

*The Community News*, June 11, 1927

**OUR LETTER BAG**

**THE ROYAL VISIT**

SOME IMPRESSIONS

(To the Editor, *Community News*)

[HLB Lasseter – *The Gleaner*]

Dear Editor.- As a member of the Press, it was my good fortune to get in close touch with both their Royal Highnesses and I found them both charming. The smile with which the Duchess greeted me will linger long in my memory. Being desirous of recording my impressions from the point of view of "One of the Public." I took my place with the procession, and I feel sure that it was marked respect for our Royal visitors that caused the cheering to be rendered in a minor key, and it speaks volumes for the orderly conduct of the residents and visitors to Canberra that the services of the police were not called into action to prevent crowding. I believe I was the only one of all that vast assemblage who threw anything at the Duke, my contribution in that respect taking the form of a "boky" from our own garden. I caught the Duke's eye as I threw the flowers, but as the flowers missed, I returned his eye and exchanged smiles. Later the flowers were retrieved by the police at the request of the Duchess, and I was honored to see her wearing one of them at the banquet, and when, at leaving for the Review, she singled me out and bestowed an individual smile on me and wished me good luck. I wouldn't have changed places with Sir Jawn. Now, Mr Editor I know that some may think that it was the ribbons I was wearing that caught her eye, still among so many beribboned and bemedalled gallants, a splash of red and blue and another of salmon and red would be inconspicuous I am pleased to flatter myself that it was recognition in myself of a resemblance to the late St George that inspired the gracious wish.

But isn't it a shame, Mr Editor, that etiquette forbids Royalty from joining in our sports. I could see the Duke itching to get into the saddle and join the dance of police horses, which, by the way, was the best exhibition of trained horses I have seen, and I have seen the best that America, England and Germany could provide. Now Mr Editor, if I may voice an opinion as to the reason why the camping grounds were not crowded, it is this:-

The general public of Australia were more interested in the Royal visitors than in the opening of Parliament, and as the opportunity of seeing them had been given to the residents of the big cities before their Royal Highnesses visited Canberra; the opening of Parliament was not considered a sufficient lure to entice the general public hundred of miles in the beginning of winter.

I would recommend that the next time Royalty visits us the first port of call be Jervis Bay, from which port they can be transported to Canberra without going through any of the big cities...

## DISTRICT JOTTINGS

### EASTLAKE

The visit of the Duke and Duchess is now a matter of history, and Eastlake has resumed the even tenor of its way.

The business people have expressed themselves well satisfied with the material results of the festive weeks, while the ordinary citizen arises in the morning, and goes to bed at night in the same regular and prosaic manner as before.

It is understood that their Highnesses were greatly impressed with the patriotic and progressive appearance of Canberra's first suburb, and the magnificent bearing of its residents.

The Duke's famous remark to the Duchess that while the spirit of Eastlake burnt in the hearts of the wind-kissed, sun-burnt Eastlakians, the Empire need have no fear – is likely to go down in history.

Anyway Eastlake extended a very hearty and loyal welcome to the Royal pair when they passed through on Tuesday afternoon. A great concourse of people gathered at the Eastlake strongpost opposite the shopping centre and the Causeway post opposite Dr Finlay's.

The business people co-operated in a most hearty manner with the citizens in fittingly decorating the area, and the individual decorative displays of the various shops were the subject of the most favorable comment.

A large crowd gathered in the morning, but owing to the alteration of the programme were disappointed.

Grateful appreciation of Sir John Butter's action in arranging for the tour to be made during the afternoon so that the public would not be disappointed was expressed on all sides.

Final touches are being given to the Government Printing Works preparatory to its being put into commission next month.

The impending invasion of the Stores Area by the fair employees is causing quite a flutter in the many breasts of the store's staff, many of whom have already assumed quite a respectable appearance.

The absence of street lights in this suburb is being keenly felt and severely handicaps the movements of the married residents after dark. It is becoming quite a common occurrence to fall over bridges and walk into shrubs, and other objects. We are pleased to state, however, that it has the effect of bringing the young people together.

Bon-fire night was a complete success, and the suggestion that the valuable pine forests of the Commission had been "butchered" to make a children's holiday, did not seem to dampen their ardour one little bit. The fiercer the pin needles blazed, the more joyful the shouts, and the sinister and lugubrious newspaper reporters lurking in the fitful shadows at the back endeavouring to calculate the cost to the country of these revels, one by one slunk into the grateful darkness of the night.

Considerable interest is being taken locally in the forthcoming Association Tennis Tournament, and the local courts are being patronised by the aspirants for honors, who are endeavouring to secure all the practice possible before the fateful day.

We are pleased to record that the Gorman Cup is still in possession of the Eastlake club, despite the spirited attempt of the tennis giants from outback to wrest it from our grasp.

Now bring out the cat!

#### **AINSLIE**

The local branch of the Social Service Association is receiving indifferent support from residents, which is much to be regretted, as so much good can be done for the mutual benefit and general welfare of all. Were it not for the untiring work of the committee, the district would indeed be neglected, and so it is felt that it is up to the people to take a little more interest in local matters, and to assist those who are doing their best to make local conditions better.

The thanks of all should be given to the Branch Committee for the manner in which they arranged and organised the strong posts for the Royal Visit, which were indeed a great credit to them, and with which their Royal Highnesses were delighted, and Sir John Butters expressed great satisfaction. It was a day of great pleasure to the district to have the honor of a personal inspection by the Duke and Duchess of the interior of one of our modern and comfortable bungalows, with which they expressed themselves in very favourable terms. The Duchess captivated the hearts of all by her unaffected simplicity of manner, and the direct interest she manifested in all she had the opportunity of seeing.

