

1853

1953

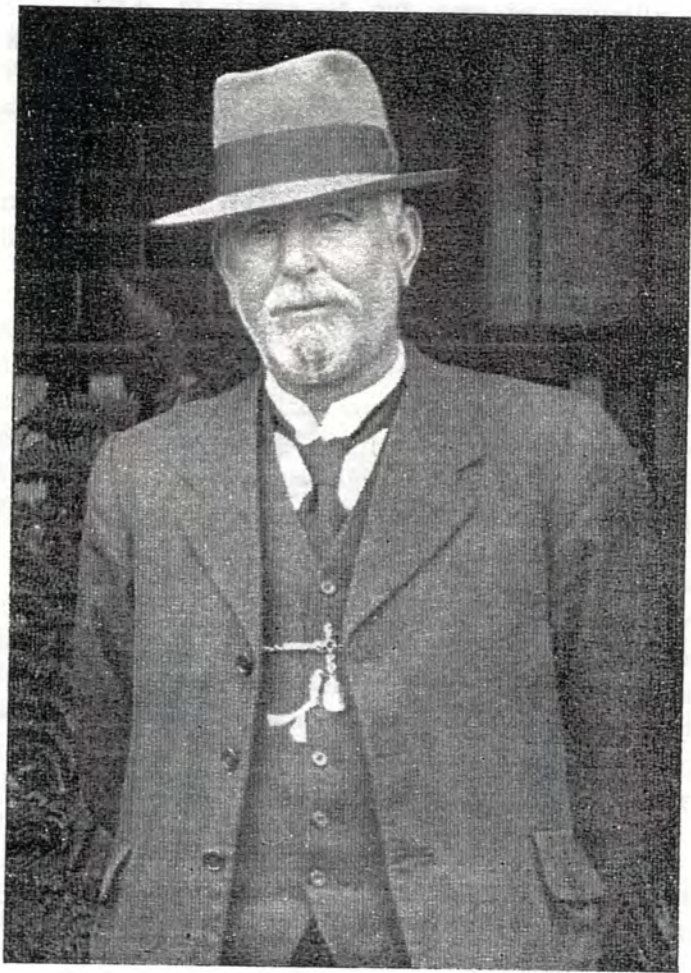
1853

Frank A. Hill  
& Co.

1953

1853

1953



THE LATE FRANK A. HILL



JOHN F. HILL

The other necessary and equally important requirement to have made this story possible is that of the staff and it is timely now to refer to the loyalty and co-operation which has always been given to the Company by its staff, most of whom have been with it since their school days.

It is appropriate that Mr. Dick O'Shea who has been with the Company since 1915 and who is the "old man" of the Company should receive special mention. He has the happy knack of "always being the same," always eager to be of assistance, and in large measure the spirit of friendliness and team work which characterises the working of the unit, is due to him. He has been unfailingly helpful not only to the Principals and members of the staff, most of which he has trained, but to the clients, Agents and Associates of the Company, and all with whom he has come in contact.

Mr. Bill Malloy joined the Company in 1931 after leaving school and now has had 22 years service. He has proved a capable, conscientious and a confident officer with tremendous energy and ability. To these two senior members of the staff, who literally grew up with the Principals, go our grateful appreciation.

Sincere thanks are also extended to the rest of the staff for their continued loyalty and co-operation.





FRANK K. HILL

Branches have been established over the years at Boort, Pyramid, Lockington, Rochester and Elmore, while the Company is represented by Agents throughout most of the North and has associates throughout the State.

