

The Independent

FOOTSCRAY, SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 10TH, 1900.

DEATH OF A BOARDED-OUT CHILD.—The circumstances attending the death of a boarded-out male child, 11 months old, which died on Sunday last at the residence of a registered nurse, Mrs Jessie Chapman, of Perry street, Footscray, were enquired into on Tuesday last by Mr G. C. Morrison, District Coroner, at the Melbourne morgue. The nurse stated that she received the child about a month after its birth, from its mother. It was then in good health. About three months ago the child had an attack of influenza, and it apparently recovered; but on Thursday last inst., the child took a bad turn and died. Dr J. E. Neild stated that the cause of death was congestion of the brain, lungs, and intestines, probably due to the attack of influenza. The jury found a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

A REASONABLE REQUEST.—For many years past an anomaly has existed with regard to special fares to Williamstown, inasmuch as travellers may ride on holidays, bathers' tickets from Melbourne to the "fishing village" for the same fare as one has to pay from Footscray to Williamstown. Cr. Walsh drew attention to this discrepancy at the council meeting on Tuesday evening, and moved that a letter be sent to the Railway Department asking that special tickets, at *pro rata* rates, be issued at Footscray. He considered that if any concessions were allowed they should certainly be granted to the people of Footscray and Yarraville, as generally they were a poorer class than the people of Melbourne. Cr. Shillabeer in seconding the motion, stated that if the fare was reduced the department would not lose by it, as a large number of people would journey to Williamstown to indulge in a bath. "They want it," jocularly remarked Cr. Walsh, and the motion was carried.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Footscray Friendly Societies' Association was held at the Mechanics' Hall last night week, when there was a large attendance of Bro. J. Greenwood, president, and the report and balance sheet were submitted. The report was of a very complimentary character, in which a number of gentlemen were thanked for services and donations, also the Mayor, for granting the association the use of the council chamber for meetings. The balance sheet showed that the finances were in a satisfactory condition, the operations of the year showing that £86 5s 7d was the revenue, and £81 13s 11d the expenditure, thus leaving a balance to the good of £4 11s 8d. The statement, as submitted was received, after which the election of officers for the ensuing year took place with the following result:—President, Bro. E. W. Thompson; vice president, Bro. C. H. Everest; treasurer, Bro. J. D. Johnstone; secretary, Bro. A. Crichton;

Bro. C. H. Everest; treasurer, Bro. J. D. Johnstone; secretary, Bro. A. Crichton; executive committee, Bros. T. F. M. Smith, J. Murphy, W. P. Brown, R. Grant and J. Greenwood. Votes of thanks were accorded the retiring officers and the meeting closed.

OFF TO SOUTH AFRICA.—Mr. J. J. McDonald handed in his resignation as president of the Yarraville branch of the A.N.A., at its meeting on Thursday evening as he is leaving for South Africa, under appointment to the Cape Government as a telegraph operator. The resignation was accepted and Mr. McDonald was then entertained by the members, complimentary speeches being made by Mr. W. Kruse, and Mr. J. Truman, the latter on behalf of the branch, presenting Mr. McDonald with a handsomely framed Past President's certificate. The recipient briefly responded, remarking that it was with great regret that he parted from the Yarraville branch, and he would never forget the happy times he had spent amongst them. Whilst the war was progressing he would send the branch a monthly letter with all the news that would be likely to interest the members. A ballot was taken for the position of president, six ex-presidents being nominated, and the choice fell upon Mr. J. Truman. At the conclusion of business a shooting competition took place, for a trophy presented by Messrs McDonald Bros., and after some close contests Mr. H. Williams was declared the winner.

THE METROPOLITAN BOARD'S YARD.—It has been currently remoured that the Board contemplates closing the depot in Pickett street, and that the horse connections of this district will be carried out from North Melbourne. At the meeting of the Footscray Council on Tuesday evening Cr. Gallant asked Commissioner Fraser whether there was any foundation for the rumour. He thought the fact of the sewerage committee failing to inspect the Footscray yard when all the other yards had been visited gave some colouring to the statement. If the committee had visited the yard the commissioners would have seen the necessity for its existence. The removal of the depot to North Melbourne would be a serious matter to the ratepayers, as the cost of carriage would be materially increased, and that, and other additional charges, would come out of their pockets. Commissioner Fraser, in reply, said the yard here was only a branch yard of that at North Melbourne, and the committee did not visit branch yards. He did not think there was any truth in the statement that the Footscray yard was to be closed. The only thing that he heard was that the number of inspectors was to be reduced from five to three. A representative of the *Independent* visited Mr Gibbs, secretary of the Board, on Thursday, and was informed by that gentleman that the Engineer-in-chief had proposed concentration at North Melbourne, and that, as a consequence, the Footscray yard would be reduced. He thought, however, that it would not be entirely done away with. This is sufficient to show that our representatives should ascertain definitely how matters stand.

to show that our representatives should ascertain definitely how matters stand, with a view of protecting the interests of the ratepayers.

A FATAL ACCIDENT.—A resident of Footscray, name James Pearce, about 50 years of age, employed at the Standard Quarries, Braybrook, met with an accident about 8 o'clock last Saturday morning which resulted in his death. He was engaged breaking down a face of stone when he overbalanced, and falling some 15 feet into the quarry sustained very severe injuries. He was conveyed to the Williamstown Hospital and admitted, Drs. Ellison and McLean discovering on examination that the skull was fractured and brain lacerated. The doctors gave very little hope of the injured man's recovery, and though everything possible was done, the unfortunate man died in the hospital on Thursday morning.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICES.—The anniversary services of the local Baptist Sunday School were held last Sunday at the Church, when despite the oppressive character of the weather, there were good attendances at each of the three services. The Rev. W. A. Whitney preached in the morning, Mr. Thornton Pearson, secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, in the afternoon, and Pastor Goble in the evening. Special music and hymns were rendered at each service, by the scholars, under the leadership of Mr. P. Barnet. The celebrations were concluded on Wednesday evening when a well attended public meeting was held at the Church and a programme of songs, recitations etc. was rendered.