It was a happy, memorable day for little Gwen Pinner of Ainslie, when she had the distinguished honour of presenting the Duchess with a bouquet at the opening of Parliament House.

The Ainslie School is making great progress, and general satisfaction is expressed at the fine modern structure the Commission is providing for the children.

The Civic shopping centre is going on well, and by September the locals should not be dependent upon Eastlake for their requirements.

There is no slump in cottage building, and generally Ainslie is about the busiest centre of the city.

The bus service has improved considerably, for which all are thankful.

The cricket season is now closed, and the honour of Premiership goes to our local club in both grades, to which we offer our congratulations.

The Ainslie Football (Australian Rules) Club and Social Entertainment Club, have recently formed with a very big membership, and the kick off for the season was most enthusiastic. We hope they will emulate the Northbourne Cricket Club, and be Premiers for 1927.

#### **WESTRIDGE**

A splendidly attended meeting of residents of Westridge was held at the local hall on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> May, for the purpose of discussing various matters affecting the welfare of the community.

At the requests of residents the Social Service Officer was present at the meeting. Mr Woolands was unanimously elected to the chair.

In his opening remarks, Mr Honeysett explained the aims and objects of the Canberra Social Service Association, and stressed the importance of a strong branch functioning in each welfare district, of which Westridge was one. He realised that it was not always convenient for the Westridge delegate to attend meetings of the Council of the Association, owing to transport difficulties, but the retention of a strong branch committee at Westridge would undoubtedly prove of great benefit in the social well being of residents.

When once the meeting had warmed up, Mr Honeysett was subject to a veritable bombardment of complaints of which he took careful note, and promised to see what could be done in the matter.

The present dilapidated condition of the tennis court was brought under notice, and it was decided to again request that the necessary material be made available to recondition the court. Other matters strongly stressed were the necessity for the provision of street lighting on Mountain Way [Novar Street], and the provision of storm water drainage. On the motion of Mr Taylor, seconded by Mr Shepherd, it was unanimously resolved that the old Progress Association be superseded by the new body to be known as the Westridge Branch of the Social Service Association. The following officers were thereupon elected:-

Chairman: Mr Woodlands

Hon Secretary and Treasurer: Mr EP Corey

Committee: Mesdames Turbitt, Boag, J Ware, Messrs J Dillon, M Ware, J Riddle.

Mr J Dillon was unanimously elected as a representative of the Westridge Branch of the Board of Trustees of the Westridge Hall. Mr Woodlands was also elected as a delegate to the Council of the Canberra Social Service Association.

#### **WESTLAKE**

Our tennis court is now taking shape, and in the course of a few weeks members will be forming a club.

After several requests for an Anglican Church Service to be held here, Canon Ward has endeavoured to hold Service in Westlake Hall on the fourth Sunday of each month, at 7 pm. Continuance of the Service will depend upon the interest taken in attendance of residents. After so much difficulty in making arrangements for these Services, we hope to be able to maintain them.

A good many residents views the Royal Procession from our strong post. Four flag poles were erected by some of the Social Service members on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May, but by Monday 9<sup>th</sup>, one flag had been souvenired. The only regret of those gathered was the speed at which the Royal couple passed. They were hardly recognised before they had gone.

#### **ACTON**

The strongpost at Acton during the visit of the Duke and Duchess was notable for its artistic decoration, and the effective greenery and streamer display. The splendid effect was the result of the efforts of the Acton branch whose members joined heartily in the work of erection. A large number of residents attended to give their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess a hearty cheer as they passed through Acton, and the enthusiasm of the crowd must have been very gratifying to the Royal visitors.

The branch is very grateful to the Commission for the assistance given and the supply of poles, flags, and bunting and to the Superintendent of Parks and Gardens for the lavish contribution of greenery.

#### **WHITE CITY [CAMP]**

Since our last appearance in your columns we have had a feast of holidays and recreations. First, Anzac Day with its usual parade and Requiem, to perpetuate the valour of the heroic dead that they may be a source of inspiration to the young men of to-day. The succeeding days saw streams of visitors motoring through, which together with the elaborate preparations for the Royal Visit, made the place quite city like. On Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> May, we were treated to some amateur horsemanship by the light horse, which would reflect credit on professional fields. Then, the one event of the opening of Parliament with the military review in the afternoon, amid the splendour of dress and sunshine, was certainly a sight not to be forgotten. On the 10<sup>th</sup> everybody was on the

tip toe of excitement anxiously waiting at every vantage point to get a view of the Royal visitors on their tour of inspection. All or most were rewarded to a great extent, and, I can also add, very much satisfied. A social where the toast to the health of their Royal Highnesses was drunk rather liberally, and the National Anthem rendered in squadron formation brought the week end to a close with everybody in the best of spirits.

Back to routine work again we are somewhat set aback by the rumour in camp we believe to be partly true, that a large number of the workmen will be put off. Everybody selfishly asks – Is it I? Well, waltzing Matilda in the winter season is not a very enviable pastime.

We had Messrs Bodkin, Kelly and O'Neill of the AWU here during the week, who informed us that our camp was to receive further attention regarding sanitation, the heating and lighting of the cubicles, etc.

The new billiard room is taking shape fast, and ought to prove a great boon in the long nights.

Our caterer has taken a well earned rest to recuperate his health, which we all trust will have the good results desired.

Our friend Joe has purchased a new truck. We sincerely hope his ambition will be rewarded.

The football season is booming here just now. The young men of the camp are representing many teams, and from the keen interest taken in the game by the various rivals we can look forward to having some well contested matches this season.