

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT HOME

VICTORIA

ARMY AND MANPOWER.—Many young soldiers who had completed their initial training had been made available for rural work, said Mr. Wurth, Director-General of Manpower yesterday. Within certain limits, the Army had co-operated admirably with the Directorate in releasing those men for farm work, and without their help, not all crops could have been harvested. The Army has established a rehabilitation service which provided for each discharged man to be interviewed by trained personnel and placed in suitable employment.

LORD MAYOR'S HOSPITAL FUND.—An all-time record has been achieved by the Lord Mayor's Hospital Fund this year. It now stands at a total income of £97,561, or £26,100 better than last year.

SCHOOLCHILDREN GROW VEGETABLES.— Fifty-four acres of vegetables in plots ranging from about 100 square yards to one acre are now being grown by State School children as part of war time activities. At present, 1130 are taking part. They have already sold vegetables worth £1863 for War Relief effort, and another £500 worth given to charitable institutions.

CIVIL DEFENCE DAY.—Celebrating Civil Defence Day in Melbourne, 153 mechanised vehicles took part in a procesion after which Mr. Dunstan, the Premier, said that it was evident that ARP services in the city had reached a high degree of efficiency. The squads wore uniforms and coloured tin hats to direct their particular function.

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MILDURA NEWS.—Contributions totalling £181 were made during the past year to patriotic bodies by the Millewa Patriotic Fund.

Mildura Hospital Committee appointed the following officers and sub-committees for the ensuing year: President, Mr. J. Rogerson; vice-president, Mr. G. A. Campbell; treasurer, Mr. B. R. Seddon; Hospital Fund representatives, Messrs Favalloro, Jenner, Hodson; house committee, president and vice-president, Messrs. Neville, Hodson, Guthrie.

LORNE TRAGEDY.— The body of the second victim of the Lorne boating tragedy, Rose Efront, was recovered at low tide on Saturday, entangled in the rigging of a boat. The other victim was Fayga Grinter, of Albert Street, East Brunswick. Val Kelly and Ken Brown, who were rescued, recovered sufficiently to join the search party on Saturday, and each saw the wreck in 15 feet of water.

GAS RESTRICTIONS.— Restrictions on the use of gas by domestic consumers will operate from midnight tomorrow. The decision will affect almost all of the metropolitan area, except parts served by the Heidelberg gasworks which hopes to be able to carry on satisfactorily.

NEWS FROM BALLARAT.— Cr. Joseph Pryor, who was re-elected to the City Council as a representative of the Ureka Ward by a narrow majority of 29 over an almost unknown man in Mr. N. Callow, was elected mayor of Ballarat on August 30 for the third time. The duties of Mayor-elect will be carried out by Mrs. M. Martin, widow of the late Cr. M. Martin.

Well-known in cricketing circles by Ballarat and district cricketers. Cr. J. S. Stevens, of Maryborough, has been elected Mayor of Maryborough

J. S. Stevens, of Maryborough, has been elected Mayor of Maryborough for the fourth time.

For the year just closed, the Grenville Patriotic Fund raised £341/-8/6 for various efforts, a very creditable performance for such a comparatively small body.

The rabbit industry is proving profitable to many people. One supplier of rabbits has lifted an average of £27 a week extending over some months.

Four-thousand perch from the hatcheries of the Ballarat Acclimatisation Society have been released in Lake Burrumbeet.

—Courier.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ROOF CHASE.—A chase over the roof of Carls Bros., jewellers, in Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie, resulted in the arrest of 19-year-old soldier John Batchelor. He was charged in the Kalgoorlie Police Court later with breaking and entering with intent. It is alleged that when arrested, Batchelor had imitation jewellery in his possession.

PRISONERS OF WAR.—Missing in Java for about 17 months, 21-year-old Private Philip Jackson, is now officially reported by the Minister for the Army as prisoner-of-war. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Jackson, of 84 Watkins Street, Beaconsfield. Joining the AIF in 1941, he was transferred in Palestine to a unit which later went to Java.

Formerly a Perth bricklayer, 37-year-old Lance-Corporal William John Sales has been officially reported a prisoner-of-war in Japanese hands. Sales was born in Perth, went to Malaya in May, 1941, with

went to Malaya in May, 1941, with an engineering unit. His family received no news of him since the fall of Singapore until now.

DECORATION TO LEEDERVILLE LAD.—Leading Seaman Colin Bake, of Leederville, has been awarded the DSM for bravery. The citation reads: "The King has approved of the award of the Distinguished Service Medal to Leading Seaman Colin Bake, RANR, for bravery and coolness in action while serving in defensively equipped merchant ships during operations in Africa." Bake, who is 21 was born at Jarrah Bay, and was educated at the Pinjarra and Leederville State Schools. He was a good footballer at school, and was later an enthusiastic life saver, and was a member of the City Beach Life Saving Club.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PRICE CONTROL AND CEILING PRICES.—At the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, the retiring president, Mr. R. E. Jacobs, said he thought it was well appreciated that the necessity for a rigid form of price control in wartime and the introduction of ceiling prices, had been a development of major importance to industry and commerce. Either directly or indirectly, money for rising costs had to be found by the people in any case. The operation of the scheme would require careful watching and might have far reaching effects on the future of private enterprise.

