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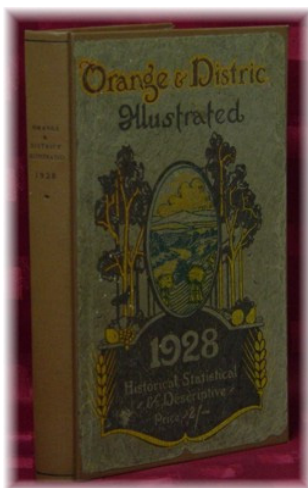
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Orange and District Illustrated

Ref. AU2021

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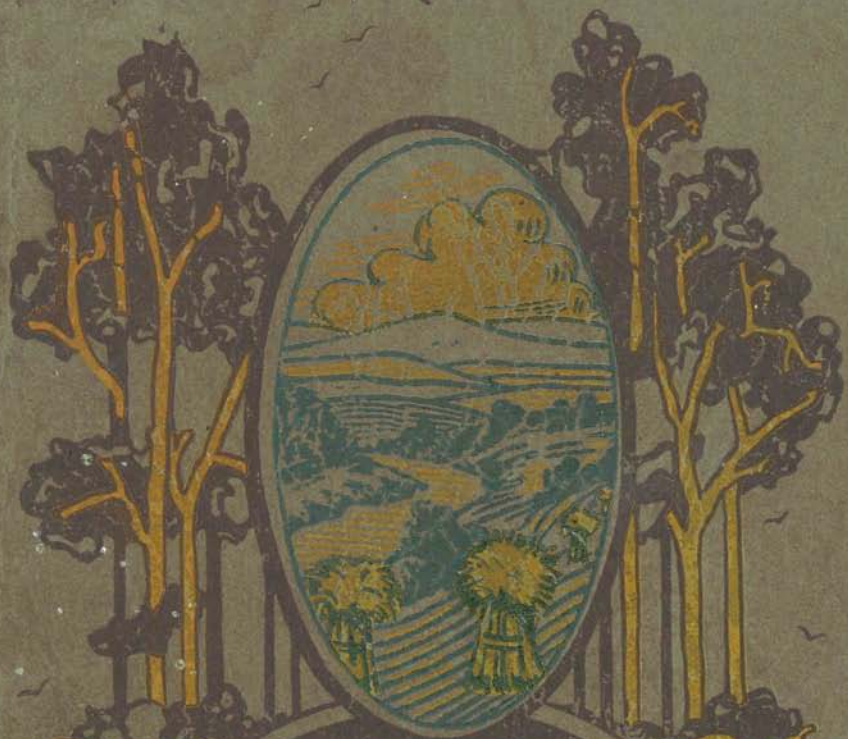
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Orange & District Illustrated



1928

Historical, Statistical
& Descriptive

Price 2/-

PUBLISHERS' NOTE

IT is to be understood that this book is not intended to be a complete history of Orange. The object of the publishers has been to collate the most important features in the district's growth, combine with them typical town and country views (both old and new), photos. of many past and present prominent citizens, and concise statistical information, thus making the production what its title claims, viz., historical, statistical, and descriptive.

IT is hoped that the demand for this edition of "Orange and District Illustrated" will be so large that a second edition may be called for. If that hope is realised, then the publishers' intention is to considerably enlarge the literary portion of it.

Flynn & Leggo,
Publishers.

Wholly set up and printed in Australia, by Flynn & Leggo, Newspaper and General Printers, "Leader" Office, Lord's Place, Orange, N.S.W.

Orange and District Illustrated



The Path of the Pioneers.



IT is a far cry back to the days when white men turned their faces to the setting sun, and doggedly pursued its dying rays further and further out into the West, through trackless scrub, and over the tree-cloaked ranges of the Blue Mountains; persevering through privation and hardship, determined to overcome the great obstacles that Nature had placed in the path of progress—Nature, the fickle and temperamental beauty who swayed from grim opposition to generous encouragement.

