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Wed. Nov. 24, 1929. My left eye seems to have got rid of the grit off the bricks that I cleaned, & it is not sore now but it is quite blind. I think that the 2 exposures to X rays at the hospital have burnt the retina. Last evening Mum gave me a new valve to put in the 1 valve crystal set that I have made. Our Florrie returned from the Salvation Army’s Maternity Home at Merewether after an absence of 4 days, during which she sewed for the Home. Last Friday I received a very kind letter from the Editor-in-Chief of the ‘WAR CRY’, Sydney, in which he said that he intended to print some of my verses that I sent to London some years ago. I forget what they are, but will look up my old diary. Son Jack looks for work every day but is not able to find any.

Scullin’s new Federal Government has imposed higher import duties on various commodities to make employment available for some idle men. Charlie & Fred are still at Nelson’s Bay. Following is a list of the titles of verses that I sent to the Sydney War Cry:

- The Downward Way; 7-3-1921, Printed.
- Jesus; 1-4-21, To Backsliders; 7-6-21, Consolation; 24-9-21.
- A Socialist’s Prayer; 27-2-20, I Wouldn’t Hurt A Worm; 2-11-23, A Few Short Years From Now; 2-2-23.
- A Sally Blake’s Opinion; 9-11-22, Notice; 9-11-22.
- The Old Story; 19-9-22, printed.
- An Answer; 1-8-22, Wanted—A Poet; 22-8-22, Do It Now; 22-7-22, printed.
- Is It Well?; 19-5-23, Printed.
- The Jews; 8-10-23, Printed.
- Blind Leaders; 9-9-23, printed.
- If Booze Died; 12-12-23, Your Turn Next; 31-12-23.
- A Word To The Wise; 24-1-25, printed.
- Against The Drink; 2-2-25, printed.
- Solomon’s Legacy; 1929, printed.
- How Not To Be Saved; 16-1-26, printed.
- When I Have Gone; 23-3-26, To Readers Of Novels; 28-6-26.
- Listening In; 7-11-26, A Christian’s Hope; 31-5-26.
- New Nursery Rhymes: The Liquor; 29-6-26, printed.
- With Christ In Paradise; 16-6-28, M.N. Rhymes: Jack & Jill.
- N.N. Rhymes: Mary’s Little Sam; 1-9-28, printed.
- M.N. Rhymes: Old Father Hubbard; 29-12-28, printed.
- The Cry Of The Crows; 21-12-29, printed.
- M.N.R.: Bo Peep; 2-3-29, printed.
- M.N.R.: Sing A Song Of Sixpence; 15-7-29, printed.
- M.N.R.: There Was An Old Lady; printed.
- Celestial Wireless; 15-7-29, printed.
Copy of a letter from the editor of the Sydney War Cry;

"The Salvation Army, 140 Elizabeth St., Sydney, Nov. 24 1929
Dear Comrade, I am sorry that you have felt slighted by the non-appearance of your poetry. One of your pieces has been in type for some time awaiting an opportunity to appear, and I will try to get it in very soon. Next will appear one piece by you which you sent some years ago to London which I have kept. Perhaps you have forgotten it. If so you will be pleased to know how it sounds in your own words when you read it again after its long interval. It treated on the Drink, and I should welcome a lot more like it when the mood for writing is on you. I like your style and will gladly print your pieces. Don't let them be all on the Drink, but let some be on the follies of sin, the joys of salvation, the need of practical religion, the absurdity of tobacco, the sin of the fashions, & so on. God bless you. Perhaps we shall meet one day when I am getting around. Yours sincerely, Ernest Webb."

The following letter from Walter should have been copied before:
"O/C Mrs. Smith, "Tilkah", Saint John's Avenue, Taree. Sat. 28th Sep. 1929. Dear Family, Well, I'm here at last, having arrived about 8 o'clock. It was a good run from Gloucester, excepting a slight bump around the front mudguard, I had no trouble on the way. I am not very much struck on the place, it is no exception to the general run of country towns, with its hot dusty roads. The river is the only decent thing up here, & I may go for a run to the "Old Bar", this being the name of a beach some ten miles distant. Unless things brighten up a bit I can see myself leaving in a couple of days. However, I haven't decided yet. The bike's engine is behaving well & gave me no trouble on the hills around Krambach; it seems to be better as it goes on. Walter, I am leaving here, having found it too inconvenient—running around in the heat for meals."

Wed. Nov. 27 1929. I finished re-wiring my one valve crystal set yesterday, but had the misfortune to accidentally burn out the valve. Charlie & Fred came home yesterday afternoon, both quote well. Young Brighton came with a cheque from the Gardeners' Lodge for £ 1-17-6. I saw Dr. Bourke on Monday & he told me to try my eye for a week without the dark glasses, but to keep taking his medicine of col. capacity for 1/6, & a switch handle for £d the radio shop in Union street, Newcastle. Charlie consulted Mr. Stuart, the solicitor, about the deeds for his land in Astley street, Georgetown. They will probably be ready next week. Jack took some nice photos.
3.

of Dulcie, Daphne, Florrie, Mum, & himself, & finished a lot last night.

Copy of a letter from Mr. Gavey:
"Municipality of Waratah. Town Hall, Hanbury St., Mayfield.
11th October, 1929. Mr. Josiah Cocking, 41 Ingall St., Mayfield East. Dear Sir, In reply to your application of 24th Ult. I have to advise that Council has been pleased to approve of the subdivision of lots 1 & 2, section A, situated at the corner of Ingall & Gortick streets, Mayfield, in accordance with the plan submitted therewith. Should you desire a certificate to be issued in respect of this subdivision, it will be necessary for you to forward me a duplicate copy of the subdivisional plan in order that Council's approval may be endorsed thereon, together with the sum of 5/-, being fees payable in respect of the issue of such certificate. Yours faithfully V. Gavey, town clerk."

Mon. Dec. 2, 1929. On Saturday morning I went to Newcastle & inquired at several radio shops, the price of an all-electric receiving set. Before going I saw George Sheldon's £60 all electric set, & then inquired at Stevens' & Les Mitchell's in Mayfield. When I returned from Newcastle Les came & looked at our set & advised me to get valves & set it in good working order & sell it, & then buy an all electric set. So Jose went to Mitchell's shop with him & bought 5 miniwatt valves for 13/6 each, which Mum paid. Jose cut out all of the borax rectifying jars for re-charging the B battery, & wired the set to enable the Tungar charger to charge that battery. It is not quite right yet. Charlie & Fred are painting widow Ransom's house in Mayfield. On Saturday they made some wooden moulds for concrete house-pillars. The timber cost us 15/6 with cartage. Yesterday I looked through Mum's old "Chatterbox" book & found many good items. My eyes are not sore now, but my left eye is almost quite blind. I expect to be declared off the Lodge & the Temperance & General society to-day.

Wed. Dec. 4, 1929. I got 2 declaring-off certificates from doctor Bourke on Monday, as my eye is not sore now. I took one certificate to the T. & G. office in Newcastle, & Art took the other to Bert Cadogan. Yesterday & to-day I have been making a bench for Jose to put his lathe on, & it is now nearly finished. We had a cartload of coke-brick brought from the gasworks to-day to make concrete building blocks. The "War Cry" of Nov. 30th contains my verses, "NOTICE"; but they are printed under the heading of "Notice to Jeremiah Brown".

Thur. Dec. 5, 1929. This morning I wrote a short letter to
Great Nature is the work of God,
Not something that has grown
Like mushrooms on the verdant sod
By chance, in time unknown.

How high, how deep, how wide & vast
Is Nature's boundless face!
How great the force by which God cast
His systems into space!

His works are seen through skies afar,
In nebulae & suns,
And in the faintest distant star
Thar round its orbit runs.

The universe reveals design—
A wise, stupendous plan—
That shows His purposes benign
Aent His creature—Man.

What problems had His mind to solve
To fill the voids of space
With solar Systems that revolve
In each appointed place!

Man's art but crudely imitates
The wonders God has wrought—
The countless forms that He creates
By His majestic thought.

Man's wisdom is a feeble spark
From God's great mental sun
That shone when empty space was dark
Ere Nature had begun.

And science is the scanty store
Man's patient search reveals
Of knowledge from the boundless store
That Deity conceals.

Hence men declare that great defects
In Nature's works they find,
And pit their feeble intellects
Against God's mighty mind.
What is Nature?

Great Nature is the work of God,
Not something that has grown
Like mushrooms on the verdant sod
By chance, in time unknown.

How high, how deep, how wide and vast
Is nature's boundless face!
How great the force by which God cast
His systems into space!

His works are seen through skies afar,
In nebulæ and suns,
And in the faintest distant star
That round its orbit runs,

The universe reveals design—
A wise, stupendous plan—
That shows His purpose, benign
Anent His creature—man.

What problems had His mind to solve
To fill the voids of space?
With solar systems that revolve
In each appointed place!

Man's art but crudely imitates
The wonders God has wrought—
The countless forms that He creates
By His majestic thought.

Man's wisdom is a feeble spark
From God's great mental sun,
That shone when empty space was dark,
For Nature had begun.

And science is the scanty store
Man's patient search reveals
Of knowledge from the boundless lore
That Deity conceals.

Hence men declare that great defects
In Nature's works they find;
And pit their feeble intellects
Against God's mighty mind.

For He, through Nature, works His will,
Although misunderstood,
And works a seeming little ill
To give Man greater good.

Though doubt is blind, yet Faith can see
That God does all things well;
And made the universe that we
In Earth and Heav'n may dwell.

—Dandelion.

Copy of a letter from T. & G;

"The Australasian Temperance
and General Mutual Life
Assurance Society Limited. 200
Castlereagh street, Sydney,
N.S.W. 3rd December 1929.
Mrs. J. Cooing, 41 Ingall St.,
Mayfield
Dear Madam, re Policy No.
730 569
Herewith we are forwarding cheque to the value of 19/- being
10th & part 11th accident claim under the above numbered policy.
Kindly note that cheque must be endorsed before being paid
through an account.
Yours faithfully
(Readable) Manager for N.S.W."

Sat. Dec. 7, 1929. This morning
I finished writing these verses & typed them.

WHAT IS FASHION ?

The King who rules the great &
small—
The tyrant at whose feet folks
fall—
Whose laws their lives environ
From infancy until the grave
Releases ev'ry servile slave
Pro statutes hard as iron.

This changeful king we should
beride;
He fosters vanity & pride
In all that one possesses—
In "precious" stones & gilded

1765
And multitudes of useless things
And shortened hair & dresses.

When Fashion speaks the nations quail;
And very few rebel or fail
To follow the example
Of fools who laugh in Reason's face
And fancy it is no disgrace
On Nature's laws to trample.

No Christian should obey the nod
Of Fashion, but should worship God
And banish ostentation,
For wicked pride & outward show
Are foes to full salvation.

Be modest in your speech & dress;
Live not to shine, but live to bless;
Do good, & have compassion
On those who need your love & care;
Be bold to do the right; & dare
To follow Christ— not Fashion !

I also typed, "Be Extreme", & "What is Christianity?", for the War Cry. I have written this note to W.T.S. Crawford, radio inspector:

"Sir, In reply to your courteous note re renewal of my licence, I wish to inform you that I intend to renew on Monday next.

Yours sincerely Joaiah Cocking".

Mon. Dec. 9, 1929.

Yesterday I attended all of the meetings of the Army, except the knee-drill. In the afternoon I went with ensign Burrows to the Mayfield children's anniversary service & distribution of prizes. At night I spoke on 2nd Chronicles, 29th chapter & last 2 verses, stressing the fact that Hezekiah obeyed God & prospered. This morning Gladys went to the Nannmus maternity home again. Yesterday Jose put the wireless set right. It now works better than ever before.

Gladys gave birth to a baby boy this morning at ten o'clock. I went up to Jose's house in Carrandotta street in the afternoon & erected the carpenter's bench that I made here for him.

Thur. Dec. 19, 1929. Last Saturday Charlie got the deed for his block of land in Astley street, Georgetown, from Mr. Stuart. Serious rioting occurred at Rothbury, near Branxton, by the coal miners who are locked out. They attempted to drive away non-unionists from that colliery, but were defeated by police, who shot & killed one young man & wounded several others.

There is great excitement in & out of Federal & State parliaments over the tragedy. Norman Brown is the man who was killed. I wonder when the workers will have enough wisdom to make the coal mines common property. I attended all of the meetings of the Sarmy last Sunday. Last Friday night I attended the open-air meeting of the Sarmy in Hamilton, & afterwards spoke at Mr. Finnnigan's open-air meeting. There I met little Will Brown who worked with me on the trestles at the Steelworks some years ago. He is one of Finnnigan's church members.

Last Tuesday I walked to Newcastle & had my employment card.
re-dated at the Labor Bureau. I got a 2 gallon watering pot at the Co-op. store, I came home, & immediately rode back to Newcastle & got José's gear-box from Peterson's shop.

Charlie & Fred were put off work until the new year, but after being idle one day they were put on again.

Arthur has gained 2 A passes & 3 B's at school. This is Newcastle's "Civic Week", & the new town hall has been opened.

Young Jack Hurn, who is old Tommy Bousfield's grandson, is to be with his Symphony Orchestra in the town hall tonight, & our Charlie is to be with the orchestra.

The following letter should be read before that on page 3 from Walter:

"Gloucester, 27th December 1929. I arrived here about half past 9, & am staying at Mrs. Newton's, up above the main street. Everything is O.K. & I expect to start for Taree early in the morning. The run was good except for a long stretch of loose mud at Limeburner's. The road here is under repair, & in some places I had to push the bike through. Walter."

Tues Dec. 24, 1929. Gladys brought home her baby boy last Sunday. They look well. The baby's name is John Desmond. He is well-formed & healthy, & I hope he will become a good Christian when he is old enough. Jack was paid off from the sewer work yesterday with all of the others, bosses included. That was probably done to avoid paying them for the holidays, although it is usual to pay for all holidays. Last Sunday I attended all the Army meetings. At knee-drill I read & spoke on the Lord's prayer. Ensign Burrows was in the Newcastle Hospital, where he has had polypi & bone removed from his nose. In the night meeting, which was led by Mrs. Leah Lucas, I spoke on the beneficial effect that Christianity has had on the world. Mum has received a Christmas present from Mrs. Eliza Morris (nee Fowler) of Lithgow. Florrie has received a present from Captain Olive Worley. On Sunday afternoon there was a large meeting in the Islington park to protest against the action of the Bavin Government in connection with the present lock-out of miners to force them to take a reduction of a shilling per ton in the rate for getting coal. They have been idle about 10 months, & are still locked out.

Copy of a Christmas card sent by Nelly White:

"26th Dec. 1929. To dear Auntie & Uncle & Cousins, from Nell & Bob. Pearl sends her love to you all. I hope you have had a happy Christmas & have a happy New Year. We are all well, & all at home. Join me in sending our fondest love to you all. I remain your loving niece & cousin Nellie.

"Sunlight & song fill your heart & your home through many bright & happy days to come."
Mon. Dec. 30. This morning I walked to Newcastle & returned the number 3 Alexander hymn book that I bought for Florrie, as we have one, & got a "Standard Dictionary for 2/- at Fairless" in Wolfe street. I also paid 2/- for a big book of Nursery Rhymes. I met Jim Pitts & Alex. Gibson in Newcastle. Jim has worked on the new road at Mooni creek ever since I left it. Gibson is still working on the road, too. Jim expects to be put off the job when he returns from his holidays. Jose, Ivy, & Daphne went to Dapto last week & stayed with my sister Liz Jane. Bob Woodward was there too with his wife & daughter Vera. Bob is not well, as he had a very severe nervous shock when his brother-in-law was killed in his presence by a broken winch rope about 20 months ago. A clairvoyant told Bob's wife that he, Bob, will not live much longer—probably about 2 months. Yesterday Jose, Ivy, & Daphne returned from Dapto. I attended all of the Army meetings yesterday. Ex-Commandant Nelson conducted the holiness & night meetings. Wally Bull led the knee-drill meeting. My verses, "Simple Simon" are in last week's War Cry. Last Friday I bought "Collins' Graphic Atlas" at Fairless' shop for 6/- . I also bought 2 picture books for Dulcie & John. We received a note from Walter to-day. He was at Taree on Saturday.

Wed. Jan. 8, 1930. Last Sunday I was out with the Army all day. At the knee-drill meeting I read a leaflet entitled "The Song Of Our Syrian Guest", which explains the 23rd psalm. There was a farewell meeting at night, as ensign Burrows & family are going to Tamworth. There was a public farewell meeting again on Monday night, but I did not attend. Florrie went with all her outfit to the Newcastle hospital on Sunday night, & started as a nurse on Monday morning. She works 12 hours daily. Son Jack went to Limeburners' Creek seeking work on Monday, but could not find any. I was fooled in to Newcastle by an advertisement of the Raylova Shirt Company. I found that only girls were wanted. Fred & Charlie are working in Newcastle.

Mon. Jan. 14, 1930. Yesterday I was selected with 19 others at the Newcastle Labor Bureau to work at or near Wyee, on the main road. Jack, Glady & the 2 children returned from Raymond Terrace yesterday. Charlie & Fred are painting at Raymond Terrace. This morning I finished reading, "Travels With A Donkey In The Cevennes", 281 pages by Robert Louis Stevenson.

Sat. Jan. 19, 1930. Yesterday I walked to the Labor Bureau to inquire whether I required a ticket to start at Wyee next Tuesday. I was told that there is no need of a ticket, as things would be fixed up at the Broadmeadow railway station on Tuesday. I saw brother Bob in the afternoon. On the way I had a long chat with Mr. Silcock, the editor of the Waratah-Mayfield Weekly, in Mayfield. He asked me for some verses. During the last few days I have re-read, "Heroes Of The South Pole", 253 pages by Frank London. I have spent all the day in preparing the following verses for the "W.-M. Weekly:- What Is Nature ?; Speculation; What Is A Socialist ?; What Is Fashion ?; Little Sally Waters; Celestial Wireless; To Boy Conscripts; What Is The Boy-Scout Movement ?; What Is An Anarchist ?; What Is A Wage ?; The 9th Craft Union Meeting.

Sat. Jan. 25, 1930. Last Tuesday I walked to the Broadmeadow railway station & saw 9 other men there who had been selected to go to Wyee to work on the Newcastle to Sydney road. The manager of the Bureau was at the station & bought the railway tickets for us. We left a little after 11 a.m. & reached Wyee safely. There we were met by a ganger who put us on a motor lorry, which took us to the store, where we bought bread & a few other things. From there we were taken by riding ganger Dixon to the Main Roads Board depot about 3 miles along the road towards Catherine Hill Bay, & were given a tent & fly each. Four of the men were selected to go to a quarry. The remaining 6 were taken to another gravel quarry, where 3 men were put down, including Walter Webb, of Tighe's Hill. The remaining 3 were taken to a camp about a mile on the South side of Swansea, where old black Adam lived in a hut. We found 3 vacant tents ready for us. One of the 3 men is Bill Boness, of Carrington. He is an old gold digger. On Wednesday morning we were put to work at baring the roots of trees so that they could be cut & the trees pulled or pushed down. The weather was very hot, & as I was soft through long idleness the work was very trying. We were at the same work again on Thursday, & the weather was hot again. In the evening rain began to fall & kept falling all night & half of Friday. We did not work on Friday as it was too wet, so although it was pay day & I had
4 hours pay to draw, I walked to Swansea to Newcastle. I missed it by 2 minutes, while waiting until 10 past 9 a.m. for the next bus I met Hughie Banfield of WallSEND. He said he retired 2 years ago & is living at Swansea. He has a skin disease, but is getting better. He is 72. I reached Newcastle at 10-15 a.m. The bus fare from Swansea to Newcastle is 2/-.

Florrie came home on Friday evening. Fred is packing his port to go to Barraba on Friday night with his boss, Mr. W. Williams, & expects to be away 6 weeks.

Mon. Jan. 27, 1930. At home all day yesterday. Fred left in the evening for Barraba. Rain again this morning. Charlie has made a pretty cot of silky oak for Daphne.

Sun. Feb. 2, 1930. I worked all last week on the road near Swansea, & felt the hot weather & hard work very much. I came home by bus last Friday evening & found all well. Jack worked a few shifts at the B.H.P. new coke ovens, but the work is very hard. Florrie came home for a few hours rest to-day. She is extremely tired, as she works 12 hours a day. Fred has not written from Barraba yet, but I suppose he is all right. The "Waratah-Mayfield Weekly" printed my verses, "Celestial Wireless" in last issue, but the other pieces were returned to me. I have to return to the Swansea camp this evening.

Sat. Feb. 15, 1930. Last pay day (7th) my pay was £ 8-18-6 clear. I worked on the road all the week, which was hot & dry. Came home & found all well except Mum, who appeared to be suffering from gastritis. This morning, she is much better. Jack has a few more days work at cleaning out tubes on a steamer at the Steelworks. The miners' lockout continues, & Scullin still refuses to take the coalmines from the owners. Florrie came home last evening quite well, but very tired. I am writing to the Websters to-day in reply to their letter of Dec. 31, 1929. I enclosed postcard photos of Joe & Ivy sitting, Ivy holding Daphne, & Jack nursing Dulcie. Also of Florrie seated & holding Dulcie. I intend to send the "Sydney Mail of law" this week.

Sat. Feb. 22, 1930. Came home by bus & tram last night & found Mum very much better. Doctor Smith, who is Bourke's assistant or locum tenens, said it would be better for Mum to have her appendix removed, but not for about 10 days yet; & that when the operation is done, it would be well to have her old trouble remedied at the same time. My pay last Friday was £ 8-8-10, less 2/- rent of tent. This week has been very hot again, as it is to-day. Rain is coming from South Australia & Victoria where much rain fell lately. No letter has come from M¬
ed yet, Charlie is still out of work. He went with the Hamilton Band to Wyong this morning to take part in a musical contest there. To-morrow they are to play hymns. He will return on Monday. This morning I wrote a long letter to sister Liz Jane. My verses, "What Is Christianity?" were printed in the Varr Try of Feb. 22, 1930, under the title of "The Gist Of Christianity." We are enjoying a cool Southerly change this morning.

Copy of a letter from Sister:-
"Marshall St., Dapto, Wed. 27-2-30. Dear Joe & Jinnie,
Just a line to let you know we are well, & hoping all is well with you. I have not had a letter from you for a month, & I would be so pleased if you would write & let me know what is wrong. I suppose Florrie being away you are busy, but surely Joe is not. I have had a bad time lately, just run down, with an occasional heart trouble, but Lila came home to look after me, & with Clement's tonic's help I am feeling much better. Dad is still keeping well, also the family. Did Jack get work yet? Dad would like to see him come down here to try to get work if he is still idle. How is Jack's wife? I suppose Florrie is quite settled in her work now. The Dr. said I must not be left alone, & Lila has decided to stay with me until I get strong again. She liked her place at the Home, but she would not stay there & let me tet a girl to look after me. I got a letter from May some time ago. She had been ill, but was getting better. How is Bob? They are trying to get me to go to Lithgow for a month or 2, but Jim is going to the Technical School, & I don't like leaving him. Of course Lila could look after him, but he seems to depend on me for everything. Did she know she left a baby's dress & napkin here? I could have sent them on, but I do not know her address. Nellie & Bob are getting ready for their holidays. They are going to Newcastle for a week, & then up to Lithgow. How is Grace? It is along time since she has written. I have not heard from Bob or Vera since she went home. I hope to see her at Easter again. Please send me a line as soon as you can. I wish some of you would come down, if only for a week. If Jack is not working he might stand a chance down here. Dad will do what he can for him, & so will Bob. No more just now. With love from us all, E. J. Pettigrew."

