

The Canberra Times 13 June 1930

EMPLOYMENT FUND

COMMITTEE MEETS

PROCEDURE UNDER DISCUSSION

With a view to initiating a relief programme for the unemployed the first meeting of the Canberra Unemployment Relief Committee was held at the Administrative Offices Acton, yesterday afternoon.

The meeting elected Mr O(?)T Evans chairman of the committee and adjourned until to-day after discussing the provision of machinery for procedure and preliminaries incidental to the execution of relief works.

It is hoped that all preliminaries may be completed this afternoon and that the relief programme in connection with the Government contribution and supervisory resources will be put into operation at the earliest moment.

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 by a steep and rocky climb.

The contour survey disclose that the best grade compatible with the commencing point being most convenient to the public and which commands the best vantage points for look-outs can be obtained from a point near Hotel Ainslie. The Commonwealth Surveyor-General (Mr Percival) has mapped out the route of the 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 gardens of the Mothercraft Clinic in order;
- The construction of necessary paths on all sports grounds;
- Tree planting at Reid Sports ground;
- Repairing road to 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 administrative machinery for technical staff and the payment of wages.

The Canberra Times 15 December 1930

RELIEF FUND

MEETING TO DISCUSS FUTURE

3d IN THE POUND PROPOSED

A meeting of subscribers has been called by the Unemployment Relief Committee for the Albert Hall to-night to discuss the future of the relief fund.

One proposal is that the present voluntary levy of 1d in the pound unemployment relief payment should be increased to 3d in the pound.

It is also likely that speakers will contend that the unemployed are the responsibility of the Government.

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 pounds and Dr Nott organised a dramatic entertainment which resulted in about 160 (blurred) pounds being handed to the society. These amounts and all other subscriptions and donations received from time to time were subsidised by the Government on the basis mentioned and in addition the society secured two special grants to the amount of 150 pounds for the relief of the travelling unemployed. The society also acted as trustees for the Government in connection with a subsidy of 100(?) pounds granted to the Australian Youth's Settlement League.

In the work of relief a works system has been adapted whereby any able bodied man or youth requesting assistance is required to do some work of a 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 be 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 retain 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 Christmas cheer funds, with the society and a strong representative committee was formed for the allotments and distribution of the funds which were subsidised by the Government on the pound for pound basis with the result that a sum of 390 pounds 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 had assisted in its distribution. He referred to the continuous and valuable work being done by the ladies auxiliary committee in the collection of funds, distribution of clothing amongst women and children, and visiting the various homes where assistance is

required. He specially 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 of 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 the 31st December 1930 and the payments which have been made since then have placed the funds in such a condition that strenuous efforts must at once 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 pounds while the present balance in hand is under 50 pounds.

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 work given to 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 the 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 of the public of Canberra.

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

- Patron: Mr Blakeley MP
- Vice-patrons: Messrs CS Daley and ER Snow
- President: Mr WH Sharwood
- Vice-president: Mr TM Shakespeare
- Secretary and 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 Auxiliary: Mrs HJ Filshie (president), Mrs PA Gourgaud (secretary), Mesdames CA Laverty, TM Shakespeare, Wright, RA Muir, Eldridge.

The Canberra Times 14 April 1931

OAKS ESTATE

WATER SUPPLY SOUGHT

The question of supplying water to residents of the Oaks Estate was further debated by members of the Advisory Council yesterday when it was decided on the motion of Cr Rowe to recommend to the Minister for Home Affairs that he urge the Unemployment Relief Committee to give favourable consideration to the laying down of mains and house connections as an urgent work.

Cr Rowe was supplied by the Civic Administrator (Mr Daley) with a memorandum setting out negotiations between the Administration and the Queanbeyan Municipal Council stating that the cost of the work would be 660 pounds if galvanised iron pipes with a life of 10 years were laid down and that the cost to residents of the area would be 1/- a thousand gallons, including 1/8d to be paid to Queanbeyan and 2/4d to the Commonwealth.

