

The Old School Report

August 2021.

Forthcoming events:

It would be quite apt to say that there are NO forthcoming events for the foreseeable future. The Museum will not re-open until the 4 metre distancing rule has been lifted. The August general meeting has been cancelled and the Yarn-Bombing event has been postponed until 2022.



Comfort offered during lock down.

Royal Willows.

M-HIS is lodging an objection to the current DA which involves demolition of the building which is the subject of a submission for heritage listing on the Local Environment Plan that was lodged with BVSC in October 2018.



FROM BEGA. TO CANDELO, MERIMBULA, AND PANBULA.

(The article below is taken from the *Australian Town and Country Journal* of May 1883).

MOST people will, I think, agree with me that it is more pleasant to travel in a buggy, with a companion of your own choice, than it is to do the same journey by coach, trusting to luck for congenial company-not that, let me observe with justice, the average Australian coachdriver (especially he of the old school) is by any means bad company. Far from it. Accounts of his varied experiences, if not always remarkable for their truthfulness are at least startling and interesting enough to while away the tedium of a long journey. But having had an offer of a seat in his buggy from a well-known Southern district "commercial in the wines and spirits," I gladly accepted the same, and before the sun was very high in the heavens we had shaken the dust of Bega from off our feet and were pursuing our journey along the hilly road that leads to Candelo. Four miles from Bega, we come to the junction of the Woollumla and Kameruka roads, the latter of which we take, after crossing the Coonoona bridge.

Following up the Bega River, which at this point is known as the Benbooka, for a distance of two miles, the road then bears to the left, passing Coonoona, at one time the property of Sir Wm. Manning, now owned by Mr. C. Styles, and a short distance further by Mr. R. L. Tooth's Kameruka estate on the right, and the property of Messrs. Cook and Co., on the left. I could not pass by the groves of ornamental trees, planted by Mr. Tooth at an enormous expense, without a word of admiration ; they add an entirely new feature to the whole landscape, and at the same time point out a mind not occupied solely, as is so often the case here in the colonies, by the one idea of "money grubbing".

Arrived at the Kameruka lodge, near which is a pretty little brick church, we once more turn to the left, and in two miles reach our destination, Candelo, a distance of 14 miles from Bega. The small but rising township of Candelo is situated on a creek of the same name, which divides it into two equal portions. Its site is not the best possible one that might have been chosen, being closely hemmed in on all sides by hills, and the area of level ground being of a very limited extent. Three years ago, only a few small houses were to be seen here ; now there are three hotels, two stores, a weekly paper "The Candelo and Eden Union," a branch of the Commercial Bank and a School of Arts. Strange to say, at this latter institution, the "Town and Country Journal" is not taken! Upon my expressing surprise at the anomaly, I received an explanation something to this effect :-" Well, you see sir, it would be no good taking the 'Town and Country' here, as everybody subscribes to it." A recreation ground is being formed in the centre of the township, on the east bank of the creek. This is to be planted with trees, and when completed, will be no mean ornament to the town.

Candelo is on the high road from the Monaro to the port of Eden and the coast generally, which in fact causes it, during the wool season, to assume an appearance of bustle quite foreign to it during any other part of the year. It is also the centre of a most prosperous, and, I might say, exclusively cheese-making population, amongst whom the American factory system is universally adopted. Its port is Merimbula, a distance of 19 miles from Candelo, with which it is connected by a good road. The average number of cows milked at the dairies is nearly 100, I am told.