Sun. Mar. 2, 1930. I came home from Swansea last Friday night after working a full 5 days on the road. On Thursday Bill Burnless from Kiliben Bay, near Toronto, left the job because the ganger, Jack Effington, complained about Bill not working fast enough. Our Fred came home last, having finished his painting at Barraba. He gave Mum 27 pounds.
Charlie came home on Monday from Wyong, where the Hamilton Band won the first prize. I have finished reading the book entitled "A Young Man's Questions", 223 pages by Robert E. Speer. Mum has not gone to the hospital to be operated on, but she expects to go soon. We received a letter from Sister this week. She is suffering from heart disease, & Lila has left her situation in Sydney & gone home to Dapto to nurse her mother. Son Jack has again become a student at the Newcastle Technical College. He is continuing his studies in chemistry. Frank Cocking is in the Newcastle hospital to be X-rayed. Florrie came home on Friday evening. She is thinking of giving up nursing at the hospital, but is undecided yet. Yesterday's War Cry contains my verses, "Be Extreme". One mistake was made by the compositor who put "And" into the line, "In each honest plan or movement", which made it too long, but as he set up the verses in italics he made some amends for his error. Last night Mum wrote her will on a proper form. This afternoon I re-wrote "Put Anx Amen's Protest", I put it into an envelope with a short letter to the editor of "The Sunday Guardian". My pay last Friday was £9-7-5.

Sun, Mar. 9, 1930. I came home on Friday night & found all well. Charlie & Fred are idle. Mum has not gone to the hospital, & the doctor has not called. Last Thursday I got Bill Boneff's job as nipper for the gang, as he has been made the camp steward. I have a touch of pleurisy in my right side through sitting in a sweaty shirt at dinner time on Thursday. When going out to camp last Sunday night I met Jim Fraser who lived in Darby street, Newcastle. He said that his wife was always ill, & had been operated on twice, & had died of enteric fever 3 years ago. He sent the 2 children to their grandparents in Victoria. Jim is locked out at the John Darling colliery, & lives in a bark hut at Billmont. Rain this morning.

Sun, Mar. 16, 1930. I returned as usual from our camp at Swansea last Friday night, & found all were well. Jack had a slight attack of measles during the week. Nephew Frank Cocking is in the Newcastle hospital with an abscess in his lung, poor lad! Florrie came home last night to rest today. Fred & Charlie are still idle, though Fred has tendered for several jobs. Rain fell every day last week, but I have not lost time, as I have to look after the red & the white road-lamps. Charlie has bought Will Cocking's bicycle from Vera for £3 pounds. Last night Charlie, Fred & Wal repaired the bike. Mum has received another visit from doctor Smith, who gave her a note to take to the superintendent of the Newcastle hospital; so she will probably go in on Tuesday & learn when she can be admitted as a patient.
To-day I wrote a short letter to my sister in reply to her's of Feb. 27th. (page 11).

Sat. Mar. 22, 1930. I came home last night & found all in good health. Frank Cocking is very ill, but the latest report is that he is slightly better, & can now eat. My pay yesterday for full time was £ 9-7-8. Rain fell nearly every day this week, & the other men lost about half time. The weather is fine to-day. Mum has not yet gone to the hospital & does not know when she will have to go there. My verses, "Tut Ank Amen" were returned from the Sunday Guardian as "unsuitable." To-day I wrote a letter to the Newcastle Herald against smoking in buses.

Copy of a note from Ivy:-
"Grafton, Friday, Mar. 24, 1930. Dear Mum, have arrived here, as you see, quite safe & sound. It is hot here now, but we have had a mixed lot of weather, rain included, during our trip. We are making for Glen Innes to-day, & are going to have our dinner on the roadside. So ta ta. Love from us all, Ivy."

Sun. Mar. 30, 1930. Came home on Friday via Hamilton after working a full week. On Mon., Tues., & Wednesday I was troubled by indigestion—-a rare occurrence since I discontinued the use of tea. Mum is still at home. Gladys is not enjoying her usual good health. Charlie & Fred are still out of work, & so is Jack. This afternoon I wrote a letter to adjutant Hilton who is in charge of the Broken Hill central corps of the Salvation Army, asking him to try to find Will Trezise, of Wallaroo Mines, who was so kind to us in 1900. My letter to the Herald was not published. Yesterday I paid 18/6 for a pair of new reading glasses for brother Bob. Frank is much better. Florrie was at home on Friday evening. Old George Woods, who lives at Minmi, was hurt on the road, where I work, by a w.c. which fell on his hip.

Copy of a letter from brother Bob:-
"April 3rd, 1930. Dear Joe, just a line to say I got the glasses all right, & I cannot express my delight in words or writing of their worth to me. They magnify so strongly that I can see right up the end of our street, & have not had a headache once for the week, & I can read the smallest print in any book or paper. I am ever so pleased with them—they are fait accompli. A thousand thanks! I also got the list you sent of the books. I would like a loan of "The Clock Cleaning & Repairing", also "The Last Of The Mohicans", & "The Sentimental Bloke. That will do
for the time. I have an old clock here out of repair, so if I got the book I may pick up a few hints from it & set the old clock going. It will put in my time as well. I saw your poetry in to-day's War Cry. It was really good. You ought to send in some more often. In conclusion, accept my love & good wishes from your ever-loving brother Bob. En ami."

Sun. Ap. 6, 1930. My pay last Friday for full time was £ 9-9-8., minus 2/- rent of tent. I found all well when I came home last Friday night. My letter against smoking was in last Monday's Newcastle Herald; & my verses, "What Is Fashion?" were in the last issue of the War Cry. Frank is getting well, but his sister Tilly is ill. Charlie & Fred & Jack are all idle. I lent Bob "The Sentimental Bloke", "The Last Of The Mohicans", & "Clock Cleaning & Reparing." yesterday. George Bass lent me 2 volumes of "The Ancient Lowly" by Osborne Ward, at the Newcastle Trades Hall. Three members of our road making gang— Fred Reid, alias Clayton; Jim Woods; & Charlie the blacksmith have been discharged. The gravel quarry about a mile south of Swansea has been abandoned, & the quarry men are working with us on the road. Their ganger, Mick, has gone to Wyee. Our Florrie has been transferred to the women's ward in the hospital. Yesterday I lent Ted Sinclair "The New Revelation", by Conan Doyle.

Sun. Ap. 13, 1930. I came home on Friday evening in Jones' motor car, for 2/-. Most of our gang did not work on Friday because of rain. Fred, Jack & Charlie are still idle. The miners' lock-out continues. Frank has left the hospital, but he is not well; indeed he has been ordered to go to the mountains, & May—his Mother—has decided to look after him there. Tilly is still in bed with internal trouble. We received a short letter from Sister on Friday. All of the slaves at Wongawilli mine have been turned out to starve, & Jim Pettigrew is included. I am reading "The Ancient Lowly". I answered Liz Jane's letter this morning.

It is as follows:—

"Marshall St., Dapto, 10-4-30. Dear Joe & Jinnie,
Just a few lines to let you know we are all well, & hoping this finds you in the best of health. I suppose you have read of the trouble down this way again, & Dad is included in it. Wongawilli is practically deserted. The staff men were all despatched to Alexandria, & Nellie is like a lost sheep. Bob thinks he will be away 6 months; as it is reported that Hoskins has applied for 6 months suspensions of operations. It has come in a bad time, as usual. Dapto residents have not
properly recovered from the last trouble. Les & Florrie are away at the lake. They are lucky they have no rent to pay, & Les has done well for some time past. They are all in splendid health, which is a lot to be thankful for. I hope you are working, also the boys. Let me know how you all are, for a letter cheers me when things are not going well. Remember me to Jack & Bob & families. I will conclude now Joe, as I don't feel in the mood to write. Your loving sister E.J. Pettigrew.

Mon. Ap. 21, 1930. Last Thursday being the eve of Good Friday, I came home in the evening with £9-7-6. During last week I suffered much from pleurisy, though I did not know certainly that it was pleurisy until I read our medical book during the holidays I have had treatment with flannels wrung out of hot water, & with anti-phlogiston plasters on my chest. This morning I am much better. Joe took Ivy, Mum, & Daphne out to our camp at Swansea last Friday, & brought home some fishes. Charlie, Fred, & Jack are out of work still. Fred & Charlie have made the ferbery at the side of the house smaller, & have got new galvanised iron to repair the roof of the house. Florrie was at home yesterday. I went to the Islington Baptist church yesterday & heard Mr. Horne preach on the resurrection of Jesus. Lovely weather during the holidays.

Sun. Ap. 27, 1930. I returned from Swansea last Thursday night, as Friday was Anzac day—a public holiday. On Saturday I signed a document at the Newcastle hospital to consent to have an operation done on Mum, as she has to go tomorrow morning. To-day I wrote as follows to Mrs. Webster's relative:

"41 Ingall St., Mayfield East, via Newcastle, N.S.W. 2 -4-30.
To Mr. C.F. Tabb, 18 Osborne Rd., Manly, N.S.W.

Dear Sir, About a month ago I received a letter from Mrs. Emily Webster, of Portreath, near Redruth, Cornwall, wife of Mr. Henry Webster with whom I have corresponded for several years. In her letter she wrote this question: "I wonder if you have come across anyone out there by the name of Tabb? "My father has 3 brothers who went to Australia—William, James, & David, & they never wrote home much. Married, with families of good positions. We don't know what part of Australia; but Father heard, from someone that came home, that one of them was doing well. He had a large family & they turned out splendidly. Of course my uncles are all gone years ago, but their children & children's children must be out there. I should love to hear about them. Tabb is a very scarce name here."

You will see by this extract that Mrs. Webster is anxious to get some tidings of her family. Yesterday I found your name & address in the large Directory at the Newcastle post off-
ice!, as your name stands alone in the list, I thought that perhaps you are one of the estimable persons sought for. If you are a descendant of one of Mrs. Webster's uncles, or if you know of anyone else named Tabb, will you kindly let me know at your earliest convenience? oblige Yours sincerely Josiah Cook.

Our Jack has had a few day's work at the Steelworks, & has a chance to work on the sewerage to-morrow, & at the Steelworks. Fred is likely to start working soon, but Charlie is idle & without a prospect of work. May Cocking has taken her son Frank to the Blue Mountains. Tilly is ill in bed at home.

Copy of a letter from May Cocking:-
"Mrs. Mason, Katoomba, Thursday May 1, 1930.
Perriwa House, Dear Aunt Jinnie, Seeing I am away from Perriwa Street, home I thought I would drop you a note Katoomba, to let you know I am thinking of you & praying that God will give you the strength to get through your operation all right. I have every confidence the Lord will help you. He is our only helper & guide in life as long as we put our trust in him. I did not get home to see you before I left for Katoomba. It is very nice—a bit nippy, & one wants warm clothes. It is too cold to go out at night, but I feel lonely up here—no place like home.

Frank seems much the same: he eats well & sleeps. Yesterday he said he did not feel too wonderful. I gave him a dose of oil, & it did not work him, so it made him feel a bit off. I hope it will do him good up here. The people are wonderful. It is home away from home, they can't do enough for us. I heard to-day Mrs. Johnson went to hospital. I suppose it's an operation with her throat. Grace told me you went in. Cheer up, don't get downhearted. From Auntie May, xxxxx.

Copy of a letter from Charlie:-
Caledonian Hotel, Singleton Dear Ma & Boneheads, You can see by the foreign name that we are in the camp of the Philistines, so to speak, tho otherwise everything is of the best. The per amount per week per feed & perch is 35 pieces of 8 sterling, which you must admit is a reduction, considering the ruling figure here, which I believe is round about 3 guineas per week. The grub is good, & everything is as clean as my shirt, so you can imagine——

Hot & cold showers, & a clean towel every rosy morn. The job is progressing favourably, & we hope to finish inside 3 weeks. I may be home before, but I don't think so. We (O'Regan & I) went along to the local noise-creators the other after tea, & promptly introduced ourselves, with the result——well, I always was modest, but, "Who's the man with his fin—
17.

ers in his ribs?" I'll say I XXXXXXI sloshed it; & I'm p
playing in the park on Sunday. We are having a good time,
& next time you hear from us we will be coming home.
All the best. From Dooley & your Uncle Chip."

Copy of a letter from Florence Ellen:—
"Mayfield 30-4-30. Dear Dad, I suppose you have been won­
dering how Mother got on yesterday. Well, we are glad to say
she got over it all right, & her condition is satisfactory
this morning; so you have no need to worry now the worst is
over. This is my day off & I am staying at home for the day
while Gladys & Artie & the kids go in to see her. Don't wor­
ry, she will be all right, Dad. I have permission to go & see
her every chance I have, & will let you know if anything
happens in the way of her getting worse. Ta ta. Love from
Florrie.

P.S. Mother was operated on at 2 p.m. Tuesday. I was thinking
you knew. They expect she will be 3 weeks in hospital,
although it is not regarded as very serious."

Sun, May 4, 1930. Last Thursday I received a letter from
Florrie saying that Mum had been operated on on Tuesday, &
was doing well. I came home last Friday evening & found all
of the others well. Yesterday I paid the Co-op. store five
pounds off the bill, & went to the hospital & saw Mum, who is
still in pain & discomfort through her operation, she is do­ing
satisfactorily, though, & will probably be well in a
month. This morning I went & saw Tilly Cocking, who is ill
of spinale trouble. Her Mother sent us a letter yesterday
from Katoomba. My pay last Friday was £ 9-7-8. Much rain
has fallen during the last few days, but I have not lost any
time through it. Fred expects to start working to­morrow.

Mon., May 5, 1930. I visited Mum yesterday afternoon & found
her slightly better. I finished answering aunt May's letter
this morning.

Copy of a letter from Adjt. Hilton:—
"196 Wolfram Street, Broken Hill, 9th May, 1930.

Mr. Josiah Cocking, Dear Brother,
41 Ingall St., Your letter of March 30th re your old
Mayfield East. friends—Trezise—came duly to hand, but
I am sorry to tell you I have been unable to trace them yet.
There are about 5 Trezises families in the city—3 on the
West & 2 on the North. As I am in the Centre (East) they are
not so easy to get at. I have seen 2, but they do not know w­
bo it could be. After Congress I will try again, & may have
something hopeful to report. Mrs. Hilton & the children are
all well. Join me in every good wish to you all. We like
Broken Hill city very much. Kind regards to Jose & Florrie."
May the peace of God be yours. I am yours faithfully,
Chas. H. Hilton, Adjt.

Sat. May 10, 1930. I worked last Tues. Wed. Thur. & Friday on
the road. On Thursday George Willoughby (Sharkie), who lives
at Mimmi, trod on a round stick & tore the ligament of his
left knee. He was seen at the camp by a doctor, who sent him
home. We had a fine week, but rain is falling here to-day.
Mum has had the stitches taken out, & is coming on well.
Charlie & Fred have not visited Mum yet. Jose has been cha-
ging his secondary batteries here all the week, but they are
still weak. Ivy is helping Gladys again to-day. Fred has wo-
rked since Tuesday, but Charlie is still idle.

Sun. May 13, 1930. My day last Friday was 2 9-8-7. I visited
Mum on Saturday afternoon after paying Mr. Eastham & the Co-
op. store. I received a letter & a cheque from Mr. Pinfold
on Hardy's account. Also a letter from adjutant Hilton. Mum
is much better & is on the verandah now. Tilly is in the hos-
pital with spinal trouble. Frank & May visited a special
list in Sydney recently, but they are at Katoomba. I have re-
read the first volume of "The Ancient Lowly" & have returned
it to George Bass. I wrote to adjt. Hilton this afternoon.
I received the following letter from Mrs. Webster:

"Greenfield Row, Fortreath, Cornwall, 9th April, 1930.

My dear Friends, We were glad to receive your welcome letter
yesterday, but sorry to say we were more than disappointed
at the photos, "All spoilt by fire" it was said on the enve-
lope, which I am returning to you to see how it reached us.
My little girl was so sorry at not being able to see the
babies, & so was I. We love babies. I hope you will send on
some more copies. Never saw anything like it before. Anyhow
glad it never spoilt the letter, that's all right—only dis-
coloured a little. Glad to see you are all in good health,
as it leaves us. My husband is very much better. Doctor
calls to see him every month. He came every fortnight for a
while as his heart was not so good. He sends his love &
best wishes. Glad to see your eyes are going on so well.
Yes, it's not always wise to let doctors do what they want
to; in fact I keep off from them as much as I can. We are
having some lovely Spring weather; flowers very plentiful
everywhere. We have a wood not far from here, leading on to
Illogan church, & it's laden with primroses & violets.
Everywhere looks lovely. But no work to be had. We hope so-
on everything will be better if only we can keep our premi-
er in power (Ramsay MacDonald) Some are doing their utmost
to throw him out. The poverty around is awful, & so many on
the sick list through want. What wicked murderers there are
in this world! We have people around here in this small
village who are so wicked that, though they know poor men are
singing in the streets & can't buy a job, they won't help t
them, but say they are lazy. I ask them, every chance I get,
what would they do if their men were the same? To work, no
home. They nearly all have their own homes here. Mind you,
they are thrifty people, but for all that, I love to see peo-
ple think of others.

Well, my dear friends, I see you can find out any Tabbs in
Australia. Well, it's not a plentiful name home here. My Fa-
ther's name was Michael, & he was the youngest of 13 children.
They all grew to be men & women; very different, I'm told,
from families now. And he was not for being the biggest man
in truth, & Mother was a little woman; everybody loved
them. I hope you may be able to find some of their children.
They must be up in years, for my eldest sister is 68 in June &
they were older than them—that is my uncle's family. I s-
ould so love to know about them.

Dear Mr. Cocking, I hope it won't put you out of the way, but
while you are looking up the Tabbs there are my husband's
people called Chinnock went to Australia & settled down so-
me of their people there. My daughter was home for a day last
week. She is doing fine at Falmouth. She is having Myra & me down at Easter to spend the week-end if we can
manage it. Glad you get the papers all right. We & another
family are the only Labour people here. Sometimes they don't
want us to have the paper & won't get it for us, & so on.

Now, dear friends, my husband & family send love & best wi-
shes to you & all your family, with the best of health.

Your sincere friends H. & E. Webster.

P.S. Granny's family were called Chinnock. Two brothers went
out there & never wrote home. Their families are out there.
Grampa's brother died on the way home from Australia, & left
him enough to build this house & buy the biggest amount of
shares in the vessel. Then afterwards he bought them all &
became its owner, but he lost her; & as she was not ins-
ured they became reduced after rearing 16 children. So
we have a nice comfortable home, freehold property, thank God.
No one can turn us out now. If my husband's health keeps on
improving we have passed over the worst. My youngest son is
a good boy. He is working at the smelting works where his
father worked after he gave up the sea. His real work was
seafaring. His father had a vessel of his own, & brought up
his 3 sons at sea. I am not sorry for that. We live in the
house my husband's father had built just after he was marr-
ied, nearly 80 years ago, & it's just as good as new now.
Built with good material, different from what they are now.

Now, dear friends, we send our love to all your family—sons
& wives & children, & to your wife, Trust she is enjoying g-
ood health. I am well, all but my leg & ankle. We all join in
sending best wishes for a happy & prosperous new year. From your sincere friends, Harry & Emmie Webster. God bless you all!"

Sat. May 24, 1930. To-day I wrote a 4 page letter to Mrs. Webster. Mum was brought home from the Newcastle hospital by the ambulance waggon last Wednesday. She is getting better slowly. Charlie & Fred are to begin a contract job tomorrow. They had 250 copies of a tender form printed for 14/6 by the "Waratah Weekly". Jack is working regularly at the Steelworks. I sent a photo of Dulcie & Daphne on the same card to Mrs. Webster.

Mon. June 9, 1930. My pay last Friday week was £ 9-8-7. I went to the Civic theatre, Newcastle, & saw & heard the landing of Amy Johnson at Port Darwin, & her reception at Brisbane after her solo flight from England. As this is a public holiday I am at home. It is king's birthday. Florrie has a day off from the hospital to-day, & has gone to Paterson with a picnic party. This is a bitterly cold, cloudy day. Mum is not well yet. She has giddiness & weakness. Frank Cocking was operated on at the Prince Alfred hospital, Sydney & is doing fairly well. Tilly is at home, but is not well. We have decided to put this house up for sale for £ 800 through the agency of Pinfold & Co., with the object of building a new house for ourselves on Charlie's block of land in Georgetown.

Sun. June 15, 1930. My pay last Friday was £ 9-7-2 clear. The other men were idle on Thursday & Friday through rain. Tilly is getting about again, but Frank is still in hospital. May, his mother, is at home again. To-day I typed another letter against smoking in buses. Amy Johnson is flying over Australia. She visited Newcastle last Thursday in the rain. She is at Canberra now.

Sat. June 21, 1930. I came home from the road last evening & found all well. Jack seems to have a permanent job at the Steelworks. The 48 hour week is being worked again, but Sydney butchers have struck against its re-introduction. To-day's Newcastle Herald contains my letter against smoking in buses. There is another great flood in the Hunter river valley, & Raymond Terrade is under water. I wrote a letter of inquiry to Mr. W.W.L. Chinnock, grocer & ironmonger, at Wellington, N.S.W., asking him if he is related to Mr. Webster of Portreath. I also sent 3 negatives to Teale's to have 2 prints taken from each one.
Lee St., Wellington June 24th, 1930.
Mr. Cocking,

Dear Sir, In reference to your inquiry I cannot give you much information. My grandfather came out to Australia many years ago, a young man, he having brothers & sisters in England. My own father is now 69 years of age & Australian born. The original name is Chinnock, the S simply an extra. I am forwarding your letter to my father, J. Chinnock, 20 Victoria Square, Ashfield, who may be able to give you desired information. Thanking you, I am yours faithfully W.L. Chinnock.

Copy of letter (referred to on page 18) from Mr. Pinfold:


E.H.B./M.L.

13th May, 1930. Mr. J. Cocking, Ingall St., Mayfield. Dear Sir, Herewith enclosed please find our cheque value £ 8-3-0, being £ 8-12-6 re Hardy, less our commission of 4/6. Thanking you for receipt in due course.

With services, Yours truly G.W. Pinfold & Co., Ltd. M. Banks secretary."

Sat. June 28, 1930. Rain fell almost all the week, but I worked full time as usual. My pay yesterday was the usual £ 9-9-6, less 2/- rent of tent. The other men on the road had only about 2 day's pay for the fortnight. Mum is getting better gradually. She had a letter from Mrs. Elizabeth Morris this week in which she said that conditions were bad at Litigow, as many men are out of work. Kingsford Smith, with some companions, flew from England to Newfoundland, thence to New York, across the Atlantic Ocean this week. We expect to hear him on the wireless this evening. Fred & Charlie have nearly finished their job, & expect to begin to build a new house for us on Charlie's land at Georgetown soon. I have had 6 more postcard photos of Jos, Ivy & Daphne on 1 card, printed, & 1 copy each of the others. I intend to send a copy of each photo to Mrs. Webster.