PROPOSED MILITARY DISPLAY.—The members of the Footscray Council have decided to arrange for a concert in aid of the Patriotic Fund, and already many offers of assistance have been received. The mayor at the council meeting on Tuesday evening mentioned that he had been approached by a number of military gentlemen who desired that the council should grant them the use of the Western Reserve on a Saturday afternoon, so that a military display could be given in conjunction with the proposed concert. The councillors present [thought the suggestion a good one, as it would be the first event of its kind held in Footscray, and would no doubt prove a great attraction. It was agreed on the motion of Cr. Toohay, seconded by Cr. Shillabeer, that the proposed military display be approved of, and the arrangement of details with the promoters be left in the hands of the mayor.

ORDER TO REVIEW GRANTED.—In the Supreme Court on Wednesday last, Mr. Schutt instructed by Messrs H. W. and P. C. Hunt, applied to his Honor, Mr. Justice Hood, for an order nisi to review the decision of the local Justices, on an information by Mr. L. G. Kepert the City Inspector against Mr. C. Farnbach, for not making a drain to one of the properties for which he is agent in accordance with notice served on him. The Justices fined Mr. Farnbach £7 5s being 29 days default at 5s per day.

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BLOCKING FOOTPATHS.—At a previous meeting of the Footscray Council, complaints were made by Cr. Fraser that the contractors on sewerage works occupied too much of the roadway, but Cr. Shillabeer, who is very anxious to see justice done to contractors, said at the council meeting last Tuesday evening that the Board's officers were greater offenders in the direction indicated than the contractors were. He pointed out that a short time back the Board was working near the Belgravia Hotel, and although there was a very wide footpath, the whole of it with the exception of a bare two feet was blocked. He did not consider that more than half of the footpath should be blocked at one time, and he moved that Mr. Manchester, the officer in charge, be written to on the subject. When the Board itself set such an example it was no wonder that contractors be served. Cr. Gillies seconded the motion which was agreed to, the Mayor remarking that they would not be asking a favor of the Board, they would be simply demanding their rights.

A MAGAZINE NIGHT.—The members of the Catholic Young Men's Society met in St. Monica's school-room on Tuesday evening, a fair attendance being present. The item set down on the syllabus was the reading of the monthly magazine. The editor, Mr. Henry, received a number of papers from the members, which on being read proved most interesting and provoked spirited discussion. A few of the papers were of a humorous nature and caused uproarious amusement. The papers were as follows:—"Editorial," "Liberty of Speech," "Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war," "The making of a New colony," "Federation of the C.Y.M.S.," "The noblest occupation of all," "An interview with Mr. I. O'Connor," "The editor interviewed by a lady," "The C.Y.M.S. regiment in South Africa," "They say," and "Questions asked and answered." The contributors were Messrs Doherty, Henry, Thompson (2), and Newall (2). A vote of thanks was passed to the editor for his able reading of the magazine.

OUR STRATEGISTS.—The progress of the war has brought to the front—yes, front-bar, an amusing number of strategists, regular veterans, who have many time and oft' braved the bottle and the booze, and who have lain out, yes, all night, on many a gory, no, beery field dead—dead drunk. General Buller "dunno where e' are," they exclaim, and it is to be admitted that his strategy is nothing in comparison with theirs in getting "tanked up" on the never. This is the sort of thing one hears in local hotels while the war lasts. It is much more easily understood than the average newspaper war map, and

the average newspaper war map, and twice as filling:—"Shee thish pint o' beer ish Stormberg, an-and reprensh enemy. These two boxes of matches are us. We do a flank movement round thish quid of tobacco, march straight up stem of thish pipe—whizz, bang fizz—that's our artillery. We've surrounded the blankety Boers and ish all over. Have any of yer got a stray tray about yer?" And with a self-satisfied air of having settled the Transvaal trouble, the bar tactician raises the pewter that a moment before represented the Boer fortifications, places it to his lips, drains its contents, and wipes his chin with his coat-tail.

A TENANT'S VOTE.—It is a well known fact that many tenants, and tenants who pay their rent regularly too, are disfranchised simply because their landlords do not see fit to pay their rates before the date specified, the 10th June. This is most unfair in the opinion of Cr. Walsh, and he moved at the council meeting on Tuesday evening, that the town clerk write to the Municipal Association suggesting that an amendment of the Local Government be recommended so that a tenant producing his rent book fully paid up should be allowed to vote at a municipal election. Cr. Toohy seconded the motion and hoped that something could be done as suggested. Cr. Warner pointed out that a tenant could keep enough rent in hand to pay the rates and thus secure their vote, but Cr. Toohy did not think such a proceeding was allowed, for if such was the case as the 10th of June approached the agents would have a poor show of getting any rent. The tenants would say, "Oh I'm stopping the rent to pay the rates," and by the time the 10th June came round the tenants would be gone. The town clerk here calmly informed the council that a tenant could legally stop the rent and pay the rates with, 14 days after the rate notice is delivered, and Cr. Toohy collapsed with the remark, "When the people learn that I shall not get a penny rent for a few weeks before the 10th June." The motion was carried.