

# "WILLOUGHBY'S FIFTY YEARS"

1865



1915

A RETROSPECT

BY

CLAUDE LEPLASTRIER.





# WILLOUGHBY'S

## Three Generations of Mayors



THE LATE  
JAMES FORSYTH, SENR.  
1875.



THOMAS TODD FORSYTH,  
1882, 1887 & 1888.



ROBERT TODD FORSYTH,  
1911 and 1915.

# "WILLOUGHBY'S FIFTY YEARS."

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A Retrospect

... OF ...

The JUBILEE PERIOD

... OF THE ...

Council of the Municipality of Willoughby

for the years

1865 — to — 1915

By Claude Leplastrier.

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Jubilee

23rd October, 1915

Published by Authority of the Council.

2/6



## PREFACE.



THE COUNCIL of the Municipality of Willoughby, having decided, in connection with the Jubilee Celebrations, that a history of the Fifty years' period—1865-1915—should be written, it has become the pleasure of the writer, to whom this task was entrusted, to present, as the result, the following pages.

This little volume simply seeks to place on record a retrospect of this interesting period, giving, necessarily, full details of the possibly somewhat prosaic incorporation proceedings; to trace out the history of the principal matters of public importance; to give prominence to those who have been pioneers in the District and also those who have in the past, labored assiduously for the Municipality's advancement.

Further, it traces out the Parliamentary History of those various Electorates within which the Municipality has from time to time been comprised, and gives a short account of some of the numerous Businesses, Industries and Institutions, concluding with an account of the Jubilee proceedings.

Possibly these pages will constitute part of the foundations on which may be created in the future a History of the Northern Suburbs. If so, the historian may find, in the writer's shortcomings, something to guide him in achieving better results.

If any interesting incidents have escaped notice it is trusted that criticism for their absence will not come from those, who, whilst possessing the necessary knowledge, have not accepted the open invitations to make such facts available.

As the early records were evidently not kept to assist the researches of the future chronicler, necessary allowances must be made for deficiencies in this direction, and dependence must be placed upon information gleaned from old identities, and any other available sources. Therefore, it becomes the writer's duty to tender his grateful thanks to all who have assisted him. It would be invidious to particularise these many names (outside of those appearing in connection with interviews and reminiscences), but all who have co-operated will kindly accept this well deserved acknowledgment.

C. L.

Willoughby Town Hall,  
31st January, 1916.

# List of Chairmen\* and Mayors, Councillors\* and Aldermen who have held office up to 23rd October, 1915

## Chairmen and Mayors:

JAMES WILLIAM BLIGH ...	1865
" " " ...	1866
" " " ...	1867
DAVID BROADFOOT ...	1868
H. H. BLIGH ...	1869
" ...	1870
RICHARD H. HARNETT ...	1871
J. H. O. G. P. FRENCH ...	1872
ELIJAH CHARLISH ...	1873
JAMES P. BEST ...	1874
JAMES FORSYTH, Senr. ...	1875
RICHARD SELDON ...	1876
" ...	1877
" ...	1878
" ...	1879
" ...	1880
ELIJAH CHARLISH... ..	1881

T. T. FORSYTH ... ..	1882
JAMES P. BEST ... ..	1883
HOWARD FLEMING ... ..	1884
" ... ..	1885
" ... ..	1886
T. T. FORSYTH ... ..	1887
" ... ..	1888
ALEX. SIMPSON ... ..	1889
W. T. MUSTON ... ..	1890
H. C. CATT ... ..	1891
R. SMALL ... ..	1892
" ... ..	1893
HOWARD FLEMING ... ..	1894
R. SMALL ... ..	1895
ROBERT HENRY GORDON	1896
" " " ... ..	1897
CLAUDE LEPLASTRIER ...	1898

GEORGE FRANCIS BAILEY	1899
" ... ..	1900
FREDERICK SMYTH WILLIS	1901
F. C. PETRIE ... ..	1902
" ... ..	1903
" ... ..	1904
JOHN N. MASON ... ..	1905
WM. CLELAND, JR. ...	1906
" ... ..	1907
GEORGE FRANCIS BAILEY	1908
" " " ... ..	1909
H. H. ROBEY ... ..	1910
R. T. FORSYTH ... ..	1911
C. N. BACKHOUSE ...	1912
" ... ..	1913
W. T. DICKSON ... ..	1914
R. T. FORSYTH ... ..	1915

## Councillors and Aldermen:

ACKLING, THOMAS  
AUBIN, JOHN A.  
BAVIN, T. R.  
BURRELL, C. A.  
BRYSON, JOHN  
BROOKS, THOMAS  
BOYLE, JOHN  
BAUM, RICHARD  
BUTCHER, S.  
CRABBE, DR. J. B.  
CAMERON, ALLAN  
CAMPBELL, A. A.  
CAMPBELL, D. A.  
DUFF, HUGH  
ELLIS, J. S. E.  
FRENCH, JAMES HARRIS  
FULLER, THOMAS  
GIBLIN, NORMAN F.  
HOBSON, JAMES

HOWARTH, GEORGE, M.L.A.  
HUTTON, S. E.  
HOLTERMANN, ST. L. L. R.  
HATTERSLEY, E. G.  
IRVING, S. R.  
JOHNSON, RICHARD  
JOHNSTON, S. D.  
LUDOWICI, J. C.  
LANDERS, J. F.  
LANCELEY, E. R.  
MASHMAN, WM.  
MCCURNEY, H. N.  
MCKINNEY, H. G.  
MCCLELLAND, THOS.  
MOLESWORTH, F. H.  
NEWELL, E. T.  
NEELY, D. W.  
NORQUAY, A. S.  
OWEN, E.

PALMER, JOSEPH  
POLLARD, WILLIAM  
PRENTICE, W. P.  
ROBERTS, J.  
ROHAN, J.  
REDGRAVE, T. B.  
REID, JAMES  
RUSSELL, HENRY  
SMITH, J. KNIGHT  
SHEPHERD, W. J.  
TRICKETT, GEORGE  
UNDERWOOD, R. G.  
WHATMORE, J. S.  
WHITING, G. R.  
WELCH, J. ST. V.  
WILKES, S. H.  
WILSON, CHARLES  
WARMAN, H. B.

*\*At first the Councils were composed of Councillors with a Chairman.*

# The Council of the Municipality of Willoughby

INCORPORATED 23RD OCTOBER, 1865

Area in square miles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Miles of Streets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	120
Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,767
Assessments	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,201
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23,835
Assessed Annual Value	{ Subject to Appeal }	...	...	...	...	...	...	£242,851
Unimproved Capital Value		...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,167,996
Improved Capital Value		...	...	...	...	...	...	£3,405,999

## ALDERMEN :

### Chatswood East Ward

F. C. PETRIE  
W. CLELAND, Junior, J.P.  
E. G. HATTERSLEY, J.P.

### Middle Harbour Ward

J. KNIGHT SMITH  
R. T. FORSYTH, J.P. (Mayor)  
T. B. REDGRAVE

### Chatswood West Ward

D. A. CAMPBELL, J.P.  
ST. L. L. R. HOLTERMANN  
S. R. IRVING

### Naremburn Ward

W. T. DICKSON, J.P.  
W. J. SHEPHERD, J.P.  
A. A. CAMPBELL, J.P.

## OFFICERS :

Town Clerk	...	...	...	...	...	...	A. A. C. BASTIAN, J.P.
Deputy Town Clerk	...	...	...	...	...	...	G. A. BAILEY
Cashier	...	...	...	...	...	...	W. R. AMES
Assistant Clerk	...	...	...	...	...	..	H. J. REID
Junior Clerk	...	...	...	...	...	...	C. L. MONKLEY
Overseer of Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	R. AITKEN
Sanitary Inspector	...	...	...	...	...	...	J. NAYLOR
Assistant Sanitary Inspector	...	...	...	...	...	...	M. F. HUGHES
Caretaker and Poundkeeper	...	...	...	...	...	...	J. D. NIX

## AUDITORS :

\*W. H. McLEAN, F.C.P.A. C. A. WALKER, F.C.P.A.

## VALUER :

W. D. HULL

## SOLICITORS :

ASH and MACLEAN

\*Since Deceased







ALD. F. C. PETRIE,  
Chatswood East Ward.



ALD. R. T. FORSYTH, J.P. (Mayor)  
Middle Harbour Ward.



ALD. W. CLELAND, Junior, J.P.,  
Chatswood East Ward.

*The Mayor  
and Aldermen  
of Willoughby.*

23rd October, 1915.



ALD. W. T. DICKSON, J.P.  
(Ex-Mayor).  
Naremburn Ward.



ALD. ST. L. L. R. HOLTERMANN,  
Chatswood West Ward.



ALD. S. R. IRVING,  
Chatswood West Ward.



ALD. J. KNIGHT SMITH,  
Middle Harbour Ward.



ALD. A. A. CAMPBELL, J.P.,  
Naremburn Ward.



ALD. D. A. CAMPBELL, J.P.,  
Chatswood West Ward.



ALD. T. B. REDGRAVE,  
Middle Harbour Ward.



ALD. W. J. SHEPHERD, J.P.,  
Naremburn Ward.

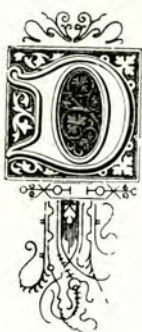


ALD. E. G. HATTERSLEY, J.P.  
Chatswood East Ward





## WILLOUGHBY'S FIFTY YEARS.



DEEP in the Archives of the Chief Secretary's Department, there has slept for over half a century the original Petition, praying for the incorporation of the Borough of North Willoughby.

The text of this important document is published in the Supplement to Government Gazette No. 107, of 30th May, 1865, wherein it is stated that "His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has directed the publication of the substance of a Petition, addressed to His Excellency, as hereinafter set forth, signed by sixty-seven householders, resident in the Rural District of Willoughby, praying for the erection of their locality into a Municipality."

The Petitioners state that the number of inhabitants of the Rural District, hereinafter defined, amounts to four hundred, and that it is desirable that the said District shall be declared a Municipality, by the name of "North Willoughby," the boundaries of which are as follows:—"Commencing in Long Bay, Middle Harbour, Parish of Willoughby, County of Cumberland, at the junction of a fresh water creek, at the eastern point of James Yates' 5½ acres and James William Bligh's 3½ acres; and bounded on the south-west corner of Archibald Mossman's 34 acres, thence by a line bearing south-west to the source of a creek dividing Wright's 29 acres and Woolstonecraft's 525 acres; thence by

that creek to a bay, and by the bay, and the waters of Port Jackson running westerly, and by Lane Cove Creek, to the head of Blue Gum Creek, and thence by the dividing boundary line of the parishes of Willoughby and Gordon to Middle Harbour; thence by the waters of Middle Harbour to the point of commencement."

The signatures given are:—

T. C. Ludowici	James Medlyn
William Smith	John Collins
John Boyle	Andrew Smith
Thomas M'Clelland	William Martin
Albert Ratke	G. H. Chalk
James Reid	James Bereyn
Edwin Rannard	Harry Russell
James Snow	John Scholfield
William Pollard	William Donnelly
Richard Horsley	T. T. Allard
George Woolland	George Jones
Hugh Haron	Peter Corkin
Alexander Casher	James Mills
Francis Bellman	David Etherington
George Trickett	Alexander Wallace
John Jones	Smith Bennet
Michael Smith	B. Carnett
Thomas Adamson	Joseph Cox
Richard Johnson	John Cropley
Jacob Holland	Donald Carmichael
Thomas Foote, Senr.	Joane Howard
Thomas Foote, Junr.	John Williams

WILLOUGHBY'S
1865-1915
FIFTY YEARS

Francis Stack  
 William Purnell  
 H. H. Bligh  
 Emuel Dew  
 William Watts  
 Jethro John Pearse  
 William Reynolds  
 John McMillan  
 John Armitage  
 Edward Carr  
 Timothy Cuick  
 James Welch

George Green  
 Heinrich Kulman  
 John Rogers  
 Edward Anderson  
 Thomas Connelly  
 Charles Andie  
 Connell Linsley  
 James Cook  
 Edward Lee  
 Matthew Simpson  
 James French

granted. This proclamation is dated at Government House, Sydney, on 23rd October, 1865, and gives the boundaries of the Rural District which is declared to be the Municipality of North Willoughby.



**MR. RICHARD JOHNSON.**  
 One of the surviving Incorporation Petitioners  
 who was present at the Jubilee Banquet.

Several palpable errors appear in these names, notably the first, which should be "J. C. Ludowici"\*; but they are given as they appear.

The long rest of this humble petition has been earned by "something accomplished, something done," for its mission was achieved.

The Government Gazette No. 227, of 25th October, 1865, makes proclamation by His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir John Young, Baronet, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., "Captain General, and Governor in Chief of the Colony of New South Wales, and Vice-Admiral of the same" in detail, and to the effect that the necessary formalities having been complied with the prayer of the Petitioners is

It is interesting to note here that this was the first of these Northern Suburbs incorporations, St. Leonards' being in July, 1869, Victoria's in September, 1871, while East St. Leonards first met in



(\* Since deceased.)

LANE COVE RIVER.

February, 1868, its earlier incorporation movement apparently having been a sort of suspended animation, galvanized into life by the Act of 1867.

Briefly the Borough boundaries, defined in this proclamation, may be described as those of the present Municipality, including, in addition, the Borough of Lane Cove, known as the River Ward at the time of its separation on 9th February, 1895. The western boundary, the beautiful Lane Cove River, has always been one of Sydney's scenic gems, and in Governor Macquarie's time there is a record that eight boats "sailed" up the Lane Cove River, containing six coxswains and 38 men, who were employed in getting grass and fodder for the "Camp" horses and cattle. They penetrated as far as the common, beyond where is now the family home of the Jenkins.

The next stage was reached on 3rd November, when James Husband, of St. Leonards, was appointed First Returning Officer, by another proclamation, and Thursday, the sixteenth day of November, was fixed for holding the first meeting of electors.

The Returning Officer's advertisement, dated 10th November, 1865, next appears, giving notice that the first meeting of the Electors will be held at noon on 16th November, at a house situated on the lands of Mr. James Harris French, near North Sydney, within the said Municipality (occasionally used for a Sunday School) for the purpose of electing six Councillors and two Auditors for the said Municipality.

There appears, however, to have been no election on the 16th November, as a further proclamation was issued on 24th November, stating that whereas no election of Councillors took place on that date "it has become necessary to appoint some other time," and Saturday the 16th day of December was fixed. As longer notice was given on the

second occasion, it would appear as though the time allowed in the first instance was insufficient to complete the necessary arrangements.

This election evidently took place on the duly appointed date, for a reproduction is here given of the time-stained leaf showing the minutes of the



The late CR. J. W. BLIGH.  
First Chairman.

first meeting, on the first day of January, 1866. This interesting official record, signed by the Chairman, Mr. J. W. Bligh, discloses the fact that the first Aldermen elected were:—

J. W. Bligh (who was unanimously elected  
Chairman),  
George Trickett  
James Reid  
John Bryson  
Thomas McClelland, and  
James Harris French.

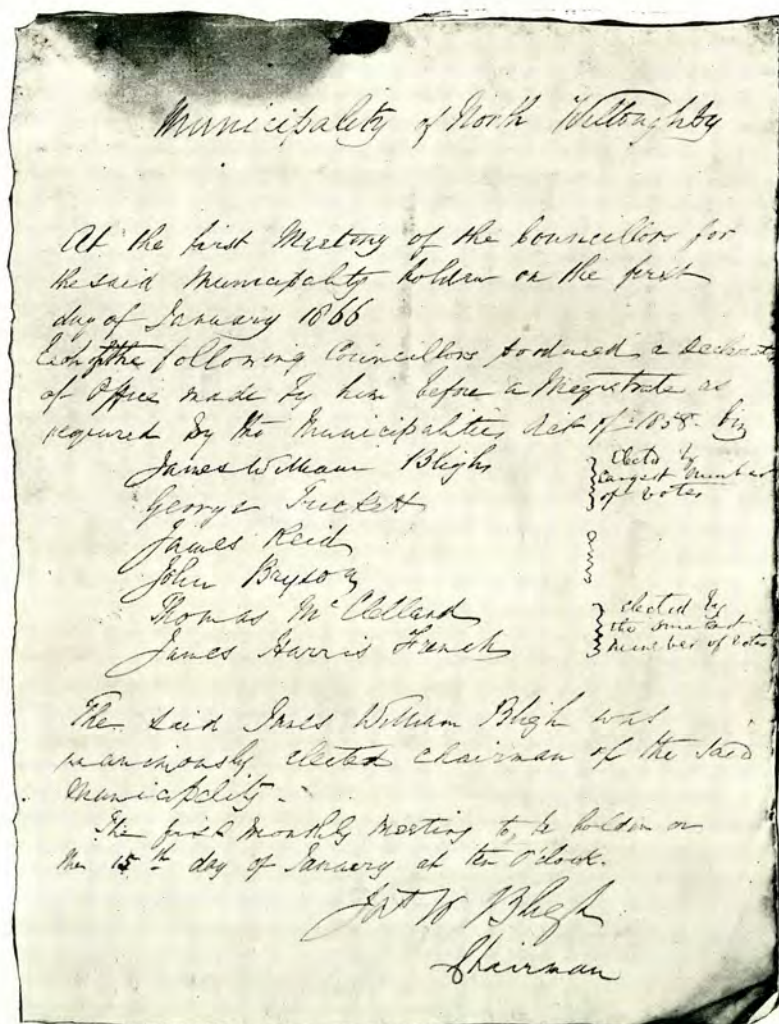
Messrs. R. Harnett and Jas. Best were the Auditors subsequently elected on 21st February, 1867.

Councillor Trickett was Father of Ned Trickett, the World's Champion Oarsman.

For some reason not mentioned, unless it be

the quaint remark made in these minutes, Councilors French and McClelland were replaced the following month by Messrs. Elijah Charlish and Henry Russell, for at the third meeting of the Council, the Chairman announced that the two latter gentlemen had been *elected* in place of the two former.

These Wards were called North Sydney Ward and Lane Cove River Ward. On 4th October, 1879, these titles were altered to East Ward and River Ward. Other changes were subsequently made, and on 10th January, 1895, a new ward, "Naremburn," was added, the then Chatsworth Ward was called



On 5th March, 1866, it was decided to divide the Borough into two Wards, the present Gordon Road forming the dividing line. The Gordon Road is probably about 80 years old, and originally was a track formed from Blue's Point, and passing through dense forest on its way to Pearce's corner.

Chatswood, the other being Middle Harbour Ward. The revenue at this time was given as Naremburn £674, Middle Harbour £762, Chatswood £775. Subsequently Chatswood Ward was divided into East and West, and thus the Ward formation stands to-day.

In 1896 a proposal to separate Chatswood Ward was made in a half-hearted way, and was vigorously opposed by the Aldermen. The movement might be said to have "lived only a few hours."

The only alteration in the actual boundaries since the detachment of the present Lane Cove Borough, was that on the North, made recently by arrangement with the Shire of Ku-ring-gai, the dividing line being fixed as the centre of Boundary Street.

Reverting to these first Councillors and Auditors, it must be noted, with regret, that not one of these gentlemen has been spared to see the completion of the superstructure, erected during these subsequent fifty years, on the foundation so "well and truly laid" in their day, yet may it be well said of them that they were among "the men who blazed the track" and generally cleared the way.

North Willoughby's first Chairman, Mr. J. W. Bligh, was amongst the first to turn his attention to Willoughby, and his lands are mentioned in the defined boundaries of the 23rd October proclamation. The name of James William Bligh appears as No. 8 on the alphabetical roll of Members of the Legislative Council (appointed 13th May, 1856), this being the first Parliament under responsible Government.

Mr. J. W. Bligh, so stated his late brother (Mr. H. H. Bligh) "originally took up all the land from Sailor Bay to Paradise, and from thence up to where the Chinamen's gardens were then to be found."

His successor in the Mayoral Chair, Mr. David Broadfoot, the same authority testifies, "scraped up enough money to build a bridge at Flat Rock, but before it was completed it was carried away by flood, so poor Broadfoot had to canvass again for subscriptions and rebuild the bridge (a rotten one at that)." Naturally, the conditions ruling in the Borough during the earlier part of its existence,

were distinctly primitive, and the same may, without disrespect, be said of the actual Municipal arrangements.

At first the meetings of the Council must have been of the perambulating order. They were held mostly in a slab hut owned by one, W. Reynolds, ("German Bill") close to the intersection of the present Willoughby and Mowbray Roads, and presumably referred to in the minutes as the "Council Chambers." "On Monday, 8th July, 1867, a special



The late ALD. DAVID BROADFOOT.  
Mayor, 1868.

meeting was held at the junction of Greenwich Road with Lane Cove Road to consider and determine the adoption of the assessment prepared by the Council in Committee." The scene of the next meeting (5th August, 1867) was at Flat Rock Road. It was, probably, at some of these open-air meetings, that the clerk had to do his work under an umbrella, held over his head to keep the rain from his papers.

The Municipal furniture must have been in keeping with the modest edifice previously referred to, and originally consisted of two forms, one table,



WILLOUGHBY'S

1865-1915

FIFTY YEARS

and one chair, additions being gradually made as occasion demanded.

In regard to this furniture, there appears on 1st June, 1868, the following minute:

"It was resolved that the Treasurer be instructed to buy one chair for the Clerk, and two long stools for strangers to sit on, 3 glasses, one jug, a bucket, and a rope for the accommodation of the Aldermen." It cannot be assumed that the two latter articles were provided for the purpose of enabling the tired-of-life Aldermen to "kick the bucket" from under their feet, after adjusting the rope noose in due form. Rather may we take it for granted that the Mayor decided, in his day, to adopt our modern "Follow the King" policy (which prevailed at the Jubilee Banquet on 23rd October, 1915) and used an adjacent well as his Mayoral locker.

The first published record of the finances was issued very promptly. It was the "Revenue and Expenditure" Statement for the half-year period ending 31st December, 1866, was dated 3rd January, 1867, and was published on 8th January, 1867, in the Government Gazette. Presumably the first half of the year was not covered by any issued statement. The revenue—given as being the total received from rates for the half-year—was £103 15s. 8d., and the expenditure is worth recording in detail:

	£	s.	d.
Printing Ballot Papers .. .. .	0	6	0
Do., Notices of Assessment .. . .	1	0	0
"Sydney M. Herald," Advertising ..	0	5	0
Collector of rates, A/c. of Comm. ..	7	10	0
Smith, Stationery A/c. . . . .	1	0	0
Municipal Seal .. . . .	0	15	0
Expended for paper, stationery, stamps and sundries during the year .. . . .	1	2	1
	<hr/>		
	11	18	1
Cash in hand .. . . .	1	13	6
Balance in Union Bank of Australia	90	4	1
	<hr/>		
	£103	15	8

The account is certified to by Jas. W. Bligh, Chairman, Jno. S. Ryan and R. Harnett, Auditors, and cost £1 2s. 6d. for its publication in the Gazette.

For the purposes of comparison with the present day figures it will be well also to note the published figures for the next half-year (30th June, 1867), and a powerful contrast is afforded by these figures and those of the present time—shown in the front pages of this book.

#### REVENUE.

	£	s.	d.
Cash Balance, 31/12/66 .. . . .	1	13	6
Cash Union Bank, 31/12/66 .. . . .	90	4	1
Government endowment .. . . .	103	15	8
Total rates for half-year .. . . .	31	0	6
Daintrey & Chapman, costs recov- ered .. . . .	2	6	0
	<hr/>		
	£228	19	9

#### EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
Collectors' Comm. . . . .	2	5	0
Daintrey & Chapman, Solicitors .. .	10	7	2
Mr. Knapp—Map .. . . .	5	5	0
Stamps, Sundries and Advertising ..	2	14	9
	<hr/>		
	*20	9	5
John Lee, for Bridge .. . . .	17	10	0
Holland, clearing road .. . . .	10	6	10
Reid, do. . . . .	7	15	3
Heron, do. . . . .	6	19	6
Cather & Stack, forming road .. .	6	0	0
John Lee, do. . . . .	13	0	0
Wm. Smith, A/c. contract for road ..	4	0	0
John Lee, contract for road to junc- tion .. . . .	18	5	0
Woolland, carting stone .. . . .	2	0	0
Cather & Stack, Bridge Road .. .	5	0	0
Heron, A/c. clearing road .. . . .	2	15	0

\*There is evidently a compositor's error in these amounts representing this total.



WILLOUGHBY'S

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FIFTY YEARS



Cook, repairing road near Robinson's	2	0	0
J. Lee, half-day work at Flat Rock	0	3	0
Cather & Stack, on A/c. of contract for road from Lane Cove to Middle Harbour . . . . .	6	0	0
	<hr/>		
	101	14	7
Cash in hand . . . . .	5	16	9
Balance Union Bank . . . . .	100	19	0
	<hr/>		
	£228	19	9
	<hr/>		

This is certified to by Jas. W. Bligh, Chairman,  
R. Harnett and Jas. Best, Auditors.

The £103 15s. 8d. received, would be the Govern-  
ment endowment of 20s. in the £ on the first year's  
rates.

Cather & Stack's contract would apparently be  
for Mowbray Road.

The amounts paid for "clearing" roads give  
some idea of the thick bush then prevailing. The  
proportion of the expenditure in actual works—£101  
14s. 7d. out of £122 4s.—is evidence of remarkably  
careful management, and an instance of this is the  
fact that on the 13th May, 1867, it was resolved that  
the sum of £3 be expended on Greenwich Road,  
under the superintendence of Mr. Russell.

One of these early Gazettes, July 26th, 1867,  
gives full details of a number of roads "it has been  
deemed expedient to open and make as Parish  
Roads (to be maintained at the expense of the  
Parishes through which they pass)." Apparently  
amongst these roads were Fuller's Road and Mow-  
bray Road West, the bulk of them being in the  
present Municipality of Lane Cove.

On 27th December of the same year the first  
By-Laws, signed by Sir Henry Parkes, were pub-  
lished, and they fixed the quarterly meetings for  
1st Monday in February, May, August, and Novem-  
ber.

On 13th March, 1868, the revenue and expendi-  
ture returns for the fraction of the year between  
the 31st December, 1867, and 3rd February, 1868,  
inclusive, were published, certified to by David  
Broadfoot, Mayor, R. Harnett and H. H. Bligh,  
Auditors. This was apparently necessary to bring  
the accounts into line with the Municipal periods  
fixed in the 1867 Act.

The first Council Clerk to the Borough was Mr.  
James Coleman, and his salary would seem to have  
been about five shillings per week. He was fol-  
lowed in order by Messrs. Solling, Stack, H. H.  
Bligh, James Anderson, E. Forsyth, F. P. R.  
Roberts as acting Council Clerk, and the present  
Town Clerk, Mr. A. A. C. Bastian.

It appears that in those early days, whenever  
an election took place it was celebrated by a picnic,  
and humorous experiences befell some of the par-  
ticipants in these rejoicings.

There was, at this time, no communication with  
North Sydney, and even the first citizen, worthy  
Mayor Bligh, had to trudge it to the ferry. Sub-  
sequently a vehicle was run in an intermittent way,  
and with varying success, by Mr. Nash, who would  
appear also to have been the first Postmaster. This  
vehicle, a four-wheeler, drawn by a grey horse, was  
a notable turnout, but the first regular means of  
communication was by George Leafe's spring cart.  
Six and the driver was its full complement (three  
sitting and three standing), and a day's notice of  
intention to travel was necessary, to avoid disap-  
pointment. The single fare was 1s. 6d., and the  
passage to the Harbour foreshores was over the  
roughest of tracks, not more than the cart's width,  
and even when the first bridge at Flat Rock Creek  
was made, it would not seem to have been of much  
account. For a considerable time vehicles carried  
shovels as part of their equipment to enable travel-  
lers to fill in holes in the tracks, etc., after rain.  
On arrival at Blue's Point, from whence the ferry

then ran, "The Brothers" and "The Herald" took vehicles across for 2s. each way. Frequently, however, they would be away towing a vessel, and a delay of five or six hours was the result.



S.S. "HERALD."

One of the first North Shore Ferry Steamers.

Photo, Tyrells, Ltd.

The "Fairy Queen," "The Brothers" and the "Herald" are all mentioned in the official report of the proceedings, as having been present at the reception of His Royal Highness, Prince Alfred, in Sydney Harbour when he arrived in the "Galatea" on 21st January, 1868, and it is mentioned that "they were amongst the steamers which went to Watson's Bay only, the other vessels passing through the Heads into the ocean."