Sun. July 6, 1930. We shifted our camp from near Swansea to the side of the highest hill on the right side of the road when going from Swansea to Catherine Hill Bay, on Friday last. Today I have typewritten to Harry Webster & sent a copy of W.L. Chinnock's reply, the 3 postcards mentioned above. I also wrote to the Adana Agency, Twickenham, re a printing machine; & a reply to Mr. Chinnock at Wellington, N.S.W."
Sun. July 13, 1930, My pay last Friday was £ 8-15-7, less 2/- rent. This is a reduction of 14/- through the operation of Bavin's new law which makes the workers lose 4 hour's pay per week. It takes 3 pence per pound off everyone's wages.

Last night I finished reading "The Ancient Lowlv", a work of 2 volumes by Osborne Ward, 1900. Following are some extracts from the second volume:

"We now proceed to state what is known of the influence of these organisations upon the founder of Christianity. Seemingly to hide this, doubt & uncertainty have covered it. Every contamination, such as the Tubingen school has been jumbling the evidence. It is even denied that Jesus existed.

Page 364. 'He is proving a strictly historical character; many of the best writers have reluctantly admitted it, but their testimony has been suspiciously, not to say purposely covered up. The hawking champions of property & power, startled by a forewarning that the advocates of labour cannot longer be witheld from a knowledge of true reasons why the intellectual giant drove the money-changers out of the temple, & seeing that Christianity, if realised, will also drive them to the wall, are loud against him to this day & pronounce his personality & his doctrine false. We propose to throw the light upon their blasphemy." Page 41.

"Not ill. to page 364. "Josephus, (see index in V Josephus & notes, quoting his words), has been found by the scholars of very recent times to be exceedingly accurate. Several allusions of his, being denied, have lately turned out true to the inscriptions. Josephus, like Diodorus, is being searched by the scholars afresh. It has long been denied that his references to the founder were genuine. This is now no longer denied, but it turns out that he spoke of him about six times in his various works; some of them are being quoted word for word. According to Whiston it is found that Josephus was a member of the Essenes. Euseb. I, II, of Eccles. Hist., quotes verbatim the evidence of Josephus regarding "James, the brother of Jesus who is called the Christ". Sozomen, Hist. Eccles., I., I, gives evidence of the truthfulness of Josephus & quotes his celebrated words in Antiq. XVIII, III, 3. See supra, note 18. Jerome is witness for the genuineness of in De Vir. Illustr. where the Antiq. of Josephus is quoted verbatim: Georgius Syncellus, Chronicon, page 339, written A.D. quotes Josephus. Plut. De Vitis. Pontif. in Christo, written 1450, quotes Antiq. XVIII., III, 3 verbatim, adding that there was subjoined this: "And the famous name of Christians, taken from him, as well as the sect, do still continue in being."

Photius, Codex, liber, X L VIII, speaks of a now unknown book of Josephus whose title was "Substance Of The Universe". In this work the Jewish historian speaks of "The Divinity Of Christ". Eusebius, Hist. Eccles. I., II, speaks of Jos-
41 Ingall Street,
Hayfield East,
via Newcastle,
N.S.W.
Australia.

To the Manager,
The Adana Agency,
34 King Street,
Twickenham, England.

Dear Sir,

Several months ago I wrote to you to inquire the price of your printing machines, and you replied and sent some printed matter. I was then unable to send the money for a machine as I intended to; but as there is now no obstacle in the way except a fear that the Agency may be out of business, I am sending this little note to ask you if you can still supply me with an Adana automatic printing machine, model No. 1, and if so what is the present price, including an automatic paper gripper?

I have recently found, by inquiry at the Newcastle Customs House, that there will be no duty to pay there on landing.

Kindly forgive me for troubling you again; and reply as soon as is convenient.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I am Sir,

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Jasiah Coonig.

July 6th, 1930.
ephus having in his 20th book "Book Of Histories", spoken
of the vengeance which fell upon the JEWE Jews who slew
James the Just, who was the brother of Jesus who was called
the Christ. Origen,Comm. in Matth.,p 234, more than confi-
rms it. James was murdered A.D. 62. Cassiodorus, Hist. Tri-
partitum, edoizemen, about A.D. 540, gave a synopsis of Jos-
ephus' celebrated statement in "Antiq. XVIII, III, 3, subscri-
ting to its being genuine.
Again Josephus mentions that "they dared put Jesus to death",
written by Sozomen, A.D. 640. Theophilact, Joan, lib. xviii,
 wrote about 1080, that he read from Josephus the following:
The city of the Jews was taken & the wrath of God was kind-
led & Josephus witnesses also, that this came upon them on
account of the death of Jesus. Godfredus Viteroniensis,
in his "Chron., p 66, Vers Ruffini., about 1240, confirms &
quotes his passages. It is found that Josephus again men-
tions Jesus in Antiq. XIX, IX, I, in very plain terms, as fol-
lores: "So he assembled the Sanhedrin of Judges, & brought
before them the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose
name was James". Ambrose, Hegesippus, De. Excid. Urb.
Heirosolym., lib. 2, cap. 12, quotes Josephus' entire mention
in Antiq. xviii, iii, 3, for genuine in A.D. 360.
NicoPhorus Callistus, "Hist. Eccles., lib.1, page 90-91, abou-
t A.D. 1360 confirms Josephus as a very reliable writer.
Fourth mention; Suidas Voce Jesus, wrote A.D. 970, speaking
of Josephus as follows: "Jesus officiated in the temple with
the priests". "This", says Whiston, in his trans. of Josephus,
II., p. 571, was taken from Eusebius, Hist. Eccles., who
said it was copied from his "Memoirs Of The Captivity".
John Malula, Chron. lib. x., A.D. 850; Glycas, Annual, p 234,
written A.D. 1120; Johannzonaras, of Byzantium, Chronicon
Annalum, 12th century, all wrote substantiating the truth-
fulness of Josephus. Cedranus, A.D. 1060, quotes Josephus,
Antiq. xviii., iii, for reliable, in his work "Sanophis
Hieron". Scararius, in "Actis Sanctorum", tom. v., p 149,
epFabric, Joseph, p 61, about A.D. 900, quotes the Antiq.
13, 3, verbatim. Both Suidas & Thophylact quoted from
the "Memoirs Of The Captivity Of The Jews", a book never
heard of in modern times, written by Josephus, which repea-
tly spoke of Jesus Christ. It must have been of great value.
Gibbon, "Hist. Decl. & Fall, chap. 16, note 36, says the men-
tion of Josephus is no vulgar forgery."

Copy of a letter from Mrs. Chinnock:-
420 Victoria Square, Ashfield, N.S.W. July 16, 1930.
Dear Sir, I have here a letter forwarded by my son, W.L.
Chinnocks, Wellington in which you seek people of the same
name. My husband's name is Chinnock; the S is only put on by
my family. I am sorry to have neglected writing you.
sooner. I have been very ill, so far have not made any inquiries. My husband's grandfather came to Australia many years ago with his family, 3 sons two daughters whom now are all in their last resting place. His grandfather was George, & James, his eldest son, is my husband's father, who is also James. The family don't seem to have kept up any correspondence. Of course the travelling in those days by sailing vessels was so long a journey, they seem to have just sailed & that's been the end, & the family being young just seem to have forgotten. I will try to gather a little more, & will write you. However, I should be pleased to know if there is anything. I should like to know of any missing friends.

Mrs. James Chinnock's.

Mr. Josiah Cocking, 41 Ingall St., Mayfield East, N.S. Wales.

Sat. July 26, 1930. My pay yesterday was £ 8-9-1 clear. That is a reduction of nearly a pound from my former full pay of £ 9-7-6, through premier Bavin's new law. I have been away from home a fortnight & worked full time. We are now camped on a hill about 2 miles from our first camp near Swansea. I rode home in a motor car with Bill Boness, Walter Webb, & 2 of our gang, the fare being 4/- return. Charlie & Fred have been paid £ 60-0-0 for their repairing & painting job. Fred is working for Williams again, & Charlie is making doors & windows for a house that he intends to build on our land next to our house. Florrie was at home last evening & looks well. Gladys & the 2 children have gone to her parents' place in Raymond Terrace for a few days. I have written a short letter in reply to Mrs. Chinnock.

Sun. July 27, 1930. Last evening Gladys returned from home with her 2 children & her uncle-- George Rose-- who is her Mother's brother. He seems a nice young man. Gladys's sister May came too & stayed a few hours. This morning I finished typing a short letter to Mr. Webster to send her a copy of Mrs. Chinnock's letter. Our son Fred is 21 today. He was born at Wallsend, N.S.W., on Tuesday, July 27th, 1909. Mum wanted to buy Fred a watch, but he said he would not accept one.

Sat. Aug. 2, 1930. Yesterday I was paid off from the road work at Swansea & brought all of my things home in a motor car. A part of the gang was taken to Arnie Woodward's camp at the 30 mile peg, & part is to go back to the old camping ground where old black Adam used to live, near Swansea. My pay was £ 8-19-10 clear. Jack is still working at the Steelworks. Fred is expecting to go up to a place near the Queensland border to work. Charlie is still preparing to build a house next to our house. Mum has had the last of her teeth drawn by dentist Wells, & her face is sore.
Following is an extract from "The Ancient Lowly".

"Stephen, a name signifying in good Greek, a person crowned, may not at his nomination (have) careered under this title; for after the awful tragedy which terminated his life they honored him among the immortals with a crown of glory bought by faithful martyrdom. Stephen was an Asain Greek, with a business capacity which, with his aids, every one of whom is named in the history of Luke, soon rectified the difficulty, regulating the distribution of food at the common table. This success brought upon him & the society the ire & vengeance of the great speculating provision rings at Jerusalem. These organised profit-mongers could not make money by charging consumers high prices for goods they had gotten at a low rate. Just as a similar set of speculators recently attacked the similar organisation at Rochdale in England & still undermine & freeze out co-operative provision stores everywhere, so did the speculating ringleaders of Jerusalem, burning with jealousy, energetic in their vengeance, desperate & obstinate in their greed, rave & bluster & bear down against the successful mastership of Stephen & his business-like committee. This committee with ready money flowing into a common fund, could buy at wholesale from producers outside of Jerusalem all the provisions for their 3000 members, have it conveyed to the co-operative kitchen without even halting at the shambles of the speculator. Without doubt this is what caused the rebellion against Stephen, & compassed his destruction. Only a short time before, the founder of this same society punished the iniquity of those money-grubbing speculators who had the effrontery to monopolise the sacred temple of Jerusalem. When thinkers grow in judgement & rise to the dignity of socialism & the labor problem, it will easily be seen that this celebrated attack upon the speculators in coins & doubters of value of a thousand commodities & necessaries of life whom the strange man drove from their immoral traffic, was engaged in the economic task of a true political economist; & we can find, nothing in the annals of that person & his plans & organisation disproving that he was engaged in a work of instituting an improved scheme of political economy & plan of salvation for which he suffered as Stephen suffered, & through whose suffering the deep foundations of socialism were laid. Page 509.

"Everything tends to prove that the original idea of universal christianity was towards a socialism in which all things were had in common. In a note we here allude to a multitude of evidences scattered variously among the inscriptions, & especially among the inscriptions of the good, honest old fathers like Lactantius, Jerome, Chrysostom, & ..."
Epiphanius. There are found quite a number of inscriptions, some of which are epitaphs, on which are engraved, with dates of their birth, marriage, & initiations, words recording the "incomparable love" of each other's associations; & the early fathers have left us statements expressing regrets that all at their later time was lost, & exhorting brethren to return to their old communal fold. Extract from "The Ancient Lowly", page 390.:

In the Ante Nicene Fathers, the 8th volume on the 460th page, we have the correct version of the report of Pontius Pilate to Tiberius on the crucifixion, sent to that August Caesar in Rome. This comes down to us in two Greek forms, both of which are given here. The "man named Jesus" is mentioned 6 times in the first, & 5 times in the second Greek form, which has a manuscript at the close of the fourth paragraph, naming Jesus for the sixth time. Even the letter of confession from Pilate, intended as an official report but convinced the emperor of the splendid & blemishless personage that had been ignominiously sacrificed; the more poignant to the old man because this useless undeserved supplicium of the cross was his doom. Against this every manly instinct revolted, because it was the official punishment of the slave & the lowly. Pilate thus unconsciously became his own accuser, & it cost him his office & his life. The document is extant. "Upon Jesus Christ," he writes, "whose case I had clearly set forth to thee in my last, at length by the will of the people a bitter punishment has been inflicted, myself being in a manner unwilling & rather afraid—a man, by Hercules, so pious & strict, no age has had or ever will have; but wonderful were the efforts of the people... to have him crucified."

This letter was certified to by Tertullian, & evidence recently discovered removes the doubts which long hovered over all the many priceless proofs, attached as they were, & burned up, & ignored by the prelates who could not glory in power if their darkening mists of theology should give way to honest historic records. Tertullian told the world enough to close the prating of these later mutilators. He wrote: "All these things Pilate did to Christ, & now in fact, a Christian in his own convictions, he sent word of him to the reigning Caesar who was at that time Tiberius."

Sun. Aug. 17, 1930. A few days ago we received a cheque from Pinfold & Co. for £ 11-6-0 on Hardy's account. Charlie, Fred, & I are out of work, but Fred expects to start on a job at Waltham next week. He is to leave here next Wednesday, & Mr. Williams, his employer, is to pay Fred's fare. He expects the job to last a month. Florrie is at home to-day.
& is looking well. Jack & Glady have been looking around for a suitable house & have selected one in Barton street, Mayfield. My verses, "Little Sally Waters" were printed in the War Cry last week.

Tues. Aug. 19, 1930. Last night Jack & Gladys paid £ 15-0-0 as a deposit on a house in Barton street, but will not be able to move in for about a month. Fred is to go to Walcha to-morrow morning at 4 o'clock, for a month's work. Charlie had 3 blue prints made of his plan for the new house. They were made in Newcastle for a shilling each. He intends to submit the plan to the Waratah Council for approval. I have begun to rebuild the one valve set that I made some months ago.

Mon. Aug. 25, 1930. Today I cleaned some old kalsomine off the wall of Jack's dining room of the house at 74 Barton St. Jose has bought a 1928 model Ford motor car for 65 pounds. He gave his Morris-Cowley car & his motor bicycle as part payment, & was allowed 25 pounds for them. We received the following note from Fred to-day:

"C/o post office, Walcha, 21st Aug. The people here expect snow shortly, & seeing as we are on the poop of the Great Divide we shouldn't be disappointed. There is a bit of a mix-up here about some fellow that Billy was going to employ who isn't a union member, but I don't think it will affect me much. Tell Chip that owing to this I can't estimate how long I'll be here, but will write as soon as things straighten out. We got here just on 3 o'clock same night. Fred."

Fri. Aug. 29, 1930. This afternoon Mum went to Mr. Dan. Price, Newcastle, & had her eyes examined. She paid 3 pounds for a pair of glasses & 10/- for a bottle of medicine. I have worked at Jack's house in Barton street all the week. Charlie could not get the loan that he expected unless he gave in the deeds of our house as security, which he would not do. I have written the following verses:

A SOCIALIST'S LAMENT.

Why was ever I enlightened & my understanding brightened
Till I understood the System that is making millions slaves?
Was it not mistaken kindness to remove my mental blindness
And reveal how men are plundered till they reach untimely graves?

I was happy in my childhood when I roamed the verdant wild
And enjoyed the fragrant flowers that adorned the virgin wood
For no Socialist learning filled my youthful soul with yearning
To emancipate the toilers from their economic chains.

But, alas! I read the pages of the history of ages
And the sufferings of helots as they struggled to arise
From the servitude of masters who involved them in desastes
In their warlike degradations which enlightened men despise.

Now I'm sadly disappointed, & the castles are disjointed
That I built for that New Era — that millennium to be
THAT MILLENNIUM when the duped & exploited workers
Would revolt from idle shirkers,
And, around the gladdened planet would indeed at last be free.

But the parsons & the papers who are Fat's opinion-shapers
Seem to stop the wheels of progress from proceeding on their course;
And the stream of Life seems stagnant
while the pauper & the vagrant are produced in untold numbers
By the rich without remorse.

Children die & parents suffer while some parasitic duffer
Hold the land—the source of riches—disregarding want & vice
While, to sate the profit-monger, people die of cold & hunger,
And for bread their helpless daughters sell their souls at any price.

And, alas! as time advances, Hope no more my mind entrances,
For the wage-slaves seem contented to be burdened all their lives.
Steeped in ignorance sans measure, they are robbed of wealth & leisure
By their masters, who're delighted that their Social System thrives!

Sun. Sept. 6, 1930. All last week I have been working at Jack's house in Barton street. We have received the following letter from Fred:-
"To-day being Sunday, we are just back from seeing the Apsley Falls, but they are nothing to brag about. You seem to have that other business wrong. The strong of it is that it is not me the row is about. Some fellow—a returned soldier—came along to get a job as a painter, & the secretary of the Returned Soldiers' League got wild because he wanted some friend of his to start instead. Then he said every man on his return had to show his union ticket; but Bill has bluffed him out of it. There are now four of us doing it—none unionists—so I think we should finish somewhere about the 12th Sept. Bill wants me then to tar the timber on the bridge, but we will go home before we start it. I only got your letter yesterday, & seeing you were a bit anxious I thought I"
3.

It best to ease your mind. This is not half the place I expected it to be—why we haven't had the promised snow yet, & I'm beginning to despair of it coming. Fred."

Sun. Sep. 6 continued. This afternoon I finished writing the following verses:

New Nursery Rhymes. KING COLE.

King Cole, we're told, was a monarch bold
And fond of a drunken spree:
He called, alas! for his pipe & glass,
And ordered his fiddlers three.

It seems he thought, as the drinks he sought,
Such serpents possess no stings;
And drinking gin is no mortal sin,
But sport that ennobles kings.

He smoked & drank till at last he stank
Like worms in the whisky stills,
And thought that wine was a drink divine,
Not knowing it surely kills.

His end soon came, for a self-lit flame
Flashed forth from his spirit-breath
And raged amain while he writhed in pain
And died an appalling death.

King Cole now weeps in the gloomy deeps
Where legions of lost souls dwell,
And mourns that drink made him fall & sink
To thirst in a drunkard's Hell!

Now girls, take care, & let boys beware
Of Drink ere the time's too late;
Play NOT the role of the lost king Cole,
Nor share in his awful fate!

Copy of a letter to Mum from Mrs. Eliza Morris:

"No. 3 Waratah Lane, Lithgow, Sept. 14, 1930.
Dear Mary, I wrote you some time ago & did not receive any word from you. Was wondering if you were well. Trust you are. I do hope, Mary, you are doing well & quite recovered from your operation, & that all the family & their care are quite well. I also hope the boys are working, also Mr. Cocking.
Things are very bad in Lithgow, but all over the same. What a blessing if all the trouble was over. My word, Mary, we are having some terrible weather; the wind is dreadful; it is also...

Printed in War Cry, 15-11-30.
30.

cold. We all thought there would have been some snow yester-
day, but it never came. Think the snow would clear the weater
up a bit. What is Newcastle like?, hard times I guess, for
after the long strike everything else took a bad turn, but
we must not take things too bad, for I suppose there are plen-
ty worse, what do you say?. So now Mary, love to you all
from home, & plenty for your dear self. I remain your old
friend E. Morris."

Sun. Sep. 21, 1930. On Friday evening Mum & I went to Hamil-
ton & had a chat with Mr. Pinfold about borrowing five hun-
dred pounds to enable Charlie to build a house next to ours
on our spare block. He said he thought he could borrow the
amount from a person in Maitland, & if so he would see us
next week. Our Fred came home last Thursday morning quite
well, thank God. He will not start on the tarring job for ab-
out 3 weeks. On Friday he paid the Store bill & another, &
put some money in the savings bank, making his total deosit
twenty pounds. My verses, "What Is Nature?", appeared in the
War Cry of Sept. 20, 1930. There is a misprint in the last
line of the 8th verse, where "reveals" is printed instead of
conceals. Jack, Gladys, & their 2 children shifted into 74
Barton street, Mayfield West last Saturday week. I was there
nearly every day of the week repairing things. Jack was fo-
tunate enough to be kept on at the Steelworks when 40 oth-
ers were put off. He is still studying at the Technical Col-
lege, Newcastle. Last night I got radio music from 3 AR Me-
bourne on my one valve set, but the speaking was not loud
nor plain. Following is the first portion of the deeds of our
house at 41 Ingall street:
"Certificate Of Title. 64109. (c). Appn. No.-----
Reference to last certificate--- vol .744. Folio 33. Register
Theophilus Herren of North Waratah, laborer, transferee un-
der instrument of transfer No. A 79890 from the Newcastle &
County Mutual Building Land & Investment Company, Limited,
Mortgagee exercising power of sale--- is now the proprietor
of an estate in fee simple, subject nevertheless to the res-
ervations & conditions, if any, contained in the grant here-
inafter referred to, & also subject to such incumbrances, li-
ens, & interests as are notified hereon in the piece of land
situated at Ivanhoe in the Municipality of Waratah, Parish
of Newcastle, & county of Northumberland containing twenty six
& three quarters perches as shown on plan hereon, & therein
edged red, being lots 1 & 2 of section A on a plan deposited
in the Lands Titles Office, Sydney, No. 3956, & part of Su-
burban Portion 235 delineated in the public map of the said
Parish, deposited in the Department of Land's originally gr-
anted to Samuel Proctor by Crown Grant dated the twenty se-
second day of January eight hundred & sixty nine, registered in the Lands Titles Office, Sydney, volume 81 folio 77, in witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name & affixed my seal this sixteenth day of February one thousand nine hundred & fourteen. Signed the 16th day of February 1914 in the presence of (like) Taailey.

Copy of a letter from Mrs. Webster:
"Greenfield Terrace, Portreath, nr Redruth, August 14, 1930.

My dear Mr. Cocking, Many thanks for your kind letters & the photos; we are so glad to have them. The kiddies are lovely, & so are your sons, daughter-in-law, & daughter. I am afraid we shan't be so good to look at as them. We think to have ours taken soon, & you shall judge us: see what you think of us. I was very sorry to know that Mrs. Cocking has been so very poorly. I do trulys by the time this reaches you she will be herself again. She has gone very stout, as you said; & I am gone very thin. I was always tall & thin, but now a wee bit thinner, they all tell me. I am enjoying the best of health in body, but have had both legs bad with large veins & ulcers on my ankles. They are very painful. It is constitutional, the doctor says, & nothing but rest will cure them. I sit all I can, but Mother is needed everywhere, it seems. My husband is still much the same -- better of course, but can't do any work. If he walks too fast he is in a bath of sweat. Doctor said he must rest all he can. Sorry to hear about your brother's children too. Ours are all quite well. Kathleen has been home for a fortnight on holiday. She had rain just every day, & so cold -- just like winter some days. My baby girl, Hyra, has been very poorly with measles. Then just after she chilled her blood eating, I think, ice-cream after being in the burning sun. We had a very hot day or 2 a month or two ago. She was ill. It made us quite worried, as she is a great help now, just over 12 years; can't afford to lose her now, I say. She came after 6 years, & the big ones were quite upset, but now, my word, there is quite a fuss made over her. Thank you ever so much for finding out what I think may be our relations. I wonder if this Tabb is my cousin? I bet he is. His father was a butcher & called Jim. My Mother's maiden name was Ham. Her people were butchers too, they were a large family. Oh, Mr. Cocking, I hope you get the paper all right. We never get the books nor papers that you send; they go the wrong way. We have had none for the year, & I think you have mentioned three. Someone is getting them instead of us. I asked the post girl & she said they don't come down here. My husband wishes to be kindly remembered to you; & kindest regards to your family. From him. Glad one of your eyes is good, Mr. Cocking. I have just been to the Infirmary about mine. I have to have 2 pairs of glasses. He says my sight needs great care; never go
out in the sun without them, nor read nor sew; so I must try
to get them as soon as possible. It’s lovely to-day, the first
fine day for the week. Hundreds of people are on the beach.
Now dear friends, we trust this will find you all safe & in
the best of health, & hope to hear from you again soon.
Believe us ever your true friends, E. & H. S. “Webster.”

