returned Wounded Anzacs Entertained.

IN the year 1900 Britain became involved in the South African War. Then it was that the St. Kilda Council led the citizens in a movement to obtain money for the Empire Patriotic Fund. At the time, when the British suffered in its war operations, at the Tugela River, seventy-seven young men of St. Kilda volunteered for service in South Africa. Twenty four of them had been cadets at the Brighton Road State School, under the Head Teacher John Hadfield. The School Cadet Corps, profited by his training, for it was the best, and the largest, Cadet Corps in Victoria. It won many open competitions, including the blue ribbon prize, the Sargood Challenge Shield. One of the cadets, who had the advantages of being a member of the Brighton Road State School corps, was named John Hoad. He, in after life became Major General Sir John Hoad, Commander in Chief of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth. He died at Toorak, after a short illness, on October 6, 1911. His funeral took place on the Sunday following with full military honors. Heavy, continuous rain drenched the funeral party as they passed along the Dandenong Road, to the St. Kilda Cemetery. The largest crowd of spectators ever seen in Dandenong Road, watched the coffin, on a gun carriage, pass to the burial ground.

The young men of St. Kilda, who volunteered for war service, in South Africa were trained for enlistment in the Victorian Bushmen's Corps. Many of them who had to improve their rifle firing, obtained their practice at the Elwood Butts.

A final review of the men, well mounted, and with full accoutrement, markedly so, with rifles and new, stiff-looking bandoliers, took place in the Albert Park, and the crowds, standing along the red road cheered them, and wished the men "God speed !" They made a brave show, this band of young men "Off To The War," but neither they, nor the spectators, really knew what war meant.

Residents of St. Kilda, on March 1st 1900, gave to the young soldiers of St. Kilda, who had enlisted in the Victorian Bushmen's Corps, a "God's Speed" in the St. Kilda Town Hall. During the day, quite a gay display was made with bunting, and flags, suspended from ropes, stretched across Barkly Street, between Blessington Street and The Junction. The licensee of the Court House Hotel displayed a large flag of Australia, 18 x 12 feet. During the day the flag was stolen.

Edwin Knox, was the first of the St. Kilda volunteers to lose his life in South Africa by being drowned while bathing at Wonderboom. He was the son of the late H. M. Knox, the municipal valuator for St. Kilda. The St. Kilda Rifle Club, and the St. Kilda Tradesmen's Club, combined their efforts, to erect a memorial to perpetuate Trooper Edwin Knox's memory. The memorial took the form of a drinking fountain, which was placed at Cleve Gardens. When the reports of deaths in action followed on Knox's death, it was realised that individual memorials, where so many suffered, were a mistake, and that fugitive semi-private memorials missed the broad recognitions of the spirit of team sacrifice, made by groups of adventurous patriotic young men.

The Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Edward O'Donnell, saw that the war sacrifice, made by the young men of St. Kilda, called for a city memorial. In the year 1905, with the aid of fetes, subscriptions, and entertainments, a sum of £250 was obtained for that purpose. A unique design of Australian manufacture for the memorial was wanted and tenders were called for the work, and that of Mitcham Tessellated Tile Co. was accepted. The memorial is constructed in brick, covered by faience work. The supporting angles are formed to represent the trunks of gum-trees, branching out into leaves and cones under the main cornice, and the roots are shown on a bold projection above the base. Above the main cornice is a cross of a deep golden color, which stands out clearly from the green tone

of the general mass of work. One panel shows the names of the seven soldiers from St. Kilda who died. Two other panels record the names of the 58 who fought the Empire's battles and returned. On the fourth panel is the figure of a soldier, dressed in Australian khaki, and facing the sea. Above the main column is a wrought-iron pillar, supported by brackets, enriched with shields ; and under the golden cross rests a finely executed wreath on each panel. Arthur Peck was the honorary architect of the memorial.

The memorial was unveiled on Alfred Square on Sunday afternoon, March 12, 1905, by the Governor, Major-General Hon. Sir Reginald Arthur James Talbot, K.C.B. The Sixth Australian Regiment provided a guard of honor of 280 men. The Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor J. H. Pittard, the Councillors, and the Town Clerk, and many others were present. The St. Kilda Boys' Naval Brigade played "The Death of Nelson," and the united choirs of All Saints, Holy Trinity and Christ Churches sang the "Old Hundredth," and "God Save the King." After an address by His Excellency, he unloosened the Union Jack furled around the Memorial, and the eight buglers of the A.I.R. blew the "Last Post," the soldiers' "Good Night! Good Night!"

The names of the St. Kilda boys, who died in the South African War are:—

Corporal R. P. N. Robertson, killed in action at Middle Kraal, May 29th, 1901, aged 29.

Trooper Laurence Goudie killed in action at Wilmaranrust, June 12th, 1901, aged 21.

Trooper Edwin Knox died at Wonderboom, February 26th, 1901, aged 24.

Trooper M. A. Langley, killed in action at Frederikstad, January 5th, 1901, aged 22.

Trooper Leslie Stewart, killed in action at Witpoort, July 11th, 1901, aged 19.

Trooper John Whelan, killed in action near Walkerstroom, December 16th 1901, aged 23.

Trooper W. A. Rolls, died at Potcherstroom, May 29th, 1902, aged 29.

Such was the first experience of St. Kilda, in the sadness, and the heart break, which come, attendant shadows of death, with war. Even at that time, there were sinister signs of lowering war clouds, no less than the "mailed fist of Germany,"

in the European skies. The Prussian Hohenzollern, the Kaiser of Germany, had sent to the Boer President, Kruger, an ill-timed cablegram, that was, in its nature, hostile to Britain. And when the portentous time came—August 4, 1914, and Britain was forced to declare war on Germany, no one versed in European affairs was particularly surprised.

St. Kilda was but a point, in the British Pleiad, of the loyal war workers for the British Empire. Those thousands, and thousands, of workers, who formed the constellation were as the cluster of stars, unnumbered units, specks of diamond—like dust, and yet it was they, in the bulk, that made up the brilliance of the patriotic effort for King, and Motherland.

Great Britain declared war on August 4, 1914. Within ten days the women of St. Kilda had been called together by the Mayoress, Mrs. O'Donnell for the purpose of forming a local branch of the Red Cross. On August 31, 1914, Councillor J. H. Hewison was elected Mayor, and, with Mrs. Hewison, he consolidated the various war efforts of the citizens, which were designated the St. Kilda Patriotic League. The first organising secretary of the League was Mr. A. J. Punshon, and later Mr. W. F. Swanson took up the work. Directors of workers' activities under the Red Cross and Australian Comforts' Fund were Mrs. R. Hallenstein, Mrs. F. D. Michaelis and Mrs. J. McD. McKenzie. Miss Bessie Swan acted as Hon. Secretary to the local branches of the Red Cross and Australian Comforts' Fund throughout the whole period of war activity, and the Town Clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin, acted as Treasurer of all patriotic and Red Cross funds, in which work he was ably assisted by Mr. J. F. Jeans, the Chief Clerk. The name, "St. Kilda Patriotic League," embraced not only the Red Cross and Australian Comforts' Fund activities, but it extended its operations when necessary, and became active in the recruiting movement, war loan propaganda, as well as establishing a Waste Paper Depot, Home-made Cakes and Jam Shop, and also promoting other activities.

The St. Kilda Soldiers' Lounge was an entirely separate organisation, controlled at its inception, by representatives of the St. Kilda Patriotic League, and the Y.M.C.A., but early in its history, full control was assumed by the St. Kilda workers, under the presidency of Mrs. R. Hallenstein, with Mrs. R. G.

McCutcheon and Mrs. C. S. Crosby as Vice-Presidents, and Mr. Chamberlin Hon. Treasurer. The Lounge was opened in December, 1915, and finally closed in February, 1920. There were also Men's Sectional Committees, such as the Recruiting War Loan, and the Red Cross Carpentry Workers, formed as occasion demanded.

The chief responsibilities of carrying on St. Kilda's activities fell upon the "War" Mayors and Mayoresses, who were Cr. J. H. and Mrs. Hewison, 1914-1915 ; Cr. J. J. and Mrs. Love, 1915-1916; Cr. H. F. Barnet and Mrs. Nahum Barnet (Acting Mayoress), 1916-1917; and Cr. Edward and Mrs. O'Donnell, 1917-1918. Mrs. J. H. Hewison, in the later war years, was prominently associated with the Metropolitan Centres of War Organisations, and for her patriotic work, was awarded the Order of the British Empire.

When the St. Kilda Council assembled on August 24, 1914, it expressed through the Mayor, Councillor O'Donnell, the Council's enthusiastic support, with the part, Australia proposed to take, in defence of the Empire, in the present international crisis and it voted a sum of £200 towards the Patriotic Fund. The Council sang the National Anthem, and that was the loyal prelude, at St. Kilda, to the long passage that lay ahead through the fires of tribulation. St. Kilda may be said to have girded up its loins, and then to have bent its back, and to have started *pushing* to victory, with all its weight, and prepared to endure reverses with all its fortitude.

And so it was to be. There was no slacking of efforts in St. Kilda, during the war period. The volume of work done, and the persistency of endeavor, put forth by the Council, and the citizens were amazing. The councillors, the citizens, their wives, and their children, were out "to do their bit"—to win the war. On September 14, 1914 the Council decided that the positions of any officers, or employees going to the war, should be kept open until their return. The Council undertook to pay to their families any difference in salaries, or wages, between the amount paid to them by the Council, and the amount paid to them by the Defence Department.

Out of all the metropolitan cities the City of St. Kilda was incomparably the first one in providing innocent pleasures, and daily amusements for soldiers on leave. St. Kilda was the source of untold good to thousands of soldiers, who were at a loss,

when on leave from the training camps, to know where to spend an inexpensive, and entertaining evening, free from the temptations that they would possibly encounter in less public places. The efforts of the St. Kilda Council, powerfully helped by loyal citizens, encouraged in the soldier boys a healthy mental outlook, and no soldier, who, at one time, or another, was among the thousands of soldier men, who visited the St. Kilda Soldiers' Lounge, was any the worse for doing so.

Doubtless St. Kilda had great natural advantages, as a place where masses of soldiers could be entertained. Preeminently it is a place that lends itself to great galas, and to spectacular entertainments, on a large scale. At St. Kilda, also a profitable field lies whereon can be reaped, in cases of favored public appeals, large sums of money. Such galas were held, such spectacular entertainments were seen, such sums of money were collected. Every kind of festivity, ranging from the confetti battles of a Mardi-Gras carnival, to open air concerts, was, during the war, to be found at St. Kilda. Day and night the drive for money for the Red Cross, and kindred war purposes, continued. Before the greatest good could be obtained from the advantages of St. Kilda's environment, it was necessary that the whole of the public forces of citizens, and their wives' endeavors, should be organised, that, to use a phrase of the times, there should be "an efficient man behind the gun."

The Town Clerk, though no longer a young man, sought to enlist as a soldier for the Empire. The military medical officers halted him, on the ground, that he could not bear the strenuous, and continuous hardships, that were inseparable, from active war service. Apart from his personal disappointment, the decision of the medical men was a wise one. Frederick William Chamberlin was a more valuable fighting asset to the British Empire in his place, as Town Clerk of St. Kilda, and the organiser of the war activities of St. Kilda, than he would have been as a soldier. His invaluable talents for organisation, his professional knowledge of finance, reinforced by his restless untiring nervous energy, were favourably commented upon by the Victorian Government, the local Military High Command and indeed by all, who *knew* what wonderfully good work he was doing as the master mind of the secretarial, and administrative machinery, by aid of which the monster gala gather-



ST. KILDA SOLDIERS' LOUNGE.

ings, and the great appeals moved, and became successful ones, to the great honor of St. Kilda. In almost every community effort in St. Kilda the Town Clerk's influence was unobtrusively there.

We have mentioned the St. Kilda Soldiers' Lounge, the Rest Place, at St. Kilda that has now become historical. It was the most popular of any of the soldiers' public resorts, and deservedly so for it was the home of welcome, of song, of music and of refreshment. The soldiers felt that there they were "at home," at the "Diggers' Rest." These excellent results were obtained, through the untiring, sympathetic work of a company of enthusiastic St. Kilda women. A committee of St. Kilda residents, organised the Soldiers' Lounge in December, 1915. Mrs. R. Hallenstein was the director, and she was assisted by a battalion of young ladies, whose good fellowship with the soldiers was that of admiring sisters. Was it any wonder that the Soldiers' Lounge at St. Kilda was popular? The Lounge was projected for the purpose of establishing a rest house at St. Kilda for convalescent soldiers. To raise funds to do so, an Anzac afternoon was held at the St. Kilda Cricket Ground. As usual, there was no want of voluntary workers. The members of the St. Kilda Beach shows and theatres volunteered their services. There was a burlesque football match, and a tug-of-war. The public did its part by attending.

The Committee selected a site for the Lounge, which experience showed was suitable. The site was on the Lower Esplanade, on land that had once been occupied by optimistic men, who established a skating rink there and called it the Glideway. Much trouble had been taken to put down a good floor, with the aid of a steam roller, but the composition pavement cracked, and that was the end of the rink. The old rink bed formed a floor of sorts. The place then became 'The Daylight pictures' show, which show, in its turn, was replaced by another entertainment, in a building called the Comedy Theatre. The St. Kilda Soldiers' Lounge, in the first instance, was a part of an old refreshment room, at the back of the Comedy Theatre, and which room had been used by the promoters of the unsuccessful beach shows. The members of the St. Kilda Patriotic Committee, and the Young Men's Christian Association saw at once the obvious advantages the place presented, and they decided to acquire the building and it was opened as a Lounge on December 18, 1915.

In June, 1916, so well had the movement justified itself, that the Committee undertook the work of the extension of the premises. The Lounge eventually comprised a spacious room, with large sliding windows, through which the soldiers looked over the sands, to the waters of Hobson's Bay. A billiard table was provided, and the many volunteer women, with their diligent fingers, their daily gifts of flowers, made the Lounge the counterpart of a pleasant home, filled with smiling, and attentive hostesses. The place was decorated with pot plants, and a room was set apart, where refreshments were served free to soldiers by volunteer waitresses.

A fete took place to celebrate the opening of the reconstructed lounge on July 15, 1916. At the time Councillor J. J. Love was Mayor of St. Kilda, Her Excellency Lady Helen Munro Ferguson opened the enlarged Lounge, there being present in addition to the councillors of St. Kilda, and the Town Clerk, and a host of patriotic war workers, Senator Pearce, the Minister of Defence, and Charles F. Crosby, President of the Young Men's Christian Association. The Mayor paid high tribute, to the splendid work done, by the ladies of St. Kilda, under the direction of Mrs. Hallenstein. He stated that up to that time 30,000 soldiers had visited the Lounge. Upon the day the newly enlarged lounge was opened, a shipload of returned soldiers arrived in the morning and they were duly welcomed in Melbourne, by many strong posts, and the Returned Nurses', Sailors' and Soldiers' Fathers' Association. In the afternoon, many of them came, in a body, to the St. Kilda Lounge, and they were there received with the warmest of welcomes.

On July 29, His Excellency Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson came to see St. Kilda's famous Soldiers' Lounge, doubtless on the good report of his wife. It was well said by Councillor Barnet. that in the Lounge, one might see the Brotherhood of the Trenches, the Sisterhood of the Military Nurses. Certainly, here could be met soldiers whose home towns were in all parts of Australia. Special entertainments were organised, excellent concerts were given in the Lounge. On Sundays, special concert selections were given. One pleasing and notable occasion was on October 13, 1918, when the thanks of everybody connected with the Lounge were tendered to Miss Floris Levy, who had so often sang to the soldiers. The lady was on the eve of her marriage. Congratulations were conveyed by Councillor Barnet and the



ST. KILDA SOLDIERS' LOUNGE.

*Visit by His Excellency the Governor-General the Rt. Hon. Sir Ronald Munro-Ferguson, 29th July, 1916.
(Opening after reconstruction.)*



SOLDIERS' LOUNGE AND PATRIOTIC WORKERS.

good wishes expressed were as hearty as "the Diggers" could make them. Two members of the French Mission were present. The soldiers sang the Marseillaise as the Frenchmen entered the Lounge.

In June, 1919, the Lounge was visited by Brigadier General Brand, and Mrs. Brand. They received a great welcome though it was a surprise visit. He thanked, and congratulated, the Ladies of the St. Kilda Lounge, for all the work they had done, and were doing, and he called upon the soldiers to cheer the ladies to the echo. They did so, and the cheers caused hundreds of visitors on the Beach, and the Esplanades, to wonder what new' victory the Allies had won. Councillor Barnet returned thanks to the General, on behalf of the ladies. He said that more than 200,000 soldiers had visited the Lounge, and that many of the country, and interstate diggers had written countless letters to the various ladies of the Lounge, calling them foster mothers to the soldiers. The St. Kilda Patriotic League was unceasing in its work, to provide good things for the soldiers. So many ladies' names should be inscribed on the roll of the St. Kilda Lounge, that the Committee hesitated to make a start, lest it might be found to be impossible to gather in all the names, but pre-eminently, we may say, as the directress, Mrs. Hallenstein's name must always be mentioned first in any narrative of this outstanding feature of the patriotic efforts of St. Kilda.

When the Brighton Council suggested that Brighton, Moorabbin, Caulfield, and St. Kilda, should join in presenting a motor ambulance waggon, for the use of the Australian Imperial Forces, at a cost of £575, the Council of St. Kilda at once agreed, and sent along its apportioned cheque for £175. That was in November, 1914, when the Councils, and the public had scarcely realised the full meaning of a war of attrition, and how nations behind the men, with the guns, would have to open their pockets, and to bend their backs night and day, in the national effort to win the war. Bright spots appeared in the dark war clouds that lowered over Australia, and sometimes Australians paused to cheer at good news. Such an occasion took place on November 10, 1914, when the Council in session, a press message came through, that the German raider "Emden" had been engaged by H.M.S. "Sydney", and driven ashore at Cocos Island. When the news arrived the Council was receiving a deputation on the

perennial question of sea bathing accommodation, but consideration of that was thrown aside while councillors, and members of the deputation, cheered, and also sang the National Anthem.

In October, 1914, Councillor Frederick Godfrey Hughes asked for, and received, from the St. Kilda Council, twelve months' leave of absence. He had been appointed to command the 3rd Light Horse Brigade of the Australian Expeditionary Force. Before he left St. Kilda, he was entertained by the members of the St. Kilda Tradesmen's Club in their club rooms. The Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Hewison was in the chair, and the cordial feeling in the room showed how popular the departing soldier was. He was presented by the Council, with a silver campaigning bottle, and by the Tradesmen with a silver cigar case, and match box. In replying to the toast of his health, he said his father, and his wife's father, were of the party who crossed over the borders to Port Phillip, with stock, in the year 1846. On June 8, 1915 a letter dated Egypt, was received, by the Council, from Councillor Hughes, stating that the Light Horse Brigade had left its camp at Mena, and was then at Heliopolis. The best wishes of the Council were sent to him with the expressed hope "that the men he was leading would achieve a glorious success." He was appointed Brigadier General and the Council sent congratulations to their colleague. News came through in October, 1915 that the Brigadier was in the hospital, at Alexandria, suffering from enteric fever. In January, 1916, his name was mentioned in the King's birthday honors, the honor awarded to the Brigadier being that of C.B. In April, he was invalided to Australia, where he arrived in May. He was welcomed by the Council on May 8 with enthusiasm. His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Hewison referred to the military services of Brigadier-General Hughes, and to the military services of Major—Councillor—Duigan ; to the enlistment of Councillor Burnett Gray, and also to the desire of the Town Clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin to enlist. Mention was also made of the number of the outside employees of the Council who had enlisted.

At the Council meeting, held on November 29, 1920 Councillor Hughes was welcomed on his return from a visit to England. On July 10, 1922, Councillor Hughes informed the Council that he would not again be a candidate for municipal honors, at the forthcoming civic elections in August. He spoke feelingly of

his twenty four years of office, as a councillor, and the pleasure it had given to him to take his part in the marked development of St. Kilda in that period. Councillor Hughes addressed the councillors, in the mood of one, who has acquired wisdom, in the experience of municipal administration. The councillors expressed their deep regret at the retirement of their valued colleague. It may be recorded that Frederick Godfrey Hughes *gave* to St. Kilda of his best, and his name is one to be inscribed upon the list of the distinguished civic fathers of St. Kilda.

On August 16, 1915, the Council tendered a farewell to Councillor Duigan, one of the Council's representatives of the South Ward, on his departure for the war. Councillors expressed hope for his success in his military career, which hope was realised. He rose from the office of a Captain to be Lieut.- Colonel Duigan, the honor being given him on the field of battle. On his return, July 10, 1917 the Council *gave* him a special reception and he told of the terrible ordeals the Australians had to go through on the Bapaume Front. Lieut.-Colonel Duigan was invalided home to Australia through pneumonia.

Councillor Burnett Gray enlisted and in October, 1915 the Council congratulated him on the step he had taken. News was received, on April 11, 1916 that Councillor Gray had been appointed to the office of Company Sergeant Major. A letter dated "At Sea", May 19, 1917, was received by the Council, from Councillor Gray in July wherein he resigned his office, as Councillor in the St. Kilda Council, for the South Ward. He expressed his sincerest wishes for the continued progress of St. Kilda, and for the welfare of the councillors. The Council adjudged Councillor Gray, as one of the Councillors going out of office, on August 23, 1917, under the provisions of Section 118 of the Local Government Act 1915, and so they avoided the trouble and expense of a by-election.

One of the most impressive ceremonies, in the early days of the civilians' war efforts, was the presentation of regimental colors by the citizens of St. Kilda, to the 14th Battalion of the Australian Imperial Forces. The presentation was made at the St. Kilda Esplanade on Sunday afternoon, December 13, 1914. On behalf of the citizens of St. Kilda, His Excellency *Sir* Ronald Munro Ferguson, the Governor-General, wearing the uniform of the Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Commonwealth

Forces, made the presentation. The crowd on the Esplanades and adjoining lands, interested in witnessing the ceremony, was estimated to number between seven and eight thousand. The Governor-General was accompanied by Lady Helen Munro Ferguson. Among the official party were His Worship the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Alderman D. V. Hennessy, and the Lady Mayoress, His Worship the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor J. H. Hewison, and the Mayoress, Councillors H. F. Barnett, R. A. Molesworth, Edward O'Donnell, and G. B. Renfrey, with Mr. H. F. Phillips and the Town Clerk of St. Kilda, who was the honorary secretary of the Presentation Executive. On the arrival of the vice-regal party, its members were received by the Mayor of St. Kilda. The proceedings commenced at 2.30 o'clock, and they took an hour of time. When the first official greetings were over, the Governor-General inspected the Battalion, which stood, drawn up on the lawn, at attention, a fine martial sight of precision and efficiency. After the inspection, the "Recessional" was sung by three Anglican surpliced choirs from the St. Kilda churches, All Saints, East St. Kilda ; Christ Church, St. Kilda ; and Holy Trinity, Balaclava. Thousands of voices joined in with the choir's singing, until the "Recessional" became the praiseful prayer of the whole of the community present.

In the centre of the bright green lawns, looking their best under a blue sky and an early mid-summer's day was a hollow square, formed by the lines of the Battalion, each unit of which was destined to brave the fortunes of war. Everything was bright and cheerful, flags, and bunting, the splashes of color, from bright parade military uniforms, and the ladies' dresses. The Battalion's mascot, a fox terrier, was dressed in khaki, marked with the regimental number 14. What little could be seen of his tail, outside his rug was erect, so the dog was keeping his flag flying. All that lay ahead of the Battalion was happily hidden. We knew nothing, at the end of the year, 1914, compared to the knowledge we afterwards attained, of what a nightmare of a world disjointed it was in the war zone of slush, mud, gloom, fire, explosions, blood, misery and death.

In the hollow of the square were the regimental drums, piled in the centre. The Regimental colors, to be presented, were enclosed in oil covers. They were handed by the Executive to the Mayor of St. Kilda, and to the Mayoress. The covers of



PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO THE 14th BATTALION, AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

*On behalf of the St. Kilda Citizens
By His Excellency the Governor-General, Sir Ronald Munro-Ferguson.
Lower Esplanade, 13th December, 1914.*

the colors were taken off. A breeze, sufficient to cause the flags to float out and wave, was blowing, and the regimental colors of the 14th Battalion fluttered, in the sight of thousands of cheering men, and women. The flags were still but flags. They were placed against the drums to be consecrated the colors of the Battalion, and so to become something more than flags, since they were to visibly represent the fighting spirit of the Battalion.

Of the figures in that great assemblage, on that serious occasion, the one that stood forth from among the rest, on the lawn, was the figure of the man of Peace, the man of God, the Revd. Andrew Gillison M.A., the chaplain, the padre of the 14th Battalion, the man who had left his church, St. George's Presbyterian Church, East St. Kilda, to go forth with the Battalion, believing there were many men on war service who felt happier in the thought that ministers of God shared a large measure of their trials, men prepared to rejoice with them, to sympathise with them, to stand by them in camp, in battlefield, in hospital, aye, even to the end. Such then was the man who stood on the Foreshore lawn, the surpliced point of white, that thousands of eyes were focussed upon, as he consecrated the Battalion colors. In doing so he said:—

"In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, we do dedicate, and set apart these colors, that they may be a sign of our duty towards our King, and Country, in the sight of God, Amen!"

The colors were then handed to the Governor General by Major Adams and Major Rankine. His Excellency bestowed them on Lieutenants W. H. Hamilton, and B. Combes, who received the colors, each of them on bended knee. These acts were followed by cheering, and the singing of the Recessional hymn. The Governor General addressed those present in his immediate vicinity. The troops were marched towards the St. Kilda Pier Head, and then turned, so that they could pass His Excellency in review order. When the colors were opposite to His Excellency His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Hewison, led the Vice Regal group, with a cheer, which cheer was echoed from the throats of thousands of spectators. The Battalion was headed by the Pioneer Corps, the Signal Corps, and the Regimental Band playing. Lieut. Colonel R. E. Courtney was in command of the Battalion. His name was to become

well known on Gallipoli, as a place name, "Courtney's Post."

