

CLAMP-DOWN EXPECTED SOON ON RAFFLES

THE State Government, in the coming session, is almost certain to legislate against the racket in sales of raffle tickets.

Mystery rot threat to crop

Scientists are baffled by the "ghost" disease of Shepparton—a deadly fungus which again threatens the district's huge peach crop.

For years, the "ghost," generally known as brown rot, has caused heavy damage to fruit, and has defied attempts to counter its destructive power.

Last year it ruined more than 2,000 tons of peaches in the Shepparton district.

Growers, who seem assured of a record harvest this year, are keenly watching their orchards for the "ghost."

In the last two weeks they have been constantly spraying their trees with powdered sulphur as a preventive measure.

But they are hoping that in the coming weeks—the danger period for brown rot—rain will not fall.

Some growers report that they have already seen signs of the disease.

Shepparton people have christened the disease "the ghost" because after rain it suddenly appears on the fruit and rapidly spreads through the groves.

One of the most worried men in the district is Mr. Norman Fairless, president of the Shepparton Fruit Growers' Association.

"The danger period will continue until the harvest is over, about the end of March," he said.

Raffles are being investigated by the Discharged Servicemen's Board, which will report to Mr. Oldham, Attorney-General, soon.

Mr. Oldham asked the Board to investigate complaints that Melbourne people were being duped by racketeers.

A particular complaint was directed against organisations which sent out raffle tickets at random through the post.

It was feared that unscrupulous people sold many of these tickets, kept the money, and destroyed ticket-butts.

It is understood that the Board has already obtained enough information to warrant legislation.

Last year Mr. Oldham said the Government would clamp down on the racket if it was proved.

Water in taps all summer

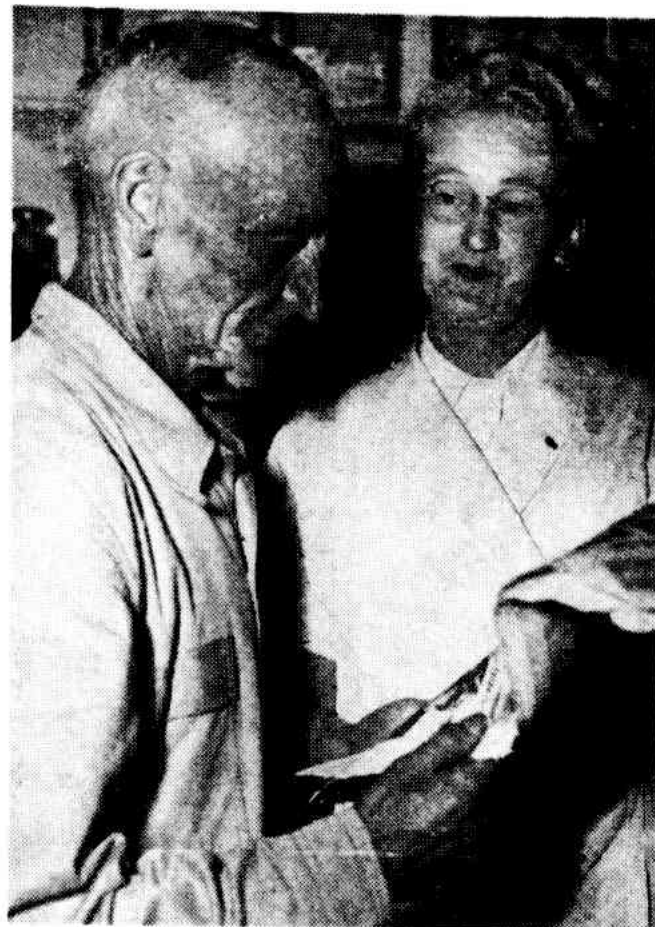
Melbourne's water supply had been maintained throughout the summer, although at times there had been only a trickle from some taps, Mr. J. C. Jessop, Board of Works chairman, said last night.

Mr. Jessop said pressure was still poor in the Moorabbin area, but few complaints had been received.

"We're doing well if we can get by without a complete failure," he added.

"This year the weather has helped us, but there is a daily consumption of more than 160 million gallons."

Highest daily consumption was 189 million gallons, when the temperature reached the century mark on January 13. However, that was still 12 million gallons below Melbourne's record daily consumption, Mr. Jessop said.



£5 prize cost old chimney sweep £15

The Tattersall's prize of £2/9/6 which 72-year-old chimney sweep George Henry flew from Penrith to Geelong to collect cost him £15.

Until he arrived in Geelong, Henry thought he had won a "substantial" prize.

Before he left Geelong in October, 1947, he had shared a ticket in the 1947 Melbourne Cup sweep with Mrs. C. R. Fry, of Richmond st., North Geelong.

The ticket drew a prize, but Henry was missing.

Until his recent "reappearance" in Penrith, he ambled in his waggon around Victoria and New South Wales.

When he heard his ticket had won a "substantial" prize, Henry stabled his horse in Penrith and flew to Melbourne.

He reported at the Geelong detective office, then went to Mrs. Fry's home at North Geelong.