Sun. Sep. 28, 1930. Last week Jack’s wife accidentally cut her
hand by breaking a castor oil bottle that she was opening.
The doctor put 4 stitches in the wound. Dulcie has been ill
all the week with gastric trouble. Last Wednesday Mr. Pin-
fold came here & said that we can borrow £ 500-0-0 from J.
S. Thompson, Maitland, & that Charlie could begin to build now,
& the money would be available in 3 weeks or a month.
So Charlie & Fred have been very busy preparing to build our
new house next door to this one at 41—the corner of Ingall
& Corricle streets. They had timber for windows yesterday, &
made frames. I rooted out the big Bougainvillea plant, & s-
sifted old timber & the old pump off the site of the new
house. This morning I went to the Waratah Presbyterian Chur-
church, Hanbury street, & heard a sermon on divine healing,
but I was disappointed because I could not hear most of it as
the preacher spoke too low, & has the bad habit of roaring
the beginning & whispering the endings of his sentences.
After the sermon I visited brother Bob, who has been ill a
fortnight with what the doctor thinks is an enlarged liver.
Bob is up again to-day. I am writing to Mrs. “Webster” to-day.

Mon. Sep. 29, 1930. This morning I typed “Old King Cole” &
“A Socialist’s Lament.”

Copy of a letter from Florrie Pettigrew:-

“Mrs. L. Duley, Prince’s Highway, Dapto. October 7th, 1930.
Dear Aunt & Uncle & family, Just a line hoping to find you
all well, as this leaves us all at present. I suppose you will
think we are a nice lot, not answering your letter before,
but I did not know till a couple of days ago that Mum had
not written. She forgot herself. She has been very ill six
weeks in bed, & does not seem to be picking up too quickly
Of course it was only worry did it, & we have had 5 weeks w-
ork, & now out again, but Mum said she is not going to put
herself in bed this time. Bob White is working still: he
worked all last time, five months, that is the job Les would
not take. Of course constant work is it’s only good point.
Bob has to work Sundays & does not get any extra. They have
reduced his wages to 10 guineas. Are your men still out?
Les is always lucky; he can get a stray job now & then. The
children are growing very big. Vera is 4 years old now, &
baby is 15 months. I think Joy is just as fat as Vera was.
She is 2 stone & has ten teeth, but cannot walk alone. She is like Vera, but not quite so fair. She has brown eyes. She is very good, too. Edna & Vera had their Sunday school anniversary & both received a nice book: also pearl. Vera is very proud of hers. This is the second year she has had a prize, & only four now. Pearl is growing too, & filling you out:

also Jim. Lila is just the same healthy girl; she is at home yet. I am cannot do without her.

I suppose you have heard of aunt Ada dying. Poor old uncle Matt! He is an old miserable man. He is living here with Charlie yet. The 2 girls, Edna & Linda are working in Wollongong. They are talking about taking him down there.

Charlie's wife has a son; also ernie's wife: 2 each now. Pigeon pairs. We are having nice weather here. Days are getting nice & warm. We are having baby's photo taken soon. I will send you one if they are nice. Aunt, if you would like to come down for a change you are welcome any time, because Kelly & I have plenty of room, & good weather. You would cheer Mum up. Les is busy sending money away for tickets: he is a great believer in them. He thinks he will win Tatts some day. I have had all my teeth out since I saw you last -- top & bottom set. Vera had 10 of hers out a while ago under chloroform. She is thin now, & tall & very white. Well, aunt, it is getting bedtime, so I will conclude with love to all. I remain your loving niece Florrie. Love from Mum & Dad & allxxxxx.

Copy of a letter from sister Liz Jane:

"Dapto, 10-10-30. Dear Joe, Jinnie & All,

I have just received your letter, much sooner than I deserved. You must forgive me not writing before, but I have been so ill, that all other matters have had to stand aside. Then came the shock of poor Ada's death that nearly undid the good the doctors had done for me. She came to see me often while I was ill, & had even made a black dress, thinking that I would not recover. She had apparently had Bright's disease for some time & would not see a doctor. As for her being ready, she has gone to meet a just Judge. She was a good, true wife & mother, & we all miss her sadly. Matt comes here every day: he clings to Dad like a child. His girls are still working in Wollongong. They were stunned at first, but they have lived away from home so long that the blow may not have been so bad as if they had always been with her.

Wong has closed down again for an uncertain time, & Matt has gone to Rooty Hill to batch until the mine starts again. Lila has had to remain at home for some months, as I could not have done without her. She is one of the blessings for which I am very thankful; also her sisters. Young Jim is still
at the Tech. school. He came second in his class, and had a splendid report. He has also grown much bigger than me, for I seem to be growing downward. Arthur has chosen a sensible work, for there seems nothing else for the young men just now. There are boys here in Dapto that have studied for professions & are now walking about, with no hope of anything. Jim will be 14 in January, & we will try to get him in the post office until he is old enough to be apprenticed to a trade. He has almost lost the asthma, & is a strong, big chap. Dad is walking about, a bent, old-looking man much more so than Mat. His accidents have made him so. However, he is the same cheery old chap, & has never altered his devotion to us. You mentioned the blessings I should count, Joe, but believe me, the blessing of good health is among them. I am very thankful to say I am getting stronger each day, & with care I may be granted the blessing of seeing some of you again. I am pleased to hear that Florrie likes her work, & will be looking forward to seeing her, also her Mother while she is on holiday. I received a nice letter from Pearl Shaw some months ago, but I have not answered it yet. I will do so now. You did not say if you were working still; & by your letter you are helping the boys. I do hope you are not out of work. I am sure we wish you every success with your new venture. As you say, it is risky, but never venture—never win. Dapto people have had a bad time this year. The mine was idle for six months, & only worked 2 pays is now closed again. However, although she is a small town there are no real hardships. Everyone can sympathise with each other, & compare our lot with others who are less fortunate. Our trades people are very humane & stand by us while we need it. There are scores of poor men walking through Dapto who have not tasted food for days, & are just moving on. One man told me he had walked from the Hawkesbury, & had no hope of getting work or food. Please let me know how my brothers are. I received a letter from Frank a long time ago, but he did not mention how Bob was. Give our love to Jose & Ivy, & tell her I will give Florrie the baby's dress & napkins she left here when she comes down. You will be pleased to hear that I have Vera Woodward with us each holiday she gets. She has grown such a dear girl, though not resembling our family much she still has the loving nature of her dear Mother. She is such a comfort to us. Bob is still working, & is keeping real well. Florrie got her baby's photo taken this week, & if it proves any good she will send you one. She is very vain concerning her children, but they are really wonderful, so fat & pretty. Edna has grown a lovely girl, too, & the baby loves her. She can just call her, & it is so funny to hear her. I know just how you feel about your grandchildren, for they are treasures we ought to be proud of. Pearl has grown a little
Sun. Oct. 12, 1930. This morning I went to the Mayfield Methodist church in Margaret street & heard old Mr. Davis preach from the text: "He saved others; himself he cannot save."

Yesterday rain fell nearly all day, so Charlie, Fred, & I could not do much work at the new house. All the rest of the week we worked at the building. Last Sunday I walked to the Junction & heard Charlie Hewett preach in the Congregational Church there. I walked home. Our wireless set has gone wrong again. I bought a new valve of Les Mitchell for 14/-, but still the set does not work. Fred Redhouse is to test the valves this afternoon. Gladys & the 2 children have stayed with us all the week. Her hand is healed, but the scar is still red. Last Monday I wrote a 6 page letter to my sister in reply to that written by her daughter Florrie, on page 32.

Wed. Oct. 15, 1930. Yesterday I finished painting the weather-boards, & went to the office of the Ocean Insurance Company & paid £2 9-4 on an insurance policy for the new house we are building, leaving 1/2 more to be paid. I drew our dividend of £8-15-0 from the co-operative store, & paid the bill. Sam Hiddel has finished building the chimney & side steps of the new house. We received the letter on page 33 from sister yesterday. This afternoon I wrote out my verses, "What is The BOY-Scout Movement?", to send as a letter to the "Newcastle Morning Herald". This morning I wrote the following verses:

BOY-SCOUTS.

Sir, What is the use of trying to continue in denying
That the scouts are trained for fighting
To protect the wealthy few,
When each brazen contradiction is a patent bluff & fiction
Of the folk who are delighting in promoting war anew?

Why not, sport-like, sky the towel when the writings of Lord Powell prove beyond all honest doubting
That we state but shameful facts
When we say that lads & lasses are prepared in serried masses
By the leaders of their scouting to engage in martial acts?

It is mean beyond believing to descend to such deceiving
as is practised by the leaders of this military force;
For the children know no better than to wear War's hateful fetter
That's imposed by callous pleaders for the movement to endorse.

Let me warn all true peace-lovers that the Boy-Scout Movement covers with the cloak of "harmless training" all the horrors they abhor—

Will be slain in future slaughters,
For the scouts & guides are gaining skill to use in brutal war.

Let no mother in Australia be deceived by gay regalia
Of the scouts & guides that glitters 'neath the Summer's sunny sky.
Lest he also is included in the host who taste War's bitters through bereavement bye & bye!

I intend to post this to the Herald to-day. My verses,
"What Is The Boy-Scout Movement?", by the Herald last Monday in a slightly mutilated form, Printed 23-10-30.

Thur. Oct. 23, 1930. This morning the Newcastle Herald contains "Boy Scouts".

Copy of a letter from Mrs. A. E. Chinnock:

"20 Victoria Square, Ashfield Oct 24, 1930. Mr. Cocking.
Dear Sir, Promising to write you re the Chinnock family, I regret after much writing & delay am unable to find any account of the Chinnock of byegone days. My husband's grandfather is the only one. My husband remembers him quite well. He knew he had brothers. The people of that time are all gone to their last resting places. The brothers of his grandfather evidently drifted away, or someone would have remembered something of them. And so it ends. However, if anything fresh should come to light I will write to you. I wrote to Mrs. Webster. Received her reply by day. She seems quite satisfied that we are members of the missing people, James being a great family name, & all big men. I should for their sakes be pleased. I might mention they write very highly of you, & how much they look for your letters. Trusting I have not put you to any inconvenience waiting. Yours faithfully E. A. Chinnocks/ The S is my own fixing." (Answered 3-11-30.)

Thur. continued: Yesterday Mr. Pinfold & an agent of the Ocean Insurance company came here, & Lun & I signed the papers to mortgage this house at the corner of Ingall & Corrigan streets, & the new house that Charlie is building next door, with the land on which they stand, to Mrs. Pierce, widow, of West Maitland, for five hundred & twenty five pounds...
Oct. 29, 1930. This morning I typed the following verses and sent them to the Newcastle Morning Herald:

BOY SCOUTS. (2).

Sir, I pity all the mothers
And the sisters & the brothers
Of the scouts & guides who favor
And defend the boy-scout fraud,
For each name employed discloses
What its history exposes
As the scheme of an enslaver
Whom the Jingoes all applaud.

And Lord Powell's nomenclature
Shows his Movement's brutal nature,
For they're wolf-cubs he is rearing
On sweet martial milk & whey,
Who, on growing strong & stronger,
Will need warlike pap no longer,
For, on teeth & claws appearing,
They become War's beasts of prey.

I "can rhyme, but cannot reason"!
Well, my verses may seem treason
To the very patriotic,
Unsophisticated Ma's
Who are proud of little Johnny
In his khaki suit, so bonny,
And appear most idiotic
To the jingoistic Pa's.

But I know scouts by their actions,
For they joined the fighting factions to kill.
And defended many places
When the war was at its height;
And "for England, home, & beauty"
Took Fat's guns & "did their duty",
And, neglecting hikes & races,
"AAMX proved that scouts are trained to fight."

I perceive, my worthy sisters,
That you're hocusped by the twisters
Who declare they give instruction
In the arts of Peace—not War;
Yet, when butchered dupes are dying,
They discard their cunning lying,
And, to compass more destruction,
Show what scouts are really for.

And girl-guides who wear War's wimple
Are so credulous & simple
at 8 per cent interest, for five years. We also arranged to withdraw the insurance from the New Zealand insurance company & transfer it to the Ocean company. The roof is now on the new house, & 2 electricians are wiring it. The weatherboards are on, & Charlie & Fred are now working on the inside. I have finished wiring the one valve set again.

Thur. Oct. 30, 1930. This morning I finished writing these verses:— New Nursery Rhymes. TIDDLEY WINK THE BARBER.

When Tiddley lathered gladly
His father's face & madly
Began to shave, the youthful knave
Slashed father's features badly!

The question now arises,
What caused the awful crisis?
Well, Tiddley Wink had taken drink,
One certainly surmises.

When barbers swallow whisky
They're careless, bold, & frisky,
And oft indeed their victims bleed
Through operations risky.

Drink causes razor slashes
And wrecks, & railway smashes;
And many pine in want through wine;
And homes are burnt to ashes.

Drink kills the young & clever,
So take it never, NEVER!
For, worst of all, when drunkards fall
In death, they're lost for ever!

Mon. Nov. 3, 1930. Last night I heard a sermon in the Presbyterian church, Waratah, on "The Curse Of Drink". This morning I wrote these verses to the editor of the Newcastle Herald:—

WAR AND LIQUOR.

Sir, Last night I heard a preacher
Castigate each Christian teacher
And each parson who is silent
On the subject of strong drink.
"They're dumb dogs," said he, "who're sleeping
Then strict watch they should be keeping
On the curse of Liquor, vi' lent,
But from duties they all shrink".
I added the verses entitled "The Christian Soldier", that were printed on the 4th of Oct. 1922; but I made a little alteration in the beginning of the last verse.

This morning I wrote a short letter to Mrs. Chinnock, of Victoria Square, Ashfield.

Last Saturday I wrote the following verses:— to the Herald. (3)

BOY-SCOUTS.

Sir, Lord Powell is a master in the use of mental plaster, And of camouflage & molding, & of oral glue & paint. He can stick a guy together, & no scout can tell you whether The contraption he's beholding is a soldier or a saint!

He has fooled a million mothers (not to mention all the others Who are gulled by his creation of the cubs, & scouts & guides) And they send their sons & daughters to be trained for future slaughters But decry investigation of the purpose that he hides.

If they exercised their gumption & discarded the assumption That, as "War" is never spoken, scouts are not prepared for war; Or observed each leader stifle ev'ry thought of bomb or rifle; They would know such acts betoken what it's war they're training for.

If scout-masters were to mention what is truly the intention Of defenders of the movement it would be a burst balloon, And an icy-cold condition would soon freeze the imposition That "exists for the improvement" of each infantile gossoon.

May scouts' parents all awaken ere their trustful souls are shaken By yhe bombs of Armageddon that may fall like Noah's flood, And the cheated sons they cherish may in thousands fall & perish where War's conflagrations redden, with their garments rolled in blood!

Copy of a letter from Alfred Fry:
Newcastle, N.S.W. 4th November, 1930.

Authority to extend, alter or remove existing sanitary plumbing or drainage work.

Mr. Josiah Cocking, 41 Ingall Street, Mayfield.

Sir, I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 27th October, 1930, making application for consent to do the work hereunder mentioned:

Location of the property

Situated in 41 Ingall St., in the

Municipality of Waratah

Occupied by Mr. J. Cocking and

Owned by Mr. J. Cocking

Drainage plan No. 7511; Register No.----

Full description of I.T. & I.V. disconnect property from present connection to sewer & re-connect work to be, to fresh branch sewer to be laid by the Board.

CONSENT IS HEREBY GIVEN for the above work to be carried out in strict accordance with the Board's Acts & the By-Laws made thereunder; in the actual performance of the work licensed workmen only must be employed.

If, on completion of the work, Drainage Plan No. 7511 is returned for amendment, the work executed will be shewn and the plan returned to you.

Alfred E. Fry, secretary, per C.S."

Sat. Nov. 8, 1930. Yesterday I went to Newcastle & paid Mr. Barnard £ 7-2-9 out of £ 100 that I withdrew from the Commonwealth bank. I paid Briscoe £ 20; the Co-op. store £ 12-1-11; Wearne £ 2-11-0; Beveridge £ 50; & the Wallsend Brick & Tile co. £ 6-1-3. I left the tram at Jesmond & walked to the old Wallsend tunnels, where the brickworks are situated.

Last night I heard Newcastle 2 MD station on my I valve set. Florrie came home yesterday for a 2 days rest. Mr. Tom Weller gave me an amperes meter yesterday that will register up to 20 amperes.

The results of the N.S.W. State elections, as reported by the "Worker" of Nov. 8th, is as follows: - "The state of the parties in the new parliament is as follows: - Labor 55; J. M. Baddely (Cessnock); G. Booth (Kurri); F. M. Burke (Newtown); W. J. Butler (Hurstville); J. P. Byrne (Paramatta); J. J. Cahill (Arncliffe); R. Cameron (Waratah); J. A. Clark (Castlereagh); W. A. Clementson (Waverley); D. Clyne (King); H. J. Connel (Hamilton); P. Connolly (Newcastle); F. P. Comnors (Dulwich Hill); M. A. Davidson (Cobar); E. M. Davies (Ryde); J. R. Donovan (Murray); W. T. Dunn (Judges); W. T. Ely (Granville); J. J. Fitzgerald (Albury); J. Flanagan (Randwick); M. M. Flannery (Murrumbidgee); W. Folster (Orange); M. Gosling (Kogarah); R. J. Heffron (Botany); K. O. Hoad (Cootamundra); E. M. Horsington (Sturt);
B. Howe (Nth. Sydney); W. J. Keast (Ashburnham); T. M. Keegan (Glebe); C. A. Kelly (Bathurst); E. P. Kinsella (George’s River);
H. Knight (Hartley); J. T. Lang (Auburn); C. C. Lazzarini (Marrickville); J. Lamaro (Petersham); A. Landa (Bondi); A. A. Lysaght (Bulli); G. C. Martin (Young); H. J. McDicken (Concord);
J. McGirr (Bankstown); W. J. McKell (Redfern); D. McClelland Drummoyné; A. C. McClelland (Dubbo); W. T. O’Hearn (Maitland);
B. C. Olde (Leichhardt); J. Quirk (Balmain); W. J. Ratcliffe (Barwon); M. O’ Sullivan (Paddington); W. J. Scullin (Nanango;)
T. J. Shannon (Phillip); T. Stanley (Lakemba); R. J. Stuart-Robinson (Annandale); A. Tonge (Canterbury); J. M. Tully (Goulburn);

NATIONALISTS. 23.
C. E. Ardill (Yass); Dr. R. Arthur (Cosman); R. T. Bull (Corowa);
H. J. Bates (South Coast); T. R. Bayin (Cromin); W. Bennet (Gloucester);
W. Cameron (Upper Hunter); H. P. Fitzsimmons (Lane Cove); J. A. Chaffey (Tamworth); J. M. Dunningham (Coogee);
W. F. Foster (Vaughnuse); Sir Thomas Henly (Burwood);
J. Jackson (Nepean); L. M. J. Jarvie (Ashfield); Sir Daniel Levy (Woolahra);
L. O. Martin (Oxley); J. T. Morton (Wollondilly);
A. E. E. Vee Reid (Manly); E. L. Sanders (Willoughby); J. B. Shand (Hornsby); B. B. B. Stevens (Croyden); R. B. Walker (Hawkesbury);
R. W. D. Weaver (Neutral Bay);

COUNTRY PARTY. 12.
M. F. Bruxner (Tenterfield); A. E. Budd (Byron); A. E. Buttenshaw (Lachlan); H. C. Carter (Liverpool Plains); D. H. Drummond (Armidale);
W. W. Hedges (Monaro); M. Kilpatrick (Wagga);
H. Main (Temora); W. T. Missingham (Lismore); A. J. Pollack (Clarence);
J. T. Reid (Casino); R. S. Vincent (Raleigh);

PERSONELL OF NEW MINISTRY:-
J. T. Lang, premier, treasurer, & minister for railways.
J. M. Baddeley—minister for mines, labor & industry.

OTHER POSITIONS.
F. W. Burke nominated for speakership of Leg. Assemby.
H. J. Connel for chairman of Committees. Ratcliffe, Horsington & Tonge were elected as the Labor Party’s nominees on the parliamentary works committee. Other ballots resulted as follows:—Deputy leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party—J. M. Baddeley. Chairman of the Party—H. Knight. Secretary—
Thur. Nov. 20, 1930. Yesterday I walked to Hamilton & asked Mr. pinfeld for another cheque for the new house. He promised to have one brought by the end of this week. Last week's War Cry contains my verses, "Old King Cole"—Joe was here last evening & wired up the rheostat that I made for the tungar charger.

Florrie came home on Tuesday & went away again on Wednesday. She is not very well. She is on night duty & will be on 3 months. Charlie & Fred have nearly finished the new house.

This morning I wrote these verses on the speech by the Governor, Sir Phillip Game:— "WAR HAS FAILED."

"War is a malignant growth on humanity, & I certainly do not agree with those people who say that humanity needs war as a tonic. If it does humanity is doomed."

In these words the State Governor (Sir Phillip Game) on Saturday denounced war when speaking at the opening of the Maroubra Soldiers' War Memorial. "... while the spirit that pervaded us in 1914-18 was magnificent, there is no one who will say that the world is any better for the great clash of arms" he said. His excellency added that he was not opposed to armies & navies, but at the same time he hoped that the world had learned its lesson. War had failed, both as a moral & material force, & he trusted that the people would not be again deluded into a glorification of war.—Newcastle Herald, 17-11-30.

Well done! well done! Sir Phillip Game! You've put the parsons all to shame Who proudly call men "heroes" Who perpetrate unholy wars (Which Christ, the Prince of Peace, adores) For empir-building Neros.

You shame the frauds who speak the lie That men are worthy when they die On gory fields of slaughters Where "heroes" take their brothers' lives And make lone widows of their wives And orphans of their daughters.

You are a man of courage bold Who tells the truth that should be told— That war is simply madness, And warriors are brutal fools Who make themselves Fat's abject tools To fill the earth with sadness.

"Thou shalt NOT kill", said God above: And Christ's injunctions are to love— Not kill—an erring brother;
To help poor widows in distress,
And make Earth's sum of sorrow less
By helping one another.

This truth should be well understood—
That wars achieve no lasting good;
That World-Co-operation
 Alone can make earth's sorrows cease
And bring prosperity & peace
To each fraternal nation.