The members of the 14th Battalion had been conveyed from Broadmeadows, in two special trains. They had been entertained at luncheon on the St. Kilda Cricket ground, at noon, by the City of St. Kilda. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed, when the Battalion marched into Melbourne to entrain for Broadmeadows. Some excitement was caused, at the St. Kilda Railway Station, by the derailment of a carriage belonging to an ordinary train. Melbourne newspaper reports of the spectacle were complimentary to the Town Clerk of St. Kilda. They stated that the civic side of the ceremony was a perfect piece of organisation, that the spectacle, was one of the most successful seen at St. Kilda,

War regulations prevented the Battalion from taking the colours to the front, and in compliment to the Battalion padre, Rev. Andrew Gillison, prior to the Battalion's departure they were deposited in St. George's Presbyterian Church, East St. Kilda, and there remained for over 15 years. At the instance of the 14th Battalion Association, the church authorities generously agreed to a suggestion made that they should hand over the colours to the St. Kilda Council, and such was done at the Anzac Memorial Service, held on Sunday, April 27, 1930. The colours were emblazoned with the following battle honours :—"Pozières, 1917 ; Messines, 1917; Polygon Wood, 1918; Amiens, 1918; Landing at Anzac, 1915; Bullecourt, 1917; Ypres, 1917; Hamel, 1918; Hindenburg Line, 1916-18; Sari Bair, 1915." They are now enclosed in a bronze case, and are to be seen in the foyer at the City Hall.

Duty and the adventure of war called, and the gallant company that formed the 14th Battalion, brothers to many other gallant Australian companies of fighting men, sailed over the rim of the horizon, and entered into the regions, where a censor's judgment was law. On August 28, 1915, the sad news came through that the loved padre of the 14th Battalion, the Rev. Andrew Gillison, one of the Presbyterian chaplains of the Australian Imperial Force in Gallipoli, was wounded on Sunday, August 22, 1915. The notification—it was a notification of death—came to the Rev. David Ross of St. Kilda. Such a happening seemed to be too sad to be true. The heart of St. Kilda, it is not too much to assert, ached with a dumb, confused sense



14th BATTALION COLOURS.

The Colours presented to the 14th Battalion, A.I.F., 13th December, 1914, prior to the Battalion's embarkation for active service overseas, were returned by the 14th Battalion Association to the municipality for safe keeping at the Anzac Commemoration Service, 27th April, 1930.

of an irreparable loss of a gallant gentleman, and a Christian Soldier. Melbourne itself sighed, and his death was mourned in, and out of many churches.

Some time elapsed before the story of the Rev. Andrew Gillison's death was received by his wife in St. Kilda, in a letter dated August 25, 1915, and sent to her by the Rev. Dr. Merrington, the Senior Presbyterian Chaplain at the Front. And this was the tale, wherein the heroism of self sacrifice of Padre Gillison is apparent to all men, for all time, in the history of deeds, that thrilled men on the heights of Gallipoli. The Rev. Andrew Gillison, with another (unnamed) chaplain, was passing along a communication trench, on Sunday August 22, when they saw a wounded man, lying some 50 or 60 yards away. Despite warnings that the enemy Turkish snipers were shooting in that direction Captain Gillison, and his companion, after a talk over the situation, decided to crawl out, beyond the shelter of the trench, into no man's land, to try to bring in the wounded man. The time was about 11 a.m. While crawling out they were both hit with snipers' bullets. Despite their wounds, they both managed to make a run for cover. Gillison fell within a few yards of the home trench, and he was brought in. He was taken promptly to a medical post. There the doctor, after examining the wound, said it was serious, but not a hopelessly fatal one. The wounded padre seemed relieved at the thought that his case was not hopeless. He said he felt bright, and happy. He lapsed into unconsciousness, and died, soon afterwards, between one and two o'clock p.m. He was buried at 9 p.m. Full moonlight shone on the burial group, a large gathering of mourners, including a representative of General Monash, Captain Salier, officers, and men of the 14th Battalion, and also many chaplains, including Fathers Powers, and O'Connor. At the graveside Chaplain Major Grant recited the scripture sentences. Chaplain Captain Dale offered up prayer. The body was committed to the earth, covered with the Union Jack. The Rev. Dr. Merrington offered up prayer, and also gave a short address, in which he referred to the self sacrifice, shown by a gallant, and a brave man. The face was calm, and strong, as the body lay on a stretcher, waiting for burial, covered by the Union Jack. Ministering hands had prepared the body for burial, in a manner then unknown on that gory field of battle. In the clear moonlight, by the classic Aegean Sea, the mortal

remains of the Rev. Alexander Gillison were laid to rest, till the glorious Morning of Resurrection. His grave was marked with a cross, and its situation is on the upper slope of Anzac Beach. Generals Birdwood, Godley, Monash, and Chauvel expressed their feelings of sorrow. Throughout the army on Gallipoli there passed a thrill of regret when the soldiers knew of his death, and the thrill was mingled with feelings of intense admiration for the well loved padre's valorous deed.

At the Council meeting, held on August 30, 1915, the Council passed the following resolution :—

"That the Council expresses its profound sorrow, at the death of the Revd. Andrew Gillison, at Gallipoli, and offers its sincere sympathy with Mrs. Gillison, and the family, in their bereavement; that the Council joins in the wide spread recognition of his noble attributes; his high ideals of manhood so truly exemplified in his life, and his unfailing sympathy with, and thought for others, and It feels that if there can be any solace of his loved ones' grief, it surely must be from the knowledge that his whole life was spent for the good of his fellow men, and that the great sacrifice was for his King, and the Empire."

This resolution was sent to Mrs. Gillison under seal of the City of St. Kilda. Elders of St. George's Presbyterian Church, St. Kilda, invited the Council to be present at service on Sunday, April 1st, on the occasion of the unveiling of a mural tablet, to the memory of the Rev. Andrew Gillison.

In December 1919, an impressive service was held in connection with the unveiling of an Honor Roll, containing the names of 116 members of St. George's Presbyterian Church, East St. Kilda, The Lieut. Governor, His Excellency Sir William Irvine unveiled the memorial, and he made references to the heroic sacrifice of the gallant padre.

In February, 1915, steps were taken to organise what was called the "Third line of National Defence." It consisted in the voluntary training of citizens, a movement St. Kilda was not a stranger too. A conference was called by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne to consider how the extension of rifle clubs, and provisions for military drill for citizens, could be made effectual. The Council decided in July, 1915, to promote a patriotic demonstration to stimulate recruiting. The meeting took place in the St. Kilda Town Hall on July 30. The St. Kilda Band played

marial and loyal airs outside the Town Hall, and before the meeting began the building was filled to overflowing. Many women were present, and almost everyone of them was knitting socks for the soldiers. The stage was draped with British, and Australian flags, and the word "Duty" was prominently displayed on a large shield. The Mayor, Councillor J. H. Hewison, led the way to the platform, followed by the State Governor, His Excellency, Sir Arthur Stanley, K.C.M.G., His Excellency, the Lieut. Governor, Sir John Madden, K.C.M.G., the Councillors of the City of St. Kilda, the Town Clerk and others. They stood at attention, while the City Organist Mr. H. J. Inge played the National Anthem. Later, the Federal Attorney General, the Hon. W. M. Hughes, arrived, and took a seat on the platform. After the proceedings had been opened, and Horace Stevens had sung two patriotic songs, His Excellency Sir Arthur Stanley moved and the motion was carried:—

"That this meeting of St. Kilda Citizens, proud of the part Australia has already taken, sympathising with the relatives of the fallen, and the wounded, urges every man, who can emulate their gallant deeds, to do his duty, and to enlist for active service, that the reward of victory their heroism demands may be the earlier won."

Miss Evelyn Ashley sang the song of the "Heroes of the Dardanelles," and "To Arms, to Arms, Ye Sons of the Empire." The effect of the invocative song was electrical. The hall rang with tumultuous applause. The Marseillaise, at this stage, rolling in, a volume of sound from the organ was as inspiring to those present almost, as it would have been to an audience of French people.

The Federal Attorney General, the Hon. W. M. Hughes moved:—

"That all present pledge themselves to do their duty, as loyal citizens, and to devote all their energies, and make every sacrifice to help their King and Country in the Great War."

This meeting was followed at St. Kilda by an increase of the number of enlistments for the war.

The St. Kilda Women's regular working patriotic party numbered over 200 workers, and they collected, on one button day, in July, without unusual effort, from local residents, £301. Special efforts too, of considerable magnitude, to raise funds for innumerable purposes were frequently made. Possibly no other suburban city around Melbourne, can have recorded in its history such a succeeding train of successful efforts ; such continuous streams of small offerings amounting to such large

totals. Such results were made possible, no doubt, from the suitability of the shore lands of St. Kilda, whereon to organise picturesque open air shows, day and night carnivals, whereto, thousands of visitors came ready to spend money. We do not purpose to describe in detail each of those wonderful galas, those remarkable festivities at Luna Park; the confetti battles, and, an hundred and one things, the basic reason of which was to open the pockets of the people, to secure the ever wanted funds for the needs of our sailors and soldiers fighting over seas. And the claims of our Allies were not forgotten; the needs of the distressed Belgians; the wants of the French Red Cross, and others all had their turn, their button, their flags days and the wonder above all was, the continuously generous way, in which the civilian populace made daily sacrifice, how they donated, again and again, and no appeal went unanswered. To those who shared in the activities of the St. Kilda citizens', the war efforts must remain an ineffaceable memory of how British citizens, in such periods of national trouble, can become one corporate soul, can be obsessed with the one dominant idea, and that idea was the determination to win the war. In other places there were slackers, in other cities renegades appeared, who whispered disloyalty, but the atmosphere in St. Kilda was none too genial for such persons to breathe, and little, or nothing, was heard of them in the seaside city.

We anticipate, by a few months, the presentation of a financial statement, which discloses something of the range of effort. It is the annual report of the St. Kilda Patriotic Committee, submitted to the Patriotic workers, in the Town Hall, on Wednesday evening, August 30, 1916 by the Treasurer, the Town Clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin. It showed that Funds received, or raised from August 1915, to August 1916, 50th Batt. band £100/7/7; Beach Entertainments, £178/8/5; Citizens' Welcome, £152/0/3; Anzac Anniversary, £27/12/10; Contribution Material £462/12/4; Belgian collection, £92/0/6; Palais de Danse, £176 1/5; Children's Party, £113/0/4; "Before the Dawn", £129/17/11 Trinity Club, £101/4/7; Caste, £46/15/11; Sundry Entertainments £15/4/-; house to house collections, £1,180; Button Days, Wattle Day, £153/6/8; Allies Day, £407/14/1; Our Day, £469 3/6; Lady Mayoress's Day, £575/3/10; Anzac Day, £564/3/6; King George's Day, £382/4/11; French Red Cross, £857/5/6; Russian Flag Day £277/9/6. Total, £6,461/17/7.

St. Kilda Lounge: Including the proceeds of the fete, on July 22, £670/4/7, £2765/1/-, making a total of £9,226/18/7. From March to August, the Men's Working Party made 130 chairs, and camp stools, and 73 folding tables—total 203, the cost of the material being £25/8/3. Total Red Cross Goods sent to the Central Depot 6,631, Lady Mayoress's Patriotic League 24486; tinned food 970, French Red Cross 697, Kooyong Hospital 33, Wirth's Park 198, Soldiers' Lounge 111, Sundries 60. Total 11,186 viz. Pyjamas 1,124, shirts 662, socks 2,120, washers 771, sundry articles 6,509. Total 11,186. Red Cross goods made, Rolls 11,979, surgical towels, 4,000, absorbent pads 4,680, abdominal belts 325, bandages 1,157, draw sheets, and sheets 81, sundries 345. Total 22,567 articles.

From the commencement of the war to August 28, 1916 the total funds were as follow:—

Belgian Relief (including Belgian Button and Flag Days	£2879	0	6
Wounded Soldiers (including Australia Day	2418	4	7
Red Cross	2121	13	6
Sundry Button Days (excluding Belgian Days and French Red Cross Special Appeal)	2981	6	11
Purchase of Material	890	11	3
Purchase of Comforts	148	2	9
Lord Mayor's Patriotic Original Fund	350		
French Red Cross (including Special Week Appeal	1025	15	5
Ambulance Presentation (joint)	346	18	4
Purple Cross	5	2	1
Discharged and Disabled Wounded Soldiers	27	12	10
	£13,194	8	2
Presentation of Colors	£99	13	6
Recruiting Committee	25	18	10
50 th Batt. Band	116	10	0
Citizens Welcome	152	0	3
	£394	2	7
	£13,588	10	9
Lounge	2,765	1	0
Grand Total	£16353	11	9

Such a result speaks of the assiduity with which the Patriotic workers of St. Kilda carried on the civilian side of the war, and the figures also proclaim the generosity of the citizens of St. Kilda.

At times, when working hard, the Council sometimes paused to allow of the expression of the sympathy, that was never absent from its corporate heart, for those who had suffered, and for those who were suffering, for those who had lost sons, or fathers, or others of their kith and kin. Such an occasion was on May 10, 1915, when the suspension of standing orders in Council was granted, to allow of this special motion to be passed :-

"That this Council expresses its sincere sympathy with the relatives of those of our gallant men, who have fallen, and records its great admiration of the bravery, and courage shown by our soldiers at the Dardanelles."

It was ordered, that a copy of the resolution be sent to the Honorable the Minister of Defence.

During the week, ending December 11, 1915, there floated a calico banner, on the portico of the St. Kilda City Hall, bearing the exclamation printed, in large letters, "Boys, We Are Proud of You !" It was the city's greeting to a great gathering, which took place, in the City Hall, to welcome invalided soldiers from Gallipoli, National colors — red, white and blue — illuminated the hall, as did also the flags of the Allies. The returned soldiers entered, greeted by a salvo of hand clapping. They numbered between fifty and sixty cheerful men, ruddy, brown, and weather worn. Many members of the 14th Battalion were present. The Mayor, Councillor J. J. Love, welcomed the returned invalided soldiers, on behalf of the citizens of St. Kilda. A musical programme was gone through, and the St. Kilda Brass Band played selections. During the evening, small parties of soldiers continued to arrive. Some of them had lost a limb, many of them hobbled in on crutches. One of the soldiers, Private Whelan, told those present, that he was a member of the 14th Battalion to which body the colors were presented a little more than twelve months before He had met the late Padre Gillison, and if ever there was a

Christian man the padre was he. The speaker asked of those present, who was the soldiers' friend? and the men shouted "Gillison! Gillison!" and so on to the end, and the National Anthem.

CHAPTER XXXII.

War Years Continued—New Drill Hall—Council Favours Conscription—Fairyland Carnival—The Barnets—The St. Kilda Patriotic and Red Cross League—The Armistice—Peace Celebrations—Post-War Activities and Returning Anzacs—Lieut.-General Sir John Monash's Welcome—St. Kilda's Soldiers' Memorial Hall—War Certificates Presented by Governor-General—The St. Kilda War Memorial—Lieut. J. M. Bennett's Memorial—Captain "Harry" Hawker—Inception of Friendly Societies in St. Kilda—The St. Kilda and Balaclava Free Kindergarten.

ON February 26, 1916, the Mayor, Councillor J. J. Love, in co-operation with the St. Kilda Councillors, and the St. Kilda Patriotic Committee, opened a new drill hall in Argyle Street, erected at the expense of the Government for the purpose of training St. Kilda's quota of young citizens to take their part in the defence of the Commonwealth of Australia. At the opening of the hall, a concert was held to obtain funds to purchase band instruments, to raise funds for gymnastic equipment, and to establish a regimental football and cricket club. The regiment was to be known as the St. Kilda Battalion. The executive of the opening ceremony stated, in a circular letter, "While the Committee are fully seized of the fact that very heavy inroads have already been made upon the generosity of the residents of the city, in connection with the existing war, they realise the grave necessity for encouraging our young soldiers, to fully prepare themselves for the discharge of their national duties." The "young soldiers" referred to were the youths, who under the then defence scheme, when they attained the age of eighteen, were compelled to undergo, for a number of years, in succession, a course of military training.

In March, 1916, the St. Kilda Council passed a resolution in favour of conscription. In May, the Council waited as a deputation on the Minister of Defence to urge upon him the necessity for bringing in an Act legalising conscription for military service. At a meeting held in the City Hall, under the

authority 'of the St. Kilda Council, on October 3, of the same year, the Mayor, Councillor Barnet, presiding, the Lieut.- Governor, Sir William Irvine, after placing the issue of war conscription before those present, moved and the resolution was carried :-

"That the citizens of St. Kilda in this meeting assembled pledge themselves to work whole-heartedly to secure an overwhelming majority in favour of the Government proposals in regard to conscription for military service."

St. Kilda was classed, for the purpose of taking the Conscription Referendum, on October 30, as being in the Balaclava Division. The first return was incomplete, but it indicated sufficiently that St. Kilda was in favour of conscription. The number of the electors on the roll of the Balaclava Division was 42,712. The voting showed "Yes," 19,721; "No," 10,640 ; "Yes" majority, 9,081. In the subdivision returns, St. Kilda East—. "Yes," 2,495 ; "No," 1,518. St. Kilda West—"Yes," 3,559 ; "No," 1,743. Balaclava—"Yes," 3,571; "No," 2,576. A comparison was made of that result with the voting at the general election of 1914, when the Balaclava Division polled 17,607 National votes, and 12,526 Labor votes.

A Fairyland Carnival was held in the City Hall and grounds, in aid of the Repatriation and Red Cross Funds, on October 13, 14. At the request of the Mayor, Councillor H. F. Barnet, the fete was opened by Mrs. Hughes, the wife of the Prime Minister, the Hon. William Hughes. The Acting Mayoress, Mrs. Nahum Barnet, was the President of the Fairyland Carnival, the Mayor being unmarried. The Barnets are an honoured family in St. Kilda, Isaac Barnet, J.P., the father of H. F. and Nahum Barnet, served St. Kilda as a justice on the Police Court Bench for many years. For twenty years, he was on the committee of the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum, and at one time was a Councillor for Collingwood. He left three sons, when he died, at the age of 85 years, in February, 1909. Nahum Barnet, the architect, was one of those sons. Councillor Barnet was elected Mayor of St. Kilda on August 28, 1916. The Fairyland Carnival realised £1,500, which result must have been very gratifying to the many volunteer workers.

The St. Kilda Local Repatriation Committee was formed on July 27, 1918, and the following gentlemen were appointed members by the Hon. the Minister for Repatriation :—Cr. H. F.

Barnet (Chairman), Cr. J. H. Hewison, Cr. J. J. Love, Cr. A. Sculthorpe, Arthur Apps, J. W. Watt, and F. W. Chamberlin (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer). The Committee dealt with many hundreds of applications for furniture, business equipment, tools of trade, etc. Later, when claims by ex-soldiers for financial assistance were made, the Committee acted in an advisory capacity to the State War Council. The Committee is still in being.

A comprehensive review of the work of the St. Kilda Patriotic and Red Cross League was given by the honorary treasurer, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin, the Town Clerk of St. Kilda, on the night of September 4, 1918. The occasion was the annual meeting of the League, and the place was the supper room of the City Hall. The chair was occupied by Councillor O'Donnell, in the absence of the presidentress of the League, Mrs. Edward O'Donnell. Though the night was a very stormy one, the inhospitable weather did not deter a large number of war workers from attending the meeting.

Mr. Chamberlin said it was the fourth annual report he had made upon the work of the League. The gross cash receipts, during the period of those reports, amounted to £41,481/5/11. For the year, the gross receipts were £14,155/8/6; expenditure, £2,362/16/3; net, £11,792/12/3. While, said Mr. Chamberlin, so much publicity had been given to the major efforts, it was only due to those ladies, who had worked so consistently and patiently for years, to mention the results of their work. The gross receipts from the Luna Park Carnival were £8,322/5/10, while £5,833/2/8 was raised by the smaller efforts of the ladies—a magnificent result at an expenditure of £172/9/10. A faithful few of those ladies had carried on the house to house canvass, from the inception of the movement. It was, with great surprise on looking into the figures, that he found that Mrs. R. G. McCutcheon had paid in £508/5/9, collected in that way. The principal items of expenditure were as follow :—Purchase of material, £688 ; Victorian Division of Red Cross, £2,667; French Red Cross, £253; Repatriation Fund, £1,151; Australian Comforts' Fund, £3,726; St. Kilda Soldiers' Lounge, £1,775; Button Days, other than days included in special appeals, 1903 ; Blind Soldiers, £41; Balance carried forward to next year, £782.

Obviously, from these figures the work of the League was extensive. Various moneys, collected by its several branch

activities, involved careful and accurate book-keeping. The figures, presented to the meeting, were handled by the honorary treasurer, with a completeness that is indicated in the extracts that we published. The chairman moved the adoption of the report. It was highly satisfactory that the League had raised the sum of almost £12,000 that year. Councillor Barnet, in seconding the motion, said St. Kilda owed her record to the fine women, who worked so hard, and who had succeeded so well. Compared to the women's work in St. Kilda, the men had done but little. Above all was the guidance of the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk referred to his loyal staff, and to the Chief Clerk, the late J. F. Jeans; whose assistance had been invaluable.

At the same meeting, Miss Bessie Swan, honorary secretary to the local branches both of the Victorian Division of the Red Cross, and of the Australian Comforts' Fund, reported that 5,211 articles had been despatched to the Lady Mayoress Patriotic League from the St. Kilda workroom. To the Victorian Division Red Cross, Federal Government House, articles to the number of 5,510 ; and so the tally runs on. There was the industrious Branchall Sewing Circle that made 795 articles, and the Men's Working Party that made articles worth £87/11/-, while the total expenditure of the Men's Working Party for the year was £1/10/4. The articles made were 103 deck chairs, 82 camp stools, 14 bed foot rests, 5 folding tables, 5 folding chairs. The Waste Paper Scheme was another effort to raise money.

Mrs. Hallenstein reported to the annual meeting of the League as directress of the Soldiers' Lounge. She said that they had given meals to 23,386 men so far as was recorded, but so many came, and went, that the girls did not keep accurate records. There had been absolutely no expense, all necessary moneys to carry on had been collected. Since August 18, the number of men who had visited the Lounge was 133,489, or an average of 960 per week.

Repatriation work, at the League annual meeting, was dealt with by Councillor Barnet. The Repatriation, and the State War Council, referred 317 applications to the local committee, for inquiry and recommendation. These applications were from widows, returned soldiers, and also from dependents of those still fighting.

At the meeting of the Council, held on November 18, 1918, following the Armistice, at the instance of Councillor O'Donnell, in the absence of the Mayor, the Council humbly and reverently expressed its thankfulness to the Almighty for the glorious victory ; and it affirmed its unswerving loyalty to the Throne and the Empire, and rejoiced in the magnificent successes of the allied arms, compelling the enemy to accept an Armistice, on conditions, which assure an early and abiding peace. The Council then sang the National Anthem. Further, the Council passed a resolution stating "That in the opinion of this Council it is essential that the terms of peace shall ensure the removal of the menace that has existed for many years past owing to the setting up of German bases in the Southern Pacific, and in view of the importance of this matter to the Commonwealth respectfully suggests to municipal councils and public bodies that they express their views thereon and give every support to the Commonwealth Government." The Council voted £50 to the funds of the Melbourne Hospital as a donation to the special Thanksgiving Appeal. Following the Council meeting a great local peace celebration took place in the City Hall, which was decorated with red, white and blue electric lights, and also streamers of bunting, repeating the colour scheme. The *flags* of the Allies were displayed in the hall, decorated with golden coloured laurel leaves. Crepe was in evidence, as a mark of respect to those who had fallen. Surmounting the stage was a combination of allied flags, with a white flag with the word "Peace" inscribed upon it. Among those who spoke to the large audience were the Mayor, Councillor Sculthorpe, and Councillors Barnet, Clarke, Hewison, ex-Councillor Love, the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Alderman Cabena; Sir Arthur Robinson, M.L.C. ; the Minister of Public Works, Agar Wynne, M.L.A.; and Mr. C. F. Crosby, the President of the Young Men's Christian Association and others.

Saturday, July 19, 1919, was Peace Day, and on Saturday morning the war souvenir medals were distributed, and in the afternoon the children assembled at Luna Park, and the day was made a gala one of feasting and entertainment for them, lasting three hours. The scenic railway and the various sideshows of the Park were open to the children. Mr. Phillips allowed the use of Luna Park free of charge, and, in addition,

he entertained the children at pictures in the Palais de Danse. The Mayor (Cr. Sculthorpe), Councillors Barnet, Hewison, Allen and Pittard and the Town Clerk were the Executive Committee in arranging the details of the celebrations. They had the assistance of a large band of workers from the Patriotic League, and also the St. Kilda Brass Band, to speed the day merrily with music.

On June, 1919, it was decided to present certificates to those who were residents of St. Kilda at the time they enlisted and embarked for active service at the war. On July 8, Miss Doward gave an entertainment in aid of the funds for soldiers in the St. Kilda and Sailors' Lounge. In the same month the Esplanade Life Saving Club gave a life saving demonstration in aid of the local Repatriation Funds. A ball was held under the auspices of the 46th Infantry Brigade in the City Hall in aid of the St. Kilda Memorial Funds. A carnival for the same purpose was held at Luna Park, Mrs. Couchman being a prominent worker for the cause. An Anzac Remembrance and Memorial Service was held at the St. Kilda Town Hall in co-operation with the St. Kilda Sub-Branch of the R.S. and S.I.L. in April, 1920. Later in May, 1921, the Council received a letter from the subbranch of the Sailors' & Soldiers' Fathers' Association asking the Council to use its influence to have Anzac Day celebration held only on Sunday, nearest to April 31. The branch expressed its feeling that, in the observance of a week day, there was a tendency to regard the day as a holiday, rather than a solemn anniversary. The Council decided that its members were entirely in accord with the branch's views, and agreed to make its opinion known to the proper authorities.