"The Fairy Queen," and watermen's boats, took the foot passengers for one shilling per head. This Blue's Point was part of land granted to "Billy Blue" in 1817, he being probably the first of the settlers at North Shore. "Billy Blue" was the first waterman to take passengers between North Shore and Sydney, and when he started doing so, he camped under a rock at Blue's Point. Passengers were landed at Punt Hill, near Windmill Street, and traversed a narrow and steep lane till they reached Windmill Street, and thence via Argyle Cut to George Street.

Afterwards Leafe ran 'busses, and 'busses were also run along Lane Cove Road by Tom Watson,

on behalf of Messrs. Harnett and Stuart, these being known as the "Bianconi" line. In turn these were followed by those of Harry Russell, landlord of the "Great Northern," and then by Mr. Wilkes' line.

Mr. W. T. Muston also ran a line of 'busses along Willoughby Road, and he asserts these were opposed by an early Mayor on the ground "that they would cut up the streets" (if the latter deserved the name).

On 1st July, 1882, the Council decided that Mr. Muston's time table "should be revised to make four trips daily, to and from Royal Park and Milson's Point, and that they be arranged so as not to interfere with Leafe's three daily trips."

The first School in Willoughby proper was in an iron house on Mr. Kealey's ground, and was kept by Mrs. Davis, afterwards mistress at the



THE FIRST CHURCH.

public School; and the first Church the Congregational, a stone building still standing, and shown in photo. block herewith, was erected on ground given by Mr. Pollard, and Dr. R. N. Morris was the first Minister. The Wesleyan Church, corner of Lane Cove and Mowbray Roads, Chatswood, was

# WILLOUGHBY'S 1865-1915 FIFTY YEARS

the next, and then St. Stephen's Church, or rather School Hall, for the Church was not built till later. The Congregational Church built in 1883 on the other side of Penshurst Street was under the Rev. S. W. Asher, who was some eight or ten years in charge.

The "Great Northern," kept by Alderman Russell, was the first hotel, and right opposite the hotel still stands the residence of the late Alderman Bryson, one of the first Councillors. Church services were held in this cottage before there was any local Church. The Bush Mission services, mentioned elsewhere, were held subsequently.

Imperfect as the official records are in many respects, there are evidences of aldermanic amenities, which the faithful historian cannot ignore, for it is minuted that at one of the early meetings one alderman called another a four lettered name, implying that he had departed from the path of truth, and, in spite of a Mayoral protest, repeated the objectionable word with an emphatic prefix, whereupon the Mayor rose "and the meeting came to an untimely end." Possibly it was these doings which incited to anger the sarcastic local "poet," who castigated the aldermen in verse entitled "The Aldermen Alphabetically Considered." Specimen lines:—

"J stands for Johnson, who a garden has got,  
S stands for Seldon, whose temper is hot."

Anent these early times, some of the most amusing reminiscences are those of Mr. J. C. Ludowici, also a hardy pioneer. He has stated that within his recollections "at times the Council resembled a travelling circus, but the only audience he ever saw present was Mr. French, the Forest Ranger, who was usually there in his blue coat and buttons."

Some of these early minutes are quaint.

In one a doctor's certificate is recorded thus:

"I certify that the Chairman of the Municipality of North Willoughby (name withheld) has long been, and still continues to be, a great sufferer from bodily infirmity and ill health, which renders his residence in North Willoughby most objectionable." The quaintness of this certificate is added to by the fact that it was resolved that a copy be entered in the minutes.

Another minute runs: "That no Alderman act in this Council till his rates are paid." Also there appears, as part of a recorded motion, "that a letter be sent to the Government to postpone the road through Mayne's property."

In the mid seventies there is a minute "that an Alderman was so upset by a motion, negating the confirmation of the minutes, that 'losing all sense of the dignity of his office he upset the table, sending books, pens, ink and paper in glorious confusion to the floor.'"

It does not appear to have been till fairly late in the sixties that the Council Clerk and Collector's salary was raised to £25 per annum, and the Valuers then each received £2 10s. yearly.

The first record, and an impress of the Common Seal of the Borough, in wax, appears on a leaf of the Minute Book on 7th January, 1867. Apparently, even in those early days, Municipal ideas did not always coincide, for we find that on 4th March, 1871, in reply to a letter from the East St. Leonard's Council, it was decided not to appoint a joint Inspector of Nuisances, "as the Municipality of North Willoughby was perfectly free from nuisance, unless it might be a drunkard or two, and therefore no Inspector was required."





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In connection with these early days are the very interesting reminiscences of ex-Mayor Thomas Todd Forsyth, now the oldest surviving ex-Mayor. He is hale and hearty, though well advanced in life. His father, James Forsyth, the hardy pioneer, only died on 11th April, 1907, and he was the oldest representative of the four generations then living. He had reached the ripe old age of 89. "Rosewall," in High Street, the original home of the Forsyth family, was in the Jubilee year (unfortunately, one of the years of war and strife) offered by the Sunny Bank Land Co., the present proprietors, who acquired it from the family, as a home for wounded soldiers, but up to date had not been definitely dealt with by the military authorities.

Of these celebrated Forsyths, one of Mr. Fred Rhoades' verses, recited by him at the gathering of 25th October, 1898, says:

"That fine old oak, Mayor Forsyth,  
Came many saplings from  
The father of a lively son,  
The one, and only, 'Tom.'"

Another shoot from this grand stock is the present occupant of the Mayoral Chair, Ald. R. T. Forsyth, thus making three generations of Mayors of Willoughby from that famous family, which unique fact is made the subject of the frontispiece.

The "one, and only, 'Tom'" recalls the first purchase of land in this District by his family some fifty years ago at £3 per acre. In the "Daily Telegraph" of 28th October, 1901, the full scores are given of a bowling match played on this gentleman's private green, between two teams of three rinks each, one from the Chatswood Club, and the other consisting of Mr. Forsyth and his eleven children. "Tom" asserts that the game was lost by two points through his directions not being followed. The newspaper report, with scores, was as follows:—

### "BOWLS.

#### "A UNIQUE MATCH.

#### "CHATSWOOD CLUB v. Mr. T. T. FORSYTH AND CHILDREN.

"A match of a unique character was played on the private bowling green of Mr. T. T. Forsyth, at Willoughby, on Saturday afternoon, when three rinks from the Chatswood Club played against Mr. T. T. Forsyth and his 11 children. The ages of the side ranged from 62 years to 15. Family matches are, of course, not unknown, but it would probably be difficult to find a precedent for a player and his children to make up three rinks. It is calculated that there are enough bowlers among the Willoughby Forsyths to form no less than eight rinks.

"The game proved to be closely contested, and eventually the club players won by the narrow margin of two points only, the scores being 69 and 67 respectively. At the end of the second half-hour, in fact, the family were leading, but then they fell behind, though nearly recovering the position with a fine effort towards the close. As it was, they secured a majority of points in two rinks out of three. A feature of the game was the excellent form exhibited by the lady players.

"The following were the scores:—

	C.	F.
E. H. O. Smith, W. Wilkie, F. C. Petrie, R. Y. Smith	14	—
Miss A. A. Forsyth, J. T. Forsyth, Miss M. A. Forsyth, T. T. Forsyth .. . . .	—	24
E. Irving, J. H. Wearne, J. Spanswick, Dr. MacSwinney .. . . .	24	—
T. H. Forsyth, J. F. Forsyth, M. F. Forsyth, J. Forsyth .. . . .	—	25
A. A. Bastian, C. Leplastrier, J. Green, Dr. Crabbe	31	—
Miss E. M. Forsyth, Miss C. Forsyth, F. A. Forsyth, R. T. Forsyth .. . . .	—	18
Totals .. . . .	69	67
Half-hours: Chatswood .. . . .	16	25 47 60 69
Mr. Forsyth's team .. . . .	14	26 35 51 67

"Afternoon tea and refreshments were provided by Mr. Forsyth's family, and, at the conclusion of the play, Dr. MacSwinney, the President of the Chatswood Bowling Club, proposed the health of Mr. Forsyth, whom he thanked for a pleasant game and much hospitality. For his own part, he was proud to have taken part in the match, which he felt justified in describing as unique."

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Amongst our very old local identities is Mrs. Maria Elizabeth Jenkins, who can doubtless claim the title of "oldest inhabitant." She was born in the year 1830 in the Hunter's Hill portion of the District, adjacent to the locality where her present cottage is situated, and came with her husband to reside where she now lives about the year 1860. Most of her family of twelve were born in this cottage.



MRS. JENKINS.

Then the only residents were people living in huts, and principally engaged in cutting timber and taking it down the Lane Cove River, that being then the only highway. The main road was not made. Only cargo boats went down the river, so she and her family walked to Blue's Point and went over to Sydney in the watermen's boats. This was before the incorporation, and she distinctly remembers, when that period arrived, one of the then leading residents telling another "he was making a rod for his own back" in signing the Petition for incorporation. Not all of the residents approved of the idea.

Her husband supplied old Captain Perdriau with wood for his steamers when coal was unobtainable from Newcastle.

The first doctor they ever called in was Dr. d'Englesqueville Cotton, from Hunter's Hill (some 30 odd years ago).

Her husband built a big skiff, specially, and he and the boys pulled the boat to Hunter's Hill and back on Sundays to enable them to go to Church. The Camp (later on referred to by "Harry" Currey) was called by them "Wellington's Camp," as it was in charge of a man named Wellington. It was near where "Bob" Fuller's cottage was. The men from this Camp made the main road. She knew both Mr. Seldon and Mr. Broadfoot, early Mayors, both good, conscientious men, who worked hard for the District.

"Old Pymble" was the only policeman in the early days, and he had his hands full at times. One time old Sergeant Dawson, who afterwards lived in retirement in Chatswood, came to the cottage early in the morning with some of his men. He had been up all night trying to catch some men who were to take part in a prize fight higher up in the District.

The tiles on part of the roof of the cottage were made from clay taken from the ground adjacent, and the bricks used in the chimney of the first Gas Company's works in Kent Street came from the same spot.

Mrs. Jenkins is very bright and alert, a state of mind shown by her remark after a chat: "Well, but these are all small matters; tell me how does the war progress by this morning's news?" A fine type of our pioneers, whom this history is desirous of honouring.

An old identity is Mr. Frank Pitt, who was born in England in 1827, arrived in 1848, came to Willoughby, and has been a resident ever since.

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Some notable recollections are those of Mr. Henry Currey, a resident in the District for over fifty years, first at Roseville—then known as Clanville—and afterwards at Chatswood.

He is, he says, the oldest living ratepayer in Chatswood. He lived originally where the Bowling Green is now situated, and the cottage next to the Bowling Green was about the first one built. He



MR. FRANK PITT.

formed the first cricket club—"The Willoughby Undaunted." They used to have great picnics at their matches, mostly with the Lane Cove and Hornsby Clubs. He was one of their first captains. Forsyth's Tannery Club was subsequently formed, and there were many matches with them in the early seventies.

John Sandy kept a grocer's shop and bakery in Gordon Road, near Peter Dolan's, and to mix his bread he used to cart water in a cask from a spring near the present Town Hall, that locality then being known as Hurley's Flat. This well was fenced in to keep the cattle out.

His youngest daughter was the first child christened in St. Stephen's Church. Mr. Curry tells

many tales of doings on Cooper's Flat (opposite where Campbell's smithy now is). Mrs. Cooper, the wife of Ben Cooper, was a celebrity in her day. She rode about the bush seeking her cows, with a large horse-pistol stuck in her broad leather belt. In this locality, in fact close to where now stands St Paul's Church of England, was the Government Men's Camp, known as "Camp Hill" (also referred to by Mrs. Jenkins) and he asserts floggings have taken place on that site.

Young Currey had a job, every Saturday, cutting ferns for beds for his employer's horses. He received 6d. and his dinner, and used to cut the ferns near where Michael White's dairy is now located, where they grew very plentifully.

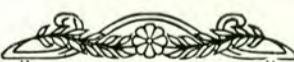
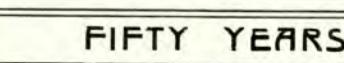
His first house, built on part of the land where he is now living, was the second house built in Albert Avenue. The other was owned and occupied by a water-policeman, who walked to the Shore every morning, pulled across to Circular Quay, returned the same way, finishing up the day with the walk home. There was, at this time, only one house in Victoria Avenue, owned by Mr. Moore, and occupied by Mr. Baldry and his family. The place was then all bush.

Mr. Curry has often shot parrots where the Commercial Bank now stands, and has mown hay on the site of Sharland's hotel. There were then few people about, and they were always ready to have a yarn with him, although he was only a little boy.

In the early days of Chatswood he built a wooden cottage of four rooms, with iron roof, for £60 complete, and he and his mate made 10s. a day on the job, so materials must have been pretty cheap!

He occasionally worked for the Council (by tender). On one job he got £1 1s. per chain for a


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gravelling contract, eight inches deep in centre, graded to four inches outside, and eight feet wide, and made good at the price.

Mr. Curry hoped "the Council would not wait more than 25 years for the next Jubilee, when he would tell them some more."

The late Mr. Richard Horsley (who was one of the incorporation petitioners) arrived with his wife in 1857 in the ship "Plantagenet," and soon after arrival took up some ground in Willoughby, where he followed the occupation of gardener.

The Port Curtis rush found them in the throng, and, being fairly successful there, they returned to Willoughby and settled down in earnest in their garden and orchard. There was then only a track to North Sydney, and he had to wheel his produce thence on a wheelbarrow. There was no medical practitioner nearer than Dr. Ward, of North Sydney.

Both Mr. Horsley and his wife recently passed away, at a ripe old age, leaving a family of three. They also left a fair amount of property as the result of their industry.

Mr. H. Mashman relates his experiences in search of a site for their pottery. Their first visit to Chatswood was on foot from Lavender Bay. At the junction of Willoughby and Gordon Roads, now the centre of Crow's Nest (then practically in the bush), in the absence of sign posts or individuals to answer enquiries, the toss of a penny decided—fortunately correctly—the road they should take, and at the "Great Northern," then the only hotel, fresh enquiries resulted in the choice of the site they ultimately made.

The whole District was bush. One old giant gum in a Chinaman's garden at the top of Macquarie Street took nine men with arms outstretched to encircle it. An ideal spot they found it for labor and recreation. The only drawback, roads—or rather their absence.

The only communication was by bus, which, in bad weather, the passengers often had to push up the hills in order to get a bit of a ride down the other side. There was no bridge at Flat Rock. He has seen that bridge built, and rebuilt, roads improved, tanneries, industries, and population grow, and the advent of railways and tramways, and takes keen pleasure in finding his confidence in the District justified by all these subsequent events.

Another old identity tells how funds were found many years ago to cut down a troublesome incline on the main road at Gore Hill. Certain astute individuals arranged an outing in a drag and four, the guest being a politician of much note. A good day was spent, and, on the way home, as had been previously arranged, the drag was "stuck up" on the hill in question. Result:—some £300 was voted for the removal of the hill.

Mr. Joseph Hammond well recollects the old toll gate which was on the Lane Cove Road just at the Roseville boundary. It was run by the Council, and reference to it is found in the minutes of 19th September, 1874, when it was decided "that all persons pay who go through the toll gate." He says that the first toll gate keeper was Mr. Armytage. The gate caused many disturbances. People objected to paying, and they used to fasten their horses to the gate and pull it down.

Mr. Richard Hayes Harnett, who was the fourth Mayor (1871), and died in November, 1902, was one of the best known men on North Shore. He said himself "that the people soon got him into the Council, and soon got him out again." He used to tell it against himself that so bad were the roads that, at his own expense, he laid down a lot of corduroy tracks. The people complained that the jolting broke their fruit, so, also at his own expense, he took them up again, and, like the nigger who said "guess this chile takes to de woods," they broke fresh tracks through the bush in preference

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to either the bad roads or the corduroy. Mr. Harnett designed and owned the old "Beakie"—the yacht "Australian"—which revolutionised yacht sailing in Sydney Harbour.



The late ALD. R. H. HARNETT, SENR.

Mr. Harnett was an enthusiast in regard to the District, and his well-known white helmet was to be seen till shortly before his death, as he quietly drove visitors around to see the viewpoints—many of which he had opened out by clearing away patches of forest which obstructed the view.

In connection with the late Mr. Harnett the following may be mentioned. In "The Northern Suburbs of To-day," by Lewis Rose Macleod (whom the writer of this retrospect met a few years back, holding a high journalistic position in Johannesburg, S. Africa), appears the following interesting Gore Hill item:—

"There may be those who will be disinclined to believe that, in the early days, a person of some note in the community was banished to the North Shore. Such, however, is the case. The person in question was William Gore, some time Provost

Marshal. Gore was one of those who acquired a goodly acreage of land, mostly in the vicinity of that locality now so favourably known as Gore Hill.

"Through some untoward combination of circumstances, William Gore's affairs became rather involved, this necessitating the surrender of his various grants to the Government, which was, eventually, to have given him a consolidated grant of the various lots. In the meantime, so one is asked to believe, a convict being found, unauthorised, in one of Gore's cultivation paddocks at Gore Hill, was shot by the irate Provost Marshal. For this offence Gore was placed on trial and duly sentenced, the sentence would probably have been much more severe had it not been that the trial extended over a Sunday, in which case a prosecution in those days fell through. Many years after this event, a large portion of the lands at Gore Hill were secured on lease by the late Mr. R. H. Harnett from William Gore's grandson. On going over the ground later



The late ALD. ELIJAH CHARLISH.

on, Mr. Harnett came across, in one of the paddocks, the bones of Gore, Mrs. Gore, and Miss Gore, properly coffined, but laid out on trestles in the open. To these relics of a pioneer family the pioneer of a later day gave decent burial."

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Ex-Mayor Elijah Charlish, who presided over the Council in 1873 and 1881, had fairly large interests in the Borough, and his son still retains some of those interests, though he does not follow in his father's footsteps so far as they concern public life.

On 19th February, 1876, appears the following minute of a resolution then carried:—

"That the tender of James Anderson to do the duties of Council Clerk, Collector, and Clerk of Works, collectively for the sum of Forty pounds per annum be accepted."

As a consequence of the adoption of this resolution, the first minutes in Mr. Anderson's well-known handwriting appear in the book on 4th March, 1876. A year later he was accorded a vote of thanks for his efficiency, and was, in addition, paid £4 15s. out of the Aldermen's private pockets as a personal tribute, and supplementing the official recognition.

Mr. Anderson held office for close on 21 years, through all the various vicissitudes of the

1897) he was forwarded a letter, signed by the Mayor, testifying to his long and faithful services. Mr. Anderson died in 1905.



The late ALD. RICHARD SELDON.

The late Ald. Richard Seldon, Mayor for the five years 1876 to 1880, held office longer than any of Willoughby's other Mayors. He is described by old identities as "one of the best." He came at an early date to live on his property fronting the Gordon Road, and the old oak in Albert Avenue, opposite the Town Clerk's residence, also partly shown in the same picture, stood originally in his garden before that thoroughfare was widened.

He was a most progressive man, and laboured hard for the District; for the future of which he foresaw great possibilities. On 6th May, 1882 this resolution, moved by him, was carried:—

"That the Council invite the co-operation of the Municipal Councils of Manly, St. Leonards, Victoria and East St. Leonards to wait upon the Minister for Works to urge the necessity of tramways being extended to Manly, the Fortifications and Lane Cove, and to erect a bridge at the Spit at



Ex Mayor RICHARD SELDON'S Oak.

Borough's existence, and when he retired his term had covered two-thirds of the Borough's then lifetime.

He was voted six months' salary on leaving, and when the final payment was made (on 1st March,

Middle Harbour." Subsequently the then Member, Mr. J. S. Farnell, arranged a deputation in furtherance of these ideas, but, apparently, not with much success.

Mr. Seldon, who left behind him a splendid reputation, died suddenly in his chair at a public banquet, the occasion being a send-off to the late Mr. John Jago prior to his departure on a trip to England.

Mr. James P. Best, the Mayor in 1874 and 1883, was a most energetic and hardworking representative, and represented the Council in a variety of capacities with the utmost credit. It is regretted that in spite of the most diligent effort no photograph of this worthy gentleman has been obtainable.

The absence of this pictorial record of one whose work has been valuable to the community, constitutes the one and only break in the chain of these ex-Mayors' portraits, as all the others appear in these pages. In the latter of his two years Mayoralty the Council decided to join the "proposed" Municipal Association, he and Alderman Seldon being the first representatives, the "fee" being £5 5s.

In the same month the records disclose that the wages of the day workmen were fixed at 6s. 8d. per day, from that date, but, apparently, this was considered rather extravagant, for towards the end of that year it was decided to discontinue day work, as far as practicable, and do all important works by contract. Another record quaintly acknowledges a subscription from Mr. G. R. Whiting, "in aid of the "stumping and clearing of Elizabeth Street."

In November, 1883, it was decided to have Victoria Avenue surveyed and proclaimed from Elliott's Grant to McClelland Street.

Ex-Mayor Howard Fleming, who held office in 1884-5-6 and 1894, had many problems to face during

his years of office. His name appears on the Flat Rock Bridge, it having been completed during his term.

He was an enthusiastic gardener, and an exhibitor at the Willoughby Electorate Horticultural Society's shows.

On 1st February, 1897, he was accorded a vote of thanks for his long and valuable services, and the Aldermen subsequently presented him with an illuminated address, which he greatly prized.



The late ALDERMAN HOWARD FLEMING.  
Mayor, 1884-5-6. and 1894.

Alderman T. T. Forsyth, who had also been Mayor in 1882, presided over the Council again in 1887 and 1888.

On 30th September, 1887, a special meeting of ratepayers and the Aldermen was held regarding a special audit, but the meeting seems to have been somewhat indecisive, as a resolution to ask for a special audit and an amendment that the Council vote a sum not exceeding £50 for an audit of the accounts by a professional accountant were both negatived.

Subsequently, the cost being subscribed privately, the audit took place, but it resulted practically only in the discovery that the incidents which had created the demand were the result of want of system.



The late ALDERMAN ALEX. SIMPSON.  
Mayor, 1889.

Alderman Alexander Simpson, Mayor in 1889, built St. Stephen's Church, and also his own residence in Mowbray Road, these being amongst the first stone buildings of any pretension in the Borough. He was also contractor for the stonework of North Sydney Suspension Bridge over Long Bay, a contract which proved the reverse of satisfactory to him from a financial standpoint. He was a well-known Sydney contractor, and executed many large works in the city. He also built the North Sydney Post Office.

On 21st January, 1889, it was decided by the Council to take steps to procure telegraphic communication between Sydney and Chatswood, and after some negotiation, this was ultimately accomplished.

Mr. William Thomas Muston (Mayor 1890) was a prominent and energetic representative. He

had many large transactions in land in the District, which he states he has known since 1875. He says he bought 100 acres of land (Royal Park Estate) for £100, and sold it subsequently for £27,750. He also sold at a good price 7½ acres of land in Victoria Avenue, which he originally purchased for 30s. an acre.

He also gave £5 an acre for 12 acres in Victoria Avenue, or rather, where Victoria Avenue subsequently "turned up." Besides the line of 'busses which he ran in the eighties, he was successful in getting a substantial grant, through Sir Henry Parkes, for works in the Borough, and he also got some solid work in on the Flat Rock Bridge. The figures show his year to have been a live one. His private gardens at Willoughby were famous, and much frequented. During his term the name of



ALDERMAN W. T. MUSTON.  
Mayor, 1890.

the Borough was wisely changed, the "North" disappearing.

Rumor states that some of his ideas were rather large for the frugal minded Aldermen of his day, and the purchase of some elaborate chairs (still in use) very nearly resulted in a vote of censure, but

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a serious accident befell Mr. Muston towards the close of his term, and the vote of sympathy recorded for him indicated that the feeling prompting the "censure motion" was not very deep-seated.

Ald. T. T. Forsyth acted as Mayor for the part of Mr. Muston's term during which he was incapacitated.

Ald. H. C. Catt (Mayor in 1891) entered the Council in 1889, and has been in Municipal life ever since—close on 27 years. He tells how they all used lanterns in his days, and of many experiences he had going to the meetings. On one occasion, on a dark



ALDERMAN H. C. CATT.  
Mayor, 1891.

night, a colleague of his lost a shoe in the mud, and though it was eventually recovered, he declined to proceed to the meeting after the adventure.

Ald. Catt also tells how the proposed extension of the water mains met with opposition from some of the old residents who had made arrangements for wells, dams or tanks, and did not desire the extra expense of the water or sewerage systems, and some time elapsed before their opposition was overcome and the reservoir at corner of Lane Cove and Mowbray Roads was erected and the water mains extended.

Interesting as these earlier times undoubtedly were, it was with the advent of "The Iron Horse" that the District's substantial development began.

Pages would be insufficient to give even a faint outline of the great efforts and constant agitation in favor of the construction of the North Shore railway line from Pearce's Corner "to the deep waters of Port Jackson."

These efforts extended over a long period, and Governments arrived and departed, whilst Public Works Committeemen drew many fees, and still the movement, like the brook, seemed doomed to "go on for ever."

The energetic supporters of the line must have been animated by the spirit of Carlyle, who wrote:

"For suffering and enduring there is no remedy but striving and doing. . . . The great thing, after all, is only forwards!"

Partial success at last crowned the efforts of the supporters of the movement, and on 10th August, 1887, the first sod of the railway from St. Leonards to Pearce's Corner was turned by Miss Annie Thomasine Parkes, daughter of Sir Henry Parkes. The ceremony took place at Gore Hill. Many influential people were present, including the Hon. John Sutherland, Minister for Works, the Mayors of the various North Shore Boroughs; and the Mayor of North Willoughby, Alderman T. T. Forsyth was also present on that historic occasion, fraught with such great interest for Willoughby and the whole district. This was a red letter day in Ald. T. T. Forsyth's Mayoralty.

The late Captain Jenkins, Chairman of the Committee, presented Miss Parkes with a beautiful spade with silver blade, inscribed:—

"Presented to Miss Annie Thomasine Parkes, "daughter of Sir Henry Parkes, K.C.M.G., Senior "Member for St. Leonards, and Prime Minister "of New South Wales, by the people of the Elec-

"torate on the occasion of her turning the first sod of the St. Leonards to Pearce's Corner Railway, Wednesday, 10th August, 1887."

This spade cost over £100.

In addition, Miss Parkes was presented with a wheelbarrow made of polished walnut, the wood being taken from the s.s. "Austral" when she was raised from the bottom of the Harbour. This wheelbarrow Miss Parkes used in the ceremony. The

on 1st January, 1890. The block given here shows the fenced-off blind end of the line at St. Leonards, where it was left "to end in the bush."

Many adventures, ludicrous and otherwise, happened to the few pioneers who had to negotiate the gap from this spot to Milson's Point. Amongst these were the late Messrs. J. De V. Lamb, E. du Faur, W. Tyson, ex-Alderman Newell, H. J. Greville (one-time Borough Auditor) and T. C.



"Sydney Morning Herald's" report refers to visitors being charged 7d. for the tram journey from Milson's Point to the terminus at Ridge Street, 1½ mile distance. It also refers to the visitors' astonishment thereat.

The bad roads of approach to Gore Hill likewise came in for pungent criticism.

This line from Hornsby to St. Leonards, a distance of 10 miles 29½ chains, was opened for traffic

Cleave, also Messrs. Gerard, L. C. Lilja, R. Y. Smith, R. H. Gordon, W. Carson, H. Cornwall and A. H. Russon.

Naturally agitation for the completion of the line began, and increased in strength. Rival routes were thrust forward and knocked out, and finally the extension was passed and the first sod turned on 13th May, 1891. His Excellency the Governor, Lord Jersey, performed the ceremony, and, after the

usual loyal cheers had been heartily given, called for "three cheers for the navvies who would be engaged in the undertaking."

At this notable function Sir George Dibbs congratulated the inhabitants on "having the first sod turned on as fine a piece of rock as there was in the neighbourhood."

This section, 2 miles 78 chains, did not become available to the public till three years later than the original line, but at last the barriers which had so long kept the public from this magnificent District were thrown down by the opening of the line on 1st May, 1893. Lord Jersey's "navvies" had done their work.



ST. LEONARDS' RAILWAY STATION.

The public at once crowded to take advantage of the opportunities thus made available to them. The bulk of the people who have since made their homes along this line have no personal knowledge of the keen struggles here referred to, but it must not be overlooked that many farsighted and patriotic men gave time and energy to the movement. The Hon. Dugald Thomson, First Federal Member for North Sydney, and Mr. C. C. Bullock acted as joint Hon. Secretaries to the Committee which so successfully strove for this great public work.