Although you may arouse the ire
Of those who live by blood & fire,
Whose welcomes may grow colder;
And though you loose a verbal flood
From dames who dote on deeds of blood,
Still make your speeches bolder.

And though the Jingo's stand appalled
And you, alas! may be recalled
Through charges they may level,
Speak boldly still, sir Phillip Game;
Be like in nature as in name:
"Tell truth, & shame the Devil!"

(Printed 27-11-30.)
Fri. Nov. 21, 1930. This morning we received a cheque for £ 8-7-10 from Mr. Pinfold, on Hardy's account. I walked to Hamilton this morning & took a receipt for the cheque to Pinfold's office. From there I walked to the office of the Ocean Insurance co. in Newcastle, paid £ 2-16-0 for the insurance of the house we live in. Then I went to the hospital & paid 6/6 for a quarter, in advance. From there I went to the Water Board's office & put in an application for water to be laid on to the new house. That cost 3/-, which I paid; also 3/- for water used in building the chimney & front of the new house. Then I walked to Bert Cadogan's house at Newtown & paid his wife 17/- for the last quarter's contribution to the Gardeners' Lodge. From there I walked home & arrived just in time to escape a thunderstorm, & to receive a cheque for £ 402-1-6 from Mrs. Pierce through lawyer Weekes. That made £ 502-1-6 actually received by us from her. The rest of the £ 525-0-0 that we borrowed was taken out for legal expenses. I also returned Ella Wheeler Wilcox' poems to George Bass at the Newcastle Trades Hall in Union street. This morning I wrote 5 verses of new nursery rhymes on "Who Killed Cock Robin?". Yesterday I finished reading the pamphlet entitled" Dreiser's Russia". 1928.
Sun. Nov. 23, 1930. Yesterday I went to the Bank of Commerce (Round-top Bank) & tried to change the cheque for £402-1-6, but could not. I then went to the Co-op. store & paid our bill out of it, but had to pay 3/6 exchange. I came home & put 100 pounds away for Charlie, & banked £200-0-0 in the Tigles Hill post office, while Fred banked 97 pounds in the State Bank of N.S.W. in Mayfield.

Sun. Nov. 30, 1930. Charley & Fred have almost finished the new house. I repaired the fence between our 2 houses, but all the rest of the fence has to be done. Jose was here last night with his Ford car, which he & Walter have repaired & cleaned. Jack, Glady, & 2 children were here too. Jack is still working at the Copper company's coke works, but he expects to be put off shortly. Last Friday Mum & Gladys went to Newcastle & had an impression taken of their teeth, & have to go to the dentist again to-morrow. This morning I finished writing the verses below:—

New Nursery Rhymes. WHO KILLED COOK ROBIN?

We have read in the nursery annals of yore
How poor Robin was brutally slain,
And can picture his plumage bedraggled in gore
As he perished in sorrow & pain.

We have read how his slayers confessed of their guilt—
How they boasted, indeed, of their crime
And appeared to be proud that his blood they had spilt,
As though murder were truly sublime.

But, alas! in these days men are murdering men
In a licensed & legalised way,
For in wine-shop & shanty, in beer-shop & den
They're retailing the liquors that slay.

Yet we read no confessions of those who decoy,
Though their victims are poisoned & lamed;
They are silent concerning the souls they destroy;
Of their wickedness they are ashamed!

But, before God's tribunal, when records are read,
And the Lord sits to curse or to bless
All the actions through life of the quick & the dead,
They will then be compelled to confess.

They shall hear His dread sentence pronounced on the then
As despairing & guilty they shrink,
"Ye shall suffer for ever the woes of the men
Who have given their neighbours strong drink".
(See Habakkuk, 2--15.)
Dec. 7, 1930. Today I wrote a 6 page letter in reply to the following letter from Mrs. Webster:

"Greenfield Row, Portreath, nr Redruth Oct. 29, 1930.

My dear Mr. Cocking, Just a few lines to say that we hope this will find you in good health, as it leaves us all just now. My husband sends kindest regards to you & he is no worse. Dr. was here last week, & he says he is really much better, but must take everything as quiet as possible, but he has a very excitable nature, so he does not take things as easy as he ought; but there! we try to make the best, but we rather he could take it easy. I received a letter from Mrs. Chinnock, & am expecting some more news from her. I told her it is no money we are seeking, but just to know if any of them are living; as one of them came home & stayed for a time with my .... After going back he wrote a few letters, then they never heard from him again. I am getting the papers, & we enjoy reading them; they are very good. We are the only ones in Portreath that buy the Labour paper. The boy who brings them say we are the only ones in Portreath that ask for them, but now he has a good sale for them. It shows that the people's eyes are opening. We are glad to see that the Labour Party has gone in out with you. Trust they will remain so. Our Labour Party has to fight home here to keep their place. All the mines are closed here. Never such a thing known. The smelting works where my husband was has almost closed, & the distress is awful. Only five men here singing. One poor man, looking like death, trying to sing. Those that are working are only half paid. I wonder now will they vote against them, I don't think the men will; it's the women's vote .... few down here. They say, "See what Labour has done for us! They are the only ones that are trying."

We are sending these little cards to wish you a Merry Christmas & new year. My baby girl is sending a handkerchief to each of the 2 lovely girls, whose photos we admire very much. Hyra is fond of children, & would love to hug them both. We all join in sending you all our best love & wishes. We remain your sincere friends Harry & Emmie Webster."

(Answered Dec. 7, 1930.)

Sun. continued. Yesterday I withdrew a hundred pounds from the Commonwealth bank & paid it all away, except about 16 pounds. Jack, Gladys, & the 2 children were here last night. This morning, when listening to 2HD Newcastle, I found that if a coil of wire is placed on the knob of a variable condenser of a 2 valve receiving at the sound is enormously increased.

Sun. Dec. 14, 1930. Last Thursday Mr. Arthur renewed our radio...
I sense at the Tighe's Hill post office for 24/- Charlie & Fred have almost finished the new house. All that remains to be done is a little mull-whiting. Miss Fraser inspected the house yesterday & was very pleased with it. Mr. Dixon (next door) & Mrs. Stevens of Gorrick street also looked through the house. I have been busy all the week making a crystal set with 2 values. It is described on pages 73 & 74 of "Wireless Sets For Home Constructors", by E. Redpath.

Son Jack was put off from the Copper ore ovens last Thursday. Florrie, Walter, & Jack have sat for examinations during the week. Walter's questions were particularly hard to answer, so hard that some of the students did not attempt to answer them. Art also had an examination recently. This morning I finished writing the following verses:

WHAT IS EVOLUTION?

A theory concerning Man which ancient infidels began
Ere Darwin made his guesses—
A theory disproved by time, that Man began in primal slime
Of oceans' dark recesses.

A myth that monads were the first of animated things that
The bonds of Death asunder
And sprouted fins, & claws, & tails
Because the fittest thing prevails
While unfit things go under.

A theory that as they grew to suit environment anew
New species were engendered;
That strong with weaker beings fought for sustenance they
Until the weak surrendered.  (ever sought,

This theory was well received by those who willingly be—
But Science now discloses
The truth, since Mendel plied his spade & verified the state—
ments made

In Genesis by Moses.

Experiments have amply shown that no new species may be
By infidels, so clever,
For Mendel found, as all may find, that living things of ev'ry
Revert to type for ever. !

(printed 19-12-30, Newcastle Herald)

I intend to send the verses above to the editor of the Newcastle Morning Herald with a private letter complaining of the the rejection of some & the mutilation of other, versified letters. I will send it to the War Cry also.
Fri. Dec. 19, 1930. Florrie came home yesterday. She has passed her exam. at the hospital. "What Is Evolution?" was printed by the Newcastle Herald yesterday without mutilation, but "nomad" was mis-printed "nomad". This morning I re-wrote, "I Wonder," dealing with the drink, & intend to take it in to the Herald office. Last evening I made a crystal, but it will not work.

Thur. Dec. 25, 1930. Our new house is quite finished, & the front & side fences are completed. Fred gave the front fence its first coat of paint yesterday. Jose gave me 3 new valves to put into my 5 valve receiver, yesterday. He gave Walt a pencil-case & a lovely fountain pen, & gave his Mother a piece of silk to make a dress. Florrie was at home ill on Mon. Tues. & Wednesday of this week, we called doctor Bourke to see her. The trouble seemed to be influenza. She went back to her night work on Wednesday evening. Mrs. Eliza Morris gave Mum a coat hanger. "Ellie & Bob White sent a card. Daphne has been ill 3 or 4 days, but is much better now. This morning I prepared the Christmas number of "The Australasian" to send to Mrs. Webster.

Thur. Jan. 1, 1931. This morning Mum & Florrie left home to visit my sister & family at Dapto. The weather has been rainy all the week, but to-day is fine. Charlie went with a musical party to Tuncurry, near Taree, last Tuesday night. Fred has been painting a place in the street where the Victoria theatre stands (Perkins St.). Percy Tooth got the job, & has been working there with Fred since last Monday. They expect the job to last a week. Wal & Art are at home with me to-day.

Sat. Jan. 3, 1931. When I was a patient in the Wallsend hospital some years ago I copied the following poem from a book:

"ENCOURAGEMENT." (By E. Bell.)

I do not weep, I would not weep;
Our Mother needs no tears;
Dry those eyes too, 'tis vain to keep
This senseless grief for years.
What though her brow be changed & cold,
Her sweet eyes closed for ever?
What though the stone—the darksome mould
Our mortal bodies sever?
What though her hand smooth ne'er again
Those silken locks of thine
Nor through long years of future pain
Her kind face o'er thee shine,
Remember still she is not dead;
She sees us, sister, now.
Laid, where her angel spirit fled,
Mid heath & frozen snow.
And from that world of heavenly light
Will she not always bend
To guide us in our lifetime's night
And guide us to the end?
Thou knowest she will, & thou mayest XXXX mourn
That we are left below,
And not that she can never return
To share our earthly woe."

Walter & Arthur have gone to Newcastle, & Charlie is still at Tuncurry. Three men were drowned there yesterday through a boat capsizing during a storm. Fred is painting in Newcastle. This afternoon I wrote a 3 page letter on Spiritualism to the Newcastle Herald.

Sun. Jan. 4, 1931. Charlie returned from Tuncurry this morning. Yesterday I received the following letter from Mum:

"People's Palace, 2-1-31. Dear Dad & Family, You will see by this we arrived all right, & we are as happy as we can expect to be under the circumstances, as it is pouring rain. We had a hard job to get a room, & if I had not looked very disappointed I would not have got one. It is 8/- a night, but we are buying bread, butter, & tomatoes & eating them in our room, & drinking water. What do you know about that, Dad? I went over opposite to price a room, & they wanted 10/-, so we are a little cheaper here, & we get 2 meals for the 2 of us for the price of one if we went to an eating house, & we must economise in some way. We went out yesterday & we were flogging ourselves to think you all were not with us. We went to the State pictures, & I have never seen anything so beautiful in my life. Pictures in Newcastle do not compare with them. We have been to Grace Brothers this morning to get the paper & envelopes, & I got my hat, which is very nice, but I don't see anything so tearing cheap here, no more than up there, as it cost me 19/-, & it is quite enough for it. Florrie got a very cheap piece of crepe de chene that had been 9/- a yard, & she got it for 3/-! There was a very pretty brown I would have liked, but had not the money to get it. Has Charlie come home yet? Has Fred finished his job? Are Wally & Artie doing all the work? How is poor little Daphne? I hope she is better by this. Do not answer this to this address as we will be leaving tomorrow if possible, as funds won't allow too much 8/- a night. Florrie is real good to be away with, but I feel a terrible sponge on her—poor kid. Well, now I will close with love to you all from Mum. Don't forget to look after Artie, as I
do miss him, in fact I miss you all. I am writing now to aunt Lizzie."

Thur. Jan 8, 1931.

Mr. Pinfold came yesterday & inspected the new house, & was much pleased with it. He fixed the selling price at £ 750-0-0, & said that he would try until the end of this month to sell it before letting it.

Copy of my letter to Mum & Florrie:


Dear Mum & Florrie, As I had quite forgotten to ask you to write to let us know how you got on during your holidays, I was very much surprised & pleased to receive your cheery letter yesterday. I am pleased to find that you are both enjoying the sights & sounds of Sydney. Don't spoil your well-earned pleasure by worrying about us, for we are all quite well & are getting along like a bush fire. Artie & Walt are taking valuable lessons in the intricate & mysterious art of cookery, & taking them voluntarily too! If you remain away long enough they should become very good cooks. You were unfortunate in having rainy weather in Sydney, but there is always one compensating benefit in rain - it keeps the dust out of your eyes! According to the wireless & paper reports the worst of the rain has now gone; & so we expect & hope that both of you will very much enjoy your trip to Dapto & other places further South. Try to forget all about the houses & us for a month, & so give your minds & bodies the rest that they so much require. I am glad that they took pity on you at the People's Palace & let you have a room even though it was expensive Jose, Jack, & I stayed at the place opposite, & I was glad to get away from the men that we slept near. It is no wonder that you wrote such a nice letter, Mum seeing that you had got up as far as water! Keep on with that pure, delicious drink, & you will be almost a new woman by the time you return. We are also drinking water, but with raspberry syrup added. I don't think we have made any tea since you have left us. Yes, Charlie returned about 7 o'clock this morning. He was disappointed with his trip, for the disaster at Tuncurry in which three poor men were drowned through a launch capsizing in a sudden squall, cast a gloom over the whole district & spoiled the holidays. Charlie said that previous to the accident there were about 20 people on the launch, intending to take a trip, when it almost turned over, & would have done so if the men had not rushed to the side & righted it. The police then ordered all the people off the vessel, & the owner swore at the police for doing so. Later on the owner & 2 others went out with the launch & a sudden
while they were preparing to return, the launch (being top-heavy) overturned & sank like a stone. The owner & the others were drowned. Charlie was out with others in another launch in the same storm, but in another place, but their launch being seaworthy, they returned safely. The awful disaster caused a lot of excitement in the district.

I hope that you both keep clear of boats, for you do not know, being strangers, whether they are trustworthy or not.

Fred has not finished his painting yet, & I don't know when it will be completed. No, hum, my dear, Arthur is not doing all of the work, but they are doing all of the cooking, & seem to like the work. We don't know how Daphne is, but Jose & Ivy were out with their car yesterday, so I think Daphne can not be very ill. Fred Redhouse was here yesterday with an induction electric motor he has built to run a gramophone with. He wanted to see Jose about it as it does not run properly; & as Jose was not here Fred rode on his bicycle up to Carrandotta street & found that the car had gone with all hands on board. We had lovely weather yesterday, & are having a nice sunny day again to-day. I suppose you visited Pearl before you left for Dapto, she & Lionel would be very pleased to see you both. If you did not pay them a visit you should do so when you return from Dapto. Let them know that you are coming, & then they can prepare to receive you. Remember that you are both off the chain for a little while, & if you take my advice you will see as many places & visit as many friends as possible while you have the opportunity. Tedden every day you do kill a pig, you know. Well, my loved ones, as I am not writing a book, I will conclude for the time by wishing you both a very happy time, not only during your holidays, but right through this new year, & I wish you to thank my dear Sister for her cards & the good wishes they brought me. Also heartily thank the dear girls, who also sent us lovely cards & lovelier wishes. Tell them that although I did not send them any cards, I love them all & wish them in return the very best on earth & in Heaven. Just as I am writing Jose has come in. He has just left work. He said that Daphne is all right again, so that is something to be thankful for. Well, like a lover at a gate, I wish you good bye again my dears, & hope that if you hang your hats on the gooseberry bushes you won't go down the water. Dad.

Post script: Tell uncle Jim that I am very sorry that I could not very well leave my beloved Radio & show him how to shoot, but that some day, as the old song says, "I may wander back again".

Post postscript: Jose wanted to know how you are financially, & I assured him that you have enough money to see you through the trip. Was there ever a more thoughtful son or brother in the world? If so, I would like to meet him. I hope & trust
that young Jim will be the same when he reaches man's estate. By all accounts he is a very good boy, and good boys generally become good men. Wishing him all he loves "A Happy New Year" & many of them, I must now conclude. Write when you have time & let us know how you are all faring. Dad."

Copy of a letter from me to Mum & Florence:--
"41 Ingall St., Mayfield East, Thur. Jan. 8th, 1931.
To Mrs. M.J.Cocking, c/o Mr. J. Pettigrew, Marshall St., Depo.
Dear Mum & Florrie, Your letter of anxious inquiry reached us this afternoon, & you surprised us by saying that you had not heard from us. I replied to your letter last Sunday, as I know how your love makes you fidgetty about us all; & thought it would calm your needless fears & imaginations. I am sorry that it had not reached you when you wrote, but no doubt you have received it by this time. However, as one never knows what may happen to a letter after it is posted, I am writing again to assure you that everything here is going along very well indeed. We are even benefitting by your absence, as we are now learning about the house we live in, & can even find things ourselves. Besides that the boys are learning how to cook without meat & to make palatable dishes without tea & flesh. Indeed I find that they are really vegetarians & fruitarians when they are left to sit themselves. We have had very little meat since you left us. Now Mum, my dear, we are NOT glad to get rid of you, but we are glad that you have torn yourself away from the fleshpots of Mayfield, & we hope you will enjoy the change & rest. Of course we know that Florence will not require to be told to take every bit of safe & innocent enjoyment that she can lay her sunburnt hands on. But you do need to be told to take a little holiday once in a few years. Your letters show that you think more of us than you do of yourself. Don't worry so much about us, Mum, my dear, but have a time of rest & mental & physical relaxation; it will do you a world of good.
I thank God that we are all well. The only little trouble is that my shin is a little sore & tender, but I disinfect it with bichloride of mercury, & then put Tiger salve on, & it seems to be healing slowly. I am glad that Florrie likes Depo, but I don't want her to love it enough to stay there. It is good to read that the colliery has started again after such a long rest. I hope nothing will happen to throw it idle again until it is worked out. But I suppose that that is hoping for the impossible.
Yes, Mum, go to the show--go everywhere & see everyone & everything worth looking at & being acquainted with. You did not say what Sister was putting in the show, but whatever it is I hope it will gain a prize.
Yes, I am looking after Art all right; but you seem to forget
that he is not Artie now, but Arthur, & that he is big enough to look after me! Of course he is young & inexperienced; do I give him all the advice I think he needs; but I can't say like the Cousin Jack said of his boy, "I've teched un all I knew, & now he do know nothin' at all!" Indeed if you look at the daily paper you will see that Art has passed his examination pretty well. The published results of the Newcastle Central School examinations show that Arthur is one of four who got two A & five B passes. They were excelled by only three who got more than 2 B passes. For fear that you may not have seen the results I will give you Art's as it appears in the paper:--  "Cooking, Art. J. 1 B 2 B 3 B 4 B 5 A. All A-19 A." This, being interpreted, means that in the subject numbered one, that is English, he obtained a B pass. In the subject numbered 2 he got a B pass also— that is for History. For the 4th subject (Mathematics) he gained a B pass. For the 5th he got an A, that is in Mathematics II. He got an A for the eleventh subject, that is Elementary Science (Physics & Chemistry); & for the 19th subject, Metalwork, he got XXXIII an A pass. So you need not be ashamed of your baby boy. Of the other scholars who were examined there were 27 who gained only B passes.

Yes, Mr. Pinfold came yesterday, after Charlie rang him up on the telephone, & brought 2 placards with him to advertise the house for sale. He fixed the selling price at £750. I asked him how long he would try to sell before letting the house, & he said "until the end of this month". He was very highly pleased with the decorations of the interior, & asked Charlie how they did it. They have the fences to finish yet.

Fred finished his job in Newcastle yesterday, but has not been paid his nine pounds yet. Charlie gave me ten shillings this week, so I still have enough to balance my budget. I lent Jack a pound; so he is right for a while, though he is still idle. Art rode up to his place to day & found that young John had some trouble with his throat, & as the doctor thought it might be diphtheria, sent John to the Newcastle hospital & had his throat swabbed. I don't know yet what they found, but they think he has only tonsilitis, & that he will soon be all right. Art brought some nice ripe tomatoes down from Jack's place. We have begun to pick our nectarines, but the peaches are not ripe enough. There may be a few left for you, but don't depend too much on them. Jose calls now & then. He said Daphne is right again. Ivy too is A 1. We are doing the housework among us. I make the beds & water the pot-plants. Art helps me to wash up & I help him. He sweeps up & helps about the cooking. We are going very strongly on fried onions & tomatoes. For a change Art said we shall have onions & tomatoes to-day, instead of tomatoes & onions. I failed to see the difference un-
we

he pointed out that when we speak of bread & butter we mean that there is much bread & little butter; & when we say butter & bread we mean much butter & little bread.

Yes, we all like "fermatoes" & onions, & no meat with them.

I saw by the paper to-day that poor old Mr. Millington has died. I never knew poor Sam Dunne, but I am sorry to hear that he too has passed away. I hope he was prepared to go, poor chap. It will be hard for Maggie. At times like this, I feel that I would like to be a billionaire so that I could help widows & orphans. However, the government will help them if she applies for assistance. They have my sympathy, but that is about all I can give at present.

Last Monday I did the washing & Charlie did the ironing on Tuesday afternoon, & made a good job of it. You have a good lot of boys, if you do say it yourself, as shouldn't. And as for your daughter—well—I don't propose to say! And talking of proposals might, as Bret Harte said, "Cause in the sinful a smile." Anyhow your girl & boys are no better than their Mother. But I must stop this nonsense & conclude by saying that I remain as ever, yours with love—Dad. Good night, & God bless you all!

The Intermediate Newcastle & North examination results were partly published yesterday. The results of the Newcastle Central School examination show that our Arthur is one of four who got two A's & five B's. Fred finished his painting job yesterday, so he is again out of work. I have finished writing this new version of "Ride Acock Horse To Banbury Cross."

A New Nursery Rhyme.

RIDE IN A CAR.

Ride in a car to places afar,
See a gay party within a new car;
Bottles of beer & a whisky or so;
They shall have troubles wherever they go.

"Drink up, my lad; no time to be sad;
Let us imbibes be merry & glad;
Let us forget all our sorrow & strife;
Riding & drinking, ah! this is the life!"

See how they ride, outpacing, with pride,
Dodges & Austins & many beside;
Throwing their kisses to farmer & wife,
Singing their choruses— this is the life!

Dashing through mud; the river in flood;
Quickly the alcohol enters their blood.
"Step on the juice & enliven the pace, 
Hip! Hip! Hurrah! we are winning the race!"

Look how they swerve approaching the curve; 
See how the alcohol injures the nerve; 
Zig-zagging down from the towering ridge, 
What will occur when they're crossing the bridge?

Swiftly they fly; to cross it they try—
Hear the loud crash & the terrified cry
Piercing the air, from their agonised breath!
Drink is the life? Alas! Drink is the death!