On Wednesday evening, December 4, 1918, seventy Anzacs of St. Kilda who had returned were welcomed by the St. Kilda Patriotic Committee at the City Hall. The hall was decorated with an immense bouquet of red, white and blue flowers, depending from the centre of the ceiling, with floral and electric festoons leading therefrom. Anzacs shields in laurel wreaths and flags were displayed along the balcony of the hall. Over the stage the word "Anzacs," outlined by electric lights, was surmounted with the words "Patriotic Committee of St. Kilda heartily Welcomes You." As the returned soldiers marched into

the hall, they were received with cheers, and an electric button being touched, the word "Welcome" flashed in light caught their eyes.

The Mayor presented the 1914 soldiers with gold enamelled medals, bearing the arms of St. Kilda. The recipients were Lieut.-Colonel F. W. Le Maistre, D.S.O., Major W. J. M. Locke, Major Charles Morley, Captain A. H. Dow, M.C., Captain H. S. Hawker, M.C., Captain W. R. Hodgson, Croix de Guerre, Lieut. C. E. Apps, Lieut. A. W. Keown, Lieut. G. Martin, Lieut. R. E. Rerden, W. Officer, N. B. Spence, St. Sergt.-Major R. R. McKissock, M.M., St. Sergt. C. W. Cohen, St. Sergt. M. G. Pietriche, Q.M. Sergt. H. M. Bloustein, Q.M. Sergt. J. A. McGettigan, Q.M. Sergt. P. J. Smith, Q.M. Sergt. A. G. Wall, Sergt. A. T. Morrison, D.C.M., Sergt. A. J. E. Wallish, D.C.M., Sergt. D. T. Bateman, Sergt. W. E. Birch, Sergt. A. F. Caldwell, Sergt. J. W. Coleman, Sergt. F. Gibbs, Sergt. W. K. Gillespie, Sergt. P. H. Kellaway, Sergt. J. H. Manning, Sergt. J. B. McBean, Sergt. A. Pearce, Sergt. P. J. Rice, Sergt. J. J. Shannahan, Sergeants W. McQ. S. Siddeley, L. O. Smith, V. A. Syme, A. E. Symons, E. H. Vernali, A. L. Waldron, L. A. Walker, G. C. Whitworth, L. F. Wilkinson, L. W. Wilson, Bombardier G. A. Herschell, Corporals C. S. McQuade, M.M., H. Horley, Croix de Guerre, C. J. Reeves, C. E. Sheldrake, C. H. Sumner, Lance-Corporals L. T. Hoult, A. J. Longley, E. V. Moore, Drivers J. A. Beach, E. C. Crooke, R. Hartshorn, A. A. Howes, L. L. Jones, B. A. Joseph, F. V. Kildea, A. C. E. Mills, T. Oakley, F. R. Stewart, G. Walker, B. L. Welsh, C. White, H. R. Wiltshire.

Gunners H. Wilson, M.M., R. Marsden, J. J. B. Stephens, J. Thompson, J. P. Walsh, Sappers S. Hemingway and C. M. Holloway, Privates E. F. Allen, F. E. Austin, L. Bagley, P. V. Bermingham, E. Booth, J. F. Brenton, A. D. Brooke, E. W. Chatfield, H. F. Franz, W. R. Gills, H. J. Goodwin, W. F. Hawkins, W. W. Hendrick, F. Logan, G. A. Lonie, V. Moorehouse, A. G. McPherson, J. W. Perkins, E. J. Reed, D. R. Williams, J. L. Wilson, T. Y. Wilson, E. H. Wood.

A second ceremony of presentation, and a civic welcome, to a further group of returned soldiers of St. Kilda, was arranged to take place in the City Hall, but it had to be postponed owing to restrictions having been placed upon the holding

of public meetings, during the continuance of the influenza epidemic. The postponed meeting was held on May 14, 1919.

The subscription from St. Kilda to the seventh War Loan was £224,178. At the time the loan was launched (October, 1918) the Town Clerk said that if the quota of St. Kilda was fixed on a population basis, every man, woman and child in St. Kilda would have had to subscribe the sum of £13/14/4, a subscription that was impossible to obtain.

St. Kilda was on fête on Friday, December 26, 1919, for the home-coming of Lieut.-General Sir John Monash, K.C.M.G., K.C.B., V.D. A special welcome was prepared for the Commander of the A.I.F. and Lady Monash and Miss Monash, who accompanied him. Sir John made a landing at the St. Kilda pier, and the surroundings, including the Esplanade, were gay with bunting. The military officers, in high command, and the returned soldiers, were present in large numbers to do honour to their military chief. The Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor T. G. Allen, the Councillors, and the Town Clerk were on the foreshore, with an address of welcome. In the address it was stated: "Our citizens, since the date of their Presentation of Colours to the 14th Battalion, a unit under your command, when leaving these shores, have followed your career, with pleasure and pride, and recognise that, among the many who left the quiet pursuit of their civil occupation, at the call of the Empire, you have won the most signal success."

Sir John, in his reply, referred to his last visit to St. Kilda, when the colours of the 14th Battalion were consecrated. The 14th Battalion was a part of the 4th Brigade. Sir John was cheered, and cheered again. Soldiers rushed forward, and insisted on shaking hands with him, and then they stood at salute. Five years had passed since Sir John left Victoria. He looked on his return "less robust in appearance, with the lines of war care on his face," at least a writer of the day said so, though to all appearances Sir John was well and fit. He must have been touched with the warmth of his welcome. "Home, Sweet Home" was played by the St. Kilda City Band. The St. Kilda Council honoured the returning general in a way that did honour to itself.

About the year 1920, as a result of local efforts in St. Kilda, funds were raised for the erection of a St. Kilda Soldiers'

Memorial Hall. Owing to unforeseen circumstances, it was decided to place the money on deposit, until such time, as mature consideration could be given to the formation of a plan for a Memorial Hall that would be worthy of St. Kilda. From observation of other halls, and their management, it was impressed upon the committee, the necessity of building a Memorial Hall and Club Rooms that would have a guaranteed source of revenue, from the day of its completion. With this object in view, a suitable block of land was purchased, having a frontage of 70 feet to Acland Street, by a depth of 195 feet along Albert Street. A competition for plans was then begun among returned soldiers who were architects. The competition was under the control of the Victorian Institute of Architects. Thirteen drawings were submitted, and the winning firm of competitors was Messrs. Hudson & Wardrop. The building designed was estimated to cost £25,000. The plans showed a building of four stories in height. The ground floor contained four shop fronts, general meeting rooms, and large hall, with a seating capacity for approximately 1000 people, also the necessary anterooms, stage, etc.

The Committee realised that continuity of membership was essential. The Committee drafted and adopted a constitution, which entitled to membership other than returned soldiers as follow:—

(a) All those eligible for membership of the Sailors & Soldiers Fathers' Associations.

(b) Members of His Majesty's Naval, Military and Air Forces under the Defence Act of the Commonwealth of Australia, provided that such members were under the age of 18 years at the time of the Armistice on November 11, 1918.

In this way, it was hoped that the continuity of membership would be assured, since provision was made for those from whom Australia's fighting forces must ultimately be drawn. It was hoped, too, that the close association, between the returned soldiers, and the trainees, would work for patriotism. The desire of the committee, when the expenses of the building were paid, was to devote the revenue, calculated at £2,500, derived from the rents of shops, and flats, etc., to charitably benefiting returned soldiers, and their dependents.



THE ST. KILDA SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL HALL.
Acland Street.

The beach carnival, in aid of funds for the erection of the memorial, which took place in Luna Park, was wonderfully successful. The carnival was declared open by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Hon. William Watt, member for the Federal Division Balaclava. He was introduced to the great assemblage by the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Burnett Gray. The takings for the day exceeded £900. There were more than 400 voluntary workers. On Easter Monday night Mr. A. J. Curran, the organiser of the carnival, assisted by Messrs. C. A. Kendall, and W. S. Abraham, stated there were 10,000 present at the carnival on Easter Monday night, and that the approximate takings were between £1,000 and £1,500.

The moving force in the movement to establish the St. Kilda Sailors' & Soldiers' War Memorial Hall was Councillor Thomas Unsworth, a returned soldier. He occupied the Mayoral chair in the civic year 1928-29. It was he who sought to give the Memorial Hall purpose even greater than that of social relaxation. He desired, nay insisted that the hall's incorporation should carry with it the power to secure revenues, and that those revenues, profits, should be devoted each year to the relief of distressed soldiers and their dependents.

We recall attending a meeting of a faithful few, in the deserted St. Kilda Soldiers' Lounge, at which Councillor Unsworth presided, at the inception of the movement to obtain the Memorial Hall. We were more impressed with the exhilarating optimism, and driving force of Councillor Unsworth, than by any evidences of the coming materialism of the proposed hall. The lounge was ill-lighted, there were not more than six or seven persons present, and we left with a depressed feeling that a "big push" would have to be made before the hall that Councillor Unsworth sketched would be built in St. Kilda.

The big push was commenced with the greatest effort that was made, which was the 1919 Luna Park Carnival. Subsequently, by special appeals, pageants, carnivals and other attractions, the sum of £17,282, up to and including an allocation from the 1931 Charity Carnival, was raised for the Memorial Hall. In addition, the St. Kilda Council made a special grant from the Municipal Funds to this money of £3,000. Appropriately, the committee of the St. Kilda Army and Navy Club chose Armistice Day (November 11, 1923), for the laying of two

foundation stones of the Memorial Hall and the Club Rooms. The foundation stones were laid respectively by His Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Forster, and by the Hon. W. A. Watt, Speaker of the House of Representatives. His Excellency the Governor-General was accompanied by Lady Forster.

At the ceremony, the President of the Club, Councillor Thomas Unsworth, said that about 3,000 men from St. Kilda had served in the Great War. Towards the cost of the building, patriotic workers had raised £9,000, and this sum had made the building possible. At a special meeting of the Club, Lord Forster had been elected a life member, and he had pleasure in presenting him with the gold badge of membership.

Lord Forster stated that he greatly appreciated the compliment of membership bestowed upon him as an evidence of the friendship of the returned men.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives (the Hon. W. A. Watt) said that he hoped that there would be a continuance of the spirit of the A.I.F.

The stones have upon them the following inscriptions:—

ST. KILDA MEMORIAL HALL.

Erected by the Citizens of St. Kilda as a Memorial to those from this City who served in the Great War, 1914-1919.

LEST WE FORGET.

This Foundation Stone was laid by His Excellency The Right Honorable Lord Forster, P.C., G.C.M.G., Governor-General of Australia-11th November, 1923.

Councillor T. G. Allen,
Mayor of City of St. Kilda.

ST. KILDA ARMY AND NAVY CLUB.

This Foundation Stone was laid by the Right Honorable W. A. Watt, P.C. M.P.

President: Councillor T. Unsworth.

Vice-Presidents: Councillor Burnett Gray, W. Gillespie, C. A. Kendall.

Committee: W. S. Abrahams, H. I. Bugg, A. V. King, B. J. Betts, B. J. Harlem, H. J. Kerr, O. Behrend, A. T. P. Irvine, A. C. Newton, A. C. Bill, H. E. Williams.

F. Chamberlin, Hon. Treasurer,
Patriotic Fund. L. B. Cade11,
Hon. Treasurer. A. J. McLellan,
Secretary.

The Memorial Hall was opened before a large attendance of ex-soldiers and others on Armistice Day, November 11, 1924, by His Excellency the Governor, The Earl of Stradbroke. There were present the President of the Club, Cr. Unsworth, who pre-



PRESENTATION OF MEMORIAL AND WAR SERVICE CERTIFICATES

By His Excellency the Governor-General, Sir Ronald Munro-Ferguson.

Lower Esplanade, 15th May, 1921.

sided; and the Hon. W. A. Watt; the Mayor of St. Kilda (Cr. Levi) and the Councillors and members of the Club Committee. An opening ball was held in the hall in the evening.

The architects of the hall were Messrs. Hudson & Wardrop, and the builder, Mr. R. L. Phillips. The hall, which has four stories, contains twelve flats and four shops. The main dancing hall accommodates 500 persons, and there is seating accommodation in the hall for 1,000 people. The cost of the Memorial Hall, land and buildings, was £39,492. Councillor Unsworth, the late Councillor T. G. Allen, and Mr. W. Gillespie were appointed the trustees of the building.

On Sunday, May 15, 1921, the St. Kilda Council, through His Excellency the Governor-General (Lord Forster) presented certificates to about 1,500 nurses, soldiers, and sailors, and next of kin of fallen men, all of whom were residents of St. Kilda. A parade was held on the Lower Esplanade. Many hundreds of people were admitted by ticket to the enclosed lawn, and most of them were provided with chairs in front of the high dais from which the Governor-General distributed the certificates. The presentations took place in ideal weather, with a great show of fluttering bunting. An outstanding feature was the perfect organisation of the ceremony by the Town Clerk of St. Kilda. The continuing line of those to whom the certificates were due, passed without the slightest mistake, before His Excellency, and received the certificate personal to themselves.

Large crowds watched the ceremony from the Esplanade. In his address, Lord Forster said, "You are the men who served, and who accomplished victory. Those who do things are just those who do not like their deeds talked about. But I say, as the representative here of the British people, that the sacrifices, which the men, and women of Australia made, during the war, the glorious deeds which they performed, the everlasting fame which they won, shall never be forgotten."

The first recipients to mount the dais were 250 relatives of the fallen. The war nurses, twenty of them, received an ovation. Lord Forster was in full dress military uniform. More than half of the returned soldiers were in civilian clothes. Lord Forster saluted all soldiers in uniform, and he shook hands with everyone receiving a certificate. Among those who received certificates were Brigadier-General Stewart, Colonel Duigan,

Councillor Gray, and Lieutenant Bennett, he who flew to Australia with Sir Ross Smith. At the conclusion of the presentations cheers were given for Lord Forster.

At the Council meeting, held on May 16, 1921, the Council placed on record its appreciation of the organisation by the Town Clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin, and the work of the staff generally in connection with the presentation. The Town Clerk said that, under the guidance of the Presentations Committee, Councillors Hewison (chairman), Barnet, Gray and Renfrey, the staff regarded it as a privilege to assist in making the function worthy of those it was designed to honour. The Town Clerk also referred to the valuable help, by the members of the St. Kilda Branch of the R.S.S.I.L.A. who acted as marshalls and ushers. At the Council meeting a letter was read from Lord Digby, A.D.C. to His Excellency the Governor-General, stating His Excellency was "exceedingly pleased with the presentation of the war certificates, and was much struck by the admirable organisation." A letter was received also from the President of the St. Kilda Branch of the R.S.S.I.L.A., Mr. G. A. Bridgeland, and Mr. W. T. Marshall, in appreciation of the function, and also in admiration of the artistic design of the certificate.

On August 8, 1921, on the recommendation of the Public Works Committee, the Council decided to invite designs for a War Memorial to be erected in St. Kilda, to cost approximately £3,000. The War Memorial Committee of the Council, reported to the Council, at its meeting, held on October 15, 1923, that, in accordance with the assessors' report, and award, on the competitive designs, the winner of the first prize, £75, was G. H. Alsop, and the winner of the second prize, £25, was J. C. Aisbett. The site chosen for the memorial was on the foreshore at the west end of Fitzroy Street. In the presence of a large number of spectators the Governor-General (Lord Forster) unveiled the memorial.

The Hon. W. A. Watt, Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives, thanked Lord Forster, and thought it particularly appropriate that Anzac Day should have been selected for the representative of the King to unveil the War Memorial of the most patriotic of all Australian cities. The Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor J. B. Levi, placed a laurel wreath at the foot



THE CENOTAPH.



THE BENNETT MEMORIAL.

of the memorial, "In Anzac Remembrance. In Memory of the Fallen." Councillor Thomas Unsworth, President of the St. Kilda Army & Navy Club, also placed a wreath from the sailors and soldiers.

The Cenotaph is a rectangular shaft buttressed on four sides by raised panels and bearing on the Esplanade frontage a small altar supporting a bronze wreath. The shaft is 35 feet high, and is crowned with a series of mouldings supporting a bronze scroll. The shaft and mouldings are of Pyrmont freestone, and the steps and base of the Cenotaph are of granite. The memorial bears the inscriptions :-

"Erected by the citizens of St. Kilda in honour of all from this city who served, and in grateful remembrance of those who gave their lives for King and Empire."
And on a plate beneath the altar—

"The path of duty be the way to glory."

Lieut. J. M. Bennett, A.F.M., was one of the mechanics on Sir Ross and Keith Smith pioneer flight from England to Australia. So highly did Sir Ross Smith think of this St. Kilda boy's ability, that he engaged him to take part in a round the world flight that Sir Ross Smith contemplated. Lieut. Bennett, of the Royal Australian Air Force, was tendered by the St. Kilda Branch of the R.S.S.I.L.A., an au revoir concert, at the Sailors' and Soldiers' Lounge, on the Lower Esplanade, on the night of January 26, 1922. After arriving in England Lieut. Bennett made a trial flight in the new aeroplane with Sir Ross Smith. Something untoward happened to the machine. It went into whirl, came down, and crashed, killing the two unfortunate men. A funeral memorial service, in their memory, was held in the Queen's Hall, Federal Parliament House, on June 17, 1922.

On the morning of Anzac Day, 1927, the Hon. William A. Watt, M.H.R., in the presence of a large gathering, unveiled St. Kilda city's memorial, in the form of an obelisk, to the memory of one of its brave sons, Lieut. J. M. Bennett. Among those present, at the memorial obelisk, erected on the Lower Esplanade, were Mr. J. T. Bennett, and the Misses Bennett, father and sisters of the airman; Group Captain Williams, Chief of the Air Staff ; Wing Commander Brown, second member of the Air Board ; Major P. E. Coleman, Secretary of the Air Board ; the Hon. T. W. Trumble, Secretary for Defence ; Lieut.

Colonel Brinsmead, Controller of Civil Aviation; Lieut. Colonel T. W. White, President of the Victorian Section of the Aero Clubs ; Lieut. Colonel General Sir James Mc Cay ; the Attorney General, the Hon. F. W. Eggleston ; His Worship the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Burnett Gray; the Councillors of St. Kilda, and the Town Clerk, the presidents, secretaries, and committees of the St. Kilda Branches of the Army and Navy Club and Fathers' Association; the master and officers of the Hawksburn Masonic Lodge. The cost of the memorial was subscribed by the people of Victoria, supplemented by a donation from the St. Kilda Council. Six years had almost expired when the memorial was unveiled, since the time when Lieut. Bennett returned to England to participate in the flight that fate decreed should never be flown. After the unveiling of the obelisk, the Mayor of St. Kilda, on behalf of the City of St. Kilda Council and citizens, placed a wreath at its foundation, as did also the Misses Bennett.

Another distinguished airman and war pilot, whose birthplace was St. Kilda, and who spent his boyhood and young manhood in the seaside city, was Captain H. George Hawker, known to St. Kilda's youth and school boys as "Harry" Hawker. Captain Hawker, after winning races, and a name in England, as an intrepid airman, returned to Australia. He was the first man to fly an aeroplane in Victoria. He gave a display of flying at Caulfield, from where he flew and landed in Elsternwick Park. He made a somewhat bad landing, at the south-east end of the park, close to St. Kilda Street, thereby making it an historical spot, so far as being the first landing of the first aeroplane seen in St. Kilda and Brighton. Hawker returned to England, and made a spectacular bid for the prize of £10,000 offered, in the year 1919, by the "Daily Mail" newspaper, for a flight across the Atlantic. He left Newfoundland, on the afternoon of May 18, for his night to Great Britain. He was not heard of for days, and few had any doubt but that he, and his companion, Commander Mackenzie Grieve, R.N., had been drowned. Hawker's wife refused to believe that her husband had perished. Then, news came that the two airmen had been picked up by the captain of a tramp ship. The machine Hawker was flying, he explained, developed trouble through the blocking of a feed pipe, and he had to come down, and did so, by the side of the tramp ship. Hawker was given a great reception on his arrival in

London. The crowd's demonstrations were led by Australians. He, and his companion, received from His Majesty the King the Air Force Cross. Hawker was killed in July, 1921, while flying near Hendon. His physical condition was so poor, that he had been warned by his medical adviser, to cease flying, but such was his enthusiasm, that he continued to do so. What happened up aloft is not known, but his machine burst into flames, took a nose dive, and crashed. Hawker jumped from the machine before it reached the ground, only to be instantly killed. On the occasion of the attempted Atlantic flight, the St. Kilda Council recorded in its minutes its admiration for his "unparalleled, and intrepid act of bravery, in attempting to fly across the Atlantic ocean."

Hawker was a pupil of the Brighton Road State School, and a tablet to his memory in the school records that fact.

To the Honoured Memory of
HARRY GEORGE HAWKER,
a former pupil of this School who, skilful and
courageous, was foremost among the Empire's
pioneers in Aerial Flight.
Born 22nd January, 1889.
Died 13th July, 1921.

On the social providential side the residents of St. Kilda have had, from early days, their share of friendly societies, which have been an inestimable boon to many families, the heads of which could not have commanded from their own earnings, and resources, the many professional advantages, in the way of medical attention, and dispensing, yet under the co-operative system such benefits have been theirs. In the early days, many public houses had attached to them lodge rooms, for the use of friendly societies. Licensees were keen to have their hotels frequented by members of friendly societies. Here is a characteristic advertisement of the intention to start a lodge, and an assuring addendum, to those who might question the stability of the proposed lodge. Friendly societies in those days had

not accumulated the reserve funds which they happily, for all, have by them to-day. The notice reads :—"U.A.O.D. opened at Rees' Pembroke Hotel, High Street, in November, 1873. A lodge of the above Order will be opened the first week in November, up to which time candidates enrolled at reduced initiation- 18 to 35, 10/6; 35 to 40, £1/10/-. Names received by Host Rees at any time. Meetings of committee, on each Saturday, at 8 o'clock. Benefits as in other societies. Good security offered for fulfilling the liberal terms made by the Order."

The Prince of Wales Lodge M.U.I.O.O.F., St. Kilda, was opened in 1862, and its members also met in the Pembroke Hotel. Its secretary was Andrew Robertson, and G. A. Williams the N.G. The St. Kilda Branch of the A.N.A. met at the George Hotel. It held its first smoke night in the Duke of Devonshire Hotel, when George Turner was present, and the president of the A.N.A., Dr. McNerney, a resident of St. Kilda. A well-known solicitor of the day, Field Barrett, was the first president of the St. Kilda Branch of the A.N.A. At the smoke night there were 60 present. In the year 1901 the branch had between 80 and 90 members. The president was V. Kelly ; vice, J. Ben- netts; treasurer, J. Leggo ; secretary and assistant secretary, D. G. King, and P. Conroy. The committee consisted of S. Palmer, A. E. Fowler, J. James, G. Orr, and J. M. A. Spottiswoode. The St. Kilda Branch of the A.N.A. subsequently bought the Baptist Church in Blanch Street, which is now the St. Kilda A.N.A. hall and place of meeting of a very active and influential branch of the A.N.A.

One very well-known man, in friendly societies' circles, in St. Kilda, belonging to the Druids, was Richard James Ralph, who was born on September 10, 1836, in the Parish of St. Pancras, London. Early in the year 1876, a charter was granted by the head of the Druids' Lodge to Brother Simpson to form a lodge in St. Kilda. To do so, it was necessary to have 25 candidates. On July 18, 1876, the Charnwood Lodge was opened in the Corner Hotel. Ralph became its secretary, and remained in that position until he died in June 21, 1901.

A branch of the Friendly Societies' District Dispensary was established in Brighton Road, almost opposite the St. Kilda City Hall.

In St. Kilda there is an institution that does its work quietly, but nevertheless it accomplishes a vast amount of good. We refer to the St. Kilda and Balaclava Free Kindergarten, the building of which is in Nelson Street, St. Kilda. This place is a training kindergarten for students attending the Free Kindergarten Training College, and Miss Harcourt is the principal. The kindergarten has a hundred children's names on its school roll, with an average daily attendance of 80 children. Some of the office-bearers of the kindergarten are :— President, Mrs. W. G. L. Spowers; vice-presidents, Mesdames Davenport, Joseph Levi, F. Grey-Smith, and T. a'B. Weigall ; honorary treasurer, Miss R. Watson; honorary secretary, Mrs. A. G. Youngman; committee, Mesdames G. Weigall, Sloman, D. J. Swanson, A. Oldham, G. A. Stephen, Neville Wight, Mirams, and Henriques, and the Misses E. Godfrey and M. Bull.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

The Town Clerks of St. Kilda—George Sprigg Suggests a Municipal Association of Interests—M'Culloch's Municipal Bill, 1869, Contains Errors—Corporation Bill Follows to Remove the Errors, but Creates Power of Ministerial Patronage—Sprigg's Fight Against Political Patronage—Town Clerks, J. N. Browne and F. W. Chamberlin—The New Era of Municipal Efficiency—Other Executive Officers, and Employees—The Mayoral Chain and the City's Seal and Coat of Arms—Councillor Sir George Turner—The Hon. Nathaniel Levi.

