

# BALLARAT AND DISTRICT

## Search for Water

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

## Anti-War Question

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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