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As I replied to Mum's letter dated 2-1-31 I was surprised to receive the following letter to-day:—

"Marshall street, Dapto, 6-1-31. Dear Dad & Family. As I have not received a letter from home to know how you are all getting on, I thought I had better write again & inquire. I do hope nothing has gone wrong at home, & that you will answer this. We left Sydney on Saturday at dinner time, & we arrived here at half past three, & Lila was waiting at the station to meet us. Aunt Lizzie is a lot thinner than she was. We are trying to persuade her to come back with us for a change, but so far she will not come. Florrie fell in love with the place & does not feel like going home. She & Lila went to Wollongong to the baths, & she is burnt sore. Aunt Lizzie & myself may go. We were glad to leave Sydney as it was too expensive for a room. The pit here started work yesterday after eight months idleness, but they seem to think it won't
last long. We are just in time again for the show. I suppose we will be going. Liz Jane has a very nice garden, & they are going to put some exhibits in the show. Sam Dunne, who married Maggie Pettigrew (Mar Pettigrew's Maggie) is dead. Liz Jane got word yesterday. He died with cancer & left 5 children. Vera Woodward is here for her holidays, but is going home tomorrow. I hope you & all the rest of the crowd are well; & I hope you are looking after Arthur all right; I miss him very much. It seems such a time since I have seen you all. I suppose Mr. Pinfold has not been out yet. Florrie thinks this is a very pretty place to live in, & very clean. So Aunt Lizzie says she is glad of that, as she won't want to go home too quick. Well, I suppose I must close now with love from Mum. Kisses for the little onesxxxxxxx.

Please answer this, Dad, as I am anxious to hear from home."

Sat. Jan. 10, 1931. This morning I wrote & typed the following verses to send to the "Newcastle Herald" & to the "War Cry":

TO EVOLUTIONISTS.

To the Editor,

Sir,

Let me make a few suggestions to the Darwinists who write on the theme of evolution, to the press, and propound a few brief questions on the letters they indite that are haply causing Christians some distress.

If they spread their loathsome cancer of contempt & unbelief of commandments God gave Moses on the mount, let those Darwinists now answer: Will it purify a thief, or the actions of a harlot at their fount?

If a man is but a creature that environment improved From a monad to a monkey & a man, will this doctrine change a feature of a soul that's far remote From the path that God provided in His plan?

Will it make a liar truthful? Will it set a captive free From the sins that bind & dominate his life? Will it elevate the youthful from pursuits of low degree; Or abolish war, & selfishness, & strife?

If the Bible is a fiction of the writers they deride, What would Darwinists prescribe to take its place? What example or restriction, versus sin, would they provide If we cover God's commandments with disgrace?

Will the lie of evolution, if implicitly believed,
Make a burglar strictly honest in his way? Will it cleanse a soul's pollution? Will it comfort the like the faith of stricken mourners when they (bereaved pray?

Do the Darwinists send teachers to the savages who live in a state of filth & ignorance & fear; or maintain heroic preachers who are martyred, or who give all their substance & their labor year by year?

If a man is but a bubble on resistless tides of Time, and his actions are the outcome of blind force, why should any person trouble? -- there's no virtue & no crime.

So let Sin pursue its unrestricted course.

Let the fittest & the strongest with the weaker humans strive, let's abandon Christian mercy for our kind; then the strong will live the longest, & the brutalest sur-

When the Bible & its God are left behind! (vive

Printed 13-1-31.


Wed. Jan. 14, 1931. Yesterday the Newcastle Herald printed "To Evolutionists" under the heading "Darwinism & the Bible." Gladys, Jack, & the children were here all day, as she did the washing & ironing. We received the following letter yesterday from Mum:

"Dapto, 12-1-31. Dear Dad & Family,
I received your last letter just after I had posted that one to you, but I thought I would wait for this one before I wrote again, & then we would not be muddled/ I am very sorry to hear about poor little John; indeed I feel like coming home when I think of him sick, & your leg bad, & having to wash & iron. I feel as if I am between 2 fires: I want Florrie to have her holidays, & I want to be at home at the same time. However, we will be home either next Monday or Tuesday, or some time-- I hardly know which days for sure, as Florrie wants some time at home before going back.

You did not say when Gladys came home; Was John sick when she came from the Terrace? Poor Jack & Gladys seem to be having a hard time. Don't forget, Dad, about the money in the tin don't let them go short for the rent while that is there.

How are Ivy, Daphne, & Dulcie? I hope Mr. Pinfold can sell the house for that figure,
it will encourage Charlie & Fred to build again. You did not say anything about Wally. I am glad Arthur, as you call him, the man, has had such good results with his exam. I read about it in this paper, & I was a little disappointed as it said he only had one A & five B's; so you can bet how pleased I was. Thank Jose & Ivy for their kind offer about the money, but we have return tickets for home, & we have enough money to see us through. There is no doubt about us having good boys, Dad; but you think I am making out they are better than they are when I say so, & I am glad you are finding out for yourself.

Poor little Jim Pettigrew did not get a prize for his vegetables; I think he was a little disappointed Florrie went to Kiama with Lila & her boy-friend yesterday. Of course I went last time we were here, but it is not as good now as it was then. Florrie & Lila & the other girls went out this morning but I would rather stay with Liz Jane.

Well, this is all this time, so I must shut up. With love from Mum.

P.S. Florrie has been to Thirroul beach with Lila & her friend in the car, & she thought it lovely; in fact she is enjoying herself wonderfully.

I wrote a 2 page reply to this to-day, & sent it with a note from Walter. Charlie & Fred have finished the kitchen & begun on the front bedroom. They have now gone to Newcastle to get wallpaper for the room. Art went to the Waratah Benvolent Asylum & found brother Bob there. He has been there about a fortnight. Bob said that he has plenty to eat & drink, but he needs tobacco & matches.

Fri. Jan. 16, 1931. I worked at the Eastern end of Waratah, filling Harry Smith's dray with earth thrown out by the men who cleaned the park drain. My wage was 18/-8. The ganger is named Barnes. We had a pleasant day, as the wind blew from the South. I am to work there again next Wednesday.

Last evening Jose wanted me to take 2 pounds to send to Mum & Florrie so that they may go to Lithgow if they wish to.

This morning I wrote a 2 page letter to Mum & told her of Jose's offer, & urged her to accept it.

Sat. Jan. 17, 1931. We received the following letter from Mum this morning:

"Marshall St., Dapto, 15-1-31. Dear Dad & Family, I am sorry I wrote that letter & made so much trouble for you, but I must own that I did feel a bit bluey thinking of poor little John having diptheria, & the state Glady would
be in; & no one knows better than me, when your leg breaks out, how you suffer with it. Well, Dad, we will have to go home one day next week, though, as Florrie has to fix up for work again; not that we don't like down here, because we do— it seems so nice & clean, & Florrie is having a wonderful time going about with Lila & her boy in the car. She went to Clifton last night with them; & they took us as far as Wollongong, & we went to the pictures, "Africa Speaks". I thought of you, Dad when we were there, as it is just the picture you would like. I don't think you had better write again, as we will be home, perhaps, before we get it. They treat us like toffs here, but of course we have been 3 weeks away on Thursday; so I think we have done well.

You tell Wally to wait till I arrive home, & we shall see what we shall see, poking fun at me. Tell Glad & Ivy I am very thankful to them for doing the washing. Lila says she will miss Florrie when she goes home, as they are great pals; & I don't mind as long as she enjoys herself. I suppose poor old Jack has not got work yet. I am not surprised about Bob, as I think that that fire has been smouldering for some time, just waiting to burst out. Well, I think this is all the news this time, so I must close. With love to all from Mum."

This morning the Newcastle Herald contains 2 letters in reply to mine of the 18th. One is from Tom Johnston of West Wallsend. As the correspondence is closed I shall not be able to reply. Charlie & Fred are papering our bedroom.

Fred Redhouse's little boy Mervyn is in the Newcastle hospital with bronchial pneumonia. Walter gave me his wages (£2-8-0) last evening, & I gave him 6/- for his pocket. Bert Cocking brought a Mr. Thompson here to-day to see our new house. He looked through it with Charlie.

Sun. Jan. 18, 1931. I went to knee-drill at the Tighes Hill Hall this morning at 7, & saw the new officers— Commandant Hawkins & Lieut. Pillinger, who is a young man. At 9 a.m. I went to the open-air meeting in Margaret street, & to the holiness meeting at 11. Thunder & rain between 2 & 5 so I did not go to the Mayfield corps as I intended. I finished reading the book, "Moral & Religious Anecdotes", by Rev. George Cheever, to-day. I bought it of the Diocesan Society in 1929. It has 368 pages.

Mon. Jan. 19, 1931. This morning I typed the following verses for the Newcastle Herald:

The Solution.

If the present world-depression puts the people in possession
of their sane & sober senses—if it makes the workers wise,
And constrains them to be sober from November to October,
It curtails their wild expenses, it's a blessing in disguise.

This time they did awaken & had long ago forsaken
Each obsession & delusion that has made & kept them poor.
This time they started thinking & eschewed their stupid drunk.
That is causing mind-confusion & the manners of a (drinking)

They will find a sure solution of the problem of pollution
And of poverty & sorrow that afflicts the world to-day
If they wisely have communion with all nations in union,
And would neither beg nor borrow nor be trained to arm & slay.

Then, when sober, sane & steady, they would find the planet ready
To produce the means of living, in abundance, from its face.
When each worker helps his neighbor & applies his skillful labor.
They will find the whole earth giving ample wealth (for all the race.

They will find this sure solution in a social revolution,
Not a frenzied rush to battle, like a raging, roaring flood,
But a calm & peaceful taking of the lands & means of making.
Ample food for men & cattle, unaccompanied by blood.

For the land is still the Mother of each sister, son & brother
Of each country, state & county; & she seldom has denied
An abundance to the workers (tho' she starves & fools the stupid drunk.
But rewards them with her bounty when their labors & (workers) are applied.

It is time men were enlightened, & their understandings
(brightened)
To discard the social system that is making millions slaves.
It would be an act of kindness to remove their mental blindness
And reveal how they are plundered till they reach unending (graves.

But the parsons, peers & papers—those astute opinion-shapers
—Seem to stop the wheels of progress from proceeding on their
And the stream of Life gets stagnant while (course;
(the pauper & the vagrant
Are produced in greater numbers by the rich, without remorse.

But alas! as time advances Hope no more the soul entrances;
they appear to be contented to be beggars all their lives.
Steeped in ignorance, sans measure, they are robbed of life & (treasure;
And exploiters are delighted that their system still survives.
Tues. Jan. 20, 1931. Mum & Florrie came home last evening. They are well, & have enjoyed their holidays very much. Glady & Jack were here all day yesterday. Fred & Charlie finished papering the front bedroom yesterday.

Thur. Jan. 22, 1931. Yesterday I worked all day for the Waratah Council at Waratah park. I was paid 13/8 at 4 p.m. The weather was not too hot, as an Easterly wind was blowing. Charlie & Fred put the roof on the breakfast room. This morning Ivy, Mum, Florrie, Art & Glady went to the Bar Beach at Merewether for the day. I have finished reading the book entitled "Missionary Heroines", by Charles F. Hayward. It relates the trials & triumphs of Mrs. Johnston, of the West Indies; Mrs. Bowen Thompson of Syria; Mrs. Cobat of Abyssinia; Mrs. Robert Moffat of Kuruman; Mrs. Margaret Cargill of the Fiji Islands; Mrs. Whately of Cairo; Dr. Alice Marvel of Caumpore; Miss Irene Petrie of Kashmir; & Deaconess Ransome of Pekin.

Fri. Jan. 23, 1931. Today I have been typing my diary for April 1893. This evening I listened to a wireless address on "Milestones", by Lorise Bingham, & appreciated it very much. She expressed the very thought that I am trying to embody in some verses that I have partly written on "The Departed". The first 2 are:

We read of men now dead & gone—the stupid & the clever—
And holy men whose lives have shone—I think they've gone
(for ever.

Their life-effects we still perceive are potent, active causes
Of more effects that now receive our censures or applauses.

Sat., Jan. 24, 1931. Florrie has received a letter from Lila Pettigrew this morning. My left leg is still sore on the old scar, & Florrie is putting warm salt water & Tiger salve on it daily. Jose was here & got 2 fishing lines to take to Tuggerah lake to-day or on Monday, which is a public holiday. The Federal basic wage has just been reduced ten percent, & some of the arbitrating unionists are furious about it. They should discard the arbitration fraud & concentrate on organising on the principles of a world-wide union to abolish the present unjust, wasteful social system. Capitalism cannot be permanently mended; so it should be ended.

Mon. Jan. 26, 1931. I went to all of the Army meetings yesterday. I was surprised when told by old Mr. Carpenter that commandant Franks had said in the census meeting that I had
said he (Franks) was a murderer. I denied the lie, as my disclaimer was accepted. Welcomed back by a few, but cold-shouldered by others, I pity & forgive them, for they have doubtless been taught that war is a business in which a Christian may honourably & consistently engage. Charlie had an inquirer about the new house to-day. More sociable. Lovely holiday weather. I heard a lecture by an ex-policeman who is Mrs. Wooster's father, in the Mayfield citadel. He is evidently a well-read man. He lectured on the great pyramid of Egypt & what it signifies. He said that the measurements of the exterior & interior signified, among other things, the mean distance of the sun from the earth; the time when Jesus was born; the date of the battle of Armageddon; (which, he said, would occur in 1936); when England would be opposed by Japan, Germany, Austria, Russia, & some other nations, but would be victorious through an act of God in raining meteoric stones on the anti-Christian armies.

Tues. Jan. 27, 1931. Florrie had toothache all last night, & went to Newcastle to-day to have the tooth extracted, but the dentist would not draw it because it is only a shell. He put some stuff into the tooth to ease the pain until the swelling subsides. I have been typing my diary for 1893, but as the typewriter does not work properly I will wait until I get a good one before I continue the work.

Wed. Jan. 28, 1931. I am copying old letters into my diary for 1893. Charlie & Bert Cooking have gone to Dungog for scaffolds or battens. Jose called in to-day. A lady inspected the new house.

Thur. Jan. 29, 1931. This morning the Newcastle Herald published an announcement, over Charlie's name, that our new house has been sold. It was probably inserted by Mr. Goble, the auctioneer, as Charlie is at Dungog with Bert. Joe Lyons & Fenton have given up their portfolios in the Scullin government because Theodore was reinstated in the position of federal treasurer.

Fri. Jan. 30, 1931. I walked to the Labor bureau in King street Newcastle this morning, as there was a call for men, but as my registered number is 10,362 & was not reached, I did not get work. I met Harry Wood ("Woodicus") who edited the "Industrialist" paper at the Newcastle Trades Hall a few years ago. He is one of the officers of the bureau. He told me that "Bondy" Hoare is one of the directors of the "Labor Daily" newspaper.
Charlie signed the papers in connection with the sale of our new house to Mr. Mervyn Stones for six hundred & 75 pounds. There is to be a deposit of 100 or 125 pounds. Today I am writing in the back of my typed diary for 1933 the letters I sent to Mother from Kadina in 1899. Arthur has gone to a picnic. Florrie has to resume work at the Newcastle to-morrow. She is not yet rid of her hollow, aching tooth. Charlie & Bert brought home some salted rabbits that they shot. Bert lost his hat out of the car on the way home. I bought a sheet of aluminium to put into my short wave receiver yesterday, for 1/3. Also an archimedian drill for 6/.

Mon. Feb. 1, 1931. Yesterday I attended all of the Army meetings. At night a woman went to the penitent's uniform. On the way home I had a long talk with Alf Overton, & learned a good deal. He is a genuine Christian. Today I copied more of my letters of 1899 into the back of my typed diary for 1933. Charlie has bought a saxophone for £25-0-0. It is nearly new, & has been used only 2 months. The original price was fifty pounds. Charlie has put the selling of this old house into the hands of 4 auctioneers or land agents. We want £700-0-0 for it. Art bought a new wheel for Gladys' pram in Newcastle for 2/6. The unions are talking of having a State-wide strike against the 10 per cent reduction in federal wages. In the Parkes bye-election Marr beat Martin by more than 7000 votes, & the Nationalists are delighted.

Wed. Feb. 4, 1931. This morning's paper has the following news:

"Earthquake Disaster. New Zealand towns in ruins. Estimated death-roll of 100. Fires raging in stricken city of Napier. 21 reported to be dead at Hastings. Wellington, Tuesday. A terrific earthquake to-day wrecked Napier, a city of 20,000 inhabitants on the east coast of the North Island of New Zealand. All stone & brick buildings collapsed. Fire broke out, & soon the centre of the city was ablaze. It is estimated that in Napier 100 people were killed & 1000 injured. At Hastings 21 bodies have been recovered. All communications ceased except by radio from ships in Napier harbour. Included in the buildings destroyed are portions of Napier hospitals, in the ruins of which nurses & patients are believed to have perished. Fourteen scholars are reported to have perished when the Technical School collapsed. Practically every house in Gisborne, the nearest city to Napier, was also damaged."

I pity the poor unfortunate sufferers through this terrible calamity. Today I copied a diary I wrote in shorthand at Wallaroo Mines in March & April, 1899. We have received rate pa-
Uses for the half year commencing Jan. 1, 1931 for our house in Inglis street. The items are:— Water rate, £1-1/-; sewerage, £1-15-0; total £3-12-11. The assessed annual value is £70-0-0. Local assessments, £769-0-0. These are Water Board rates. The Waratah Council rates are:— £8-2-0 at 6d. in the pound on the unimproved capital value of £324-0-0.

Fri. Feb. 6, 1931. Copying my old shorthand diary. My left shin is still sore, but is getting well slowly. There is a great flood in the south of Queensland & Brisbane is flooded. The federal arbitration court chief—judge Dethridge—has refused to postpone the reduction of the basic wage by 10 per cent, & the unions are talking of a general strike against it. Raining.

Sat Feb. 7, 1931. Writing my shorthand diary for October 1899. Fred has a job to go to on Monday. Florrie came home last night. There is a great flood in the North of N.S.W. & the South of Queensland. At the premiers' conference Jack Lang & Jim Scullin refused to agree to a plan to reduce wages, & a deadlock ensued. Part of New Zealand is still rocking. Charlie is going to a land sale at Mayfield West to-day.

Mon. Feb. 9, 1931. I went to Newcastle yesterday & withdrew one hundred & 19 pounds from the Commonwealth Bank because I fear that the Bank may smash through the present world-crisis. I paid a quarter's subscription to the Newcastle hospital, & asked the clerk to ask Ted Sinclair to give Florrie my 2 books that he borrowed some months ago. I paid the Water Board £3-12-11, & walked to Hamilton & paid doctor Ulick Bourke £2/- for the last & next quarter. I had an interview with Mr. George W. Pinfold re the sale of our new house, & he told me to send Charlie to see him to-morrow.

Tues. Feb. 10. Last night I went to the Congregational church near Herbert's picture show, Islington, where there was a rally of temperance & prohibitionist societies. The Newcastle Salvation Army band played outside & inside, & the Tighe's Hill Methodist church choir sang anthems in the church during the meeting. John Lionel Fegan, mayor of Wickham was chairman. The principal speaker was Mr. Wheeton, a public school teacher, who spoke mainly on the need to set up an ideal & always keep it in view. A returned cut-throat with a murder-medal also spoke. I came away disappointed & disgusted. On the way home I conversed with a Mr. Macsporran who conducts the Band of Hope in the Waratah church hall. He invited me to attend next Thursday evening. Fred left yesterday for Goon- a gadoo station (near Tamworth) where he has to paint a bridge. He has gone with Mr. William Williams in Williams' car.
Mr. John Lang, State premier, has proposed a plan to end the present depression in N.S.W. It is to withhold the payment of interest on foreign loans until the interest is reduced; & to reduce the interest paid in N.S.W. to 3 per cent, & to have a goods standard instead of a gold standard for Commonwealth bank notes. Theodore opposed the plan, & so did the premiers of other States. Earth-tremors continue at Napier, N.Z., 888.

Fri. Feb. 13, 1931. Yesterday I wrote copies of my old letters from Wallaroo Mines. In the afternoon I walked up to the Waratah Benevolent Asylum & had a chat with Brother Bob, who seems to be healthier & happier than usual. He is attentively reading Mary Baker Eddy's book, "Science & Health, With Key To the Scriptures". Two Christian Science ladies were there, & I had a long conversation with them. One is Mrs. Ewing. They gave me a "Christian Science Monitor" of Nov. 30th, 1930; It is a daily newspaper. They also gave me "The Christian Science Sentinel", of Oct. 18, 1930, & "The Christian Science Journal" of Oct. 1930. From there I went to Jim Cocking's house & got Shakespeare's plays. Ethel is still at Gunnedah.

I waited at the Presbyterian Rechabite Hall, near Hanbury street, until Mr. Macsporran arrived, & went in with him. He is the president of the Band of Hope society. Two children recited & 2 played the piano. The president gave his address, & introduced me & asked me to say a few words, which I did. A young man who conducts a branch Band of Hope at Maryville brought me to Danger Park in his car, & invited me to attend a meeting at the Presbyterian church at Maryville next Wednesday evening. Last Wed. Mr. Goble was here & got my signature to a note authorising R.W. Thompson to proceed, on my behalf, with the sale of the new house to Mr. Stones. Florrie came home yesterday. There was another violent earthquake at Napier.

Copy of Pilate's letter to Tiberius. An extract from "The Ancient Lowly."... "Upon Jesus Christ, whose case I had clearly set forth to thee in my last, at length by the will of the people a bitter punishment has been inflicted, myself being in a manner unwilling & rather afraid-- a man, by Hercules, so pious & strict, no age has had or ever will have; but wonderful were the efforts of the people to have him crucified."

Wed. Feb. 18, 1931. Yesterday I went to Newcastle & had an interesting talk with Mrs. Howard at Howard Smith's buildings in Watt street. She lent me "Science & Health With Key to the Scriptures", for a fortnight. At 7 p.m. on the way home I attended a meeting of the Band of Hope in the Presbyterian chur-
There were about 30 children present - mostly girls, & 5 adults. Some of the children recited & some played the piano. I made one of the worst little speeches that I have ever made. Fred returned in good health yesterday & gave us six pounds. I sat up late reading "Science & Health".

Last Sunday I attended all of the Army meetings, & spoke twice. No conversions. I have been copying old letters into my diary, & have many more to copy.

Thur. Feb. 19, 1931. Fred & Charlie are painting our roof black. The most interesting news in the paper is this: "Startling developments in connection with the cleavage between the Federal & State Executives of the Australian Labor party may be expected within the next few days. The State Executive to-night (Wed.) decided to notify all Federal Labor members representing N.S.W. constituencies that they must make themselves available to take part in the East Sydney by-election campaign & support the policy enunciated by the premier (Mr. Lang) & endorsed by the N.S.W. Executive. Members of the State Executive to-night characterised the developments which have taken place so far as "mere outpost skirmishes" compared with what is to take place in the near future. The opinion was expressed that the outcome of the present situation would be a crisis in the party far more serious than the conscription split of 1916."

Fri. Feb. 20, 1931. This morning we received the following typed letter:

"R.W. Thompson & Sons. Solicitors; John C. Webster; N.E. Weeks. P.O. Box 10. Tel. Maitland 39. A.M.P. Buildings, 276 High Street, West Maitland, N.S.W. 19th Feb. 1931. Dear Sir, You & Mrs. Cocking to Stones. Mr. Goble has handed us a contract between you & Mr. Stones in connection with the sale of one of the cottages mortgaged to Mrs. Pierce. The contract provides for total deposit of £100, the balance to be arranged by first & second mortgages. We have informed Mr. Goble that we think we can arrange a loan of £375 for the purchaser on first mortgage - this will leave, after payment of the deposit, balance due to you of £200. Would you kindly let us know if this is acceptable to you & we shall proceed with the matter. Yours truly R.W. Thompson."

