

JOURNAL OF STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION OF VICTORIA

SEC

Volume 15, No. 12

Christmas, 1958



*Progress Review • Charles Dickens' immortal "Christmas Carol"
Helping new migrants to settle in • Bake yourself a Christmas cake*





GIVE JOY WITH WHAT YOU HAVE
TOYS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO 14 NEEDY CHILDRENS DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

SEC

BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE
STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION OF VICTORIA

Vol. 15, No. 12, Christmas, 1958

Merry Christmas to our readers

As we end another year's work
may we all enjoy the pleasures that come
only with Christmas time
and may all in the Commission realise
cherished hopes in the New Year.



PUBLISHED BY STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION OF VICTORIA

Publicity Branch, Head Office, 22 William Street, Melbourne, C.1.

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR, L. H. Robertson, *Publicity Officer*

LITERARY EDITOR, R. A. Croke • ART EDITOR, R. H. Duffy

PHOTOGRAPHER, E. C. Hayes, A.R.P.S.

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COVER

The bells are ringing out their glad tidings and the choirs' hymns of praise echo round the churches in city and hamlet. Pictured as they practise in St. Paul's Cathedral for Christmas Day services are Derek Beveridge and Michael Wood.

OPPOSITE

Symbolising the spirit of Christmas is this now famous tree outside the Collins Street Independent Church with its slogan, "Give Joy with a Toy". Many recognised children's organisations have benefited over the years from the generous gifts left by people from all over Victoria.

COPY FOR NEXT ISSUE

All copy for the February-March issue of the Magazine must reach Publicity Branch, Head Office, no later than February 6.

*You've got the turkey and
the pudding and the
presents . . . Now for a
seasonable taste of the
immortal Charles Dickens*

MARLEY was dead, to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that. The register of his burial was signed by the clergyman, the clerk, the undertaker, and the chief mourner. Scrooge signed it. And Scrooge's name was good upon 'Change for anything he chose to put his hand to.

Old Marley was as dead as a door-nail.

Mind! I don't mean to say that I know, of my own knowledge, what there is particularly dead about a door-nail. I might have been inclined, myself, to regard a coffin-nail as the deadest piece of ironmongery in the trade. But the wisdom of our ancestors is in the simile; and my unhallowed hands shall not disturb it, or the Country's done for. You will, therefore, permit me to repeat, emphatically, that Marley was as dead as a door-nail.

Scrooge never painted out old Marley's name. There it stood, years afterwards, above the warehouse door: Scrooge and Marley. Oh! but he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone. Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner. The cold within him froze his old features. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; he iced his office in the dog-days, and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas.

Once upon a time — of all the good days in the year, on Christmas Eve — old Scrooge sat busy in his counting house. The door was open that he might keep his eye upon his clerk, who in a dismal little cell beyond, a sort of tank, was copying letters. Scrooge had a very small fire, but the

clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal. Wherefore the clerk put on his white comforter, and tried to warm himself at the candle; in which effort, not being a man of strong imagination, he failed.

"A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!" cried a cheerful voice. It was the voice of Scrooge's nephew, who came upon him so quickly that this was the first intimation he had of his approach.

"Bah!" said Scrooge, "Humbug!"



CHRISTMAS

He had so heated himself with rapid walking in the fog and frost, this nephew of Scrooge's, that he was all in a glow; his face was ruddy and handsome; his eyes sparkled, and his breath smoked again.

"Christmas a humbug, uncle!" said Scrooge's nephew. "You don't mean that, I am sure?"

"I do," said Scrooge. "Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? You're poor enough."

"Come, then," returned the nephew, gaily. "What right have you to be dismal? You're rich enough."

Scrooge having no better answer ready on the spur of the moment, said "Bah!" again; and followed it up with "Humbug".

"Don't be cross, uncle," said the nephew.

"What else can I be," returned the uncle, "when I live in such a world of fools as this? Merry Christmas! Out upon merry Christmas! What's Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, but not an hour richer; a time for balancing your books and having every item in 'em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you?"

"If I could work my will," said Scrooge indignantly, "every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on

his lips should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart. He should!"

"Uncle," pleaded the nephew.

"Nephew!" returned the uncle, sternly, "keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine."

"Keep it!" repeated Scrooge's nephew. "But you don't keep it."

"Let me leave it alone then," said Scrooge. "Much good may it do you! Much good it has ever done you!"

"There are many things from which I might have derived good, by

which I have not profited, I dare say," returned the nephew: "Christmas among the rest."

"But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round — apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that — as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys.

"And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it *has* done me good, and *will* do me good; and I say, God bless it!"

"Good afternoon," said Scrooge.

His nephew left the room without an angry word, notwithstanding. He stopped at the outer door to bestow the greetings of the season on the clerk, who, cold as he was, was warmer than Scrooge; for he returned them cordially.

"There's another fellow," muttered Scrooge, who overheard him: "my clerk, with fifteen shillings a week, and a wife and family, talking about



a merry Christmas. I'll retire to Bedlam."

At length the hour of shutting up the counting-house arrived. With an ill-will Scrooge dismounted from his stool, and tacitly admitted the fact to the expectant clerk in the Tank, who instantly snuffed his candle out and put on his hat.

"You'll want all day to-morrow, I suppose?" said Scrooge.

"If quite convenient, sir."

"It's not convenient," said Scrooge, "and it's not fair. If I was to stop

half-a-crown for it, you'd think yourself ill-used, I'll be bound?"

The clerk smiled faintly.

"And yet," said Scrooge, "you don't think *me* ill-used, when I pay a day's wages for no work."

The clerk observed that it was only once a year.

"A poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every twenty-fifth of December!" said Scrooge, buttoning his great-coat to the chin. "But I suppose you must have the whole day. Be here all the earlier next morning!"

The clerk promised that he would; and Scrooge walked out with a growl. The office was closed in a twinkling, and the clerk, with the long ends of his white comforter dangling below his waist (for he boasted no great-coat) went down a slide on Cornhill, at the end of a lane of boys, twenty times, in honour of its being Christmas Eve, and then ran home to Camden Town as hard as he could pelt, to play at blindman's buff.

Scrooge took his melancholy dinner in his usual melancholy tavern; and having read all the newspapers, and beguiled the rest of the evening with his banker's book, went home to bed.

As he threw his head back in the chair, his glance happened to rest upon a bell, a disused bell, that hung in the room. It was with great astonishment, and with a strange, inexplicable dread, that as he looked, he saw this bell begin to swing. It swung so softly in the outset that it scarcely made a sound; but soon it rang out loudly, and so did every bell in the house.

This might have lasted half a minute, or a minute, but it seemed an hour. The bells ceased as they had begun, together. They were succeeded by a clanking noise, deep down below; as if some person were dragging a heavy chain over the casks in the wine-merchant's cellar. Scrooge then remembered to have heard that ghosts in haunted houses were described as dragging chains.

The cellar-door flew open with a booming sound, and then he heard the noise much louder, on the floors below; then coming straight towards his door.

"It's humbug still!" said Scrooge. "I won't believe it."

His colour changed though, when, without a pause, it came on through the heavy door, and passed into the room before his eyes. Upon its coming in, the dying flame leaped up, as though it cried, "I know him; Marley's Ghost!" and fell again.

The same face: the very same. The chain he drew was clasped about his middle. It was long, and wound about him like a tail; and it was made (for Scrooge observed it closely) of cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, and heavy purses wrought in steel.

His body was transparent: so that Scrooge, observing him, and looking through his waistcoat, could see the

CAROL

An excerpt from

Dickens' classic





"A Christmas Carol"

two buttons on his coat behind. Scrooge had often heard it said that Marley had no bowels, but he had never believed it until now.

"How now!" said Scrooge, caustic and cold as ever. "What do you want with me?"

"Much!"—Marley's voice, no doubt about it.

"Can you — can you sit down?" asked Scrooge, looking doubtfully at him.

"I can."

"Do it then."

"You don't believe in me," observed the Ghost.

"I don't," said Scrooge.

"Why do you doubt your senses?"

"Because," said Scrooge, "a little thing affects them. A slight disorder of the stomach makes them cheats. You may be an undigested bit of beef, a blot of mustard, a crumb of cheese, a fragment of an underdone potato. There's more of gravy than of grave about you, whatever you are!"

Scrooge was not much in the habit of cracking jokes, nor did he feel, in his heart, by any means waggish then. The truth is, that he tried to be smart, as a means of distracting his own attention, and keeping down his terror; for the spectre's voice disturbed the very marrow in his bones.

Scrooge fell upon his knees, and clasped his hands before his face.

"Mercy!" he said. "Dreadful apparition, why do you trouble me?"

"Man of the worldly mind!" replied the Ghost, "do you believe in me or not?"

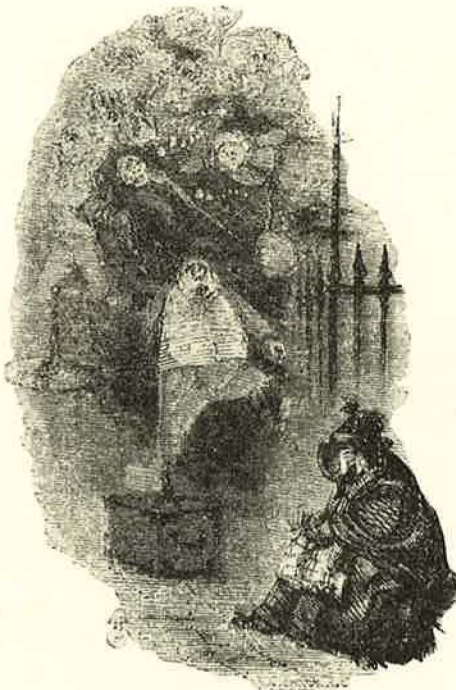
"I do," said Scrooge. "I must. But why do spirits walk the earth, and why do they come to me?"

"It is required of every man," the Ghost returned, "that the spirit within him should walk abroad among his fellow-men, and travel far and wide; and if that spirit goes not forth in life, it is condemned to do so after death. It is doomed to wander through the world — oh, woe is me! — and witness what it cannot share, but might have shared on earth, and turned to happiness!"

Scrooge trembled more and more.

"Jacob," he said imploringly. "Old Jacob Marley, tell me more. Speak comfort to me, Jacob."

"I have none to give," the Ghost replied. "It comes from other regions, Ebenezer Scrooge, and is conveyed by other ministers, to other kinds of men. In life my spirit never roamed



beyond the narrow limits of our money-changing hole; and weary journeys lie before me!"

"You must have been very slow about it, Jacob," Scrooge observed, in a business-like manner, though with humility and deference.

"Slow!" the Ghost repeated.

"Seven years dead," mused Scrooge. "And travelling all the time! You might have got over a great quantity of ground in seven years."

Would you like to read the complete story?

This shortened excerpt should have whetted your appetites. What happened when the Three Spirits called on Scrooge? If you don't know, we suggest you read "A Christmas Carol" in the New Oxford Illustrated Dickens, from which our sketches have been taken by courtesy of the Oxford University Press.

The Ghost, on hearing this, set up a cry and clanked its chain so hideously in the dead silence of the night, that the Ward would have been justified in indicting it for a nuisance.

"At this time of the rolling year," the spectre said, "I suffer most. Why did I walk through crowds of fellow-beings with my eyes turned down, and never raise them to that blessed Star which led the Wise Men to a poor abode! Were there no poor homes to which its light would have conducted me!"

Scrooge was very much dismayed to hear the spectre going on at this rate, and began to quake exceedingly.

"I am here to-night to warn you, that you have yet a chance and hope of escaping my fate."

"You were always a good friend to me," said Scrooge. "Thank 'ee!"

"You will be haunted," resumed the Ghost, "by Three Spirits."

"I — I think I'd rather not," said Scrooge.

"Without their visits," said the Ghost, "you cannot hope to shun the path I tread. Expect the first to-morrow, when the bell tolls One."

"Couldn't I take 'em all at once, and have it over, Jacob?" hinted Scrooge.

"Expect the second on the next night at the same hour. The third upon the next night when the last stroke of Twelve has ceased to vibrate. Look to see me no more; and look that, for your own sake, you remember what has passed between us!"

The apparition walked backward from him; and at every step it took the window raised itself a little, so that when the spectre reached it, it was wide open.

Scrooge became sensible of incoherent sounds of lamentation and regret. The spectre, after listening for a moment, joined in the mournful dirge; and floated out upon the bleak, dark night.

S-E-C OUTLOOK TOWARDS THE CARE OF TREES

by W. H. Connolly, Chairman

THE preservation of trees is a matter of vital public concern. It is of especial concern to all of us in the S.E.C. because, by Australian instinct, we can hardly help but be lovers of trees, yet we are employed in one of the utilities whose requirements of service make inescapable the regular pruning of trees and, for new extensions, the cutting and even removal of trees.

By far the bulk of this task falls on our Electricity Supply Department, who are obliged to spend on it some £300,000 a year. But other S.E.C. Departments and Territories encounter in cities and country much the same problems, although in less degree.



At a time when the S.E.C. has just reaffirmed with the Country Roads Board for a further period its long-standing basic working understanding on this matter, it is in keeping with the spirit of that understanding that I should use the pages of the Magazine to reach every member of the S.E.C. personnel on this subject. Lest some few may feel that tree preservation and care can be overstressed as a matter of public interest, I mention that some recent Melbourne instances of alleged wanton tree cutting by the S.E.C. have just had special prominence in a New York daily newspaper.

On this subject, too, we have to keep in mind that the people of Victoria can voice their hopes and fears as a rule only through the Press. Everyone concerned directly or indirectly with supply and transmission work must on his part be and remain aware that our customers are for themselves very "tree conscious."

For many years the S.E.C. has taken

a lead in planting and cultivating trees for the beautification of its areas all over the State. In the past year alone we have planted 10,000 trees and shrubs, and our nurseries at Yallourn and Kiewa are always busy.

True that the S.E.C. has a charter to supply electricity to all who want it in the State as soon as possible. This is our primary duty, but in performing it we have at times to decide between aesthetic considerations and the ever-pressing question of cost. There have been — and will be again — occasions when our duty to Victoria requires the removal of a tree, no matter how valued it may be, but the cutting down of a tree should not be authorised until every other reasonable way of tackling the problem has been considered.

Of course this outlook is not news to senior officers of the S.E.C., but I am seizing this opportunity to restate it for the benefit of everyone in the service who either is directly concerned or feels a personal interest.

S.E.C. basic thinking is clearly expressed in the Tree Cutting Guide issued within the Electricity Supply Department:—

"Costly fires and dangerous conditions can arise if a tree or limb falls and brings a conductor with it . . . We believe that most people now realise the need to keep our overhead wires free from interference by trees. If that is correct, then objections will arise only if we show a lack of care when we cut them . . . Our work will be respected when it looks a good job.

"If someone approaches with a complaint, our attitude should be that we are just as concerned with the preservation of natural beauty as



anyone, but it is necessary for us to maintain a balance between three important aspects, namely the appearance of the roadside, the requirements of public safety, and continuity of supply.

"If, through adequate clearing, we remove the risk of a fire being started by trees touching the live wires, we are in fact helping to preserve natural beauty."