Cr Rowe said that another 7 pounds or 8 pounds would be involved in the installation of house connections at each house. The estimated charge of 4/- was excessive and out of all proportion to rates charged elsewhere. He asked whether the charge of 2/4d which the Commonwealth required would include the renewing the pipes ten years hence.

Mr Daley: Maintenance also.

Continuing, Cr Rowe said that the presence nearby of petrol storage tanks necessitated the provision for fire fighting. The provision of a hydrant supply was essential and if that were done, with a slight increase of the

size of the main, the residents could be supplied. This was a burden which could then easily be born by the Commonwealth.

Seconding the motion, Cr Shakespeare said that he had received an assurance from technical officers of the Works Department that not more than 10 years of life could be contemplated for galvanised iron pipes. Longer life would exist with cast iron.

Cr Shakespeare: The estimated life could be increased to 30 years.

Cr Gourgaud: Ten years seems a very short period.

Cr Shakespeare: if the residents have to pay 1/- a thousand gallons it would pay them to go and live at Broken Hill. What is 660 pounds when it is a question of the health of a community.

At this stage Dr Cumpston moved as an amendment that it be a recommendation to the Minister that he place on the estimates for next year a sum sufficient to supply a full permanent service of the same kind and on the same terms as those applied to residents of the city area.

In the absence of a seconder the amendment lapsed. Cr Rowe said that there was no chance of a sum being placed on the estimates for the work, but there was some hope that the Relief Committee would take up the work.

After Mr Daley had stated that the cost of materials involved would be about 300 pounds, the motion was carried.

The Canberra Times 1 May 1931

ROAD RELIEF WORK

To Employ 30 Men

IMPROVEMENTS AT CITY

With the reconstruction and laying of a bitumen surface along Allinga Street, which will be commenced shortly at a cost of approximately 4,500 pounds, 30 men will be given unemployment.

The work, which has been arranged by the Unemployment Relief Committee will complete the reconstruction of the roads surrounding the business of the City Shops

The Canberra Times 15 June 1931

EMPLOYMENT FUND

REVIEW OF 12 MONTHS

NEARLY 20,000 POUNDS 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 pounds, of which 3,863/8/6d was provided by voluntary contributions.

The total expenditure on wages amounted to 17,492 pounds 14/4d and materials transport etc 2,442 pounds 9/4d (or 1d).

The statement of costs is made up of as follows:-

- Roads, footpaths and drains 5911 pounds 19/10d

- Sporting and recreation 2,279 pounds 1(?) / 8d
- Trees and planting generally 976 pounds 16 / 5
- Public Institutions 3,0735 pounds 1 / 7d
- Swimming Pool and river bathing 2,353 pounds 1 / 11d
- Sundries 667 pounds 0 / 9d

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

The number of unemployed whose needs have been considered increased 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 work of distinctly community nature to developmental works. The 120 jobs which have been put in hand in the last 12 months included improvements to sporting areas, tree planting, and construction of roads and footpaths.

Works have not been confined to the city area country works including improvement to the river approaches, the completion of the Cotter River fish hatchery⁶, elimination of fire risk 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 the approaches to Institute road construction at City and Causeway, provision of accommodation and surface improvements to sports grounds. Two allocations of 50 pounds cash each have been made for surveys and tree planting has 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 that the cost of the care of the children be borne by his department.

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

A report being obtained regarding the footwear of the children attending the schools in Canberra.

A great many cases 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 14 November 1931

MR ROWE'S POLICY

Meeting at Westridge and Oaks

Mr Rowe addressed a largely attended meeting last night and was accorded a unanimous vote of confidence. Later he addressed electors at the Westlake Hall.

Speaking at Oaks Estate on Tuesday night Mr Rowe outlined the representation made by him to the Advisory Council and the Minister concerning a water supply to the district. The matter had been placed before the Council on numerous occasions and although strongly supported by the Director-General of Health and other members of the Council, until recently very little progress had resulted. As the result of the recent recommendation of the council the proposal to incorporate fire protection service with the house connection thereby relieving the cost to the residents, was before the unemployment Relief committee. He was assured that the committee would favourably consider any reasonable proposal for the work to be carried out.