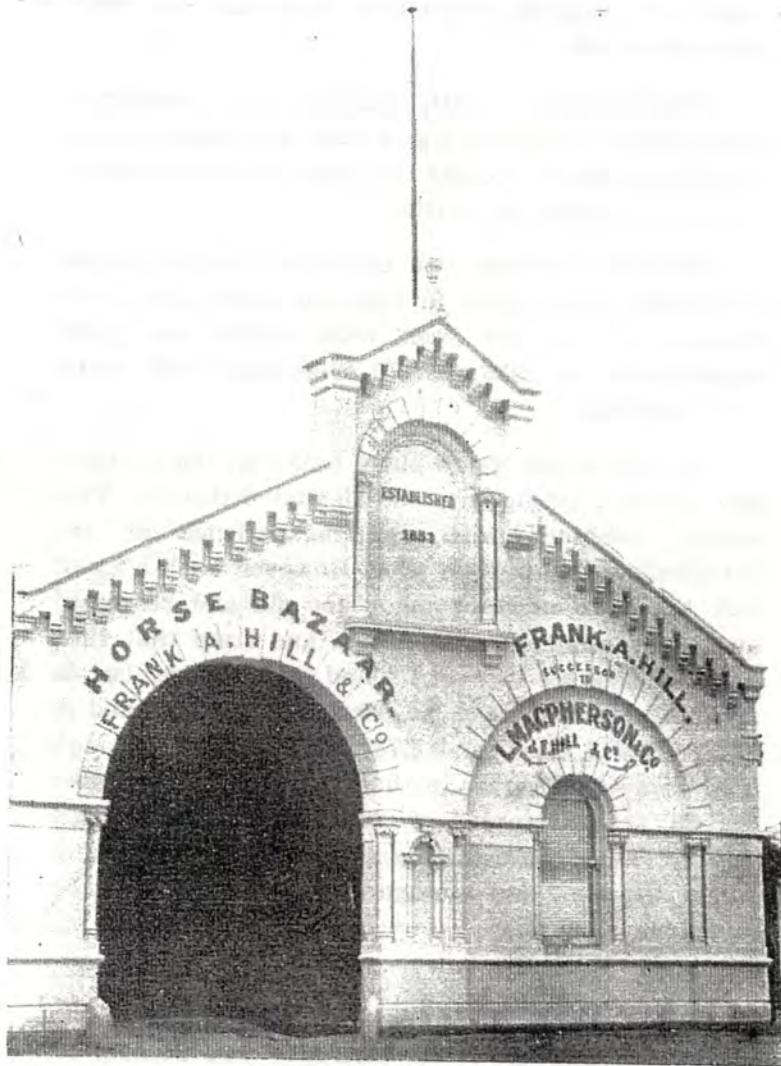
The war years represented another time rather similar to the depression, characterised as it was with droughts, lack of labour of any sort, inside or outside, and all the other difficulties of that period. Six of the firm's staff joined the various Services.

After the war, the Company established a branch of its activities with an office in Hargreaves Street to handle the Broad Acre and Real Estate side of the business. Under the capable administration of Mr. Tom Doble, who has had such a long and favourable association with the business and sporting life of Bendigo, together with his co-manager, Mr. Jack Hassett, this activity has flourished.

In the first year commencing 1946, the turnover in houses, business, hotels, land, etc., was £213,230, represented by 66 transactions, and in 1952 the turnover was £669,977, involving 193 separate sales.

The Company has also made a special feature of insurance and today has one of the largest registers of this class of business outside the metropolis.

None of the foregoing achievements of course, would be possible without the support of the Company's clientele, and in this respect it is gratifying to know that in some cases even the third generation is still dealing with Frank A. Hill & Co.



ENTRANCE TO BAZAAR (CHARING CROSS)

In deciding to try his fortune in business in Bendigo with very little experience and not much capital, he displayed great courage and, as later events proved, he was amply justified in his confidence, for apart from the varying blows of bad seasons and inexperience of men, which cost him dearly, his affairs prospered.

At the end of 1923 he handed over the business to his two sons, Jack and Frank, it being his intention to retire from active participation but to be on hand to supply the advice which would be so necessary for young men in such a keenly competitive business. Providence however, ordained otherwise, and on January 30th, 1924—just one month after his retirement—he died.

It is of interest to note that it was recorded that his funeral was the longest ever to take place in Bendigo. His obvious sincerity and friendly personality had endeared him to many people, and his sound advice and financial assistance, to literally hundreds, especially the "battler" (who had a special place in his heart), meant everything. He was truly a big man in every respect.

