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MOORABBIN CITY COUNCIL'S INTEREST IN HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

Congratulations to Mr. N. Davies, Moorabbin's chief health officer for raising in the Council the subject of preserving some historic buildings in the city. At a Council meeting last month Mr. Davies mentioned a house in Bignall Road, East Bentleigh, 108 years old and still occupied and a former shop in Centre Road, also occupied. The Shop was in the early days of settlement owned by a tailor who used to cycle to market gardeners' homes and there measure customers for their suits. Councillors discussed the possibility of removing one of the buildings but doubt was expressed by some as to whether either would survive moving. A report on the buildings is to be made to the Council.

This is very interesting news for our society. We cannot save many buildings that speak of the past; we should try to save a few. An old but sound building centrally situated would be ideal for a museum. We are glad the Council is interested and hope for its support of this idea in future.

WHEN SHOULD SHOPS CLOSE?

The question, "When should shops close - and open?" has been with us a long time and in the opinion of some is not yet settled satisfactorily. Legislation fixing opening and closing times goes back to the first Early Closing Act in New South Wales in 1898. But long before that there was conflict about it between shopkeepers and the public. Hours varied from state to state and from the metropolis to country towns; in some of the latter there was as much argument as in the city. In the Moorabbin area shopkeepers had a sense of injustice about it as a letter in a local newspaper in 1874 suggests. It is headed, "Early Closing- appeal to the public to allow early closing of shops." The writer asks, "Is there any shopkeeper who will say that the time from 7 in the morning till 6 in the evening is not sufficient to supply the wants of all his customers? Why should shopkeepers not combine together to close at 6? Fear of those who would not close." To the customers the writer adds, "It betrays a very thoughtless and a very mean ungenerous spirit to help to oppress your less fortunate brethren by keeping them tied to the counter till late hours because you choose not to make your purchases early in the day." 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.? No, today's shop workers can hardly call them the good old days.