

Municipal government, under the direction of Mr. Oddie as Chairman worked smoothly from its inception. The horses of the police were kept in a paddock of 80 acres in the western side of the "Swamp" - now Lake Wendouree. This paddock was acquired for £100 and converted into the present Botanical Gardens. Ballarat's first water supply was from the "Swamp." It was being retailed at 10/- a barrel when Mr. Oddie suggested the laying of pipes to the centre of the city. This was done at a cost £6,000 and water was sold near the present site of Burke and Will's monument at 1/- a barrel. The present source of supply was afterwards decided on, Kirk's Dam being the first reservoir, the Gong Gong was the second.

Mr. Oddie strongly advocates the further extension of municipal government. By instinct rather than by knowledge the early diggers developed their municipality. They should resist the centralization of everything in Melbourne and seek for the adoption of the British system of local Government. They should get the control of everything that appertains to their city, and the place would develop at once. He instanced English towns of not half the population of Ballarat having complete control of their own affairs, including the police, which should be adopted locally, and if the young men of the present followed in the footsteps of their fathers, and broke down the centralization principle - even if Eureka had to be re-fought - all would be right.