We must never forget for a moment that the trees do not belong to us, and we are not to presume on our very clear legal right to enter land to cut back or fell trees to protect a line unless all other courses have been fully explored. Our approach always must be on the basis of seeking the co-operation of the owner, private or municipal, in removing a hazard to our line and his property.

We must continue on the basis that, no matter who is involved, we take action without prior warning or consultation *only in cases of emergency*. Private owners need to be accorded at all times the same consideration we give to the Country Roads Board, the Forests Commission, Shire and Council Engineers and the Curators of city parks and gardens.

As a member of the Institute of Park Administration of Victoria, the S.E.C. has been able to exchange ideas with municipal curators. Most of the Councils are usually ready to prune their own trees. Where the S.E.C. has to cut trees controlled by Councils, these Councils usually provide skilled help in pruning, and by clearing up the debris.

We must keep well before us the fact that exercise of a legal power also demands, right through the service, responsibility in those who exercise it.



The moment they have waited for. Debutantes with their escorts make their curtsies at the Social League's tenth Annual Ball at St. Kilda Town Hall, on October 10. It attracted parties from many Branches and was voted a grand night by everyone.



Wendy Page and Norm Sweeney, of Head Office, found plenty to keep them amused.

Twelve debutantes were presented to Commissioner and Mrs. B. A. Morris. Rear: Coral Paton, Patricia Pagram, Jill Glanville, Shirley Webb, Lynette Abberton, Diana Cooper, Jeanette Smith, Brigid Healy. Front: Jennifer La Band, Lorraine Young, Mrs. Morris, Merle Whitmore, and Verna Prohasky. Mr. and Mrs. Bruce McIntosh trained them for the event.



Unrehearsed interlude by Head Office merrymakers, Joyce Hexter, Barry Rowe, Val Dunham, Ross Hallam, Roger McMillan and Barbara Rogers. The musicians shuddered!

S-E-C people relax

Quite a change for Jean Hayes and Cecily Dufty to get a look in here. They have to sit around every year while their Publicity husbands work during ball.



at the annual Social League Ball



From Eastern Metro Branch came Barbara Elliott, Eric MacBeth, Frances Flood, Gavin Cook, Mary Stewart and also Val Fiedler. They agreed that the organisers made the ball worth the trip.



Among Transport Branch groups were Elaine Harley, Greg Matheson, Jenny Thomas, Max Kubale, Bern Gittens, Kevin Holland, Doug Wignall, Pam Telleck and Nancye Willet.

Solving migrants' problems down in the Valley

We may never have known a traditional white Christmas, or been able to appreciate to the full the immortal characters in Dickens' "Christmas Carol," but all of us are conscious at this time of year of having plenty to be thankful for.

Thousands of newcomers to the Commission family are happily counting their blessings in terms of peace of mind as well as pence, but it is inevitable that they should look back to childhood years, dwell on happy festivals in faraway European villages, or world-famous cities enjoying the uneasy peace before 1939. For them Christmas is a suitable time for stock-taking, for comparing present achievements with the old days and older ways, for deciding whether the time of probation is over and Australia is now their own country.

Family background, education and local outlooks generally condition a man to stay where he was born, or take a chance on the other side of the world. But why does an Estonian, for example, elect to settle in Australia? How does he find out all he wants to know about us?

Single men have always had the urge to see the world, but what makes a middle-aged man with a family dig up his roots and try to start a new life when most of his contemporaries are thinking of takings things easily?

And when the family arrives here, how are they affected by working conditions, by the housing situation, by neighbourhood reactions? Even British migrants do not settle in automatically, but people from Continental countries have the added handicap of language, especially the mothers who are forced to live in a more restricted national world.

Each and every one of us can do his bit by making these new neighbours feel completely at home. Many are so worried about their jobs and the housing position that they simply haven't time to consider the eventual privileges of Australian citizenship. They will come out of their national shells and get round to this much more quickly if we all talk citizenship at every opportunity.

More important, if we all keep on talking to them as friends, trying to understand their many problems,

their English will improve speedily and make them more self-reliant.

We talk about getting things off our chests, but are apt to misunderstand the intentions of people inviting us to do just that. Migrants feel much the same way, but unless their deep-rooted problems are revealed and tackled intelligently, lasting happiness will be unlikely.



Finding out exactly what migrants think about life in Australia is a job for experts who have the knowledge and patience to break down reserve and get quickly to the heart of the matter. The Department of Demography of the Australian National University in Canberra has been concerned since its inception seven years ago with a study of immigration to Australia, but is now about to make its first large-scale field investigation.

The Latrobe Valley, with its concentration of post-war migrants, has been chosen for this investigation, which will start on January 20 next and take about six weeks. The objectives are:—

- To examine the social and economic status of the immigrants before coming here and at present;
- To study the structure of

migrant families and compare it with Australian families;

• To examine the pattern of migrant adjustment with special reference to cultural and social participation in the life of the receiving society.

About five hundred British and Continental newcomers will be interviewed by a team of eight students of the Social Studies Department of the University of Melbourne. The survey will be conducted by the Head of the Department of Demography in the Australian National University, Professor W. D. Borrie, and Dr. J. Zubrzycki, a Research Fellow.

The Commission has been happy to help this survey because it will eventually help so many people in the Valley and elsewhere, but everyone involved should appreciate that none of the information collected will be given to the Commission. Only men will be interviewed at their own homes and they will be given advance notice of the visits.

All the interviewers will sign a pledge of secrecy, and the completed questionnaires, which do not name the men interviewed, will be kept under lock and key by the University authorities. The report on the survey will not quote individuals.

The prepared questionnaire consists of five parts dealing with the migrant's background and reasons for coming here; the family composition in Australia, the children's education and occupations; the type of work done by the parents and comparisons with past employment, or expected jobs; income and expenditure, description of the homes and amenities achieved since arriving in Australia; social participation, which covers English language standards, reading, listening and television habits, visits to Australian homes.

This is a golden opportunity for newcomers to help themselves in the long run by providing the data necessary for a balanced judgment on the vital problem of migrant settlement. There are no "strings" to the queries, and no compulsion to answer them, but the willing co-operation of the chosen five hundred will assure a Happy Future in the Valley as well as a Merry Christmas.



PROGRESS REVIEW

*Summary of
the Commission's
39th Annual Report
for the year ended
June 30, 1958*

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

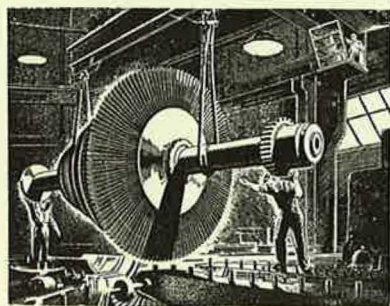
OF THE YEAR



This summary of the Commission's 39th Annual Report to Parliament for the financial year 1957-58 records another twelve months of solid progress.

I join with my fellow Commissioners in expressing to all Commission employees wherever you may be located our appreciation of the service you continue to render to the community and our warm recognition of your efficiency and your loyalty. The purpose of this summary of our day-to-day operations and of our very large programme of new works is to give to every Commission reader an overall picture of the magnitude and importance of the task on which we, as a team, are all of us engaged.

Let us, then, look at the year's work — first, at our day-to-day operations, generating and supplying electricity, winning brown coal and



making briquettes; and, secondly, at our long-term task, planning and building new power stations, extending our supply area and increasing our output of raw brown coal and manufactured briquette fuel.



On the operational side, the Commission again had a very satisfactory year. The increase in electricity sales was higher than in the year before. Average domestic consumption continued to rise. There was a substantial increase in industrial consumption and a further large increase in the number of farms on supply. We maintained our rate of new connections in town and country. Production of brown coal increased to a new record figure of approximately 10 million tons.

The profit for the year was just over £20,000, after providing full interest and depreciation on assets in service and writing off £1,910,000 in respect of interest and other expenditure during construction incurred in prior years and since temporarily carried in a suspense account with the

intention that it should be written off over a short period of years. Financially we improved over the preceding year, after allowance is made for the change in the method of depreciation involving an extra charge of £1,600,000 for the year under review.

On new development the Commission was restricted, by the continued shortage of loan moneys, to a minimum works programme of approximately £25 million.

Despite this, during the past year we brought almost to full output a further 100,000 kilowatt extension at Yallourn Power Station — Yallourn "D" — which is now complete except for some of its boiler plant, and we began work on the new 240,000 kilowatt extension, Yallourn "E." At Morwell work progressed to the point where the first two generators in the power station are ready to come into service, while briquette production will begin within the next few months. At Kiewa we continued to make steady progress on the last big works we have in hand there in the immediate future.

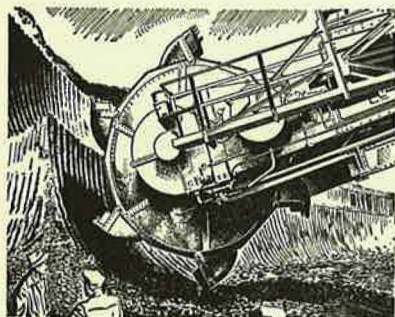
A notable event in Australian electrical development was the ratification during the year of the agreement between the Commonwealth, New South Wales and Victorian Governments setting out the terms under which Victoria and New South Wales will share hydro-electric power and water from the Snowy scheme.

★

By that agreement Victoria will be entitled to one-third of the electricity from the Snowy scheme and New South Wales to two-thirds — after the Commonwealth has taken what power it needs for the Australian Capital Territory and within the Snowy Mountains area. In addition, Victoria will share equally with New South Wales extra irrigation water in the Murray Valley averaging 400,000 acre-feet a year.

Within the next few months we expect to receive our first quota of power from the Snowy scheme over the new 330,000 volt transmission line which we are now building from Dederang across the mountains to the River Murray.

But the fact remains that, in spite of additions to its system, the Commission is still without the reserve of plant so urgently needed. Last winter we were again only just able to meet peak demands. The Commission has repeatedly emphasised the danger of operating with no reserve of generat-



ing plant. In all our planning the aim is to build up a reserve as soon as this can possibly be done.

But the ever-present problem is how to obtain the necessary capital finance for a works programme that will be truly adequate to meet the State's expanding needs.

In view of Victoria's rapid development, it is urgent to plan ahead — financially as well as on the engineering side. Not only must we complete the projects we have in hand — Yallourn "E," Morwell, Kiewa — but also we must make a start next year on the next great power project to follow Yallourn "E" — Hazelwood Power Station, which may ultimately have a capacity of 1,000,000 or 1,200,000 kilowatts.

★

In our last Annual Report it was pointed out that, if the Commission could not borrow enough capital for new construction works, then we should have to obtain a higher proportion of our capital requirements through our own revenues.

Our borrowing authority for the current financial year has not been increased, and consequently the Commission has been obliged to increase electricity tariffs for the specific purpose of raising additional capital.

And, too, there can be no evading the fact that Commission public loans — in common with the flotations of all other semi-government bodies — have lately not been fully subscribed. The reason, of course, is now well known. Public authorities such as



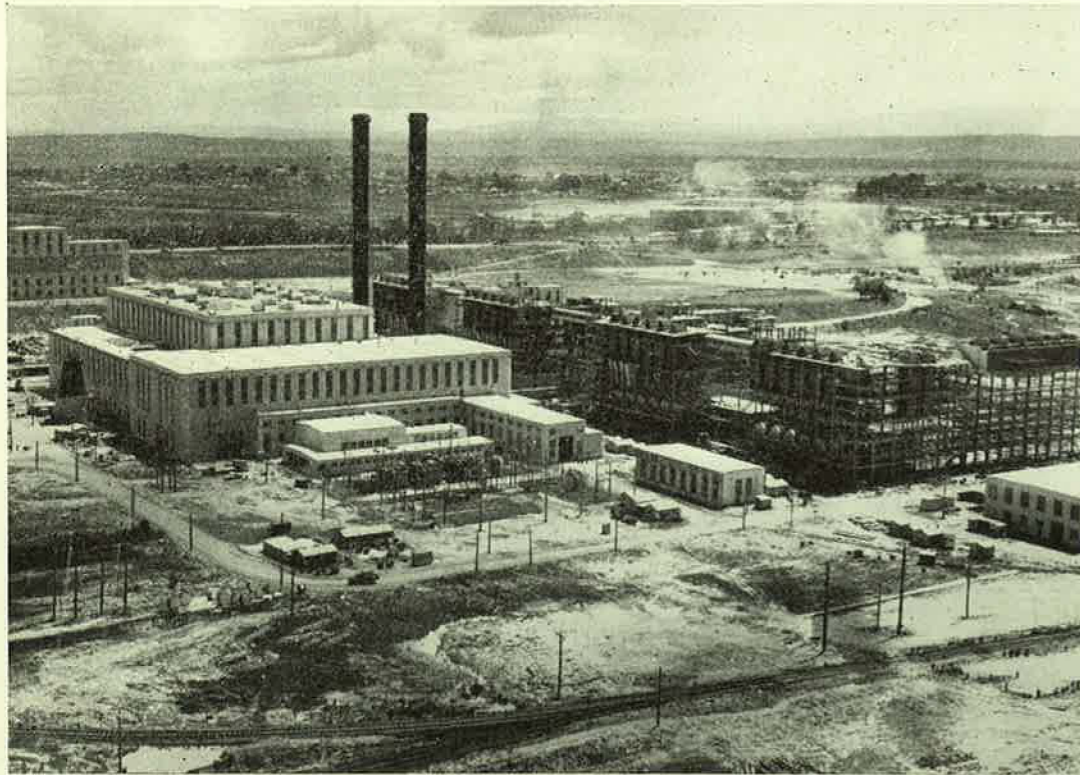
the Commission must endeavour to obtain their capital funds in a restricted and controlled money market in competition with other forms of investment that offer far more tempting interest rates. But in this regard there is, of course, the well known financial axiom — "The higher the return, the lower the security."

As the producer of virtually all Victoria's electricity and of a large and increasing proportion of its solid fuel, the Commission occupies a position of special importance, not only within Victoria but in Australia as a whole. It is in the highest national interest, therefore, that the Commission should expand to a degree, and at a pace, which Victoria's general development demands.

★

To every Commission employee I say this: You are the spokesmen within your own circle for the great organisation that you serve. You can do much to bring home to people in every walk of life that the progress and prosperity of this State are bound up with the progress and prosperity of the S.E.C.

W. H. CONNOLLY, CHAIRMAN.



MORWELL power and fuel project made rapid progress during the year. The completed power station buildings are on the left. On the right are the briquette works. In the far background, beyond the large building on the extreme left, is the Morwell open cut.

BUILDING MORWELL
Power Station and the new Morwell briquette works was the Commission's largest individual construction project. This immense new enterprise will not only treble Victoria's annual output of briquette fuel in approximately the next two years but will also have an electricity output of over 90,000 kilowatts for supply through the State network—with a probable further expansion in output to follow.

HIGHLIGHTS OF..