In due course the embers of agitation were fanned to a fresh glow in favor of increased facilities

in the time table arrangements. When, as at first, there were no Sunday trains at all, and a late train home on only two nights a week, the "servant problem" loomed large.

Meetings were held, the first representative one taking place in the old Council Chambers on 10th October, 1894, and this was followed by a Conference of duly appointed delegates from all stations on 17th October (a week later).

The late Mr. E. du Faur was chairman, the other delegates being Messrs. Sievers, Haigh, Williams, Cowan, Gordon, and Claude Lepastrier. A Committee was formed, and held its first meeting at the latter's office. This Committee for many years did valuable work in securing co-operation, in conjunction with the Council, from the various centres along the line.

Although the railway has undoubtedly been the main factor in the marvellous latter-day development of the District, the tramways have been closely associated with it in the wonderful work.

The pioneer tramline, if an extension of a trunk line may be so called, was that opened on the 25th April, 1898, by the Hon. J. H. Young, then Minister for Works. This was from North Sydney to Penshurst Street, Willoughby, a distance of 2 miles 44 chains, which cost about £17,000. On the first car, which ran from Ridge Street to the terminus in good style, was an influential company, including the Minister for Works, a number of Parliamentary Representatives, and the Mayors and Aldermen of Willoughby and adjacent Boroughs.

A banquet, presided over by the then Mayor (Ald. Claude Lepastrier), was held in Muston's Hall, and many important speeches were made.

This tramway was followed by that from the Lane Cove Road Junction to Gore Hill (1 mile 4 chains), opened on 24th February, 1900. The inaugural festivities of this function were under the

joint auspices of the Willoughby and Lane Cove Councils, they being mutually interested. The extension of this line to Burns' Bay Road (1 mile 33 chains) was opened to the public on 22nd March, 1909.

The continuation of the pioneer line, from Penshurst Street to Chatswood Station, which had been many times asked for by the Council, was made available on 24th July, 1908, the distance being 70

tram was taken across the bridge to the present terminus at Northbridge.

In May, 1912, Ald. R. T. Forsyth moved in the matter, and proposed approaching the Minister for Works. A new private company was ultimately formed, and on 18th November, 1912, Ald. F. C. Petrie reported having, on behalf of the Mayor, attended at the handing over of the Suspension Bridge by this new company to the Government.



MIDDLE HARBOUR.

The Eastern boundary of the Borough—in the Eighties.

chains. This line has been a great boon to the District.

The most recent of the existing lines in which Willoughby is directly interested, namely, that to the Suspension Bridge, was opened on 17th May, 1909. This was also a short one of 70 chains. It is rather a strange circumstance that, according to the late Hon. J. H. Young, Minister for Works, the then proposed private tram over this bridge had a deterrent effect on the passing of the Willoughby tramway, as the competition therefrom was feared.

There was considerable negotiation before this

This ceremony took place on Saturday afternoon, 16th November, and the deed was handed over to the Hon. J. S. T. McGowen, Premier, by the Hon. Sir Allen Taylor, on behalf of the company. It was understood when this bridge was transferred to the Government that the tramway should be extended over it, and this was finally done.

This ceremony constituted a very important epoch in the Municipality's progress. Sir Allen Taylor, in handing the assignment deed over on behalf of the company, promised that "130 acres would be reserved as a National Park for North

Sydney," and people would then be able to make a round trip by tram and boat.

Mr. McGowen, in accepting the assignment, said: "We have no doubt about the wisdom of accepting a gift of this kind, an unconditional gift, except in regard to toll, and it is not likely we would think of imposing any toll." After thanking the company on behalf of the people of New South Wales for its valuable gift, he cut the ribbon, and the bridge was opened for traffic. The late Ald. Walker, Mayor of North Sydney, proposed, and Alderman F. C. Petrie seconded the vote of thanks to the Premier.

Tramway and Investment Co. was a sensational development of the land boom times, and the shrinkage from the amount at which it was finally floated, to that at which it was ultimately assessed by the Council, was phenomenal.

By the extension of this tramway to North-bridge over the splendid Suspension Bridge shown in the accompanying block, the fetters which had bound this fine District down to a lengthy period of enforced inactivity, were cast off, and it has already begun to respond to its freedom.

These tramway arteries have infused a large amount of fresh vitality into an already healthy



THE NORTH SYDNEY SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

Peculiarly enough it thus came about that the latest tramway to be laid down in the Municipality was the first one proposed, for on 15th November, 1886, it was decided "that a letter be written to the Mayor of St. Leonards asking that Council to meet the Council of North Willoughby at a conference at the foot of Miller Street to consider certain suggestions with reference to a bridge over Long Bay," and, as a further result of negotiations, on 21st March, 1887, it was decided, on a letter from Mr. A. Armstrong, to sanction the proposed Willoughby and Gordon tramway through the Borough.

The history of the subsequent North Sydney

District, and all this has been accomplished in less than 18 years. Even more remarkable is the fact that it is less than thirty years since the creation of the main line, from which all these sprang—the original cable tramway from Milson's Point to Ridge Street, opened on 22nd May, 1886.

In 1893 the street treeplanting system was initiated, and carried on for some years, but latterly it has been discontinued. Some of the trees first planted are now very handsome specimens.

During this same year application had to be made to the Governor in Council for an extension of time to make the assessment and rate, owing to an

WILLOUGHBY'S
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informality, this authority being granted on 23rd June, 1893.



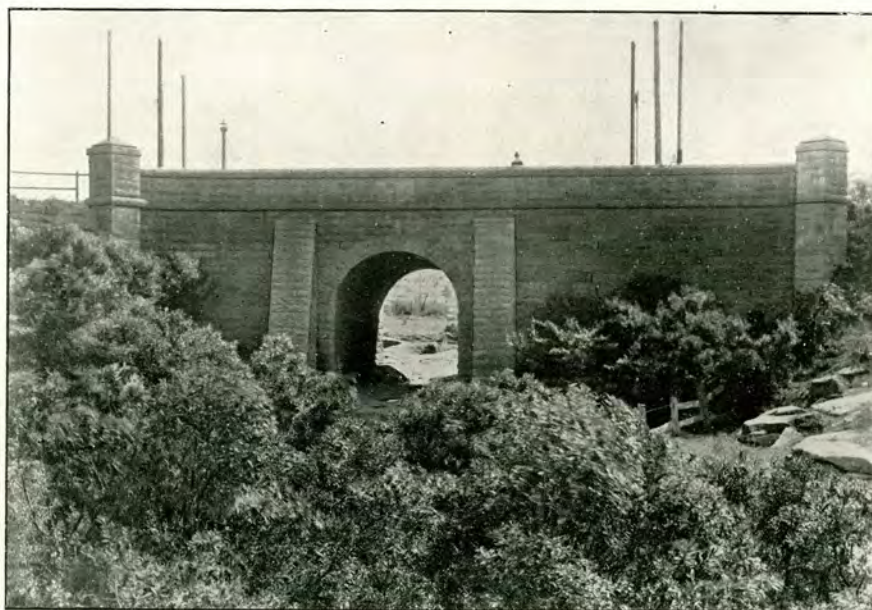
The late ALDERMAN ROBERT SMALL.  
Mayor, 1892, 1893 and 1895.

The late Alderman Robert Small, Mayor in 1892, 1893 and 1895, held Aldermanic office for about 11 years, as representative of Middle Harbour Ward, and had also been one of the Auditors.

He was compelled through illness to sever a long and honourable term of service with the Council. Shortly before his retirement he and his esteemed wife had celebrated their golden wedding, and on 5th September, 1898, the Council forwarded their congratulations on this happy event.

The Flat Rock Bridge has had quite a history. Its earlier stages have been already referred to, but it is recorded that at the Council meeting on 15th November, 1886, it was decided that the inscription to be put on the new bridge at Flat Rock should be "Erected 1886; H. Fleming, Mayor," and thus it stands to-day.

Since then Mayor Muston tells how he had to re-buttress it, and more recently came the alterations, carried out under Mayor Gordon. On this occasion the alterations were necessitated by the proposed Willoughby tramway, the Government desiring that before the tramline was carried across it the bridge should be strengthened. The late Mr. Norman Selfe was appointed supervising Engineer, on joint account, and a contract was let for once



FLAT ROCK BRIDGE.

WILLOUGHBY'S	1865-1915	FIFTY YEARS
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again taking down and rebuilding part of it, the Government paying half cost.

The contractor went bankrupt, and the work was satisfactorily completed by the Council by day labour, and at a considerable saving, under the supervision of Mr. D. R. Evans, the Council's then Overseer of Works.

Alderman Robert Henry Gordon, Mayor in 1896 and 1897, held practically every office available in the Municipal field, besides many others incidental thereto.



ALDERMAN R. H. GORDON.  
Mayor, 1896 and 1897.

Coming from a quarter of the globe where fighters are made, he entered the Council just at the time when that qualification was most necessary, he being fearless and vigorous, quick to see points, and equally quick to act on them.

He has told how he found the Council's finances in a condition open to improvement, there being cheques representing some £800 signed and locked up in the safe awaiting funds for their release, in addition to unpaid accounts totalling some £300.

A great advocate of progress, his efforts for the advancement of the Borough were untiring.

He had the privilege of seeing the consummation of the lighting contract, and of personally lighting the first lamp; also the successful completion of the long agitation for the Willoughby tramway, though the official opening did not take place till his successor's year.

It was Mayor Gordon who made the remark "that Aldermen's business reputations were apt to suffer through having to work under an obsolete Act"; a disability since largely removed by subsequent legislation.

He also told a somewhat importunate resident, who had moved more than once, and each time wanted a lamp near his residence, "that he would have one specially made for him on wheels."

In 1897 much local concern was caused by the proposal to close the Post Office at Willoughby owing to the establishment of the Post Office at Chatswood. Both parts of the Borough joined in the subsequent protests, which were effectual.

In this year also was formed the Chatswood Literary and Musical Society. It was most successful in the part it played in the social life of the Borough. The Society also gave many entertainments for charities, and the framed programme of its great patriotic concert, on 9th March, 1900, hangs in the Council Chambers, as an accepted official record of a most interesting time and event.

The Chatswood Hall, the first one in Chatswood (the Victoria Hall coming later) has since its erection by the late Mr. John Whitehead in the early nineties been the scene of many and varied functions, nearly all the entertainments, concerts, lectures, dances, etc., at one time taking place there, whilst within its walls have resounded the cheers, hoots, and other expressions incidental to political meetings and other public gatherings.

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It has also been the cradle of several of the churches pending their erecting suitable buildings, and in 1908 it was purchased by the Methodist Church authorities, and thus has a great improvement been wrought. The Rev. Silas Bembrick is the present pastor.

The Willoughby Electorate Horticultural Society, which gave a great stimulus to gardening throughout the District, was founded in April, 1896, with Mr. F. C. Petrie as its first Hon. Secretary, and continued for many years to give shows of great excellence, but, owing to the claims upon the time of the few enthusiasts on whom fell the bulk of the

sion in the locality of the old North Shore Hospital in Willoughby Road.

Arising out of the meeting, and an inspection of the old Hospital premises, under the guidance of Dr. Newmarch, came a suggestion that an effort should be made to secure a larger area of ground for future Hospital requirements. The area of the Hospital grounds was only one acre, and streets on all sides prevented expansion. On this report the late Alderman F. S. Willis moved that the co-operation of all those interested should be sought and a conference arranged. This conference was held at the Town Hall, North Sydney, in November,



THE ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL OF SYDNEY.

executive work, it was decided to discontinue active operations in 1911. After being in recess for about three years "The Northern Suburbs Horticultural Society" was formed, which took up the work of the old society on a more extended basis, and several very successful shows have been held under its auspices.

With regard to the Royal North Shore Hospital's present site the Mayor's minute of 21st March, 1898, reported a meeting of representatives from the Willoughby Council, with the Engineer for Water and Sewerage, the Mayor of North Sydney, and Dr. Newmarch, re suggested sewerage exten-

1898, between the Members of Parliament, Mayors and Aldermanic Delegates from the Districts interested, and the North Shore Hospital Committee. At this conference a deputation was arranged, which subsequently waited on the Hon. Joseph Carruthers, Minister for Lands, in March, 1899, when it found him very favourably disposed. Messrs. George Howarth and E. M. Clark, Members for Willoughby and St. Leonards respectively, introduced the deputation. Mr. J. R. Carey, President of the Royal North Shore Hospital, put the case clearly and powerfully before the Minister, and other speakers supported him. After some delay, owing to the

# WILLOUGHBY'S 1865-1915 FIFTY YEARS

officials of the Lands Department having suggested another site, the matter was subsequently arranged and the present site dedicated. The new Hospital building was duly erected in this splendid position, and was opened by the Hon. the Premier, Sir John See, K.C.M.G., on Wednesday, 10th June, 1903.

A notable function in the Aldermanic social life, and an occasion when important events in the past

Much prominence was given to the gathering in the Metropolitan Press, and the full report in the "North Shore and Manly Times," the proprietor of which journal, Mr. James Hobson, a past Alderman, and guest, was present, became an historical record. The official programme is given herewith, and likewise a reproduction of the flashlight photo. taken during the evening. As many of the extracts from



history of the Borough were brought to light and preserved in the records, was the gathering on 25th October, 1898.

On that evening all the available past Mayors and Aldermen foregathered at a smoke social, and a happy evening was spent in reviving old memories recalling the past, and, it is to be hoped, smoothing over some of the misunderstandings of ancient days.

this report have been used elsewhere, the full text is not given here, but it referred to the event as "joining the broken links of a chain connecting the present with the past," and concluded by saying: "When the old and the new again meet at Willoughby, 'may we be there to see.'" This wish was subsequently gratified, as Mr. Hobson was present at the Jubilee Banquet.

# WILLOUGHBY'S 1865-1915 FIFTY YEARS

## SMOKE SOCIAL.

**25th October, 1898. Chairman: ex-Mayor H. H. Bligh**  
(1869-70).

Words of Welcome . . . . . The Mayor  
Toast—"The Queen" . . . . . The Chairman  
(Smoke O').

Song—"Here Upon my Vessel's Deck" . . . . The Mayor  
Toast—"Past Mayors and Aldermen" . . . . The Mayor  
Song (selected) . . . . . Ald. J. St. V. Welch  
Song—Comic (selected) . . . . . Mr. R. Batty

Past Mayors and Aldermen Respond.

Recitation (selected) . . . . . Mr. F. Rhoades  
Lightning Sketches—"People We Know"

Mr. J. T. Eldridge

Toast—"Parliament of New South Wales"

Ex-Mayor Ald. T. T. Forsyth

Lightning Landscape Sketch . . . . . The Mayor  
At the Piano . . . . . Mr. G. W. Ash

Members of Parliament will Respond.

Voluntary Programme if Time Permits.

"Auld Lang Syne" by the Company

The ex-Mayors present were Messrs. H. H. Bligh, Richard H. Harnett, T. T. Forsyth, Howard Fleming, W. T. Muston, H. C. Catt, R. H. Gordon; the ex-Aldermen were represented by Messrs. Richard Baum, Thomas Fuller, James Hobson, Geo. Howarth, Richard Johnson, J. C. Ludowici, W. Mashman, J. Roberts, G. R. Whiting, and J. St. V. Welch. Speeches were made by almost all of these gentlemen. A few verses from Mr. F. Rhoades' personally recited poem may here be quoted, in addition to others appearing elsewhere, as they were distinctly local and very appropriate. Thus, *re* the first Council Chambers:

"In place of lordly Council room,  
Was once a wooden box,  
When cattle rubbed thereon it shook  
As if from earthquake shocks.

"One stormy Council meeting—  
I mean one stormy night—

The Council had no end of work  
To keep that box upright."

Then again regarding ex-Mayor Fleming's Horticultural tendencies:

"Poultry will thrive, and Cauliflowers  
And Pumpkins large will swell,  
And Roses have a champion,  
While Fleming here doth dwell."

Mr. Fleming had just won the prize for the champion rose at the local show.

Mr. G. W. Ash, who presided at the piano, is one of the Council's present Solicitors.



The late ALDERMAN H. H. BLIGH,  
Mayor, 1869 and 1870.

Mr. Henry Hocken Bligh, the Chairman of the social function, is seen in the picture alongside the Mayor (Vice-Chairman). Mr. Bligh died on 31st July, 1904, at North Sydney, and was buried in St. Thomas' Cemetery, in the presence of a large gathering. Of the seventeen Mayors on the roll, at that date, only five remain, and seniority rests with Mr. T. T. Forsyth.

Mr. James Anderson, the ex-Council Clerk, related how he did the clerking and pretty well

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everything else. He gave some of his experiences in the Crimea, "where he had fought with Graham and Gordon." He "had a record of 23 years in the Royal Engineers, and the honour of having had Prince Arthur in his class."



The late Mr. JAMES ANDERSON.

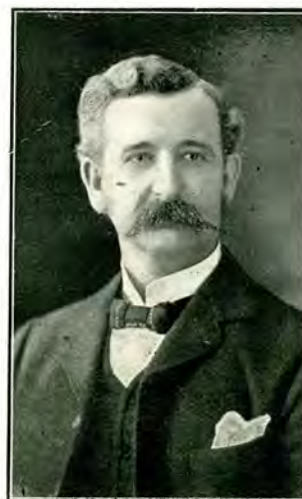
Old Municipal identities all testified to "Andy's" efficient services. One of his office peculiarities was his system of making memos. These he wrote on little bits of paper, and pinned them to the table, like entomological specimens. Any sudden disturbance upset all the old man's specimens, and chaos reigned in the little room till they were arranged again.

In April, 1902, the Memorial Tablet with the names of the past Mayors inscribed thereon was officially unveiled at an interesting ceremony, and this idea, which originated with the compilation of the list on the official programme of this function, was subsequently brought to fruition by Ald. F. C. Petrie.

In regard to the highly important question of sewerage, action was first taken in the Council in

March, 1896, when Alderman Claude Leplastrier (who had entered the Council the previous month) moved a resolution empowering the Sanitary Committee to seek information from the Government and the Water and Sewerage Board, and to report as to the best means of dealing with the matter.

The passing of this resolution caused some trepidation amongst some of the residents who feared additional taxation, but as a result of this report the Borough was, not long afterwards, surveyed and reported on by the Sewerage Construction Branch of the Public Works Department. Mr. J. Davis, Engineer for Sewerage, was ever courteous in his efforts to assist the Council in pushing the matter to completion, and personally attended one of its meetings and explained the incidence of the scheme as embodied in that report.



ALDERMAN CLAUDE LEPLASTRIER.  
Mayor, 1898.

Finally on 18th July, 1898, the following resolution was moved by Alderman Giblin, seconded by Alderman Gordon, and carried:—"That this Council, having fully considered the report of 16th June last of the Sewerage Construction Branch of the Public Works Department, together with the plans accompanying same, and the personal explanation of Mr.

# WILLOUGHBY'S 1865-1915 FIFTY YEARS

J. Davis, Engineer for Sewerage, in regard to that portion of the Borough which it is considered necessary to include in the drainage area, is of opinion that the 'A' proposal in the said report should be adopted, provided the cost mentioned—£19,752—necessitating a rate of 1/3 in the £ be not exceeded, and that the Department be requested to proceed at an early date with the construction of the reticulation scheme as herein approved."

Both mover and seconder congratulated the Mayor on having successfully piloted the matter to completion, the latter (Ald. Gordon) remarking that

a special arrangement, with a direct charge on the properties particularly benefited. The more populous parts of Naremburn Ward are also now connected, but, in their case, with the North Sydney system.

It was in the year 1898-9 that the system of Mayoral reports was inaugurated. That year's report showed a very satisfactory financial condition, all accounts having been paid, still leaving a credit balance.

The retiring Mayor was officially presented at the Council meeting on 28th May, 1899, with an



The 1898 COUNCIL.

he considered it "an addition to the capital value of property." Mayor Bailey and other Aldermen subsequently worked hard to get the scheme extended to other portions of the Borough, and on 19th June, 1901, a resolution moved by Ald. S. E. Hutton was carried urging on the Water and Sewerage Board the extension of the system to all unsewered parts of Chatswood, and to certain parts of Middle Harbour. As a result a considerable part of Middle Harbour Ward has come within the scope of the original system, whilst the tanneries are served by

enlarged and handsomely framed photograph group of the Aldermen in recognition of his services.

In reference to the alienation of foreshores within the Borough's jurisdiction, the Council on 15th August, 1898 upheld the Mayor's action in protesting against the sale of the 100 feet reservation beyond high water mark on the Lane Cove River.

Further, they added a strong protest, in the public interest, against this reservation being disposed of. They contended that the foreshore in

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question represented the chief landing place on the River then available to the public; that it had been reserved in years gone by by wise and farseeing men for the convenience of the public in the future, and made strong objection to their being deprived of this privilege, just as the time was approaching when its value would be fully appreciated.

Since then Burns' Park, in the vicinity of this foreshore, has been vested in the Council as a Recreation Reserve, and thus has helped to make apparent the increasing value of this lost possession of Chatswood West.

L. Leplastrier was first Hon. Treasurer, on retirement from which office, after long service, he was the recipient of a handsome present from the Committee.

The Council has granted free use of the rooms for its meetings, and annually for many years has, together with the Town Clerk, co-operated with Mr. Hugh Duff in the concert to provide Christmas comforts for those found deserving.

In May, 1899, hearty sympathy was expressed with Alderman E. R. Lanceley, who, in returning from a Council meeting, sustained a severe accident,



THE 1899 COUNCIL.

The present Willoughby Benevolent Society also originated in the year 1898. It has done valuable work preventing imposition on the charitably disposed, and assisting deserving cases. Although it was considered by some that in such a prosperous District there was no necessity for such an organisation, it has been proved otherwise, and the society has achieved the objects which its founders had in view. Great credit is due to the numerous ladies and gentlemen who have filled the various offices. Mr. A. Noble was first Hon. Secretary; Mr.

falling from the top of the railway bridge at Brand Street. From this accident Ald. Lanceley made a fortunate recovery. It was by a similar accident that Lieutenant MacMahon, son of the late Mr. Patrick MacMahon, an old and respected Willoughby resident, lost his life through falling from the railway bridge over Albert Street (now Boundary Street).

During the year 1899 so troublesome had been the mosquitoes that the late Dr. G. H. MacSwinney made representations, based on a report he had

received from India, with the result that the Overseer of Works reported to the November meeting of the Council that he had, in company with the doctor, successfully experimented with kerosene on these pests in two large water holes in the Borough, and these successful experiments have since from time to time been continued. This appears to be the first Borough in which these experiments have been tried.

Alderman George Francis Bailey was chosen Mayor for the years 1899 and 1900. He had two busy and strenuous years, and fully earned the confidence of his colleagues.

It was during the second of these years (1900) that the extra Chatswood Ward increased the number of Aldermen to twelve.

Owing to informalities in their nominations at this election, two of the then elected Aldermen—Messrs. Duff and Howarth—had to face a fresh



ALDERMAN G. F. BAILEY.  
Mayor, 1899, 1900, 1908 and 1909.

contest, when Messrs. Howarth and Petrie were returned. At the following election Ald. Howarth, whose term was the shortest, had to offer himself again, and was defeated by Mr. Allan Cameron. With the exception of these changes, the group here shown represents the first Council of twelve, over which Ald. Bailey presided.



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Ald. Bailey was subsequently again elected Mayor in the first Council under the Local Government Act of 1907, when he tied with Alderman Robey, and was favoured in the drawing of lots. This was on 10th February, 1908, and by a remarkable coincidence, the election on 8th February, 1909, was conducted in a similar way, with exactly the same results, the same Aldermen voting, and the tie necessitating another drawing by lot—again in Ald. Bailey's favour. Next to ex-Mayor T. T. Forsyth, ex-Mayor Bailey holds the long service record as Alderman.

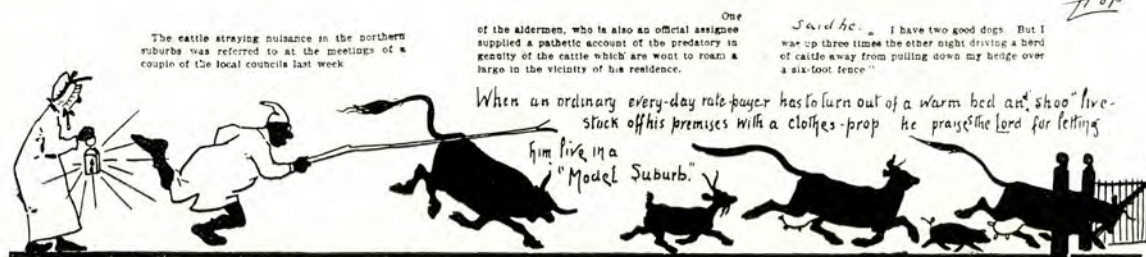
As the open spaces of the District gradually became built upon, the roaming cattle found their operations restricted, and they endeavoured to counterbalance the loss by depredations on the newly-made gardens of the enthusiastic horticulturists. Naturally, this caused much resentment, and considerable correspondence between the injured individuals and the Council. Some of the incidents assumed a humorous aspect (to outsiders), and "L. Hop," of the "Bulletin," who had just delivered a lecture in Chatswood, seized upon one thus;—



The Late ALDERMAN F. S. WILLIS,  
Mayor, 1901.

The fluctuating financial conditions which have marked the half-century are shown in various records in regard to loans.

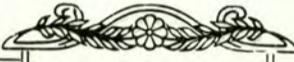
Away back in July, 1874, the Mayor, in reply to



Public opinion eventually showed that the establishment of a pound was the most feasible remedy, and eventually one was erected on a spare part of the ground at the rear of the then Council Chambers. Mr. Daniel Eldridge, a very old resident, became first poundkeeper. Afterwards the pound was moved to its present location at the rear of the Town Hall and Mr. J. D. Nix succeeded Mr. Eldridge.

a query, stated that the interest on the then proposed loan would be 9 per cent., and the rates charged upon the several loans at the time they were consolidated, in 1901, varied considerably.

On 19th August in that year the Mayor (Ald. F. S. Willis) reported the successful conclusion of negotiations for borrowing £2000 for immediate urgent works, and £10,066 13s. 4d. in July, 1902, to redeem all existing loans, which it had been gradu-



**WILLOUGHBY'S**

**1865-1915**

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ally arranged should all mature on that date. This loan, placed with the Citizens' Life Assurance Society, totalled £12,066 13s. 4d. It was for a term of ten years, at 4 per cent., and was noticed in the financial columns of the daily Press as a solid piece of Municipal finance. One extract ran:—

"The Borough of Willoughby it appears is able to borrow money as cheaply as the State Government. We understand the State Government paid £4 1s. 6d. for its last debentures."

Chatswood East Ward .. . . .	£1805
Chatswood West Ward .. . . .	1440
Middle Harbour Ward .. . . .	343
Naremburn Ward .. . . .	1412
<hr/>	
Total .. . . .	£5000

The 1901 loan had to be rearranged for on maturity, but the only other obligations were in regard to the Town Hall building £3850 and £3000 temporary loan for Town Hall improvements—



THE COUNCIL OF 1901—F. S. WILLIS, Mayor.

The Mayor's hands had been strengthened by the Council, giving him early authority and ample time to make these satisfactory arrangements.

The Council then kept off the market till 1904, when it was decided to borrow a further £5000. A public meeting, called on 1st September, 1904, to protest against this action, filled the Town Hall, but the protest was negatived, the money was obtained, and the Mayor's annual report for 1905-6 gave the following figures as to its expenditure:—

£6850. These figures, added to the £12,066 13s. 4d., make a total of £23,916 13s. 4d., bearing interest at 5 per cent.

Various other suggestions have been made from time to time, the Council having made one definite proposal to borrow £9000 additional, but the referendum taken was adverse. Since then, through a variety of causes, including a more stringent money market, nothing definite in this direction has been done.

In 1899 differences arose between the Railway Commissioners and the local people in reference to certain alterations to be made in connection with the duplication of the North Shore line.

This duplication had long been sought for, and its consummation was eagerly desired.

On 31st July of that year the Railway Commissioners, with proper consideration, deputed an officer of the Department to wait on the Council at its meeting. The Council had not in any way been consulted in the preparation of the plans submitted by him, though they disclosed very material interference with certain public interests vested in them, so material that Parliament was to be appealed to for their sanction.

