

The Canberra Times 20 June 1930

RELIEF WORK - TO START NEXT WEEK - Mt Ainslie Path - PREFERENCE FOR MARRIED MEN

Having ascertained that employment for married men in the Federal Territory is fairly satisfactory the Canberra Unemployment Relief Committee yesterday decided that employment will be given in relief works on a basis of 60 per cent to married men and 40 per cent to single men in point of the numbers to be engaged while in the matter of time, married men will work five days and single men three days.

Further it was resolved that in the case of single men, employment will only be made available to those who have been on the register for six months or those who have been bonafide residents during the whole of the last six months.

Among the works proposed by the committee, is the construction of a track for pedestrian traffic to the summit of Mt Ainslie. The view which is the best obtainable of the city, can at present be reached only after a steep and rocky climb.

The contour survey disclose that the best grade compatible with the commencing point most convenient to the public and which commands the best vantage points for a look-out can be obtained from a point near Hotel Ainslie. The Commonwealth Surveyor General (Mr Percival) has mapped out the route of a track for the committee.

The committee has recommended to the Minister for Home Affairs (Mr Blakeley) that instructions be issued for proceeding with this work, and it is hoped that a start will be made next week.

It is expected that the following projects will also be put into operation at an early date:-

- *The placing of grounds and garden of the Mothercraft Clinic in order:*
- *The construction of necessary paths on all sports grounds:*
- *Tree planting at Reid sports ground:*
- *Repairing of road at Red Hill reservoir and*
- *Clearing a track along the summit*

The Government will supply materials for carrying out works as well as provide tools and transport for workmen in connection with the proposed unemployment relief works programme, and in addition the machinery for technical staff and payment of wages.

The Canberra Times 13 June 1931

RELIEF FUND - Committee Ends First Year - BIG ACHIEVEMENTS TO CREDIT

Celebrating the anniversary of the establishment of the Canberra Unemployment Fund, the committee held a reunion last night, at which the Minister for Home Affairs and the Civic Administrator were guests.

In opening the meeting the chairman (Mr GT Evans) welcomed the Minister to the Anniversary of the inception of the committee. Mr Evans said that the Minister's attendance at the 19th meeting held in the 12 months of the committee's existence was another indication of the sympathy the Minister had for the unemployed.

More than 100 jobs said the chairman, had been put in hand since the formation of the committee and approximately £17,500 had been paid in wages to unemployed workmen in the Territory. More than £2,000 had been spent on materials and supervision the whole of which the Government had made available.

Bearing in mind the voluntary nature of the contributions Mr Evans stated that he considered the contribution of more than £1,000 to the fund by the general public was a fine achievement. As the administrative expenditure had not exceeded £20 it could be safely stated that the whole of the money received had been paid out in wages.

Other members of the committee joined in welcoming the Minister who stated, in reply, that he desired to thank the committee on behalf of the Government for the way it had done its task. It had recommended more than 190 jobs to him as Minister and those which he had been forced to refuse sanction to could be counted on the fingers of one hand. This was a tribute to the way the committee had selected the works which it felt should be done.

He pointed out that the Government could not agree to work which meant an increase in maintenance costs, and on this account, the regarding of Northbourne Oval had been rejected as it had been estimated that the maintenance costs would be increased by £300 per annum.

He cited as credits to the committee's work the ornamental work about the Canberra baths and the construction at the Cotter River of one of the finest natural bathing pools that could be found in 12 months of travel.

Moreover, the committee could feel proud that it had escaped public criticism owing to the fine nature of its work.

Commenting on the fact that voluntary subscriptions to the relief fund over 12 months had amounted to £4,000. Mr Blakeley said that no town or city in the whole of Australia could show such a result. In all the States, payments had been made compulsory. He had always resisted, and would continue to resist any semblance of compulsion in connection with the Canberra payments.

In passing Mr Blakeley paid a tribute to the work of the Canberra Relief Society stating that he was pleased to find that in Canberra the man on the basic wage and his wife and the highest-paid public officer and his wife worked together for the same ends on the same committees. There was no city like Canberra in this respect, and there was an absence of snobbery, on which the residents were complimented.

