ESSENDON GAZETTE AUGUST 1901

Cr. Pridham: I think, you understand, that honorary magistrates can deal with local matters better than paid magistrates. I am speaking, you understand, that the local magistrates are more in touch with local cases, and can better adjudicate, you understand, than a stranger.

Cr. Raisbeck: I think the P.M. should always take the chair. He is free from local prejudices. A man is made Mayor, and he demands the Chairmanship of the Bench, and he knows nothing of law, whereas the P.M. does.

Cr. Parris: I quite agree with Cr. Raisbeck. The P.M.'s know the law, and are the best qualified to preside.

The Mayor: This letter has nothing to do with the Mayor taking the Chairmanship of the Bench.

The letter was received, and no action taken.

From City Council, saying £186 10s. 6d. spent in killing rats, and the local Council's share was £4 :s. 4d.

The Mayor: The destruction of rats will cease after to-morrow.

The letter was received.

Cr. Hardiman asked if it was true that no employe of the Metropolitan Board of Works could take any active part in municipal elections.

The Mayor: Yes, because it was felt that employes should not absent themselves from duty on election day.

Cr. Hardiman: Its blocking a working man from having his vote.

The Mayor: I say no, sir. Nothing of the sort was done.

Cr. Debney: It's time this sort of thing was stopped on Cr. Hardiman's part.

Cr. Crichton: I move we go on to the business.

[illegible] said he had attended a conference re forming a Municipal Association within the metropolitan area. It was finally resolved that a committee be formed to report to a future conference.

Cr. Dangerfield said ladies had complained that they could not get into first-class carriages between eight and nine a.m.

It was resolved to communicate with the Railway Department on the matter.

Cr. Hardiman said it was time the Kensington station was improved, as promised. It was a shanty and a sardine tin.

Cr. Crichton: We should have a reduction of fares on the north suburban lines.

It was determined to wait on the Railway Department, in regard to the railway inconveniences of the district.

At this stage Cr. Raisbeck moved that the new town hall be used on the 13th August.

Cr. Hardiman: Will it be ready?

The Mayor: Yes.

Cr. Hardiman: You are the architect of the Borough.

The Mayor: I don't want any more insults from you, sir. You have been rude to me all night.

Cr. Hardiman: I don't mean to insult you.

The Mayor: Well, it looks like it.

Cr. Pridham: Why is Cr. Hardiman always interjecting.

Cr. Raisbeck's motion was carried.

Finance Committee.

On the motion of Cr. Pridham, accounts, amounting to £360 16s. 4d., were passed for payment.

BROADMEADOWS ANNUAL PLOUGHING MATCH.

The annual ploughing match was held on Mr. David Hatty's farm, "Dundonald," near Broadmeadows, on 25th July, when there was a large attendance of business people from the city, as well as a good representation from all the surrounding country. The day was remarkably fine, and, thanks to the good work of Mr. Secretary Shankland and his energetic committee, the day's outing was rendered most pleasant. An excellent luncheon was prepared in a huge marquee by Caterer Charles, and the proceedings passed off most pleasantly. The ploughing was, in the opinion of competent judges, admirable, the work being quite beyond all praise. Regret was expressed on the ground at the absence of the popular member for the district, Mr. M. J. S. Gair, M.L.A., who was in bed with influenza. However, Mr. Gair had the kindest wishes of those present. The annual ploughing match at Broadmeadows is quite the event of the year at Broadmeadows, and the affair this time proved no exception.

The following were the contestants and winners:

Champion Double Furrow, open to all comers, first prize, £8 and trophy; second, £5, and trophy; best crown and finish, two trophies

John Wallace, Laverton (Mitchell and Co) ...	1
A. B. Trotman, Glenroy (Mitchell and Co) ...	2
Alex. Hatty, Greenvale, (Mitchell and Co) ...	0

street, trophy; Mr. Pritchard, winkers; Piano Co., knife grinder.

FROM THE FRONT.

Middleburg Camp,
27th June, 1901.

To Capt. Moloney

Dear Sir,—Since last writing to you we have had a very hard and unlucky time of it over here. We left Brugspruit and arrived at Elippol two days after and camped there for five days to clear the country round us. The third day our left half battalion left us with provisions and two pom-poms for a camp fifteen miles away. All went well until the fifth night, when we were ordered for a 12.30 reveille, and move at 1.30 a.m.—(hardly worth going to bed, eh!)—when, about one a.m. we received word that our other camp was attacked at eight p.m. we were ordered to stand to horses and arms around and outside camp to be in readiness, each man holding four horses, the remainder lying out about 200 yards on the frosty grass—(not at all cold, either). All was reported clear at four p.m. we mounted and started off at a gallop with two guns and ambulance waggons for the other camp, arriving to see only men, kaffirs, horses, and mules dead and wounded, lying all over the place. The Boers attacked at 30 yards, shooting men in the bunks and wrapped up in blankets. Our doctor (it is said) asked to be allowed to attend to his wounded men, with his hands up, and they shot him in the head. While the attack was on they showed no mercy. It was a sight I shall never forget; the cries of the wounded men and horses were pitiful. Anyhow, we got the dead and wounded together, buried 22 dead, and had the wounded attended to, and put in ambulances, and then shot all the wounded horses and mules to relieve them of their agony and pain. One man had six wounds, and another seven wounds, and they both are still alive. There were about 45 wounded; since four have died, and one had his leg amputated in hospital. After everything was done that could be we started for camp, and stayed there that night. Next day up at 5.30 a.m., sent the ambulances into the line for hospital, and started off in search of General Blood's column, with the men very weak, and having rearguard actions every day, for five or six days. When it was our company's turn, I was sent in rear with seven men, on observation, and before all our men were out of camp they attacked us, and we had to retire on the rearguard, they covering our retreat; but it was pretty warm; the lead was flying in all directions. We again fired on them with the rearguard, and all of us had to retire, as they were firing from three sides. We again fired on them but finally had to retire on to the infantry with the maxim and when that started they cleared out. They don't like him, and we were then left alone for the day. Two days after, at De Willes Kraus, we met Generals Blood, Campbell, and Babington. Then those with fit horses went with General Babington back towards Wolramsrust, to get the guns back we had lost, and the report is here that they have them, also 13 killed on our side. I hope the latter is not true, as we have lost quite enough. Our total is about 100 now, exclusive of sick, etc.