When the pioneers, in the earliest years of the nineteenth century, bore the flaming torch of civilisation out into the darker portions of the continent, and blazed the trail that was followed in turn by the tillers of the soil, they paved the way for the steady influx of settlers and builders of cities. To-day there stand, where savage natives fought with their neighboring tribes, and where wild creatures prowled, progressive towns which have grown enormously in a century of time; and on the hills for thousands of miles, where once was tangled scrub, now waves the golden grain, and browse the more docile animals of the pastoralists.

Such a town is Orange, the growth of which has been nothing short of wonderful. It is the gateway to the West, and has been recognised as such since the first settlement, and never has any doubt of its growing importance in the history of New South Wales, or even Australia, been entertained. The day is to come when Orange will stand among the greatest cities in the continent.

The First Gold Discovery.



THE inn at Guyong was kept by Mrs. Lister, and the prospector wanted her to lend him a blackfellow, as guide. She said, however, that her son, aged 16, would go. They started, and gathered in William Tom to look after the horses. For some time they searched for gold, Hargraves teaching his young assistants the use of the cradle, and imparting other necessary knowledge. At last, however, he gave up his search, and returned to Sydney.

Then came the surprising news that the two had found gold at Ophir, on February 12, 1851, near the junction of Summer Hill and Lewis Ponds Creeks, about nine miles from Orange. A proclamation followed, officially announcing the first discovery of payable gold in Australia, and at last leading to the rush into the west of gold-diggers, and the embarking from England of men who hoped that success would attend their efforts in that direction in the colony.

It was the final assurance of the future success of Orange, which commenced to grow steadily in the flow of new settlers, and with the spending in its precincts of the gold values won from the hills close by.

In the year 1851, over 2000 miners' licenses were issued. In the same year, after the discovery of gold at Ophir, came the electrifying news of gold on land known as The Wentworth, being the property of Mr. W. C. Wentworth. This was the origin of Lucknow, a richer field than Ophir.

A rough rustic bridge had been constructed over the creek, with a deck of poles covered with earth. A girl, whose name was Simpson, was crossing the bridge, when she discerned something glittering, and picked it up. She first showed her find to Captain Tom Ruine, a retired army officer, who did not know what it was, and she later exhibited it to Dr. Favell, who pronounced it to be gold. Unable to keep her discovery secret, she told of it, and the news spread like wildfire.

There was another rush, the old bridge was torn down, claims staked, and Lucknow was born.



MOTOR DRIVES AROUND ORANGE, WITH MILEAGES.

Orange to Pinnacle and return, 16; Orange to Towac and return, 16; Orange to Pinnacle and return, via Towac, 23; Orange to Meadow Creek Waterworks, via Racecourse and Mt. Pleasant and Home, 12; Orange to Lucknow, Shadforth, Spring Terrace and Home, via Forest, 25; Orange to Lucknow, Millthorpe, Forest Reefs and Home, 34; Orange to Springside, Spring Terrace, Gosling Creek Waterworks and Home, 20; Orange to March, Kangarooobie, Molong Road and Home, 20; Orange to Ophir Monument, via Mullion and return, 25; Orange to Molong, Manildra, Cudal and Home, 70; Orange to top of Old Man Canobolas and return, 26. Nominal charge by motorists, 1/- per mile.

anything. Until he made the machine, most of the threshing in the district was done by flail.

The first pound-yard for straying stock was situated about the corner of Dora and William Streets, Mr. John Wright being the original pound-keeper.

One of the early aucticneers to open in Orange was a Mr. Rembert, who built triangular saleyards in Lord's Place (though it was not known as such then), on ground adjoining Mr. Millard's office. He sold stock by auction in this yard, and also potatoes and other farm produce grown in the Orange district, to be conveyed to the Parkes goldfields, then in full swing, and there disposed of for a considerable profit.

These yards were later known as the Willow Tree Saleyards, and were the principal ones until the Municipal yards were erected in 1878, Mr. Arthur Jones being the first inspector. Large yards were also conducted in Sale Street, on the site of the residences of Dr. Dale and Mr. J. Nancarrow.