Various objections were taken to alterations at St. Leonards and Artarmon, including a futile attempt to get the latter station's subway carried right through, instead of only half-way through the railway embankment. At Chatswood station the plans provided for re-opening the Albert Avenue, as had been asked for by the Council, which thoroughfare had been closed when the line was built, but the hitch occurred when it was found that the Commissioners were seeking power to close Victoria Avenue, the main thoroughfare, and divert it some distance northward, substituting an overhead bridge for the foot passengers. This was strenuously opposed.

The Council could not go further than agreeing to accept a subway. This was refused, solely on the score of the additional expense.

The opposition was practically universal. A large public meeting, held on 28th August, 1899, passed unanimously the following resolution, moved by Mr. J. M. Callaghan, and seconded by the late Dr. J. B. Crabbe—

"That this meeting having heard the correspondence between the Railway Commissioners

and the Willoughby Council, regrets that the Commissioners have not seen fit to meet the reasonable request of the Council for a subway at Victoria Avenue, and now desires to emphatically protest against the thoroughfare being closed at all." A further resolution directed that a copy of this resolution should be sent to every Member of both Houses of Parliament, asking them to oppose the Bill. The Commissioners then adopted the negative policy of waiting. They removed the roof of the station, delayed the whole work of duplication, and sought, through newspaper paragraphs, to throw all the responsibility on the Aldermen, who, in turn, claimed they were only defending the



CHATSWOOD RAILWAY STATION.

just rights of the people, in which stand they had been supported by the public meeting.

In reply to a deputation on the subject, the Premier, Sir William Lyne, said that "where such strong feeling was manifested by the public there must be a strong case against the Commissioners."

For a long time the deadlock continued till finally, under pressure from people who were only interested in the rapid completion of the duplication work, the hostile criticism of some who would not understand the facts, and the fading away in strength of the public's support, the Council again met the Commissioners in conference. Amended

WILLOUGHBY'S	1865-1915	FIFTY YEARS
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plans were submitted, and it was ultimately decided not to oppose the Bill. They left it in the hands of the Members of Parliament, who had been made aware of the opposition there was to it. Thus had matters dragged on till June, 1900. The Bill was finally introduced and passed, the main thoroughfare closed, and the present overhead bridge erected.

To this day the arrangement made to give a road of equal width to the one closed has not been kept, the road from Victoria Avenue to Railway Street being only 50 feet in width, instead of 66 feet as stipulated.

fixed there was much contention on the subject of roads of approach thereto, and many conferences took place with the representatives of the Broughton Estate, and the late Mr. Thomas Broughton himself—who was at that time possibly the oldest surviving Mayoral identity in New South Wales, having been born at Windsor on August 20th, 1810.

In February, 1900, the Returning Officer reported that although all the Aldermen and Auditors had been returned unopposed, and the expense of an election should have been saved, he had been compelled to take the farcical local option vote, in which scarcely anyone took any real interest, and very few



ARTARMON RAILWAY STATION.

The justice of the opposition conducted by the people of the Borough, through the Council, has been vindicated since by the united action of all the people of the line against the overhead bridge system, as conducted on a larger scale at the new Milson's Point station, which action resulted in the station being closed.

Few travellers who use the Artarmon station would be acquainted with the fact that originally the platform was to have been near Mowbray Road, but was finally fixed in its present position, and opened on 6th July, 1898. Before this site was

voted. It was decided to inform the Government that the Council considered they should not, under such circumstances, be compelled to take the vote, except at the cost of the Government.

On 7th May of that year the ratcatcher's report, with details of numbers of rats caught and poison distributed, was received. This special officer was appointed during the plague scare.

Amongst the other then apparently futile efforts which have since borne a certain quantity of fruit (perhaps rather undersized) were the deter-

WILLOUGHBY'S
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mined efforts of the Council to get a hold over the hoarding question.

These now produce some revenue to counteract their unsightliness.

The "D" Company of the 7th Regiment (St. George's Rifles) was inaugurated at a public meeting on 15th March, 1900, and was very successful till its identity disappeared in the rearrangement of the Commonwealth Forces. The late Lieut.-Col. Neild attended the meeting to assist in its forma-

pion Rink Competition, and have also twice won the Pennant—in the seasons of 1911-12 and 1913-14. Mr. H. A. Young won the Championship of Australia at the Easter carnival in 1905, with Mr. Frank Gartrell as runner-up, both gentlemen being representatives of the club, a very unusual occurrence.

Mr. G. A. Chapman, who learned the game on this green, twice won the State Championship of New South Wales, first in the 1905-6 season and again in 1908-9.



CHATSWOOD BOWLING CLUB.

tion, and a prominent worker was Sergeant-Major R. S. Fall, of Artarmon.

The Chatswood Bowling Club was also formed in March, 1900, the late Captain McClemens being first President, and the late Mr. W. M. Gordon, City Surveyor, first Hon. Secretary. The green was opened on 9th June, 1900, by the late Mr. John Young—"The Father of Bowls." It has been a most successful venture, its players having taken a high position in the bowling world. On two occasions its representatives have won the State Cham-

The Tennis Club for some time occupied part of this ground, and its pavilion building, shown in the accompanying block, was the first Chatswood railway station. The club was opened on 30th November, 1901, by its President, the late Ald. N. F. Giblin, Mr. A. A. C. Bastian being the first Hon. Secretary.

The Croquet Club, which adjoins the bowling green, from humble beginnings has become an important club, with a freehold property of 1¼ acres.

# WILLOUGHBY'S 1865-1915 FIFTY YEARS

Miss Amy Simpson, Willoughby's popular singer, who had long been a great favourite, was given an enthusiastic send-off concert prior to her departure for London. This was on the 18th May, 1900. Later on (in December, 1903) the Council's patronage was granted to Miss Carrie Lanceley's concert, also given on the occasion of her leaving for London.

The Willoughby District Cricket Club was formed at a meeting on 10th August, 1900, the Hon. R. J. Black, M.L.C., being first Patron, and the late Ald. N. F. Giblin first President. An influential Committee was elected at the meeting, and a considerable sum was handed in, of which £10 was at once paid over to the Mayor as the Club's contribution towards cost of top-dressing wickets, etc., in the Chatswood Park.

Subsequently the club was replaced by the Gor-

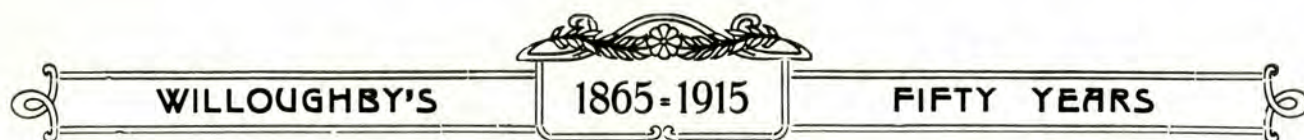
don District Club, and a lease of the Chatswood Oval on certain defined conditions was granted.

The Gordon Club has attained a high position in the cricket world. It has included amongst its players the veteran Frank A. Iredale (whose first Interstate appearance was in 1890), C. G. Macartney (who has enlisted in the Empire's service), and the late Victor Trumper (the world's greatest batsman, who died on 28th June, 1915). A photo. block is here given of the team which won the Premiership in 1910-11.

One of the most important events of the year 1901, memorable for the initiation of the Australian Parliament, was the simultaneous unfurling of the Union Jack in all the State school grounds of Australia on May 14th, at 12.50 p.m. This idea was evolved by the late Senator Sir Frederick Sargood, of Victoria (father of Mr. F. G. Sargood, of Wah-



*Back Row*—B. Shortland, P. Johnstone, F. G. Reed, F. A. Iredale, T. J. Proud, B. Bamford.  
*Centre Row*—W. Renshaw (Hon. Sec.), V. T. Trumper (Captain), Hon. R. J. Black, M.L.C. (President), A. H. Dettman, T. Lobban, D. A. Campbell.  
*Front Row*—J. S. Swan, C. G. Macartney, R. Ellis, A. G. Maclean.



roonga), and was intended as an object lesson in loyalty to all the teachable children of Australia; and it also formed a part of the concluding ceremonies prior to the departure of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York, our present King and Queen. These Union Jacks, the symbol of the British Empire, the "Grand Old Flag" which has "braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze," were saluted on that day by thousands upon thousands of children, many of whom are to-day fighting to the death to uphold that flag and all it stands for. In the "Sydney Morning Herald's" account of that great day's proceedings appears the following report of the function at the Chatswood Public School:—

"The ceremony in connection with the hoisting and unfurling of the flag took place at the Chatswood Superior Public School yesterday in the presence of a large and representative gathering, which included the Mayor of Willoughby (Alderman F. S. Willis) and Mrs. Willis, Alderman C. Leplastrier, Mr. Ward (manager local branch Commercial Banking Company), Mrs. Dettman (member of the local school board), Mr. A. Noble (headmaster), and other leading residents. The flagstaff was prominently placed, and around it were mustered the pupils to the number of about 600, in the charge of their teachers. A detachment of the school cadets acted as a guard of honour. Upon receipt of the signal the flag was unfurled by Mrs. F. S. Willis (Mayoress) amidst the plaudits of the large gathering. The cadets presented arms and saluted the 'Jack' as it unfolded to the breeze, the children singing the National Anthem. The proceedings throughout were very enthusiastic."

Although it is impracticable at this date and in this history to attempt a record of the events of this world's war or to follow up the many local movements in connection with it, the future historian will undoubtedly find great scope in these directions,

and will be able to prove that the Municipality of Willoughby rose to its full responsibilities.

Universal indignation was aroused throughout the District in December, 1901, by the great water famine. The then Mayor (Ald. F. S. Willis) and the Aldermen had a severe time at the hands of many of the ratepayers, who in their sufferings bombarded them as the handiest targets.

The Council, though without power, was, as a matter of fact, deeply concerned, particularly with the prospect of a breakdown in the sewerage system, naturally dependent on an efficient water supply; and a vigorous campaign of protest was conducted under its auspices. An indignation meeting was held in the Victoria Hall, Chatswood, and the Water and Sewerage Board, then presided over by Mr. Jacob Garrard, received a severe handling. The vigour of the public's action showed the severity of its sufferings.

An effort was made by the Board to fasten the responsibility on to the Department of Public Works for cutting down estimates, but the then State Minister for Works, the Hon. E. W. O'Sullivan, whose vigorous and progressive policy had immensely aided North Shore developments, disposed of this contention, and he clearly showed in the "Sydney Morning Herald" of 30th December, 1901, that the cause of the trouble was not the cutting down of loan estimates, after the water famine had practically set in, but was the want of foresight of the Board.

On 6th January, 1902 the Willoughby Council passed the following resolution:—

"That in the opinion of this Council it has been demonstrated by recent events that the constitution of the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage is defective, and should be amended in the direction of placing experts upon the Board, and


WILLOUGHBY'S
1865-1915
FIFTY YEARS


that this resolution be forwarded to the Hon. the Premier."

The recurrence of these water famines, since this occasion, has emphasised the weaknesses then made apparent, and which have apparently remained unremedied, for as recently as 15th December, 1913, in reply to letters received from the Water and Sewerage Board and Messrs. Henley and Griffin, members of the Board, the Council stated its "regrets that the Water and Sewerage Board is so long in making provision for an adequate water supply for the Northern Suburbs, and that they should be fully alive to the absolute necessity for keeping pace with the rapid progress of the District." The soundness of this caution has been demonstrated by the recurrence of the water famine this year.

In 1902 occurred an exodus of many of the active Aldermen of the day, Aldermen G. F. Bailey, N. F. Giblin, R. H. Gordon, S. D. Johnston, C. Leplastrier and F. S. Willis. Ald. Giblin gave ill-health as his reason for retirement, and, unfortunately, his sad decease in August, 1902, proved that his action was fully justified on that ground alone. His death, at a premature age, was undoubtedly caused largely by overwork through a strenuous business career.

The other Aldermen mostly gave as their reasons that their business interests were suffering by the increasing demands upon their time. Many appeals were made (including an earnest one by the late Ald. Dr. J. B. Crabbe) to these Aldermen for a reconsideration of their decisions, but all the replies were similar in effect—that full consideration had been given before the decisions were arrived at, and that therefore they were irrevocable.

In each case resolutions of thanks, under the Seal of the Council, were sent to the retiring Aldermen.

Aldermen J. S. E. Ellis, who had been elected to fill one of these vacancies, moved the following resolution at the meeting of 21st April, 1902:—

"That a system of expenditure for improvements within the Borough be adopted, based upon the principle of zones of primary and secondary importance, and, in connection with same, the proportion of expenditure within the several zones be apportioned by estimate and resolution of the Council."

The resolution, seconded *pro forma*, was negatived.

The late ex-Alderman Norman F. Giblin, who died on 23rd August, 1902, was undoubtedly one of the first citizens of the Municipality. His death was sudden, and was a great blow to the District. The "Sydney Morning Herald" of 25th August, 1902, in reporting the funeral, probably the largest which ever took place in the Municipality, said "During the comparatively short time he had been a resident of that growing suburb (Chatswood) he had manifested great interest in its general advancement, and had also by his kindly and unassuming manner made himself an exceedingly popular man. He was elected a Municipal representative of Chatswood, and in his Aldermanic capacity did excellent work on behalf of the ratepayers, who repaid him by the esteem in which they held him, and it may be said that the District was plunged into deep sorrow at the tidings of his death."

His funeral was attended by leading representative men of Sydney and the District generally.

On 24th January, 1905, Alderman Dr. J. B. Crabbe, who had made the strong appeal to the retiring Aldermen in 1902, himself resigned his seat on account of ill-health, and the Council by resolution expressed its deep regret at the necessity which compelled his retirement, testified its sense of how "they would miss his kindly ways and advice," and

WILLOUGHBY'S	1865-1915	FIFTY YEARS
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expressed the hope that he would soon be restored to health.

This hope was not realised, for his sad death occurred shortly afterwards, and thus Willoughby lost one of its oldest, most respected, and popular citizens.

Of exceptionally genial disposition, with a bright and breezy manner, he was a general favourite, and was warmly welcomed wherever he

sent by the Hon. R. J. Black, M.L.C. (one of Willoughby's leading citizens), accurately expressed the general feelings of the people:—

"Few of us, as a rule, realise the enormous responsibilities the headmaster of a great Public School has upon his shoulders, to say nothing of the fact that he had the moulding, to a large extent, of the general character of the children who in a few years, will occupy the places we now fill, and, when we have a man like Mr. Noble, who brings to



THE CHATSWOOD SUPERIOR PUBLIC SCHOOL.

appeared. General sympathy was expressed for his widow and family.

On 6th May, 1904, the Mayor, Ald. F. C. Petrie, made a presentation of a gold watch, chain and pendant on behalf of the citizens to Mr. Alexander Noble, the retiring headmaster of the Chatswood Superior Public School, on his removal to Burwood.

The Town Hall was filled to overflowing, and the enthusiasm was very great.

The following extract from a letter of apology

the discharge of these duties a high courage and sterling principles, we cannot honour him too much."

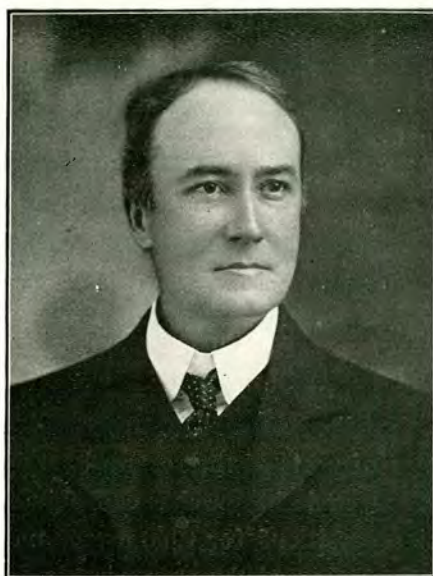
Mr. Noble, who was deeply moved, suitably acknowledged the presentation and the various accompanying speeches.

The Mayor also took the opportunity of welcoming Mr. A. J. Kilgour, Mr. Noble's successor, who after a successful term at the School was appointed to the high position of head master of the Fort Street School.

WILLOUGHBY'S
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FIFTY YEARS

A number of interesting presentations have taken place during the period under review.

On 3rd July, 1905, at the close of the Council meeting, Alderman Robey, on behalf of the Aldermen, presented the Mayor (Ald. J. N. Mason) with a silver tray to celebrate the birth of the Mayor's



ALDERMAN J. N. MASON,  
Mayor, 1905.

fourth son, which event took place during his term of office, it being the first instance of such an event occurring in the history of the Borough. The Council Clerk, on behalf of the Officers and Auditors, presented a silver mug for Master Richard Willoughby Mason.

Remarkably enough, the following year Ald. Mason made a similar presentation to Mayor Cleland, also for the birth of a son, and a silver mug was likewise again forthcoming from the Officers and Auditors.

In February, 1906, ex-Mayor T. T. Forsyth and ex-Ald. E. R. Lanceley were presented with framed photo. enlargements of the Council in consideration of the faithful discharge of their duties extending

over a very long term, the former holding the record of 27 years.

The terrible tornado of March 27th, 1906, did a tremendous amount of damage. One man was killed and many people injured, whilst the damage to property amounted to close on £10,000. The trunks of many of the uprooted trees still lie on the ground near Wollstonecraft.

It could not be expected that with an ever-growing pressure of work the office arrangements would escape review, and on 21st January, 1907, the Council was appointed a Committee of the whole to enquire into and report on this important matter. After a long and exhaustive enquiry they finally brought in a report making a number of



ALDERMAN WM. CLELAND, JR.,  
Mayor, 1906 and 1907.

suggestions as to classification of duties, which were ultimately adopted.

Alderman Wm. Cleland, junr., an enthusiastic and indefatigable worker, was Mayor in 1906 and 1907. On his retirement he referred to their "bidding farewell to old conditions existent since 1867,"



and also to the heavier duties falling on the Town Clerk and office staff with the advent of the new Local Government Act, its cumbersome ordinances and regulations, and their many and continuous repeals and substitutions. The year, he said, had been one of mental strain and anxiety. Next to ex-Mayor Petrie, ex-Mayor Cleland has been longer in office than any of the sitting Aldermen.

This new Act of 1907 brought about a revolution in the system of rating. After much debate, and deep interest, in which the ratepayers entered and expressed their opinions with considerable vigor, it was ultimately decided to adopt the rating on the unimproved land values, and the rate was fixed at 3½d. in the £, which rate ruled until 19th February, 1912, when it was raised to 4d. One of the worst of all the rusty parts of that obsolete machine, the Act of 1867, which had amended even less workable predecessors, lay in the rating clauses. The Assessors were compelled to take the rental, if a *bona fide* lease could be shown, and thus properties worth thousands of pounds let for sometimes less than £1 a week, perhaps to an indefatigable Chinaman, practically escaped untaxed, while the enhancement duly proceeded.

The history of the Willoughby Reserves is a long and eventful one.

The 140 acres Reserve for Recreation at Gore Hill was dedicated on 12th March, 1869 (Government Gazette No. 55), and the Council appointed trustees 16th July following (Government Gazette No. 154).

Trouble arose very shortly afterwards with trespassers, and the Council had years of anxiety and expense. Eventually the whole case was very clearly put to the Minister for Lands by a deputation from the Council on 7th March, 1879. The facts set out were that when the Council fenced the Reserve, the fence was thrown down by an indi-

vidual who claimed part of the land. The Council then consulted solicitors, who advised that the case would have to go to the Supreme Court, at a heavy expense, in addition to that already incurred.

The Council pointed out that they did not feel justified in going to this expenditure to prove a title handed to them by the Government, which title they contended, should be indefeasible.

Little satisfaction was obtained at that time, and litigation and contentions went on until the Minister for Lands decided to step in, resume the reserve, and sell it by auction, alleging that the Council had "allowed" trespassers on the land, and thus caused a breach of the trust.

The Minister then called on the Aldermen to hand over the deed, which they declined to do, except on certain conditions. These conditions may be briefly described as a refund of costs incurred, re-dedication of parts of the resumed areas in Nar-emburn Ward, and the purchase of suitable areas in convenient positions for Chatswood and Middle Harbour Wards, out of the proceeds of sale.

These proposals were first declined, and then partially agreed to. After long rivalry, the sites selected by the Council for Chatswood Ward were submitted to a vote, against Mr. W. T. Muston's site, the voting on 14th February, 1898, being 431 for the Council's site, 150 for Mr. Muston's site—showing 281 majority for the former.

Subsequently these sites were purchased and dedicated to the Council, as trustees, they being the present Chatswood and Beauchamp Parks.

The Council were again applied to by the Lands Department for the deed. Again they refused. In May, 1900, however, they waited on the then Minister for Lands, set out their case, and received a frank admission from him that their contentions were reasonable. He promised if the deed





**WILLOUGHBY'S**

**1865-1915**

**FIFTY YEARS**



was returned to him, that he would complete the Naremburn re-dedications and assist Mr. Howarth, the Member, to get a vote through Parliament for the Middle Harbour Ward site, and on this distinct understanding the deed was returned.

It was nevertheless not till long after that these re-dedications were completed, and the final stage was not reached till 1907, when the long-standing claims of Middle Harbour Ward were satisfied. Truly, "Willoughby Park," rightly named, has a history, and Middle Harbour Ward, which waited the longest, is well repaid for its patience by the possession of the above Park, in addition to Middle Harbour Park, Clive Park, and Sailor Bay Reserve. No history of Willoughby would be complete without a reference to the private work done in improving these Parks.

In Chatswood Park, then a Chinamen's garden, the frogs merrily held croaking chorus day and night in a huge well in the centre of the ground. The late Alderman Norman Frederick Giblin headed an energetic band of workers, and he also headed the subscription list. They raised the bulk of the money, which was supplemented by endowments from the Council and the Government, and fenced, drained and levelled the Park, laying out the present oval. The items deserve record:—

Fencing, gates of entrance, and			
painting . . . . .	64	11	10
Formation of oval, drainage,			
pipes, labor, etc. . . . .	145	1	8
Laying on water, labor, etc. . .	12	18	5
Laying turf on cricket oval . . .	13	5	0
Hose . . . . .	2	1	6
Sundries . . . . .	0	19	9
	<hr/>		
	£238	18	2

Amongst other ways by which revenue was subsequently raised leading residents paid 10s. each for the privilege of planting trees, with suitable

tablets attached, which, said the Council's circular, "will add considerably to the attractiveness of the Park and hereafter become historical."

The Mayor and Aldermen and other leading residents planted these trees, though the tablets have long since disappeared. The oaks alongside the railway embankment were planted by the former. To use Alderman D. A. Campbell's quotation at the Jubilee Banquet:—

"Of those in the dust who dwell  
May there kindly mention be,  
When the birds that build in the branches tell  
Of the planting of the tree."

The hands of some of those who planted the trees have been forever stilled, but perhaps their efforts may be gratefully remembered in the future by those who may rest in the comforting shade.

Valuable additions have since been made to the Park—the original area of which was none too large—by the purchase of adjacent allotments and the closing of Ellis Street.

In connection with Chatswood Park is the Willoughby Memorial Fountain which was, on March 10th, 1901, unveiled by the Hon. John See, M.L.A., State Minister for Defence. The fountain was erected by public subscription as a tribute of respect from the people to the memory of those local volunteers who lost their lives in the service of the Empire during the South African War of 1899-1901.

The names engraved on the memorial when unveiled were—

Trooper C. A. Gilchrist  
" F. W. Whinfield, and  
Private F. V. Smith.

Mr. See made a touching reference to the presence of Major Gilchrist, the father of one of the heroes whose names they were honouring. Major Gilchrist was for many years headmaster of

# WILLOUGHBY'S 1865-1915 FIFTY YEARS

the Willoughby Public School. The ceremony was presided over by Ald. F. S. Willis, Mayor of Willoughby, and the service was conducted by the Rev. Wallace Mort, Senior Chaplain of the New South Wales Military Forces, the gathering being a brilliant and impressive one, though heavy rain marred the latter part of the proceedings.

It was announced that other names were to be added later, but so far they do not appear. In view of the magnificent effort recently made by General Botha in the service of the Empire, and the subsequent ratification of his actions, at the South African

by the prudence of the Council in purchasing the Gordon Road allotments of Fuller's Estate—now Western Park, and it also possesses Burns' Park, Lane Cove River.

In Naremburn Park similar voluntary effort initiated the improvements there. A subscription list, headed by Ald. F. S. Willis, raised some £44 18s., practically the whole of which was expended on fencing and improvements.

In addition, a "working bee" was held on two Saturday afternoons in succession, when over two dozen able bodied men, with mattocks, forks and



elections, the list of names of those local men concerned in the South African War might fairly be made complete. Reference may appropriately be made here to the fact that Major Gilchrist, V.D., in addition to the son referred to above, had another son also engaged in the South African War, and he subsequently again took part in the Empire's battles, in the great War now raging. Lieutenant Horace Gilchrist, Major Gilchrist's ninth son, died of wounds received in action, his death being reported in July, 1915.

Chatswood West Ward has also been enriched

other implements, delved, dug and cleared the scrub, their efforts being supplemented by a number of the Aldermen. The day was very hot, but refreshments were thoughtfully provided, namely, afternoon tea, cakes, etc., by Mrs. F. S. Willis, assisted by Mrs. Jas. Laing.

The illustration shows this party resting during an interval in their afternoon's labours.

Naremburn Ward is now well endowed, in addition to Naremburn Park, with Artarmon, Cleland and Gore Hill Parks, besides other reserves not yet named.

WILLOUGHBY'S
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At even such a remote period as 1874 Captain Mann wrote asking that the Council Chambers be placed in a more central position. In May, 1875, the business of the Council was suspended to enable the Aldermen in a body to attend the ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone of the School of Arts building (afterwards the Council Chambers) by Mr. J. S. Farnell, M.L.A. Mr. J. H. O. G. P. Ffrench—somewhat flippantly nicknamed “the Double Ffr”—was the President of that institution, and Mr. J. M. Forde, of Neutral Bay, recalls reciting at the opening ceremony. This institution apparently had troublous times, and after varied proposals had been made and rejected, the Council took the building over, on 22nd March, 1879, for £250, and later entered into occupation. The transfer deed was signed by the whole of the Aldermen and the Trustees—Messrs. J. C. Ludowici, John Bryson and John Sandy. This building has an interesting history. It was the Returning Officer’s headquarters, and prominent politicians used to make their declarations of policy there. On such occasions the small hall would be jammed to the doors, and the overflow outside had to be content with what could

be heard through the open windows. A Council Clerk’s office was added, and a safe purchased, in



The late ALDERMAN J. H. O. G. P. FFRENCH.

1883, “for the better safety of the Council’s documents.”

In 1887, in reply to a letter from Mr. F. B. Treatt *re* a new Municipal Hall, it was stated that



OLD COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

WILLOUGHBY'S
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his suggestion would be considered "if it came from a representative meeting."

After several efforts had been made to grapple with the question of removal, in July, 1902, it was decided to purchase a site in Victoria Avenue for the Town Hall, and to sell portion of the land adjoining these Council Chambers. Mr. B. Hadley's design for the new Town Hall was accepted

somely fitted up and furnished throughout, now stands as a wonderful testimony to the progress and prosperity of the Municipality. The Hall is now one of the finest in the whole Metropolitan area. The name on the keystone of the building is that of Alderman Fitt Charles Petrie, who is the present "Father of the Council." He was elected on 8th September, 1900, and first took his seat on



WILLOUGHBY TOWN HALL.

later on—in October, 1902—when it was also decided to sell the old building. The tender of Mr. John White for the new Town Hall (£3165) was accepted in January, 1903, and the fine hall was officially opened on 4th September, 1903.

In the Mayoralty of Ald. C. N. Backhouse, very substantial additions and improvements were made, at a cost of about £3500, and the building hand-

17th September, He has, therefore, entered upon his sixteenth year of Aldermanic service, and is the only Alderman of the 1900 Council who has remained in office up to the present time. Hence he enjoys the well-earned status of "Father of the Council." In this period he has seen a greater ebb and flow in the personnel of the Council than any Alderman who has ever been in office.

WILLOUGHBY'S
1865-1915
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He saw the great exodus of 1902, and the great inflow of 1911, besides many minor ebbings and flowings.

A consistent fighter for greater powers for the Council, he has been equally earnest in his efforts for the assumption of all powers to which the Council has become entitled, even though, as in the case of the septic tank, and Cemetery by-laws, these have meant conflicts with affected interests.

