



News of the Day

ONE of the proudest possessions at the Port Melbourne branch of the Mission to Seamen is the ship's bell from the Diomed, last of the Blue Funnel line's coal burners.

Diomed was broken up after sailing home to England on her last voyage from Australia in May last year. She had been in service for 30 years.

Mr. R. Stewart Murray, lay reader at the Port Melbourne mission, and an old friend of the men who sailed in the ship, was a passenger on that last voyage.

At his request, the ship's bell was presented by the owners to the mission. It is mounted on a base of walnut from the Diomed, with two dolphins made from the ship's brass as side supports.

Soon after the bell reached Melbourne this year, Midshipman A. Butchin, of Durban, South Africa, called at the mission. Now serving aboard the Jason, Midshipman Butchin was a member of Diomed's last crew, and had rung the bell often for the change of watch at sea.

Fete

DIOMED'S bell will be well polished next Saturday when the Port Melbourne mission holds its annual fete.

Opening at 2 p.m., the fete is to help members of the service that has the Flying Angel for its insignia to raise funds for their work of providing comforts and help for seamen.

Men of ships in port will be on hand to help run the stalls and hooplas set up at the mission building in Beach Street.

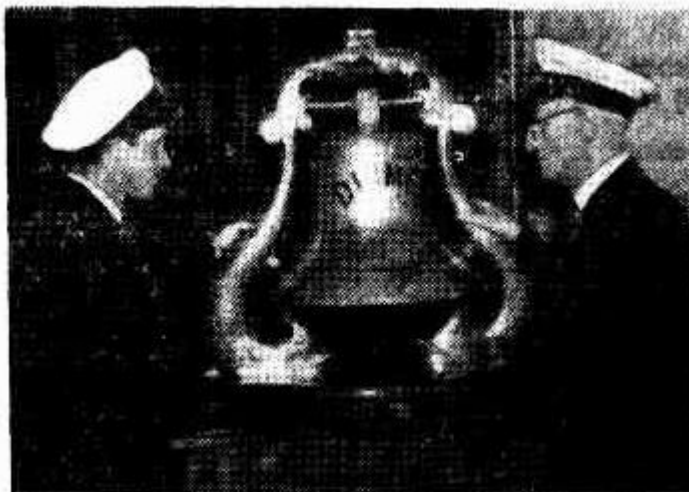
Report

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THE forbidding dullness of statistics has been adroitly overcome in the latest Cairns Harbor Board annual report released this week.

An attractively printed and produced document, the report has managed to wed its balance sheets and essential data with an alluring series of pictures and descriptions of this North Queensland port's thriving industries and tourist playgrounds.

The result is a combined geography lesson and business report that breathes sunshine and prosperity and brings an immediate



Midshipman A. Butchin (left) and Mr. R. Stewart Murray admire Diomed's ship's bell. See story, left.

longing to see Cairns at all costs.

Record

THE Premier (Mr. Cain) established something of a record yesterday.

He became the first politician to open the annual meeting of the Victorian Provincial Press Association since the organisation was formed 43 years ago.

The delegates, representing 156 country newspapers throughout the State,

ing 156 country newspapers throughout the State, heard Mr. Cain foretell a future of progress that would make Victoria "the greatest State in Australia." They also heard him ask for newspaper criticism—provided it was constructive.

Victoria's future could be realised only by development of the State as a whole, with city and country in step, Mr. Cain said.

Country newspapers had their part to play by "rightfully continuing to press for more industry and amenities" in their area.

THE MILDENHURST AREA.

New Game

LOWER Fern Tree Gully youngsters have invented a new game.

We watched this week while they frolicked on the railway line with the whistle of an oncoming train blasting in the background.

As the train came into view they scurried back and forth across the line—evidently to see who could make the most crossings before the train arrived.

We do not know which of these seven and eight year olds was the winner. But if the game is not soon stopped there may be no one left to win.

Careers

TWO distinguished careers have been followed by Major-General the Rev. C. A. Osborne of Sydney, who is visiting Melbourne this week end to preach at St. Andrew's, Brighton, tomorrow at the annual men's breakfast and at evening.

Major-General the Rev. C. A. Osborne began his military life as a private, eventually becoming a member of Field Marshal Wavell's staff in India.

At the age of 50 he resigned from the army to begin his second career—as a Church of England clergyman.

Brigade

THE Country Fire Authority has just registered the 1000th brigade under its control.

Brigade No. 1000 is Labertouche Rural Fire Brigade, which operates near Drouin.

The authority, formed eight years ago to take over existing rural fire brigades, now has 84,038 volunteer firemen under its direction. Since its inception it has increased the number of rural brigades by about 300.