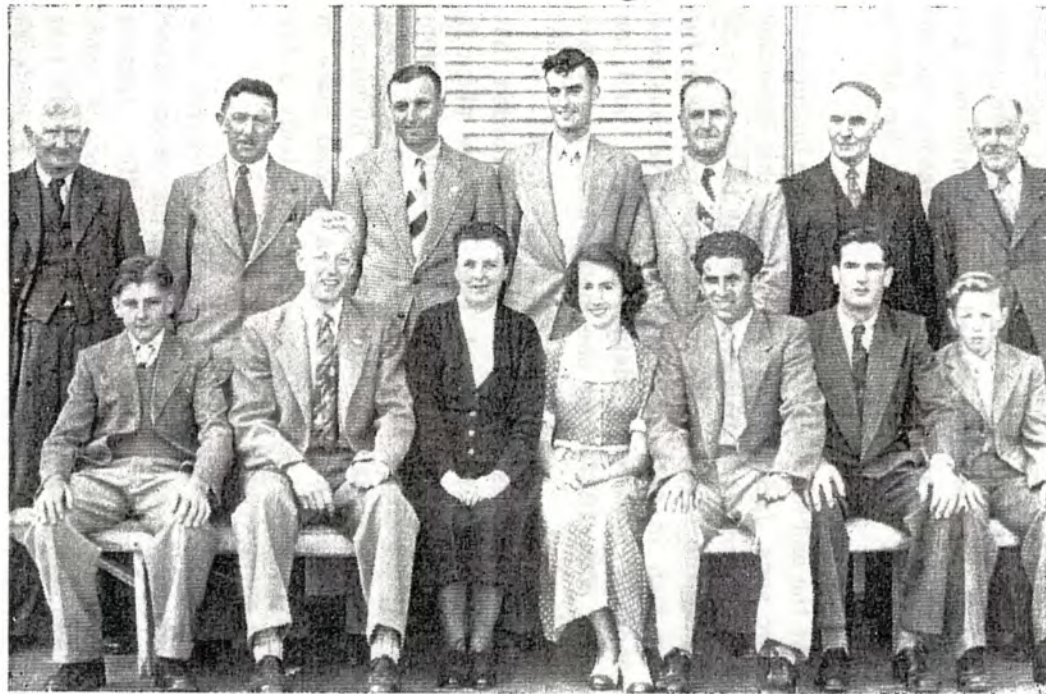
It should be placed on record that by his side throughout the early vicissitudes of his career stood courageously and confidently his wife—Honora Margaret Farley, who was born at Heathcote in 1868. Her unquestioning faith and acceptance of the fact that all would evolve itself in the way Providence wished, tided him over many a depressing business experience and much of what he accomplished was undoubtedly due to the encouragement he received from her.

Back Row -

"Baldy" Ryan, Dick. O'Shea, Bill. Molloy, Leo. Dole  
—— , Jack. Hassett, Tom. Doble.

Front Row -

Peter Bull, Clive Miller, Una Grellis ——— ,  
Les. Pascoe, Brian Kelly ——— .



THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

About 1910 pigs took the place of horses in the Bazaar, and at this time further premises in Bath Lane were acquired wherein to house and sell store pigs and calves.

Whereas the late Mr. Hill had been content to concentrate on his large pig and calf and land business, his sons decided to exploit the huge potential business offering in sheep and cattle.

With what success their efforts met can be gauged by the fact that, while in 1923 the sheep and cattle disposed of for the year were 19,103 and 2,496 respectively, in 1933, 67,570 sheep and 3,867 cattle were handled.

The depression years put a brake on the business and survival, not figures, was all that mattered. This period, combined with the inexperience of the Principals, was a difficult one. However, with a lot of luck the firm, unlike many other old and respected businesses, came through intact, and from that time onwards progress was steady and even spectacular. In 1943 137,654 sheep and 5,571 cattle were sold, and in 1952, 285,943 sheep and 8,730 cattle passed through the books—an increase in the figures per annum over the 29 years recorded of 266,840 sheep and 6,234 cattle. The pig and calf figures have remained more or less the same—an average of 10,000 pigs and 2,200 calves per annum.

To cope with the ever-expanding business extra staff were added regularly, all being recruited from the City of Bendigo or its environs. The number on the payroll in 1923 was (5) five. Today it is (27) twenty-seven.



PROPERTY DEPARTMENT OFFICES, HARGREAVES ST.

THE 100-YEAR-OLD story of Frank A. Hill & Co., as briefly set out here is naturally of great interest to all those personally connected with it, but may also prove of interest to the firm's wide clientele and well-wishers.

We cannot guarantee all the dates herein because many of the records are gone as, too, are the people of those days.

It seems that L. McPherson Sternberg & Co. was a large public company set up in Bendigo in the year 1853 especially to cater for the New South Wales consignments of cattle and horses which came regularly to Bendigo in those days to feed the thousands of hungry miners who had congregated from the four corners of the earth in search of gold.

The cattle were sold in the Municipal Cattle Yards and the horses in the Bazaar at Charing Cross. The founders of the business must have had tremendous faith in the future of Bendigo to have built such a large and solid structure as the Bazaar, including ample space for the administrative offices which, though reconstructed, are still basically as they were in the far-off fifties.

Just why L. McPherson Sternberg & Co. retired from business is not clear, but in or about the year 1892 the business was acquired by Mr. Frank A. Hill.

The late Frank A. Hill was born at Spring Plains Station, near Redesdale. He was one of seven boys all of whom, with the exception of himself and two others who joined the gold trail to Western Australia, decided to follow their father in pastoral pursuits.