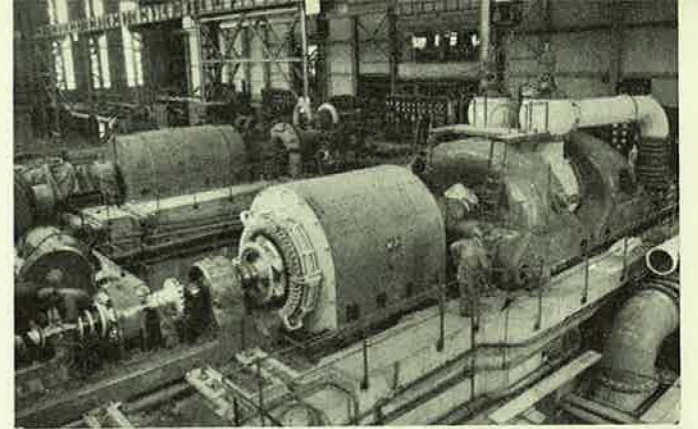
NEW CONSTRUCTION



*New power stations under construction or started during the year at Yallourn, Morwell and Kiewa will provide another half million kilowatts of generating plant in the next five years. Nearly 3,000 men were employed on construction at these three centres alone.

In addition, by next winter Victoria will start to draw its first quota of hydro power from the Snowy scheme.

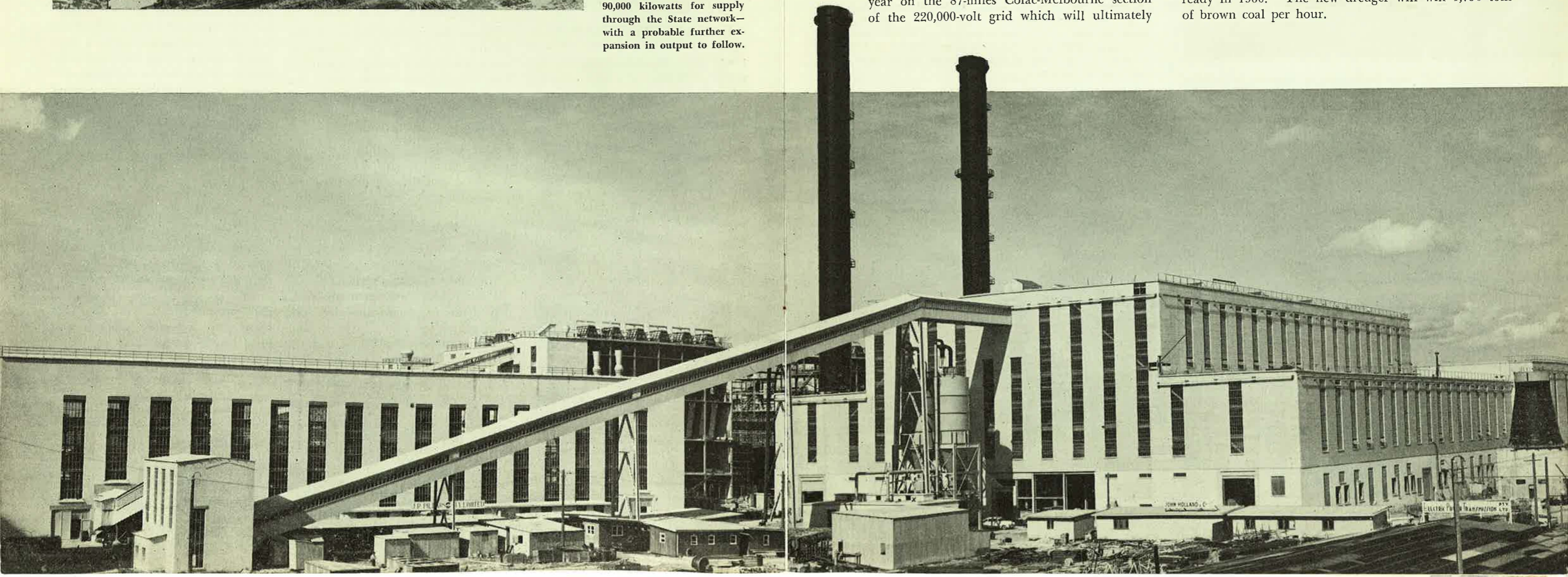
*Work was completed since the close of the year on the 87-miles Colac-Melbourne section of the 220,000-volt grid which will ultimately

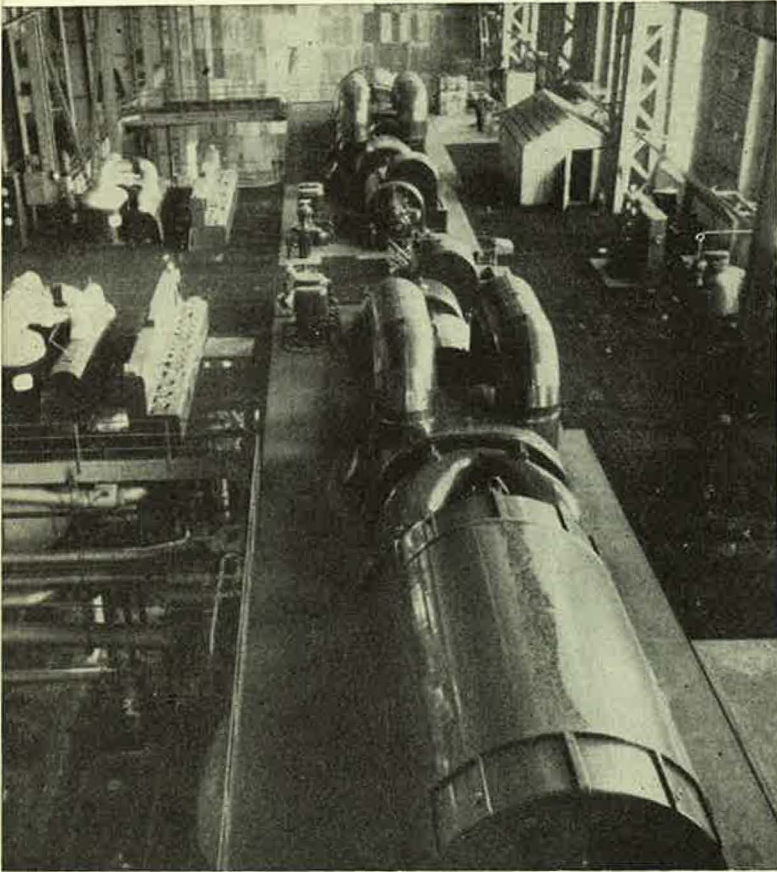


MORWELL'S first two generators, installed during the year, will be in regular operation by January, 1959. Their combined capacity is 50,000 kilowatts. Two 30,000-kilowatt generators are being erected. A 60,000-kilowatt set has yet to be ordered.

encircle central Victoria. There are 250 miles already in service linking Yallourn, Melbourne and Kiewa, and another 188 miles long section — from Kiewa to Shepparton and Bendigo — will be completed next year.

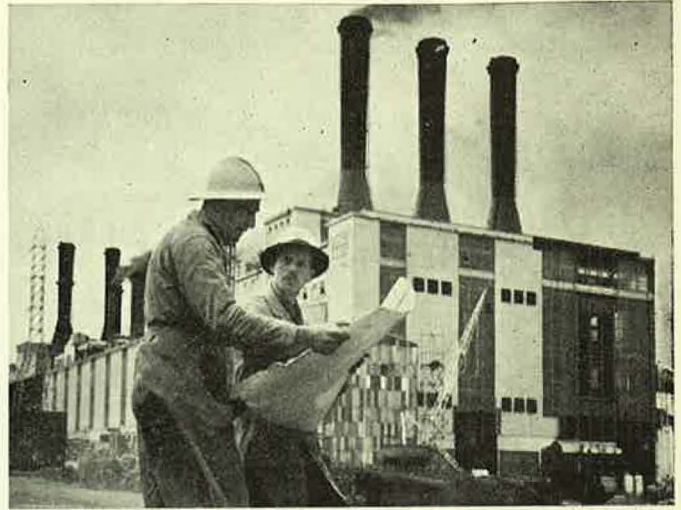
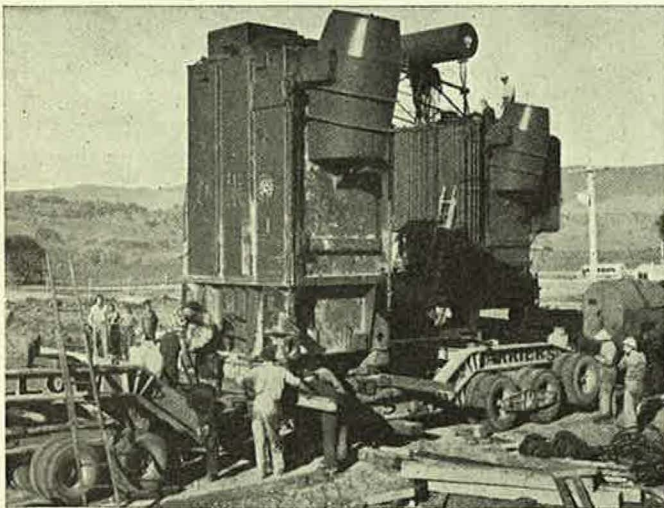
*Construction began at the Yallourn open cut of a new coal dredger larger than any yet in service. It will be ready in 1960. The new dredger will win 1,750 tons of brown coal per hour.





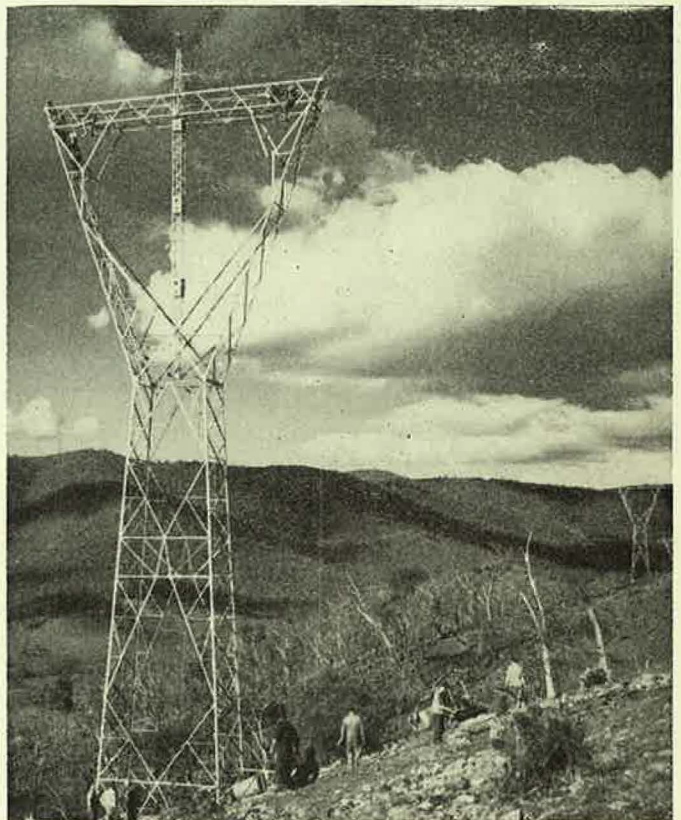
YALLOURN "D," latest 100,000-kilowatt extension to Yallourn Power Station, is nearing completion. The second of its two 50,000-kilowatt generators was commissioned during the year. The two generators in this extension have an output sufficient to meet present needs of more than one quarter of all homes in Victoria.

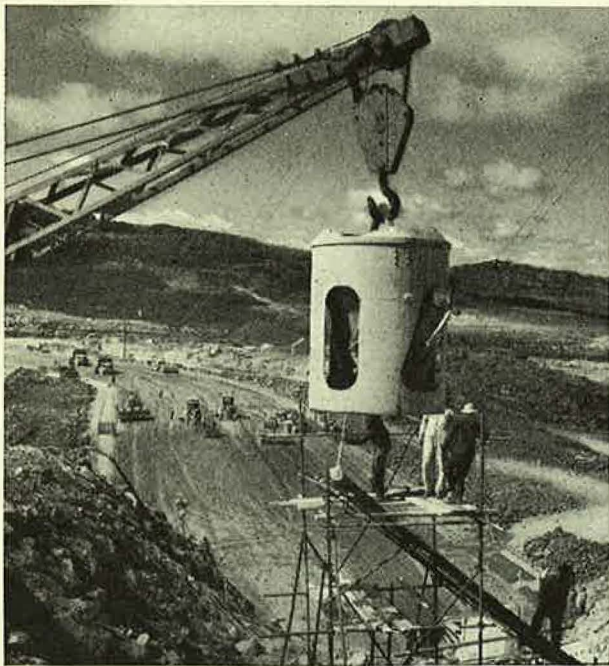
AT DEDERANG switching station — for the reception of Snowy hydro power into the Victorian system — work was in progress for the erection of switchgear and four large transformers to step down power from 330,000 volts to 220,000 volts.



WORK BEGAN ON YALLOURN "E" — Yallourn's latest and largest extension, due for completion in 1962. Its capacity will be 240,000 kilowatts. It will have two immense 120,000-kilowatt generators, each double the size of the largest generator yet installed in Australia.