The Canberra Times 8 December 1931

UNEMPLOYMENT

Relief Committee May Disband

GOVERNMENT FUNDS SUFFICE

The Canberra Unemployment Relief Committee will probably cease operations in the near future owing to the fact that the whole of Canberra's unemployment have been absorbed in relief work and should be so until at least next June.

Contributions to the committee's funds have suffered considerable diminution from various causes lately, but there is believed to be sufficient on hand with works in the Federal Territory for which funds have been voted to maintain existing ration employment until the end of the financial year.

The committee recently has been obtaining funds from a limited section of the public as a result of the 20 per cent wage cut, and the appropriation of 15,000 pounds for relief works in the territory by the Parliament resulted in further reduced payments.

Work has been rationed among the unemployed to such an extent that no labour is available for the construction of a permanent concrete stormwater drain at City at the cost of 2,000 pounds. Parliament has voted this money but the Administration is unable to proceed with the project until the completion of the existing relief work releases men. Meanwhile the work will be held in abeyance, but the channel will be constructed before the wet season. The existing earth channel is incapable of accommodating the flow of water during storms.

The Canberra Times 29 November 1932

IN DISTRESS

FAMILIES IN SORE NEED

Through Bereavements

UNEMPLOYED INAUGURATE APPEAL

An appeal for the relief of acute distress occasioned to two families through bereavement was decided upon by a meeting of the Canberra unemployed on Sunday.

Owing to the serious distress of the respective families of the late Mrs Kindlesides and the late Mr F Miles the meeting decided to send a list to all gangs in work asking them to contribute the amount to defray the funeral expenses amounting to 24 pounds.

As a result of the death of his wife, Mr Kindlesides is left with a number of young children, some of tender years, and has been on relief work for a long period.

Mrs Miles has been dependent on her son, Mr F Miles, who unfortunately has been cut off in his youth.

The official list will be sent to all gangs. The personnel of the appeal committee is Messrs Harrington, Doust, Daniels, O'Reilly, Golding, Heffernan and O'Keefe. Mr A Kelly of Molonglo is honorary secretary.

All amounts received will be acknowledged in 'The Canberra Times.'

The Canberra Times 4 November 1933

UNEMPLOYED

FULL PROGRAMME OF WORK

PLANS FOR EARLY START

Work for the unemployed in Canberra will be found for them at an early date and will be continuous over the Christmas period.

With the expiration of the Christmas relief work, a number of men will be given employment in January on preparatory work in connection with the erection of the National War Memorial.

It is also expected that work will be commenced in the construction of the new National Library early in the New Year.

Mr Blakeley (Fed Lab) has made several requests to the Minister for the Interior (Mr Perkins) for the provision of work for the unemployed of Canberra, and yesterday he again asked the Minister in the House of Representatives what had been done in connection with affording relief to the Canberra unemployed from now on until after the Christmas period.

Later Mr Perkins stated that special relief money had been made available for the absorption of the local unemployed men over the Christmas period. As to when the work would commence he could not say, but stated that the work would be commenced as early as possible and be continuous over Christmas as the amount on the estimates should be sufficient for that purpose. In regards to how long the work would last, Mr Perkins replied that the men would be kept in work as long as possible.

WAR MEMORIAL

Mr Perkins stated that the work on the National War Memorial would commence in January. The preparatory work for the construction of the building would absorb a number of unskilled men as there would be a considerable amount of excavating, levelling, terracing, the making of plantations for trees and shrubs and the laying on of water, electric light and sewerage.

NATIONAL LIBRARY

The National Library will also be commenced early in the New Year. The sub-committee of the Cabinet which was deputed to select the site has decided on the one near Parliament House. This site is one of several, but there is some little doubt as to whether it will be available under the Burley Griffin plan. The plans for the building are well forward and before the end of the present financial year the building it is expected will be well on the way.