



HD Jobs for the boys with emerging cask boiled along and rail growth

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TIME PASTwith Beryl Johnston

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DURING the 1850s in Ipswich there were several boiling down works on either side of the Bremer River.

Two were established on the bank of the river opposite Moores Pocket (named after one of the early blacksmiths) and those of Mr John 'Schemer' and the Aberdeen **Company** known as Tooths.

Mr RJ Smith had a boiling down establishment at Town Marie (named after his wife) near Tivoli, North Ipswich.

At this works there were a great number of men employed and among them was 'GipsyBob' John Clements, two of the Slack family and a McGrory.

Cask making was a flourishing trade and the coopers were always busy.

Silky wood was formed into staves and these casks containing tallow, were sent to England. Tallow candles were used at the time and cost nine pence per lb.

One of the largest of the boiling down works was erected on a **site** (later known as Ivory **Estate**) at Bundamba by Mr Joe Fleming. By the erection of these Bremer Mills Mr Fleming provided employment for hundreds of people.

Employed at the Bremer Mills at that time was Mr James Reilly, who subsequently erected saw-mills overlooking the old swamp which became a **park** at North Ipswich.

The first locally appointed registrar of births, marriages and death in Ipswich in the 1850s was Mr William Hendren and an auctioneer of 1856 Mr RP Whitehouse had his **sale** room on the **site** of the Palais Royal **Hotel**, cnr Brisbane and East Sts.

The second police magistrate appointed by the New South Wales Government was Lieutenant- Colonel Charles George Gray, who came in 1853.

He succeeded Mr Hannibel Macarthur, who had married the daughter of Captain William Bligh.

It is thought that she was buried in Ipswich.

About 1851, Moreton Bay became almost deserted owing to the discovery of **gold**, and men left the area to travel to distant parts to pan or dig for the metal.

Skilled mechanics and labourers trekked to these new diggings and **business** men put up their shutters. **Gold** fever became so bad the squatters in the regions imported **Chinese** labourers.

RAILWAYS

DURING the latter part of the 1860s in Ipswich a movement for the extension of the railway line to “deep water” became an issue.

This culminated in parliament deciding to extend the line to Roma St, Brisbane, and on January 30, 1873, the first sod of this extension was turned by His Excellency the Marquis of Normanby. This was at a spot in the cutting near the Six Mile Bridge.

There was no distinguishing mark to mark this auspicious occasion.

The deviation of the Southern and Western Railway from Ipswich to Toowoomba via Sadliers Crossing – some three miles, 40 chains and 40 links – was also undertaken at the same time as the Ipswich Brisbane extension, commencing between West and Ellenborough Sts.

To assist in the work being undertaken, locomotive No. 13 **B**.12 and wagons were conveyed from North Ipswich to Bundamba via Brisbane Rd, by means of a team of bullocks and then placed on the line.

The engine was in charge of Mr Thomas Hook (later a locomotive foreman at North Ipswich) as driver, and Mr W Henderson as fireman.

This was on June 3, 1874, and on September 25, 1874, the loop line connecting the Ipswich terminus with the Brisbane extension was completed, enabling the engine to run into Ipswich.

WINE AND RUM

HARWOOD Vineyard Pine Mt was for **sale** in February, 1887. Mr John Watson was the owner and the crushing capacity of the vineyard equalled about 1,900 gallons, while 400–500 Four hundred five hundred gallons of **wine** were stored up from vintages extending back to 1885.

At the vineyard were cellars, a **wine** shed, a residence and an office.

In 1886 it was reported that Mr TL Smith, of Woodlands, Marburg, had erected a large distillery with a continuous still near the sugar mill for the purpose of making rum from the molasses refuse from the mill.

ART

IT WAS found that a picture in a French gallery had been hung sideways. Many people thought it represented two poached eggs. They were surprised to learn it was really the harvest moon reflected in a lake.

POLITICS

“POLITICS in the Colony are such a pitiful farce and the mockery of late years have been so transparent that the majority of Queensland Times readers probably are beginning to care very little whether they do or do not enjoy the election franchise.” (QT, April 9, 1870.)

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