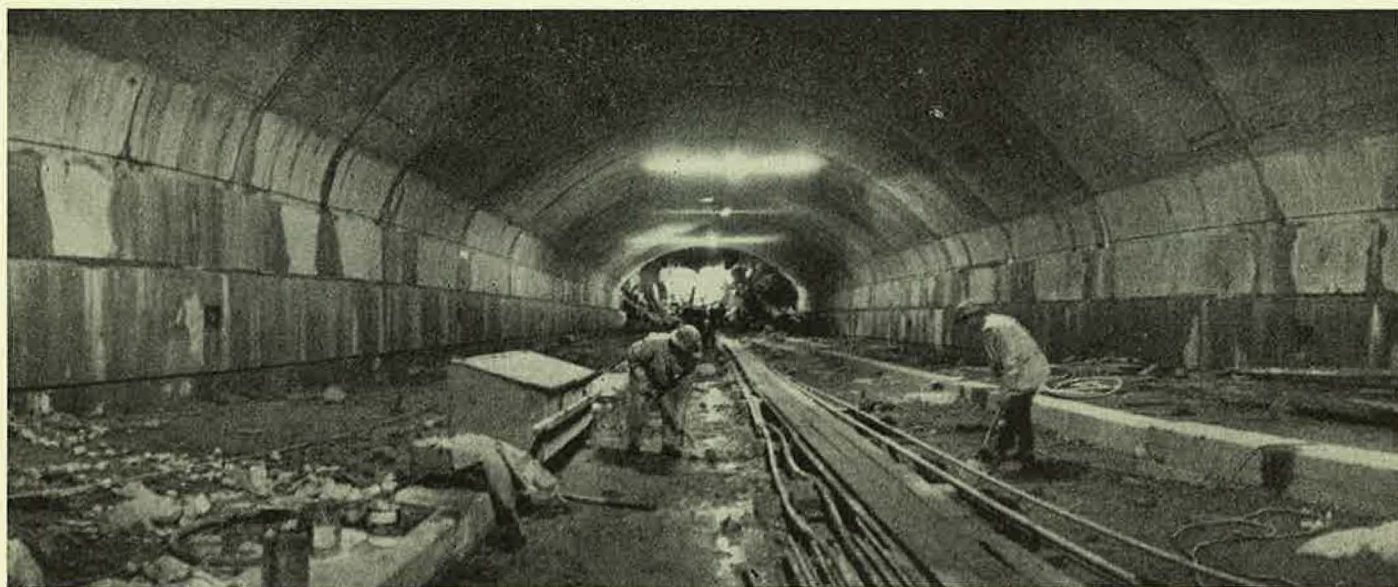
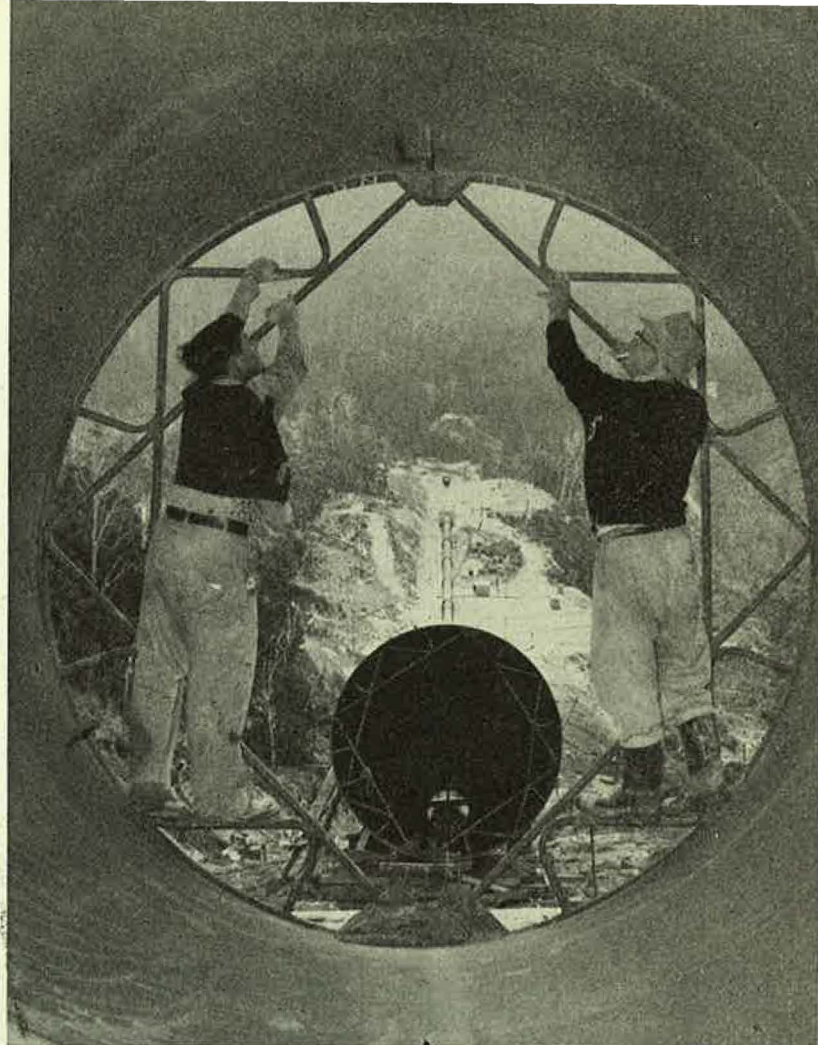
ERECTION OF TOWERS on the 330,000-volt transmission line to feed hydro-electric power from the Snowy Mountains began during the year and the line is due for service early next year. The Commission's section from the upper Murray to Dederang switching station, north of Kiewa, extends for 62 miles across rugged alpine country.





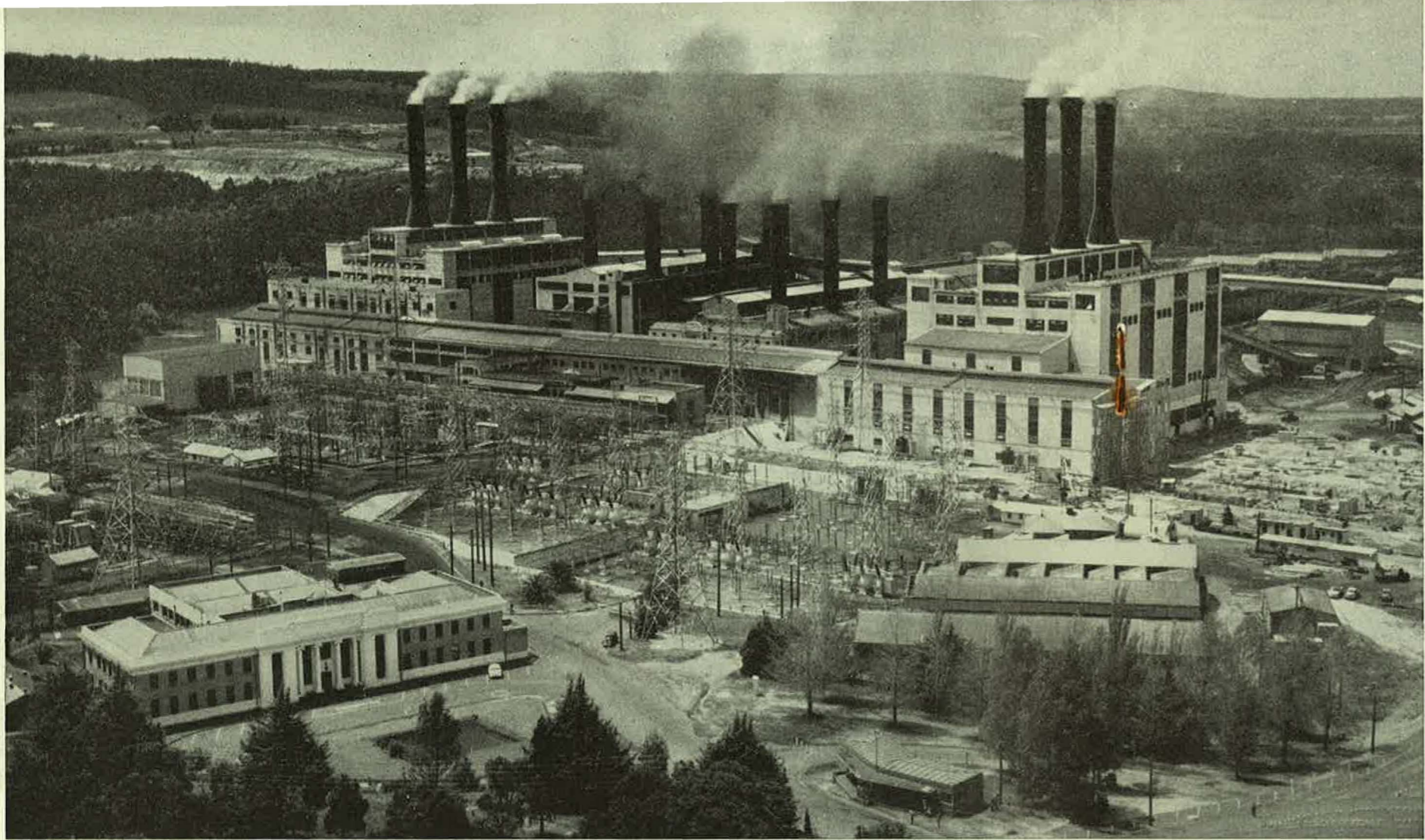
ROCKY VALLEY DAM, for the main storage reservoir in the whole of the Kiewa hydro-electric undertaking, was two-thirds completed before winter snows stopped the working season on the Bogong High Plains. The reservoir is due to start filling next winter.

ON THE MILE-LONG PIPE-LINE to deliver water down the mountainside to No. 1 Power Station at Kiewa, the upper section (right) was nearing completion at the close of the year, and work has since been started on the lower section leading into the power station turbines.



FOR THE NEW NO. 1 POWER STATION now being built 250 feet underground at the Kiewa hydro-electric undertaking, concreting of the roof arch was well advanced during the year, and excavation of the power station chamber was almost completed.

The power station will be 240 feet long, nearly 80 feet high and 45 feet wide. It starts operation in 1960. On completion in 1961 its capacity will be 96,000 kilowatts — more than double the combined capacity of the power stations already operating at Kiewa.



YALLOURN POWER STATION — to-day Australia's largest power station — generated nearly 42 per cent. of Victoria's electricity. Power was transmitted at 220,000 and 132,000 volts to Melbourne for distribution over most of the State.

HIGHLIGHTS OF..

POWER PRODUCTION

*Electricity production throughout the State generating system during the year totalled 5,113 million kilowatt-hours — an increase of more than seven per cent. on the previous year.

*Almost all Victoria's electricity was generated in the Commission's power stations. Local country power stations outside the State system produced less than one per cent. of the total.

*The Commission's system now comprises 18 interconnected steam, hydro and internal combustion power stations. Inclusive of two steam stations for local supply in and around Mildura, the total installed capacity of the system is 1,211,000 kilowatts.

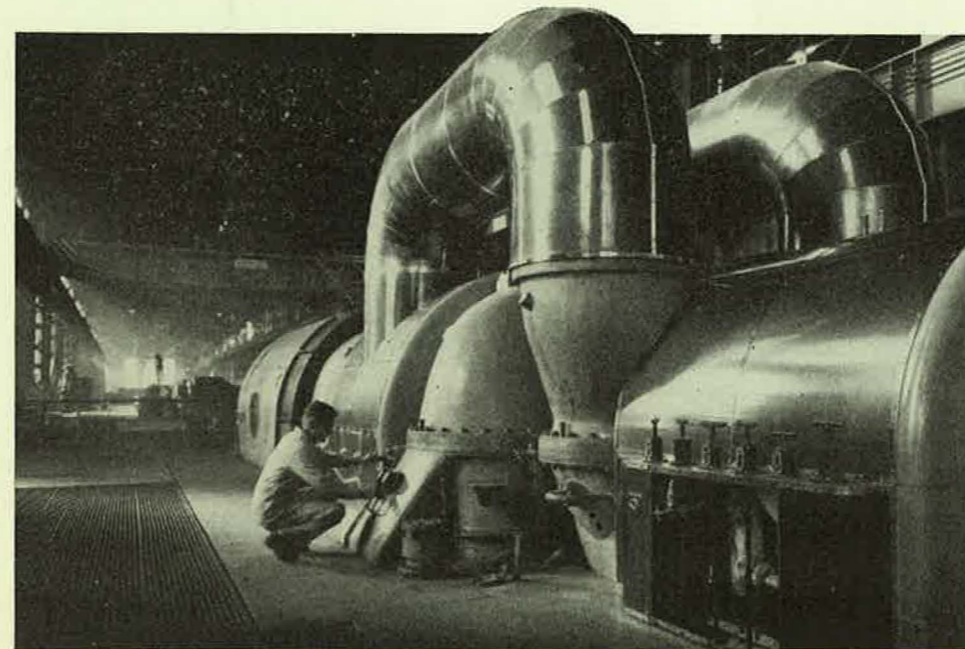
*Maximum demand on the interconnected generating system was 1,102,800 kilowatts in July, 1958. This was nearly 100,000 kilowatts higher than the previous maximum demand in 1957.

*Nearly two-thirds of Victoria's electricity was produced in steam power stations burning Victorian brown coal, or briquettes manufactured from brown coal. Hydro-electric stations generated more than 11 per cent. of the State's power.

*Newport Power Station in Melbourne produced nearly 30 per cent. of Victoria's electricity. At present this station ranks second in importance to Yallourn.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC PRODUCTION was a record, due to a doubling of production at Eildon Power Station (seen at the foot of the dam on the left) and a substantial contribu-

tion for the first time from Hume Power Station, the output of which is shared by Victoria and New South Wales. Both Eildon and Hume operate on water released for irrigation.



INSTALLED CAPACITY of Yallourn Power Station — with another 50,000-kilowatt generator in service — was increased to 381,000 kilowatts. Production (2,152 million kilowatt-hours) showed only a limited increase compared with the previous year, since some of the boiler plant in the new Yallourn "D" extension had still to be completed. Daily fuel consumption in the power station's four boiler houses averaged 16,000 tons of brown coal from Yallourn open cut.

FUEL PRODUCTION

*The combined output of brown coal from the Commission's three open cuts at Yallourn, Yallourn North and Morwell for the year totalled nearly 10 million tons. This was a new record, exceeding by more than 100,000 tons the combined output of the previous year.

*Of the 7,700,000 tons of brown coal produced in the main Yallourn open cut, 5,300,000 tons were used in the Yallourn Power Station and the remainder — 2,400,000 tons — in the Yallourn Briquette Works for the manufacture of briquettes.

*Production of briquettes at Morwell will start in 1959 and will increase by stages to about 1,500,000 tons annually in 1961.

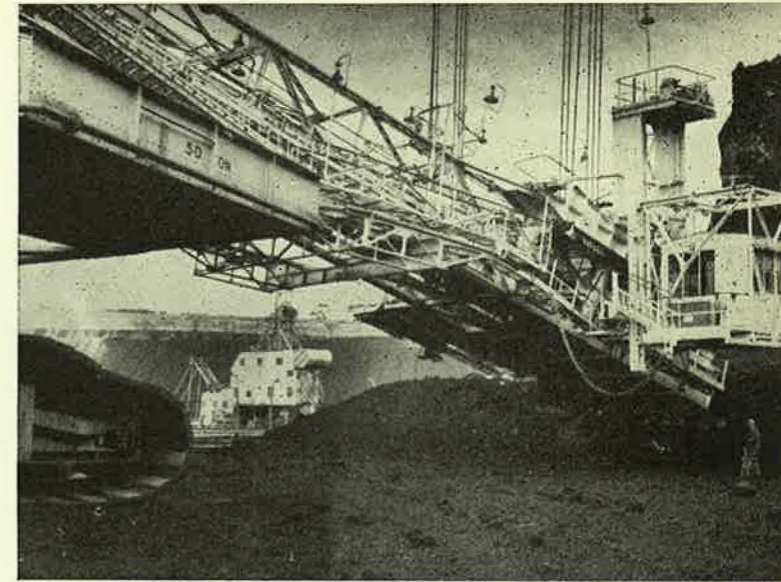
*Briquette sales included 126,000 tons for gas making at Morwell and a special release of 50,000 tons for domestic users — in addition to the supply of over 80,000 tons for householders with briquette hot water services. About 170,000 tons were used in the power stations and over 200,000 tons were sold to industry.

*Annual production of brown coal in the Commission's open cuts at Yallourn and Morwell is expected to treble within 15 years.