ON March 14, 1857, William Goldie was appointed by the St. Kilda Council to the office of the town clerk of St. Kilda. He resigned the position on August 26, and David Prophet was selected to fill the vacated position. Prophet resigned his position to enter the service of the Brighton Council. On May 22, 1858, E. T. Bradshaw was appointed to succeed Prophet as town clerk of St. Kilda. Bradshaw relinquished his position on September 14, 1868, and George Sprigg entered into the office of town clerk. Sprigg was the fourth son of the Rev. James Sprigg, M.A., a Baptist minister of Ipswich, England, who attained to some celebrity, by his advocacy of the anti-slavery movement. George Sprigg was a brother of W. G. Sprigg, the secretary of the Melbourne Omnibus and Tramway Company. George Sprigg was apprenticed to the paper trade, that led him to spend the early part of his business career in Antwerp, and Paris. These continental experiences were not without their educative influences on Sprigg. Neither he, nor his brother, were time servers. Both of them showed administrative qualities. George Sprigg, being a capable man when he arrived in the colony of Victoria in the year 1859, was not long in finding employment. He became the Secretary of the Victorian Acclimatisation Society, which society was founded in the year 1857, by Edward Wilson, one of the proprietors of The Argus newspaper. A St. Kilda resident, Dr. Black, was the first President of the Society, and as he was a man of influence, Sprigg's appointment to the vacant position of townclerkship of St.

Kilda may have owed something to the doctor's advocacy. The Government had withdrawn its annual subsidy to the Society, leaving the Society without any revenue. Fortunately for Sprigg, at this time, Bradshaw resigned and left the office of the townclerkship of St. Kilda vacant.

Sprigg commenced the duties of town clerk, at a time, when there existed a strong party spirit in the St. Kilda Council. Sprigg went through the period of the "burning questions," of a market, a town hall, and a fight as to whether the borough should be divided into wards. The wards were gazetted on November 27, 1868, the Chief Secretary granting the petitions being Sir James M'Culloch. The Council permitted Sprigg to hold the office of the Clerk of Petty Sessions, St. Kilda, in addition to the one of the Town Clerk of St. Kilda. Some interruption of the normal routine of the St. Kilda Police Court office must have taken place at the time of Sprigg's police court appointment. Our researches concerning the inception of the St. Kilda Court of Petty Sessions show that Butler Villiers was the first assistant Clerk of Petty Sessions at St. Kilda, and that he also acted as the Registrar of the Electoral District. Definitely we know, that George F. Bartrop, was the Clerk of Petty Sessions at St. Kilda, on March 5, 1858. Bartrop afterwards became a police magistrate, and retained to his death the title of Major Bartrop, a legacy from the days of the volunteer corps. He had a sharp military way of talking, and he favored an eye-glass that seemed to have some microscopic power when he focalized his eye on the prisoner at the bar. George Sprigg's end was untoward. He was found in the town clerk's office, at the St. Kilda Town Hall, in a dying condition, on November 14, 1881.

The municipal councils, in the year 1869, were without almost any co-ordination of purpose, though the municipalities were largely interested in the same questions of administration. We learn from the newspapers, in March, 1869, that "Mr. Sprigg, the town clerk of St. Kilda, has issued circulars, inviting the various councils, in the colony, to take action, with the view of expunging the objectionable clauses from law, empowering the Government to appoint auditors of municipal councils." Such a proposal may seem extraordinary, to a modern reader, who recognises the appointment of Government auditor for municipal

accounts, as a well-established safeguarding precaution of civic accountancy. Political patronage in Victoria had attained such wide-spread ramifications throughout the civil service, that it had become a Government scandal. The town clerk of St. Kilda was making a forlorn attempt to try to preserve the purity of public service, at least so far as lay within the ambit of his duties.

Municipal government had been carried on up to the year 1869, under certain Acts, since 1863. These Acts were passed by the O'Shanassy administration. In 1869, the Municipal Bill (M'Culloch Ministry) passed both Houses with very little discussion taking place upon it. Afterwards it was asserted that the marginal notes of the bill only, and not the clauses, to which the notes related, were read. The Bill was one of errors, omissions, and anomalies, but nevertheless it became an Act and law, with its imperfections. Four amending Bills were prepared, to correct the results of too much haste in rushing the original Bill through. To clear up the situation, the Minister of Justice, the Hon. James Joseph Casey, sponsored the Borough, or Municipal Corporations' Bill. In one of the Bill's clauses, the power to appoint Government auditors for municipal accounts, was placed in the gift of the Governor-in-Council, which St. Kilda's town clerk, Sprigg, contended, was a veiled way of placing in the hands of the Honorable James Joseph Casey, so long as he was a Minister of the Crown, the patronage of about 320 appointments of more or less value. The M'Culloch administration had a partiality for exercising political patronage, and it had held the power of appointment of Electoral Registrars since the year 1863, and it was alleged, that "none but a devout worshipper, at the shrine of M'Culloch, could expect to enter into the kingdom of Electoral Registrars." The Borough Councils, when canvassed by Mr. Sprigg, thought much the same as he did, but Casey was too powerful for the municipalities, as Sprigg must have feared, when he set out to right what was wrong in the political aspect of the municipal world.

Sprigg's attempt to prevent political patronage in the sphere of municipal auditors recalls an instance, where a Government auditor, and the St. Kilda councillors did not agree. The difference arose over that hardy annual flower of protest, presented each year, to the municipal councils of Melbourne, by the

Government auditors, when they find that the councils have allocated, some of the municipal funds, for the purpose of presenting the retiring mayor, with a memorial address of his year of office. The protest made its appearance, on the St. Kilda Council table, at the end of November, 1880. The auditors' report read : "In the disbursements of the year are two amounts of £10/10/- each for testimonials, which we are of opinion are not such as come within the meaning of Section 68 of the Act." The auditors' report was remitted by the Council to the Legislative Committee, and the Committee considered the report required an answer. It printed its answer, and its opinions for distribution. The Committee admitted that the power to cover this expenditure was not contained, in Section 68, of "The Local Government Act, 1874." This clause has only reference to an allowance that can be made to the mayor by the Council of an amount fixed previous to his election. The Chairman of the Committee was Councillor George Pilley, and he happened to be mayor at the time the Committee sat. The payment for the two mayoral testimonials, 1878-9, and 1879-80, just happened accidentally to be made in the same year. The Committee, in its report stated : "Up to the present time, no allowance has been made to any mayor of St. Kilda, and were one made, it would be manifestly improper for the Mayor, on his retirement from office, to pay for a testimonial to himself."

We might have passed by that report, had it not been that the Committee indicated what its members considered were the duties of the mayor of a municipality. The unique report reads:—

"The Council expects its Mayor to be regular in his attendance at the Court of Petty Sessions (the magistrates attending this Court have been pleased to elect every Mayor their chairman) ; to be generally accessible to the rate-payers ; to see the officers duly perform their several duties ; to be punctual in his attendance at Council, and Committee Meetings, to be present on deputations, and generally to see that all municipal matters work smoothly; he likewise incurs expenditure for hospitalities, and is called upon during his year of office, for subscriptions for charitable, benevolent, and other objects beyond his usual contributions for such purposes."

Having enlightened the ignorance of the Government, and its auditors, regarding the duties of the Mayor, even if his duties had not any direct bearing on a "protested payment," the Committee, in a polite manner, intimated, that it had no intention of changing its custom, and moreover, that, in its opinion, the Councils' power to incur this expenditure for mayoral testimonials, to those who deserved them, was contained in Section 248, which stated that 'the municipal fund shall be applied by the Council towards the payment of all expenses necessarily incurred in carrying this Act into being.

A Municipal Act came into force on October 1, 1863, that required the Council to elect an assessor and auditors. J. A. Grubb was elected assessor, and Messrs. Mathieson & Bramwell, auditors. Under the Local Government Act the ratepayers appointed a local municipal auditor, who acted in conjunction with the Government auditor. This practice went on for years, and then the office of the local municipal auditor was done away with as a needless expense to municipalities. It was said of some of the municipal ratepayers' auditors that though they could win an election, they had not the ability to audit municipal accounts. For the first time in the history of the Borough, a contested election for the office of local municipal auditor took place in August, 1884. There were four candidates. The voting was :—Tullet, 783 ; Lemme, 531; Martin, 490 ; Watts, 202. The successful candidate was Frederick Tullett, auctioneer, son of the late Councillor Tullett; the second on the poll was Victor Lemme, who afterwards became a councillor, and then mayor (1895). His office was memorable for the occasion of the first official vice-regal landing being made at St. Kilda, for it was Councillor Lemme who welcomed, on behalf of St. Kilda, Lord Brassey. During the term of his mayoralty, the body of a storm-driven white seal was washed ashore at the Esplanade, St. Kilda. Other visitors to the St. Kilda waters, within the last fifty years, have been two shoals of pilchards, and one shoal of barracouta. These shoals of fish acted as magnets to hundreds of people. The scenes of amateur fishermen, women, and children netting, and basketing, the fish close to the shore, were most extraordinary.

In January, 1871, Henry Wilkinson, who had acted as the rate collector of St. Kilda, retired from his position, and Walter Wilson was appointed to the vacated office. On May 26, 1881,

the St. Kilda Council terminated Wilson's engagement, and John Narberth Browne was appointed rate collector, on June 24, 1881. On the day of the town clerk, Sprigg's, death, J. N. Browne was placed, by the Council, in the office of acting town clerk. On December 5, the acting town clerk was elevated to the office of the town clerk and treasurer of St. Kilda. Mr. Charles Gordon was appointed to the office of the city's rate collector, and the assistant clerk, Henry Wilson, was appointed to the position of acting rate collector.

J. N. Browne, born at Narberth, Pembroke, Wales, arrived in Melbourne on June 15, 1855. The same day J. N. Browne started his connection with St. Kilda when he went to live with his brother, who resided in Alma Road. By chance Benjamin Cowderoy offered him work, and when Browne was through with it he went to the Ovens goldfields. In the year 1880 Cowderoy's political influence, exercised on his behalf, secured him the position of a Government auditor, and the officer for the Census, in the Prahran District. In 1881 he was temporarily engaged in the Government Statist's office, and he left that position to enter the employment of the St. Kilda Council. He resigned his office of town clerk on April 30, 1913. The Council voted him a retiring gratuity of £500. The citizens of St. Kilda also presented a testimonial to him, recording the ratepayers' appreciation of his municipal service. He died on June 6, 1916.

For some time before Mr. Browne resigned he must have recognised that the dawn of a more strenuous and exacting period of municipal administration was already clearly visible in the morning light. Towards the end of his townclerkship much of his work had been undertaken by the chief civic clerk, Frederick William Chamberlin. In him we have another instance of the persistence of links in St. Kilda with Devonshire. All his forebears came from Devon. It was in Barnstaple, in the north of Devon, where the present town clerk of St. Kilda spent part of his boyhood. Mr. F. W. Chamberlin came to St. Kilda with his parents in the year 1881. He continued his education at All Saints' Grammar School, and he was, for some years, a choir boy at All Saints' Church, St. Kilda. He entered the service of the trustees of the St. Kilda Cemetery as a clerk on New Year's Day in the year 1887. He was appointed assistant town clerk of St. Kilda in August, 1897, and when the town clerk,

J. N. Browne, resigned, Mr. Chamberlin, having the necessary qualifications under the Local Government Act, was appointed town clerk of St. Kilda on May 1, 1913.

The appointment of Mr. Chamberlin marked the new era in municipal service in St. Kilda—the starting point of the modern systems of efficiency. The new town clerk belonged to the age of youth in civic affairs. Unresting progress made the change that came inevitable. A growing city, like St. Kilda, could not fail, as its population expanded, to leave behind the *days*, when the faithful discharge of borough routine work sufficed for the requirements of the municipality. The appointment of Mr. Chamberlin as the town clerk of St. Kilda, synchronised with a municipal forward movement. Unquestionably the St. Kilda Council found in the youthful energy, and driving force of its young town clerk, the necessary qualities to carry out the policy of progress that St. Kilda as a city was straining at the leash to have set afoot.

The new era was full of new problems, or rather old problems presented in a new form. More especially was this in evidence on the shore front. St. Kilda beach had become the seaside playground of the people of Melbourne. Unlike some suburban cities, wherein the works of development have been completed, and where the councils have little else to do than to maintain a well-ordered progression of civic services, St. Kilda is always advancing. The scope of its services not only increases in volume and variety, but the services have to be rendered on a much broader basis than is the custom followed by any other municipality. Everyone, wonderful to relate, appears to claim a common right in St. Kilda! And more particularly these presumptions assert themselves on the beach front. The St. Kilda Council might be pardoned, if it was ever tempted to ask whether the municipality of St. Kilda belonged to its ratepayers and to the Council, or to the General Public, and the critics? The work of development in St. Kilda must go on, the beauties of the shore line must increase, and it is clear that such transformations and additions cannot take place without work. That work must continue for years.

At the latter end of the year 1926, the Council granted to Mr. Chamberlin six months' leave of absence for a visit to Britain and Europe, and the Council also gave to him a bonus

of £400. This amount was supplemented by a testimonial from the citizens of St. Kilda, wherein it was stated how much the citizens appreciated the man, and his works.

In the first years of his townclerkship Mr. Chamberlin had as his chief clerk John F. Jeans, a son of the late Councillor S. E. Jeans. He was appointed junior clerk on July 8, 1901 and became the chief clerk in May, 1913. He died on July 3, 1922. Mr. William Henry Greaves was appointed assistant town clerk in December, 1922.

St. Kilda City has been well served by its municipal officers. Some of them have practically spent a large portion of their lives in its service. Long periods of employment are quite common in the records. There is one, however, that is believed to be the record for office in municipal service in Victoria. It is that of Robert Ashton, the St. Kilda rate Receiver, who has passed his fiftieth year of employment by the St. Kilda Council. On May 6, 1928, Mr. Ashton, by invitation, was present at the Council meeting and occupied a seat on the dais. The Mayor, Councillor F. L. Dawkins, referred in highest terms of eulogy to the loyal and conscientious services rendered to the municipality by Mr. Ashton—32 years in the capacity of rate receiver, and the 18 years prior to that on the outside staff, and for most of which period he acted in the capacity of overseer. The Mayor moved :—"That the Council heartily congratulates Mr. Robert Ashton on the completion of 50 years' service—a unique municipal record—and records its very high appreciation of the faithful and conscientious discharge of his duties during the long years of his loyal service to the municipality." The motion was seconded by Cr. O'Donnell, and declared carried. Applause followed, and then Mr. Ashton thanked the Council for their appreciation of his years of service.

The hall-keeper of the St. Kilda City Hall is an important official in the sphere of his duty. He it is in the last phase of the hiring of the City Hall for dances, or for any purpose whatsoever, the hirer has to see. Hirers have many moods, and that, in their divers numbers, they include many diverse temperaments that have repercussions, in different ways, on the head of the hall-keeper. To meet this breaking tide of admiration, or of abuse, as may be the fortune of the hour to provide, requires a diplomat, humble perhaps in rank, but still a diplomat.

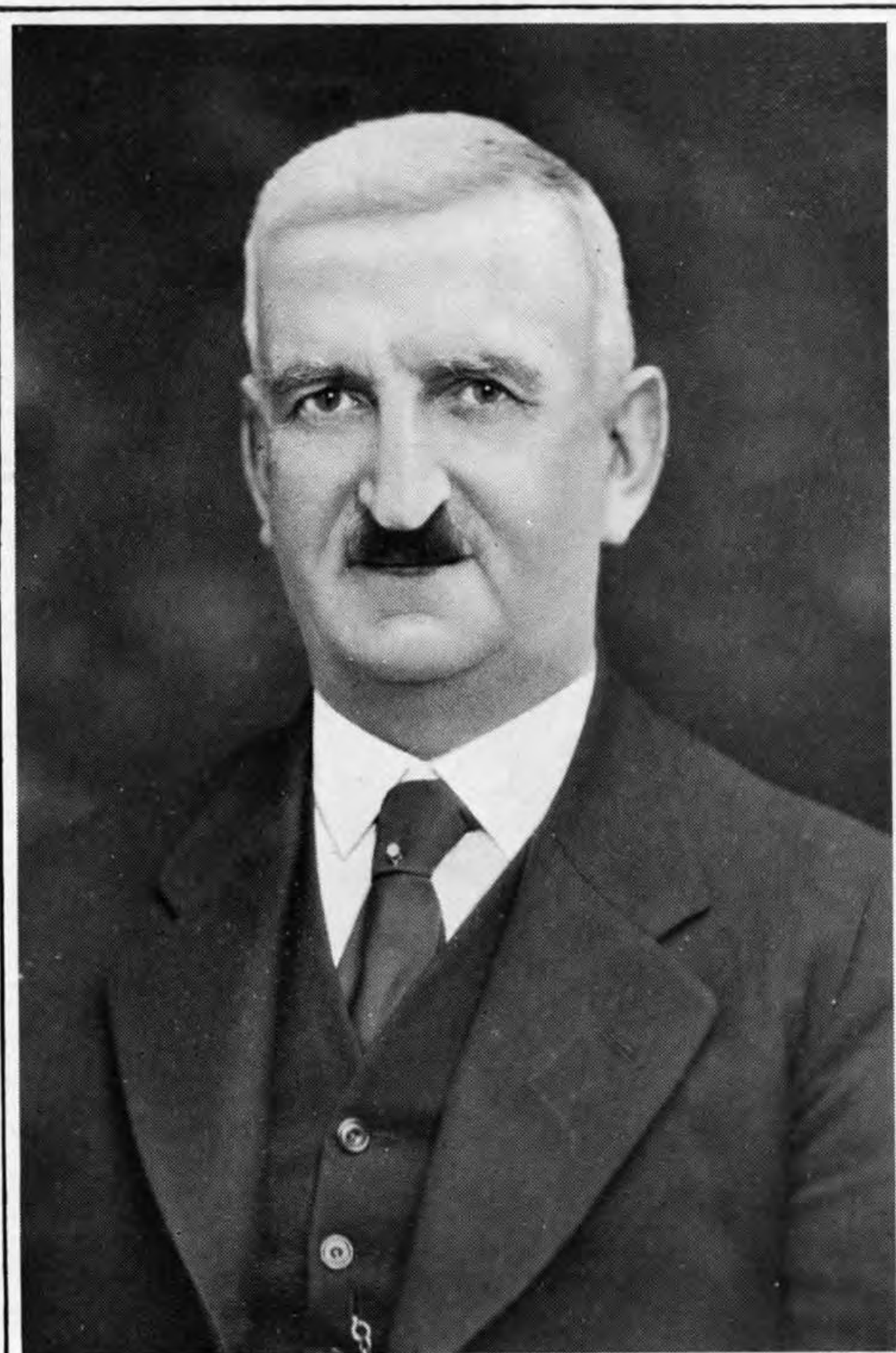
For forty years William Isaac Dod, born at Geelong, on March 17, 1858, has been practising the art of diplomacy in the environs of the St. Kilda Town Hall. He was appointed hall-keeper in June, 1890. Dod probably holds the record among municipal city hall-keepers for length of service. He is the best-known and esteemed city hall-keeper around Melbourne. In his forty years' service he has seen councils come and councils go. He has had forty years' experience of mayors, and their robes. He knows their weaknesses, and their vanities, and yet William Isaac Dod covers everything with a silent smile that is with him more golden than speech.

On December 12, 1921, the Council received the resignations of four day laborers, who had toiled in the streets of St. Kilda for many a long year. Their names and records of years of service were :—F. G. House, aged 77 years, 39 years' service; J. White, aged 69 years, 30 years' service ; G. Price, aged 65 years, 28 years' service ; R. Whyte, aged 66 years, 39 years' service. The Council gave them each a gratuity of £104.

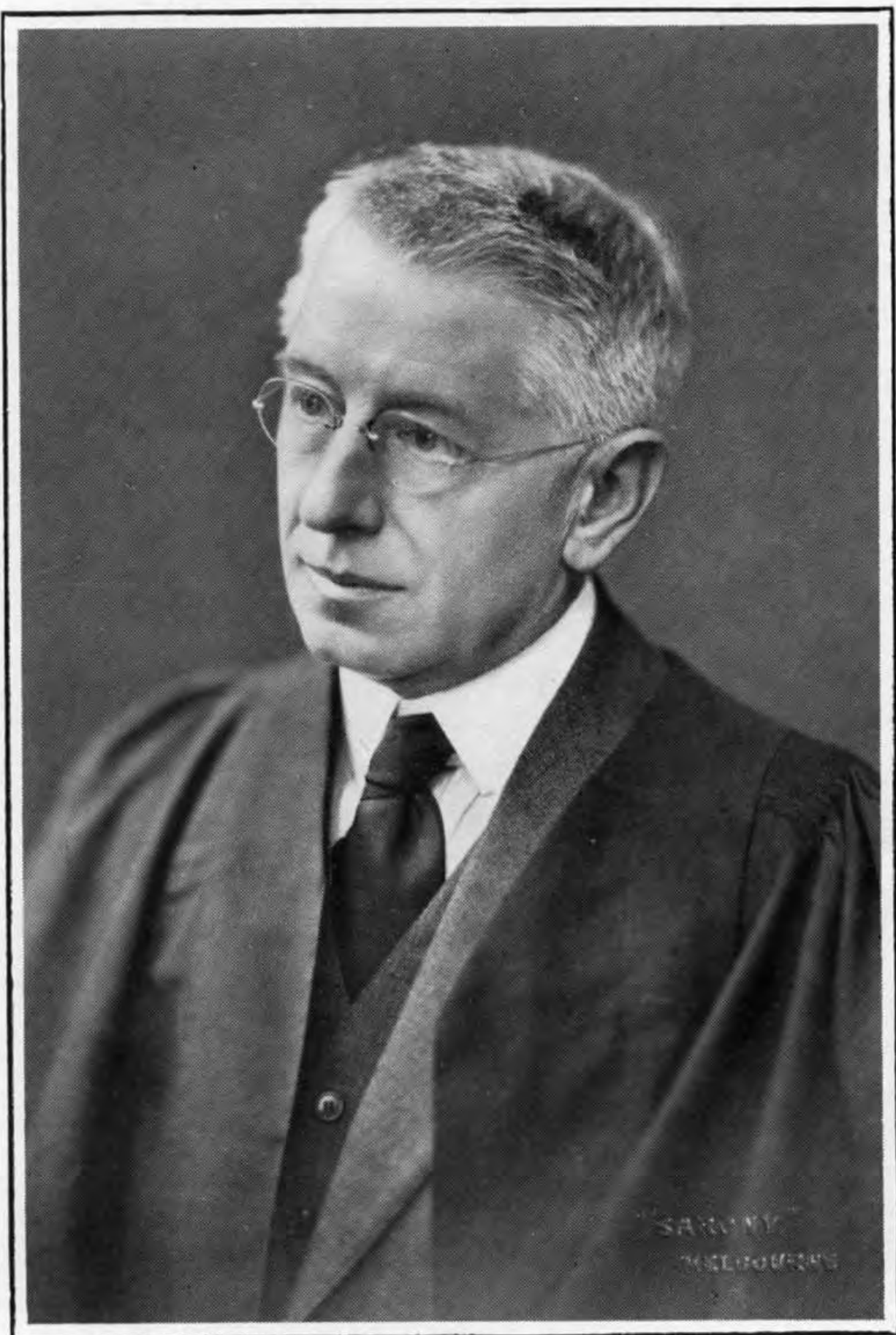
The first surveyor of St. Kilda was Sydney William Smith, C.E. He was a faithful officer of the St. Kilda Council. He was the son of Lieut. John Smith, R.N., of Godolming, Surrey, England. Sydney Smith arrived in Sydney in the year 1852, and he was appointed municipal surveyor to the municipality of St. Kilda on April 1, 1857, at a salary of £250, which was increased on August 5 to £300 per year. He occupied the position of surveyor for fifteen years. His death, at the age of sixty years, took place at "Farncombe," Princes Street, St. Kilda. He was succeeded by James Daskin for a short time.

Remembering the literary tang there is in the notable group of street names in St. Kilda, it is a coincidence, which often caused a smile that the surveyor of St. Kilda for ten years was named R. Henry Shakespear. Shakespear resigned in January, 1883, and G. R. B. Steane, who had been city surveyor of Sandridge for twelve years, was appointed surveyor in place of Shakespear.

In August, 1884, Steane resigned the office of borough surveyor, and in the same month W. B. Downe, engineer to the Shire of Echuca, was appointed to Steane's vacated position. On September 28, 1903, Downe resigned his office of City Surveyor, and the Council expressed its great regret to lose, through



R. T. KELLY,
City Surveyor.



FREDK. CHAMBERLIN,
Town Clerk and Treasurer.

his ill-health, such a conscientious officer. On November 1 of the same year W. B. Downe died. On November 23, Henry Edgar Morton, C.E., was elected City Surveyor, which office he resigned on April 30, 1904, to become the City Engineer and Building Surveyor of the City of Melbourne. W. J. M. Woolley was selected to succeed Morton, and after nine years' service, resigned in December, 1912. Mr. C. J. McCormick, late of Manley, N.S.W., was appointed surveyor on January 23, 1913, but he resigned in October of the same year. He was followed by Mr. Richard Terence Kelly, who was appointed on November 11, 1913. He was formerly surveyor to the Richmond City Council.

The mayoral chain of the City of St. Kilda had its inception in this way. On July 8, 1904, Councillor J. H. Pittard, then occupying the office of Mayor of St. Kilda, gave a ball to the citizens. The citizens on August 9 returned the compliment by tendering a ball to the Mayor and Mayoress. The return ball was a very successful one, both from a social standpoint, and a financial one. With part of the surplus moneys from the receipts of the ball it was decided, by the ball committee, to buy a mayoral chain, and to present the chain to the Mayor, which intention was carried into effect on October 24. A medallion on the chain bore an inscription, telling the story of how the chain originated, and also that the chain itself was intended to be a memento of Councillor Pittard's term of office as mayor. The presentation of the chain was made by Mr. F. Wimpole, the chairman of the return ball committee. The Mayor, after returning his thanks, handed the chain to the Town Clerk, with the request that the chain be made a municipal heirloom, to be worn by succeeding mayors of St. Kilda.

It does not often happen in this history of a municipality that such a unique occasion arises, by the lapse of years, when a council has the opportunity to honor itself by honoring a revered and invaluable councillor, as a notable City Father, who has served the city faithfully, and well, for forty years, but such an occasion did arise in the year 1928. It was at the meeting of the St. Kilda Council, held on October 22, that the Council presented to the esteemed veteran councillor, Councillor Edward O'Donnell, an illuminated address, as a memento of the completion of his 40 years' unbroken service as a councillor of the City of St. Kilda.

