**Essays on Mount Crosby - Liquor Prohibition at Cabbage Tree**

For those places between Mount Crosby and Lake Manchester,1912 and 1913 were dry years in more ways than one. On instruction from the government, liquor licences were prohibited within seven miles of the site of the proposed Cabbage Tree Creek dam (later named Lake Manchester). This undoubtedly was to curb rowdy behaviour and encourage men to conserve their bodies for the purposes of work.

It might be that authorities remembered the uproarious behaviour that accompanied the first weeks of work at the pumping station about twenty years earlier, and didn't want a repeat of the experience. Once again, all those young men were about to congregate at a worksite and find that after-hours there was little or nothing to do. At that time too, rules had to be put in place to prevent excesses, and they are evidenced by the following words written in the days shortly after the commencement of works:

"Some little trouble arose here last week between the men and the contractor, a couple of days after the former had been visited by Mr. Reid (the labour organiser), but the prompt and decisive action taken by Mr. Statham apparently had a good effect, and the men are now working better than ever. Although isolated cases of rowdyism have occurred, the men on the whole bear an excellent character and are said to be both peaceable and law abiding."

In the end, it is likely that the prohibition was as successful as the celebrated American failure of the 1920s; that is to say, not very successful at all. And for the record, isolated cases of rowdyism continued to characterise life at Mount Crosby for a very long time (I suppose ... well they might have ... ok, best to end about here).

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