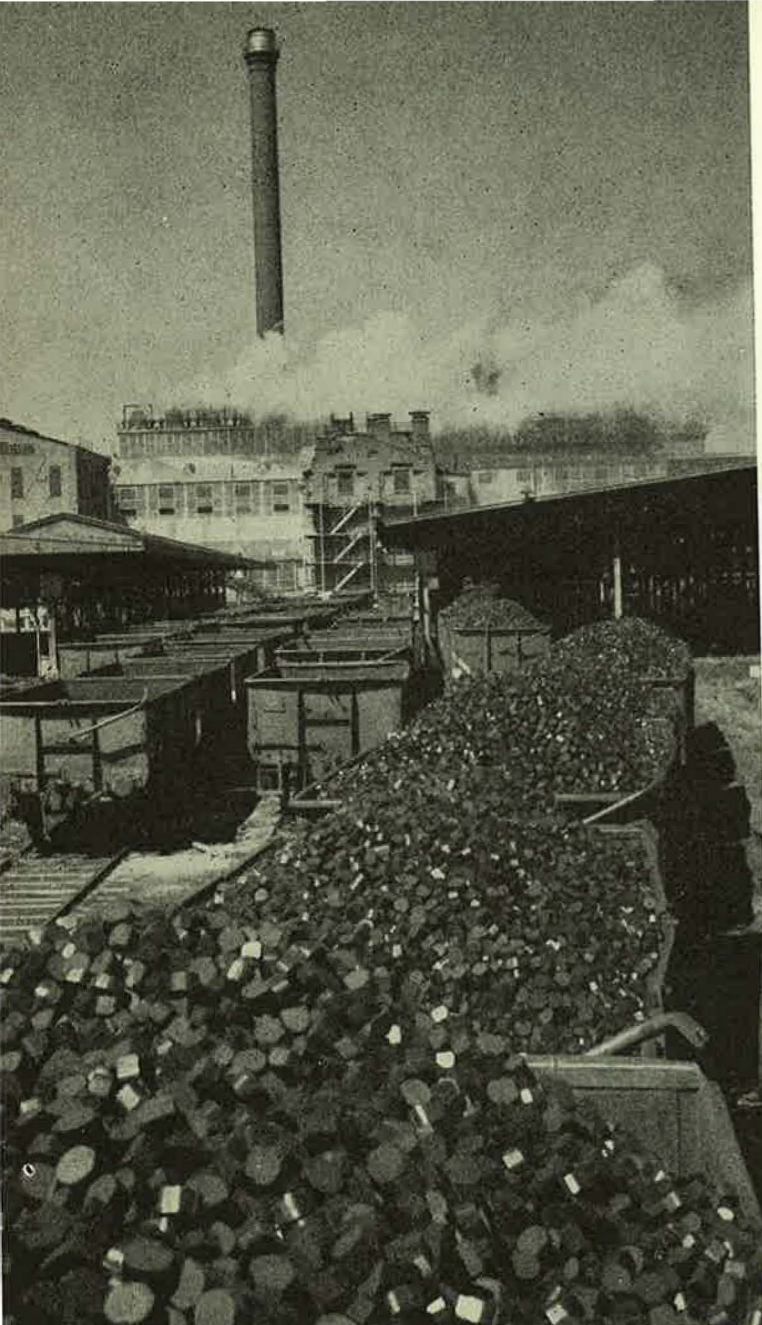
*To meet increased fuel demands as extensions to Yallourn Power Station come into service, production of brown coal in the Yallourn open cut will rise to a peak of 12½ million tons in 1963.



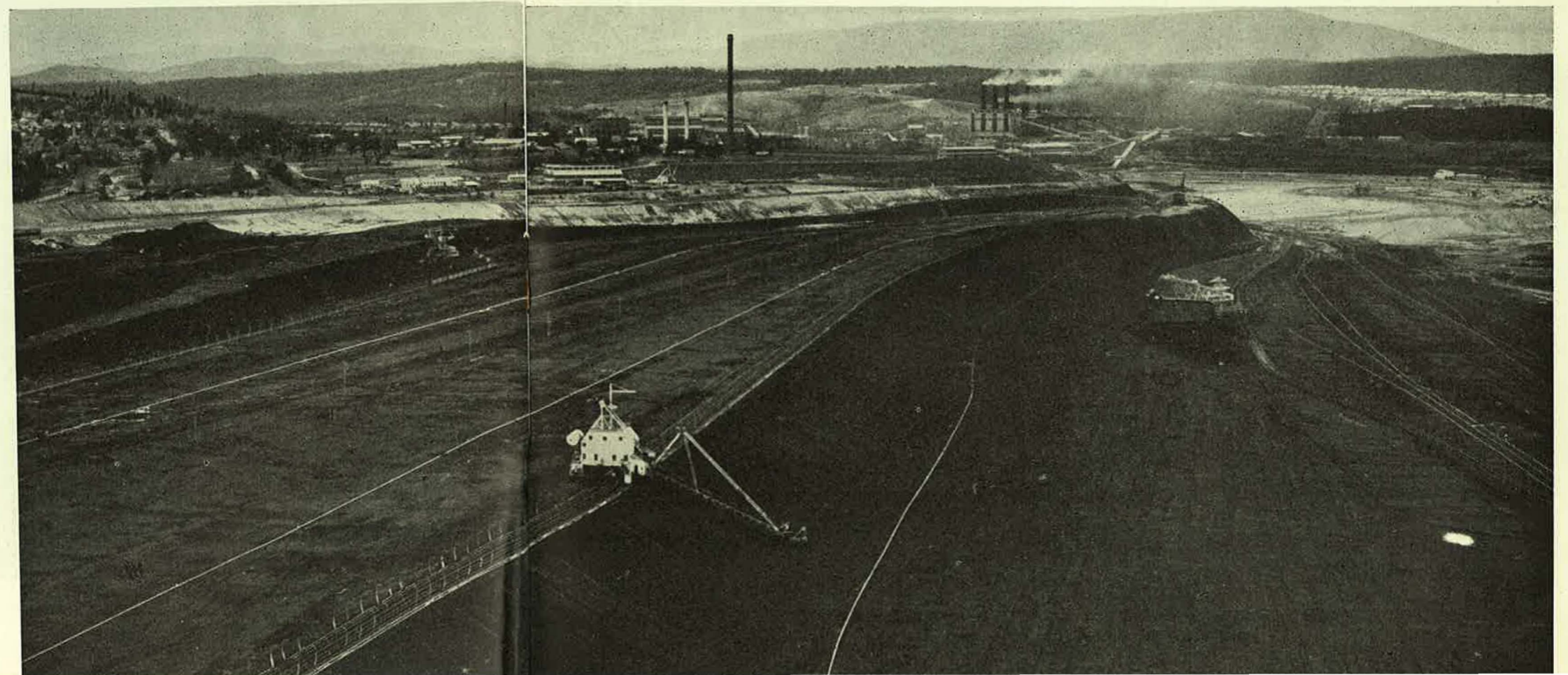
*Within five years the Morwell power and fuel project will need 6½ million tons of brown coal a year from the Morwell open cut, and with the development of the new Hazelwood Power Station (which will obtain its fuel from the same open cut) annual production at Morwell will rise progressively to nearly 20 million tons.



ANOTHER LARGE DREDGER was put into regular service at the Yallourn open cut. It can dig 1,350 tons of brown coal per hour. Since the beginning of operations at Yallourn 55 million cubic yards of overburden have been removed and more than 146 million tons of brown coal have been won. The area of the open cut is now nearly 1¼ square miles at grass level.



YALLOURN BRIQUETTE WORKS, with an output of more than a ton of briquettes per minute night and day, seven days a week, produced 626,000 tons of briquettes. Daily an average of 120 railway trucks were loaded with 1,850 tons of briquettes for delivery to power stations in the metropolitan area and provincial cities and to fuel depots supplying industrial and domestic users.

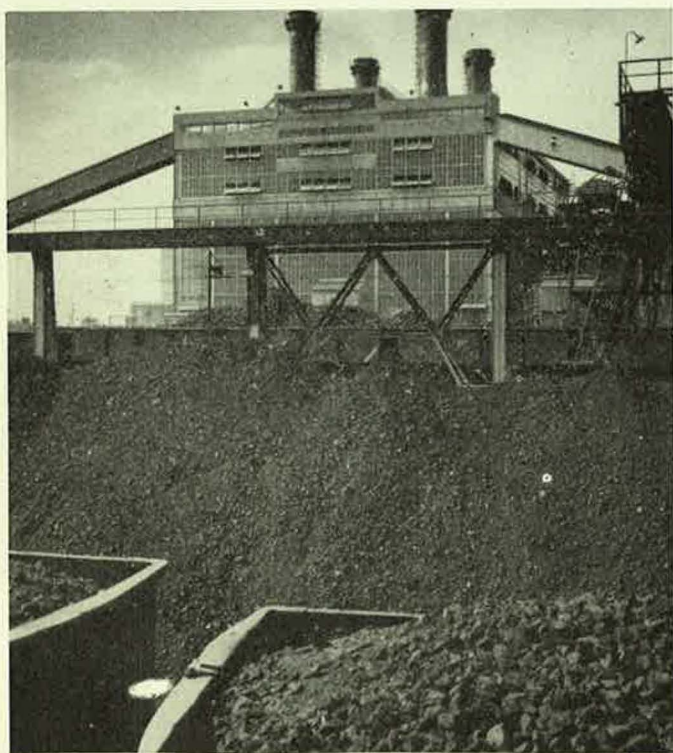


OUTPUT OF BROWN COAL from the main Yallourn open cut was 7,700,000 tons. Coal winning was continuous. A new daily output record of 29,297 tons of coal in twenty-four hours was established last May. Maximum daily production must increase to 45,000 tons when the new Yallourn "E" extension is completed.



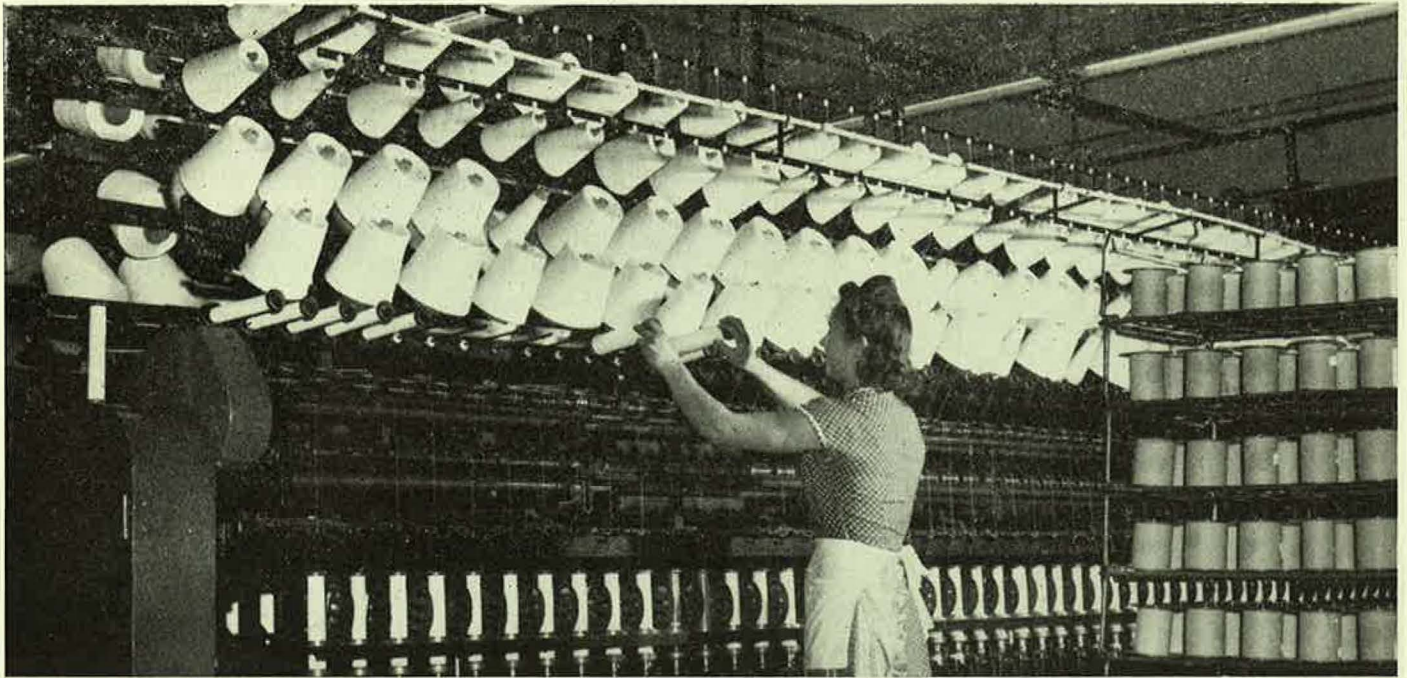
AT THE NEW MORWELL OPEN CUT, which is being developed to supply brown coal for the Morwell power station and briquette factories, more than two million cubic yards of over-

burden were removed and over 600,000 tons of brown coal won during the year. Pending the start of electricity production at Morwell, the brown coal was used in the Yallourn Power Station.



AT YALLOURN NORTH open cut and the Yallourn North extension brown coal production increased to 1,650,000 tons, of which about 760,000 tons were sold to industrial consumers, the remainder being used mainly at Newport Power Station.

NEWPORT POWER STATION — largest of the metropolitan power stations — used 856,000 tons of brown coal railed from the Yallourn North open cut and 111,000 tons of brown coal briquettes. In addition, Newport Power Station consumed 166,000 tons of black coal and 164,000 tons of fuel oil.



INDUSTRIAL CONSUMERS in aggregate used nine per cent. more electricity. This compared with an increase of under five per cent. in the previous year. An additional 7,500 electric motors were connected during the year, increasing to 803,000 horse-

power the total capacity of industrial motors installed. About 90 per cent. of the horse-power used in Victorian factories is now operated by electricity. Electric space heating in factories is becoming increasingly popular.

HIGHLIGHTS OF..

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

*Electricity sales rose during the year by more than eight per cent. to 4,184 million kilowatt-hours. The increase in the previous year was seven per cent.

*Increased sales resulted from greater general use of electricity as well as the year's increase in the number of consumers on supply.

*During the year the Commission connected 96 additional centres with an estimated population of 12,000. The supply network now serves nearly 1,400 centres outside the metropolitan area.

*Commission consumers in Victoria increased to 795,000, including 175,000 consumers supplied by 11 metropolitan councils buying electricity in bulk.



MORE ELECTRICITY is being used in homes year by year. Over-all sales to domestic consumers improved by nearly 10 per cent. Average annual consumption by the Commission's domestic consumers during the year again substantially increased and is now 2,363 kilowatt-hours per consumer.