The codification of the general By-laws of the Municipality was a task of considerable magnitude and took a long time to complete. The work was finally brought to a conclusion and the By-laws adopted during Ald. F. C. Petrie's mayoralty.

His name appears thrice on the Mayoral records—1902-3-4, and he was in the chair during the building, and at the opening of the fine new Town Hall, to celebrate which opening he and his wife gave a most brilliant *conversazione* on 4th September, 1903. This compliment was much appreciated by the citizens, who gave a return entertainment on 23rd October, and the large attendances, and the enthusiasm which prevailed at both of these

successful functions, proved that the people fully appreciated having a hall fit for such gatherings and worthy of the District.



ALDERMAN F. C. PETRIE,  
Mayor, 1902, 1903 and 1904.

Naturally in the history of the Municipality the Fire Brigade subject has continually arisen since its "first appearance" on the 15th December, 1883, when



OPENING TOWN HALL.

# WILLOUGHBY'S 1865-1915 FIFTY YEARS

the Aldermen decided to petition Parliament against being included in the Schedule of the Fire Brigades

agitated for a station, to show something for the annual outlay.



Bill, "as there was no water in the Municipality to extinguish fires."

The Bill was passed, and levy made on the reluctant Aldermen, who, after vain protests, then

Eventually land having been secured by the Board, and a station building started, a public meeting was held on 14th April, 1899, to form the Fire Brigade and efficiently man the station. At this meeting 11 volunteers were enrolled. One illustration shows the building, and the other a group at the opening ceremony on 14th February, 1900.

This function was presided over by Mayor Bailey. Mr. Charles Bown, then Chairman of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, performed the ceremony and handed the keys to Mr. W. Dobson, first Captain of the Brigade. At a banquet subsequently held at Sharland's Hotel appropriate speeches were made. Mr. Peter Melvin, the second oldest permanent employee of the Municipality, was the second Captain of this Brigade. He has lived in Chatswood since 1882, and has been 28 years in the service of the Council.

He rang the bell for the first big fire—Anthony Hordern & Sons—10th July, 1901, to which fire he went with two others, in uniform, but without gear.



OPENING FIRE BRIGADE STATION.



WILLOUGHBY'S
1865-1915
FIFTY YEARS



The East Willoughby Fire Station was established in October, 1905, a cottage in Laurel Street being leased. This cottage was subsequently added to and purchased in 1908. The present brick building (alongside the old premises) was approaching completion when the Jubilee period culminated (and was subsequently officially opened by the Hon. E. H. Farrar, M.L.C., President of the Board). It is manned by one permanent man and seven volunteers, with hose and reel equipment, and is to be supplied with a motor engine when available.

The question of Greater Sydney and Greater North Sydney has been before the Council for consideration in various forms and on many occasions.

The first record goes back to 17th November, 1883, when in reply to the Council of St. Leonards regarding an amalgamation proposal it was decided, after discussion:—

“That the Council is of opinion that it would be impracticable to amalgamate with the other North Shore Boroughs at present.”

On 16th June, 1902, after hearing an address from Alderman I. Regd. Cohen, of Annandale Council, on the subject of Greater Sydney, the Council passed an abstract motion in favour of the federation of common services as against unification, and in August, 1905, on the motion of Alderman F. C. Petrie, seconded by Alderman S. E. Hutton, the Council decided in favour of “Greater North Sydney,” and the other Councils on the North Shore were invited to appoint three delegates to a Conference on the subject. At this Conference resolutions having the same effect were passed. The Willoughby Council has been consistent all through in its position on the subject, for as recently as 28th July, 1913, the Seal of the Council was attached to a petition against the appointment of a Royal Commission and the Municipality's inclusion in the Greater Sydney. That this position of

consistency has been maintained was shown by the remarks of speakers at the Jubilee banquet, and the reception accorded to those remarks.

Amongst the improvements of quite recent years is the storm-water channel constructed by the Government. This carries off the surplus waters from those parts of the Municipality where the irregular route of the watercourses led to congestion and caused floods.

From time to time several of the streets have been widened, notably Albert Avenue. This street from Gordon Road to the railway was originally a 33 feet lane, choked with briars and brushwood, whilst the old oak stood inside the fence of what was originally Mayor Seldon's garden. This property was afterwards subdivided and the road doubled in width. The part widened on the other side of the railway line was done by the Council. The negotiations in this long and troublesome matter were conducted by Alderman F. C. Petrie. Only those who recollect that old thoroughfare, can realise what a solid improvement was thus effected in the very heart of the Municipality where the old street's deformity was painfully apparent not only to the residents but to every passing traveller on the railway line.

A great improvement was also effected in Forsyth Street, likewise made double its original width, and more worthy of the pioneer's name it carries. Herbert Street, Gore Hill, was also partly widened and straightened.

The necessity for a regular supply of suitable stone had led to a number of proposals in regard to a quarry for the Council's requirements. A site was under contract for purchase, but doubts having arisen as to its suitability, after experts' opinions had been obtained, it was finally decided to cancel the contract for its purchase, and a royalty was paid on the stone which had been taken. Subse-

WILLOUGHBY'S
1865-1915
FIFTY YEARS

quently a contract was negotiated with the State Metal Quarries for the supply of 30,000 tons of blue metal, delivered, at, say, 8s. per ton. This metal, the contract provides, is to be delivered in 1916, and payments are to extend over five years without interest. This arrangement constitutes practically a £12,000 loan, free of interest, and blue metal well laid represents a most solid asset.

With the ever-increasing expansion of the Northern Suburbs has always been present the necessity for making provision for future requirements by setting aside a site for a general burial

Government for £5 per acre. It is understood, however, that there is a record of a sale of land at Gore Hill even lower still—£3 per acre. The strain upon this Cemetery has been very great of recent years, and the position has been rendered acute by the announcement that the trustees do not intend permitting any further interments there after 1917. This period has been hastened undoubtedly by the later years' developments in the by-laws prohibiting interments within 50 feet of the road.

In view of this intended closing of the Cemetery, it becomes indeed interesting to recall the



CHATSWOOD POST OFFICE.

ground for the whole District. After many years of agitation, in which the Council actively co-operated, this was done, part of the beautiful Field of Mars Common being set apart, and the means of communication therewith are still being pressed for, the Council's advocacy having always been for a tram from Chatswood station, thence down Fuller's Road, and over a bridge at the foot thereof.

The present Gore Hill Cemetery site—secured principally through the efforts of Mr. William Tunks, M.L.A., in 1867—was purchased by the

efforts made less than half a century ago to obtain this general burial ground for the Northern Suburbs.

The correspondence printed in the Return (21st October, 1869) moved for in Parliament by Mr. Wm. Tunks, commences with that gentleman's letter of 12th March, 1867, urging the matter and pointing out that "to convey the dead from the Parishes of Willoughby and Gordon to Haslem's Creek for burial will be inconvenient and even oppressive to many poor families." A licensed surveyor, in company with Mr. Tunks, visited a block of land then

offered, but they were unable to locate the land. Finally a site was chosen and approved, though an adverse petition had meanwhile been received and disposed of.

Subsequently Mr. Tunks wrote the Secretary for Lands protesting against persons cutting trees on the Reserve, and stating "I am anxious until the formal dedication is completed and trustees are appointed that in this Cemetery the growing trees should be preserved, as a number of them, in my opinion, ought to be left standing for the purpose of shade and ornamentation."



ST. STEPHEN'S PARISH HALL.

The North Willoughby Council was appealed to by the Lands Department to protect the Cemetery till trustees were appointed, and Mayor Broadfoot wrote on 30th April, 1868, that the request was being complied with.

The first trustees were Messrs. Wm. Tunks, Richard Harnett and W. (?) H. Bligh. Mr. Geo. R. Whiting was appointed trustee on 27th May, 1885, and Messrs. G. S. Mackellar and Alfred Alcock were appointed subsequently, in place of the first trustees (deceased), and are in office at the present time. There is sufficient money invested to keep the Cemetery in good order for all time.

With regard to the development of the telephone question, on 20th October, 1890, it appears

the Council was notified that the Postmaster General had approved of telephone connection by a 'phone at Chatswood railway station.

Subsequently an exchange was opened (on 23rd November, 1897) the Council being subscriber No. 1. When the "public" 'phone was established it was not enclosed, and the Mayor suggested that the reason of the complaints as to its not being a success was that it was "too public."

It was then enclosed. There are now sixteen of these public 'phones on the Chatswood exchange,



ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH.

and the subscribers numbered 1517 on 23rd October, 1915—the Jubilee date—the last subscriber added in that period being "John Bennett, No. 1592." The difference between these numbers is accounted for by certain back numbers not having been reallotted.

In March, 1872, "The Church of St. Stephen," the smaller building shown in the photo. blocks, was opened by the Dean of Sydney. The larger Church followed in 1884, being dedicated on April 19th by Bishop Barry. The Rev. D. Murphy, the first Rector, appointed 23rd July, 1884, was one of the best known representative men in Willoughby, and laboured in the District for close on a quarter of a century, and on his decease was succeeded by the Rev. C. B. Elwin, the present Rector.

St. Paul's Church of England, Chatswood, was the natural outcome of the growth of the western end of the District, the fine Church of St. Stephen being found too distant. The new Church was officially opened on 29th November, 1902, but preliminary services had been held in the Chatswood Hall since December 8th, 1901. The Parish Hall was added in 1906. The Rev. H. G. J. Howe was the first Curate-in-charge, and afterwards first Rector, and was succeeded in February, 1915, by the present rector, the Rev. G. H. Cranswick, B.A.

On 30th November, 1912, the Mission Hall of

had been held prior to this in the Chatswood Hall, and the Rev. Alex. Miller was accorded a welcome on 13th November, 1896. (Long years before this Presbyterian services had been held in a cottage near the bowling green.) He was succeeded by the Rev. Alex. McKinley, who has remained in charge up to the present.

The picturesque Wesleyan Church, now in the Borough of Lane Cove, an early landmark, and full of historical interest, stands in what is truly a "God's Acre," and the headstones in its quiet little cemetery bear the names of some of the best known



THE WESLEYAN CHURCH.

St. Basil, Artarmon, was licensed, on the petition of the Rev. C. B. Elwin.

The Church of England School Church at Nar-emburn was erected on 27th December, 1883. On 22nd October, 1912, a mission district was formed, and the Rev. W. T. L. A. Pearce, B.A., the present Rector, was appointed. A very fine new Church (St. Cuthbert's) is now in course of construction.

The corner stones of the Presbyterian Church in Anderson Street, Chatswood, were laid on October 15th, 1898, by the Hon. Alex. Kethel, M.L.C., and Mr. Geo. Howarth, M.L.A. Services

people who have been residents in Willoughby—John Bryson, Jacob Holland, Thomas William Fuller, Senior-Constable John B. Ross, George Wilson, James Forsyth, James Harris French, Charles Bowen, Joseph Sanday, and many others.

The first Pastor of the Congregational Church in Anderson Street was the Rev. J. Marshall Brown, the Rev. L. C. Parkin, M.A., being now in charge. The cornerstones of the Methodist Church, Willoughby, were laid on 19th January, 1901, by Mrs. Robert Forsyth, W. H. McKeown, Esq., James Forsyth, Senr., and Mrs. Howard Fleming.

WILLOUGHBY'S 1865-1915 FIFTY YEARS



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH "Our Lady of Dolours," IN ARCHER STREET.

Up to 1897 the Catholics of Chatswood and Willoughby were served by the Jesuit Fathers from North Sydney.

In 1897 the Parochial Church was established, the foundation stone being laid by Cardinal Moran, the priest in charge being Rev. M. McNamara, who resided at Pymble.

After Father McNamara the parish was ably administered by Rev. M. Kirby, who was later suc-

ceeded by Rev. P. Briody and Rev. J. Rohan. The growth of the membership of the Church was so great that in 1910 the district was erected into a separate parish, with two resident priests, the Rev. W. Barry being the first parish priest.

Under the care of a resident priest the success of the parish continued, and was marked by the building of a new Presbytery at Chatswood in 1911, and in the purchase of a large property and erection of a handsome Church at Naremburn in 1913.



WILLOUGHBY SCHOOL.

# WILLOUGHBY'S 1865-1915 FIFTY YEARS

The first Public School at Willoughby was erected in 1867, the first teacher being Mrs. Davis, and the enrolment was about 30.

The foundation stone of the new building was laid in 1876 by Mr. (afterwards Sir Alfred) Stephen, the enrolment then being 50, under Mr. Alexander Gilchrist. The present teacher is Mr. G. E. Lyell.

cost of these buildings up to date is about £10,000. When Mr. Alexander Noble was transferred he was succeeded by Mr. A. J. Kilgour, B.A., LL.B., Mr. A. D. Fraser, then Mr. W. Carey Taylor; the present headmaster being Mr. Hilton B. Squire, B.A.

In connection with the Chatswood School is the Parents and Teachers' Association, with the largest



GROUP at the OPENING of CHATSWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL ADDITIONS, 1898.

The original School at Chatswood was started in 1882, Miss Agnes J. Burt being the first teacher. The average attendance was 27. Though repaired and added to, the premises and site were soon found inadequate.

The present site was purchased in 1895 for £1350, and was secured on the representation of Mr. E. M. Clark, M.L.A. The original building erected thereon was soon outgrown, and Mr. de Baskerville Carden, of Naremburn, secured a contract for the additions, opened in 1898 by the Hon. J. A. Hogue, then Minister for Public Instruction. The total

single school membership in the State (327). The first meeting was held on 28th June, 1907, Ald. W. Cleland being first President; Mesdames Cleland, Wm. Wilkie, H. Mashman and Messrs. Norquay and Hurst, Vice-Presidents; Mr. D. A. Campbell, Hon. Secretary; Mrs. E. H. O. Smith, Hon. Treasurer. In 1915 £343 12s. 8d. was raised by the Association for the various movements: Children's £10,000, £116 8s. 2d.; Mothers' Day, £208 4s. 6d.; and Christmas Tree, £19.

The Artarmon (Infants') School was opened in the December quarter of 1910, with an enrolment of

WILLOUGHBY'S
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66, the first teacher being Miss E. I. Cowan, and it has made good progress. The present teacher is Miss H. Sheehy. The Building, erected by Messrs.

1897. In 1906 the sewerage system was installed. This was brought up in 1904 but not found practicable till 1906.



ARTARMON SCHOOL.

White & Lemcke, cost £1,126 3s. 7d. The original site was a Government Grant, the additional area being purchased in April, 1912, for £900.

On 8th February, 1908, Mr. J. J. Mathison's tender for £1,858 enlargements was accepted. The total cost to that date was £6,389 2s. 8d.—Buildings, £5,296 18s. 6d.; Site, £1,092 4s. 2d. Since then additions and improvements by day labor were reported on 10th March, 1913, cost £2,800.

The present Head Master is Mr. Geo. W. Steinbeck

The Willoughby School of Arts is a shining example of local perseverance; of overcoming obstacles; and of finally achieving success. It started its career in the building which was the birth-place, and also the tomb, of its predecessor in Willoughby's early days. The inaugural meeting took place in the old School of Arts (afterwards Council Chambers).



NAREMBURN SCHOOL.

The Naremburn School was completed on 16th May, 1887 (cost £1,250). Additions were made again in 1892 and a new class room was added in

First office-bearers:—Ald. W. Cleland (President), C. H. Lyons (Hon Treasurer), C. Seccombe (Hon. Secretary), Messrs. C. N. Backhouse, A. J.

# WILLOUGHBY'S 1865-1915 FIFTY YEARS

Kilgour, W. Kirbyshire, O. Leebold, S. Lamb, J. N. Mason, and G. Smith (Committee).

After a weary struggle for some two years, a removal was made to temporary premises (opposite the present building). The change, at first, did not seem beneficial, for Mr. T. B. Gaden (President) convened a meeting to consider disbandment. It was decided, however, to continue. The President gave a fresh donation, the members of the Casey family undertook the Library care gratis, and Mr. E. W. Casey, the present Librarian, was appointed Collector.

Private Funds, Government Subsidy, and Special Government Grant came along in order (the latter

out. Recently extensions and alterations were undertaken, Messrs. Henry Dengate & Son being the contractors. These comprise extra library space, second reading room, fine concert hall, etc. Of the present Committee-men, Mr. Wm. Wilkie (one of Willoughby's unobtrusive but valuable citizens) is the pioneer. He was the first donor of £5 (carrying Life-membership).

Present Executive:—Messrs. P. J. Maher (President), A. McClemens and G. Page (Vice-Presidents), C. G. Johnston (Hon. Sec.), E. B. Hall (Hon. Treas.), E. P. Hall, J. P. Edmunds, W. Wilkie, Ald. E. G. Hattersley, T. Rogers, Jun., Geo. Johnston (Committee).

The membership is 600, the reasonable subscription being 2s. 6d. per quarter. The Debating Society is presided over by Mr. A. J. McClemens, and the Chess and Draughts Club by Mr. W. T. Muston. Under the supervision of the Technical College, the Misses L. and E. Goodere conduct a dressmaking and millinery class.

Such is the prosperous Institution, which, after surviving its early troubles, now plays a prominent part in the life of the community.

The personnel of the Council's officers has changed very considerably during this half-century period.

The rotation of the Council Clerks has already been referred to. Since Mr. James Anderson (who held all the offices rolled into one), various Engineers and Overseers of Works have seen service. Mr. Claude Hamilton Lenthall, appointed 15th April, 1890, acted as Engineer for many years. He resigned, went to South Africa, and was in the Siege of Ladysmith, which lasted from 2nd November, 1899, to 1st March, 1900. His name appears in the records as a member of the Town Guard.

Mr. D. R. Evans succeeded him, being appointed Overseer of Works on 30th March, 1896. Mr.



SCHOOL OF ARTS.

being obtained through the Hon. C. G. Wade, Premier, by Mr. C. N. Backhouse). A Billiard table was purchased and a Bobs table was lent by Mr. A. J. Casey. These produced revenue, and the crisis in the struggle for existence was passed. The 4,000 books the Library now contains, show a hundred-fold increase from the 40 possessed on arrival in the Avenue.

The Institution besides the well-equipped reading room, possesses four billiard tables, etc., all paid for.

In the five years since the first section foundation stone was laid the mortgage has been wiped

# WILLOUGHBY'S 1865-1915 FIFTY YEARS

Evans' successor was Mr. J. T. French, Engineer, followed by Messrs. T. W. Jago (Overseer), J. Vaughan (Engineer) and R. Aitken (Overseer of Works), Mr. Aitken being the present officer.

The Assistant Council Clerks and later Deputy Town Clerks were Messrs. W. D. Felton, the late Mr. E. Astley (who resigned, and subsequently met his death by drowning), Mr. J. C. Lough (now Town Clerk at Erskineville), and the present officer, Mr. G. A. Bailey.

J. S. Ryan, H. H. Bligh, R. Small, Jas. Forsyth, T. T. Forsyth, Jnr., A. J. S. Gilchrist, Robt. Forsyth, R. H. Gordon, H. J. Greville, W. N. Cuthbertson, A. H. Ford, R. T. Forsyth, E. P. M. Sheedy, E. Forsyth, T. Leafe, and the present Auditors, Messrs. W. H. Maclean, F.C.P.A.,\* and C. A. Le M. Walker, F.C.P.A.

A very important part in the working machinery of every Municipality is the staff of men, who have the responsibility of its maintenance and general routine work.



**The MAYOR, TOWN CLERK and OFFICERS.**

*Back Row*—W. D. HULL, H. J. REID, W. R. AMES, T. D. NIX, C. L. MONKLEY.

*Front Row*—J. NAYLOR, A. A. C. BASTIAN, ALDERMAN R. T. FORSYTH, Mayor; R. AITKEN, G. A. BAILEY.

In the early days Constable Kirby appears to have acted as Inspector of Nuisances. On 20th September, 1885, Mr. Geo. A. Baldry was appointed at a salary of £10 per annum and was succeeded by Mr. Richard Loveday, then by Messrs. H. Green, and the present Inspector, Mr. Joseph Naylor, who ranks next to Mr. Bastian in seniority.

The first Auditors were Messrs. Richard Harnett and James Best, and amongst others who have held that office may be found the names of Messrs.

The Municipality has always been fortunate in this respect, and the fact that the staff includes many men who have been in the service for long periods shows how well served the ratepayers have been. Mr. W. Barnes heads the list in regard to length of service (29 years). Mr. Peter Melvin (ganger), who comes next with his 28 years, has been referred to previously, whilst Messrs. Geo. Janes (28 years), R. Carr (26 years), S. Lester (22 years), J. Woodvine (15 years),

\*Since deceased.

and A. Springett (10 years) are all old employees. Mr. Joe Martin (8 years) was referred to in the Mayor's Banquet Speech as having "as far back as 1871 obtained a contract from the Council for the supply of gravel at 1/6 per ton." Messrs. R. Booker, W. Canning, T. Egan, T. Farley, W. Fathers, S. B. Hassall, A. Higgins, W. L. Horsley, J. Monkley, A. J. Miller, E. Martin, W. Moss, and W. Rae formed the rest of the staff on 23rd October, 1915.

The very large sums expended in this direction during the half-century have thus been safeguarded.



Mr. A. A. C. BASTIAN, Town Clerk.

Working in the distant parts of the Borough, often away from supervision, the work has been as conscientiously performed by these men as in the very centre, and under practically every eye.

This has been testified to by the various Mayors who have in the past had the direct responsibility of administering the Municipality's affairs, including the writer, who, in addition, desires to supplement that testimony by this further record.

Mr. Alfred Arthur Copland Bastian, the present Town Clerk, and senior officer of the Council, was appointed Council Clerk on 21st May, 1900—succeeding the late Mr. E. Forsyth, who had resigned.

Born in 1871, he had a remarkable record at Fort Street School, where he was educated. At the age of 12½ Head Scholar, he eclipsed this by passing the Junior University in December, 1883, being then under 13, and the Civil Service Examination four months later. After acting for a time as Hon. Teacher at the School, he started work at the age of 13½. Soon after he entered the Sydney Municipal Council. After 13 years' service he resigned, had a turn at commercial life, and was then appointed by the Willoughby Council, being selected from amongst a great number of applicants. He is a Justice of the Peace, and Commissioner for Affidavits, and is the possessor of a Local Government Clerks' Certificate.

Mr. Bastian married since his arrival in the Borough, and he and his good wife are blessed with five sons—who are thus all natives of Willoughby.

Besides his heavy official duties, Mr. Bastian has held many other offices and rendered great service to the citizens in a variety of semi-public, and also private positions. It may fairly be said of him that when his name appeared as an office-bearer in any movement that list of officers contained at least one who was never a deadhead.

He was Hon. Secretary of the Northern Suburbs Joint Committee, prior to the formation of the Kuring-gai Shire Council, and received a present of a silver tea and coffee service in recognition of his exertions. Ald. F. C. Petrie (when Mayor) also gave him a sovereign purse and match box for his assistance at the opening of the Town Hall in 1903. For his invaluable services at the Jubilee Celebrations, Ald. R. T. Forsyth (Mayor) presented him with a beautiful gold medal.

Being possessed of exceptional ability, and a temperament not easily disturbed, he has got through a volume of work which would have dismayed most men less fortunately endowed.

Ex-Mayor H. H. Robey, elected unopposed in 1910, after the two years' adverse drawing of lots detailed elsewhere—came to reside with his parents on North Shore the year the Borough was incorporated. Arriving in Willoughby in 1901 he was two years later, elected Alderman for East Ward, and subsequently re-elected unopposed.

At the close of his year of Mayoral duties he



† **ALDERMAN H. H. ROBEY,**  
Mayor, 1910

gave a most successful Mayoral Dinner, the Company being influential and numerous.

Mr. C. N. Backhouse, Mayor in 1912 and 1913, had a busy two years of office, many important matters being completed during his term, namely the acquisition of the machinery for roadmaking, the arranging for covered-in garbage-removal wagons, also the securing of the suitable site for disposal of nightsoil, and the installation of the Stamp & Powell System of treating same. The



**ALDERMAN C. N. BACKHOUSE,**  
Mayor, 1912 and 1913.

alterations at the Town Hall were also piloted through by him, likewise the renewal of the £20,000 outstanding loans.

Alderman William Thomas Dickson, Mayor in 1914—and thus Ex-Mayor in the Jubilee year—is a



**ALDERMAN W. T. DICKSON,**  
Mayor, 1914.

WILLOUGHBY'S	1865-1915	FIFTY YEARS
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worker. He has been in the Council since 1908, and this is a long term as terms of service have been running in later years. His strenuous year as Mayor is well shown in his report of 1st March, 1915, a comprehensive and valuable statement of the affairs of the Council and the Municipality generally, a perusal of which will enable every one interested to realise the extent and importance of the Municipal interests he so successfully controlled and directed. On page 20 of that report, will be found recorded the attendances at Council and Committee Meetings—180. He attended them all. It was in his year that the Council decided to instal Electricity, in place of Gas, for street lighting, and the contract was signed on 25th May, 1914. In connection with this contract it is of interest to note that the earliest reference to the lighting question found in the records is on 2nd October, 1875, when a letter was received from Mr. J. W. Fell, stating that arrangements were being made for supplying North Shore with Gas and requesting the support of the Council. It was not till 1892, however, that the first practical step was taken in the matter. On 20th June of that year, Ald. H. C. Catt moved for the appointment of a Lighting Committee to report as to the best means of lighting the Borough.

Their report, which, he says, created a great commotion and many public meetings, was a most comprehensive and exhaustive one.

They made enquiries, and prepared statistics, in regard to the Gas and Electrical Installations in New South Wales, and also in Victoria, likewise in Great Britain, considered also the establishment of Municipal Works, but finally recommended the contract with the North Shore Gas Company.

Prior to this there had been a few street lamps in the vicinity of Gore Hill which caused a lighting rate of one penny in the £, and also caused quite a number of ratepayers to refuse to pay it.

Thus though the River Ward was the first to actually get Gas within its boundaries, it had no proper supply till 1st January, 1900, when, as the Borough of Lane Cove, the first lamp under its contract was officially lit.

On the 18th March, 1895, Ald. Gordon put new life into the movement, and after considerable negotiation the contract was finally arranged, and the first lamp was officially lit by him, as Mayor, on New Year's Eve, 1896.

In connection with this ceremony the following incident is worth preserving:—This lamp, the one at the corner opposite the great Northern Hotel, had been most tastefully decorated by the late Mrs. Hugh Duff and some lady friends, and considerable preparations, made for the banquet, subsequently successfully carried out. A certain Ex-Alderman, returning home on the ferry, on the afternoon of the ceremony, whilst engrossed in his newspaper, overheard a plot explained, with many a chuckle, by a well-known waggish individual. The burner of the lamp had been stuffed with whitelead, to create a fiasco, and a select party had been invited to meet at the hostelry opposite to witness the fun. Without making any sign, he hastened to the scene of operations, and had the burner (which had been very securely stuffed) cleaned out by one of the Council's employees. The lamp was then watched, and, as all this had been done unknown to the joker, he and his friends experienced a complete collapse. The lamp was successfully lit amidst the plaudits of a large concourse.

A successful function then took place when toasts were given and speeches made by the late Mr. J. de V. Lamb (a prominent resident of the Borough who died in March, 1900) the late Captain O'Sullivan and Mr. T. O. Morland on behalf of the Gas Company.

The contract let was for ten years starting at

WILLOUGHBY'S	1865-1915	FIFTY YEARS
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£7 per lamp, with reductions on a sliding scale, the rate for private consumers being that ruling from time to time in North Sydney.

Since this contract there has been much controversy in regard to the lighting question generally. On 18th January, 1904, the proposal to establish Municipal Gas Works was negatived, but subsequently revived, and Mr. E. Neave, the appointed Expert, attended the meeting of 1st May, 1905, to fully explain his report. The previous adverse decision was however adhered to. Finally, a fresh ten years contract with the Gas Company having been negatived—one for five years, at £4 10s. per lamp, was sealed on 17th June, 1907.

The Council Chambers, on 20th December, 1909, were lit by candles, the Municipality being without Gas, owing to the Coal Strike. This also happened on a subsequent occasion. In 1912 came complaints that the Gas was not up to contract.

Then followed the arrangement with the City Council. By this enterprise of the Aldermen, the Willoughby Council became the first of the Northern Suburbs to contract with the City Council, and was actually the first to sign a contract with that body.

This agreement is for ten years from 25th May, 1914, and provides for some 720 lamps varying from 50 to 200 candle-power. The war has delayed matters in regard to material, the lighting in the meantime being still carried on by gas.

