

There will be no publication of The Courier on Saturday next. The office will be closed on the following dates:-

Friday, 6th inst. (**Good Friday**); Saturday, 7th April (re-opening at 7 p.m. on Sunday); Monday, 9th inst. re-opening at 8 p.m.

Home-Coming Week will be officially inaugurated today. The Premier and other official visitors who are taking part in to-day's celebrations will be called upon to crowd several functions into a short space of time. To Sir Alexander Peacock is assigned such functions as the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Booth Memorial Hall, **the opening of the Zoo at the Gardens**, the official opening of the High School buildings, and after that to pay an official visit to the exhibition of the Ballarat-made goods at the Exhibition Buildings.

(The Ballarat Courier, Wednesday 4th April 1917, p2)

OFFICIAL PARTY ARRANGEMENTS

This morning by the 11.8 train from Melbourne, the official party, including the Premier (Sir Alex. Peacock), Hon. Hugh McKenzie (Minister for Railways), Hon. Donald McLeod (Chief Secretary), Hon J G Membrey (hon. Minister), Mr Frank Tate (Director of Education), and others, will arrive. They will be met by the Mayors and the Reception Committee of the Forward Ballarat Committee, and accorded a welcome. The Orphanage Band will be at the station, and the Boy Scouts will act as a guard of honor to the visitors. The Premier and his party have a busy day ahead of them, as in addition to opening various schools, look-outs, etc, arrangements have been made to visit many of the State schools. The official time-table of the more important events is as under:

11.8 a.m. Arrival of Ministerial party; drive to City Hall.

11.15 a.m. Civic reception at City Hall.

12 noon Laying foundation stone of the Salvation Army Memorial Hall in Albert street by the Hon. the Premier (Sir AJ Peacock).

1 p.m. Civic luncheon at Craig's Hotel.

2.30 p.m. Official opening of the Zoological Gardens by the Chief Secretary (the Hon. Donald McLeod, MLA).

3 p.m. Official opening of the remodelled Agricultural High School by the hon. Premier.

4.15 p.m. Opening of Exhibition Ballarat-made goods, Hon. Donald McLeod.

5 p.m. Opening Look-out, Black Hill, Hon. Hugh McKenzie, MLA.

5.30 p.m. Opening Look-out, Sovereign Hill, Hon. JS Membrey MLC

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Although a good deal has been said about the Ballarat Zoo it was probably a surprise to most of those present at the opening ceremony yesterday to find what considerable preparations have been made for the birds and animals which are expected, and also what a nice little collection has already been got together. Out of the £12,656/14/10, the amount of the late Mr Ben Jahn's bequest, with interest to date, the expenditure on fencing construction and the menagerie to date is £3395/16/2. Hon. D McLeod, Chief Secretary, in the course of his speech before declaring the Zoo open, gave a hint that a contribution from the stock of the Melbourne Zoo was expected by Ballarat people. The hint was directed to Mr Membrey, MLA, who is vice-president of the Melbourne Zoo
(The Ballarat Courier, Thursday 5th April 1917, p5)

Among the party which made the tour of visits with the Premier yesterday was an old gentleman, Mr Thos. Thompson, who was introduced to the crowd at the opening of the Zoological Gardens by Mayor Hill. Mr Thompson, the Mayor said, was born in 1814, and would be 103 on the 26th June. (He was Ballarat's oldest resident.)

(The Ballarat Courier, Thursday 5th April 1917, p5)