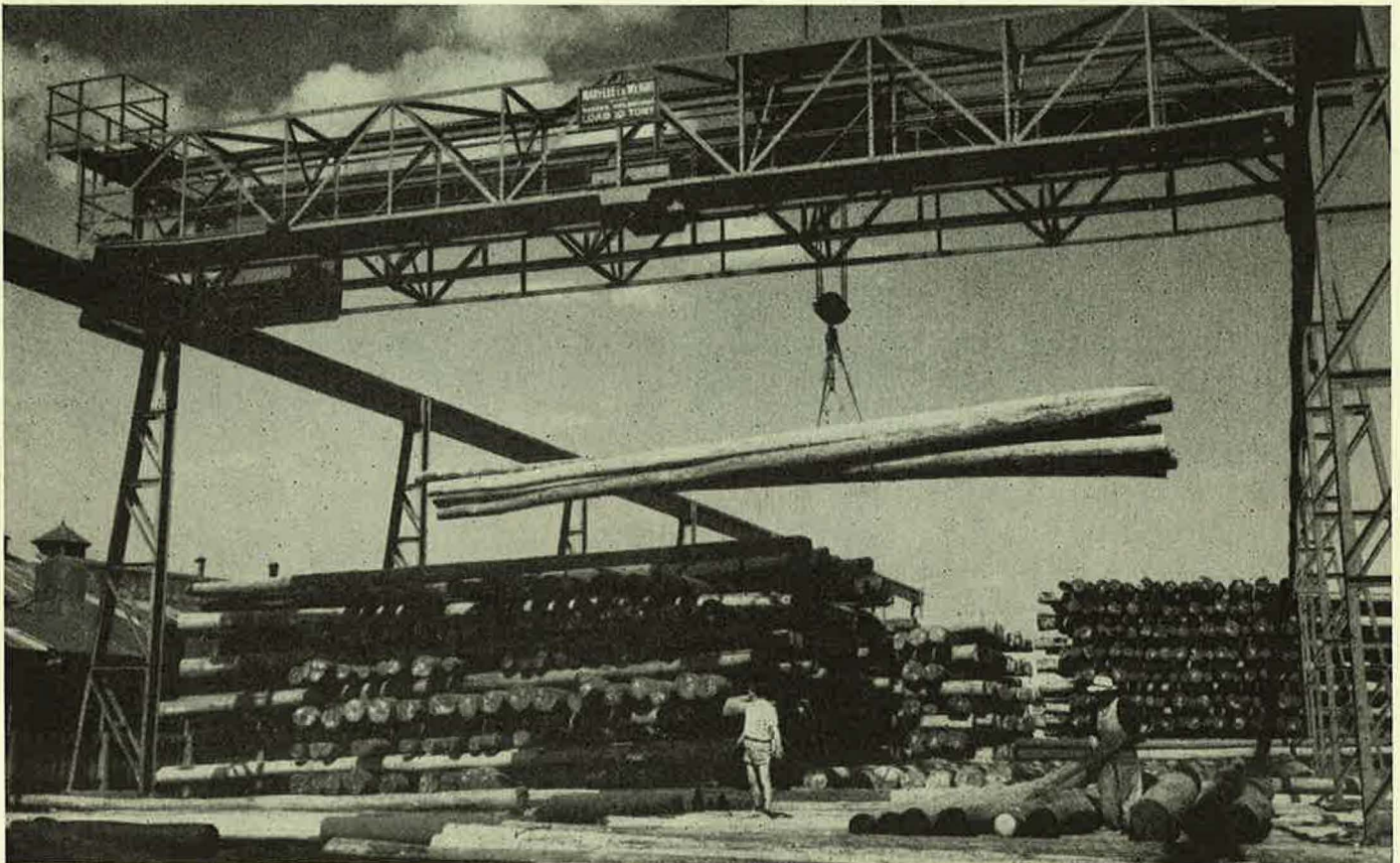
NEW COMMERCIAL CONSUMERS connected to supply during the year exceeded 2,700. Sales of electricity to the Commission's 61,000 commercial consumers increased by nearly four per cent. New city buildings are large users of light, heat and power.

*About 50,000 existing homes remain to be connected. Under the rural electrification programme, the Commission will progressively connect up as many as possible of these remaining homes, while also connecting up the 21,000 new homes built each year.

*Country consumers' splendid support of the "Self Help" finance plan enabled the Commission to maintain a consistently high rate of rural electrical development in the face of continued general shortage of capital funds for new construction works.

*Under the "Self Help" plan, prospective consumers finance the capital cost of new high voltage supply extensions by means of interest-bearing advances against future electricity bills over a period of 10 years.

26,000 **POLES** were erected during the year — an average of one new pole every four minutes every normal eight-hour working day. The Commission's supply branches built over 2,500 miles of new power lines. The picture shows one of the Commission's many pole storage depots throughout Victoria.

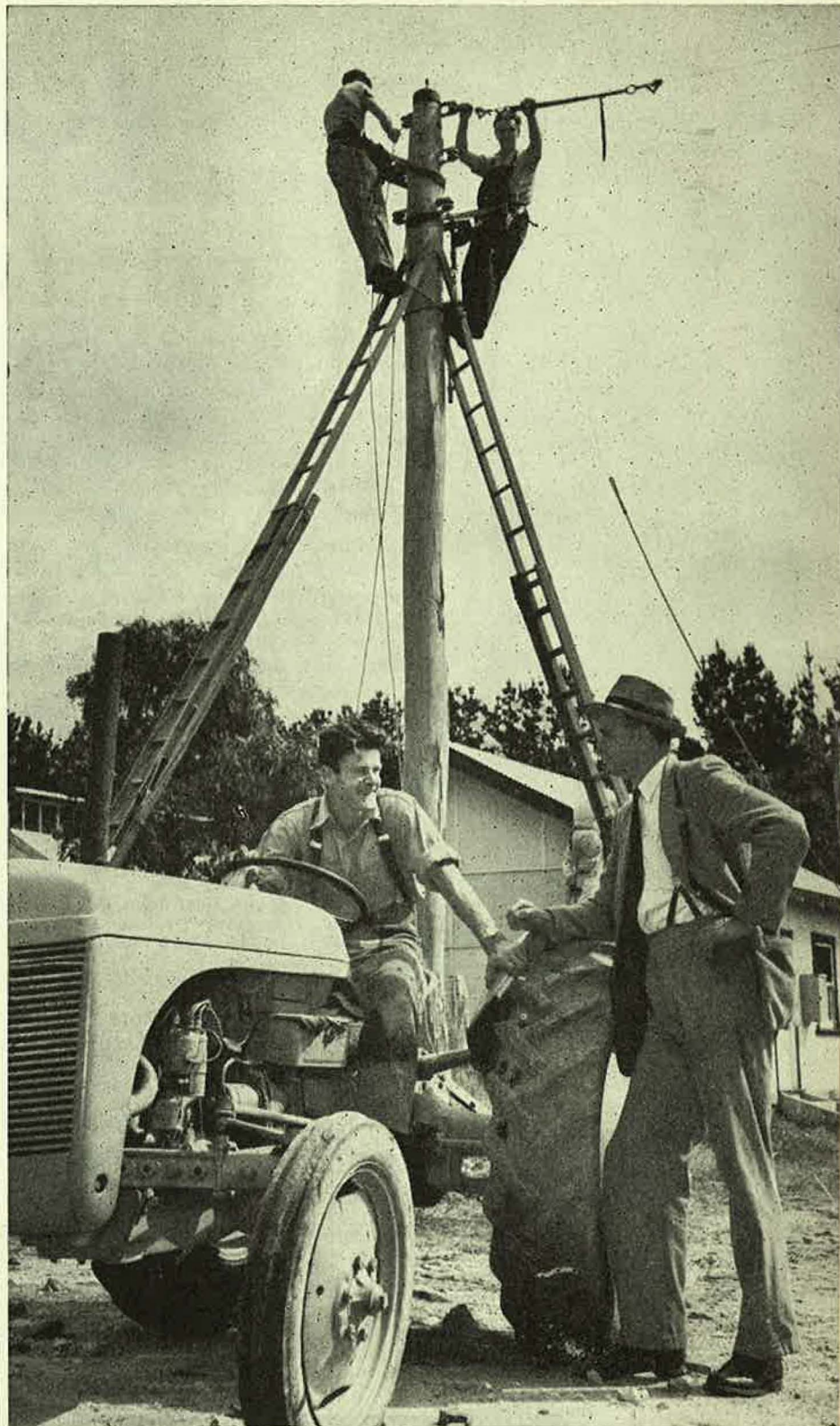




29,000 NEW CONSUMERS were connected to the Commission's supply network (including 1,850 consumers formerly supplied by local country undertakings). In addition, another 4,000 new consumers were connected by metropolitan councils supplied in bulk by the Commission.



OVER 11 NEW TRANSFORMERS on average every working day during the year were installed in town and country to extend electricity to new consumers and improve existing supply facilities. Throughout its system the Commission now has more than 18,000 transformer distribution substations.



THE NUMBER OF FARMS connected for the first time during the year was a record. New connections averaged 13 every working day, giving a net increase for the year of 3,147 farms. The Commission now supplies 39,000 farms — an increase of over 30,000 farms since the end of the war. In all country areas served by its interconnected system the Commission has a uniform farm tariff.

FINANCE

*Income and expenditure for the year both exceeded £40 million. The profit was £20,000, after meeting nearly £8 million interest on assets in operating areas, charging £4,800,000 of depreciation on assets in service and writing off nearly £2 million of interest and other expenditure during construction, temporarily carried in a suspense account — with the intention that it should be written off over a short period of years.

*Expenditure on new capital works during the year exceeded £25 million. Net investment in fixed capital assets, comprising land, buildings, plant and equipment, now totals £227 million, after providing £31 million for depreciation. Reserves, largely invested in the Commission's own undertakings, are £9 million.

INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND PROFIT

In round figures, and compared with 1956/57, the year's income and expenditure were:—

1956/57 £	INCOME	1957/58 £
33,820,000	Electricity Sales	37,160,000
1,800,000	Briquette Sales	2,000,000
800,000	Brown Coal Sales	780,000
110,000	Tramways Income	100,000
10,000	Miscellaneous Income	20,000
<hr/> £36,540,000		<hr/> £40,060,000
	EXPENDITURE	
18,660,000	Operation and Maintenance (inc. Fuel)	20,060,000
7,380,000	Interest (excl. Morwell)	7,950,000
2,810,000	Depreciation	4,840,000
2,910,000	Administration and General Expenditure	3,100,000
1,440,000	General Services and Special Personnel Expenditure	1,670,000
460,000	Loan Flotation and Miscellaneous Expenditure	510,000
2,100,000	Interest on Morwell and Other Expenditure on Works under Construction written off	1,910,000
<hr/> £35,760,000		<hr/> £40,040,000
£780,000	PROFIT	£20,000



Bake yourself a Christmas cake

Every housewife can make a successful Christmas cake if she remembers

that it takes only a little knowledge, but a great deal of care.

Use a reliable recipe like the one on this page. Make sure the fruits are washed, thoroughly dried, roughly chopped and soaked overnight in sherry or brandy. This plumps the fruit, brings out the flavour, helps to make a moist cake.

Sieve the light brown sugar to get rid of lumps that will not dissolve when creaming butter and sugar. Warm basin, but don't melt butter.

Add eggs one at a time and beat only well enough to blend each egg into the mixture. If this is over-beaten, it will have a poor texture and cause the cake to crumble when cut. If the mixture shows signs of

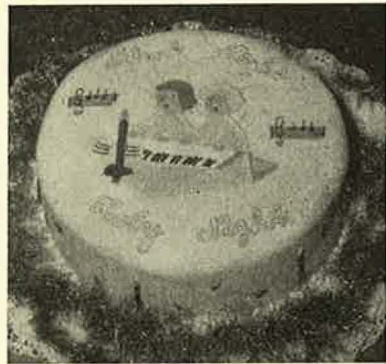


curdling, add one or two tablespoons of the sifted flour and fold it in. Fold in fruits alternately with flour. For this recipe, add last of all marmalade, fruit juices and grated rinds. If mixture appears too stiff, add not more than a tablespoon or two of sherry or brandy.

The cake should be even on top. Cut it level and brush off loose crumbs, or turn cake upside down to ice. Divide almond icing in two, then divide one half into two parts and roll each into strips long enough to go half-way round cake. Brush with egg white, press round cake. Roll remaining piece of almond icing to fit top and put on.

With a little icing sugar use hands and rolling pin to make top and sides perfectly smooth and straight. Leave at least two days before icing. In hot weather brush top and sides of almond-iced cake with egg white.

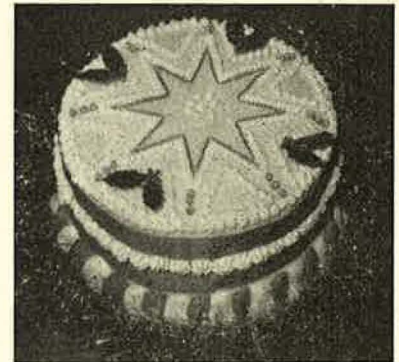
Use prepared soft icing, or this Mountain Frosting:—1 lb. sugar, $\frac{2}{3}$ cup



Here is the recipe:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1 lb. butter | 1 lb. currants |
| 1 lb. light brown sugar | 1 lb. sultanas |
| 8 eggs (9 if small) | 8 oz. raisins |
| 1 lb. flour | 6 oz. almonds |
| 4 oz. self-raising flour | 2 oz. mixed peel |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ cup brandy or sherry | 4 oz. cherries |
| 2 tablespoons orange marmalade, juice and grated rind of 1 lemon and 1 orange | |

To save time and effort, most housewives will use prepared almond icing and soft icing obtainable at most grocery stores. It will take $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 lb. of each to cover a half-pound cake (half mixture given here) or $2\frac{1}{2}$ -3 lb. to cover the full pound mixture.



water, 2 egg whites, pinch of cream of tartar, 1 teaspoon vanilla essence.

Whisk eggs slightly. Dissolve sugar in water, bring to boil, rinsing saucepan sides with wet pastry brush to prevent crystals forming. When syrup starts to boil, add cream of tartar, and at soft ball stage (i.e., when a little syrup dropped in cold water can be moulded between the fingers into a ball) pour on to egg whites, whisking all the time till mixture begins to thicken. Pour quickly on cake and smooth or swirl with a knife before frosting sets. This frosting may be coloured. The quantity given is sufficient to cover $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. cake mixture.

The iced cakes illustrated here will serve as a guide to decoration, but if you are too busy, the family will be quite happy with holly leaves.

For the quantity given here use a 10 or 12-inch cake tin which should be lined with at least one layer of brown paper and two of greaseproof or white shelf-paper. Hollow out the centre of mixture slightly. In a 10-inch tin the cake should be cooked $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours, and half an hour less in a 12-inch. The mixture can be divided in two 8-inch tins and cooked for $3-3\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

This cake will require strictly moderate to slow oven heat. We ad-



Miss Joan Treloar, Senior Demonstrator, E.S.D., compiled this feature and her staff made the cakes shown.

*Can you turn a topical rhyme
at a moment's notice, then set it
to music, as a matter of course?
You can? Then you're good.
Can you turn out a couple of dozen
lyrics, write the music and tie the lot
up as a revue, or musical extravaganza?
Then you have an unusual gift
which should bring you plenty of fun
and no little reward.*

IT is largely a gift, though many of us have sweated over half a dozen lines of doggerel to mark some special occasion. There are a number of people in the Commission who have displayed their skill over the years, but at the moment we have in Consumers' Accounts, Flinders Street, a pianist of great skill who can match his own words and music and win the praise of many competent judges.

Don Towner is, in the main, the author of the Fifty Seven Club Theatre revue, "Melbourne's Going Up," which was performed last month for a number of charities, and may be repeated later. Admiration for such a feat usually leads to the remark: "Of course, he must have been at it for years. Just think of all the lyrics and music he must have tossed into the bin before he struck the right note."

"WRITE A REVUE!"

For those with ambitions, but little confidence in their ability, here's the Towner surprise. Until July 1 this year, Don had never thought of fathering a whole show. It all started when he was asked by Neil Hall, also of Flinders Street, to help at rehearsals of the Fifty Seven Club revue by Mr. and Mrs. Seppings in aid of the Cancer Appeal.