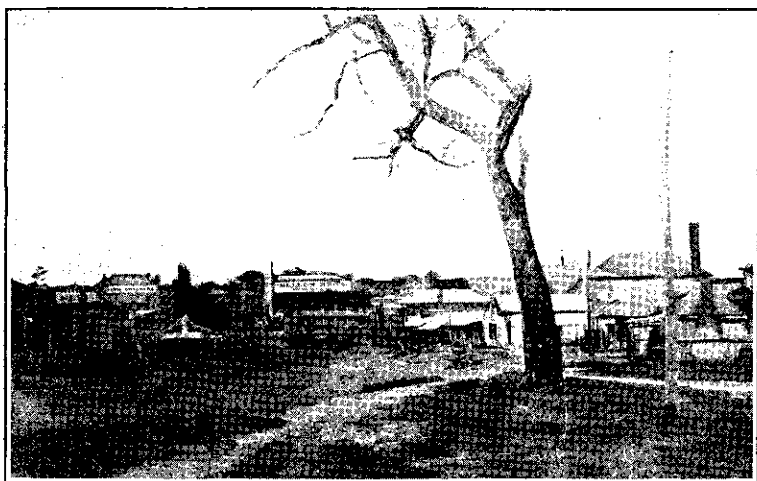


The Municipality Proclaimed.



THE village reserve at Frederick (Shadforth) was established before Blackman's Swamp Village Reserve, and there was a move to have the former proclaimed a municipality, under the Municipalities Act of 1858.

The residents of Blackman's Swamp, on August 27th, 1859,



Summer Street, looking West from Victoria Hotel, early days view.

petitioned the Colonial Secretary, Charles Cowper, "that the town contained 400 inhabitants; that, of the 640 acres comprising the

ORANGE AND DISTRICT ILLUSTRATED.

township, only 40 remained to be disposed of; that Orange was on the high road to Stoney Creek, Molong, Wellington and Dubbo, the Lachlan, Bogan and Macquarie Rivers, and that a very large amount of traffic passed yearly through the township; that the ruts and tree stumps added much to the danger of there being casualties; and the 81 petitioners prayed for an incorporated town."

Their petition was successful, and, on January 9 of the following year, Orange was proclaimed a municipality. It was one of the first country towns to become incorporated.

A good idea of Orange in those days is provided by the "Austrian Almanac" of 1859, which says:—"Orange.—This district is in the County of Wellington, and contains about 600 square miles. The township of Orange was first opened about 1848, and now contains a large number of valuable buildings, viz., four public houses, four



Mr. William Lane.
(See Page 11).



Mr. M. Groat, first known
Schoolmaster.
(See Page 27).

excellent wholesale and retail stores, one steam mill, one Episcopalian Church, one Wesleyan Chapel. The district is known to be full of valuable minerals, particularly copper and much gold, and is also a fine agricultural district. The district population is 2041, of whom 409 are under the age of fourteen years, 926 can read and write, and 1011 were born in the colony. Church of England 1001, Roman Catholic 591, Presbyterian 176, Wesleyan 258."

Success had crowned the efforts of the small population of the settlement, and the first meeting of the Orange Municipal Council took place on February 18, 1860, in the Court House. John Peisloy was Chairman, and the other members were Councillors John Woodward, George McKay, William Dale, Dennis Hanrahan and William Tucker Evans. Mr. George Colquhoun, Crown Solicitor, was appointed Council Clerk, and Messrs. James Dalton and Patrick Kenna were auditors. The total value of real property was £5859, and the first year's rates amounted to £265/12/7.

"On the night of Sunday, 27th October, a carrier with a dray-load of goods for Mr. Dalton, of Summerhill, encamped at Evans' Plains, was robbed by two men, mounted on horseback."—"Sydney Morning Herald," Nov. 1848.

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*OCR is now a wonderful searching aid in many instances
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