The Mayor, Councillor Unsworth, said he regarded it as a unique honor to make such a presentation. He read the text of the address which embodied the following record of service:—

Elected councillor for the West Ward August, 1888.

Occupied the mayoral chair for six years in all viz., 1889-90, 1900-02, 1912-14, 1917-18.

Chairman of the Finance Committee since August, 1914. Member of the St. Kilda Shore Committee since its inception in 1906, and chairman since 1918.

Member of the Albert Park Committee of Management since December, 1888.

Representative on the Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works since August, 1918.

Trustee of the St. Kilda General Cemetery since March, 1893.

Member of the Committee of Management of the Alfred Hospital since 1892 and treasurer since 1903.

Returning Officer for the Melbourne South Province and for the Electoral District of St. Kilda since November 1, 1916.

Appointed a Justice of the Peace August, 1904.

In the year 1888, when Councillor O'Donnell first entered the Council, the population of St. Kilda was 16,036; it was in the year 1928, 41,013. The number of buildings in the year 1888 was 3,300; in 1928, 9,873. Valuation 1888, £224,375; 1928, £1,044,404. Revenue 1888, £24,578; 1928, £118,497. The address concluded by expressing the earnest hope that Councillor O'Donnell would long be blessed with health and vigour for the continuance of his good work.

In the course of his eulogy, His Worship the Mayor, included the Council's recognition of the services rendered by Mrs. O'Donnell as mayoress during her various terms of office.

The Mayor's remarks were sincerely endorsed by every councillor, and the executive officers.

Councillor O'Donnell, in expressing his thanks to the Mayor, councillors and executive officers for their cordial sentiments towards him, said he felt deeply grateful for the kindly references to Mrs. O'Donnell.

Some of the municipal elections that took place in St. Kilda are not without interest from a local historical point of view.

We recall an early one held on Monday, March 8, 1858. The polling place was a temporary booth erected on the Government Reserve, at the junction of Grey and Barkly Streets. The hours of polling were from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., the candidates being Joshua Mooney, Frederick Spicer and Samuel Marshall. In another instance, the ingenuousness of the notice of election makes the advertisement worthy of reproduction. The advertisement referred to a special municipal election to fill an extraordinary vacancy that occurred in 1867. The election advertisement reads :—

**"SPECIAL ELECTION: EXTRAORDINARY VACANCY.
"MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS ACT 1863.**

"Thursday, June 6, 1867. Polling places at the Town Hall, Grey Street; George Hotel, near the Railway Terminus, Fitzroy Street; Alma Hotel, Chapel Street.

"8 forenoon to 4 afternoon.

"William Ford, Mayor."

Evidently it was considered that the ballot paper was sufficient advertisement to the ratepayers as to who the candidates were. We learn that the election was carried out "with some energy, and a little acrimony." Lord polled 346, Levitt 174. The voting at the polling places was Alma Hotel, 82 votes ; George Hotel, 274 votes; Town Hall, 164. The successful candidate, S. P. Lord, was a merchant. The number of votes polled at the election was 520.

The annual report of the St. Kilda Council, September 30, 1869, refers to the division of the borough into wards. When that localisation of representation at the council chamber was made, it became necessary to make allotments of the new wards under the new system. Councillors B. F. Bunny and T. J. Crouch were made the representatives of the North Ward. Councillors W. Paterson, W. Ford and S. P. Lord retired from the Council, and the two former did not stand for re-election. The extraordinary elections to fill the vacancies existing in the North and West Wards were held in December. They resulted in the unopposed return of Councillor F. Gardiner for the North Ward, and in the return of Councillors S. P. Lord and Charles Gray for the West Ward, the candidates being Messrs. Lord, Gray and Dr. Van Hemert.

An extraordinary election caused by the resignation of Councillor John Oldham for the South Ward, was held in March, and the result was the return of Councillor Oldham, who was opposed by H. Selwyn Smith. At the annual election in August, Councillors Bunny, W. C. Biddle and Henry Tullett retired by effluxion of time, and all of them offered themselves to the rate-payers for re-election to the St. Kilda Council. Messrs. D. McNaughton, Welshman and Dobson also offered themselves for the vacancies. The result of the election was the return of Councillors McNaughton for the North Ward, William Welshman for the South Ward and Tullett for the West Ward. Councillor Tullett resigned the office of mayor in August, and Councillor Oldham was elected to fill his place for the balance of the corporate year. The St. Kilda Council that was the outcome of the division of the borough into wards, 1868-69 had for its members Councillors Tullett, Florence Gardiner, B. F. Bunny, all of whom had occupied mayoral office, and Councillors T. J. Crouch, W. G. Murray, W. C. Biddle, John Oldham, S. P. Lord and Charles Gray.

On January 12, 1882, an extraordinary vacancy took place in the West Ward owing to the death of Councillor Tullett, whose life was identified with St. Kilda and its progress. For a period of twenty-four years he was a member of the St. Kilda Council. He was the mayor of St. Kilda on three occasions. Alfred Davis was elected to fill the vacant seat. The discovery was then made that his election was irregular by reason of insufficient notice having been given with regard to his nomination. A fresh election, complying with legal requirements, took place, and Councillor Davis was returned unopposed.

A very unusual string of circumstances arose during the municipal elections held in August, 1873. Two candidates offered themselves for election for the South Ward of St. Kilda. One was Hugh Peck, and the other candidate Ross Watt. The result of the polling was :—Hugh Peck, 120 votes ; Ross Watt, 93; majority for Peck, 27. Someone discovered that Peck had not the necessary qualifications to sit as a councillor of St. Kilda. His name was not on the roll as a ratepayer. Complaints were made because Peck's nomination papers had been accepted, and by the carelessness of the Returning Officer, the borough had been put "to the trouble and expense of a contested election."

Peck made two or three unsatisfactory explanations, such as that he was nominated without his knowledge, and so on. During the election, there was no excitement, and very little interest taken in the contest, but when it became known that a man who was not a ratepayer of St. Kilda, had dared to stand for election to the council, and to win the seat, the burgesses were indignant. They regarded the offence somewhat seriously, and there was no humorous side to it to them. An affront, they said, had been put upon municipal institutions

Hugh Peck found himself a very unpopular member of society, as the St. Kilda burgesses did not like their municipal neighbours to laugh at them, and their officers' want of electoral efficiency. Peck was advised that he would incur liabilities, and be heavily fined, if he took his seat at the Council table. He said he was aware of that, and that he had no intention of doing so. He would prefer the whole episode to be forgotten, which preference suggests Peck was tired of being in the municipal pillory.

Ross Watt claimed that since Peck was not qualified to stand for election to the St Kilda Council, that he had been unopposed, and therefore he was returned to the Council as the representative of the South Ward. Ross Watt attended the Council meeting, held after the election, proffered himself as the successful candidate, and offered to make the necessary declaration, to allow him to sit as a councillor. The mayor said he could not receive the declaration, and he advised Watt to seek the advice of a lawyer, to see what legal steps he could take to release himself from the embarrassing position in which he had been cast. It was a mayoral assumption that Watt was embarrassed, but it was doubtful if that was so. Ross Watt was a man of action, and he promptly appealed to the Supreme Court for, and obtained, a mandamus, calling upon the mayor of St. Kilda to show cause why he should not receive Ross Watt's declaration as a councillor of the said borough. Upon the case coming up for judgment, Mr. Justice Barry referred to the case of the Queen v. Anderson, reported, December 8, 1868, where it was held, that, in a proceeding, to oust from office, where the respondent had resigned, on being served with the rule nisi, the applicant was entitled to the costs of moving the rule absolute. The learned judge added, that "Mr. Peck seemed

to have been guilty of officially intermeddling in the election, and he must pay the costs. Rule absolute with costs to oust Mr. Peck from office, September 5, 1873."

To the surprise of the residents of St. Kilda, Ross Watt then declined to have any more to do with municipal affairs, and he formally gave notice of withdrawal from the election, and council arena. This withdrawal necessitated the election proceeding to start once again from the beginning. Dr. Mackay, a well-known barrister, nominated, and he had for an opponent James Dixon, a butcher, of High Street. Dr. Mackay was beaten.

On March 28, 1889, Councillor George Turner, a lawyer, was elected as the first representative in the Legislative Assembly for the new Electoral District of St. Kilda as defined by Act. No. 1008. George Turner started his public career by becoming a member of the St. Kilda Council on a non-contested by-election for the South Ward in December, 1885, and he remained a councillor of the City of St. Kilda until 1900, and a year later he resigned his position as the member for St. Kilda in the Legislative Assembly. He died on August 14, 1916.

Sir George Turner shed the light of his official greatness through a homely genial glass on St. Kilda, and he was never more at home, never more himself, "plain George," than after a council meeting, in the mayoral supper room, at the St. Kilda Town Hall. In the year 1897 Sir George obtained leave of absence from the St. Kilda Council in order to represent the colony of Victoria at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration in London. He returned to St. Kilda, and resumed his seat at the council table, on August 23, 1897. At the close of the council business the councillors assembled in the Mayor's parlor, when the Mayor, on behalf of the Council, made presentations to Sir George and Lady Turner, Miss Turner and Miss Grace Turner. On August 30 the Mayor entertained a large company in the Town Hall, in honor of Sir George's and his family's return. On the same day, the Mayor planted an oak tree in the grounds of the Town Hall in honor of the return of the Hon. Councillor Sir George Turner, P.C., K.C.M.G., D.C.L., LL.D., J.P.

When Councillor F. J. Marks in 1922 resigned his position as a councillor for the North Ward an extraordinary election was held to fill the vacancy. Only one candidate was nominated Mr. J. B. Levi, and he duly became a councillor of the City of

St. Kilda on November 27, 1922. Taking a keen interest in municipal affairs he was elected to the position of mayor in 1924. We have referred specially to Councillor Levi because he belongs to a family that is identified with St. Kilda for many years. His uncle was the distinguished Hon. Nathaniel Levi, the first of his ancient race to enter the Parliament of Victoria. He was born at Liverpool, England, in the year 1830, and when 23 years of age left in the ship "Matilda Wattenbach" for Melbourne, where he arrived on April 27, 1854. He started as an auctioneer. In 1859, he stood as a parliamentary candidate for the electorate of Maryborough, but was defeated at the poll by 14 votes. When, in 1869, the barrister, R. D. Ireland, a St. Kilda resident, accepted the office of Attorney-Generalship in the first Heales Government, N. Levi, another St. Kilda resident, contested the return of Ireland for Maryborough. Up to that date, there had not been in Victoria such a riotous political election. A pistol was fired into Levi's committee room when it was known he had defeated Ireland by 166 votes. In many ways, Nathaniel Levi was a public-spirited man, and he was esteemed by Christians and Jews alike, of his generation. He lived in a house in Princes Street, St. Kilda, for many years, which he named "Liverpool" He died there on September 11, 1908.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Spectacular St. Kilda—George Wall Suggests Vice-Regal Landings at St. Kilda—Suggestion Adopted—Lord Brassey, the First Governor to be Welcomed at the St. Kilda Pier by the St. Kilda Council—The Royal Landing of H.R.H. the Duke of Cornwall and York, and H.R.H. Duchess Mary of York—The American Fleet's Visit—Another Royal Landing—H.R.H. the Prince of Wales—Address of Welcome—Lord Jellicoe—Sir George and Lady Clarke—The Earl of Stradbroke and Lady Stradbroke.

IN the times we frequently refer to as "the early days of St. Kilda," it was customary, for the well-informed man, to playfully allude to St. Kilda, as the "patrician village." The phrase was quite appropriate, even if there was a quiz in it, since the word "patrician," indicates the senatorial classes, of whom members were resident in St. Kilda. At random, we recall the names of Thomas Turner a'Beckett, M.L.C., Commissioner of Trade and Customs, in and out of office from 1860 to 1875. His wife was an early honorary secretary of the local Ladies' Benevolent Society; Butler Cole Aspinall, Attorney- General, 1861, Solicitor-General, 1870 ; Samuel Henry Bindon, Minister of Justice, 1866; James Joseph Casey, Minister of Justice, 1868, and other Ministerial and commissioners' positions until 1875; Hugh Culling Eardley Childers, Commissioner of Trade and Customs, 1855; Alexander Fraser, M.L.C., Commissioner of Public Works, 1872; Augustus Frederick Greeves, Commissioner of Trade and Customs, 1857, and in 1860 President of the Board of Land and Works, and Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey; George Samuel Wegg Horne, Commissioner of Public Works, 1858-59 (Horne lived in Carlisle Street) ; Richard Hengish Horne, a Commissioner of the Sewers and Water Supply, and the Yan Yean Reservoir, who lived in Robe Street; Richard David Ireland, Solicitor and Attorney- General, 1858, 1861; James Stewart Johnston, Vice-President Board of Land and Works, 1861; Thomas Loader, Commissioner of Railways, 1860, Postmaster-General, 1860-61, Commissioner

of Trade and Customs, 1861; John Madden, Minister of Justice, 1875-1880; Archibald Michie, Minister of Justice, Attorney-General, 1857-1870, afterwards Agent-General, London; James McCulloch, several Ministerial positions, 1857 to 1875; William Nicholson, Chief Secretary, 1859-60; Thomas Frederick Sargood, Minister of Defence, 1883, Water Supply, 1884, and he held other offices, as Lieut.-Col. Sir Thomas Frederick Sargood till 1894; Howard Spenceley, Solicitor-General, 1871-72; George Turner, several Ministerial offices from 1891 to Premier, 1900, then Sir George Turner, P.C., K.C.M.G., the first Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Australia; Agar Wynne, Solicitor-General, 1900-1902. Sufficient names have been quoted to show that the term "patrician village" was merited. Possibly no other municipality, adjacent to Melbourne, has had so large a list of ex-Ministers and Ministers of the Crown living within its boundaries. In most cases, the Crown Ministers were among the men who lived high on St. Kilda Hill. The plebeians in St. Kilda, the "cottagers," lodged low on the Balaclava flat. Naturally the men on the hill were seen from a greater distance than the men who dwelt upon the fiat.

The term "patrician village" has ceased to have the same force of meaning as when it was first applied to St. Kilda. The phrase of to-day which describes St. Kilda, at its best in carnival, is "Spectacular St. Kilda," and, we venture to think, that in phrasing the words, that the description will ring true for many years to come, after the present generation of visitors to St. Kilda have gone, let us hope, to other watering places of equally pleasant associations. The terraced terrain of the St. Kilda Esplanade lends itself admirably to spectacular displays. Its broad boulevard highway, with the rising land of Alfred Square behind it, forms a natural open-air theatre for the assemblage of thousands of people, for the purpose of seeing the pomp and ceremony of a great welcome. The sweeping lines of the Esplanade allow strings of flags to be shown, and the two-storied houses that abut on the Esplanade, on such occasions, blossom with banners, "flung out on their outward walls," or their verandahs, and flagpoles. When, too, thousands of school children take part in an Esplanade spectacle, each of them waving small flags, the effect seen from the green lawns at the base of the Esplanade, and the Pier, is wonderfully fine. From those

points of view, a sea of faces is turned towards those in honor of whom the display, and welcome, have been arranged. And when that great crowd breaks into cheers, and the mass of human life, carpeting the whole of the Esplanade, becomes animated with enthusiasm, we doubt whether any more thrilling or picturesque sight of that character, could be seen at any place in the world. Almost everything pulsates with life. The sea and the white wings of yachts thereon on a fine day form a picture in contrasts of broad colour washes, and an enchanting foreground to the solidly piled masses of the Esplanade balancing and making the picture perfect. Such is something told of the spectacular receptions of princes, and lords, and of what they see, and of what the awaiting crowd gazes upon. Words are but sluggish symbols to recreate the atmosphere of a Royal visit, or a Vice-Regal reception when given by the St. Kilda Council, at its shore front, where the pendant pearl of the Esplanade hangs a joy, and a beauty for ever.

When Lord Hopetoun accepted the position of Governor of Victoria, in the year 1889, a suggestion was made in a letter to "The Argus" newspaper, written by George Wall, a photographer of St. Kilda, and son of George Wall, of Robe Street, in very early St. Kilda, that the Governor should land at St. Kilda. Wall's idea was taken up by a well-known and very popular resident of St. Kilda, Ephraim Lamen Zox, M.L.A., for East Melbourne electorate. George Turner, then the member for St. Kilda, vigorously supported Zox's suggestion, and it would have been carried out by the Government, had it not been, that want of time prevented the arrangements, already made for the Vice-Regal reception, from being altered. Zox had an eye for the spectacular, and may be it was the eye, in which he wore a monocle, that was mostly ascending and descending. He was a very old resident of St. Kilda, a bachelor, and a man that answered to Dr. Johnson's description of a "clubbable man." He lived for many years in the George Hotel, some said for thirty years, and his stout figure, always covered with a white waistcoat, his red face, such a face as glows upon a good clubman, his short Lord Dundreary whiskers, his black belltopper, black frock coat, and light trousers, completed a personality the remembrance of which is as vivid to-day as if we had shaken hands with him but yesterday, and heard him say his

usual somewhat nasal greeting, "Well, old man, how are you?" Zox was humorously reputed to have a white waistcoat for every day of the year, and also that his laundress had made her fortune, and that he wanted to marry her. When, at his death, his personal effects were sold, the 365 waistcoats had shrunk to three in number. He was a fellow of infinite jest, and excellent fancy, so much so that any good joke in Melbourne was said to be one of Zox's. He was unhesitatingly fathered with jokes of which he was not the author. It is a debated point whether it was he, who called St. Kilda, "the New Jerusalem," on account of the number of Jews who reside there, but the joke has something of the flavour of the harmless fun he sometimes had at the estimable and generous Jewish race. Apart from Zox being one of the esteemed characters of St. Kilda, it was said of him that he was so "good a fellow" that he had not an enemy in the world, and we believe that was true. Zox took a genuine interest in charities of all descriptions and creeds. When the Royal Commission on Charities was appointed, in 1885, he was made the chairman. Two other St. Kilda residents were on that commission, Edmund Ashley, and F. Race Godfrey. Two or three years later the commission prepared a valuable report, which was shelved by Parliament, and thereby finished with and forgotten even until this day. The experience disillusioned Zox, a member of nine Parliaments, of the utilities of Royal Commissions. Zox died on October 25, 1899. He loved St. Kilda and St. Kilda liked Zox.

On October 25, 1895, the Right Honorable Baron Brassey was appointed to be Governor of Victoria, during the time George Turner was the Premier of Victoria. Apart from the good reasons why a distinguished personage should arrive in Melbourne, by way of the St. Kilda Pier, the two Esplanades, and the St. Kilda Road boulevard, this was an occasion when opportunity favoured the creation of a precedent in Vice-Regal landings at St. Kilda. If St. Kilda had been treated, in the past, by unappreciative Governments, as some poor supplicating Cinderella, the day had come when a Saint George had arisen to power in Victoria, a knight, who had been nurtured by St. Kilda as its own child, and a child, too, filial enough to see that St. Kilda came at last into its own. St. Kilda felt the warmth of Ministerial

favour, but lest jealousy should arise, that favour was exercised, with the reticence which accompanies the helping hand of the victor, when he contrives that his constituency, shall enjoy some of the spoils of office. We believe, too, that there was an odd, almost unexpected vote, at this time, for the extension of the St. Kilda Pier, a public utility, of course, and quite a necessary one if Vice-Regal Consuls were to land in comfort at St. Kilda. But after all, the St. Kilda Pier was not within the control of the St. Kilda Council, being a Ports and Harbors' possession, so really, its lengthening could hardly be rightly described, as one of the spoils of office, that George Turner brought home to his civic mother.

No one who witnessed the arrival of Lord Brassey, at St. Kilda, on October 25, 1895, could have doubted the sincerity of a Victorian welcome, nor the abounding strength of the loyalty of Victorians to the Throne in the person of the King's accredited representative. Lord Brassey landed on the St. Kilda Pier at two o'clock. For the first time in the history of Vice-Regal receptions, at St. Kilda, the esplanades, and the foreshore, presented the wonderful spectacle of masses of people, the sight of which, we have since become tolerably familiar with. About 2,500 State School children were grouped at the shore end of the pier. They were dressed in white, and were likened unto white daisies in a field of grey. The children sang the National Anthem, when Lord Brassey reached the shore boundary line of St. Kilda. Each of the children wore a medal that had been struck in commemoration of the event. On one side, the medal bore the words, "Brassey, Welcome" and on the reverse, the Arms of St. Kilda. The new Governor was received by the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Victor Lemme, the Councillors, and the Town Clerk. Lord Brassey was well-known by repute to the crowd when he arrived, due to some extent to Lady Brassey, and her writings of the various voyages of the "Sunbeam," Lord Brassey's pleasure yacht, and "Tom's" wonderful seamanship. He sailed the yacht to Australia, and on the voyage he encountered some rough weather. The Mayor, in presenting the address of welcome, said : 'I had hoped that your voyage would have been less troublesome, and that the motto of St. Kilda, 'AURA FAVENTE, FEROR,' would have been more significant.' The accepted translation of the motto of St. Kilda



THE VISIT OF T.R.H. THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK.

The Landing at St. Kilda Pier and Civic Welcome.

6th May, 1901.

is, "I am borne on a favoring breeze." This landing of Lord Brassey showed to Melbourne what facilities lay in the sea front of St. Kilda for such welcomes.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall and York, accompanied by his Royal Consort, Her Royal Highness the Duchess Mary of Cornwall and York, arrived in Australia in May, 1901, for the purpose of performing the historical ceremony of opening the first session of the newly created Federal Parliament of Australia, "broad based on the people's will." It was a foregone conclusion, that the authorities, in charge of the ceremonies, would decide that the Royal visitors must make their first landing at St. Kilda, and afterwards drive through St. Kilda, along the St. Kilda Road to Melbourne, the appointed Federal Capital of the Commonwealth of Australia, for a space of years.

Their Royal Highnesses made the voyage to Australia in the Royal Yacht "Ophir," convoyed by British warships. When the "Ophir" arrived, in Hobson's Bay, every preparation was ready for the historic landing of the Royal pair at St. Kilda. The newly painted paddle steamer, "Hygeia," which had been chartered to convey their Royal Highnesses to St. Kilda, ranged up alongside the "Ophir" soon after the Royal yacht cast her anchor. With the first revolution of the paddles of the "Hygeia," having her Royal passengers on board, there burst from the port side of the His Majesty's warship, "Royal Arthur," a puff of smoke, and instantly the other warships responded to the watched-for admiral's signal, and the firing of a Royal salute of 21 guns had begun. The guns' booming verberated from shore to shore. As the "Hygeia" came well into sight of the thousands of people, massed on the conspicuous heights of the Esplanade, and of other thousands of them along the shore line, north and south, it was seen that the Royal Standard of England floated at the "Hygeia's" masthead. Any sailor, upon the bay paddle excursion boat, would have told you, that she was "saucy proud" to bear at her peak, the greatest flag of Britain. From stem to stern, she was decorated with bunting, gay as a young woman in gala costume. Under the awning, abaft the funnel, the Duke and Duchess sat, and watched their steady approach to St. Kilda, to the human line, expectantly quivering on the shores of St. Kilda. Where the "Hygeia" was

made taut to St. Kilda pier, was a canopy festooned with flags, and draped to serve as a landing pavilion. It was ornamented with ten anchors, and across its breadth were the words, "Welcome to Australian Shores." His Highness, dressed as a British Admiral, wearing the ribbon and order of the Garter, stepped forward, through the pavilion, and on the pier, with the Duchess of Cornwall and York, who was dressed in black. She carried a bouquet of violets and orchids. Some massed bands played "God Save the King."

The day was a serene and beautiful one, symbolical of peace. Not a cloud, not one, even the size of a man's hand, was to be seen in the Australian sky of limitless blue. Along the St. Kilda pier, colourful with flags and bunting, had been laid a strip of carpet, the colour of the thin red line of kinship, that holds together the British Empire. Halfway down the pier, was an arch erected, by the yachtsmen of St. Kilda, over the keystone of which, was placed the model of a yacht. The pier was lined on each side by the Victorian Permanent Artillery, and the 1st Battalion Infantry Brigade.

When the Royal visitors walked down the "Hygeia's" gangway on to the pier it was five minutes to two o'clock. They were received by His Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Hopetoun, who at once presented their Royal Highnesses to the Hon. Edmund Barton, the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, the Hon. Sir William Lyne, Minister of the Home Department; the Hon. Sir George Turner, the Federal Treasurer, and other State and Ministerial honorable notables. This formal ceremony of presentations over their Royal Highnesses walked to the end of the pier, and entered the shore portal of the City of St. Kilda. They were received by His Worship the Mayor of St. Kilda, Major Hughes, and by the Councillors of St. Kilda, Councillors A. Stringer, T. G. Allen, George Connibere, A. V. Kemp, J. H. Pittard, J. Stedeford, S. Jacoby, E. O'Donnell, and the Town Clerk, Mr. J. N. Browne. The Mayor handed to the Duchess a very beautiful shower bouquet, composed of white azalias, roses, and orchids. The flowers were grown in Brunning's St. Kilda nurseries, and the flowers in the bouquet were arranged by a young woman of St. Kilda, Miss Sybil Nichols. The bouquet was tied with red ribbons, upon which were painted the Duke's armorial bearings.

they were 90 feet in height, with eight battlemented towers, and six pediments. The arches bore the words, "St. Kilda—Welcome — Prahran." Flags, to the number of 150, were flying over and about the arches. Four hundred yards of foliage, and 1,200 yards of red and blue drapery, were hanging over and draped about the cornices. Altogether the occasion was the greatest that had ever taken place in St. Kilda up to that time. On June 20 and 21 various entertainments were given to the school children of St. Kilda by the Council. Each child was given a package of sweets that contained miniature photographs of their Royal Highnesses.