Telegram

Together they sent a telegram to Hobart: "Back home in North Geelong. Please send the money to me, George Henry."

The reply brought disillusion—the prize money was only £5—less 1/ for postage.

But Henry took it philosophically. He said he had no intention of retiring even if he had won—he loves the outdoors.

In Hobart yesterday, a Tattersall's official said Tattersall's had written to Mrs. Fry in 1948 telling her the prize money was only £5.

"A declaration form has been sent to Mr. Henry, and when he has completed and returned it he will receive his prize," the official said.

Thousands line streets for 'Tarakan' funeral

SYDNEY, Fri.: Thousands of people lined city streets this afternoon to pay tribute to the victims of the "Tarakan" disaster.

Will they be the builders?

Mr. Peter Gray, president of the Architectural Students Society — architects of the future — has sent this letter to the Editor of The Argus.

I was very glad to see that publicity was given on your front page to the proposal of the Town and Country Planning Association for a large-scale and long - overdue replanning scheme for St. Kilda Junction.

Points of detail in the design may be open to criticism, but what matters is that the Planning Association has applied a scale commensurate with the size of the task which must be tackled.

And yet: "Planning Board Chief Cries No Hope," the proposal is branded a publicity stunt and presented as something too daring for us even to consider. Of course, a proposal for St. Kilda Junction can only be part of a larger plan for the whole of Melbourne, but, as it is clearly not in conflict with any such plan, it would be folly to wait for yet another three years before presenting the public with creative thought on the subject of traffic and housing problems.

The Government is heard to comment with accustomed unctious that first things must come first, instead of recognising and pointing out that only a new approach to housing—such as the St. Kilda Junction scheme—is likely to have any hope of meeting our needs.

Don Messenger, 22, of Penola, South Australia, died at 8.30 a.m. today in St. Vincent's Hospital from burns suffered in the explosion, bringing the death toll to six.

His mother and his fiancée, Miss Jessie Juncken, of Bondi Junction, were at the hospital.

All victims of the "Tarakan" disaster who are in Sydney and St. Vincent's Hospitals were reported tonight to be still seriously ill.

Naval chaplain

This afternoon, after a service in Wesley Chapel, Castle-reagh st., five of the six victims were buried at Rookwood Cemetery.

The service was conducted by Rev. J. K. W. Mathieson, chaplain of "H.M.A.S. Australia." He praised the men and those who had assisted in the rescue work.

Hundreds of floral tributes, chief of which was a large wreath in the shape of an anchor, were laid on the dais.

Traffic was halted in near by streets until white-clad sailors bore the five coffins draped in White Ensigns out of the church.

The cortege moved off between two ranks of firemen—many of whom fought the fire after the explosion occurred on "Tarakan" on Wednesday—and ratings from "Tarakan" slow-marched beside the hearses.

There were two burial services at Rookwood, one for four of the victims in the Methodist section, and another for Engineer Artificer W. L. Hoy in the Anglican section.

Many towns have blood bank

Eighty Victorian towns had blood transfusion centres which covered most normal requirements, Dr. Lucy Bryce, honorary director of the Victorian Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service, said last night.

Dr. Bryce said blood transfusions were sent from Melbourne to remote country districts only in exceptional circumstances.

Mr. C. L. McVilly, Hospitals and Charities Commission chairman, said last night that blood banks had already been established at Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo, Hamilton, and Mooroonpa hospitals.

In addition, stocks of serum were held at most country hospitals, and were replenished regularly from the Royal Melbourne Hospital blood bank.

Nazis can't get here—Minister

Mr. Leggatt, Chief Secretary, last night denied reports that Nazis were among migrants reaching Australia.

"People who make these allegations are harming efforts to bring migrants to Australia. They are trying to knock a great scheme," he said.

"The authorities have full lists of members of the Nazi Party, and every person who leaves Europe is checked and counter-checked."

"Communists may get in, but there is only one chance in a thousand that Nazis could."

Mr. Leggatt said that this had been confirmed by Major-General F. G. Gallegher, who had just returned to Australia after two years in charge of the Australian Military Mission in Berlin.

LODGES, COMPANIES, and CLUBS — Associations! Special Luncheon and Meeting Rooms, "THE WATTLE," MU7981. — [Advt.]

'Sing at the sink,' says housewife

LONDON, Fri. (S.S.): Two hundred women delegates to a rally of Townswomen's Guilds, at Rhyl, North Wales, were told to "sing at the sink, dance with the duster, and whistle with the washing."

Mrs. E. M. Down, arguing against the idea that a housewife is a "slave to the home," said that housework was a pleasure.

"Picking up the baby's toys is excellent as back and leg exercise," she said.

"For foot and ankle movements walk behind the carpet cleaner."

"There's nothing to beat the graceful exercise of hanging washing on the line, and deportment can be practised by standing in food queues quite as well as at a mannequin class."

Mrs. D. M. Dewsbury, who de-

bated against Mrs. Down, said that women were slaves not only to the home, but to the country as well.

"It's too bad that women have to take their children to day nurseries while they work eight hours a day in a factory," she said.

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