***City of Nunawading 20/4/1945***

The Shire of Nunawading came into existence in 1872 and its administration covered the area from Surrey Hill to Mitcham and Doncaster to Burwood. On 11 March 1925 the proposal to form the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham was enunciated by Cr. Armstrong to a meeting of fellow Councillors who represented Blackburn and Mitcham Ridings in the Shire of Nunawading.

The proposal was so enthusiastically accepted by all concerned that in 20 days – by 31 March, a petition was lodge with the Minister of Public Works which contained a majority of the signatures of the ratepayers of the proposed new Shire.

The Minister agreed to the proposal and the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham was constituted as from 1 October 1925. The remaining area continued as the Shire of Nunawading until December 1925, when Box Hill was proclaimed a Borough, and subsequently a City in 1927. During the 20 years the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham has been in existence its population has grown from 5,650 to approximately 9,000; the number of buildings from 1,472 to 2,500 and the nett annual valuation of the properties therein from £96,412 to approximately £130,000. Many competent and capable men have given their services as Councillors over this long period and they have been responsible for many improvements and extension of amenities which go to make life more enjoyable for their fellow citizens.

**Growing pains of Youth.**

After what must be described as the growing pains of youth, the municipality has now reached its manhood by the Proclamation of the City of Nunawading. The Council has been endeavouring to obtain this status over a period of four years. The ﬁnal facts were publicly presented to the Minister of Public Works at a deputation of the Shire Hall on 2 March, 1944, after which an inspection of the district was made.

The Local Government Act provides that the area of a City shall be 9 square miles and have a revenue (from rates only) of not less than £20,000. As the area of the City is 15 ½ square miles, special legislation was necessary and this was passed by Parliament last year. Precedent for doing this was already established as similar legislation had permitted the proclamation of the City of Heidelberg (42 square miles) and the City of Moorabbin (23 square miles).

**An Aboriginal Name.**

The name of the City is not derived from the Shire of Nunawading, but from the Parish of Nunawading, which appears on the Certiﬁcate of Title of every property owner in the City. It is an aboriginal name and, we are informed, means “Man on the way there” – or as Cr. Armstrong would interpret – “On the way to manhood”. It is further said to mean “Nothing wanting”; but whichever it may be, it augers well for the future.

The advent of new industries in the post-war period should bring an influx of population in the settled areas and their coming should lighten the burden of the present population in works yet to be carried out in the City. The Council has plans for Baby Health Centres, Baths, Street Construction, Modern Lighting, and many other improvements, which must await the release of labour, materials and money.

The proclamation of the City should consummate the permanent fusion of Blackburn and Mitcham and it is now very necessary that citizens should think of the City and not as any individual part of it. The advent of the City should mean the early development of Tunstall – the centre of administration – and no doubt the Council’s early deliberation will have this object in view.

**Appeal of Mayor**

Now that the City is a reality and the residents are now known as citizens instead of ratepayers, the Mayor appeals to all to realise their citizenship of the ﬁnest area in the eastern suburbs and assist in its development, which will bring with it all those conveniences which make life worthwhile.

“For my part, l am deeply sensible of the honour conferred on me as being the first Mayor and l will do all in my power to carry out the duties of the Ofﬁce with that dignity and decorum which it warrants”. *(Cr. Armstrong’s remarks).*

***Proclamation of the Shire of Blackburn and Mitcham as the City of Nunawading, page 1,020 of Government Gazette 11/4/1945.***

**Letter to Editor - *Reporter* 28/8/1925 re Electric Light Undertaking.**

Sir, While I have no wish to enter into any controversy regarding the merits of the rival candidates at the forthcoming election to the Blackburn and Mitcham Council, as a tax-payer l am keenly interested in a question which was raised by one of the candidates at a recent meeting in Vermont, and again at Mitcham.

This is the question of ownership of the electric supply scheme in the Shire, and it appears that a proposal is on foot to invite the Electricity Commission to purchase this undertaking from the Nunawading Shire. l sincerely trust that before any such step be taken the Councillors, whoever may be elected, will consider the matter carefully and pay due regard not only to their own affairs but also to the effect that such a transfer would have on the average consumer.

In the first place, the Council, as a council and therefore, the whole of the ratepayers, would undoubtedly pay more for their street lighting than is now being paid to the Nunawading Council, so that the lighting rate would be increased and this would result in a direct additional burden on ratepayers. In the second place, the tariff which the Electricity Commission imposes would result in an increased charge for electricity to at least a great majority of the consumers in the Shire.

This tariff is designed to favour the consumer who uses a great deal of electricity in relation to the size of his house, and certainly if a consumer is prepared to thus increase his consumption of electricity, and also his bills, his average price per unit may ultimately be brought before the price charged at present by the Shire, but it is a back-handed way of reducing the cost per unit by having to increase the monthly bill.

The fact that the Council can run the undertaking at a reasonable proﬁt and charge its present tariff certainly does not indicate bad management, and when consideration is given to the fact that the area served by Nunawading is so extremely scattered, as compared with such areas as the inner Suburbs, where the tariff is 5 ¾ D, (under the Melbourne Electric Supply) and North Melbourne and Flemington where the tariff is 5 ¾ D, under the Electricity Commission, the Nunawading rate of 6d must be considered exceedingly satisfactory, and certainly does not indicate bad management.

***Gerald B. Lincolme. M.l.E.E.***