Alderman R. T. Forsyth, the present Mayor, and youngest of the three generations of Mayors whose portraits appear in the frontispiece, entered Municipal life as Auditor, being elected head of the poll on 9th February, 1901. Subsequently he was elected Alderman for Middle Harbour Ward on 6th February, 1904. On 6th February, 1911, he was elected Mayor, under interesting, though peculiar circumstances.

There was, in that month, a large influx of new Aldermen, numerically surpassing the voluntary exodus of 1902. Messrs. T. R. Bavin, C. N. Backhouse, C. A. Burrell, S. R. Irving, F. H. Molesworth, J. Knight Smith and H. B. Warman entered upon their duties as Aldermen.

On this occasion, the Town Clerk informed the Council that the meeting had been called in accordance with a resolution of the Council, but there being no Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Chairman, the meeting would have to lapse, which it did. Subsequently at a special meeting held for the purpose, the Town Clerk acting as Chairman, Ald. R. T. Forsyth was elected Mayor for the balance of the Municipal year, three weeks and a day, and he was also, at a second special meeting called for the same night, elected Mayor for the ensuing year, ending 29th February, 1912. He was elected again for 1915, the Jubilee year, and, as Chairman at that function, delivered an interesting and reminiscent speech, fully reported, with the others, in the Jubilee banquet proceedings.

The marvellous development throughout Willoughby and the Northern Suburbs generally since the opening up of Railway and Tramway communication, affords ample justification for prophecies of even greater progress when the long-looked-for North Shore Bridge has become an accomplished fact.

The non-construction of this Bridge is the one great and dark blot on this fifty years' period.

The blame for this regrettable omission cannot be charged against the Municipal representatives of these suburbs, as they have spared neither time nor money in preparing the different proposals for submission to the various Governments—all of which have, up to this date, lamentably failed to "grasp the nettle."

Although the revenue (and expenditure) of this



State have practically doubled since 1887, when the work of the first North Shore Railway was initiated, not one of these Governments has, during the period under review, effectually faced the problem.

The setting aside of a few hundred thousands per annum for seven or eight years would see the completion of this great National Work, and the

addition of a vast and solid asset to the State's possessions.

The Government which faces and accomplishes this task will add a valuable page to our National History, and stimulate the development of the Northern Districts to an extent far beyond all past achievements.

## Parliamentary (State.)



WILLOUGHBY'S Parliamentary History, interwoven as it is with that of the Municipality, is naturally of deep interest, and so without reverting to the splendid men who formed the pioneers of Australia's Parliamentary History prior to 1865, it will be sufficient to state that in that year North Willoughby, which formed part of the St. Leonards Electorate, had, as its representative, that greatly esteemed citizen, Mr. William Tunks.

This gentleman was the first Mayor of St. Leonards, and the creation of the present North Sydney Reserve, was mainly due to his efforts. He made a solid representative for ten years, being succeeded in 1874 by Mr. James Squire Farnell.

Mr. Farnell, who retained the seat till 1882, was a man of great ability, and was, during that time, Secretary for Lands, also Secretary for Mines, Chairman of Committees, and Premier.

In 1882 St. Leonards, of which Willoughby was still part, became entitled to two seats, and Mr. (afterwards Sir George) Dibbs, and Mr. B. O. Holtermann (father of Alderman Holtermann) were returned in December of that year.

Sir George Dibbs remained till 1885, and during his term was Colonial Treasurer, and then Premier, holding the latter office for several years; though on acceptance of the Premier's position, he went from St. Leonards to the Murrumbidgee.

He and Sir Henry Parkes alternately held office as Premier for many years.

Mr. B. O. Holtermann, who died in April, 1885, was known as "The Lucky Digger," and built "Holtermann's Tower" at North Sydney. He offered £5,000 cash towards the cost of construction of the North Shore Bridge.

When Sir George Dibbs vacated his seat it was promptly filled by Sir Henry Parkes, who, soon after regained the Premiership, thus making three representatives in succession, who had held this high office. Sir Henry Parkes sat continuously for that Electorate till 1895, but the Willoughby Electorate being created in 1894, thereafter he was St. Leonards' representative only.

It would be impracticable to attempt here any review of the careers of these great personalities. Both are written fully in larger histories than this.

On Mr. Holtermann's decease, Mr. Isaac Ellis Ives, afterwards Mayor of Sydney, became Member, remained till 1889, and gave way to Mr. J. F. Cullen, now in the Western Australian Parliament.

In this year the Hon. J. F. Burns became third Member for St. Leonards, under the expansive clauses of the Act of 1880.

Mr. Cullen and Sir Henry Parkes remained colleagues till 1894, when the former was returned for the new Electorate of Willoughby—which seat he resigned four months later—but Mr. Burns was re-

# **WILLOUGHBY'S** **1865-1915** **FIFTY YEARS**

placed at the General Election of June, 1891, by Mr. E. M. Clark.

When the single Seat Electorates were created in 1894 (under the Act of 1893), Mr. E. M. Clark lost his seat on 17th July, 1894, to Sir Henry Parkes, but won the By-Election for the Willoughby seat on 30th November (four months later).

Mr. E. M. Clark represented Willoughby till the General Election in 1895, when he returned to St. Leonards, and Mr. George Howarth became Member for Willoughby. Mr. Clark was often referred to, at this time, as "Willoughby's second Member"; for, out of gratitude to Willoughby for "taking him in out of the cold," as he put it, he was always ready to assist in movements affecting its welfare.

Mr. Howarth was the selected Candidate of the Free Trade and Land Reform League. This movement (headed by Mr. (now Sir George) Reid), swept the country.

To the Hon. Secretary, and executive main-spring of this movement (Mr. William Harding), may be applied Kipling's words:

"Oh, 'e's little, but 'e's wise,  
'E's a terror for 'is size."

He is a resident of the Willoughby Municipality. Mr. Howarth remained a staunch and consistent supporter of Mr. Reid's Free Trade

and Land Reform Party, and retained the confidence of his large Electorate for many years, but in 1903 reverses came his way, and his seat became vacant on the 25th August.

At the By-Election, caused by this vacancy, Mr. Charles Gregory Wade was returned on the 9th September, 1903, and has represented the Electorate ever since, though its name and constitution have been altered, it now being designated Gordon.

In less than a year Mr. Wade became Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, and on 2nd October, 1907, he became Premier, besides retaining the other arduous offices. These positions he retained until October, 1910, when his Ministry (the 33rd), was replaced by Mr. McGowen's. Mr. Wade thus made the fourth Premier who has been a Member for the Electorate in which Willoughby is included.

The old title of Willoughby went to a new Electorate, and in 1913 the late Mr. E. R. Larkin became its first Member. His name is an honoured one, as he sacrificed his life for his Country and the Empire.

Mr. John Haynes, now Willoughby's Member, was a speaker at the Jubilee Banquet.

The Hon. C. G. Wade is still Member for Gordon, and the ovation he received at the Jubilee Banquet proved that he retains the full confidence of his people.

## The Federal Parliament.



FOLLOWING the creation of the Australian Commonwealth, which came into being on 1st January, 1901, there was the summoning by proclamation, dated the 29th April, 1901, of the first Commonwealth Parliament.

This was opened by our present King (then H.R.H. the Duke of Cornwall and York) on 9th May, 1901.

At this time, the Borough of Willoughby was part of the North Sydney Division, and for this Division, Mr. Dugald Thomson was elected, and remained its highly respected member for ten years, when he retired, amidst universal expressions of regret.

He was succeeded by Mr. George Bertrand Edwards, who was elected on 13th April, 1910. His sad death, by accident, is fresh in the memory of the Electors.

The vacancy thus created, was filled, in March, 1911, by the election of Colonel Granville de Laune Ryrie (now Brigadier-General) who early this year proceeded to the front to serve his Country and the Empire.

He was subsequently wounded (on September 30th) and in less than a month left again for the firing-line.

In consequence of a readjustment, on an Electoral population basis, the Divisions were rearranged, as notified by proclamation of 27th March, 1913, and the bulk of the Willoughby Municipality is now in the Parramatta Division, and is represented by the Hon. Joseph Cook, ex-Prime Minister, and present Leader of the Opposition.

A small portion, at the Naremburn end of the Municipality, still remains in the North Sydney Division.

## Alderman at Play.



ALTHOUGH the Aldermen have taken part from time to time in various Cricket and Bowling Matches, the only fully recorded events appear to have been those in the Cricket Seasons of 1899 and 1901. The first was played on the North Sydney Oval on 2nd February, 1899, between a team from the North Sydney Council and a combined eleven from Willoughby, Mosman and Lane Cove. The fixture was a great success. The following were the scores:

### WILLOUGHBY, MOSMAN & LANE COVE COMBINED TEAM.

	Runs.
Catt—4, 2, 1, 2, 1, 4, 2, 4, 5, 4, 1 (stumped Redgrave) ..	30
Alderson—4 (caught Redgrave, bowled Hardie) ..	4
Petric—0 (stumped Redgrave, bld. Hardie) ..	6
Willis—4, 4, 4, 1, 2, 1, 4, 4, 2 (bowled Johnstone) ..	26
Horning—2, 4, 1 (bowled Johnstone) ..	7
Leplastrier—1, 1, 2, 2, 1, 1 (caught Johnstone) ..	8
Felton—1, 4, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 4, 2, 4, 4, 4, 2 (leg before, bld. Milson) ..	38
Rose—0 (stumped Redgrave) ..	0
Bastian—1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 4, 4 (not out) ..	15
Gordon—2 (caught Redgrave) ..	2
Roberts—0 (caught Redgrave, bld. Johnstone) ..	0
Byes—1, 2, 2 ..	5
<b>Total</b> ..	<b>135</b>

### NORTH SYDNEY TEAM.

	Runs.
Hardie—2, 1, 1, 2, 1, 1, 4, 1, 2, 5, 5, 1, 4, 4, 1, 4, 5 (retired) ..	44
Milson—4, 1, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 4, 4, 1 (bowled Catt) ..	26
Clark—0 (bowled Catt) ..	0
Creswell—1, 1, 1 (bowled Bastian) ..	3
F. Punch—1, 1, (bowled Bastian) ..	2
Temple—0 (bowled Catt) ..	0
Hodgson—0 (bowled Catt) ..	0

J. Punch—0 (caught Felton, bowled Catt) ..	0
Redgrave—2, 4, 4, 4, 1, 1, 4, 4, 1 (thrown out by Hardie) ..	25
H. Green—0 (bowled Catt) ..	0
Johnstone—0 (not out) ..	0
Byes—1, 1, 4 ..	6
<b>Total</b> ..	<b>106</b>

The second match was played in the season of 1901 on the Chatswood Oval, and the following report of the match is reprinted from the "North Shore and Manly Times." It will be seen that the teams included many of the leading municipal identities of those days. The references to Captain Alderman S. G. Green were in allusion to some thunderous denunciations he had just delivered in regard to the ousting of British steamers from the Circular Quay Berths to make room for the German vessels.

### ALDERMANIC CRICKET.

#### NORTH SYDNEY AND MOSMAN v. WILLOUGHBY AND LANE COVE.

The glorious uncertainty of Cricket was never more fully exemplified than it was last Wednesday afternoon at Chatswood, where the above named teams met in deadly conflict—so deadly, that Dr. Crabbe was in attendance, and was kept busily engaged all day long. Chatswood was early astir, and in view of the importance of the affair, the "flag that braved a thousand years, the battle and the breeze" fluttered gaily from the Chatswoodian housetops; while the Cricket Ground itself was a veritable blaze of magnificence and splendour—nearly every flag under the sun was to be seen, except (out of respect to Capt. Alderman Green) the flag of the German Emperor. Word having been sent to this office for a special War correspondent, a representative of this



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journal was immediately despatched to the seat of war—and on arrival was received by a guard of honor composed of a detachment of the Royal Australian Artillery. [Since the foregoing was written we learn that the "Rile Artillery" was there to guard a Commonwealth tent, erected by Mayors Willis and Catt, in which the lady visitors during the day were regaled with afternoon cake and tea—our reporter is thus in error.—Ed. "Times."]

In another portion of the ground a goodly supply of—well, not cake and tea—was provided for the cricketers. Members of any great selection committee invariably carry their lives in their hands, and it would be manifestly unfair on our part to divulge the names of the North Sydney and Willoughby selectors. Suffice to say that the Shore in order to put into the field the strongest possible team, induced Alderman Winter to play in this match. Willoughby and Lane Cove checkmated this little move with a big counter-blast—worthy a Gladstone-Chamberlain-Bismarck all in one—the inclusion of Dr. Crabbe.

The appearance of Alderman Tom Lister on the scene, "my lord from top to toe" in spotless white, wearing a huge white helmet, was the signal for an unparalleled scene in wild, mad cheering—a display that fairly frightened a Milson's Point train that happened to be passing. No passengers were injured. The Royal Artillery thought it was Lord Kitchener—not the train—Tom Lister, and saluted. Now, Ald. Lister and the Mayor of Botany were the umpires chosen, and as the sun shimmered and danced on Lister's spotless white, he looked as if clad in suit of silver mail—a counterfeit presentment of the Ghost of the daddy of the Royal house of Denmark. "Whither would'st thou lead me? Speak! I'll go no further," said E. M. Clark, as the Beautiful Vision beckoned the Member for St. Leonards—

"To a more remov'd spot."

As the result of a whispered consultation, E. M. heartily shook the hand of Tom, the latter crying out as the M.L.A. walked towards the pavilion (had there been one) "Oh that'll be all right, cos' they can't dispute the Umpire." It may be noted that when in the 1st innings Ald. Clark got out for nothing, he "objected to the ruling," declaring that the wrong umpire had been appealed to, it should have been Tom Lister. With hungry eyes our representative watched Captain Fred. Willis produce half-a-crown and toss Captain Tom Hodgson. The former

won; and decided to bat. Hardie and Alderson had charge of "the leather-works" while the wicket-keeping was entrusted to Alderman Purves, got up something on Deadwood Dickian lines. Here we must digress for one moment to state that just at starting time the following message, from the Emperor of Germany, reached Captain Willis:—

"I haf shoost been dold dot you und Alderman Gatt vos blay der Griged Madge mit Alderman Dom Hodgson's deam, der Nord Sydney und der Mosmans Gombined. Der Nord Sydney Gouncil haf a gouncillor who is a liddle man, about nearly az dall as Alderman Winder—he is a Gabdin Green. Use your efery efford to ged him oud der frisd ball und no madder vot habbens don'd led him ged a run. My gomblimends to your bowlers—Gatt and Pastian, und dell dem dot a German knigedhoot vill be gonferred on der vun vot bowls Green for a quack-quack.

(Signed) "WILHEIM."

Capt. Willis then sent his men in, the very first ball from Hardie to Catt resulting in an appeal to the Umpire—"How is it?" cried the players. "Hot enough for a drink," replied the truthful Lister,—and play proceeded.

As the fate of the nation depended on the result of this match, we would very much like to have reported it with most minute detail, but are unable to do so as our representative is utterly prostrated since the match. However, we append the names, the order of going in—and out, scores, etc.

#### WILLOUGHBY—LANE COVE.

##### First Innings.

Catt, o, bowled Hardie .. . . .	0
Leplastrier, o, bowled Alderson .. . . .	0
Petrie, 4, stumped Purves, bowled Hardie .. . . .	4
Willis (captain), o, bowled Hardie .. . . .	0
Bastian, 3, 4, 4, 1, bowled Hardie .. . . .	12
Gordon, o, bowled Hardie .. . . .	0
Munro, o, caught Alderson, bowled Hardie .. . . .	0
Roberts, o, bowled Hardie .. . . .	0
Hampshire, o, bowled Alderson .. . . .	0
Bailey, o, bowled Alderson .. . . .	0
Butcher, o, caught Milson, bowled Alderson .. . . .	0
Johnston, o, not out .. . . .	0
Dr. Crabbe, o, bowled Hardie .. . . .	0
Byes .. . . .	1
Total .. . . .	17

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NORTH SYDNEY—MOSMAN.

Second Innings.

Milson, 1, bowled Catt .....	1
Hardie, 1, 1, 1, caught and bowled Catt .....	3
Alderson, 1, 1, 1, 4, 1 b w., bowled Catt .....	7
Captain S. G. Green, o, bowled Bastian .....	0
Clark, 1, 1, 1, stumped Willis .....	3
Hodgson, 1, bowled Bastian .....	1
Winter, o, bowled Catt .....	0
Purves, o, not out .....	0

Six wickets for 15

Germany has not been avenged! "The eyes of Germany are on you!" shouted the crowd to Captain Green, who lashed out, scored 1, and, and—and—defeated Germany. Winter hit out splendidly and succeeded in scoring—"two blooming ducks." All the bowlers were in fine fettle. Creswell (our lawyer) played all right—with a "will." Willis put in some excellent play before declaring the 2nd innings closed. Ditto Petrie and Catt. Crabbe, Winter, Hampshire and others might have scored had they been able to hit the ball. The feature of the match was the "Breaking of the Duck" in the 2nd innings by E. M. Clark. His terrible onslaught for 3 singles completely dwarfed W. G. Grace in his best days. "Breaking of the Duck" should be painted and hung in the Council Chamber—if they can't hang the picture, well they can hang the—but this by the way.

Players were indebted to the persevering exertions of Mr. G. Howarth, M.L.A., for the use of the large Marquee, which our member after some trouble, secured from the Federal authorities.

### Second Innings.

80

## The Council's Plant.



IN the early days the Council's plant consisted solely of the old road roller, which generally stood on the vacant land opposite the old Council Chambers. Its broad platform came in handy for scrutineers and others to check off the rolls at election times.

Many votes of thanks have been passed to the Messrs. Forsyth, Bailey, and others, for lending horses to drag it on its special journeys over tough contracts—good work it did—but, "the old order changeth," and after the question had been before the Council for many years and various tests had been made—finality was reached on

August 22nd, 1912, when the Council ordered a complete plant from Messrs. Aveling & Porter, Ltd., Rochester, England, through their local agents Messrs. Noyes Bros. (Sydney), Ltd., 115 Clarence Street.

The Council found that the Aveling plants were doing satisfactory work, and therefore had no hesitation in placing the order.

The plant purchased consisted of—

- 1 Aveling & Porter Combined Tractor and Roller.
- 1 Morrison Patent Scarifier.
- 2 Road Metal Trucks, Hopper type.
- 1 Austin Road Grader.



COMBINED TRACTOR AND ROLLER WITH TRUCKS  
(as a Traction Engine.)

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The combined tractor roller is two complete machines, which cost slightly over the cost of one individual machine, and it can be readily converted in about two hours from a complete tractor to a complete road roller.

As a tractor the machine has saved the Council hundreds of pounds in carting material to all portions of the Municipality. The Overseer reports that it has saved as much as £6 to £7 per day, and he instances several cases in which the cost of carting of the plant has been from 6d. to 7½d. per ton, whereas the cost by drays had been from 3/- to 3/3 per ton. The roller has proved of much value in consolidating the loose metal, etc. The Morrison Scarifier, which is attached to the machine, is for breaking up old roadways before applying new metal.

The road metal trucks, which are of the double bogie self-spreading hopper type, are used in conjunction with the tractor for hauling material, and the ease with which they discharge the metal on

the road eliminates a considerable amount of hand-spreading.

The grader is used for formation work and cleaning watertables. A comparison of the cost of forming by the grader and the old methods is of interest. The following two cases are taken from the Overseer's report.

Cost of forming intersection at Edinburgh Road (9 chains): Grader, £7/13/4; old method, £40 to £50.

Reforming Eric Road (10 chains): Grader, £1/11/5, or 3/1 per chain; old method, £2/10/- to £4 per chain.

The results obtained by the use of the plant have amply fulfilled the expectations of the Aldermen, and it is a matter of congratulation that the Council installed what is admitted to be one of the most successful and up-to-date Municipal road plants in Australia



COMBINED TRACTOR AND ROLLER (as a Roller.)

## Some of the Municipality's Businesses and Industries.



VERY shortly after the incorporation of the Borough, was founded the pioneer industry, the tannery of Mr. Jas. Forsyth, Senr. He carried this on most successfully through its strenuous initial stages and retired in 1887, leaving his two sons, Thomas Todd and Robert Forsyth, the sole proprietors. They carried on till 1902, when a dissolution of partnership occurred and they retired.

it has gradually risen to 350 hides per week, with a wages-sheet of close on £4000 per annum. Messrs. J. J. Broomham, R. C. Broomham, W. G. Broomham and A. F. Broomham constitute the firm. The first three served their time with Messrs. T. T. and R. Forsyth, and the latter with Messrs. Johnstone Bros. The whole of the partners are Willoughby natives, born within a stone's throw of the works. C. Broomham, Senr., was the Forsyths' foreman, from the inception to the relinquishment of the



The large premises were then sublet to various tanners, namely J. Wittman, E. Dale and T. W. Gates, now of Forsyth, Pizzy and Gates, and thence to Broomham Brothers, who started in 1906, purchased the whole of the works in 1907, and are now the sole proprietors.

Starting with an output of 25 hides per week,

business, some 32 years, and is now a successful dairy farmer on the North Coast of New South Wales.

The works are up-to-date in every respect, with modern machinery and a working staff of 27. The class of leather which they turn out, such as chrome, boxhide, etc., will compare with anything produced in the State.

On one occasion at least a whole bullock has has been roasted within the Borough. This was at the joint opening of the Great Northern Hotel and Joseph Hammond's butchery establishment in Gordon Road.



HAMMOND'S SHOP.

Mr. Hammond started business in North Sydney in 1864, and removed to Willoughby four years later, where he bought the property now known as Beauchamp Park for £5 an acre and started operations there. Not long after he opened the premises in Gordon Road. At the abovementioned ceremony he carved up the bullock himself. There were some 600 guests, the dinner being free to all, and it was served in a large marquee on the Great Northern paddock.

After 48 years in business Mr. Hammond retired leaving his interests to his seven sons. He and his wife, who is also still alive, have had eight sons (one having been drowned) and four daughters. They have thirty-three grandchildren and four great grandchildren. As pioneers Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hammond must be accorded front rank.

Leafe's store is undoubtedly a landmark of Willoughby.

Over 40 years ago Mr. Leafe, Senr., carried

on a small store in a cottage situated in the centre of his orchard, it being then about the only one there. Nearly ten years later Mr. Leafe built the present dwelling, having a shop in front. Finding this too small he made a further addition, which the present proprietor took over some 22 years ago. This has again been added to. Mr. Leafe kept the Post and Money-order Office and Savings Bank for many years, so the name of Leafe has been for long a household word in the Municipality.



E. LEAFE'S STORE.

Mashman Bros.' Pottery was started in 1885 by Messrs. H. Mashman and the late W. Mashman (afterwards for many years an Alderman). They had the advantage of some years' experience with Doulton's, of London, and seeing, on arrival in Australia, an opening at Willoughby, commenced operations there.

Elsewhere Mr. H. Mashman describes his experiences as an explorer of the District. Finding the clay suitable, they made a start with three men, a boy, and a dog. The boy was a rarity. They were then scarce; also he was a necessity. He was the motive power for the then potters' wheel (though he has long since given way to an up-to-date Robey engine). Often he hid in the bush. The dog helped to round him up to start operations. Everything promised well—clay good, articles well

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made, and customers waiting. Here the disappointment of potters, ancient and modern, came in. The wood heat was insufficient. Every effort was used to try and get coal, and when in extremity Mr. E. R. Lanceley generously, though then a stranger to them, let them have whatever coal they required. Their first effort was a failure, however. The lot had cracked in the cooling. At this time they obtained the small quantity of clay they required from the Artarmon Estate, then in the throes of disputed title. They paid one claimant for the clay, but, to save complications, had to get up early in the morning to take delivery, before the other claimant arrived.

Encouraged by improvements in roads, etc., and foreseeing a great future for the district, they purchased four acres of clay land close to the works.

Their motto was "forward."

Mr. John Mashman, of Auburn, then joined the firm, the works being amalgamated and merged into



**MASHMAN'S POTTERY.**

a company, which now employs some 120 men, many of whom—Mr. George Day being the senior employee—have been with them for many years.

The firm has supplied most of the material for the Northern Suburbs sewerage, and has saved large

sums in cartage to the residents. Mr. Mashman will always be pleased to show visitors over this highly interesting pioneer industry.



**BAILEY'S TANNERY.**

Mr. G. F. Bailey's tannery is one of the oldest established industries, having been started some thirty years ago. He has seen many changes during that time, not the least sensational being that caused by the total destruction of his premises by the fire some fifteen years ago.

Many spontaneous offers of assistance then came to him from his fellow citizens in business, who volunteered the use of their premises, etc., to keep things going. All difficulties were overcome, and "business as usual" soon became the motto.

Mr. Bailey does not now take an active part in the tannery work, which is carried on by his two sons. In spite of the close attention which he has in the past given to his business, he has found time to devote very many years to Municipal affairs, holding, next to ex-Mayor T. T. Forsyth, the long-service record, and he has also occupied the responsible position of President of the Master Tanners' Association, and is still a Vice-President of the North Shore Hospital.

Mr. John Horsley commenced business on his own account some eighteen years ago, having served an apprenticeship, like so many others, in the pioneer industry of Messrs. James Forsyth & Sons, where he spent some seventeen years of his early life. His business, founded in Short Street, Willoughby, has grown steadily ever since.

Mr. Horsley is a son of one of the pioneers, and his parents arrived in Sydney a fortnight before the wreck of the ship "Dunbar," on 20th August, 1857.



BUTCHER BROTHERS BRICK WORKS.

In 1901 the brisk building trade induced Messrs. Butcher Bros. to start the works on 11 acres of ground purchased by them from the Broughton Estate. Starting with a brickmaking plant, machine sheds, engine and boiler, and six open kilns, with a capacity of 360,000 bricks, their sales were immediately 350,000 bricks per month. The number of men employed then was 40, with 10 horses and carts. The following year, finding the demand exceeding the supply, they built a patent kiln, with holding capacity of 320,000, and increased the engine power. In 1903 Mr. Kidd, Acting Minister for Works, and other Members of Parliament, and prominent residents, were invited to the opening of the first patent kiln. The Minister drew the first brick, which, after being suitably inscribed, was presented

to him. Still the demand increased annually, and 1910 found a greater increase necessary, No. 2 kiln—capacity 400,000 bricks, being built, together with a large stack. They also installed a 300 h.p. Robey engine, one Babcock boiler, more new brick machines and grinding pans. They also purchased more land, the present area being 38 acres. This large increase cost £11,000, the output now being 1,500,000 bricks per month, with 100 men employed, together with 30 horses and carts. The bricks sold up to date were 120,000,000, and the turnover has increased from £14,000 to £42,000. In 1913 the company was incorporated, with a capital of £140,000.

When they started, the number of brickyards in the Borough of Willoughby was two, and to-day there are five large yards.



WILSON'S BRICK WORKS.

Wilson's brickworks, Herbert Street, were started in 1898 by the late Mr. David Wilson, and are now carried on by his trustees, J. D. Wilson, D. V. Wilson and M. A. Pinnington, with up-to-date machinery and plant capable of turning out 30,000 per day.

These works were originally started 35 years ago by Mr. John Gibson, who was the pioneer in Willoughby of the dry press steam brick industry. There Mr. McMaster, the contractor for the Mil-

son's Point to St. Leonards railway, made most of the bricks he used on that contract.

They were closed a second time for some years. In 1898 the late Mr. David Wilson reopened them, making extensive improvements, installing new machinery, bringing them up-to-date, and producing a better article, and since then the business has continued to increase.

Previous to Mr. Gibson starting these works, all the bricks made in Willoughby were called sand-stocks, made by hand, one yard being situated in Mowbray Road, another near French's Road, and one on the land now occupied by the North Sydney Brick and Tile Co.'s No. 1 yard.

It was not long after Mr. Gibson proved the shales of Gore Hill were suitable for semi-dry press process of brickmaking that other people followed. The late Mr. J. B. Magney and Mr. H. O. Weynton removed their brickmaking machinery from one of the Western Suburbs and re-erected same on land close to these works, making of them a success. They and Mr. E. R. Lanceley leased the works now known as the North Sydney Brick and Tile Co.'s No. 1 yard, originally the property of Mr. Whiting, of Gore Hill, who erected works soon after Mr. Magney started, and after a time leased the works to Mr. G. Blunt, the railway contractor, who made the bricks at Gore Hill for the Woy Woy tunnel and railway between Woy Woy and Gosford. When the railway was completed The Land Co. of Australasia purchased the works and built the first Hoffman kiln, making many millions of first-class bricks, used in the Hotel Australia, Walker's Hospital, Wool stores, Kirribilli, Garden Island buildings, and many city buildings. The Land Co. of Australasia closing down, Messrs. J. B. Magney, E. R. Lanceley and H. O. Weynton, with others, leased these works, afterwards becoming owners, and these were for a time the only brickworks on this

side of the Harbour. Then Mr. D. Wilson started, and after him came Messrs. Butcher Bros. & Co., also the Northern Suburbs Brick Co.

