

The Searchlight.

Wollongong business places will be closed on Good Friday, Easter Saturday and Easter Monday.

The "Mercury" will appear on Thursday next, owing to the holiday on Good Friday.

It is anticipated that there will be a big influx of visitors to the district during the Easter holidays.

The paper shortage in the United States for the next 12 months is estimated at 200,000 tons.

A big increase has been made in the valuation of properties for rating purposes by the Wollongong Council.

The Aurora Australia was observed in this district during the early hours of Tuesday morning.

A motor lorry is now being used in connection with the rabbit industry at Albion Park.

Private R. Moss has returned to Shellharbour, where he received a hearty welcome home on Saturday last.

The New South Wales Shop Assistants' Union has decided to immediately commence a campaign for the abolition of the late shopping night.

The Mayor (Ald. N. Smith), seems determined to push on with the proposed scheme for the amalgamation of local municipalities.

We congratulate Miss Brown, of Brownsville, who, on Tuesday, celebrated the 90th anniversary of her birthday.

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The election results are still uncertain. The second preference votes for Wollondilly have not yet been counted.

Mr. Guido Weber, of the teaching staff of the Wollongong District School has been notified of his appointment to a school in the Newcastle district. He is at present on sick leave.

The presiding Magistrate at the Wollongong police court on Thursday, commented on the facilities allowed for passing valueless cheques.

On and after April 1st the price of "The Mercury" will be 3d per copy. The increase has been rendered necessary owing to the big advance made in the cost of paper since the commencement of the year.

Results of the investigations by the Commonwealth Statistician as to the variations in prices of food are available. The increase since the war began was greatest in Queensland (89.2 per cent.). In New South Wales it was 73 per cent.

From South Africa comes the news of the death of Mr. Tom Hassell, at one time a prominent politician in New South Wales, who won fame in connection with land matters.

Newcastle Council is considering the borrowing of £14,000 for providing a sports and aviation ground, and improving the baths. Wollongong Council should consider the matter of an aviation ground.

The workers on the South Coast trophy at the Royal Show are busy staging the various exhibits which have been received from centres on the coast and tablelands. It is understood that there will be keen competition for the prize this year.

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MR. O. R. ARDREIM, sane engineer, who was suspended on February 16 by the Culcairn Shire Council, pending an inquiry by the Local Government Department as to the causes of the collapsing of King's Bridge, sued the council for stopping his salary from the date of suspension, before Mr. G. S. Shepherd, police magistrate at the Culcairn court. He was nonsuited. Mr. N. Grant has been appointed by the Local Government Department to hold an inquiry.

Professor Meredith Atkinson will lecture at Wollongong on Thursday, April 15th. The subject will be announced later.

Messrs. Gale and Son have disposed of the Kiama "Reporter" to Messrs. Weston and Co., of the "Independent."

The following tenders have been accepted in connection with the Wollongong District Hospital: Groceries, Nuttall & Co.; meat, J. Vereker; burials H. Parsons, sen.; bread, Marlow bakery.

The eleventh annual meeting of the No. 2. Starr-Bowkett Building Society, will be held this (Friday) evening at 8 o'clock. Members are specially urged to attend, the business to be transacted is of special importance to all members.

A meeting has been called for the purpose of reorganising the Illawarra District Choir, and members and those desirous of joining are specially asked to attend in view of the fact that practice will commence at once for the chief choral item in connection with the forthcoming eisteddfod. It is hoped that there will be a large attendance.

The annual meeting of the Wollongong branch of the Workers Education Association was held in the School of Arts on Tuesday night. Mr. O. A. Leeper presiding. The secretary (Mr. Tubman) presented a review of the work of the branch during the past year. The following officers were elected:—Pres-

ident, Mr. O. A. Leeper; vice-presidents, E. Burrows, M. Robertson and S. R. Musgrave; treasurer, H. H. Vidal; hon. secretary, E. Burrows (pro. tem). The classes have started and persons desirous of joining should forward their names to the secretary.