In reply, Mr Evans, said that Canberra was fortunate in having Mr Blakeley as Minister for Home Affairs had the interests of Canberra at heart and they would stand behind him.

Proposing Mr Blakeley's health, Mr WL Smallhorn said that the Canberra Baths were a monument to Mr Blakeley's administration of the Federal Capital.

The Canberra Times 26 February 1931

RELIEF SOCIETY - Successful Year - OFFICERS RE-ELECTED

Only a small attendance was present at the annual meeting of the Canberra Relief Society last night, at which the president (Mr WH Sharwood) occupied the chair.

Mr Sharwood reviewed the origin and activities of the society. He said that the constitution of the society was approved by the Commonwealth Government which undertook to subsidise the receipts of the society on a pound for pound basis. The ladies' auxiliary committee made a house to house canvas which resulted in the collection of £35 and Dr Nott organized a dramatic entertainment which resulted in about £360 (?) being handed to the society. These amounts and other subscriptions and donations received from time to time were subsidized by the Government on the basis mentioned and in addition the society secured two special grants to the amount of £150 for the relief of the travelling unemployed. The society also acted as trustees for the Government in connection with a subsidy of £100 granted to the Australian Youths' Settlement League.

In the work of relief a works system has been adopted whereby any able bodied man or youth requesting assistance, is required to do some work of public utility to the value of the assistance rendered. By this system a considerable amount of work has been done on the various church grounds such as tree planting, which would otherwise probably not have been done owing to lack of funds and at the present time as required and available men are sent to the various church grounds to do maintenance work.

'This system,' he said, 'serves a double purpose - firstly, it enables a man to maintain his self respect in that he gives value for what he receives; and secondly, it brings the society in touch with those who would not otherwise approach it, and yet are in desperate need of assistance, and furthermore, it is appreciated by the workers of the territory.

'At Christmas all the churches and societies interested in the social welfare of the people, sent representatives to a meeting convened by this society and decided to pool all their Xmas cheer funds with the society and a strong representative committee was formed for the allotment and distribution of the funds which were subsidized by the Government on the £ for basis with the result that a sum of £390 was distributed amongst those people who were deemed to be in need of assistance.

Mr Sharwood thanked all contributors to this fund and those who assisted in its distribution. He referred to the continuous and valuable work done by the ladies' auxillary committee in the collection of funds and distribution of clothing amongst women and children, and visiting the various homes where assistance is required. He especially mentioned the good work which Mrs Henderson the first chairwoman, carried on during the early strenuous days of the society's existence and expressed regret at her departure from the Territory.

'it will be noticed,' he said, 'that the yearly balance sheet suggests that the society is well in funds, but unfortunately that is not so, as the balance merely represents the position on 31st December 1930 and the payments which have been made since then have placed the funds in such a condition that strenuous efforts must be made to raise sufficient funds to enable relief work to be continued in a satisfactory manner. The total sum received and distributed by the society since the first general meeting up to the date of this meeting is approximately £1,100 while the present balance in hand is under £50.

'The society cannot function without funds and as the demands on it at the present time are very great, I appeal to all who can possibly afford to give anything - no matter how little - to help in the relief of distress, for there are, unfortunately, many families in the Territory who are unable to find sufficient work to properly clothe either themselves or their children, except by the work given them by the society.'

Mr Sharwood completed the report with a special reference to the admirable work done by the secretary (Col JTH Goodwin) who had untiringly and enthusiastically devoted a greater part of his time to the work of the society and whose services in that respect deserved the heartiest recognition and commendation of the society and the public of Canberra.