FIRST PROSECUTION.—Lloyd Skener, of the Britannia Hotel, Norwood, was fined £15, with £3/13/ costs, in the Adelaide Police Court

for having transported a racehorse by rail from Bordertown to Ballarat. It was the first case of its kind in the Commonwealth.

HORSE TRANSPORT.—South Australian owners who have horses training at Melbourne and wish to take advantage of the lifting of the ban on rail transport of thoroughbreds in that State, but are unable to get assistance from the Victorian Railways, could take their horses to the border.

The Railways Commissioner, Mr. Wishart, said yesterday, that the department regretted the ban in Victoria could not be modified, even to the extent of permitting racehorses to be carried in cattle trucks to Serviceton.

Because of the serious coal position and imminence of curtailment of services there was no hope of any change to meet the resumption of racing in South Australia.

NEW SOUTH WALES

"ECLIPSE BLINDNESS."—Many cases of blindness and serious sight impairment have occurred in Sydney through people looking at the eclipse of the sun on August 1 without proper eye protection. In some cases, doctors say that the injury to sight will be permanent. Generally, prospects of recovery from "eclipse blindness" are good. Victims were mostly people who watched the eclipse through ordinary dark glasses which offer virtually no protection to the eyes when looking directly at the sun. In the circumstances, the rays of the sun burn the central part of the retina.

MAILSERVICE.—The Army Post

MAILSERVICE.—The Army Post Office in Sydney handles an average of 80,000 outward letters every day, of which 45,000 are despatched by air mail. From January 10 to June 30 last, the total of outward mail was 14,000,000 of which only 110 went astray. Commenting on these figures on Saturday, an official Army spokesman at Victoria Barracks said, "troops in New Guinea and other northern battle stations receive their air mail within three days, and in many instances, in as short a period as 36 hours."

A MEATLESS DAY.—Sydney faces at least one meatless day this week, city butchers say, even if the slaughtermen's strike is settled promptly. The strike involves 1000 men at the Homebush abattoirs and arises from a dispute between the union and Industrial Commission.

DOING GREAT JOB, SAYS GOVERNOR.—Men and women of the Civil Defence were doing a wonderful job and the organisation should not be disbanded after the war. The Governor, Lord Wakehurst, said this on Saturday after taking the salute at the Civil Defence Day Procession which included more than 150,000 NES workers.

XMAS HAMPERS APPEAL. — Eighty-thousand Xmas hampers for servicemen and women abroad is the objective of the "Telegraph" Xmas Hamper Appeal, launched in conjunction with the Australian Comforts Fund. On September 17, Mrs.

B. Grant and her "Surryhills Merry-makers" raised money for 200 hampers at the Redfern Town Hall.

SADDER BUT WISER.—A merchant seaman who was recently fined

chant seaman who was recently fined £25 for having written a letter giving details of his ship's movements, is now a sadder but wiser man. He said that he had saved money to visit Sydney on leave. It was charged that his letter contained information useful to the enemy. Army security urges all Australians to play safe in their letters and "to think twice before they write once."

TASMANIA

DEAD OPOSSUMS.— Examination of carcasses and sick ringtail opossums in the Midlands has revealed that many have died through exposure to severe weather, it was stated at a meeting of the Animal and Birds Protection Board at Hobart. One member said that periodically during severe winters, ringtails died from pneumonia. This year as many of 16 had been found dead in a group under a tree.

COUNTRY CHILDREN.— The Tasmanian State School Teachers' Federation decided at Launceston to urge the Government to take immediate steps to establish hostels for country children in centres in which there were high schools, and to recommend the establishment of secondary boarding schools as an urgent post-war undertaking.

FACTORY AT KILLAFADDY.— The Victorian Casing Coy. informed the Launceston Marine Board yesterday that it had bought land behind the property of J. Kitchen and Son Pty. Ltd., at Killafaddy for a factory.

GAOL ALLEGATIONS.— Statements that they had been confined in the condemned cell of the Hobart Gaol for three weeks, were made by two men who pleaded guilty in

Gaol for three weeks, were made by two men who pleaded guilty in the Criminal Court at Hobart on Friday to charges of escape from the gaol. They were Maxwell George Christie and George William Payne. Since he had been in gaol, said Christie, he had been in the condemned cell which was next to the gallows. He had slept on the floor and had had no containers for his food. Later bunks and food containers had been provided. In answer to the Chief Justice, the Acting Governor of the Gaol, Mr. A. Linton said that Christie and Payne were not now in the condemned cell. They had been put there because it was a safe spot.