Director William Carr afterwards asked Don to edit some music for a new revue. Don took a good look at it, then commented jocularly: "If I couldn't write better revue music than this, I'd give up playing the piano." Don wasn't as self-opinionated as he sounded; it was a case of a joke that rebounded. Mr. Carr heard him and retorted: "Very well, you write a revue for us."

The man who had never before written a note of music or hammered out a lyric, went home and picked out on his piano a new melody. He had accepted the challenge because he had no intention of giving up his beloved music. He started with the additional advantages of being able to remember the words of hundreds



Mel-bourne's going up.. too right!!

DON STRIKES



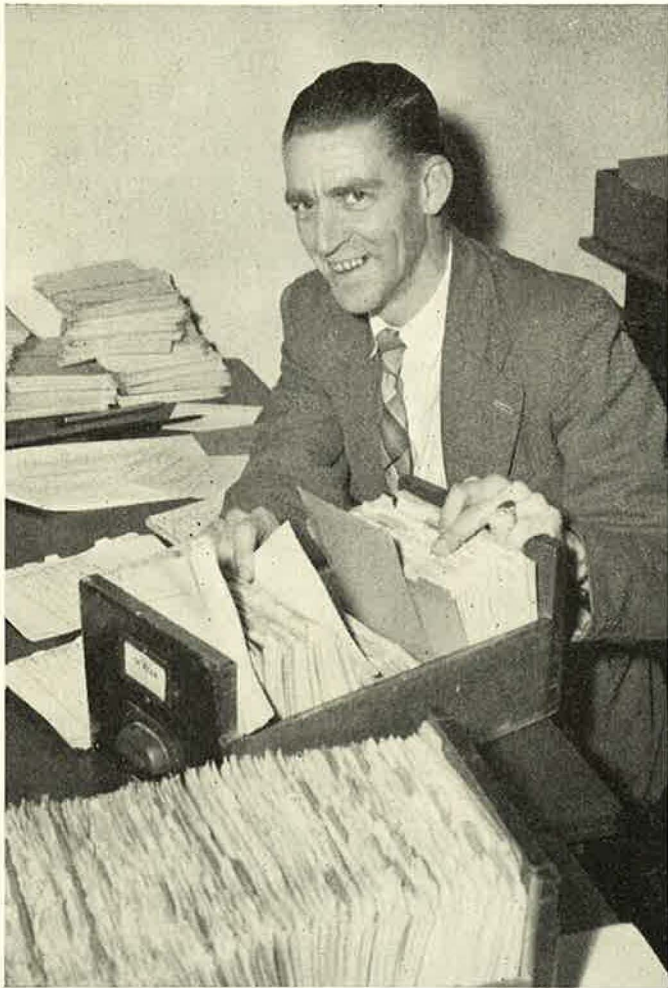
"Let's try it this way," says Don Towner to Neil Hall as they rehearse a number for the extravaganza, "Melbourne's Going Up."

of songs and think up rhymes at the drop of a hat. The Fifty Seven Club members also held a round table conference and tossed in ideas which Don noted on a sheet of music manuscript. He had plenty of notes, but few of the pooled ideas eventually reached the stage.

Neil Hall suggested "Moomba" in samba tempo and pantomimed the spirit of the idea so well that Don says he was able to see the number on the spot. Incidentally, Neil sang several of Don's solos and played in sketches in "Melbourne's Going Up."

Of the thirty-one numbers in the show, Don was completely responsible for twenty-four, shared in the other lyrics and composed all the music with the exception of one scena. He found quite an inspired

THE RIGHT NOTE!



Don, busy in Consumers' Accounts at Flinders Street, does not believe in burning midnight oil to get his musical inspiration.

collaborator in Miss Dorothea Meurer, of the Education Department.

Mr. Carr wants Dorothea and Don to evolve a half-hour TV revue, but Don is in no hurry to add to his work at the moment. He regards his creative efforts as a spare time hobby and puts his job first. This is why he refuses to burn the midnight oil, or take the risk of trying to earn a living in the unstable show world.

He does make a point of practising the piano two or three hours a day when health permits, and his mind ranges equally keenly over the field of ideas which have a habit of coming in some very odd places and the quaintest times.

On one occasion he woke up at 3 a.m. from a deep sleep with a complete melody in his head. He hurried to a tape recorder the club had loaned him, hummed the melody, then went back to sleep. The following morning he hadn't the vaguest memory of the melody, but it was on tape. Hard thinking, rather than inspiration, is the chief need, but someone like William Carr is a lasting inspiration.

Don is quick to pay tribute to the unceasing help he has received from his parents, who have recently given him the freedom of their lounge. He started playing when he was 14. After he had listened to all the rolls on his sister's pianola, his mother asked if he would like to learn the piano, and arranged twelve months' tuition by a cousin, who used the most modern methods in coaching his selected pupils.

Mr. and Mrs. Towner insist that he play the melodies all the time and not hide them in a mass of improvisations. Only once did Mum show her disagreement with his efforts — and not without good reason, according to Don. She slapped down the lid of the piano after he had spent four hours practising the same four bars of "Kitten on the Keys"!

LEARN TO IMPROVISE

Don, who was a clerk in Gippsland Branch at Traralgon about seven years ago, later had a spell as a ship's pianist in the "Kanimbla," on the Fremantle-Cairns run before returning to the Commission in November last year.

He has no flamboyant ideas about his gifts, which experts regard highly, and is very businesslike about composing and writing. Gifts, he contends, must be used intelligently and strengthened by hard work in the chosen field. Ideas never strike twice, and chances can be missed so easily.

Don was eating a hurried meal in a cafe once when a bright idea came between the soup and the sausage, as it were. He had neither pen nor notebook, but a waitress obliged with a stub of pencil on the end of a piece of string and watched fascinated while he scribbled the idea on a couple of flimsy paper napkins.

If you really want to strike the right note just when it is wanted, you must be good at improvising in more ways than one.



Senior Appointments



Mr. Ballard



Mr. Chandler

FUEL SUPPLY MANAGER

MR. W. B. BALLARD, A.F.A.I.M., F.I.S.M., Assistant Fuel Supply Manager since 1949, will become Manager at the end of the year. A well known Victorian athlete, he came to the Commission from South Australia.

ELECTRICAL PLANT ENGINEER

MR. R. H. CHANDLER, Dip.E.E., has been appointed Electrical Plant Engineer after 37 years in the S.E.C., mostly in Electrical Branch. He has been Superintendent Substation Design and Design Engineer (Hydro and Terminal Stations).

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY DEPARTMENT CHANGES

Because a number of Branch Managers are due to retire in the next year or so, six Managers have been named to take over Branches in due course. In addition, Mr. T. E. Williams, Manager of South Western Branch, becomes Assistant Manager, Metropolitan Branch.

MR. WILLIAMS, A.I.E.E. (Lond.), with 36 years' service, has had wide experience in the Electricity Supply Department. He was Consumers' Engineer, Metro. Branch, in 1947, and last year acted as Manager, Electrical Development Division.

MR. T. J. CURTIN, B.Sc., A.M.I.E. (Aust.), moves to Mr. Williams' old post as Manager, South Western Branch. He joined the M.E.S. Co. in 1929, spent 16 years in Distribution Division, became Manager, Bendigo Branch, in 1955.

MR. A. C. SANDOW, B.E., A.M.I.E. (Aust.), Manager, Mildura Sub-Branch, for three years, transfers to Bendigo. He was Engineer in Charge of Rural Activities in 1936 and Rural Service Engineer from 1943 to 1955.

MR. I. J. ARCHIBALD, B.Sc., Dip.E.E., a Metro. Branch technical assistant in 1934, was in Gippsland Branch six years and has been Extra Branch Manager for the last three. He will take over Eastern Metro. Branch.

MR. H. W. LINAKER, Dips. E. and M.E., with nearly 39 years' service and management experience in Castlemaine, Gippsland and latterly Ballarat, will go to Geelong. He was Acting General Superintendent at Yallourn during the war.

MR. R. H. KITSON, B.E.E., A.M.I.E. (Aust.), draftsman in 1930 and Manager, Wimmera Sub-Branch, since 1954, takes over at Ballarat, where he was Acting Manager last year. He has had wide experience as a distribution engineer.

MR. J. H. ARCHER, A.M.I.E. (Aust.), Assistant Manager, North Eastern Branch, since 1955, remains as Manager. He has been Acting Assistant Manager, Electrical Development Division, after 35 years in the S.E.C.

MR. F. K. WHITE, Dip.M.E., A.M.I.E. (Aust.), Assistant Manager, Eastern Metro. Branch, since 1956, becomes Reserve Branch Manager. A junior clerk in 1930, he was General Electrical Services Superintendent, Yallourn, in 1952.

CUP STAYS IN COLAC

Two young lads from the South West acted as patients for Ballarat and Colac First Aid Teams which contested the Hornabrook Cup. Mick Ballagh and Kevin Wickham were involved in a "shooting accident," and Les Egan, of Richmond, decided the Cup should stay in Colac.

The Office Manager, Mr. Jack Lovell, thanked Mr. Egan, and many guests and the ladies who provided an excellent supper.

FIRST CITIZEN

Mr. S. J. Ryan, Officer-in-Charge, Port Fairy, an active member of Port Fairy Council for years, has been elected Mayor.



£70 FOR AN IDEA

Mr. W. H. G. Clarke, photographic cartographer's assistant, Coal Production, Richmond, (L.) receiving a further £60, making £70 in all, for his suggestion relating to the chemical reversal of photographic line negative material. The Suggestions Board awarded him the original £10 last March. Mr. D. Lombard made the presentation.

Mr. K. P. Godfrey, stores assistant, Yarraville, has won £20 for suggesting that reconditioned fuses should be packed in corrugated card instead of metal containers.

We help schools' TV

The Publicity Branch lecturer, Mr. Reg Kirby, and ABV2 compere Mr. Bob Cornish, worked together in the first experimental telecast to primary schools on October 20. It included S.E.C. film and photographs.

Mr. Kirby talked about brown coal and used the model of Yallourn Open Cut. Steam from a kettle drove a model wheel to demonstrate the principle of the turbine.

Messrs. R. G. Matkin, Coal Production Branch Modeller; A. N. Mercer, Office Engineer; J. Elliott, engineering assistant; and Fred Olsen, trainee draftsman helped in the studio.

FIRE BRIGADES PRESIDENT

Mr. J. Tabuteau, of Fuel Supply Department at Yallourn, has been appointed President of the Urban Fire Brigades of Victoria. This is fitting reward for many years of good service to the cause of fire prevention.

Yallourn pays tribute to two pioneers

Yallourn has parted regretfully with two veterans who have known the area for 37 years, and earned a happy retirement.

George Gray, Civil Construction foreman, is remembered doing his work in a horse trap. Ray DeCarli, ditch bunker loader driver, often rode a horse from Yallourn North and saw kangaroos grazing near the track to Yallourn.

The General Superintendent, Brigadier J. Field, said George was retiring full of years and merit. He had always taken pride in his work, which started when the first cut was opened with horses and scoops.

The Construction Engineer, Mr. H. Robertson, said it was known George had worked on the first shift. He had worked hard till his last shift. Everyone wished him happiness.

George thanked all old friends for their good wishes and the wonderful gift of a watch and tea service. He recalled he was on the first committee of Yallourn F.C. and helped to clear the site of the ovals.

Ray, who started as a carpenter, took away a gold watch as a token of his friends' esteem. He first came to the Yallourn area in 1919 before the S.E.C. took over from the Mines Department, and settled after the

Eastern Camp was established. He was one of the team who built the town's first home, played the tenor horn in the town's first band and always supported the football team.

Ray will always remember his farewell from the job. It took place at 7.45 a.m. and everyone on the shift in the Open Cut was on hand to say: "Thanks a lot and the best of luck."

S-E-C people aid Yooralla

Christmas came early at Yooralla Hospital School for Crippled Children. The S.E.C. group of helpers gave their annual party to 130 boys and girls on October 17 so the young patients wouldn't have too many feasts at once.

Gee, what a party it was with Ron Blaskett and Gerry having their endless differences, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade team of clowns tumbling and singing and a group from the Victorian Banjo Club, under Tom Campbell, playing popular numbers. There was plenty of sweets and cakes to follow, and S.E.C. girls did a wonderful job feeding the helpless.



Slogan won a prize

Receiving a cheque for £5 from the General Superintendent, Brigadier J. Field, is Mr. D. N. Pearse, of Yallourn Power Station, who formed 724 bona fide words from the slogan "Safety on the Job." Second was Mr. A. R. Paxton, Electrical Operations, Coal Production, with 525 words, and third Mr. D. C. Taylor, Civil Construction, 457 words.

Brigadier Field said this was the first competition of its kind in the Commission. The main object was to foster a greater interest in safe working. Although Yallourn accident rates were below those of the remainder of the Commission, there was still room for improvement.

BASKETBALL BOOM

Basketball is winning more and supporters in the Commission. The S.E.C. Athletic Club's team is well up in the Y.M.C.A. "B" Grade tournament and has its eye on the premiership to be decided before Christmas. The club, now in its 35th year, has 35 members and works in association with the Y.M.C.A. Most members attend one night a week, usually Tuesday.

Head Office Social Club has formed a basketball team which plays in the Business Houses League "D" Grade.

(Pictures of teams will appear next issue.)



QUARTER OF A CENTURY IN CONSTRUCTION

Mr. C. W. Sangster, Electrical Construction Engineer, presented a wallet of notes to electrical fitter C. Peterson, who retired on October 17 after 25 years with the Commission. About a hundred of his friends gathered at Brunswick Terminal Station to wish him all the best, and echo Mr. Sang-

ster's praise of an able tradesman who was always willing to do his share of the work in the country. He worked in the early days at Rubicon and Eildon.

Other speakers included Messrs. J. Smith and S. T. Atley, who had worked with Mr. Peterson for 25 years.

ON THE AIR

Fishermen's Bend artists put on a first class show for 3DB "Lunchtime Funtime" which was recorded in the mess on November 5. The radio experts congratulated the "S.E.C. Swingers" — Wes Brown, Ray Morgan, Barry Hislop, George Angelus and Eric Garland — Ted Barnes, Gerry Reed, Derek Fife, Tod Farrell.



Messrs. Munro, Connolly, Jewell and Price farewell Mr. Oldfield.



George Staley tells his last fishing story to friends at Footscray.

He didn't look 65!

Mr. C. A. P. Oldfield, special officer to the Chairman and Director of Engineering, looked twenty years younger than 65 when he retired on October 10 after more than 35 years.

The Chairman, Mr. W. H. Connolly, said Clem had been a feature of the Commission for so long, it was sad to see him go. Since May, 1923, he had acquired a detailed knowledge of electricity supply.

The Personnel Department over those years had found a unique number of titles for him. He had been personal assistant, confidential clerk, special officer to the late Mr. Harper, to Mr. Bate and Mr. Kernot before looking after the needs of Mr. Connolly and Mr. Jewell.

Clem had rendered valuable service to the engineering profession, and the Institute of Electrical Engineers of England had conferred on him the title of Companion for his work as Institute hon. secretary in Victoria.