Wilson's brickworks can now produce 1,500,000 per week—ample for all requirements.

Mr. Bowen, another old pioneer, a Lane Cove fruitgrower, many years ago, with others, erected a wire cut brickmaking plant at Chatswood, within a stone's throw of the present Town Hall.

Mr. E. M. Clark, ex-M.L.A. for Willoughby, was at one time (1887 to 1891) connected in various capacities with the brick industries of The Land Co. of Australasia, Ltd., and the Crown Plastic Brickworks in Archer Street, Chatswood.



NORTHERN SUBURBS CO-OPERATIVE BRICK CO., LTD.

The company was duly incorporated on the 28th September, 1910, and was registered as "The Northern Suburbs Brick Co., Ltd.," with a capital of £30,000 divided into 30,000 shares of £1 each, and continued trading under this style until the 26th

# WILLOUGHBY'S 1865-1915 FIFTY YEARS

March, 1914, when the company was re-formed into the "Northern Suburbs Co-operative Brick Co., Ltd.," with a capital of £200,000, divided into 200,000 shares of £1 each.

The property consists of 27 acres, with a frontage of about 600 feet to Gordon Road, and thereon is erected the company's plant and furnaces.

With its present capacity the plant is capable of

The flourishing business of A. J. Benjamin, Ltd., was founded some 20 years ago by Messrs. Hill Bros. In 1906 Mr. A. J. Benjamin became managing partner of the firm, and the salaries paid at that time were only one-third of the present amount. The growth of the building material branch of the business has been enormous, and indicates the general progress of the District. The output of three tons of lime weekly in 1906 had



A. J. BENJAMIN'S SHOP.

turning out 25,000,000 (twenty-five million) bricks annually, and, prior to the European War, it was kept in constant use.

The first directors of the old company are still the directors of the new company, viz., Mr. Henry Green (Alderman of North Sydney) chairman, his fellow-directors being Mr. John Brown, builder, North Sydney; Mr. Helier Harbutt, of Messrs. Harbutt Brothers, builders, Mosman; Mr. John J. Mathison, builder, North Sydney; and Mr. Alfred Walker, North Sydney. Mr. Alfred H. Argles is the works manager; Mr. Frank Nelson, secretary.

at the commencement of the war, reached about ten times that amount.

In 1913 the premises were completely reorganised, additional storage space being added, with up-to-date stables of modern design, and the windows were replaced and modernised at a cost of some £300. The premises are still too small, and the company has secured adjoining premises to enable them at any time to double the space occupied. Fourteen horses are employed at the present time in the prompt delivery of goods alone. The stock carried is most varied.

WILLOUGHBY'S
1865-1915
FIFTY YEARS

The ironmongery section includes almost everything required for building purposes, excepting bricks, timber, roofing slates and tiles. The drapery department is very large, and filled with newest goods, mostly imported direct from the manufacturing centres of the old world.

The well-known grocery department, together with the holding of a wine and spirit license, Colonial wine and tobacco licenses, enables the company to supply the wants of all classes of residents in the District. Mr. A. J. Benjamin, the managing director, is a Londoner, with thirty years' local experience, including sixteen years as accountant with Messrs. Hodgson, Smith & Co., Ltd., of Summer Hill, and he considers that the success of the Chatswood business during his ten years' management is largely due to the financial experience previously acquired.

In spite of the war, the recent cash takings have shown such records as to point to the fact that the company's progress after the war will be very rapid.



OWEN'S TANNERY.

Mr. E. Owen (who was an Aldermanic representative of Middle Harbour Ward for three years) carries on the tanning business founded by his late father, Mr. Henry Charles Owen, in 1873. After his

father's death various people carried on the business in a small way—no machinery and all hand work.

Apprenticed to the Forsyths in 1887, having served his term, he took the tannery over in 1893. It is now enlarged considerably, and has a lot of useful machinery installed. Its capability is now some four or five hundred hides per week. His two elder sons, who have been assisting him in the business, have gone to fight for their country, as have also eight others of the employees of his place, who have since followed their example.



PARK'S PHARMACY.

This well-known establishment is an off-shoot of the old Sydney business, founded some twenty years ago by Mr. Park's father and himself.

Mr. Park, Senr., is the oldest chemist in business in New South Wales, and is still in harness.

The present business in Chatswood was founded by Mr. A. J. Webster in 1895. Mr. Webster is still a resident of Chatswood. Mr. Brennan acquired the business and subsequently (some thirteen years ago) transferred it to Mr. Park, who is the oldest established chemist on the North Shore line.

The present commodious premises were erected

WILLOUGHBY'S
1865-1915
FIFTY YEARS

in 1910, the old quarters having been completely outgrown. Mr. Park has many and pleasant reminiscences of the various doctors in the District, as his is practically a dispensing business.

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If the Chairman and Councillors, who used to

Mr. Robert Muir, stating that in spite of the war it paid its way from the inception.

On that historic day, "Australia Day," July 30, 1915, the "Arcadia" Picture Theatre was opened, and the entire proceeds—£210—were handed over to the fund.



WILLOUGHBY PICTURE THEATRE.

meet in the hut (a stone's throw from the Willoughby Picture Theatre), could revisit the scene, great would be their astonishment. Here is a building which will seat 1400 people!

The ground was purchased in March, 1915, the building promptly erected, and the theatre opened on 4th August, the anniversary of Britain's moment-

Mr. E. A. Crispe owns and controls the property, which is one of the most up-to-date suburban theatres. There is accommodation for seating 1500 people in modern tip-up theatre chairs. It is a two-storey building, with ample dress circle, and of fireproof construction—brick with steel roof, concrete stairs, and fireproof ceilings. Its construction per-



ARCADIA PICTURE THEATRE.

ous warning to Germany. Thus in less than 50 years from the time the Council met in its "wooden box," and, on a spot only a few yards distant, one of these great modern developments, a complete picture theatre has suddenly arisen, and proved a success from the start, the sole proprietor and manager,

mits of its being emptied in a few minutes, having 74 feet of exits. The plant is the most up-to-date procurable, and the electricity is generated by gas engine and dynamo. The pictures are also always up-to-date, and the fine orchestra is under the conductorship of Mr. Malcolm McLure.

WILLOUGHBY'S

1865-1915

FIFTY YEARS

The Hotel Willoughby, one of the finest buildings in the Northern Suburbs, and one of the best residential houses in the Metropolitan area, contains forty well-furnished rooms, and stands in an exceptionally choice position. It has every modern convenience, and was completed and opened in 1898, and the present proprietor, Ald. J. Knight Smith, purchased the goodwill from Mr. James Smith in 1901, and has successfully controlled the fortunes of the hotel ever since. Lieutenant Knight Smith saw active service for the Empire during the South African War, joining the Prince of Wales' Light Horse in London, proceeding with them to Cape

passed through the hands of quite a number. Its present landlord is Mr. Thomas D. Laney.

Pony races were held in "the eighties" in the



HOTEL WILLOUGHBY.

Town, and joined in the pursuit of the elusive De Wet, and was subsequently appointed transport officer (General Bethune's staff), then remount officer, also commandeering officer, which position he filled up to the time of leaving (through disbanding). He holds numbers of letters from military officers of high rank, and many curios collected in his travels.

The Artarmon Hotel, up till quite lately known as "The Great Northern," so frequently mentioned as the pioneer hotel, and one of the notable "stages" in the coaching days, was originally kept by Ald. Russell, subsequently by Ald. Wilkes, and has since



ARTARMON HOTEL.

beautifully situated paddock alongside, and, on account of its quietness and healthful atmosphere, many athletes trained there, including McGarrigal (the winner of the big Botany handicap), Joe Price



ROYAL HOTEL, GORDON ROAD, CHATSWOOD.  
Mr. A. W. SHARLAND.

and C. McGillivray, Mr. Jas. Hartigan being their trainer.

The hotel has recently been substantially altered and added to.

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**WILLOUGHBY'S**
1865-1915
**FIFTY YEARS**

The St. Leonards Hotel was opened by Mr. Northam. It has a great political history, and many and important open-air meetings have been

On 7th May, 1887, Ald. Simpson gave notice of motion in favour of "paying the workmen in cash every two weeks to save them running about to



**ST. LEONARDS' HOTEL.**

addressed from its balconies. Great changes have taken place in the locality surrounding it, since the blind end of the Bush Railway was continued to the "Deep Waters" of the Harbour. The hotel is now in the hands of Mr. Michael Skehan.



**RAILWAY HOTEL, VICTORIA AVENUE, CHATSWOOD.**  
(Mrs. JANET BLEECHMORE.)

get "cheques cashed." These cheques were on a Sydney bank.

It was not until 1898, however, that the local bank came along, and on 19th September of that



**THE COMMERCIAL BANK.**

year the Mayor reported that the bank account of the Council had, as authorised, been transferred to the newly established branch of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, Ltd., at Chatswood.

It was then located in the Gordon Road building, facing Victoria Avenue. Afterwards during the erection of the present building, which is the bank's freehold property, it occupied temporary premises opposite. This prosperous branch of a popular institution has made solid progress from the time it was founded.

Its present manager, Mr. A. L. Graham, has been in that position for many years.



GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

The local branch of the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales was originally opened on 18th November, 1912, in temporary premises, Mr. Norman Elliott being the manager. The central and conveniently situated building now occupied by this institution was opened on 10th October, 1914. Mr. Elliott is still the manager.

The accompanying blocks show the two yards of The North Sydney Brick and Tile Co., Ltd., at Gore Hill.

These brickworks were started by the late Messrs. J. B. Magney and H. O. Weynton in the year 1880, with one machine, equal to 10,000 per day, Mr. E. R. Lanceley then working the plant on contract. Later on they added another machine, and Mr. E. R. Lanceley joined the partnership (in 1892). They then took over the old Gore Hill Brickworks (No. 1 yard), which had been worked by The Land Company of Australasia, Ltd. This yard had four machines, or a capacity of 40,000 per day. It now has seven machines, or a capacity of 70,000 per day. In 1900 the company bought 22 acres of land, near St. Leonards station, on which they erected their No. 2 works, which have four double or four brick machines, with a capacity of 80,000 per day, making a total output from both yards of about 40,000,000 per year. The company has three Hoffman patent kilns, one of which is the largest of its kind in New South Wales, five down-draught kilns, and five open kilns. The company became a limited one in 1910. Three years later they bought Mr. Whiting's property, "Valetta," extending along Gordon Road from No. 1 works to the Gore Hill Cemetery, and the company's absolute holding of land is now 63 acres.

The No. 2 works are connected by rail, and, in the near future, the old works will also be similarly connected. When in full swing the company finds occupation for some 200 employees. It will thus be seen that Mr. E. R. Lanceley, who was an Aldermanic representative for Naremburn Ward for many years, has been very largely identified with the public and business life of the Municipality of Willoughby.

WILLOUGHBY'S 1865-1915 FIFTY YEARS



NORTH SYDNEY BRICK & TILE CO., LTD.,  
GORE HILL.

No. 1 yard.



No. 2 yard.



"CHICAGO" CORNFLOUR & STARCH MILLS,  
Lane Cove River.  
(Mr. HORACE LOVE, Manager.)  
Messrs. CLIFFORD, LOVE & CO., LTD., 77 Clarence-st., Sydney.



MESSRS. FORSYTH, PIZZHEY & GATES, LTD., TANNERY,  
High Street, Willoughby.

WALTER CHAFFER'S  
TANNERY,

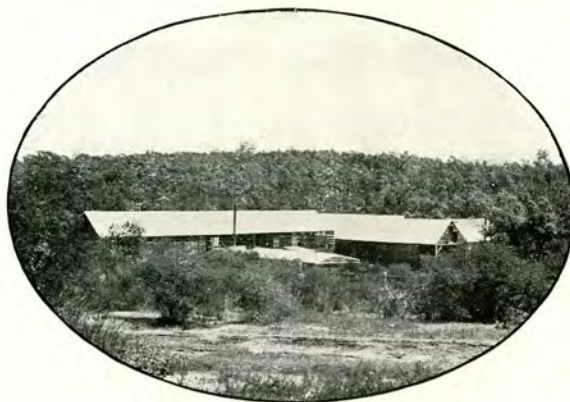


Victoria Avenue and  
High Street, Willoughby.

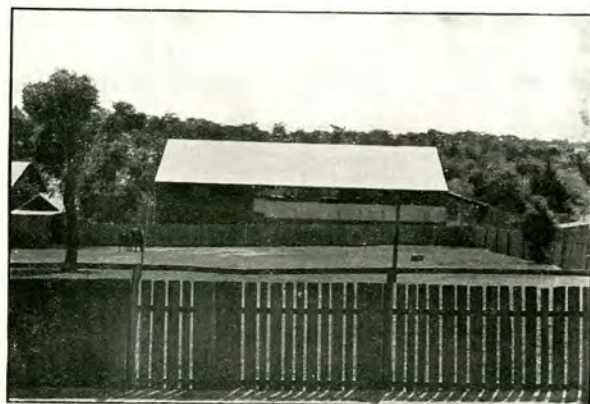
WILLOUGHBY'S 1865-1915 FIFTY YEARS



J. B. FORTYTH, LTD., TANNERY,  
Smith Street, Willoughby.



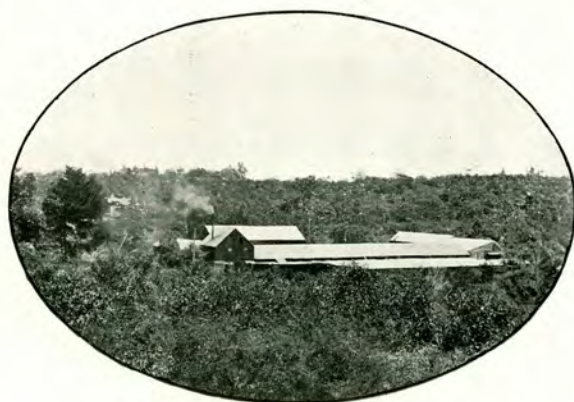
WILSON BROS. TANNERY,  
High Street, Willoughby.



J. B. JOHNSTON'S TANNERY,  
Short Street, Willoughby.



STEPHENSON & SONS,  
TANNERY, Willoughby.



S. W. GEERING, TANNERY,  
High Street, Willoughby



DREADNOUGHT PICTURES, Victoria Avenue, CHATSWOOD.  
S. R. WILSON.

WILLOUGHBY'S 1865-1915 FIFTY YEARS



DUFF'S CORNER, Victoria Avenue.



W. CRAWLEY,  
Plumber, Victoria Avenue, Chatswood.



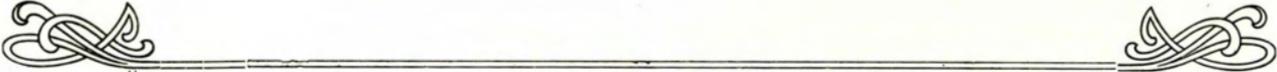
Block of Shops at ARTARMON.



Another Block of Shops at ARTARMON.



JOHN T. B. JENKINS,  
Plumber, Penshurst Street.



The Jubilee Celebrations.





## The Jubilee Functions.

### The Children's Day.



HE sports in connection with the Jubilee celebrations were held on Friday, 22nd October, 1915, on the Chatswood Oval. There was an attendance of over 3,000 children and many parents. The feature of the day was the racing between the local schools. The Professional Musicians' Band was in attendance, and rendered selections during the day. The wants of the children were catered for by the different committees, and all agree that a good day was spent.

#### COMMITTEE.

Ald. R. T. Forsyth, Mayor; A. A. C. Bastian, Town Clerk; Geo. Johnston, J. Lauder, Hon. Secs.

The accompanying illustration shows the sports in progress.

The following are the results of the races:—

#### BOYS' HANDICAPS.

Over 8 and under 9 years.—A. McGuire, C, 1; B. Goulding, N, 2.  
 Over 9 and under 10.—G. Woodward, W, 1; F. Davies, C, 2.  
 Over 10 and under 11.—J. Hall, N, 1; ———.  
 Over 11 and under 12.—H. Caulfield, N, 1; L. Reid, C, 2.  
 Over 12 and under 13.—C. Mustard, C, 1; A. Roberts, W, 2.  
 Over 13 and under 14.—E. Gow, W, 1; ———.  
 14 and over.—R. Lee, C, 1; J. Moore, C, 2.

#### BOYS' CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Boys under 12.—Pannifex, P, 1; J. Ford, P, 2.  
 Under 14.—Munro, P, 1; McKellar, 2.  
 14 and over.—R. Lee, C, 1; C. Winter, P, 2.  
 Potato Race (Junior).—E. Town, W, 1; J. Trollope, W, 2.



CHATSWOOD OVAL.



WILLOUGHBY'S

1865-1915

FIFTY YEARS



Potato Race (Senior).—R. Mustard, C, 1; H. Caulfield, N, 2.

Kicking Football.—J. Fordham, C, 1; J. Moore, C, 2.

Sack Race.—H. Caulfield, N, 1; H. Weate, C, 2.

Hop, Step and Jump.—R. Lee, C, 1; C. Semple, C, 2.

Egg and Spoon Race (Junior).—A. Ellis, W, 1; S. Hambly, C, 2.

Egg and Spoon Race (Senior).—J. Ford, N, 1; B. McMahon, N, 2.

Obstacle Race.—R. Mustard, C, 1; J. Lewers, C, 2.

Inter-Schools Relay Race (Junior).—Chatswood 1; Naremburn 2.

Inter-Schools Relay Race (Senior).—Preparatory 1; Chatswood 2.

#### GIRLS' HANDICAPS.

E. Henkley, C, 1.

Joyce Mitchell, C, 1.

C. Slacker, 1.

Alice Bell, N, 1.

Erica Pearson, C, 1.

#### GIRLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Joyce Mitchell, C, 1; Edie Black, C, 2.

Florrie Schneider, N, 1; B. McDougall, C, 2.

Erica Pearson, C, 1.

Girls' Thread Needle.—W. Farran, C, 1; V. Adamson, N, 2.

P.S.—C, Chatswood; N, Naremburn; W, Willoughby; P, Preparatory School.

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## The Grand Continental.

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This was held on Friday, 22nd October, 1915, at 7.30 p.m., on the Chatswood Park.

Committee.—His Worship the Mayor (Ald. R. T. Forsyth), Ald. F. C. Petrie, W. T. Dickson, D. A. Campbell, and ex-Ald. Hugh Duff; A. A. C. Bastian, Town Clerk.

There was a grand fireworks display, and a

splendid programme of vocal and instrumental music was rendered by the following artists: Miss Dorrie Ward, Messrs. Harry Campbell, Tod Callo-way, A. E. J. Benham, Percy French, Stanley Rowe, recitations by Mr. Frederick Whitlow; selections by the Rifle Reserve Band, under Mr. W. Purse-house, conductor; and also by the N.B.R. Band.

WILLOUGHBY'S

1865-1915

FIFTY YEARS

## The Jubilee Banquet.

TOWN HALL,  
SATURDAY, 23RD OCTOBER, 1915  
7.30 P.M.



WITHIN the last hour of the Jubilee period—Saturday night, 23rd October, 1915—came the finish of the banquet, which fittingly concluded the celebrations.

It was a highly successful function, the splendid and capacious Hall making a magnificent banquet chamber for the guests, numbering over five hundred.

The arrangements were carried out most satisfactorily by the Mayor (Alderman R. T. Forsyth) and the Aldermen, together with the Town Clerk, Mr. A. A. C. Bastian, who, in addition, acted most efficiently throughout as master of ceremonies and toast master.

The proceedings opened with the loyal toast, "His Majesty King George V.," proposed by the Mayor, the National Anthem being rendered with an enthusiasm worthy of the great occasion.

Ex-Alderman Hugh Duff next played an overture on the piano.

Ald. A. A. Campbell, J.P., in moving the toast of "The Federal Parliament," stated:

"In asking you to honor the toast of the Federal Parliament, I am asking you to honor our representative body, who control and shape the destinies of nearly five million people in the furthest outpost of the far-flung Empire—our Commonwealth; the home of democracy and political liberty, on whose shores the hostile boom of guns has never sounded, nor the crimson tide of battle mingled with our soil. The virile life of a virgin country, with all its potentialities, is in the keeping of our Federal Government to develop and defend. Our extensive coast line, coming within measurable distance of Eastern invasion, our vast empty spaces waiting to be filled with a rural population, to buttress, develop and defend our national life, are problems for our Federal Parliament. The controlling of our trade and commerce through the Customs, with due regard to the development of the primary industries, in the first place, the protection and fostering of our manufactures in the second, also a proportion of revenue and production while industries evolve into practical being, the inauguration of our land and sea defences on lines acceptable to Australian sentiment and aspiration, together with the procuring of the necessary revenue on equitable and fair lines to carry on those national services, is no mean task.



WILLOUGHBY'S 1865-1915 FIFTY YEARS

The establishment of the Commonwealth Bank has emphasised the economic sense of the Federal Parliament. The extensive note issue has done much to relieve financial pressure in Australia during the financial turmoil of a war footing, whilst the audacity of the Federal Government in entering into the hitherto sacred domains of private enterprise may be questioned by some, yet it has brought forth good at this stage. The road to success is not always along the beaten track of conventionality, but well-thought-out new ventures very often bring progress. As the progress of one section of the community must in a degree be a levelling down of another, and whilst that is so every innovation that is brought about by a Government will be largely criticised by point of view. Considering the ramifications of the Government, the wide effect of their incidence, together with the fact that we are taking a creditable part in the greatest war in history, we should stand behind our Parliament, and give it our confidence in its hour of trial. They brought our Navy into fighting being, and in clearing the decks for action and engaging the enemy on the high seas, in establishing a dock and yards to repair the wastage and build ships for the protection of our southern seas, the raising, equipping, reinforcing, and sending over the sea an Australian Army, fighting side by side with the Allied troops with unsurpassed bravery, their's has been no mean task. The Federal Parliament in these days not only does the right thing, but they have the confidence of the people behind them. Progress is made up by sacrifice, and we must make individual sacrifice at this stage. There must be a linking up of parties in one common effort, and when that is so things will be much easier. We must remember that the Federal Government is only human, and does not possess the mystic vision that pierces the veil of the future. We must not expect miracles from them, and we must make full allowance for mistakes. We should view their efforts as honest

endeavors to do what is best within the means at their command for the welfare of the Commonwealth, and it is for us to play our part. It is for us to make our sacrifices cheerfully, and to stand behind the Government in this, the Nation's hour of trial. It is the function of the Government to husband our resources upon a war footing. It is the function of the Government to stand fairly between the producer, the seller, and the consumer, in a fair spirit, and whilst this must affect people in different ways different opinion will prevail of the Government's action, so we should be tolerant with the Government, recognising the stupendous task that they have before them. We should give the help of our confidence to the Federal Parliament in its trying time, and 'mid the strain of circumstances, or the clash of arms, present one solid front to every breeze that blows." (Applause.)

The Hon. Joseph Cook, M.H.R., in responding to the toast of "The Federal Parliament," congratulated the Willoughby Municipality on the very great success of its Jubilee celebrations. It was a very good thing to have a Municipal Jubilee in this young country. What fifty years of Municipal Government in this District stood for, of course, was not his province to deal with that night, and he would, therefore, only touch upon general terms. We were present to honor Municipal institutions generally. There were in Australia 1000 odd Municipal bodies who raised from the people of the Commonwealth the annual revenue of £7,000,000. The Aldermen on the whole did their work well, and without remuneration. (Hear, hear.) "The great unpaid," he always called them. He always felt like taking off his hat to Municipal authorities, when he remembered the way they worked, and the unselfish and ungrudging effort that they put into the management of local affairs from year to year. In England and Wales there were 25,000 local authorities, who raised in the year 1912 the sum



WILLOUGHBY'S	1865-1915	FIFTY YEARS
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of nearly £150,000,000 sterling. That was to say that the local authorities of Great Britain are doing as much for the people of that country in the way of developing their functions of government as the Imperial Government sitting in Westminster to-day. Therefore, we should not look upon our local Government institutions with anything but the greatest respect, and the greatest honor should be paid to them. He would go further and say that self government is the mainspring of our Empire to-day, and our patriotism seems to be built tier upon tier, beginning first in the home, then in the town, then on to the State, on to the Federation, and then on to the great Empire, which is the glory of all, and our feelings to-day should be one of profound thankfulness. For fifty years we have had peace to develop our institutions, and build up the wonderful prosperity that we have in Australia to-day, and then after the fifty years of wonderful prosperity that we have had in Australia; to-day, we have to wield our sword to defend it. We are waging a war which is either going to make or break the British Empire, a fight in which everything is thrown in. There is a call that has not been made before upon our citizens, upon our resources, and upon all our courage to see it to a successful finish. (Applause.)

We long to see this war carried to a successful issue in the interests of the world at large. It is said that "pride goeth before a fall," and he believed that this damnable German spirit is doomed to its destruction already. (Loud applause.) He wanted to say with all the deliberation that he could command that he did not believe there was the slightest cause for pessimism. (Hear, hear.) If things were ten times as black as they were he would still back the British spirit and the British character. (Applause.) One of the things that we are fighting for is free local government. Please God that after the war we shall hope to see it

developed still further and further as one of the integral elements of government in Australia, making the great fabric, which is already the wonder of the world. (Cheers.)

The ever popular Mr. Harry Campbell here sang "Mountain Lovers" and "My little grey home in the West" as an encore.

Alderman W. T. Dickson, J.P. (ex-Mayor), then proposed the toast of "The State Parliament." He said that Aldermen and politicians resembled one another in many respects. In the face of interminable difficulties it was found that the State Parliament had most ably responded to the call of the Motherland by placing at the disposal of the Commonwealth Government, at the outbreak of the war, the administrative and industrial resources of the State. The condition of the money market had increased the difficulties of the Government, and a very bad drought had still further increased these difficulties. The arrangements entered into with the firm of Norton Griffiths & Co. had found work for many of the unemployed, and brought a little sunshine into the homes of many. The Government was endeavouring to pass into law a Fair Rents Bill, and in its endeavour to legislate in the interests of the people had deserved every commendation. Unfortunately, however, it had not yet taken up any definite stand in regard to the commencement of the North Shore Bridge. (Loud applause.) He ventured the opinion that if that grand old man, Sir Henry Parkes, was to come back again and find that the Municipality of Willoughby was celebrating its Jubilee and that the North Shore Bridge had not yet been constructed, he would not believe his own eyes. He hoped that his remarks would have the effect of influencing the representatives of both sides of the House, present with them that evening, to urge the Government to proceed as quickly as possible with the construction of the bridge.

In the absence of the Hon. J. H. Cann, M.L.A., who sent an apology, the Hon. J. D. Fitzgerald, M.L.C., responded to the toast of "The State Parliament." He stated that it was quite a relief after reading the leading articles in the various newspapers, and the criticisms in the House of his hon. and learned friend, Mr. Wade, who so ably carried out the duties of Leader of the Opposition, to find that he had at last arrived at a place where everything the Government had done was adequate and in the best interests of the community. He had heard that night the blessed words "North Shore Bridge." He wanted to say that, in his opinion—and he had always held that opinion—the fate of the North Shore Bridge was bound up in Greater Sydney, and the constructing authority for the North Shore Bridge must be the Greater Sydney authority, whatever form that authority takes.