Sir George, and Lady Clarke, and Miss Clarke were welcomed by thousands of people, who were gathered on the Esplanades, on Tuesday, December 10, 1901. Sir George Clarke arrived as the first State Governor of Victoria. The St. Kilda foreshore front was gay with bunting, the day was one of sunshine. Along the pier floated festoons of bannerettes, fluttering gaily from long poles. A guard of honor, comprising members of the Victorian Naval Brigade, occupied the end of the pier ready to salute. Major General Downes, the Military Commandant, and Lieut. Colquhoun, R.N., were present. The approach of the "Hygeia" steamer was the signal for close attention by the waiting crowds. In the midst of ringing cheers, Sir George Clarke stepped ashore, accompanied by the State Premier, Sir Alexander Peacock. After an inspection of the guard of honor, he was welcomed, at the foreshore, by the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Edward O'Donnell, and the Councillors of St. Kilda. In reply to the address of welcome, Sir George said, "I thank you Mr. Mayor, and Councillors, most warmly for your kindly words of welcome. I have heard much of St. Kilda, and I hope before very long to know it much better than I do now. I can only say that you have, perhaps, formed too high expectations of me. I will, however, do my best to live up to those expectations."

The route of the departure lay along the Lower and Upper Esplanades. The dense crowds cheered the Vice-Regal party. The State School children, massed upon the slopes of the Esplanade, sang "God Save the King" to the accompaniment of a band, in the Esplanade Band Stand. The Town Clerk of St.



VISIT OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES
*Landing at St. Kilda Pier and Civic Welcome,
26th May, 1920.*

Kilda, Mr. J. N. Browne, was away on a convalescent holiday in South Australia, and it happened that his assistant, the Chief Clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin, acted as Town Clerk.

A memorable day was August 29, 1908. That day saw the Atlantic Squadron of the American Fleet, consisting of sixteen battle ships, steam peaceably into Hobson's Bay, under the command of Admiral Charles Stillman Sperry. On Monday, August 31, the Admiral, and his officers, made an official landing at the St. Kilda Pier, and they were met with becoming ceremony by the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor S. Jacoby, and the councillors, and there presented with a civic address from the citizens. The Esplanades, and the surroundings, including Fitzroy Street, presented the usual signs of friendly welcome in a profusion of decorations, among which the American flag of stars and stripes, predominated. Nor was the St. Kilda Council content with the ceremony of welcome. Once ashore the men of the Fleet were entertained at the St. Kilda shows, and they were given an enjoyable time. At night the pier at St. Kilda was illuminated. The residents of Elwood erected a large sign, twenty feet in length, and four feet in breadth, on Point Ormond with the word "Cooee" painted upon it. The Fleet took its departure for Albany, West Australia, on Saturday morning, September 5.

Lord Jellicoe, the retired Lord High Admiral of the British Fleet, on his way to fill the office of the Governorship of New Zealand, landed at St. Kilda on the morning of May 30, 1919. It was a beautiful day with a cloudless blue sky. He was received with the ceremony due to the high position which he had held. On entering St. Kilda territory at the base of the St. Kilda Pier he was received by His Worship the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Sculthorpe, the Councillors, and the Town Clerk. There had been massed upon the lower lawns and thereabout, 1,200 children, who sang "Rule Britannia," and "Red, White and Blue." Lord Jellicoe received a great cheering ovation by the crowds on the Esplanade terraces. The address of welcome to him was read by the Town Clerk, and His Lordship returned his thanks. A feature of the welcome was the lines of Boy Scouts on the Lower Esplanade.

The arrival in Australia of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on May 26, 1920, was an historical one, and the story

A graphic descriptive writer of the day states, "A strip of scarlet and gold, flashed against the royal blue of the sky, told the dense black mass of people, who had gathered on the fore-shore, opposite the St. Kilda Pier, that the Royal carriage was mounting on to the Upper Esplanade. While on the Lower Esplanade the procession was hidden from the view of those on the street level, and the watching for the first appearance, heightened the excitement. People swarmed all over the great buildings, facing the sea, until they looked like a rugged range of humanity, on the high peaks of which hundreds of bright banners had been planted. The huge sea wall, dividing the Lower from the Upper Esplanade, was crowned with men, women and children, and the egg-shaped space between the junction of the two Esplanades, and Fitzroy Street, was a solid mass, in which it would have been impossible to get a sparrow. As the Royal visitors came into full view, the pent-up enthusiasm of the crowd was loosened. Those who had seats jumped to their feet, heads were bared, flags, handkerchiefs, and hats waved, and fluttered in the sunlight, and a mighty cheer echoed along the shore. This tumult whetted the expectancy of the crowd in Fitzroy street. There they were, 10 to 30 deep, on each side of the route. The street was lined by one of the Infantry Brigades, and the white helmets of the soldiers, made a snowy fringe to the enormous black carpet of the crowd. The crowd never made a mistake. Everyone had taken the trouble to learn the exact position of the Royal carriage in the procession, and they waited, and watched, for its appearance. Everywhere the same hearty cheers greeted the Duke and Duchess. The sound of thundering voices was never for a second allowed to diminish in volume."

"At the intersection of Fitzroy Street, and St. Kilda Road, the cities of St. Kilda and Prahran had erected an imposing arch. Tremendous applause went rolling down St. Kilda Road, as their Royal Highnesses made their way beneath. The shouts of joy were taken up by two immense lines of people—in some places 15 feet deep—which reached all the way to Princes Bridge."

The arch at the St. Kilda Junction consisted of three spans. It was erected at the joint expense of the St. Kilda and Prahran municipalities, The total span of the arches was 150 feet, and

of the event has been told by many pens. We are concerned with the arrival of the Prince on a grey day, some time late, due to a fog in the bay.

St. Kilda! A shrill whistle from the paddle steamer "Hygeia," and the Prince of Wales stepped on to the St. Kilda Pier. The cheering from the shore front that greeted him was one continuous roar of welcome. A great toss of pigeons filled the air with white wings, a beautiful sight! The time when the Prince landed was a quarter to four o'clock. Once the official reception on the pier was over, the Royal party, accompanied by the Governor-General, and followed by the Lieut. Governor, and Admiral Halsey, the Hon. William Hughes, the Hon. Lawson, and staffs, and visitors, walked smartly down to the end of the pier, where His Worship the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor T. G. Allen, with the city's councillors, and the Town Clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin, were waiting to receive His Royal Highness. The Mayor was presented to H.R.H. the Prince by the Governor-General. The first words the Prince used on Australian soil were: "I am sorry I am so late; but I could not help it." In welcoming the Prince, His Worship the Mayor remarked, that on that spot, nineteen years before, he had taken part in the municipal welcome to the King. "Our city," he said, "is deeply sensible of its proud privilege in welcoming you on the threshold of the Commonwealth."

On behalf of the Council of St. Kilda, the Mayor presented His Royal Highness with an address of welcome read by the Town Clerk. It was the first address he received in Australia, and is of historic interest to St. Kilda. It reads :—

"May it please Your Royal Highness.

"We, the Mayor, councillors, and citizens of the City of St. Kilda, beg to approach your Royal Highness, with deep assurance of our devoted loyalty, and attachment to the Throne, and person of His Most Gracious Majesty King George V. We gratefully appreciate the interest your Royal Highness has already shown in the distant dominions, and most heartily welcome you to our shores, fervently hoping that the period of your sojourn in the Commonwealth of Australia, will be a continuance of unalloyed pleasure and enjoyment.

"Given under the Seal of the Corporation of the City of St. Kilda.

"T. G. ALLEN, Mayor."

The address was also signed by Councillors Edward O'Donnell, J. H. Hewison, A. Sculthorpe, Geo. B. Renfrey, Edgar B. Clarke, F. G. Hughes, H. F. Barnet, R. A. Molesworth, Robert Hart, S. T. Alford and J. W. Fraser, and the town clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin. The address was contained in a casket.

His Royal Highness said :-

"Mr. Mayor—Gentleman, Yours is the first address of welcome to greet me on my arrival in the Commonwealth, and I appreciate greatly the cordial terms in which it is couched. I thank you sincerely for your greeting, and shall be happy to convey your assurances of devotion to Throne and Empire to my father, The King. I am very grateful for your good wishes, and can assure you that I look forward, with intense pleasure, to my tour in Australia. May I wish you in return, much happiness and prosperity?"

After the Prince was introduced to the councillors of St. Kilda, he was escorted by the Mayor, to his carriage, and then the procession moved on its way to Melbourne city. The time was almost half past four o'clock. The procession had, at its head, a detachment of police troopers, mounted on beautiful grey horses. The escort, drawn from the Royal Australian Field Artillery, and commanded by Captain L. E. S. Barker, M.C., was composed entirely of A.I.F. men, with records of good war service. Following the advance party of the escort, were two outriders, and then came the Prince's carriage, with the postillions, in the powdered wigs, and striking uniforms..

The crowd was quiet while the Mayor of St. Kilda was welcoming the Prince. But when the procession moved off, along the Lower Esplanade, the crowd broke into a spontaneous burst of cheering, and cooees. The excitement was electrical. As the Royal carriage passed along the waving lines of flags, the cheering was deafening. Fitzroy Street was like the Esplanade, black with people. At the St. Kilda railway station, members of the 14th Battalion had formed a strong post, and their reception of the Digger Prince, even when compared with how he had been already greeted, must have been pleasing to him. At the St. Kilda Junction, was another great mass of cheering loyal people. At this spot the Prince as greeted by the cheers of thousands of children. He smilingly acknowledged their hearty welcomes.

The Earl of Stradbroke, and Lady Stradbroke, were welcomed at St. Kilda, on Thursday, February 24, 1921. As usual on such occasions, the splendid terraces of the Esplanades were packed with enthusiastic spectators. Banners made bright patches of color on the Upper Esplanade, the bayonets of the naval guard of honor flashed in the sunlight on the pier. Along the waterside the flags of hundreds of white-clad school children made a white quivering border. The children's welcome to His, and Her Excellency, Lord and Lady Stradbroke, as the new occupants of the Vice-regal positions in Victoria, was intended to be the feature of the Governor's landing at St. Kilda. In the quiver of the St. Kilda municipal authorities there is more than one motif, which can be employed as a scheme for a notable landing. Variety is considered, and the town clerk of St. Kilda, does not just chance on his effects. He has raised the organisation of a landing of a Prince, or of a Governor, to a work of artistic efficiency. In the case of Lord Stradbroke, out of compliment to Lady Stradbroke, it was decided to let the children's welcome domineer the reception. Other occasions the motif, the pomp and pride of martial display. The salute that thundered from a battery, on the Beaconsfield Parade, on the occasion of Lord Stradbroke's coming, was but a whiff of gunpowder, but the storms of cheers, from thousands of excited school children, greeting the representative of their King, was a human gesture that went home to the hearts of all who heard it.

When the Governor landed on the pier, he took the salute sharply, and he was formally welcomed by several members of the State Ministry, the District Commandant, and the District Naval Officer. His Excellency the Governor-General was represented at the welcome by Captain Traill, A.D.C., and the Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria by Captain A. Spowers, A.D.C. Having inspected the guard of honor, Lord Stradbroke, accompanied by the Premier walked down the pier, between a double row of Boy Scouts, under Colonel H. Cohen. At the end of the pier, His Excellency was met by the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor S. T. Alford. A handsome bouquet was presented to the Countess of Stradbroke, and then the town clerk read the following address of welcome



THE LANDING AT ST. KILDA PIER OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE EARL OF STRADBROKE AND
THE COUNTESS OF STRADBROKE.

Civic welcome 24th February, 1921.

"May it please your Excellency.

We, the Mayor, Councillors, and citizens of the City of St. Kilda, beg to tender your Excellency, and the Countess of Stradbroke, a most cordial welcome to our shores.

We assure you of our unswerving loyalty to the Throne, and person of His Most Gracious Majesty the King, Emperor George V.

Your active, and successful participation in municipal administration, in the motherland, as well as many other activities for the betterment of the people, embolden us to hope that where, compatible with the duties of your high office, the efforts of the local councils throughout the State will receive inspiration, and encouragement, in your sympathetic interest.

We beg to express the earnest hope that your term of office will be one of unalloyed happiness to your Excellency, the Countess of Stradbroke, and your family.

In reply, His Excellency said:—

"Mr. Mayor, and Members of the City Council of St. Kilda, I thank you very sincerely for your address of welcome. I appreciate it very much, and as the representative of His Majesty the King, I am very grateful to you, for your expressions of loyalty. I thank you also for your very kind references to the Countess of Stradbroke. I am sure we will have a very happy time here in Victoria, and that our stay here will be most pleasant."

A report of the day states: "A band crashed into the National Anthem ; hundreds of school children joined in the singing, there was a welcoming flutter of flags along the St. Kilda Esplanade, and Victoria's new Governor had driven off for his entry into Melbourne."

One interesting incident of the landing was when the Hon. Christopher Rous, the Governor's youngest son, five years of age, shyly accepted an Australian flag, from a still more shy little schoolgirl of St. Kilda. The boy waved the flag as he passed out of sight, with his parents. The poor little fellow died at "Stonnington," the Government House at Malvern, during Lord Stradbroke's term of office, and the heart of St. Kilda, and that of the State, went out, in sympathy, to Lord and Lady Stradbroke, who were well beloved of the people.

CHAPTER XXXV.

Spectacular St. Kilda Continued—Pre-eminence of St. Kilda Council's Opportunities for Royal Welcomes—Town Clerk's Organisation—.St. Kilda's Welcome to the British Fleet—Children's Great Demonstration —Admiral Sir Frederick Field's Thanks—The American Fleet—H.R.H. the Duke and H.R.H. the Duchess of York—Lord and Lady Somers— List of Royal, Vice-Regal, and Other Landings—Royal Proclamations —Final Words.

PRE-EMINENTLY, the Council of the City of St. Kilda, is a council that has learned, by practice, the mode of welcoming Royal, and Vice-Regal guests, and the way to entertain distinguished bodies of men from overseas. In the beginning of these spectacular welcomes, the Town Clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin, found in the Council archives a few modest precedents to guide him in organising Royal and Vice-Regal welcomes. It was, however, he who expanded the modest official welcomes of other days at St. Kilda into such wonderful and orderly displays of enthusiastic loyalty, that Royalty itself has been graciously pleased to speak, in after years, of the welcomes at St. Kilda as ones that could not have been better organised anywhere in Britain's Empire.

When such a body of men, as is comprised in a British naval squadron, visits Victoria, the St. Kilda City Council, beyond all other metropolitan councils, is the chosen one to throw open its city gates, and to offer welcomes to the visitors. Nor does the St. Kilda City Council lose any time in preparing to do so. Here is a characteristic instance of how the St. Kilda Council proceeds to meet such occasions. At the Council meeting, held on January 21, 1924, Councillor Unsworth moved, and this motion was carried—

"That, in order to commemorate the visit of the British Fleet to Melbourne, during the month of March, 1924, a St. Kilda Gala Week be arranged, from the 17th March to the 22nd March, inclusive, or on such other week as will fit in with the proposed visit, and the co-operation of all the citizens, patriotic bodies, clubs, business people, entertainment proprietors, be sought to make the proposed St. Kilda Gala Week a fitting recognition of this most important event."



VISIT OF BRITISH SPECIAL SERVICE SQUADRON.
Civic welcome to Vice-Admiral Field and Staff, 18th March, 1924.

The Admirals of the British Cruising Fleet steamed towards St. Kilda on Tuesday, March 18, 1924, in a beautiful day of sunshine, and of early Autumnal mildness. The sight of the war cruisers as they came up the Bay was inspiring. They embodied, in their stately approach, the greeting of the protecting kinship of the British Empire to its outlying dominions. They served as symbols of the visible might and power of the nation, and they were a moving present evidence, that after the Great War, Britannia was still the Mistress of the Seas. Crowds of thousands of spectators watched the fleet steaming onward, with 22 welcoming aeroplanes circling the cruisers. On the line of the Marine Parade were 1,000 onlookers, stretched from Elwood to the St. Kilda Esplanade. High points of advantage, such as Point Ormond supplied, and the high beach lands in the point's vicinity, were grey with a human mass, estimated to represent 8,000 spectators. So keen were distant living sightseers that some of the visitors caught the early train cars, trains, and motor cars. They poured out of the St. Kilda Railway Station, along Fitzroy Street, in hurrying lines, at 8.30 a.m. and onwards through the morning.

Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Field's white pinnacle steamed smartly, and swung quickly, alongside the St. Kilda Pier, at 11 o'clock, with the Vice-Admiral and the Senior Officers of the Squadron on board. When the Vice-Admiral and his officers stepped on to the pier, they saw the Town Clerk of St. Kilda, in his robes of office, waiting for them, to act as an avant courier, and to pilot them, as was done in the old chivalrous days of welcoming a guest, to his masters, the St. Kilda Council waiting the coming of the guests within the St. Kilda boundary line, at the end of the pier, where was laid a strip of red carpet. There, too, aloft a banner was spread with the words blazoned upon it, "City of St. Kilda. Welcome !" And here, too, was displayed the city's coat of arms, in white, on a blue ground.

His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Allen, when he addressed Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Field, said, "I trust you will spend a happy time here. The spot on which we stand is historic, and possesses deep navy interest. The present King, and the Prince of Wales, the Governor-General, the State Governors, and many other notabilities, have stepped ashore

here, but among the traditions of this spot will be treasured recollections of the landing of the Vice-Admiral, and of the staff of the Special Service Squadron."

The Vice-Admiral said :-

"We have had an extraordinary welcome in all the other cities, and States, which we have visited, but, I can tell you, that none of them has come up to the welcome we have had in Melbourne, and in St. Kilda. I, and my officers, and men, feel the honour you have accorded us. It is the greatest pleasure to us to see all those children, waving flags, and giving us a welcome. They are the future generation on which the prosperity of our great Empire depends, and I only hope they may be given every chance of coming to our ships, and of seeing, for themselves, matters of interest."

A choir of 700 children, from the Brighton Road, Elwood and Park State Schools, sang "Rule, Britannia." As the naval officers passed through their excited ranks, the children cheered shrilly and waved flags. The Vice-Admiral was obviously pleased by the reception the children gave to him. He smilingly exclaimed to them, "Thank you all, children." The St. Kilda City Band played the National Anthem, and the people on the Esplanade and the seashore stood to attention. When the officers entered the waiting motor cars they cheered. At the last moment a little girl, six years of age, presented to the Vice-Admiral a small bouquet, which he carried with him through the subsequent ceremonies in Melbourne. Explaining his actions, he said that the bouquet, dried and faded, was going to England with him. "It was," he said, "just a bit of sentiment he would not willingly lose."

Like the glories of Solomon, to the Queen of Sheba, not half the tale of the glories of St. Kilda, and what St. Kilda did for the men of the British Fleet can be told here. In the whirl of it all, one had, each night, to go with the crowd, so dense was it, so powerful was its corporate push. Impressions noted, at the time, were laughing girls, merry sailors, lights, flags, good humour, swinging arc lamps, rows of electric lights, thousands of bulbs of red, white and blue lights, strung like brilliant necklaces along roadways; crowd, crowd, crowd ! Squeezed down to the Lower Esplanade merry-go-rounds, ferris



VISIT OF UNITED STATES PACIFIC SQUADRON.
Civic welcome to Admiral Coontz and Staff, 23rd July, 1925.

wheels, ocean-waves, girls, sailors, shrieks, bands, whirl—what a time! Then to Luna Park ! But the head reels ! The old Soldiers' Lounge awakened into life once more. The St. Kilda Soldiers' Club, led by Councillor Unsworth, its president, opened its doors and heart. The ladies associated with the war activities took up their old role of entertainers, and they waited on the British sailors each day, and night, in the Sailors' and Soldiers' Lounge, that had for the lady war workers so many associations.

Sir Frederick Field, in a cordial letter to the Council, thanked St. Kilda for the hospitality extended to the Squadron. Particularly he referred to the enthusiastic reception of the flag officers and captains at the St. Kilda Pier, on March 18, and warmly, too, he appreciated "the facilities given to the petty officers and men of the Squadron to obtain real enjoyment. He wished the Council and the citizens of St. Kilda all success and prosperity in the future."

The State Reception Committee also conveyed the Government's high appreciation of St. Kilda's co-operation in entertaining the personnel of the Squadron, and referred to St. Kilda's efforts as undoubtedly contributing very largely towards the success of Victoria's welcome.

These official appreciations were fully deserved, but they were none the less very gratifying to receive. The Mayor, the late Councillor Allen, said that apart from the honour due to the representatives of the British Fleet—the safeguard of the Empire—St. Kilda had tried, in some small measure, to repay the great kindness, and hospitality, which our boys had received, on the other side of the world, during the Great War. In taking the fullest advantage of the facilities, for which St. Kilda was unique, the Council had received the whole-hearted support of the citizens. The Mayor referred appreciatively to the Town Clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin's work of organisation. Councillor O'Donnell, and other members of the Council, endorsed, in every way, all that the Mayor had said.

When the United States Fleet arrived, July 23, 1925, the St. Kilda Council, as usual, paid homage to the visitors, and accorded its officers and sailors a public welcome. Much was done for them as honoured guests, and on leaving the Admiral of the Fleet, Admiral Coontz, in a courteous letter to the Council, made the fullest acknowledgment, August 15, 1925. A letter,

too, came, and it confirms what we have already written of the State Reception Committee and the St. Kilda Council, from Colonel, the Hon. M. W. J. Bouchier, the chairman of the State Reception Committee, thanking the Council for the part St. Kilda played in the reception of the Fleet. The Hon Sir Alexander Peacock also wrote, as the Minister of Public Instruction, in appreciation of the St. Kilda school children's demonstration at the landing of the American Admiral and his Staff. And so the record of welcoming visits runs on with their aftermath of thanks ! thanks ! to the St. Kilda Council.

The State Reception Committee in February, 1927, sought by letter the St. Kilda Council's co-operation in giving effect to the landing arrangements of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and the Duchess of York. The Council informed the Committee of the Council's whole-hearted co-operation in organising a Royal seaside welcome. H.R.H. the Duke and H.R.H. the Duchess of York, in the presence of many thousands of loyal citizens, stepped upon the richly carpeted St. Kilda Pier on April 21, 1927. The Royal couple came ashore from H.M.S. Renown in the warship's barge. They were first met, on the St. Kilda Pier, by the Governor-General, His Excellency Lord Stonehaven ; the State Governor, His Excellency Lord Somers ; the Lieut. Governor of the State of Victoria, Sir William Irvine ; the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. S. Bruce; the State Premier, the Hon. J. Allan, and other official dignitaries. A naval guard of honour presented arms. The Upper and Lower Esplanades were as gay with bunting as it was possible to decorate them. Thousands of spectators shouted, and cheered. A great patch of white was formed in the dark mass by the groupings of many hundreds of the St. Kilda school children, singing the National Anthem.

His Worship, the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Burnett Gray, M.L.A., the St. Kilda Councillors, and the Town Clerk, stood at the end of the pier, on St. Kilda territory, under an arch, waiting for His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness. After the Governor-General had presented the Mayor of St. Kilda, and the Councillors, to their Royal Highnesses, the Mayor said :—"It is a great honour for me, on behalf of my Council, and of the citizens, to welcome your Royal Highnesses to our beautiful city of St. Kilda. I also desire to take



Albert 1927 Elizabeth
THE LANDING AT ST. KILDA PIER OF T.R.H. THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK.
Civic welcome 21st April, 1927.

this opportunity of wishing your dear little baby many happy returns of her birthday, and we all hope that your Royal Highnesses' stay in our midst will be a very happy and enjoyable one."

The Mayor then introduced the Councillors, and the Town Clerk, to the Duke and Duchess. The Town Clerk then read the following address of welcome :-

"We, the Mayor, Councillors, and citizens of the city of St. Kilda beg to approach your Royal Highnesses with deep assurances of our devoted loyalty, and attachment to the Throne, and person of His Most Gracious Majesty King George the Fifth.

"On this spot, the municipality was privileged to welcome their Most Gracious Majesties (as their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York), and also His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on their landing in the Commonwealth, and our treasured memories, of those occasions, are now enhanced by the high honour and supreme happiness of Your Highnesses' visit.

"We offer you a most hearty welcome, reverently trusting that the period of your sojourn amongst us will be to you both a continuance of unalloyed pleasure, and gratification, and serve still further to intensify and strengthen those ties of loyalty, and affection, which bind us to our King, and Motherland."

The address was enclosed in a casket of artistic design. The casket was embossed with the arms of the city. It was given to the Duke by the Mayor.

His Royal Highness gave his reply to the Mayor, His Highness stating he did not intend to make a speech. The reply read :-

"The Duchess, and I, sincerely thank yourself, the councillors, and the citizens of St. Kilda, for your address of welcome, the terms of which we greatly appreciate. I will take an early opportunity to convey to the King, my father, the expression of loyalty and devotion to the Throne which the address contains.

"It gave us special pleasure to listen to your references to the receptions, given by the municipality, to the King

and Queen when Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, and to meet with the same kindness from you as they received, and which they still gratefully remember.

"We join in your prayer that, like their visits, this occasion also may be the means of strengthening the bonds of loyalty, and affection, that bind together all parts of the Empire.

"We thank you again for the whole-hearted welcome which we have received, and we pray that prosperity, and success, may ever, in larger and larger measure, continue to attend you."

The Mayoress, Mrs. Burnett Gray, presented the Duchess with a shower bouquet of La France roses, and some mauve orchids, with a white rose, emblematic of the White Rose of the House of York, in the centre. Attached to the bouquet were streamers of blue and white, the colours of St. Kilda. And so in the atmosphere of goodwill the Duke and Duchess were motored through the dense cheering lanes of St. Kilda citizens. A more auspicious day of welcome and of happiness could scarcely have been conceived, yet it was fated to be for four circling airmen, on the St. Kilda Road, near to the Federal Government House gates, a day of sacrifice, and death. By some awful fortuity the aeroplanes crashed together. The Royal party did not see the catastrophe, having entered the Government House gates. At the Council meeting, April 26, 1927, following the date of the accident the Mayor informed the Council that the Town Clerk had called officially on the Secretary of the Air Board, and conveyed the Council's deepest regrets. Messages from the Council had been sent to the relatives of the airmen. The Mayor, and councillors, then rose, and stood in silence, as a tribute of respect to the airmen's memory.

