

South Bourke and Mornington Journal (Richmond, Vic. : 1877 - 1920; 1926 - 1927), Wednesday 22 December 1909, page 2

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Dandenong Mechanics' Institute Several times of late the question of re-relationship between the Shire Council and the Mechanics' Institute has cropped up at council meetings, there being an idea in the minds of certain councillors that the institute has more than its just pro-portion of accommodation in the Town Hall. We don't purpose going into that question, as it was settled long ago. The matter at present troubling committee-men is the disappearance of their agree-ment with the council. And it is a re-markable coincidence that the duplicate held by the council cannot be found. Both probably were lost when the old Institute was destroyed by fire, and it was to ask that a fresh agreement on the old lines be drawn up that a deputation com-prising Mr. Sutherland, Dr. Thomson, Mr. Titcher, and the secretary of the In-stitute waited on the council last Monday. Mr. Sutherland stated the facts, and the secretary submitted the following statement which showed how the council and the institute came to be conjointly housed under one roof:— In November, 1887, Messrs. T. Keys, Greaves, Heywood, Howard and the sec-retary of the council were appointed to meet the committee of the Mechanics' Institute in order to confer. The secre-tary, Mr. Keys, reported to the council meeting of December, 1887, but the report is not given in detail in the minutes. The proposed building it described. The report was adopted, and Mr. Beswick was appointed to prepare plans. In January, 1888, the council carried a motion that in consideration of the Mechanics' Institute handing over the land and building, the council agrees to pay the debts of the Mechanics' to the amount of £500, and also give the Mechanics' committee the use of the upper portion of the (to be erected) building. In March, 1888, Mr. Keys reported result of an interview he had with Mr. Deakin re assistance to build the Mechanics' Institute and Library, and that Mr. Deakin had promised half cost up to £1,000. In April, 1889, a deputation from the Mechanics' Institute waited on the Shire Council, the result being similar to the one of January, 1888, as reported above, so far as upper portion of the building is concerned, but a promise is made to pay all debts and to carry out the Library. In June, 1890, a motion in the council is carried that the balance-sheet of the Mechanics' Institute be accepted, and that the council take over the responsi-bility of discharging the committee's debt, amounting to £597. In September, 1890, a further motion is carried in the Shire Council to the effect "That the Mechanics' committee have the sole management of the upper portion of the building, with power to decide what use the rooms shall be put to." In July; 1894, another motion is carried in the council, "That the agreement re Free Library be signed and sealed." Mr. Renfree finally reported at the meeting of the committee on November 11, 1909, that he had not been successful in finding a document embodying this agreement, although he had made a search for it in the archives of the council; and consequently Dr. Thomson moved, and Mr. Titcher seconded, that "The council being unable to produce the agreement, it is desirable to have a fresh agreement drawn up to the effect that, in regard of the Mechanics' having transferred to the council the land, the right of permanent occupancy of the upper portion of the Town Hall be conferred to the committee of the Mechanics' Institute." Cr. Tuff said that he was not satisfied with the present arrangements, and would like to know more about them. Mr. Titcher assured the meeting that the agreement was drawn up. Cr. Hemmings remembered the agree-ment being made. Cr. Tuff moved that consideration be deferred for a month, as three councillors were absent. Cr. Hutton failed to see how that affected the position. The agreement had been lost, and the Institute asked that a fresh one be made out. Cr. Heywood seconded the motion, which was carried.