Mon. Feb. 23, 1931. Donald Macpherson, of Hope street Wallsend, is dead, & is to be buried to-day. Yesterday I attended all the meetings of the army. In the afternoon there were several envoys present at the hall, among them being envoy Williams & Rees, who sang "I Belong To the You Know Who". Col. Cross, a very big man, was the principal speaker. No converts.
pearl Carpenter, Lionel's wife, has been dangerously ill in a private hospital, but she is now out of danger. Jack & May went to see her, & May is there yet. I am reading "Science & Health", but I find a great deal that seems to be opposed to reason & revelation. Charlie & Fred have finished painting the roof of our old house. I gave Tom Weller my new "B" secondary battery. The weather to-day is lovely. The Federal Labor party has accepted Theodore's plan of action.

Tues. Feb. 24, 1931. Nellie Melba died yesterday afternoon in St. Vincent's private hospital, Darlinghurst. She was born at Burnley, near Melbourne, on May 19th 1861. Her real name is Helen Porter Armstrong, nee Mitchell. Canon Lea of St. Mark's church, Darling Point, spent some time praying with her; so she may have been saved.

To-day I am reading as much as possible of "Science & Health", as I have to return it to-morrow week. The most prominent news in the paper is this:

"Sydney, Monday. In his speech at Paddington to-night in support of the Labor candidate for East Sydney by-election, the premier, Mr. J.T. Lang, declared that the salvation of Australia lay in the policy of a general scaling down of interest rates.

Wed. Feb. 25, 1931. This morning we received the following letter from G. W. Pinfold & Co., Ltd.:

"Mr. J. M. Cocking, Ingall st., Mayfield, Sir, Herein enclosed please find our cheque value £11-6-0, being £11-12-6, less our commission of 6/6. Thanking you for a receipt in due course. With services Yours truly G. W. Pinfold & Co., Ltd. E. H. Banks, secretary."

Fri. Feb. 27, 1931. I walked through a thunderstorm & rain to the Co-op. store & paid the bill with Mr. Pinfold's cheque for £11-6-0. From there I walked to Hamilton & gave Pinfold's clerk my receipt for the cheque. Afterwards I took part in my open-air meeting near Pinfold's & Gov's, & spoke at XX other places. The boy scouts had a band playing in Islington park, & there was a big crowd there. That imposition of Baden Powell seems to thrive well. Theodore's plan to issue fiduciary notes for 18 million pounds is the main topic in the papers to-day. Lang's plan to cut down interest paid by the State is supported by the unions, but is opposed by the Federal Labor Party. Copying old letters again to-day.
Sat. Feb. 28, 1931. At home all day copying old letters into an exercise book. The principal news in the paper is:

"To raise 18 millions, premier's proposal for fiduciary currency." Melbourne, Thursday. A series of resolutions outstanding among which was a decision to create an issue of fiduciary currency to be limited to 18 million pounds was passed at the final session of the premiers' conference. This resolution was carried only on the casting vote of the chairman. The fiduciary currency is to be devoted to unemployment relief works & to the payment of a bounty on the wheat recently harvested. The resolution was moved by Mr. Scullin, & supported by the Victorian premier (Mr. Hogan), & the South Australian premier (Mr. Hill). The 3 Nationalist Premiers, Sir James Mitchell, (West Australia), Mr. Moore (Queensland), & Mr. McPhee, (Tasmania), dissented. Mr. Scullin exercised his casting vote. Neither Mr. Hogan nor Mr. Hill was enthusiastic in supporting the resolution, but they were placed in a difficult position by the arguments of Messrs. Scullin & Theodore. It was stated that the necessary legislation would probably fail to pass through the Senate."

Mon. Mar. 2, 1931. This morning I received the following letter from Mrs. Webster:

"Greenfield Terrace, Portreath, nr Redruth, Cornwall, Jan. 26, 1931. Dear Mr. & Mrs. Cocking, We received your welcome letter yesterday & were very pleased to know you were all enjoying good health at the time of writing, & we trust you are still keeping the same. Health is the richest wealth of all. Health without wealth is not the same value. Well, dear friends, I am pleased to say we are all well excepting my husband. Since I last wrote you he has been very unwell again, but is getting out a bit now. I think he shook his heart. He caught cold & had a dreadful cough; it made him bad, but he is getting on a bit now, I am pleased to say. We have had lots of cold wind & rain. We get more rain than we really want in winter time. I think the dry, frosty weather, if we can get it, suits us better. You have the heat of there just the same, but there! -- in spite of all we are trying to keep smiling. I see by your letter that you received the little handkerchiefs & cards. They were not very much -- only just a little remembrance of time of the year. We spent a very happy Christmas, & were remembered very well indeed considering the depression, all out of work, & so on. It's still awful home here too. Something will soon have to be done for the people we get the poor people here 4 or 5 of a day, singing & begging, in fear of being locked up, poor souls! What a disgrace for a rich country. My mar..."
Son has been out of work for nearly 4 months. Only 28/- for him, wife, & child, & my other son that we have here with us has been out all through the Christmas. He has just started again, but I don't know for how long; they only go from day to day now. He is a fine great chap. He will be 19 in April, & is a good boy— not after the girls, like some of them. It's dreadful to see some of them going to ruin because they have no work— partly due to that, & to parents who do not care which way they go. It's sad to see it all.

Dear friend, I am glad you get the papers all right. We get ourselves on Sundays; so you see it's not putting us to any extra expense to send them on to you, & we are glad you like reading them. I am sending 2 today. Do you pay any more for them when I send 2 together? If so, let me know, & I will put on another stamp. They say it's all right here at our little office, but they are not always right. You will see by them what a bother they are giving our prime minister by closing their works all down, but he knows what they are doing it for.

Pleased to see, Mr. Cocking, that your wife & family are all right. Our Kathleen came home for the day yesterday. She is enjoying the best of health, & has a good place. She is just like a lady, but she does not like the idea of being a slave, as she says; but they're the best off, as their food & wages are sure. She has a good home— only one lady & gentleman— & they are so kind to the maids. They have the wireless in their little sitting-room, & everything else to make them happy, by what I can see. I spent the day down there a few weeks ago. The wireless has not reached us yet; we have to wait. Our neighbours just all have it. What a wonderful thing it is! Yes, we hear from Mrs. Chinnock. At Christmas she sent us a nice card & a lovely letter. She seems such a nice person. We are delighted to hear from her, & we feel she does that we are the same connection. She said, "I hope you will write me again, as we feel that you belong to us," & she is going to send on their photos; & would like us to send her ours. So we must try to get someone to take us. We have no one down here who takes them, & no camera ourselves. You shall have one. I think I promised you ours a long time ago, but I can't get Daddy to have his done.

I must thank you, dear Mr. Cocking, for finding our friends for us. I suppose you never heard from that Tabb. Mrs. Chinnock said she never heard the name, but if she does she will hunt them up & let us know. As I told her, we are not doing this thinking to get any fortune from it; for, to tell you the truth, money never troubled me. I never care as long as I can pay my way & live along comfortable & happy with my own class of people. By what I can see, those who have so much money are not as happy, after all. Now my dear friends we do
I hope you will have the best of luck with your house. We shall be pleased to know how you get on with it. Now, my dear friends, may God bless you one & all & keep you in love & unity together. Our kindest regards to all your friends & their little ones. Hope to hear from you again soon. Ever your friends, Emmie & Harry Webster.

I attended all of the Army meetings except the 45 past 5 p.m. meeting yesterday, & spoke at all of the open-air's. At night, in the hall, Miss Annetts, daughter of brig. Annetts, was the principal speaker. She spoke well from the story of the cleansing of Naaman, the leper. Commandant Wright's son went to the penitents' form. In the afternoon I attended the Communists' meeting in Islington park, & heard Mr. Jeffery & Mr. Roach speak. There was a large, attentive crowd there, including women with children.

Tues. Mar. 3, 1931. This morning I finished writing a letter in reply to Mrs. Webster. There has been a shuffle of political cards, & Anstey & Beasley have been put out of the federal ministry.

Wed. Mar. 4, 1931. This morning I re-wrote "To Boy-Scouts" & "The Solution" for "The Workers' Weekly". Florrie came home last night & brought a nurse with her. This afternoon I walked to Howard Smith's buildings in Watt st., Newcastle, & returned "Science & Health" to Mrs. Howard, but borrowed it again until I have time to finish reading it.

Thur. May 5, 1931. To-day I copied my old letter to Jabez Dodd, wrote a 6 page reply to the following letter from sister Elizabeth Jane:

"Dapto, 25-2-31. Dear Joe & Jinnie, Just a few lines at last in answer to your last letter. I have been waiting for some cheerful news to send you, but I am afraid it will be a long time coming. The mine here worked 2 pays, & this week-end finishes it up again for an indefinite period. There are no contracts & no prospects of any. However, we will live through it; we must, for Hoskins does not own our lives. If they did I am afraid the undertaker would be the only one working. They do not even give the men 14 days notice-- just send them home like dogs who have served them too faithfully now they don't want. Mat Pettigrew has gone to Wollongong to live with Ethel & the girls. He got dreadfully hurt a few weeks ago & the doctors told him yesterday he will not work again; so he wanted to be with the girls. Dad misses him dreadfully. We are all well here just now. I am getting no stronger & no fatter. They tell me I am thinner. I too'
a bad turn last week—fainted right off—& it took them some time to bring me round. Lila got a bit of a shock.
I am getting around all day to make me tired at night, for I cannot sleep much. Some croaker, aren't I?

Never mind, I am not dead yet. Florrie & Lila want Dad to take me to Lithgow for a month while he is idle, but I don't think he will. He has a men's class on Monday nights, & a ladies' class on Friday nights, so he is kept busy... If he does decide to go Jim & Lila will stay with Florrie & look up the place here... Jim is getting on well at school; & some boy!... long pants if you please; & doesn't he fancy himself. Nelly thinks he is too young for them, but they suit him well. I suppose I would not know Arthur now. Lila is still going strong with George. She spends almost every weekend with his people. They are very nice & friendly. I got a nice letter from Grace. She said all their boys are idle excepting Frank. She did not mention Bob. I am afraid he will have plenty of mates where he is if this depression keeps on.

When you write, Jinnie, will you let me know how he is? I hope you are all well, & the boys & Joe working. Give our love to your family; also Jack & May. Bob White is still working. Pearl is well, also Florrie's family. No more just now from your loving sister, E.J. Pettigrew. Write soon. Nellie sends her love to you all. Her eyes are pretty bad, or at least her eyelids; they are granulated & she had to go to the doctor about them.

We received the following letter this morning from Thompson:-


Dear Sir, You & Mrs. Cocking to Stones. Before the transfer in this matter can be prepared it will be necessary for the land to be subdivided by a surveyor, & for the Council's approval for the subdivision to be obtained. Would you kindly instruct the surveyor on the matter & inform him that whatever particulars he may require he can obtain from us. Yours truly R.W. Thompson.

Mr. Josiah Cocking, Ingull St., Mayfield, Newcastle."

Fri. Mar. 6, 1931. I walked to Newcastle again today & attended the call-up at the Labor Exchange, but my number was not reached. I walked home via Islington & bought a 3d bundle of reading matter at the "Cosy Corner" bookshop opposite to Herbert's picture show. At night I attended the Army meetings held at Beaumont street, Hamilton. On the way home Mrs. Macdonald of Lindsay street, Hamilton, promised to lend me a book on Alcohol. Son Jack has bought a push-bicycle for a pound,
& has repaired & painted it to ride to & from the Technical College.

Sat. Mar. 7, 1931. This morning I wrote a short letter to Mr. L. Treweek, Grocer of Broken Hill, inquiring about Will, Mrs., & Myrtle Trezise.

Mon. Mar. 9, 1931. Yesterday I attended all of the Army meetings, & a Communist meeting in the Islington park. Roach, Jeffery & Mrs. Mountjoy spoke to a large crowd. On Sat. afternoon Jose took Ivy, Daphne, Mrs. Rosamond, Mum, & me to Cessnock via Maitland, & brought us back by way of Branxton, by car. The weather was lovely. On the way from Maitland to Cessnock we met a motor-car that had caught fire under the bonnet, & we helped the driver to throw sand & gravel on it. A man ran with a bucket of water & put the fire out. Little damage was done, & the engine worked all right afterwards.

Jack has taken my typewriter to Mr. Ell's shop in Newcastle to be repaired. I copied old letters yesterday & to-day. Yesterday's War Cry contains my verses. "Little Bo Peep."

Wed. Mar. 11, 1931. Two papers came from Mrs. Webster yester-day.

Thur. Mar. 12, 1931. I walked to Ell's shop yesterday to get my typewriter, & was told to go to the repairing shop in Clack's Chambers, Bolton street. I went there & found that the mechanic, Roxby, of Wallsea had only repaired the inker, but not the capital A, which was half defaced. He sent to the shop for a small bottle of violet copying ink, & told me he would put a new A on by Sat. morning. I went back to Ell's shop & paid 1/6 for the ink, & 1/6 for 6 sheets of carbon paper. I paid the Newcastle Gas Co. £1-8-10, & walked home.

Lovely weather.

Fri. Mar. 13, 1931. To-day I finished reading "Science & Health with Key to the Scriptures", by Mary Baker Eddy, 699 pages. I disagree with a good deal of what she wrote, but some of the testimonies of healing may be true. I shall look further into this matter.

We have just received this letter from sister Lizzie Jane:

"Dapto, 11-3-31. Dear Brother & Sister, Just a line in answer to your welcome letter. Florrie wants me to tell you that her poor little Edna is in the Wollongong hospital with scarlet fever. Of course she is isolated & they cannot see her until Saturday; but latest reports are satisfactory. Les is naturally very much upset & Florrie is worried. The other of
children are well. The doctor thinks she got the germ from some Sydney visitors that Granny had. All the rest of the family are well. I suppose you have heard that the mine has closed down again, we don't know for how long. I was pleased to receive the dear little ones' photos. They are lovely children, no wonder you love them so. The boy (John) resembles Jack. Tell Jose we would like to see his little girl's photo. I suppose she has grown since we saw her. It has been raining here for some days, & it makes things miserable. Dad is getting his garden ready for Winter. He will have some cauliflowers ready before anybody in Dapto: he got them in very early.

'Mrs. Humphries' leg is no better. The doctor told her he can do no more for her; so she is going to a specialist in Sydney. I am expecting to go to Lithgow on Saturday for a month. It is a good opportunity now. Dad & Lila are at home. Lila's friend & his parents are going to drive me right up to Lithgow. I would rather stay at home, but they all think that a change of air will improve my appetite, if nothing else. I am well, but I cannot get strong. I am not worrying about anything, for, as Joe says, we are lucky compared to many people. I will write to you from there if I go. I must conclude now with love from all. Your loving sister, E.J. Pettigrew."

Sat. Mar. 14, 1931. This morning Charlie rode on a free-wheel push bicycle to Singleton to inquire about a job. He returned about 9 p.m., having ridden 100 miles in one day. Art brought the typewriter home. The repairs cost 9/-.

Syn. Mar. 15, 1931. As my left big toe joint is swollen & sore I have stayed at home all day copying old letters. Mum went up to Jack & Gladys this evening. I heard Mr. Jolly preach (by wireless) in the Newcastle Baptist tabernacle to-night, & liked his sermon. The vote of members on Latham's no confidence motion, in the federal parliament, resulted in a victory for Mr. Scullin by five votes.

Mon. Mar. 16, 1931. To-day I finished reading "12 Temperance Lessons" 88 pages by Isabel MacCorkindale. The main news in the paper to-day is: "Meetings of engine drivers & firemen held at Gressnook, Kurri Kurri, & Maitland on Sat., & at Newcastle & West Wallsend yesterday, rejected the proposed general strike policy to defeat the threatened wage reductions. It was almost unanimously agreed that such a policy could result in nothing short of disaster for the workers. A general strike, said the president (Mr. H. Sutherland) would mean a social revolution, & the workers were not sufficiently organised either to achieve that end.
or to take control of the present social structure were overturned. The resolution carried at each meeting provided for the formation of a council of action to resist any attacks that may be made on wage standards."

Fri. Mar. 20, 1931. This morning I received the following letter:

"6 Hampton Street, Goodwood, South Australia, Mar. 16th 1931. Mr. Josiah Cooking. Dear Sir, I received a letter to-day from the Salvation Army in Broken Hill seeking information regarding an uncle of mine, namely "Skittles" Trezise. Well, I am not he; but I think you will have success in getting in touch with him if you write him in Broken Hill. His address is:- Mr. W. Trezise, Blend Street, North Broken Hill, N.S.W. Trusting you will meet with success, I remain yours faithfully W.M. Trezise, 6 Hampton Street, Goodwood, S. Australia. P.S. If it isn't too much trouble to you if you feel disposed you could let me know if you meet with success in your inquiries. W.T."

To that letter I have typed this reply:

"41 Ingall St., Mayfield East, via Newcastle, N.S.W. To Mr. W. Trezise, 6 Hampton St., Goodwood, South Aus. Dear Friend, Your short, but exceedingly welcome letter reached me to-day, & I hasten to return my very best thanks for your kindness in sending your uncle Will's address. I have been trying to find him for a very long time, but though I have written to several people in Broken Hill none of them could give me any information. Many times I have wondered what had become of Will & his excellent wife & children. Now, thanks to adjutant Hilton & yourself, I seem to be at the successful termination of my long search. Yes, I will gladly let you know how I succeed, but I must first write to them & wait for a reply before I write again to you. Again thanking you for your kindness, & hoping that you & your's are enjoying the very best of health & prosperity, despite the universal depression, I am yours gratefully & fraternally, Josiah Cooking."

This afternoon I wrote the following letter to Will Trezise:

"41 Ingall St., Mayfield East, via Newcastle, N.S.W. To Mr. W.A. Trezise, Blend Street, North Broken Hill, Mar. 20, 1931. Dear Will & Mrs. Trezise, To-day I was delighted to receive a short letter from your kind nephew, W.M. Trezise, of 6 Hampton Street, Goodwood, South Australia, in which he gave me your address. As you see, I am losing no time before writing to you; though I will not write a long letter to you now. My great
desire is to receive a few lines from you to learn how you have battled along since we last had the great pleasure of reading a letter from you. I hope the world has used you as well as you deserve, for then you have been prosperous & happy. Jinny & I have talked of you many times during the sad & silent years since we parted from you, & we have been sorry indeed that we could not help you when assistance was badly needed. It was very hard to be utterly unable to return something for your unbounded hospitality & brotherly & sisterly help in our time of trouble, which we shall never forget. I have often written to people in Broken Hill to find where you were, or what had become of you all. Besides writing I have diligently searched through the great Directory at the Newcastle post office to discover your address, but only found the names of some strangers at Broken Hill whom I could inquire of.

Now, dear friends, do not fail to write & let us know how you are & how you have been since we had the pleasure of living with you. I thank God that we are all well, & I most sincerely hope you are all enjoying good health also. We shall be anxiously expecting a letter from you; so please end our anxiety by writing without delay.

Meanwhile we remain your ever grateful & affectionate friends, Joe & Jinny Cocking. Please address: Josiah Cocking, 41 Ingall street, Mayfield East N.S.W.

Sat. Mar. 21, 1931. This morning I finished reading the book, "Yourself & Your Body", 317 pages 7½ x 4½ by Wilfred T. Grenfell. Typing out lessons for Florence all day. Mr. Stones called & told Charlie that the business of selling the house next door, that Charlie built, is finished.

Tues. Mar. 24, 1931. My registration number is called for at the Newcastle Labor Exchange at 3 p.m. to-day. Yesterday Charlie & Fred took down our aerial wire & erected it from the front chimney to the sewer vent pipe, & they took down the 40 feet aerial pole & laid it on the roof. The aerial works well in the new position. Arthur returned the 2 books that I borrowed of Mrs. MacDonald. Phillip Game (governor of N.S.W.) has refused to give Mr. Lang permission to appoint enough new members to the Upper House to enable him to get his Bills passed; & Lang's government is talking of asking that Game be recalled. This morning I wrote a note to Mr. Harvey, the principal of the Newcastle High School, asking him to allow Arthur to participate in the sports despite the fact that I am unable to pay
Wed. Mar. 24. 1931. This morning I wrote & typed the following verses:

To the editor of "Newcastle Herald".

REVOLUTION.

Sir, A modern Saul of Tarsus has arisen in the land
To defend the haughty Pharasees who rule;
He has all the vast resources of the Press at his command
To oppose all mild persuasion like a mule.

Let me warn this incarnation of the ancient zealot, Paul,
To be careful how he kicks against the pricks
Of the Communists who goad him, lest he's blinded, as was Saul,
When the light of Freedom's sun reveals his tricks.

Like an advocate of Satan he is fighting through the press
To withstand the robbed & cheated unemployed
On their march to wealh & freedom, when the land they shall
possess
And the pleasures that by drones are now enjoyed.

Let Paul tell his haughty patrons that unless they soon, restore
All the wealth of which, by law, they rob the poor,
Their confounded social system & its laws shall be no more
When the Wolf of Revolution claws the door.

Paul may prate of equal riches till the cows come marching home,
And deny the fact that slaves are robbed ad lib.,
And build pyramids of figures till they reach high Heaven's dome,
But to say the poor get justice, is to fib!

Let the candid truth be written by this modern zealot's pen
That the land & tools are taken by the Few
Who exist in ease & riches by exploiting working men
Who should scrap this rotten System for the New.

Let Paul Cheyne receive this warning while there still remains
To avert the hungry Wolf's avenging paw;
(a chance I deplore the awful carnage if with hordes he does advance,
For a cheated, hungry stomach knows no law.

I intend to send these verses & the following note to the editor:

Sir, With this I enclose a few verses which I would like you
to publish as they are written, that is, without being edited, & in the form of verses, as the rhythm & sense are impaired if they are printed as prose. I know it would take up a lot of space if all letters were printed in the form of verses, but so few write letters in this form that perhaps one or two could be tolerated. If you cannot print them as they are, kindly
This morning we received the following letter:—

"From R.W. Thompson & Sons, solicitors, 276 High St., West Maitland, N.S.W. To Josiah Cocking, Ingall Street, Mayfield, Newcastle.

Dear Sir, You & Mrs. Cocking to Stones. The writer has had the document in the matter signed by Mr. Stones, & expects to call on you on Friday afternoon next. If this is not convenient for you & Mrs. Cocking you might kindly let us know if you could meet the writer at Messrs G.W. Pinfold & Co's office on Friday evening. Yours truly R.W. Thompson."

I typed the following reply:—

"Dear Sirs, In reply to your letter of yesterday in which the writer asks me to let him know if it would be convenient for us if he called here next Friday afternoon, I wish to inform him that it would not, as I expect to be at work at Broadmeadow until about 5 p.m. on Friday. All being well, my wife & I can meet him at Mr. Pinfold's office between 7 & 8 o'clock. Yours sincerely Josiah Cocking."