A reception was given in the St. Kilda City Hall to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York, in the presence of Her Excellency, Lady Stonehaven, and Lady Somers, on April 26, 1927, by the National Council of Women of Victoria. Mrs. A. W. Glencross, J.P., president of the Council, presided, and read to Her Royal Highness an address of welcome. The Lady Mayoress of Melbourne, Mrs. S. J. Morell, presented a golden porringer, the gift of the National Council of Victoria.



T.R.H. THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK.

*Reproduced from a photograph taken on their landing at the St. Kilda Pier,
21st April, 1927.*



THE LANDING AT ST. KILDA PIER OF HIS EXCELLENCY LORD SOMERS AND LADY SOMERS.
Civic Welcome, 28th June, 1926.

WELCOME TO GOVERNOR LORD SOMERS 313

Lord Somers arrived at St. Kilda on June 28, 1926, having been appointed to the Vice-Regal position of Governor of Victoria. To welcome him a Government, civic, and public demonstration had been arranged, and the ceremony was a spectacular and an impressive one. Lord Somers, his wife, and his staff, were conveyed from the mail steamer to the St. Kilda pier in the launch "Commissioner." The morning was a grey one, and the visibility over the harbor was somewhat misty. The first glimpse of the Vice-Regal party, in the fast approaching launch, was that of Lord Somers' two aides-de-camp dressed in scarlet uniforms, their heads covered with large busbies that are worn by the hussars, artillery, and engineers of the British army. Immediately Lord Somers left the launch, and stepped upon the pier, the first boom of a ceremonial salute was heard. The guns used were parked on the breakwater. On the pier Lord Somers met a waiting group of Ministerial representatives of the Government, officers from the military, naval, and air forces, and some of the executive officers of the various departments of state.

While Lady Somers talked with the Ministers, Lord Somers inspected the naval guard of honor of 100 men. Their daughter, little Elizabeth, sat on the pier with her nurse. The party walked through the lines of 2000 Boy Scouts, on the pier. Lord Somers congratulated the officers on the appearance of the boys. He said that as Chief Scout for Victoria he hoped soon to see much more of the Scouts, and their officers.

Lord Somers saw, as he walked shoreward, that the pier and its approaches were made bright with bunting, flags, and festoons of native foliage. "St. Kilda very heartily welcomes you," was the inscription on a huge banner surrounded with gum leaves, that was the pivot of the decorations. The Upper Esplanade was lined with an expectant crowd; while upon the lower slopes were 3,500 school girls and boys from district State schools, each with a flag, which they continued to wave. At the shore end of the pier the Mayor of St. Kilda (Councillor Cummings) and the Acting Mayoress (Miss Cummings) were waiting with the St. Kilda councillors and their wives. The Town Clerk read the following address of welcome :-

"May it please your Excellency : We, the Mayor, councillors, and citizens of the City of St. Kilda, beg to tender your Excel-

lency and Lady Somers a most cordial welcome to our shores, and present the assurance of our unswerving loyalty and attachment to the Throne and person of His Majesty the King- Emperor, George V.

"The practical interest you have shown in the Dominions beyond the seas is appreciatively recognised, and we trust that the term of your Excellency's administration will be marked by continued advancement and prosperity of our State. We respectfully hope that, where compatible with the duties of your high office, municipal government will receive your sympathetic interest and encouragement.

"We beg to express the earnest wish that your term of office will be one of unalloyed happiness to your Excellency and Lady Somers."

Lord Somers replied :—

"Mr. Mayor, and councillors of the City of St. Kilda : It has been a matter of very great satisfaction to me to receive the expression of your good wishes on my first landing in the State of Victoria. Your assurance of unswerving loyalty, and attachment to the Throne, and person of His Majesty the King- Emperor, whom I have the honor to represent, is most gratifying. I can assure you, with every sincerity, that it will be my earnest endeavor, while holding the high office of Governor of this State, to learn the social and general conditions at first hand, and to render such help and encouragement as lies within my power."

Lady Somers was presented with a bouquet by the Acting Mayoress on behalf of the women of St. Kilda, and to Elizabeth was given a golden cradle of flowers. Master Davidson (the son of the Governor's secretary) was given a decorated boomerang.

Immediately after the formal ceremony the school children sang the National Anthem and "Australia, Land of Ours." Cheers greeted Lord Somers as he walked through the children's lines. Lord Somers said to the children :—"Your warm-heartedness would do anybody good. It is the welcome of Young Australia, and it has touched me deeply. Our little one, who is not so large as most of you, is glad to see you, too. Your welcome gives us courage and high hope." When Lord Somers entered his motor car the children cheered again, joined this

time by the deeper notes of the crowd massed on the Esplanade, and so through St. Kilda was the Vice-Regal party greeted until it passed along the beautiful boulevard of St. Kilda Road, and beyond the boundaries of the City of St. Kilda.

The dates of the official landings of distinguished people at St. Kilda are as follow :-

25th October, 1895.—Lord Brassey.

6th May, 1901.—T.R.H. Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York.

10th December, 1901.—Sir George Sydenham Clarke, first State Governor.

31st August, 1908.—Admiral Sperry, Atlantic Squadron of American Fleet.

23rd February, 1914.—Sir Arthur Stanley.

11th May, 1914.—Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson.

30th May, 1919.—Admiral Jellicoe.

26th December, 1919.—Lieut.-General Sir John Monash.

26th May, 1920.—H.R.H. Prince of Wales.

24th February, 1921.—Earl of Stradbroke.

18th March, 1924.—British Special Service Squadron.

19th May, 1924.—Wing-Com. Goble and Flight-Lt. McIntyre. 8th

June, 1925.—Comm. De Pinedo, Italian aviator.

23rd July, 1925.—United States Pacific Squadron.

28th June, 1926.—Lord Somers.

21st April, 1927.—T.R.H. Duke and Duchess of York.

On May 24, 1887, the Jubilee of Her Majesty's Queen Victoria's reign was celebrated by an entertainment given to the children of the borough. Children to the number of nearly 4,000 assembled at the St. Kilda Cricket Ground. The Mayor, Councillor George Turner, and the councillors, each subscribed £10. The ratepayers were also asked to send in donations. Altogether £319/12/5 was collected. The fete expenses amounted to £251/10/4, leaving a balance of £68/2/1. £40 of that sum was given to the Children's Hospital authorities, and the balance, £28/2/1, was handed to the secretary of the St. Kilda Ladies' Benevolent Society.

Her Majesty Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, May 24, 1887, was celebrated in St. Kilda by a liberal distribution of

food and blankets to the poor. Three limelight entertainments, and concerts, were given to the children at the St. Kilda Town Hall. A feature of the gifts was the presentation of a package of lollies to each child. On each of the lids of the boxes, containing the lollies, was a portrait of Her Majesty, and this was given to the children to keep as a souvenir of the Jubilee. Upon the death of the revered Queen and Empress, Victoria, the St. Kilda Council sent a cable to England through the Administrator, Sir John Madden, K.C.M.G., L.L.D., to this effect :—"Mayor, Councillors, Citizens, St. Kilda, Melbourne. Profound sorrow, beloved Queen's death." Sir John Madden, who was still a resident of St. Kilda, was acting at the time as Administrator of the colony, between the departure of the Earl of Hopetoun, 1895, and the coming of Sir George Sydenham Clarke, K.C.M.G., F.R.S., in 1901. It was not until January 15, 1900, that Sir John Madden was given the title of Lieut. Governor.

The Mayor of St. Kilda, Lieut. Colonel F. G. Hughes, read the Proclamation, of the King's accession, on the Town Hall steps, at 2 o'clock, on Thursday, January 31, 1901. The Mayor was supported by Colonel Hacker (staff) and Captain Fraser (aide-de-camp to the General) and Canon Sutton (chaplain), the Right Hon. Sir George Turner, the St. Kilda Councillors, and several ladies. In front of the Mayor, on the steps of the City Hall, were 24 members of All Saints' Choir in cassock, and gown, in company of Mr. Inge, the City Organist. Grouped about the steps were several hundred school children, in charge of their various teachers. Three cheers were given for His Majesty the King, the Mayor leading the cheering. Afterwards the choir sang the National Anthem, those present joining in. Four buglers were to have been present at the proclamation ceremony, but the tram car, in which they were travelling from Melbourne to the City Hall, St. Kilda, had an accident, and the buglers arrived after the ceremony was over. The incident recalls another historic occasion, in St. Kilda, when the Victorian Volunteer Department failed to send the guns to fire the Royal salute in honour of the Prince of Wales' marriage. After the ceremony some of those present adjourned at the invitation of the Mayor, to the Mayor's room, and there they drank the health of His Majesty King Edward VII. On February 4, 1901, the

Council recorded in a minute "its profound sorrow at the death of our beloved queen." At that historical time the population of St. Kilda, by census taken in March, 1901, was 20,544. The population of inhabited dwellings 4,181. The total number of assessments for the year 1900-1901 was 5,366. The ratepayers, in the rate book, numbered 4,593. The voters' roll, for 1901-1902, contained—North Ward, 971 names ; South Ward, 1,349 names ; West Ward, 783 names ; total, 3,103.

When the death of His Majesty King Edward the VII. was announced on May 7, 1910, the St. Kilda Council held a special meeting, on May 12, 1910, when the following resolutions were passed :-

"That this Council, on behalf of and in the name of the citizens of the city of St. Kilda, expresses its profound sorrow at the death of His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII., of blessed and glorious memory, whose every influence made for peace on earth, and its deep sense of the calamitous loss the Empire has suffered thereby, and respectfully offers its heartfelt sympathy with His Most Gracious Majesty King George V., the Queen Mother, and the other members of the Royal Family."

"That this Council tenders its loyal and devoted allegiance to the throne and person of His Most Gracious Majesty King George V., and sincerely hopes that he will enjoy a long, prosperous and peaceful reign."

The Councillors then *sang* the National Anthem.

We may well pause here, on the top note of loyalty, to the throne of the British Empire. It will be the work of a future historian of St. Kilda to carry on the story of the municipality of St. Kilda, from this year of grace 1930. Time has sped, since the days when the schooner yacht, "Lady of St. Kilda," lay off shore; since the first Crown Land Sales were held of virgin land, whereon it was purposed to place a village, called on the auctioneer's plans "The Village of St. Kilda." That village, plotted upon bush lands, has grown into a city beautiful; a metropolitan watering place that has become the holiday resort of thousands of people. Beautiful Aphrodite, born from sea foam, springing ashore from the jealous, and restraining waves, in her radiant loveliness, might find daughters of her own, on the sands of St. Kilda, on any summer's day of sunshine. St. Kilda, favoured by nature, has been more favoured by man, and it is because of the works of the councils of the city of St. Kilda, that St. Kilda has become the brightest jewel by the sea, in Melbourne's crown of beautiful suburban cities.

Contemplation of the beauties of St. Kilda's picturesque seashore gives appreciative visitors delight, while a visit to the Blessington Municipal Gardens is always a pleasure to those who love floral beauties. The St. Kilda Council has, in conjunction with its neighbouring municipalities, Prahran, Malvern, and Caulfield, transformed the old cattle track, the Dandenong Road, into a boulevard of street gardens, lawns, and trees, until Dandenong Road is a broad ribbon of beauty, edging the northeastern boundary of fair St. Kilda. And then there is the Council's share in the beautification of the St. Kilda Road, and the honour, too, to have, in council, been the first authority to proclaim the possibility of creating the now world famous beautiful boulevard. Southward is the Brighton Road, planted with trees, decorated with lawns, making this main artery, with its concrete highway, a pleasure to travel upon.

We have narrated the story of how St. Kilda advanced from Shire to Borough, from Borough to City. -It has been said that St. Kilda passed from a Borough to a City, and that the status of a Town was never conferred upon it. That statement is not quite correct. St. Kilda never claimed its right to be declared a Town, but it was made a Town on March 25, 1861, by Sir Henry Barkly, under "an Act for Regulating the Sale of Crown Lands, and for other purposes, wherein St. Kilda was defined to be a town within the meaning of the Act." The President of the Board of Land and Works, who gave that order force, was John Henry Brooke.

As far back as December, 1862, the Illustrated Melbourne Post stated that, "the local management of the (St. Kilda Council) district is superior to any other suburb, and owing to the energy displayed by the municipal council, the improvements have been substantial, and numerous, and rightly entitle the locality to the distinctive reputation it has gained as being the model municipality." The councillors who won for St. Kilda, in 1862, the title of the "Model Municipality" were the chairman, Councillor B. F. Bunny, and Councillors B. Cowderoy, J. M. Thomas, J. McCulloch, J. Mason, H. Tullett, E. Sydes, and W. Ford, some of whom became notable Melbourne men. But no single Council, any more than any single individual, can claim the credit of the making of St. Kilda. The City of St. Kilda is the work of many

minds, and so it must continue to be. Each succeeding generation sets its marks of beauty, effects its quota of improvements on St. Kilda, and though councillors, and councils pass, their mark remains as an evidence to those, who come hereafter, that the councillors of St. Kilda had an eye for beauty, and sufficient pride, in their citizenship, to work and to win for the city municipality, the title of "ST. KILDA THE BEAUTIFUL."



APPENDIX "A"

List of Mayors and Councillors of the Municipality of St. Kilda from 1857 to 1931.

Proclaimed a Municipal District 24th April, 1865

1857-1858.	F. Gardiner (J. Mooney (J. M. Thomas (W. H. Cropper (D. McNaughton	1862-1863.
<i>Chairman:</i> Benjamin Cowderoy		<i>Chairman:</i> Brice Frederick Bunny
<i>Councillors:</i> (Seven) Hon. A. Fraser, M.L.C. T. Hale B. Cowderoy (A. Sutherland (H. Tullett J. Mooney F. Spicer S. Marshall	1860-1861. <i>Chairman:</i> Benjamin Cowderoy <i>Councillors:</i> H. Tullett F. Gardiner J. M. Thomas B. Cowderoy E. Sydes J. H. Kelson (T. Hale (W. Halliday	<i>Councillors:</i> B. Cowderoy J. Mason H. Tullett E. Sydes B. F. Bunny W. Ford (J. M. Thomas (Hon. Jas. McCulloch, M.L.A.
1858-1859.		1863-1864.
<i>Chairman:</i> Benjamin Cowderoy		<i>Chairman:</i> Brice Frederick Bunny
<i>Councillors:</i> Hon. A. Fraser, M.L.C. T. Hale B. Cowderoy H. Tullett J. Mooney F. Spicer (S. Marshall (W. H. Cropper	1861-1862. <i>Chairman:</i> Benjamin Cowderoy <i>Councillors:</i> H. Tullett B. Cowderoy E. Sydes J. M. Thomas (F. Spicer (B. F. Bunny (W. Halliday (F. Spicer (Jas. Mason (J. H. Kelson (F. Gardiner	<i>Councillors:</i> (Seven) S. H. Bindon B. Cowderoy B. F. Bunny W. Ford E. Sydes H. Tullett (Hon. Jas. McCulloch, M.L.A. (Hon. A. Fraser
1859-1860.		
<i>Chairman:</i> Hon. Alexander Fraser, M.L.C.		<i>Proclaimed a Borough under the Municipal Corporations Act 1863.</i>
<i>Councillors:</i> T. Hale F. Spicer H. Tullett		1864-1865. <i>Mayor:</i> Hon. Alexander Fraser

Councillors:
(Nine)
S. H. Bindon
B. F. Bunny
B. Cowderoy
Hon. A. Fraser H.
Tullett
W. Ford
J. Oldham
J. Turner
(H. Dyer
(W. Peterson

1865-1866.
Mayor:
William Ford

Councillors:
S. H. Bindon
B. F. Bunny
J. H. Patterson
Hon. A. Fraser
J. Oldham
J. Turner
H. Tullett

W. Peterson
W. Ford
1866-1867.
Mayor:
James Turner (died
May, 1867)
William Ford (for re-
mainder of term)

Councillors:
B. F. Bunny
W. Ford
F. Gardiner
J. Oldham
W. Peterson
J. H. Patterson
H. Tullett
(Hon. S. Bindon
(J. Fowler
(J. Turner
(S. P. Lord

1867-1868.
Mayor:
James H. Patterson

Councillors:
B. F. Bunny
T. J. Crouch
W. Ford
F. Gardiner
S. P. Lord
J. H. Patterson
H. Tullett
J. Oldham
(J. Fowler
(W. Peterson

1868-1869.
Mayor:
Henry Tullett

Councillors:
B. F. Bunny
T. J. Crouch
W. Ford
S. P. Lord
H. Tullett
W. Peterson
W. G. Murray
W. C. Biddle
J. Oldham

Borough divided into three wards. December 1868.

1868-1869
Mayor:
Henry Tullett

North Ward:
F. Gardiner
T. J. Crouch
B. F. Bunny
South Ward:
J. Oldham
W. G. Murray
W. C. Biddle
West Ward:
H. Tullett
S. P. Lord
C. Gray

1869-1870.
Mayor:
John Oldham
North Ward:
T. J. Crouch
D. McNaughton
(F. Gardiner
(D. Johnston
South Ward:
W. G. Murray
J. Oldham
W. Welshman

West Ward:
S. P. Lord
C. Gray
H. Tullett

1870-1871.
Mayor:
Thomas James Crouch
North Ward:
D. McNaughton
D. Johnston
T. J. Crouch
South Ward:
(J. Oldham
(W. G. Murray
(W. Welshman
(A. McIntyre

West Ward:
S. P. Lord
H. Tullett
(C. Gray
(Wm. Simpson

1871-1872.
Mayor:
Duncan McNaughton

North Ward:
D. McNaughton
(T. J. Crouch
(G. Connibere
D. Johnston
South Ward:
(W. Welshman
(T. J. Crouch
A. McIntyre
W. G. Murray
West Ward:
H. Tullett
S. P. Lord
W. Simpson

1872-1878.
Mayor:
William Gilmour
Murray, J.P.
North Ward:
D. McNaughton
G. Connibere
D. Johnston
South Ward:
(T. J. Crouch, J.P.
(H. S. Barrett
A. McIntyre
W. G. Murray, J.P.

West Ward:

H. Tullett, J.P.

S. P. Lord

W. Simpson

1873-1874.

Mayor:

William Simpson (to

April, 1874)

John Wilks (for re-
mainder of term)*North Ward:*

(D. McNaughton

(J. Vale

J. Wilks

D. Johnston

South Ward:

(H. S. Barrett

(H. R. Harwood

J. Dixon

(W. G. Murray

(E. Bardwell

West Ward:

H. Tullett, J.P.

S. P. Lord

(W. Simpson

(F. Wimpole

1874-1875.

Mayor:

John Wilks, J.P.

North Ward:

J. Vale

John Wilks, J.P.

D. Johnston

South Ward:

H. R. Harwood

J. Dixon

(W. McEwan

(E. Ashley

West Ward:

H. Tullett, J.P.

H. C. Fraser, J.P.

F. Wimpole

1875-1876.

Mayor:

John Wilks, J.P.

(to May, 1876)

Henry C. Fraser, J.P.

(for remainder of
term)*North Ward:*

J. Wilks, J.P.

D. Johnston

D. McNaughton

South Ward:

J. Dixon

E. Ashley, J.P.

(P. D. Phillips

(R. Balderson

West Ward:

H. Tullett, J.P.

H. C. Fraser, J.P.

F. Wimpole

1876-1877.

Mayor:

Henry C. Fraser, J.P.

North Ward:

J. Wilks, J.P.

D. Johnston

D. McNaughton

South Ward:

J. Dixon

E. Ashley, J.P.

R. Balderson

West Ward:

H. Tullett, J.P.

H. C. Fraser, J.P.

F. Wimpole

1877-1878.

Mayor:

Henry C. Fraser, J.P.

North Ward:

D. Johnston

D. McNaughton

T. Newton

South Ward:

J. Dixon

R. Balderson

E. Duckett

West Ward:

H. Tullett, J.P.

H. C. Fraser, J.P.

(F. Wimpole

(G. Shaw

1878-1879.

Mayor:

Henry Tullett, J.P.

North Ward:

D. Johnston

T. Newton

G. Pilley

South Ward:

J. Dixon

E. Duckett

R. Balderson

West Ward:

G. Shaw

W. Simpson

H. Tullett, J.P.

1879-1880.

Mayor:

Richard Balderson, J.P.

North Ward:

D. Johnston

T. Newton

G. Pilley

South Ward:

J. Dixon

D. Duckett

R. Balderson, J.P.

West Ward:

G. Shaw

W. Simpson

H. Tullett, J.P.

1880-1881.

Mayor:

George Pilley, J.P.

North Ward:

G. Pilley, J.P.

D. Johnston

T. Newton

South Ward:

R. Balderson, J.P.

J. Dixon

(E. Duckett

(H. Jennings, Jnr.

West Ward:

H. Tullett, J.P.

G. Shaw

W. Simpson, J.P.

1881-1882.

Mayor:

Gavin Shaw, J.P.

North Ward:

D. Johnston

T. Newton

G. Pilley, J.P.

South Ward:

J. Dixon

H. Jennings, Jnr.

R. Balderson, J.P.

West Ward:

G. Shaw, J.P.

W. Simpson, J.P.

(H. Tullett, J.P.

(A. Davis

1882-1883.

Mayor:

Gavin Shaw, J.P.

North Ward:

T. Newton

G. Pilley, J.P.

D. Johnston

South Ward:

H. Jennings, Jnr.

R. Balderson, J.P.

J. Dixon

West Ward:

W. Simpson, J.P.

A. Davis

G. Shaw, J.P.

1883-1884.

Mayor:

William Simpson, J.P.

(to March, 1884)

Richard Balderson, J.P.

(for remainder of term)

North Ward:

G. Pulley, J.P.

D. Johnston

W. H. Ellerker

South Ward:

R. Balderson, J.P.

J. Dixon

H. Jennings, Jnr.

West Ward:

A. Davis

G. Shaw, J.P.

(W. Simpson, J.P.

(J. Barker

1884-1885.

Mayor:

Henry Jennings, Jnr.,

J.P.

North Ward:

D. Johnston

W. H. Ellerker

G. Piney, J.P.

South Ward:

J. Dixon

H. Jennings, Jnr., J.P.

A. E. Moore

West Ward:

F. Wimpole

J. Barker

A. Davis

1885-1886.

Mayor:

William Henry Ellerker, J.P.

North Ward:

W. H. Ellerker, J.P.

G. Pilley, J.P.

D. Johnston

South Ward:

H. Jennings, Jnr., J.P.

A. E. Moore

(J. Dixon

(G. Turner

West Ward:

J. Barker

A. Davis

F. Wimpole

1886-1887.

Mayor:

Frederick Wimpole, J.P.

North Ward:

G. Pilley, J.P.

D. Johnston

(W. H. Ellerker, J.P.

(S. E. Jeans

South Ward:

A. E. Moore

G. Turner

H. Jennings, J.P.

West Ward:

A. Davis

F. Wimpole

J. Barker

1887-1888.

Mayor:

George Turner, J.P.

North Ward:

D. Johnston

S. E. Jeans

G. Pilley, J.P.

South Ward:

G. Turner, J.P.

H. Jennings, J.P.

G. Connibere

West Ward:

F. Wimpole, J.P.

J. Barker

C. J. Richardson

1888-1889.

Mayor:

Samuel England Jeans, J.P.

North Ward:

S. E. Jeans, J.P.

G. Pilley, J.P.

J. S. S. Sundercombe

South Ward:

H. Jennings, J.P.

G. Connibere

G. Turner, M.L.A., J.P.

West Ward:

J. Barker

E. O'Donnell

(C. J. Richardson

(S. Jacoby

1889-1890.

Mayor:

Edward O'Donnell, J.P.

North Ward:

S. E. Jeans, J.P.

G. Pilley, J.P.

(J. S. S. Sundercombe

(R. Marriott

South Ward:

G. Connibere, J.P.

G. Turner, M.L.A., J.P.

H. Jennings, J.P.

West Ward:

S. Jacoby

E. O'Donnell, J.P.

J. Stedeford, J.P.

1890-1891.

Mayor:

Alfred Edward Moore, J.P.