There was a Corporal Harrison shot in the attack. I hope that they don't make a mistake and put me down for him, as I am still alive and kicking, although I was bad for 12 days with dysentery, and fed on milk alone. I was glad when it was over, as we feed like toffs on the track, poultry, pigs, eggs (scarce), oranges) pumpkins from the Boer farms, and have a fairly good time, and plenty of mutton—as much as we can eat—so we don't do too badly. When tracking it is a change from tough working bullocks. We [illegible] lines in having early patrols, three a.m., two a.m., and four a.m., and sometimes often out with six and eight men all night on outpost. The water, on the whole, has been fairly good, bad only in a few places.

We are off again in two or three days for a month's track, where to, I don't yet know; but we like tracking better than standing camps. It is all right now and again, but we are fed too well when out, so I suppose that makes the difference.

Well, I haven't any more news this time, but shall write again after our next month's track, all being well. Kindly remember me to Mrs. Maloney and all the old friends at school.

ALBERT HARRISON.

[illegible]

Always results from a cold or from an attack of influenza. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy not only [illegible]

Among other attractions Zaledie, a handsome and clever youth, described as the world's "great ascensionist," performs some wonderful feats of balancing, and Arnoldi, as a conjurer and magician, created great interest. His performances passed off without a hitch, and he is evidently well up to his work. Among other well deserving of honourable mention are Miss M. Lloyd, Mr. A. Hurney, Mr. C. W. Walker, and last, but by no means least, our old friend, Mr. W. Whitburn. Miss Glynn's singing was very good and much appreciated, while the dancing of Miss J. Williams was very "fetching," and opera glasses were levelled at her from all sides, like the machine guns of a cruiser on a hostile torpedo launch.

THEATRE ROYAL.

A Million of Money has been enjoying a good run at this playhouse, and Mr. Bland Holt, as an experienced caterer for the amusement of Australian audiences, knows full well that a racing piece will always take well in this portion of His Majesty's dominions. Mr. Holt, as the divinity student, who preferred the betting book to the Bible, and who loved to discuss the points of a good bit of horseflesh rather than theological subtleties, was especially good—in fact, excelled himself. Mr. C. Brown, as Dick Bounder, acted in a very creditable manner. Miss Ross, as the heroine of the piece, was soon on good terms with her audience and was frequently applauded. Miss H. Ireland, as the adventuress, was capital, and fully entered into the spirit of the part allotted to her. The attractive realisms of the piece, such as the start for the Hunt, the Epsom Derby, the illuminated fete, and the march of the troops—also the mirage and dream—were powerfully put on, much admired. A million of Money will be acted for the last time to-morrow night, and on Saturday the wonderful Drury Lane success, the White Heather will be staged.

THE PRINCESS.

Les Cloches de Corneville is drawing well at the above theatre, but will conclude to-morrow night, and on Saturday Charles Arnold's Company will appear in most laughable comedy, entitled, "Why Smith left Home," and when it is mentioned that this is from the author of "What happened to Jones," its button bursting and side aching qualities may be easily realised. As regards Les Cloches de Corneville, it has had a most successful run, and its splendid staging was a feature of the piece. It is really a very old favourite, and there are plenty of people, who would go to see it over and over again. The part of Henri Marquis de Corneville was taken by Mr. Ronynge Kelly, and later in the week by Mr. J. E. Shepherd, and both actors acquitted themselves in a highly satisfactory manner. Mr. McNicol Turner as Gobo was very good, as also was Mr. G. Leopold as the miser Gaspard. Mr. Gondy, as the Baillie, filled his part well. Miss Ida Osborne, as Serpolette quite upheld her brilliant reputation, and was perfectly at home in her part. The other characters were also very creditably sustained.

HER MAJESTY'S.

Here "Rigoletto" was staged for the last time on Tuesday night, and the season closed last night with selections heme, and Unballo in Maschera. On heme, and Umballo in Masrhera. On Saturday Mr. Wilson Barrett appears in, supported by his own complete London company, "Man and His Makers," composed by Mr. Barrett and Mr. Louis N. Parker. This play has been presented with enormous success throughout England during the last 18 months, and should take well here. During this season, which will be limited to eight weeks, the following famous plays will be presented in quick succession:—The Sign of the Cross, The Manxman, The Silver King, Claudian, Hamlet, Othello, Virginius, and also the Christian King (first time in Australia).

TURF TOPICS.

[By RICHMOND.]

The Caulfield Grand National meeting on Saturday will be the leading fixture.

My predictions are as follows:—

NORWOOD TRIAL.

Faith ...	1
Solitary ...	2
Be Off ...	3

PLATE.

Malta or Cretonne ...	1

PURSE.

The favourite.

GRAND NATIONAL HURDLE.

PRESIDENT ...	1
SHOODY ...	2
BEAU BRUMMEL ...	3