Yesterday afternoon I was called at the new Labour Exchange office near Auckland street, Newcastle, & was given a note to start work at Broadmeadow on Thursday.

Thur. Mar. 25, 1931. This morning I walked to Broadmeadow & found Chatham Road, where a drain is being made. I gave my starting ticket to the ganger, Abrahams, & started to load a dray with black shingle that was dredged out of the Paterson or Williams river. The horse-driver is young Jack Bell, of King St., Newcastle. We had 3 quarters of an hour for dinner & left work at a quarter past 3 p.m. I rode home by tram as I was tired. The weather was lovely.

Wed. Apr. 1, 1931. Last Friday I worked at the drain at Chatham road, & was very sore & tired. I was too sore & tired to go out anywhere on Saturday & Sunday. I worked on Monday, Tuesday, & to-day at the same job. We were paid to-day for four days' work. My pay was 3 pounds, 3 shillings & 10 pence, less 3/- tax. I rode to Hamilton station with Jack Bell, in his dray, & walked from there home. Our ganger, Bill Abrahams, was taken away in the
ambulance car this afternoon with pains in his chest.
On Monday we received the following letter from Will & Mrs. Trezise:-

#758 Blende Street, Broken Hill, March 26, 1931.
Dear Friends, We received your very welcome letter yesterday, or my married son got it & brought it up. It is a good many years since we heard from you, & there have been a good many ups & downs, more downs than ups with us. Will is working half time. We have got four sons -- one married. He got out of work & we had to help him out; & the others are out of work. One is 24, & one gets a pension, & one is 18. And I have got a girl 12. My Myrtle died 10 years ago, & left 2 children. That seems to have nearly settled us; she was such a good girl. Dolly is in a home in Adelaide.

Will does not have very good health, he worries a lot because we have such a hard struggle. If the boys could get work it would make things easier. I think Broken Hill is played out. How are things over there? I suppose just as bad. I would like very much to see you, but unless you come this way there is not much hope. There are cousins of yours live about here. One, Mrs. Norris, she died about six months ago. She was a lovely woman. She left 4 children, a baby just born. I had my teeth out about a month ago. I have had a bad spin, so the boys are doing the cooking & housework. When you have not got girls you must make girls out of boys, I think. I will close now with kind regards from your loving friends, M.E. & W.A. Trezise.

Sat. Apr. 4, 1931. Today I finished typing a 6 page letter to Will Trezise. Grace Cocking was here this morning. This afternoon I wrote the following note:-

"To Mr. W.M. Trezise, 6 Hampton Street, Goodwood, South Australia, April 4th 1931. Dear Friend,
As I promised to inform you if I found your uncle Will, I am very pleased to tell you that my letter to him was promptly answered by your aunt. We were very glad to receive a letter from them after a silence of about 30 years; but were extremely sorry to learn of the untimely death of poor young Myrtle. She was a lovely child when we knew her at Wallaroo Mines, & she doubtless became a beautiful young woman. It is another proof of the uncertainty of life, & a solemn warning to us all to be prepared when the call comes to move off to another sphere of action.

I have just finished writing a long letter to your respected aunt & uncle, & sincerely hope that they will continue the correspondence with us which which you have so succe-
ssfully helped us to establish. Again thanking you for your kind assistance in the discovery of our highly esteemed & long lost friends, I remain with gratitude & respect, Yours sincerely Josiah Cocking."

We received the following letter a few days ago:

"Newcastle Boys' High School parents & Citizens' Association, 30th March, 1931. Dear Sir & Madam, On behalf of the above I am making a special appeal to you to become members of our Association. At present, I regret to say, our membership is very poor. This is due, I think, that many parents have not realised the importance of our Association. Our object is the welfare of the boys of the High School. I am aware that in a great number of cases the parents cannot attend our meetings through living in outlying suburbs. You may be one of those parents. Although we would very much appreciate your attendance at our meetings, if this is inconvenient we would still appreciate your becoming a member of our Association, the fee of which is 1/- per annum. By each parent becoming a member you will readily see what monetary assistance you would be giving us. I know you have your boy's welfare at heart; we, as an Association, have that interest also. During the next 12 months there is a great deal of work to be accomplished. This can only be done by the assistance & co-operation of the parents. I feel sure you will give this appeal your earnest consideration & assist us by becoming members of our Association. Mr. Harvey, principal, has kindly consented to accept any membership fees or donations that you feel disposed to give per medium of your boy, or same can be sent direct to me, & you will receive a receipt in due course. Thanking you in anticipation, Yours truly F.E. Brown, hon. secretary.

P.S. Our meetings are held on the third tuesday of each month in the Bolton Street public School."

To the letter above I wrote the following answer:

"To Mr. F.E. Brown, Hon. Secretary, Newcastle Boys' High School Parents & Citizens' Association.

Dear Sir, In reply to your appeal to us to become members of your Association I thank you for your courteous invitation to join you, but it would be very inconvenient for us to attend meetings of the Association. You may, however, enrol me as a member of your Association, for which I enclose with this, as requested, as entrance fee. Wishing you & your laudable Association all the success you desire & deserve, I am, Sir, Yours sincerely, Josiah Cocking."
Charlie has gone to Gosford to play at an estedfod there.

Easter Monday, April 6, 1931. Artie, Mum, & Walter have gone with Jose in his car to fish near Williamstown. Charlie has not returned from Gosford. Gladys is going with Jose as far as Raymond Terrace.

Wed. Ap. 8, 1931. I worked to-day & yesterday at the Broadmeadow drain. This evening I rolled up a bundle of typed copies of some of my verses for Sir Harry Lauder's brother Jock, who works at the drain & lives at Stockton. He has promised to give me some of his verses. These are the ones I will give him:—What Is Nature?; The Solution; What Is a Wage?; What Is a Socialist?; What Is An Anarchist?; A Socialist's Lament; There Was An Old Lady; Aspiration; What Is A Gentleman?; Sunday Desecration; The Liquor; How Not To Be Saved; Blind Leaders; Marjory Daw; Old Father Hubbard; What Is A Lady?; Christmas Bells; Our Duty; Little Sally Waters; What Is Christianity?; Be Extreme; To Boy Conscripts; I Wonder; The Christian Soldier; A New Era; An Idle Woman's Diary; Nearing The Gate; & Who Killed Cock Robin?.

Sat. Ap. 11, 1931. I finished my 10 days work at Broadmeadow yesterday, & was paid £ 4-15-9, less 4/- wage tax. We have paid all expenses in connection with the sale & mortgage of the new house, the full amount being £ 73-2-9. We shall get a new deed for our old house, which is now free of mortgage. Charlie has got an engagement with a musical body at Casino, & will go there soon. We have received the following letter & document from R.W. Thompson:

"A.M.P. Buildings, 276 High Street, West Maitland, 8th April 1931. Re Mrs. Pierce & Mr. M. Stones. Dear Sir, The amount required to enable us to pay off Mrs. Pierce's mortgage & to complete Mr. Stones' purchase £ 73-2-9. A statement showing how this is arrived at is enclosed. You will notice it includes the payment of all our costs including the Registrar's fee for obtaining a new deed, & it includes which we have paid. We have given credit in the statement of the current year's rates in respect of his cottage, but we have not given you his proportion of the water rates. These rates will be adjusted later, as we cannot adjust them until we receive word from the Water Board how they are to be adjusted. In the meantime if you will kindly forward us the above-mentioned sum of £ 73-2-9, & if you & Mrs. Cocking will sign the enclosed Application for new certificate of title, &
"Mr. Josiah Cocking, No. 41 Ingall St., Mayfield, Newcastle.
You re Mrs. C. M. A. Pierce.
To scale costs of discharge of mortgage form £ 525
£ 2-12-6.
You to Stones.
Scale of costs of acting on sale herein for £ 675
and of application for balance certificate of title,
including preparation of plan of subdivision on linen,
& having same endorsed by Council & lodging with the
Registrar General, £ 5-5-0.
£ 2-12-6
£ 6-17-6
Paid Registrar General's fee on discharge of mortgage
£ 1-12-6
Registrar General's fee for new certificate of title
£ 100
£ 61-0-0
£ 8-9-0. With compliments,
R. W. Thompson."

STATEMENT, You re Mrs. Pierce. By deposit £ 100-0-0
To agent's commission 16-7-6
By balance of purchase moneymaking with the
deposit of £ 100, & second mortgage in your
favor of £ 175, total purchase money of 675
£ 400-0-0
The principal owing under mortgage to
Mrs. C. M. A. Pierce £ 525-0-0
Interest owing under mortgage to Mrs. Pierce from
Oct. 31, 1930 to Mar. 31, 1931 £ 17-10-0
Paid Council rates for 1931 8-2-6
By refund by purchaser of his proportion of current
year's Council rates £ 2-16-3
For our costs & fees as per memo attached £ 8-9-0
By balance owing by you £ 73-2-9.
£ 575-19-0
With compliments, R. W. Thompson.

Yesterday Jock Lauder gave me some of his verses enti-
titled "Liberty;" "The Land I Love;" "The Last Sweet Ho
"My Country Far Away"; "Immortality;" "The Land
Where There's No Night".

Wed. Ap. 15, 1931. We have received the following note
from R. W. Thompson:--
"A.M.P. Buildings 276 High St., West Maitland 11th April
1931. Mr. Josiah Cocking, 41 Ingall St., Mayfield.
Dear Sir, You & another to
Stones. Referring to our letter to you of the 8th inst., we beg to advise you that we have received the sum £73-2-9 from G.W. Pinfold & Co, ltd. We enclose a formal receipt for same. R.W. Thompson.

Our Charlie left by the 11 train for Casino, where he has an engagement to play the trombone & saxophone with some musical or band. No salary is assured, but only a share in the earnings of the party. We gave him five pounds ten to pay fare & expenses. Florrie was at home yesterday. On Monday I walked to the Labour Exchange & waited in a queue for about 4 hours, but could not get my ticket, as there were too many to attend to before the office closed at 1 p.m. Last night I heard Mr. Scott, the aviator, speak over the air, from Brisbane on his record-breaking flight from England to Australia. He has beaten Kingsford Smith's record by half a day.

Thur. Ap. 16, 1931. The most striking news in this morning's paper is that King Alphonso of Spain has abdicated & a republic has been proclaimed. The Spaniards are jubilant. Yesterday I copied a lot of old letters of the years 1919 & 1920, & have many more to copy. Rainy. This morning we received the following letter & a cheque: for 12/6:-

"Hunter District Water Supply & Sewerage Board, Newcastle, 13th April, 1931. Mr. J. Cocking, Ingal1 St., Waratah. Dear Sir, I beg to inform you that the assessment on your property in Ingal1 street, rated as register No. 25557 has been reduced by the Board from £70 p.a. & I enclose here-with cheque No. R. 829 for 12/6, being refund of amount of water rates 6/6, & sewerage rates 6/- due to you. Yours faithfully Alfred Fry, secretary."

Tues. Ap. 21, 1931. This morning we received the following letter from Charlie:-

"G/o Mrs. Brown, 80 Hotham St., Casino, N.S.W. 19th April 1931. Dear Mother, Arrived o.k., & although so far we have not played out, the band is hard at it every night. This place is very decent, nice people etc. 30/- they charge, but in a few weeks I hope to be fixed up under better arrangements. There will be a lot of playing done here soon, but, woman-like, Mrs. Green sent for me before getting on the job, & though she has work on for a few weeks ahead, just at present we are only rehearsing. However, I am pushing her along, & I think I will be all right soon. My board is paid up till next Wednesday, & I have another 30/- for another week after that, so by that time I hope to be able to balance the budget. I have been around to all the builders in town, 11d-
but they all have their own men, & besides, the railway job has stopped owing to lack of funds, which last has seriously affected the building trade. Tendering is out of the question here owing to the low prices builders are putting in just now; but I am on the job every day, nevertheless. Will write to you again next week some time. Hoping you are all o.k. down there, I close with best thoughts. Tell Dooley to let me know if he gets a job for a couple, for I would be with him right away. Phone on Casino. Chip."

Mr. & Mrs. Stones moved into the new house next door yesterday, & I laid a brick foundation for the gas meter to stand on. Mum paid Mrs. Stones the 25/- due on the rates. Today Fred has gone to Newcastle to get an electrician's licence from the clerk of petty sessions for Jose. Last Sunday afternoon I walked to the Waratah Benevolent Asylum & had a long talk with brother Bob, who seems to be better. He has read a lot of Christian Science literature lately, & he declares that he now feels much better than before. I attended the knee-drill & the indoor meetings & open-airs of the Army, but not the afternoon & night meetings. Cold, wet weather on Sunday. Mum answered Charlie's letter & sent a money order for 2 pounds to him.

Mon. Apr. 27, 1931. Yesterday I attended all of the Army meetings, & the Communist meeting in Islington park in the afternoon. The speakers were Mr. Simpson & Mr. Hutt. There was a very large crowd listening. During last week there has been a flood in the Hunter & Williams rivers, as rain fell nearly all the week. Anzac day was celebrated on Saturday; & yesterday there was the usual glorification of those who died to save their dear, kind masters from hard, honest work. This morning we received the following letter from Charlie:-

Dear Mother, Just after I sent the other letter to you I called on Mrs. Green to find out what moneys she expected to make, & when. She was very decent, & was good enough to ask how stood for finance. I told her, & mentioned that if she couldn't get work soon I would be forced against my will to send down to you for cash to carry on. She then told me that she has a lot of jobs on, booked up for next month, & that I need not send home for cash--or I need not worry, as she would see that my board was paid up.

Now, 30/- a week is too much for my liking, & I have been around spying out likely looking sheds that might serve me as a cabin to live in, & have located one in town, handy, water laid on, good iron roof, & floored, that will do me handsomely. Of course I have not seen the owner yet, but will
I do not anticipate any trouble in that regard. In such a shack I can live easily on 10/- a week, and furthermore, I am going down for the dole next Tuesday. I registered at the local Labour Bureau, and the chap is doing his worst to get me a job. I saw the manager of the leading store yesterday & put it to him to have the inside of his premises done up. He referred me to another chap—the owner—and when I can catch him at home I will word him.

By the way, the Government Savings Bank in Casino was closed today, and a notice in the window was sufficient to cause a general alarm here. Now what about the banks?

Tell Joe to tickle himself & get his out quick. Now, about this shed, Mother, if you could let me have a couple of pounds right away I could set myself up easily; & I am not so worried in asking for it because of the knowledge I have of what is going here for us this season. Besides playing in Mrs. Green's orchestra I am playing in another band here, & as there are only 3 outfits in town I must rake in the dubs soon. The mob here are gogly over my trombone, & very soon I will be Signor Saxophone also; so I feel confident of a good season here. There is no need to telegraph the money, Mother, a letter containing a money order will reach me soon enough if sent right away. I am sorry to have to trouble you in this way, but feel sure I can repay you with interest very soon.

I could get the cash off Mrs. Green, but prefer to get set up first. I am in good health & spirits & am looking forward to a record season. Will write again soon. I should mention that I have secured the loan of blankets, billy cans, frying pan, & all necessary camping gear for nothing. Can get it when I want it.

Yours with love, Chip.

Tues. Ap. 28, 1931. To-day I wrote a letter to Harry Holland, M.P. New Zealand, explaining why I was not present at his reception in Newcastle. Florrie came home last evening.

Wed. Ap. 29, 1931. This morning I nailed the letter-box that I painted & Fred numbered, 601 EX for Mrs. Stones, on to front fence. I put a strong iron handle on our aluminium steamer. This afternoon we received the following note from Charlie:

"My new address, C/o Post Office, Casino, N.S.W.

Dear Mother, I got your letter when mine was probably on the way down to you, & am very thankful to know I have good friends in you all when I need them. Curious that you should send just what I wanted before I had asked, really. I have told you about trying to get a cabin; well I have been able to get hold of one, & will move in on Wed. this week. The place is good, & the young fellow who plays the violin—he gets the dole—is going to share it with me, which simplifies matters & leaves me only 2/6 rent a week to pay. The
The rain has stopped, & I am in a hurry to get down & clean the place up a bit, so I hope you will excuse this short note. We are booked up for to-day week--next Monday-- & from then on will be rather busy. I am set up for camping gear, but should I get in need of anything Mrs. Green will fix it up. Will write again soon. Yours with love, Chip.

Fri. May 1, 1931. Yesterday afternoon I walked to the Lookout Hill, about a mile from New Lambton, & took a photograph of the Newcastle district. Mr. & Mrs. Sharman, of Newcastle, were there with a motor car, & I lent him my telescope to view the scene. It was a lovely sunny day. Fred posted my letter to Harry Holland on Wednesday. This morning we received the following letter from Mrs. Eliza Morris:

"No.3, Waratah Lane, Lithgow, Apr. 25, 1931.

Dear Mary, just a few lines to let you see I still think of you, & I do hope that these few lines will find you & all in your care well. We are all fairly well at home, thank God. Well, Mary, how are you getting on these times? My word the times are hard & the winter coming; what are people going to do? It has been a hard, trying time for a lot of people, & I often think of the young children—not enough food in many cases. What kind of men & women will they make? One feels sorry for them. My word, what a lot of rain we are having! But Lithgow is not as bad as Newcastle way for floods. It's a hard time for them, & so often. I often wonder how they pull themselves together—one flood after another—it is very hard.

Well, Mary, I suppose your grandchildren are big now. I often think about the boys when I was over there; & now they are married men with families. And Florrie—how is she? Does she like nursing? I should think it should be nice, & Florrie always fancied nursing. That's why I think she should be good. It needs a good deal of patience, for some people need a lot of care. And how are you after your operation? I trust you feel the better of it; I know I do. My sister Mary's boy is in hospital. He was operated on for his old trouble. He has had a very bad time. It made us very anxious, but thank God he is on the mend.

Well, Mary, I don't think there is any more this time. Love from Maggie & Eva. Kind regards Maggie & Bill to you all. Receive best love from Harry & myself. I remain your old friend E. Morris.

The following cutting from a paper was enclosed:

"Old Miner Passes. Mr. James Mantle, another life-long resident of the town, in the person of Mr. James Mantle, died at
the home of his daughter, Mrs. H. Hodder, McKellars paddock, yesterday. The late Mr. Mantle was 61 years of age, & had followed mining pursuits for many years. He had been ill for over 12 months, & death, which was due to an internal complaint, was not altogether unexpected. A family of 3 sons & a daughter are left to mourn their loss, & to them will be extended universal sympathy. Messrs William Mantle (Pottery) Enclosure & H. Mantle (Sydney) are brothers. The funeral has been fixed for to morrow afternoon, interment to take place in Church of England portion of Bowenfels cemetery."

Sat. May 2, 1931. To-day I typed a letter in reply to Tom Johnston, of Estellville, West Wallsend.

Thur. May 7, 1931. Young Dan Rees of Wallsend visited us on tuesday. He is an inspector for the Government Labor Exchange & his duty is to discover those who obtain the dole by false pretences. Florrie was at home yesterday. All this week I have been writing a pamphlet to prove that no enlightened Christian can consistently become a voluntary military soldier. This morning we received the following letter from Charlie:

"C/o Post Office, Casino. Mon. 4th May, 1931.
Dear Mother, You have by now received my other letter, no doubt, & many thanks for the couple of notes. I did not need them, however, because the very night of the day I wrote to you, Mrs. Green called me aside at the rehearsal & told me to "hang on to this", the "this" being 30/-, & you bet I hung on to it because I needed some cash to fix the shack up. I am living right in town now, Mother, in the shed I told you of. It costs me 5/- per week, but the violinist is going to share it with me soon, & he will naturally pay half then. I got the dole last Thursday, & am now going to collect it every Thursday. They give me 6/5 worth of goods, but from this Thursday coming the ration will be about 8/8, so I am set here. In any case I am expecting Mrs. Green to hand out more shekels each week also. There is a very decent family living near me, & I am using their horse, saddle, & bridle. They send me a big screw-top jar full of milk every morning, & get the jar back every afternoon. She has promised to do anything for me in the cooking line also. Everybody is good to me here. I was over the bridge--South Casino they call it--the other night, & the young fellow who runs the shop over there gave me enough string beans to feed a horse. I am cooking some of them now, & the rest I gave to the lady who owns the cow. A drover from Lismore is camping out in my paddock, & he just walked in & gave me 3 hefty sausages for dinner. I generally dine out with someone for one meal a day, &..."
Thur. May 14, 1931. Last Friday I was sixty-four years of age. I was born at Kadina, South Australia, on the 11th of May, eighteen hundred & sixty-seven. This morning I wrote the following verses; & took them to the office of the "Waratah-Mayfield Weekly":-

CRYING OUT FOR FUN.

"A considerable portion of the time of the Wickham Council was occupied in discussing an application from the Lang's Girls' Cricket Club for the permission to play cricket on Sundays in the Islington Park, with the object of raising money to help distressed families." Alderman Young said, in reply, that he was surprised to hear a number of aldermen say that they had been told that if they voted against the motion there was a probability of losing their seats at the next election. In support of his motion, he said that the people were crying out for funds.

The Mayor: "Crying out for fun!" The motion was defeated by 8 votes to four. -- Newcastle Morning Herald.

The cry for fun, that has begun
And round the earth is fleeting,
Was hushed aright the other night
At Wickham Council meeting.

Eight of the twelve resolved to shelve
The sinful application
To feed & dress those in distress
By Sunday desecration.

That stale excuse for the abuse
Of sacred Sunday leisure
Has lost its weight upon the eight
Who value, still, that Treasure.
The Tabbies' Club should heed the snub,
And blush for Sunday cricket,
And spend their time on things sublime--
Not throwing at a wicket!

Each idle day there's time for play
On six days, counting Monday
Without that ruse to thus abuse
The sacredness of Sunday.

A Pagan mob who thus would rob
The world of Christian leisure,
And God forget, shall suffer yet
His most severe displeasure.

For God's commands that weary hands
Shall rest one day in seven;
So all, that day, should rest-- not play--
And think of Him and Heaven.

I don't deny that girls should try
To help a needy neighbour,
And gather funds for moribunds--
Except by Sunday labour.

But some decline from things divine;
Ignore God's stern injunction;
And flout, in short, His Law, for sport,
Without the least compunction.

Why thus defy, & not comply
With His benign direction,
Since all may see that God's decree
Was made for Man's protection?

Let's honour, then, the Aldermen
Who reverence the Saviour
And risk each seat to thus defeat
Such heathenish behaviour!

Dandelion.

Printed by "Waratah-Mayfield Weekly". 18-7-31.
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Who reverence the Saviour
And risk each seat to thus defeat
Such heathenish behaviour!

—Dandelion.

Par. 165. Mum went to Newcastle this morning with Florrie & Arthur & bought him a new blue-black suit for school. Florrie persuaded Art to have his photo taken in different positions, & she is going to have 2 cabinet size copies made & coloured. I have been writing my pamphlet "The Christian Soldier" to-day. My letter in reply to John Skillcorn & Thomas Johnston, s reply to my letter to him are in to-day's Newcastle Herald. Fred is repairing the stand of the grindstone. Jack developed my film last Wed., but as the pictures were not sharply focussed he did not fix the film. Florrie bought a fountain pen to-day to give to me for my birthday.

Wed. May 20, 1931. Last Sat. I visited Mr. & Mrs. Townsend who was formerly Bert Sheppard's wife & widow, at North Townes, so I did not see them.

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