North Ward:

R. Marriott

S. E. Jeans, J.P.

T. Kelly

South Ward:

G. Turner, M.L.A., J.P.

H. Jennings, J.P.

A. E. Moore, J.P.

West Ward:

E. O'Donnell, J.P.

J. Stedeford, J.P.

S. Jacoby

1891-1892. Mayor: Robert Marriott, J.P. North Ward: S. E. Jeans, J.P. T. Kelly R. Marriott, J.P. South Ward: Jennings, J.P. A. E. Moore, J.P. Hon. G. Turner, J.P., M.L.A. West Ward: J. Stedeford, J.P. S. Jacoby E. O'Donnell, J.P.	North Ward: V. Lemme J. Miller T. G. Allen South Ward: G. Connibere, J.P. A. E. Moore, J.P. Hon. G. Turner, J.P., M.L.A. West Ward: J. Stedeford, J.P. S. Jacoby, J.P. E. O'Donnell, J.P.	A. Drakard T. G. Allen South Ward: G. Connibere, J.P. A. V. Kemp Rt. Hon. Sir George Turner, J.P., P.C., K.C.M.G., M.L.A. West Ward: J. Stedeford, J.P. S. Jacoby E. O'Donnell, J.P.
1892-1893. Mayor: Sigismund Jacoby, J.P. North Ward: T. Kelly R. Marriott, J.P. S. E. Jeans, J.P. South Ward: A. E. Moore, J.P. Hon. G. Turner, J.P., M.L.A. G. Connibere, J.P. West Ward: S. Jacoby, J.P. E. O'Donnell, J.P. J. Stedeford, J.P.	1895-1896. Mayor: Victor Lemme, J.P. North Ward: J. Miller T. G. Allen V. Lemme South Ward: A. E. Moore, J.P. Hon. G. Turner, J.P., M.L.A. G. Connibere, J.P. West Ward: S. Jacoby E. O'Donnell, J.P. J. Stedeford, J.P.	1898-1899. Mayor: Arthur Vincent Kemp, J.P. North Ward: A. Drakard T. G. Allen F. G. Hughes South Ward: A. V. Kemp, J.P. Rt. Hon. Sir G. Turner, J.P., P.C., K.C.M.G., M.L.A. G. Connibere, J.P. West Ward: S. Jacoby E. O'Donnell, J.P. J. Stedeford, J.P.
1893-1894. Mayor: Sigismund Jacoby, J.P. North Ward: R. Marriott, J.P. J. Miller (S. E. Jeans V. Lemme South Ward: Hon. G. Turner, J.P., M.L.A. G. Connibere, J.P. West Ward: S. Jacoby, J.P. E. O'Donnell, J.P. J. Stedeford, J.P. S. Jacoby, J.P.	1896-1897. Mayor: John Stedeford, J.P. North Ward: T. G. Allen V. Lemme, J.P. A. Drakard South Ward: Hon. G. Turner, J.P., M.L.A. G. Connibere, J.P. A. V. Kemp West Ward: E. O'Donnell, J.P. J. Stedeford, J.P. S. Jacoby	1899-1900. Mayor: Arthur Vincent Kemp, J.P. North Ward: T. G. Allen F. G. Hughes A. Stringer South Ward: Rt. Hon. Sir G. Turner, J.P., K.C.M.G., M.L.A. G. Connibere, J.P. A. V. Kemp, J.P. West Ward: E. O'Donnell, J.P. J. Stedeford, J.P. S. Jacoby
1894-1895. Mayor: George Connibere, J.P.	1897-1898. Mayor: John Stedeford, J.P. North Ward: V. Lemme	1900-1901. Mayor: Frederic Godfrey Hughes, J.P.

<i>North Ward:</i> F. G. Hughes, J.P. A. Stringer T. G. Allen	<i>South Ward:</i> G. Connibere, J.P. G. H. Billson J. H. Pittard, J.P.	G. H. Billson J. H. A. Pittard, J.P.
<i>South Ward:</i> G. Connibere, J.P. A. V. Kemp, J.P. J. H. Pittard	<i>West Ward:</i> J. Stedeford, J.P. S. Jacoby E. O'Donnell, J.P.	<i>West Ward:</i> J. Stedeford, J.P. S. Jacoby E. O'Donnell, J.P.
<i>West Ward:</i> J. Stedeford, J.P. S. Jacoby E. O'Donnell, J.P.	1904-1905. <i>Mayor:</i> John Henry Andrews Pittard, J.P.	1907-1908. <i>Mayor:</i> Sigismund Jacoby, J.P.
1901-1902. <i>Mayor:</i> Edward O'Donnell, J.P.	<i>North Ward:</i> H. F. Barnet H. B. Gibbs F. G. Hughes	<i>North Ward:</i> H. F. Barnet H. B. Gibbs, J.P. F. G. Hughes
<i>North Ward:</i> A. Stringer T. G. Allen F. G. Hughes, J.P.	<i>South Ward:</i> G. H. Billson J. H. Pittard, J.P. G. Connibere, J.P.	<i>South Ward:</i> G. H. Billson J. H. A. Pittard, J.P. G. Connibere, J.P.
<i>South Ward:</i> J. H. Pittard G. Connibere, J.P. (A. V. Kemp (G. H. Billson	<i>West Ward:</i> S. Jacoby E. O'Donnell, J.P. J. Stedeford, J.P.	<i>West Ward:</i> S. Jacoby, J.P. E. O'Donnell, J.P. J. Stedeford, J.P.
<i>West Ward:</i> S. Jacoby E. O'Donnell, J.P. J. Stedeford, J.P.	1905-1906. <i>Mayor:</i> Harry Browse Gibbs, J.P.	1908-1909. <i>Mayor:</i> Sigismund Jacoby, J.P.
1902-1903. <i>Mayor:</i> Edward O'Donnell, J.P.	<i>North Ward:</i> H. B. Gibbs, J.P. F. G. Hughes H. F. Barnet	<i>North Ward:</i> H. B. Gibbs F. G. Hughes H. F. Barnet
<i>North Ward:</i> T. G. Allen F. G. Hughes H. F. Barnet	<i>South Ward:</i> J. H. A. Pittard, J.P. G. Connibere, J.P. G. H. Billson	<i>South Ward:</i> J. H. A. Pittard, J.P. G. Connibere, J.P. G. H. Billson
<i>South Ward:</i> J. H. Pittard G. Connibere, J.P. G. H. Billson	<i>West Ward:</i> E. O'Donnell, J.P. J. Stedeford, J.P. S. Jacoby	<i>West Ward:</i> E. O'Donnell, J.P. J. Stedeford, J.P. S. Jacoby, J.P.
<i>West Ward:</i> E. O'Donnell, J.P. J. Stedeford, J.P. S. Jacoby	1906-1907. <i>Mayor:</i> Harry Browse Gibbs, J.P.	1909-1910. <i>Mayor:</i> George Henry Billson, J.P.
1903-1904. <i>Mayor:</i> John Henry Andrews Pittard, J.P.	<i>North Ward:</i> F. G. Hughes H. F. Barnet H. B. Gibbs, J.P.	<i>North Ward:</i> F. G. Hughes H. F. Barnet H. B. Gibbs
<i>North Ward:</i> F. G. Hughes H. F. Barnet H. B. Gibbs	<i>South Ward:</i> G. Connibere, J.P.	<i>South Ward:</i> G. Connibere, J.P. G. H. Billson, J.P. J. H. A. Pittard, J.P.
		<i>West Ward:</i> J. Stedeford, J.P.

S. Jacoby, J.P. E. O'Donnell, J.P.	<i>North Ward:</i> H. B. Gibbs F. G. Hughes, J.P. H. F. Barnet	J. J. Love A. Sculthorpe
1910-1911. <i>Mayor:</i> Frederic Godfrey Hughes, J.P.	<i>South Ward:</i> J. H. A. Pittard, J.P. J. H. Hewison J. J. Love	<i>West Ward:</i> (J. Stedeford, J.P. (R. A. Molesworth S. Jacoby, J.P. E. O'Donnell, J.P.
<i>North Ward:</i> H. B. Gibbs F. G. Hughes, J.P. H. F. Barnet	<i>West Ward:</i> E. O'Donnell, J.P. J. Stedeford, J.P. S. Jacoby	1913-1914. <i>Mayor:</i> Edward O'Donnell, J.P.
<i>South Ward:</i> G. H. Billson, J.P. J. H. Hewison J. H. A. Pittard, J.P.	1912-1913. <i>Mayor:</i> Edward O'Donnell, J.P.	<i>North Ward:</i> H. F. Barnet H. B. Gibbs F. G. Hughes
<i>West Ward:</i> E. O'Donnell, J.P. J. Stedeford, J.P. S. Jacoby	<i>North Ward:</i> F. G. Hughes, J.P. H. F. Barnet H. B. Gibbs	<i>South Ward:</i> J. J. Love A. Sculthorpe J. H. Hewison
1911-1912. <i>Mayor:</i> Frederic Godfrey Hughes, J.P.	<i>South Ward:</i> J. H. Hewison	<i>West Ward:</i> S. Jacoby, J.P. E. O'Donnell, J.P. R. A. Molesworth

Pursuant to an Order-in-Council made 30th March, 1914, re-subdividing the City into four wards, the whole nine sitting Councillors went out of office, and an election of three Councillors for each of the four wards was held on 27th August, 1914.

1914-1915. <i>Mayor:</i> Joseph Henry Hewison, J.P.	<i>North Ward:</i> F. G. Hughes H. F. Barnet H. B. Gibbs	<i>South Ward:</i> Burnett Gray A. Sculthorpe J. H. Hewison
<i>North Ward:</i> H. B. Gibbs F. G. Hughes H. F. Barnet	<i>South Ward:</i> J. H. Hewison, J.P. Burnett Gray A. Sculthorpe	<i>Central Ward:</i> T. G. Allen, J.P. J. J. Love, J.P. J. H. A. Pittard, J.P.
<i>South Ward:</i> H. McL. Duigan J. H. Hewison Burnett Gray	<i>Central Ward:</i> J. H. A. Pittard, J.P. T. G. Allen, J.P. J. J. Love, J.P.	<i>West Ward:</i> E. O'Donnell, J.P. E. Hart R. A. Molesworth
<i>Central Ward:</i> J. J. Love J. H. A. Pittard, J.P. T. G. Allen, J.P.	<i>West Ward:</i> R. A. Molesworth E. O'Donnell, J.P. (G. B. Renfrey, J.P. (E. Hart	1917-1918. <i>Mayor:</i> Edward O'Donnell, J.P.
<i>West Ward:</i> F. B. Renfrey, J.P. R. A. Molesworth E. O'Donnell, J.P.	1916-1917. <i>Mayor:</i> Henry Florian Barnet, J.P.	<i>North Ward:</i> (H. B. Gibbs (S. T. Alford F. G. Hughes, C.B. H. F. Barnet, J.P.
1915-1916. <i>Mayor:</i> John Jeremiah Love, J.P.	<i>North Ward:</i> H. F. Barnet, J.P. H. B. Gibbs F. G. Hughes	<i>South Ward:</i> A. Sculthorpe J. H. Hewison E. B. Clarke

Central Ward:

J. J. Love, J.P.
J. H. A. Pittard, J.P.
T. G. Allen, J.P.

West Ward:

E. Hart
R. A. Molesworth
E. O'Donnell, J.P.

1918-1919.

Mayor:

Albert Sculthorpe, J.P.

North Ward:

F. G. Hughes, C.B. H.
F. Barnet
S. T. Alford, J.P.

South Ward:

J. H. Hewison
E. B. Clarke
A. Sculthorpe, J.P.

Central Ward:

J. H. A. Pittard, J.P.
T. G. Allen, J.P.
J. W. Fraser

West Ward:

R. A. Molesworth E.
O'Donnell, J.P.
E. Hart

1919-1920.

Mayor:

Thomas George Allen,
J.P.

North Ward:

H. F. Barnet
S. T. Alford, J.P.
F. G. Hughes, C.B.

South Ward:

E. B. Clarke
A. Sculthorpe, J.P.
J. H. Hewison

Central Ward:

T. G. Allen, J.P.
J. W. Fraser
G. B. Renfrey, J.P.

West Ward:

E. O'Donnell, J.P.
E. Hart
R. A. Molesworth

1920-1921.

Mayor:

Samuel Tierney
Alford, J.P.

North Ward:

S. T. Alford, J.P.
F. G. Hughes, C.B. H.
F. Barnet

South Ward:

A. Sculthorpe, J.P.
J. H. Hewison
Burnett Gray

Central Ward:

G. B. Renfrey, J.P.
T. G. Allen, J.P.
(J. W. Fraser
(F. L. Dawkins

West Ward:

E. Hart
E. O'Donnell, J.P.
(R. A. Molesworth
(G. Cummings

1921-1922.

Mayor:

George Cummings, J.P.

North Ward:

F. G. Hughes, C.B.
(H. F. Barnet
(F. J. Marks
S. T. Alford, J.P.

South Ward:

J. H. Hewison
Burnett Gray
E. B. Clarke

Central Ward:

G. B. Renfrey, J.P.
T. G. Allen, J.P.
F. L. Dawkins

West Ward:

G. Cummings, J.P.
E. O'Donnell, J.P.
T. Unsworth

1922-1923.

Mayor:

Burnett Gray, J.P.

North Ward:

(F. J. Marks
(J. B. Levi
S. T. Alford, J.P.
R. T. Taylor

South Ward:

Burnett Gray, J.P.
E. B. Clarke
(J. H. Hewison
(R. H. Morley, J.P.

Central Ward:

S. G. Allen, J.P.

F. L. Dawkins

G. B. Renfrey, J.P.

West Ward:

E. O'Donnell, J.P.
T. Unsworth
G. Cummings, J.P.

1923-1924.

Mayor:

Thomas George Allen,
J.P.

North Ward:

S. T. Alford, J.P.
R. T. Taylor
J. B. Levi

South Ward:

E. B. Clarke
R. H. Morley, J.P.
Burnett Gray, J.P.

Central Ward:

F. L. Dawkins
G. B. Renfrey, J.P.
T. G. Allen, J.P.

West Ward:

T. Unsworth
G Cummings
E. O'Donnell, J.P.

1924-1925.

Mayor:

Joseph Benjamin
Levi, J.P.

North Ward:

R. T. Taylor
J. B. Levi, J.P.
S. T. Alford, J.P.

South Ward:

R. H. Morley, J.P.
Burnett Gray
E. B. Clarke

Central Ward:

G. B. Renfrey, J.P.
T. G. Allen, J.P.
F. L. Dawkins

West Ward:

G. Cummings
E. O'Donnell, J.P.
T. Unsworth

1925-1926.

Mayor:

George Cummings,
J.P.

North Ward:

J. B. Levi, J.P.
S. T. Alford, J.P.
R. T. Taylor

South Ward:

Burnett Gray
(E. B. Clarke
(G. H. Robinson
R. H. Morley, J.P.

Central Ward:

T. G. Allen, J.P.
F. L. Dawkins
G. B. Renfrey, J.P.

West Ward:

E. O'Donnell, J.P.
T. Unsworth
G. Cummings, J.P.

1926-1927.

Mayor:

Burnett Gray, J.P.

North Ward:

S. T. Alford, J.P.
R. T. Taylor
J. B. Levi

South Ward:

G. H. Robinson
R. H. Morley, J.P.
Burnett Gray, M.L.A.

Central Ward:

F. L. Dawkins
G. B. Renfrey, J.P.
T. G. Allen, J.P.

West Ward:

T. Unsworth
G. Cummings
E. O'Donnell, J.P.

1927-1928.

Mayor:

Francis Leslie
Dawkins, J.P.

North Ward:

R. T. Taylor
J. B. Levi
(S. T. Alford, J.P.
(H. Moroney, J.P.

South Ward:

R. H. Morley, J.P.
Burnett Gray, M.L.A.
G. H. Robinson, J.P.

Central Ward:

G. B. Renfrey, J.P.
T. G. Allen, J.P.
F. L. Dawkins, J.P.

West Ward:

G. Cummings
E. O'Donnell, J.P.
T. Unsworth, J.P.

1928-1929.

Mayor:

Thomas Unsworth,
J.P.

North Ward:

J. B. Levi
H. Moroney, J.P.
R. T. Taylor

South Ward:

Burnett Gray, M.L.A.
G. H. Robinson, J.P.
R. H. Morley, J.P.

Central Ward:

(T. G. Allen, J.P.
(A. Jacka, V.C., M.C.
F. L. Dawkins, J.P.

G. B. Renfrey, J.P.

West Ward:

E. O'Donnell, J.P.
T. Unsworth, J.P.
G. Cummings

1929-1930.

Mayor:

George Hardy Robinson, J.P.

North Ward:

H. Moroney, J.P.
R. T. Taylor
J. B. Levi

South Ward:

G. H. Robinson, J.P.
R. H. Morley, J.P.
Burnett Gray, M.L.A.

Central Ward:

F. L. Dawkins, J.P.
G. B. Renfrey, J.P.
A. Jacka, V.C., M.C.

West Ward:

T. Unsworth, J.P.
G. Cummings
E. O'Donnell, J.P.

1930-1931.

Mayor:

Albert Jacka, V.C.,
M.C., J.P.

North Ward:

R. T. Taylor
J. B. Levi
H. Moroney, J.P.

South Ward:

R. H. Morley, J.P.
Burnett Gray, M.L.A.
G. H. Robinson, J.P.

Central Ward:

G. B. Renfrey, J.P.
A. Jacka, V.C., M.C.,
J.P.

F. L. Dawkins, J.P.

West Ward:

G. Cummings
E. O'Donnell, J.P. T.
Unsworth, J.P.

Names bracketed together denote that an extraordinary vacancy occurred through the death or resignation of the first-named councillor, and that the second-named was elected to fill the vacancy.

APPENDIX "B"

Return showing the area of Public Reserves, Parks and Gardens, Etc., within the City of St. Kilda

Name of Reserve, etc.	Location.	Crown Land or Freehold.	Area		
			A.	R.	P.
St. Kilda Botanical Gardens	Blessington Street ..	Crown Grant Municipality	16	0	0
Blessington Street Reserve	Blessington, Chaucer, Spenser, Shakespeare Grove	Crown Lands ..	8	2	33
Renfrey Gardens	Blessington, Chaucer and Spenser Streets ..	Portion of Street ..	2	2	6
Shakespeare Grove ..	Shakespeare Grove (Portion of Street) ..	Crown Grant Municipality	1	1	32
Town Hall Grounds ..	Carlisle Street, Brighton Road ..	Street Plantations .	3	1	15
Brighton Road ..	Street Plantations ..	Crown Lands ..	2	1	20
Elwood Park ..	Sea Front—Shelley Street to Head Street ..	Street Plantations .	54	0	0
Mitford Street and Broadway	Cor. Mitford Street and Broadway ..	Freehold ..	0	1	38
Broadway and Mitford Street	Cor. Broadway, Mitford Street and Gordon Avenue	Street Plantations	0	0	23
Clarke Street ..	Mitford Street, cor.' Clarke Street ..	Crown Lands ..	1	3	20
Shelley Street ..	Shelley Street ..	Crown Lands ..	3	3	0
Tennyson Street ..	Glenhuntly Road—St. Kilda Street and Tennyson Street ..	Crown Lands ..	0	0	27
Spray Street ..	Spray Street, Beach Avenue and Wave Street Glen	Street Plantations .	0	0	18
Ripponlea	Eira Road and Morres Street ..	Railway Land ..	1	0	5
Alma Park ..	Street Plantations ..	Crown Grant Municipality	22	2	6
Dandenong Road . Orange Grove ..	Orange Grove ..	Street Plantations . Freehold ..	2	0	0
St. Kilda Cemetery .. Albert Park (Portion) ..	Canterbury Road and Cowderoy Street ..	..	1	1	14
St. Kilda Cricket Ground ..	Beaconsfield Parade ..	Crown Grant to Trustees	20	0	0
Canterbury Road .. Beaconsfield	Fitzroy Street and Beaconsfield Parade	Crown Grant to Trustees	98	3	0
Parade	Upper and Lower Esplanades ..	Plantation Reserve .. Street Plantations .	9	1	0
Cleve Gardens .. Esplanade Slopes ..	Upper Esplanade ..	Street Plantations .	0	1	2
Alfred Square ..	Street Plantations ..	Plantations .	2	0	16
St. Kilda Road ..	Queens Road and Queens Lane ..	Street Plantations .	0	1	21
Queens Road ..	Barkly Street, at Victory Theatre ..	Crown Grant—Board of Land and Works and Council ..	2	0	16
Barkly Street ..	Deakin, Cowderoy and Park Streets ..	Crown Grant Municipality Street Plantations .	1	3	8
Deakin Street ..	St. Kilda Foreshore ..	Street Plantations .	1	1	10
Shore Committee Reserves .		Crown Lands ..	0	2	30
		Plantation Reserve	1	1	8
		Crown Lands ..	0	1	27
			50	0	0

Financial Statistics for

GENERAL.			1920-21	1921-22
Population			35,970	37,262
Assessments			9,679	10,056
Tenements*			8,489	8,847
Habitable Dwellings*			-	-
Annual Value of Rateable Property			£580,753	£679,600
REVENUE.				
Government Grants			£56	£139
Rates, General			57,885	68,058
Licences and Registration			1,400	1,714
			485	455
Formation of Private Streets			3,496	3,414
Footpaths (including Crossings)			783	627
Sanitary Charges			235	322
Pound and Detention Fees			32	17
Fines and Costs			221	238
Rents			1,817	2,298
Interest ..			1,011	804
			2,163	1,374
			£69,584	£79,460
EXPENDITURE.				
Salaries (including Audit, Clerical Assistance, Commission, etc.)			£4,277	£4,957
Mayoral Allowance			250	250
Health Administration			2,779	2,955
Closest Cleaning and Sanitary Expenses			3,813	5,608
			4,587	5,809
Lighting Streets			4,703	7,253
Fire Brigades' Board Contribution			2,289	2,482
Roads Construction			3,122	1,130
Roads Maintenance			15,806	17,138
Buildings Construction			606	1,687
Buildings Maintenance			674	1,209
Parks and Gardens Construction			703	214
Parks and Gardens Maintenance			5,333	5,964
Other Works Construction			656	514
Other Works Maintenance			567	488
Formation of Private Streets, etc.			2,000	4,755
Tar-paving Footpaths (including Crossings)			1,368	1,058
Public Loans Redemption			1,250	1,326
Government Loans Redemption			4,702	4,713
Interest on Loans from Government			286	265
Interest on Loans from Public			2,840	2,444
Interest on Bank Overdraft			654	653
Commission, Exchange (Loan Payments)			16	-
Charitable Vote			368	288
Law Costs			94	12
Printing, Advertising and Stationery, etc.			1,255	1,143
Plant and Renewals			1,315	1,459
Other Expenditure			4,331	3,313
			£70,644	£79,087
Loan Expenditure			9,825	25,132
Total			£80,469	£104,219
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.				
Liabilities, Municipal Fund			£17,436	£17,019
Assets, Municipal Fund			13,682	13,586
Balance, Municipal Fund			Dr.£3,754	Dr.£3,433
Loan Funds, Unexpended			£10,043	£6,503
Loan Liability (Principal outstanding)			108,417	122,377

*"Tenements" included all structures.

"Habitable Dwellings" comprise only dwellings, self-contained flats, and combined shop and dwelling.

ST. KI LDA

Ten Years, 1921-1930

1922-23	1923-24	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28	1928-29	1929-30
37,901	38,780	39,119	39,200	40,029	41,013	41,934	42,085
10,265	10,408	10,543	10,664	10,927	11,264	11,537	11,653
9,381	9,506	9,630	9,740	10,282	10,693	11,017	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,524
£771,107	£847,329	£903,901	£935,606	£978,591	£1,044,024	£1,069,472	£1,072,736
£158	£184	£172	£3,642	£3,750	£2,619	£2,223	£2,065
76,914	84,428	90,045	93,609	97,613	103,788	107,059	105,839
1,751	1,643	1,478	1,734	1,594	1,435	1,378	1,752
370	363	374	372	369	502	460	482
3,852	4,140	4,658	7,890	6,440	3,932	4,269	3,238
1,063	1,006	1,291	1,091	758	642	436	146
392	323	154	179	189	96	74	42
26	53	43	49	25	20	10	14
314	192	290	288	376	277	201	238
2,310	2,200	2,833	2,609	3,150	2,995	4,773	4,868
945	1,370	1,874	1,545	1,275	1,398	1,454	1,157
1,642	1,259	2,453	1,943	2,958	1,965	2,581	2,994
£89,737	£97,161	£105,665	£114,951	£118,497	£119,669	£124,928	£122,835
£6,319	£5,278	£5,562	£4,686	£6,168	£6,142	£5,977	£6,205
350	400	450	450	460	450	450	500
2,743	2,746	3,256	2,988	3,476	3,531	3,749	3,552
6,297	7,477	7,906	8,337	8,857	9,091	9,443	9,994
5,811	6,336	6,252	6,402	7,129	7,415	6,903	6,873
7,098	7,217	7,279	9,565	9,171	7,700	8,590	11,688
2,617	2,879	3,085	3,118	3,175	3,267	3,362	3,376
61	2,024	1,853	206	1,700	2,871	677	666
17,297	23,533	27,762	22,799	25,873	31,370	27,315	31,523
239	616	873	894	4,278	530	1,546	163
1,571	441	769	1,172	1,842	1,278	997	1,256
1,000	1,797	1,448	743	1,031	306	200	1,568
5,404	7,448	7,704	8,276	9,061	8,838	9,715	9,305
375	1,549	2,460	672	1,579	2,895	1,006	844
496	712	610	723	275	434	1,351	252
7,197	4,813	11,512	6,586	2,269	3,050	5,176	3,281
1,150	1,349	1,388	1,353	1,278	705	659	212
1,409	1,996	2,627	2,912	3,219	3,669	4,921	4,929
4,725	4,488	4,500	4,514	4,528	4,543	4,558	4,574
243	220	208	194	180	166	150	134
3,917	6,301	8,146	9,202	10,041	9,831	12,509	15,269
528	149	484	437	894	1,142	846	928
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
265	365	365	650	453	573	557	531
113	59	203	69	678	297	137	1,316
1,244	1,284	1,146	1,184	1,042	1,051	1,039	1,055
2,743	2,632	2,270	3,592	4,428	3,605	3,041	2,849
4,082	7,749	5,650	5,907	6,775	6,032	9,404	5,653
£85,294	£101,857	£115,768	£107,630	£119,850	£120,782	£124,339	£128,496
31,921	30,721	14,074	23,700	18,972	32,863	61,093	12,489
£117,215	£132,578	£129,842	£131,330	£138,822	£153,645	£185,432	£140,985
£10,649	£20,750	£32,611	£18,913	£17,375	£19,617	£15,216	£19,524
16,535	17,208	28,801	23,492	14,852	21,717	19,660	18,707
Cr.£5,886	Dr.£3,542	Dr.£3,810	Cr.£4,579	Dr.£2,523	Cr.£2,100	Cr.£4,444	Dr.£2,456
£48,755	£28,034	£43,960	£33,260	£14,288	£21,425	£22,332	£31,843
191,243	194,759	217,631	223,206	215,459	247,505	£300,037	£312,266

FREDK. CHAMBERLIN,
Town Clerk and Treasurer.

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- | | | | |
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