The meeting decided to re-elect the present officers as follows:-

- *Patron: Mr Blakeley MP*
- *Vice Patrons: Mess CS Daley and ER Snow*
- *President: Mr WH Sharwood*
- *Vice-president: Mr TM Shakespeare*
- *Secretary & Treasurer: Lt Col JTH Goodwin*
- *Committee: Mrs W Henderson, Mrs WG Woodger, Mr S Noble, Mr Gardner, Mr W Dunphy, Mr V Samuels*
- *Auditors: Mr GT Evans and Mr J Tuck*

Ladies Auxilliary

- *Mrs HJ Filshie (president)*
- *Mrs PA Gourguad (secretary)*
- *Mesdames CA Laverty, TM Shakespeare, Wright, RA Muir and Eldridge*

The Canberra Times 15 June 1931

EMPLOYMENT FUND - REVIEW OF 12 MONTHS - NEARLY £20,000 SPENT

A survey of work done by the Canberra Unemployment Relief Committee in the 12 months which have passed since its inception shows that there has been a total expenditure to date of £19,936 of which £3,863/8/6 was provided by voluntary contributions.

The total expenditure on wages amounted to £17,492/14/4 and materials transport etc £2,443/9/1.

The statements of costs is made up as follows-

- *Roads, footpaths and drains £5,911/19/10:*
- *Sporting and recreations £2,279/1/8:*
- *Tree planting and generally £4,657/1/3:*
- *Parks & Gardens generally £976/16/5:*
- *Public institutions £3,7075/1/7:*
- *Swimming pool and river bathing £2,369/1/11:*
- *Sundries £667/0/9/*

The cost of works authorised by the Minister between June 27 1930 and June 11 1931 amounted to £32,340/17/4 of which the Government has contributed £28,447/8/10.

The number of unemployed whose needs have been considered increasing from 100 married men and 90 single men in June 1930 to 150 married and 150 single early this year following the closure of the Royal Military College and at present the number is approximately 200 of each.

The work done under the auspices of the committee ranges from works of a distinctly community nature to developmental works. The 120 jobs which have been put in hand in the last 12 months include improvements to sporting areas, tree planting and construction of roads and footpaths.

Works have not been confined to the city area, country works including improvements to the river approaches, the completion of the Cotter River fish hatchery, elimination of fire risks at the Pine Island picnic reserve. Among the important city works carried out have been the preparation and planting of the Institute of Anatomy grounds and the construction of approaches to the institute road, construction at City and Causeway, provision of accommodation and surface improvements at sports grounds. Two allocations of £50 pounds each have been made for surveys and tree planting have been carried out extensively.

The Canberra Times 1 September 1931

RELIEF SOCIETY - HEAVY CALLS FOR DISTRESS - FUNDS RUNNING LOW

The committee of the Canberra Relief Society met last evening at the Committee's room at Acton. The hon secretary (Lt Col JTH Goodwin) reported that through the efforts of the society arrangements had been made for two tubercular children to be accommodated and treated at the sanatorium at Cudgelo. The Minister for Home Affairs had approved the cost of the cure of the children be borne by his Department.

The president (Mr WH Sharwood) stated that arrangements had been made for the purpose of material for the making underclothing and for leather for repairing boots for necessitous travellers.

A report is being obtained regarding the condition of the footwear of children attending the schools in Canberra. A great many cases of necessity have been received of necessity have been relieved and through the prevalent unemployment the calls upon the society have been very heavy. The funds of the society are almost exhausted and an endeavour is being made to arrange for entertainments to be held in aid of the funds.

The Canberra Times 26 September 1935

UNEMPLOYED DEMONSTRATION - MR PATERSON PROMISES MORE WORK THIS YEAR - FULL TIME AT CHRISTMAS AND IN JUNE

At least 1,200 Canberra workers and their wives and families many of whom had walked three to five miles to be present, participated in a demonstration at Parliament House last night to seek full-time employment for all Canberra workers in the Federal Capital Territory.

Stressing the magnitude of the task involved in providing full time employment for all Canberra workers, the Minister for the Interior (Mr Paterson) assured a representative deputation that during the next twelve months the minimum of relief work would be one week in two for married men and one in four for single men, with full time for a month before Christmas and during the month of June.