There were gentlemen present with them that night who were in the Municipality when it was launched fifty years ago. He referred to Mr. Muston, one of the old pioneers of the District. Between these Districts and the City of Sydney a great civic bridge had grown up. Sydney has become one of the greatest commercial ports of the Empire. The City of Sydney has spread out, and so has North Sydney also spread out towards it. They have become clasped in the embrace of the great City until to-day they were "man and wife" as it were. The next step was Greater Sydney. (Dissent.) He hoped to have the opportunity of urging that branch of the legislature to which he belonged to shortly pass a Bill into law placing upon the Statute Book the principle of Greater Sydney. (Dissent.) Well, he would make a sporting bet of a tanner that before two years they would have a Greater Sydney Council created, and the people of Willoughby would be pleased and proud to send their representatives in. (Chorus of Noes.) He would now refer to a subject on which there

was no dissent, in which there was no difference in the parties in the State, and in which Mr. Wade, as Leader of the Opposition in the State Parliament, and Mr. Cook, as Leader of the Opposition in the Federal Parliament, and himself were at one—the question of the defence of civilisation and of our great Empire. In a free country in times of peace they had their struggles and their differences, and it would be a very poor day indeed for a democratic community when the citizens could not hold their opinions and express them, and differ one from another; but to-day we are united by a motive, which is the strongest that can combine any nation together, and that is the motive of self-preservation. We believe that Germany is the aggressor, we believe that she is a cruel and brutal aggressor; we know that for forty years she has deliberately prepared for this raid upon civilisation, and with that end in view she has employed all the material resources at her command in order to despoil neighbouring States, not only of their material wealth, but also their liberties. England, we are told, was in the position that she might have stopped out of this great quarrel. England might have sacrificed France, or she might have sacrificed her ally, Russia, or she might have sacrificed that small, heroic nation, Belgium, whose name will live forever in the annals of history, but England, split as she was before the great attack, closed her ranks like lightning. The disputes vanished like smoke; every part of the British Empire shook hands, and the North and South of Ireland to-day are shedding their blood on the same battlefield. India, which was supposed to be reeking with dissatisfaction, has proved her loyalty, and divided as we were on small matters, on the great issue we are at one. (Applause.) He was proud to be standing beside the Hon. Joseph Cook, a man who has served his country well for many years, and although not agreeing with his policy, Mr. Cook sat there in a prouder position than he, inasmuch as he

has a son at the front giving his life's blood for the preservation of the glorious British Empire.

He believed, and he also knew that both Mr. Cook and Mr. Wade believed in the usefulness of Municipal Government. He wished Willoughby, however, just another two years of successful corporate existence before merging into the Greater Sydney scheme. The great event, however, which is in all our minds is the day upon which civilisation, humanity, Christianity, and human compassion will be vindicated, the day when we shall put the Germans down and out for ever. (Cheers.) This is not to be a decision on points, it is to be a knock-out blow to Germany, the German system, and all that the German system means; and this is, he believed, going to be the last and the great and successful blow against that dastardly thing which we know by the name of "Kaiserism." (Loud applause.)

The Hon. C. G. Wade also responded to the toast of "The State Parliament," and on rising was received with much cheering. He had heard that night—and he dared say that it was the first time that Mr. Fitzgerald had heard it—a long list of encomiums of his Ministry, but he did not propose to discuss these in their broader aspect or in detail. He recognised the kindly feeling that prompted the gathering to drink to this toast, and he felt sure that they did not want him to introduce controversial questions on an occasion like this. He thought that we were now in a period when we could do far more useful work for our country, for the Commonwealth, and for the Empire, if Parliament were not in session, but doing work of a more valuable character elsewhere. (Applause.)

The cry is going out for more men, and for a stronger stream of recruiting, and he felt that the time that the Members are engaged in the House could be far more usefully employed in an endeavour

to bring home to those who have not heard the cry the obligations of the young men to shoulder a rifle and play their part for King and country. (Applause.)

Changes are taking place every day in the European situation, changes that seem to help the enemy rather than the Entente, and it requires our best efforts, our best thought, and our noblest endeavours to beat back the system of invasion that is spreading north and south, west and east, and do what we can in Australia to maintain the flag that stands for freedom and for justice. In thanking them for the opportunity of saying just a few words he hoped that before many months were past there would be a break in the clouds, and they would be able to see within measurable distance the termination of this disastrous war, and welcome back to our own homes our brave lads, who are giving their lives for their country—(applause)—and to celebrate in a world-wide rejoicing that the position has been won, and that German domination has been strangled and crushed for all time, and that those heroic nations who played their part so nobly in the opening stages of this war would have restored to them all that they have lost, and more than that—that there will be a guarantee that they will not in future be invaded by a race which broke every law of God and man, and who had no respect for man or woman, old or young, in the desire for world conquest and increased power. That time is drawing nearer. The more alert we are to our responsibilities the sooner will the end come, and peace be for all time. (Applause.)

Mr. Guy Martin here made merry with his clever ventriloquial item. His doll's definition of the "longest bridge in the world" as "that with one end in North Sydney, and the other in the future" caused much laughter.

The Mayor, Ald. R. T. Forsyth, J.P., in proposing the toast of "The Day we Celebrate," stated

that the Municipality of Willoughby had been incorporated for fifty years that day. When the Petition was first signed it contained 67 signatures, and out of those who signed that petition there were still two living, one of whom was amongst them that night in the person of ex-Alderman Richard Johnson. The other gentleman who was still living was Mr. J. C. Ludowici, who, they would regret to learn, was now lying very ill at Longueville.

Fifty years ago the revenue in the Municipality was very small indeed. The first balance-sheet, dated 3rd January, 1867, which covered the half-year ended December 31st, 1866, showed that the total receipts were £103 15s. 8d., whilst the expenditure was £11 18s. 1d., and the year closed with the balance of £91 17s. 7d. That balance-sheet indicated exceedingly careful management. At the present time the general revenue is £28,000, inclusive of general rate, sanitary charges, and loan rate. The residents of Willoughby ought to be proud, as he believed they were, of the old pioneers of the District, who deserved all possible credit for the interest that they had taken in the welfare of the place. The old minute books were exceedingly interesting, and indicated the methods adopted in those days of selecting the roads by individual Aldermen. Representatives of some of the old pioneers were present with them that night, namely, Mr. Bligh, son of our third Mayor, and Messrs. E. Charlish and R. H. Harnett, sons of two of our ex-Mayors.

There was a motion in the minute book of 1879 which showed that the Municipal authorities of those days had the interests of the District at heart. The motion he referred to adopted at the Council meeting 1st March, 1879, was as follows:—

"That the Council Clerk be instructed to write to the Borough Councils of Ryde, Hunter's Hill, St. Leonards, East St. Leonards, Victoria and Manly, inviting their co-operation in petitioning the

Government: (1) To erect a bridge across 'The Spit' to connect Sydney and the Municipalities on the North Shore with the Municipality of Manly; (2) To build a bridge over the Lane Cove River to connect the Municipalities of Ryde and Hunter's Hill with North Willoughby; and (3) To improve the much-needed means of communication between St. Leonards and the Circular Quay by a steam punt or floating bridge of the most recent design, or the substitution of some other more easy and rapid means of communication than is at present available, pending the erection of a bridge."

This showed that although there were only about 400 people in the district at the time that the petition was presented for the establishment of a Municipality that some comparatively few years later the Municipal authorities recognised how important it was that a bridge should be constructed between North Sydney and Sydney. The Hon. J. D. Fitzgerald had informed them that the fate of the North Sydney Bridge was bound up in the Greater Sydney scheme, but it seemed to him a great shame that the bridge connecting Sydney and North Sydney should be hung up for so many years. (A voice: "Shame!") He had hoped that when Mr. Wade, the Leader of the present Opposition, was in power they would have obtained the North Shore Bridge, but he sincerely hoped that the bridge would be an established fact long before the Centenary of the Municipality arrived.

In 1890 the first section of the railway was constructed as far as St. Leonards, and from this period onwards the population of the Northern Suburbs increased by leaps and bounds.

The Suspension Bridge was also constructed in 1890, but it was not until the tramway was constructed across it that there was any appreciable increase in the population in this District, but it is now improving quickly.

He felt a great amount of pleasure in being the occupant of the Mayoral chair on the occasion of their Jubilee function, and felt a proud man indeed.

He claimed to have been the youngest Mayor in the State. He had first entered Municipal life as an Auditor.

He represented the third generation of his family to occupy the Mayoral chair. (Applause.) He was at one time under the impression that a member of his family had been in the Council from the time of the incorporation of the Municipality, but the minute book showed that his grandfather (James Forsyth) did not enter into the Municipal Government of the District until the second or third year of their Municipal existence. His grandfather had occupied the Mayoral chair in 1875, and his father in 1882, 1887, and 1888, and he was pleased, as he felt those present were, that his father was still hale and hearty, and able to be present with them on the occasion of the celebration of their Jubilee. (Hear, hear.) The revenue that his father had to handle in 1882 was £1,000, whilst he (the present Mayor) had handled a revenue of £24,000 in 1911, whilst this year the revenue had amounted to £28,000, which was being spent as fairly and as well as possible. His uncle, Robert Forsyth, was Auditor in the year 1887.

There was an employee of the Council at the present time, by name Joe Martin, who, as far back as 1871 obtained a contract from the Council for the supply of gravel at 1s. 6d. per ton. Its present price was 6s. As Mayor, he was glad to see Mr. Martin present with them that evening.

The remuneration allowed to the first Town Clerk was the munificent sum of £15 per annum. (Laughter.) At that time Willoughby and Lane Cove was one combined Municipality, which would indicate the stupendous task that the Town Clerk of that time had in order to earn his 5s. per week.

Reference was made to the public buildings of the Municipality, such as the Public Schools at Willoughby and Naremburn, the Town Hall, in which they were congregated, and the North Shore Hospital.

There was also a very large number of tanning industries in the District, together with pottery and various brick and maizena works, all of which found employment for a considerable number of men.

Reference was also made to the efficiency of the staff carrying on the Municipal work, under the leadership of Mr. Bastian, the Town Clerk, who, it was stated, had been with them for fourteen years, and had carried out the duties pertaining to his office in a highly creditable and efficient manner.

The Mayor also desired to thank the whole of the gentlemen who assisted in the Jubilee celebrations, and also the local school authorities, for the attention they had bestowed upon the children the previous day, and also Mr. Claude Leplastrier (ex-Mayor), who had been entrusted with the task of compiling the history of the Municipality's fifty years Jubilee period.

Reference was also made to the part that the Willoughby District had played in connection with the war. Four hundred had volunteered from the District, and he was hopeful that this number would be increased in the future.

In thanking those present for accepting the invitation, the Mayor stated that he hoped that if the Greater Sydney scheme was brought into operation that some day his son would inherit Municipal traditions and represent this Municipality in a civic capacity. He concluded an interesting address by calling, "Gentlemen, I give you the toast of 'The Day we Celebrate.'"



Ald. F. C. Petrie (ex-Mayor), who replied to the toast of "The Day we Celebrate," stated that being the oldest Alderman in the Council, the honor of replying to the toast had been entrusted to him. He would have liked to have heard the Mayor, Ald. R. T. Forsyth, tell those present a little more about the work that had been put into the civic affairs of this District by the members of his family. The Forsyth family had represented this District for about fifty years, and were amongst the pioneers, not only from a civic point of view, but also from an industrial standpoint, inasmuch as Mr. James Forsyth, the grandfather of the present Mayor, had started the tanning industry in their District in the early days.

This business had passed into the hands of his sons, Messrs. T. T. and R. Forsyth, and was now in the hands of men who had served their apprenticeship with the old firm. The tanners of the early days did not trouble the Council to make roads, but they made them themselves and put their hands into their own pockets to pay for them, and it seemed to him very appropriate that a representative of the family that had done so much for the District in the past should occupy the Mayoral chair on the occasion of their Jubilee celebrations. (Loud applause.)

In dealing with the progress of the District, Ald. Petrie stated that although Willoughby was a bush when North Sydney was a township, yet they were the first Municipality formed on the northern side of the water, and the first to adopt the electric system of lighting, a contract with the City Council having been signed as far back as 25th May last year.

When he came into the Council some 15 years ago the Council was composed of some of the finest and ablest men in the District—men of the calibre of the late F. S. Willis, the late Dr. J. B. Crabbe, the late N. F. Giblin, and Messrs. Claude Leplastrier,

R. H. Gordon, and G. F. Bailey, and he looked upon these men as laying the foundation of what they enjoy to-day. (Applause.)

He stated he was very much struck with the inconsistency of his friend, Mr. Fitzgerald. The Council had worked for close on fifty years under the old Municipalities Act, which came into force in the sixties. The Local Government Act came into operation about eight years ago, and no one could deny that it was a good Act, and a lot for this District had been done under it.

The roads, sanitation, style of house, size of allotments, had all been improved under the Local Government Act, but without a sufficient time having elapsed to give it a fair trial, the Municipalities were going to be swallowed up in a Greater Sydney scheme without any demand either by the people or the Aldermen. He would accept Mr. Fitzgerald's offer to bet a "tenner" and he would put his "tenner" up himself.

(Hon. J. D. Fitzgerald: Shake hands; and the £10 is to be devoted to the Hospital.)

Alderman Petrie, continuing, said he would take the wager, with only one proviso, and that was that the Greater Sydney scheme was submitted to a plebiscite of the people. He was prepared to stump the District from one end to the other, and he had sufficient knowledge of the people in the District to know that they did not want Greater Sydney, nor did they want payment of Aldermen either. (Applause.) He would rather see the two Houses of Parliament wiped out altogether and the whole lot thrown in with the Federal Government than see the Greater Sydney scheme come into operation, and the Municipality of Willoughby knocked out. (Cheers.)

Hon. Joseph Cook: A greater Willoughby, eh?

Ald. Petrie: Yes. He had advocated a Greater

North Sydney fifteen years ago, and he still thought that Greater North Sydney would be preferable. Up to the present they had not been able to find the man who had the time to devote to the advocacy of the Greater North Sydney scheme. The men with the ability were there, but they had not the time. He was hopeful that they would get the man with both the ability and the time.

In referring to the patriotism of the District, which had been touched upon by the Mayor, he stated that £5,000 had been raised for the Australia Day, Belgian Day, Red Cross and other funds in the District. In addition to this there was a local fund of £400, which was to be devoted for relief purposes in connection with their own wounded. When this amount is exhausted there will be another £400 to take its place. (Loud applause.)

We had already sent 400 lads from this District, and they were a fine stamp of Australian manhood, and he felt sure that those present would join with him in regretting that some of those brave fellows would not return to them.

He concluded his remarks by thanking them for the heartiness with which they had responded to the toast and reminding those present not to forget when the time comes—"Greater North Sydney." (Applause.)

Mr. Claude Leplastrier (an ex-Mayor) then sketched "Queen Charlotte Sound," a New Zealand beauty spot (received with much favor), which he presented to the Mayor, who subsequently framed it and presented it to the people. It now hangs in the Council Chamber as a souvenir of the occasion.

Hon. C. G. Wade, M.L.A., in proposing the toast of "The Mayor and Aldermen of Willoughby," stated that he was glad to have the opportunity of coupling his remarks with the present Mayor, Ald. Forsyth. It was most appropriate that the name that has been connected with the Municipal affairs

of this District for the whole of its existence should be the name borne by the Mayor at the Jubilee celebrations. (Applause.)

The Forsyths had played their part well in the District. Grandfather, father and son have all shared in the honors, and enjoyed the burdens of Mayoral and Aldermanic office, and had more than once served in the Mayoral chair. That fact alone was sufficient to commend the toast of "The Mayor and Aldermen of Willoughby" to the people. Whilst fifty years ago the life of this Municipality was commenced under very meagre conditions the progress during the last fifteen years has been very phenomenal. His association with the District goes back fifteen years, and in those days Chatswood was not more than a small suburban township, but it has grown up in leaps and bounds; the population is still increasing, and as time goes on there seems no reason why it should not be allowed to enjoy every function which is conferred on local corporations by the Local Government Act, and as one bound up with the District he hoped they would be allowed to extend on these lines of self-confidence and self-reliance without disturbance at the hands of Parliament. (Applause.)

The suggestion had been thrown out that night that Willoughby might form part and parcel of a Greater Sydney, and without wishing to raise any issue of a controversial character, he thought, whatever might be the merits or demerits of an extension of the boundaries of Sydney itself, that there were many arguments why they should be allowed to extend on their own lines. He hoped that this new departure would not be in any way marred by excessive areas at its first inception. Willoughby and other Municipalities on the northern side of the Harbour had shown that they have the capacity amongst the local people for self-government, and he felt sure that they can be



allowed to extend on their own lines, with their own discretion, without in any way interfering with the scheme of Greater Sydney across the Harbour.

He was also rather alarmed at the statement made that night by the Vice-President of the Executive Council, which he hoped would not be taken literally, that the North Sydney Bridge depends on the passing of the Greater Sydney Bill. It would scarcely be fair to a growing locality which requires increased communication to be told that the price for obtaining this new connection must be sealed up in a Greater Sydney scheme. He hoped that these two things would be discussed on their merits, one apart from the other, and each be granted if the requirements justified it. (Applause.) Whilst the great characteristic of the English people has been the genius for self-government, and whilst the tendency of modern days is for decentralisation, there are rumors in the air that these useful functions of local government may be curtailed in the future. There is a possibility that the useful function now performed by the local bodies of making their own valuations throughout the State may be transferred from the corporations to a central body in Sydney—

(Interjection: At their own request.)

Hon. C. G. Wade: That is a matter for discussion. He was speaking of the broader aspect of local government. The more power you give these local governments, so long as they prove themselves self-reliant, the better it is for the people, the more relief for the central Government; therefore, for the benefit of the whole community. (Applause.) These were only suggestions that occurred to him in passing. He would like to see this system, which has been in vogue for the last eight years, allowed to develop on lines of freedom and expansion, unless there are true facts to justify curtailment of those useful powers. The Borough here has always been composed of progressive members. There is much

work for them in the future, and he felt sure that if the same class of men represented this Municipality in the future as they have had in the past, that the ratepayers need have no anxiety with regard to the future. The change in the District has been marked in the last few years. There had been increased revenue no doubt, but money is not everything. A great deal depends on the wise way it has been spent, and he felt that he could say without contradiction that the money had always been handled with a wise regard to the local necessity, and had not been wasted in idle and useless experiments. We are all in this District justly proud of the work done by the Corporation. There is useful work ahead of them, and he hoped that if there were any change in the personnel that those who are displaced will be replaced by men of equal capacity, and the same high standard of integrity. This is not a time for long speeches, but in those few words he would commend to them success and praise to the local Corporation, with all wishes for their success and continuance in office in the future.

Alderman E. G. Hattersley, J.P., in replying to the toast of "The Mayor and Aldermen of Willoughby," stated that it was only on an occasion like this that the Council ever got praise for the good work that it had done. In their District bodies had grown up, and they meet together, and instead of assisting the Council in furthering the interests of the District they created ill-feeling amongst the ratepayers, instead of formulating some schemes better than those proposed by the Council. He referred in eulogistic terms to the good work performed by the present occupant of the Mayoral chair, who gets the loyal support of the whole of the Aldermen. The Willoughby Council, as a body, worked well together in the interests of the District—quite unlike many other Municipalities. The main object that the Council

had in view was to give every resident a decent track to the railway station or the tram, and some miles of tarred pavements have been put down during the past twelve months for this purpose. It was admitted that some of the roads were not quite in the condition they would like, but finance was a governing factor to be reckoned with in Municipal matters. The people who usually complain of the condition of the roads were the very first to object when there was any proposal to increase the rates. He was satisfied that with the Greater Sydney scheme they would not get the same rate of progress as they have had under the Local Government Act. Their rates were only 4½d. on the unimproved value, but he anticipated that under the Greater Sydney scheme a rate of 1s., without any corresponding advantage to the District. It had been decided at the last meeting of the Council to petition the Government against their District being included in the Greater Sydney scheme, and he considered that action was in the interest of the rate-payers and Municipality generally. (Cheers.)

Alderman D. A. Campbell, J.P., said: "Mr. Mayor, and Gentlemen,—The toast that I have the honor to propose this evening, "Past Mayors and Aldermen," conveys to my mind the thought that this is the most unique gathering that has ever assembled in this hall. We have here representatives of all periods, from the time of the incorporation of the Municipality, up to the present hour. A gathering of this character is singular and notable. We are associated to-night to celebrate the greatest event that has ever occurred in this District, and at a time such as this it is well for us to remember the men who blazed the track, and well and truly laid the foundation of Municipal Government in our midst. Even in those dim, distant days men were criticised, just as they are to-day. No one objects to healthy criticism, but too often men decry our Municipal Councils, and it

has become almost fashionable for people who educate the public to mislead them into an idea that these institutions are not the bodies that those having a better understanding of them believe them to be. It will be an unfortunate day for this country—or any country which possesses representative institutions and responsible government—to be led into a want of appreciation of what these institutions mean to the people, and what that system of government has done for the people.

"Poor souls with stunted vision

Oft measure giants by their narrow gauge,  
Whose poisoned shafts of falsehood and derision

Are oft impelled 'gainst those who mould the age—  
Not understood.'

(Applause.)

"I am afraid that too often prejudice, bias, and an inclination to make profit by mistakes—involuntary and ill-considered mistakes—very often leads one to form an inaccurate estimate, and it is only when these men pass away, and we "long for the touch of a vanish'd hand and the sound of a voice that is still," that we would express, however inarticulately, our appreciation of their efforts. We share in the traditions which these men have fought for and brought about, and with God's help we will be true to those traditions. I believe there is a great future before this Municipality. (Applause.)

Let us play our part well; and if it can be said of us that we have in some way emulated the unselfishness and patriotism of the men we are now honoring, we shall not have lived in vain. I hope and trust in the future of this place; it is in our hands, and I trust that under higher guidance we may see our way to so shape it that it may be worthy of its great destiny, and so when the time comes—

WILLOUGHBY'S	1865-1915	FIFTY YEARS
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"Of those in the dust who dwell,  
May there kindly mention be,  
When the birds that build in the branches tell  
Of the planting of the tree.'"  
(Loud applause.)

Ald. W. J. Shepherd, J.P., who supported the toast of "The ex-Mayors and Aldermen," said that the present Aldermen had taken up the cudgels where their predecessors had left off. They were doing their work carefully, quietly, and solidly; caring for neither one side or the other, fearing no man's frown and courting no man's favor. They were sent to the Municipal table to look after the ratepayers' money and the District in which they lived, and he considered that Aldermen were more to the people than even Members of Parliament, because every man's home was his castle, and the Council was responsible for laying down the track which takes the residents to their homes. The Mayors and Aldermen of the past had set a splendid example, and showed much capacity for the important work entrusted to them. They had given much loyal service in the interests of the ratepayers, who should be proud of them.

At this stage Mr. E. J. Davidson played a violin solo, which was encored.

Mr. T. T. Forsyth, on rising to respond to the toast of "The ex-Mayors and Aldermen," was greeted with much applause. He stated that he intended to be brief. He considered that in the past he had done his duty to the District—(applause)—and did not regret in any way the services he had given to the people. He had served in the Council for a matter of twenty-seven years, and it was a very great pleasure indeed to him to see his son following in his footsteps.

Ex-Mayor R. H. Gordon, J.P., also in reply to the toast of "The ex-Mayors and Aldermen," stated that he had taken up his residence in Willoughby

thirty years ago. The methods of conveyance in those days were very crude indeed; as a matter of fact the residents of Willoughby were required to travel by bus to Milson's Point. The way the District had progressed since that period, however, was marvellous, particularly since the introduction of tram and train services. He wished to thank those present for the heartiness with which they drank the toast.

Ex-Mayor G. F. Bailey, J.P., who was elected as an Alderman twenty-five years previously, also briefly replied, and referred to the advancement that had taken place in the District since the introduction of the Local Government Act some eight years ago.

Alderman W. Cleland, J.P. (ex-Mayor), in proposing the toast of "The Adjoining Municipalities and Shires," stated that having resided in the District for thirty-eight years he claimed to know something of its past history. Very great inconvenience was experienced in connection with their water supply in the old days, which had to be taken from tanks. He considered that the North Shore Bridge should have been constructed long ago. Promises for its construction have been made in the past, but without fulfilment, and now we are told that the construction of the bridge depends on the passing of the Greater Sydney scheme. Anyone not prejudiced must admit that the Aldermen carry out their work well.

Ald. J. Knight Smith, in supporting the toast of "The Adjoining Municipalities and Shires," stated that they had on many occasions co-operated with the adjoining Shires and Municipalities for the benefit of the residents whom they represented. The spirit of the age was co-operation, combination and centralisation. It existed in all walks of life, and he thought that the time had arrived when we must give way to the new order of things, and he was wholeheartedly in favor of Greater Sydney.

The present system of dealing with matters where they affected two or more Municipalities was cumbersome, and undue delays occurred in carrying out necessary works involving perhaps only the expenditure of a few hundred pounds. It is the system that is to blame.

Alderman Tomlin, Mayor of Lane Cove, in replying to the toast of "The Adjoining Municipalities and Shires," first apologised for Ald. Wm. Anderson, Mayor of North Sydney, who had been obliged to leave to catch the special tram. He considered that they should be highly pleased with their District. He regretted, however, that the Jubilee of the District was being celebrated at a time when their own brave boys were shedding their precious blood on the battlefields. Referring to the question of Greater Sydney, he felt sure the people of this District did not want this system foisted on them.

Ald. T. B. Redgrave, in proposing the toast of "The Visitors," said that it was a source of great pleasure to have the visitors with them that night on the occasion of their Jubilee. All the little pin-pricks that occurred in the past had been forgotten, and all the Aldermen stood united with one common platform for the advancement of the District. He also entered a protest against the introduction of the Greater Sydney scheme.

Mr. John Haynes, M.L.A., very wittily replied to the toast of "The Visitors." He stated that he was totally opposed to the Octopus of Sydney laying its tentacles on this part. His experience of Willoughby went back for thirty years. He once came over on a fishing expedition, and bagged two ducks. He did not know whether they were wild, but he did know their owner was. (Laughter.)

He related some of his electioneering experiences during the recent campaign. He considered they would be the greatest "flats" in the

world if they gave themselves up to the Greater Sydney scheme. The best illustration of independence of Municipal Government was to be seen in this Municipality, and he would do his best to prevent the inclusion of this Municipality in the Greater Sydney scheme. He considered also that it was a scandal that the North Sydney Bridge had not been constructed. If the Government could find five or seven million to back the Norton Griffiths Company, they should have been able to find three millions to build the North Shore Bridge. (Applause.)

He congratulated the Mayor, Ald. Forsyth, in being the occupant of the Mayoral chair, and he considered it a fine tribute to the breed of the Forsyths, with their history of the past. We want more men of that stamp in the Municipal life of this country. He would not resign his seat or go out of Parliament until he made his mark with regard to the North Shore Bridge. (Applause.)

It was "all rot" to say that the country was against the construction of the North Sydney Bridge. He had never previously stood in Parliament except as a representative of the country districts, and he had given the denial every time to the assertion that the country parts of New South Wales were against the North Sydney Bridge. The people of the country recognise that the North Shore Bridge is a national work, just as much as a bridge across the Hawkesbury River or any other similar structure. (Applause.)

The Mayor, Alderman R. T. Forsyth, in proposing the toast of "The Press," coupled therewith the names of representatives of "The Sydney Morning Herald," "Daily Telegraph," "Evening News," "Sun," and "North Shore and Manly Times," which toast was briefly replied to by the representatives present.

A presentation of a service of plate was

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made at the conclusion of the banquet to the Mayor (Alderman R. T. Forsyth, J.P.) by ex-Mayor F. C. Petrie, on behalf of the Aldermen. in recognition of the notable occasion; the way he had carried out his responsible duties; and to suitably record the unique event of his being the representative of the third generation of his family to occupy the Mayoral chair.

The Mayor suitably acknowledged the presentation, and thus ended this memorable gathering.

Town Hall, Willoughby,  
31st January, 1916.



## Afterword.

On page 57, in addition to the words "The late Alderman J. H. O. G. P. Ffrench," under the portrait, read "Mayor in 1872."

This afterword is added for the purpose of recording the fact that since the preceding pages were written, and set up in type the North Sydney Bridge Bill has been introduced and expeditiously passed by the Legislative Assembly of the Twenty-third Parliament by the 35th Ministry, consisting of—

The Hon. William Arthur Holman—Premier and Colonial Treasurer.

" " John Henry Cann—Minister for Public Works.

" " Arthur Hill Griffith—Minister for Public Instruction, with charge of Local Government.

" " David Robert Hall—Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.

" " George Black—Colonial Secretary and Minister for Public Health.

" " William George Ashford—Secretary for Lands.

" " John Estell—Secretary for Mines and Minister for Labour and Industry.

" " William Calman Grahame—Minister for Agriculture.

" " John Daniel Fitzgerald, M.L.C.—Vice-President of the Executive Council and Representative of the Government in the Legislative Council.

" " Henry Clement Hoyle—Member of the Executive Council (without Portfolio) and Minister for Railways.

The Bill was subsequently rejected by the Legislative Council on its third reading.



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