Mr. Connolly presented a chiming clock which would keep accurate time for a very long time. "We all sincerely hope," said the Chairman, "that you live long and happily."

The Secretary, Mr. D. H. Munro, who presided, said that if ever Clem was miscast, he was at that moment. No one looked so young.

GOLFERS' BRIGHT DAY

Even the weather has given up the struggle against Personnel Department golfers at Beaconhills.

Yallourn was well represented, and Jack Cramer took back the Noel Cooke Trophy. Other prizes went to Frank Sims, runner-up; and Herb Martin and Peter Myers for the best and worst scores at secret holes.

GEORGE HAS GONE FISHING

It seemed that all Footscray Depot turned out to farewell George Staley, who retired after 25 years in many centres of the Commission, including Kiewa and Yallourn. He helped to promote briquette sales before the war, then turned to clerical duties in the Accountancy Department. He was latterly in charge of the Accounting General Section at Footscray.

Mr. B. A. Preston, Stores Accountant, presented a cheque to George, and praised his adaptability and excellent work. His tribute to George's friendliness and skill as a teller of fishing tales was echoed by the Comptroller of Stores, Mr. W. H. Hall, and Messrs. L. Byrne and C. A. Brown.



A tale of triplets

Congratulations to Mr. H. P. Morris, of Radio Laboratory, Richmond, and his wife, Mila, on the birth of triplets. They were born in the Royal Women's Hospital on November 1. Karin weighed 3 lb. 15½ oz.; Frank, 4 lb. 1 oz.; Peter, 3 lb. 6½ oz., and everybody is doing fine — including father! — but the babies won't be home till the year end.

"Morry" met titian-haired Mila in the village of Conco, in the Alps above Venice, last Christmas Day and proposed two days later. Collecting all the necessary papers took them to February 6 when they were married. After a London honeymoon and work in Scotland, they returned to Australia at the end of July.

Said "Morry": "The villagers called our marriage a bolt of lightning. I wish I could have been there when the news arrived."

CARPET BOWLS PAIRS

Thirty-six pairs entered the carpet bowls championship at Fishermen's Bend. Geoff Corp and Jack Collett defeated Jack Grant and Jack Gorman, 10-8. Trophies were presented by Social Club President A. Whyte.

AXEMAN TAKES IT EASY

Charlie Watson, Footscray poleyard foreman and former noted axeman, gets a farewell hand-shake from the Comptroller of Stores, Mr. W. H. Hall, and the good advice to take it easy in his enforced retirement for health reasons after 36 years. Mr. Hall presented a wallet of notes from old friends, and the Social Club President, Mr. R. Fiddler, gave Charlie the easy chair in recognition of his hard work for the club.

Messrs. A. E. Minty, J. Mulholland, C. Guppy and "Sailor" Jones added their tributes and good wishes.

YALLOURN'S CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

"Betty's won!" The cry roared round Yallourn on October 13, when the news was received that Mrs. W. Hebb, wife of the Workshops Engineer, had become Victoria's Champion of Champions by defeating the Australian golf champion, Miss Margaret Masters, in her semi-final and a former national champion, Mrs. John Fisher, 3-2 in the final at Yarra Yarra.

Mrs. Hebb has been Yallourn Club champion for thirteen years and has



devoted a lot of time to coaching local golfers, some of whom went with her every day to Melbourne to cheer her through to victory, and are seen above congratulating her on being the first country player to win.

"SCHOOL'S OUT" SAID STUDENTS AT YALLOURN!

Fifty students of two Yallourn classes and their guests forgot the recent examination in office routine and methods on Friday, November 7, at a clerical training course wind-up party in the R.S.L. Hall. A buffet dinner was spiced with witty speeches.

Mr. Aub. Martin was M.C. Guests were Mr. T. B. Jensen, Assistant General Superintendent; the four instructors, Messrs. H. J. Burn and N. L. R. Synnot, Works Accountants at Yallourn and Morwell, and I. Wynd and J. Cullen, Yallourn High School teachers, who conducted English Expression.

Mr. Jensen recalled that the General Superintendent had predicted that the course would stimulate interest in the Commission's activities and broaden individual outlooks.

Ballarat veterans leave

Two motormen-conductors, Jack Young and Don McLachlan, who started with the Electric Supply Co. of Victoria in 1924, have left the service in Ballarat because of ill health.

The Branch Manager, Mr. H. W. Linaker, supported by many work-mates, presented each with a 400-day clock and praised their courtesy and helpfulness to the travelling public. All hoped their health improved.

ALEXANDRA WINS

Six teams competed in the final of North Eastern Branch first aid competition at Benalla on October 24. The winner was Alexandra — Messrs. P. Dent (capt.), K. Lowerson, K. Sawers, L. Phelps and R. Grinter. Miss M. Cameron and Mr. C. Scudamore were the "victims."

Mr. R. H. Dixon, Manager, Works Division, presented the shield to Alexandra, and St. John Medallions to Messrs. A. Davidson, L. Black, R. Cussen, A. Gourley, M. Thomson, N. Morriss, S. Pedersen and W. Brown.

SHE FOLLOWED MOTHER

North Eastern Branch Manager, Mr. R. G. Crivelli, presented Miss Janet Fealy with a tea set from her friends when she left to marry Mr. K. Cole. The Office Manager, Mr. L. A. Sayers, recalled that Janet had followed her mother in the office.



Patrolmen retire

Mr. Lindsay Badger, Operations Overseer (R.), was one of the many who shook hands with Mr. C. V. Fraser, patrolman, when he retired at Brunswick Terminal Station on October 3 after two periods of service, beginning in 1934.

The Area Engineer, Mr. J. G. McGrath, presented him with a dinner set, crystal ash tray and steak knives from the Corps of Patrolmen and his many friends in the Brunswick area. Mr. McGrath was supported by Mr. E. A. Cox, Patrol Supervisor, in praising Charlie's great friendliness and sincerity.

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Mr. Cox made presentations to two other men. Mr. W. B. Bartley received a clock at Richmond Works, and Mr. T. G. Squires an electric toaster and jug at Richmond Transport. They were both wished good health and long life.





BYCESON TROPHY WINNERS

The Transport Engineer, Mr. E. W. Bryce-son (L) presents his carpet bowls trophy to Harry Allen, captain of the winning Body Section team at Fishermen's Bend. They beat the M.U.A. men 13-8. With Harry are C. Hall and G. Pocknee.

ENGAGEMENTS

BRIESE, Mr. J. (Eastern Metro.), to Miss P. M. Pratt, of Ringwood.
 CONNOR, Miss Dorothy (Cons. Accts., Metro.), to Mr. J. DeBomford (Kubicon House).
 DUNN, Miss Isabelle (Cons. Accts., Metro.), to Mr. N. Spry (Field Clerks, Metro.).
 TURNER, Miss Anne (Cons. Accts., Metro.), to Mr. K. Clark, of Brunswick.
 WILSON, Mr. Brian (Services, Metro.), to Miss A. Ralph, formerly Metro. Branch.

MARRIAGES

DEAVIN, Mr. Ian (Distribution, Metro.), to Miss Margaret McKinlay (receptionist, Flinders St.), on October 25.
 ELLIOTT, Mr. A. (E.P.E. Workshops, Yarraville), to Miss Thelma James, September 20.
 FEALY, Miss Janet (Benalla), to Mr. K. Cole.
 PARKER, Mr. G., to Miss Iris Walkden (both Traralgon).
 RUSSELL, Mr. L. (Eastern Metro.), to Miss V. Brown, of Upper Beaconsfield.
 SOUMPROU, Mr. W. (Showrooms, Flinders St.), to Miss Estella Hall, on October 25.

BIRTHS

BETTS, Mrs. and Mr. H. (Eastern Metro.) — son (Wesley Robert).
 DRINAN, Mrs. and Mr. L. (Traralgon), November 4 — son (Andrew Neil).
 LUCAS, Mrs. and Mr. I. C. (Mechanical, H/O), October 4 — daughter (Joanne Kay).
 McCRICKARD, Mrs. and Mr. R. V. (Executive Assistant), October 2 — son (Simon Robert).
 MORRIS, Mrs. and Mr. H. P. (Radio Laboratory, Richmond), November 1 — triplets, girl and two boys.
 NASH, Mrs. and Mr. W. (N.E. Store) — son.
 SERTORI, Mrs. and Mr. F. (Eastern Metro.) — daughter.

Head Bookkeeper, Mr. C. Hamley (R), voices the good wishes of all Costs and Bookkeeping Branch to Mr. N. McDonough who has left for a European cycle racing tour. He will team up with other Australians. He was given a travelling case.



THESE WILL RETIRE SOON

The following men with ten years' service and over will be retiring on the dates indicated in the next three months. Their first appointments are also shown.

ATCHISON, W. F., Assistant Superintendent, Electrical Maintenance, Works Division, January 1; leading-hand fitter, Richmond, July 13, 1927; M.E.S. Co., 1923.
 BEVAN, T. W., electrical mechanic, Rubicon, March 3; patrol driver, Thornton, May 27, 1925.
 CHOATE, W. H., labourer, Footscray, February 8; same, October 8, 1945.
 CONN, L. J., Newport fireman, January 6; conveyor attendant, February 17, 1941.
 CORDELL, G. R., Yallourn fireman, January 26; plumber, September 4, 1924.
 CRIVELLI, R. G., Manager, North Eastern Branch, January 14; junior assistant engineer, Head Office, January 4, 1922.
 DYER, A. G., Yallourn machinist, March 15; fitter's assist., September 14, 1923.
 FALKOV, J., Yallourn electrical fitter, March 6; same, April 18, 1928.
 FARRELL, J. H., l.h. rigger, Yallourn, January 14; labourer, January 22, 1935.
 HUNTER, W., Geelong fitter, January 23; same, 1924.
 HYND, T. F. M., Yallourn trades assist., January 23; Yallourn boilermaker's assist., November 25, 1943.
 JAMES, L., Superintendent, Consumers' Accounts, Metro. Branch, February 1; clerk, M.E.S. Co., April 8, 1921.
 KRONK, O., l.h. cleaner, Footscray, January 1; Footscray cleaner, February 17, 1941.
 McENERY, T., Yallourn cleaner, February 2; Yallourn labourer, March 13, 1942.
 MCKENZIE, H., surveyor, Distribution Division, February 23; tempy, surveyor, Yallourn, September 20, 1926; was there 1921.
 McSWEEN, A., Yallourn conveyor attendant, March 8; labourer, April 13, 1948.
 ORPWOOD, G. W., senior clerk, Belgrave, January 14; salesman, Shepparton, April 27, 1931.
 RACKETT, W. G., E.S.D. electrical fitter, March 7; same, July 28, 1947.
 ROBBINS, F. A., foreman, Civil Construction, Morwell, March 7; carpenter, November 28, 1938.
 SMITH, S. V., O.M.E. linesman, March 1; O.M.E. driver, August 23, 1923.
 WILLIAMS, C. L., patrolman, February 6; labourer, Footscray, October 6, 1941.

OBITUARY

MR. J. D. MCGONAGLE

Mr. James Dennis McGonagle, Workshop Overseer, Electrical Instrument Repair group, Yarraville Laboratory, died in Prince Henry's Hospital on October 15, two weeks after a stroke. He was 63 and planning his retirement to the Mornington Peninsula.

His service began in February, 1924, as one of the very first Laboratory personnel and in the subsequent 34 years he became known widely throughout the Commission.

He is survived by a son and daughter.

MR. W. G. PENDLEBURY

Mr. William Gerard Pendlebury, a foreman in Underground Mains, Electrical Branch, died of pneumonia in Prince Henry's Hospital on October 26. He was 51 and had been with the Commission since March, 1949.

He was very popular in the Branch and had a happy knack of getting the best out of men of different nationalities on the job.

He is survived by his widow, a son and daughter.

MR. C. G. COUCH

Mr. Clyde George Couch, 60, office cleaner at Traralgon since February, 1949, died on November 3. He was noted in Gippsland Branch as "one of Nature's gentlemen," and was always ready to help workmates.

He was wounded with the First A.I.F., but never let this check his interest in brass band work, to which he devoted forty years. At the time of his death he was a member of Traralgon Municipal Band.

He leaves a widow, two daughters, a son.

MR. F. H. RUNGE

Mr. Francis Henry Runge, Officer-in-Charge at Shepparton, North Eastern Branch, died suddenly on November 10 after a heart attack. He was 60 and had been with the Commission since June 1, 1926.

A veteran of the First A.I.F., he rescued a wounded Shepparton man from No Man's Land. He also made his name as a cricketer, bowler, golfer, Rotarian, and was also a Commissioner of the Urban Water Trust. Mr. Runge was a man with a great gift for making friends.

His wife predeceased him by only three weeks. He is survived by three adult sons.

MR. M. BUTTERFIELD

Mr. Montague Butterfield, formerly Officer-in-Charge, Mornington, who retired in 1950, died on October 29. He was 73. A very popular figure down the Peninsula, he started with Mornington Shire Council and completed his 28 years in electricity supply with the S.E.C.

He leaves a widow and three daughters.

MR. G. FLETCHER

Mr. George Fletcher, Electrical Workshops Supervisor at Yallourn, died of a heart condition in Yallourn Hospital on October 3. He was 59 and had continuous service with the Commission from June 22, 1927.

He had seen Yallourn grow up and helped in many ways the advance of community life in the town.

He leaves a widow, son and daughter.

MR. P. J. C. HARRY

Mr. Percy James Curnow Harry, who retired as Works Accountant at Yallourn on May 31, 1952, after nine months' extension of service, died in Kyneton Hospital on October 6. He was 72, and had served the Commission 27 years.

A leading citizen of Yallourn, he represented the S.E.C. on the Town Advisory Council and was actively interested in a number of the local organisations. He was held in the highest esteem by his colleagues and fellow citizens.

He leaves a widow, two daughters and son.



“It’s a terrific day out and we all enjoy it . . .”

THE S.E.C. PICNIC at Frankston Park on Australia Day is really *the* family trip of the year. So much is laid on, Mum hasn’t to be worrying all the time about junior, or about meals. It’s also one of the cheapest days in the calendar. Hot water and milk are free.

If the grown-ups are energetic, they have the choice of a variety of foot races and novelty events. If they are like most of us, they can relax happily while their children enjoy themselves safely. There are races and novelty events for youngsters from 5-15, books and sweets for toddlers, free rides on the merry-go-round,

chair-o-plane, and ice-cream and soft drinks at 3d. a serve. *Plus* all the fun of Punch-and-Judy and the thrills of model aeroplane flying.

If you are going by train, buy a family ticket for 7/-. This covers either two adults and four children, or one adult and five, or two adults. Adult tickets at 3/6 can be used by one adult, or two children under 16.

Road travellers to Frankston Park will find plenty of good parking. Adults pay 1/-, children 6d. each.

The beach is safe and handy. So make a date to meet old friends at Frankston on January 26.

See you at the S.-E.-C picnic!



SPECIAL TRAINS LEAVE FLINDERS STREET, PLATFORM No. 10 EAST, AT 9.15 A.M. AND 9.22 A.M.



..it takes only one



DON'T START BUSHFIRES!