I paid a visit to Hill Top, one of the principal dairies in this neighbourhood; it is the property of Mr. A. Alcock, comprises 3000 acres, and is situated on Tantowanglo Creek, 5½ miles from Candelo, on the Monaro-road. Mr. Alcock milks 200 cows, and is also the principal horse-breeder in the district. His brown mare, Lady Belmore, by Kingston (imp.) out of Bylong's sister, has taken numerous prizes at the local shows, whilst his entries, Tantowanglo and Hill Top, both of which are out of the above, the former being by Yattendon and the latter by Maribyrrong, are worthy of notice. Amongst numerous other ingenious contrivances in this dairy for the saving of labour, an undershot waterwheel, for the purpose of pumping water to the cheese factory and house, particularly took my fancy. By this means the water, the amount of which can be easily regulated, is pumped a distance of 600ft and an elevation of 100ft above the creek ; whilst in case of floods, the wheel can, by means of a Spanish windlass, be lifted bodily above high water mark.

Although Candelo is a prosperous and "go ahead " little place, I could hardly enter into the feeling of the individual who remarked, as we were sitting one dark night on the verandah of the local " Royal," that the scene, i.e., the lights of the public house opposite, reflected in the creek, reminded him remarkably of Venice, whilst the distant strains of a concertina, which he could quite imagine to be the midnight song of a gondolier, added to the fond illusion.

As I before remarked, a good but hilly road leads from Candelo to the port of Merimbula, passing through the small township of Woolumla, about half-way. Several dairies and cheese factories are also passed, including one belonging to the Kameruka Estate, and known as the Wolumla factory. Ayrdale, a cheese dairy, the property of Mr. Black, who milks 160 cows, is well worth seeing ; the cheese made here is well and favourably known in the Sydney market. Mr. Black also manufactures and deals in the multifarious apparatus connected with the industry.

Merimbula is situated on the Merimbula Lake, really an arm of the sea, from which latter it is distant some half-mile. The township is mainly supported, irrespective of its position as a port, by Munn's Maizena Works, which were originally started in 1867 by the late Messrs. M. A. Munn

and T. S. Mort and Sir Wm. Manning, but eight years ago were formed into a company, with a capital of £25,000, under the superintendence of Mr. A. L. Munn. Although a large number of hands are employed, directly and indirectly, in connection with these works, the manager informs me that he would be glad to give employment to many more, but that, in consequence of the scarcity of labour, he is unable to do so. Between 8000 and 10,000 boxes (40 pounds) of maizena are turned out from here annually. The company have 1000 acres of land in the neighbourhood of the works, 110 acres of which are at present under corn, whilst improvements are being made to increase this to 200 acres. They have also a farm, three miles distant, where 80 acres are planted with corn, and where they expect within two years also to have 200 acres, 18 Chinamen being at present employed clearing the land. Nine months' supply of corn for these works is procured from the Pambula farmers; Bega is, however, considered too far, it being found cheaper to buy corn from Sydney than from there. A tramway is in course of construction from the works to the outlying farm of which I have spoken. The process of manufacturing the maizina is most interesting, pure, fresh water, and plenty of it, being the desideratum. A valuable cattle food is made from the residue of the corn. The I.S.N. Co. have commodious premises at Merimbula, their steamers calling in twice a week. These do not, however, proceed beyond the bar, their cargoes and passengers being carried to and fro by means of a drogher. The port is, in fact, entirely in its primitive state, which causes those most concerned to consider themselves, and perhaps justly, neglected by the Government.

Four miles south of Merimbula is the township of Pambula, the centre of one of the oldest settlements in the district. There are numerous small farms in this neighbourhood, devoted principally to maize growing and pig rearing. The township is somewhat scattered, and is built on a slope, at the foot of which are extensive fields of corn. There are two stone churches ; two hotels, one of which (that kept by Mr. J. Behl, a German) as a model, is worthy of imitation ; two stores, post and telegraph office, and a tannery. A good deal of indignation is felt here in consequence of a proposed deviation in the Candelo and Eden road, which deviation would have the effect of leaving out Pambula. It is argued that the present road could be sufficiently improved for a much less sum, and that the floods, which are the reason assigned for the alteration, are not nearly so bad as they are painted. Very romantic scenery is met with at and near the mouth of the Pambula River. The rocks along the beach are of a most fantastic character.

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