PRICE 4d.

THOUGHT FOR TO-DAY

Distance lends enchantment to the view,
And robes the mountain in its azure hue.

gogdanc)

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ROGERS
TOPS FOR
T.V.
All enquiries take escalator to first floor

Catholics Crowd Public Schools

PLACE IN SCHOOLS FOR 640 CHILDREN

Goulburn State schools have enrolled 640 Catholic children.

More than 1,350 had sought enrolment at the public schools.

They are some of the pupils from six Goulburn Catholic schools which closed yesterday for six weeks.

Satisfied

Most of the 640 children enrolled were accepted since the announcement last Tuesday of the Catholic school's "strike."

Five hundred parents of Catholic children voted last week to withdraw their children for six weeks as a protest against the State Government's policy on State aid to church schools.

Two hundred and twenty secondary school students out of a total of 650 applicants from three Catholic colleges, were enrolled at the High School yesterday.

The five primary schools accommodated 420 Catholic children from the 700 who sought enrolment.

Ballots

Goulburn High School was a scene of chaos at 9.30 a.m. as 800 children and parents milled around the school playground awaiting enrolment instructions.

Deputy headmaster Mr. A. McConnell, allocated classrooms to each class group, where ballots were conducted.

Parents entered the names of their children on enrolment forms, which were shuffled.

Winners of the "draws" were enrolled.

Parents whose children were not accepted said they were satisfied at the method of choosing pupils.

All parents of Catholic pupils interviewed said they were "right behind" the decision to close the schools.

The Inspector of Schools at Goulburn, Mr. K. C. Bradstock, released a statement after enrolments had been completed.

Goulburn State school principals had followed "as closely as possible" requirements set down last week by the Minister for Education, Mr. Wetherell, he said.

Mr. Wetherell had ruled that enrolment of Catholic children would be limited to those of statutory school age and that preference would be given to holders of State bursaries.

He also insisted on a maximum of 49 pupils in a class.

However, several teachers are understood to be considering meeting to discuss the extra "loading" in the classrooms.

Effects

Women's Auxiliary, Mrs. J Bruce, said she hoped the protest would result in financial assistance for denominational schools.

Mrs. Bruce said she and most other mothers believed the school protest was "fair."

"There is no dissension among Catholic parents," she said.

"They made their decision at last week's meeting, and are keeping to it."

Mrs. R. Allport, of Crookwell, who could not enrol her son at the High School, said, "My son's schooling may be upset for a few weeks, but I support this protest to the hilt."

Secretary of the Eden-Monaro A.L.P. Electoral Council, Mr. A. G. Rolfe, also supported the school "lockout."

"The huge attendance of children and parents this morning gives the lie to claims that Catholic parents are divided on this issue," he said.

False

Rumours that the protest would be halted soon were false, he said.

Mr. Rolfe also paid tribute to the "courteous and efficient handling" of the mass of applicants by high school authorities.

Most of the children refused entry returned home to enjoy the six weeks break from school.



CONFUSION AT GOULBURN



The deputy headmaster of Goulburn High School, Mr. A. McConnell, addressing the crowd of 800 parents and children in the school grounds yesterday morning. Only 220 of the children were enrolled.

● Other Pictures Page 11.

'Weakness' On Fluoridation

The decision by the Minister for the Interior, Mr. Freeth, not to accept the fluoridation of Canberra water supply was "a deplorable exhibition of weakness and deference to obscurantist pressures," Professor H. W. Arndt said last night.

Professor Arndt was commenting on Mr. Freeth's reply to a Council recommendation for fluoridation.

Mr. Freeth said fluoridation probably would help reduce dental caries.

Arguments

However, counterbalancing arguments had induced authorities in the United Kingdom, U.S.A. and Australia to approach the question with caution.

"Unlike chlorination it is not a measure for the protection and safety of public health against the spread of transmissible disease," Mr Freeth said.

"Nor can it be said that, by not supplying fluoridated water the Government is injuring the health of the public.

"In the circumstances I feel that I cannot accept the proposal at this stage, although the matter will be kept under consideration."

Instructed

Professor Arndt said Council had recommended unanimously fluoridation of the water supply.

"I have no doubt that had it possessed the powers of a normal local council it would have instructed the city engineer to install a fluoridation plant," he said.

"On January 18 we received a sympathetic letter on the subject from the Minister which concluded:

"'In the meantime I will discuss the matter with the Minister for Health and obtain from him any views his

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING

The Hospital Board is continuing its investigation into a complaint against a doctor who allegedly refused to operate on a five-year-old girl.

Public servant, Mr. E. Quercini complained to hospital medical superintendent, Dr. A. S. Lane, that the doctor refused to operate on his daughter because of an unpaid bill.

The Board continued its inquiries into the case yesterday but made no decision.

Chairman, Mr. A. Harris, said last night the board would hold "further discussions on the complaint at a coming meeting."

It is understood to be planning one or two special meetings at dates to be fixed to complete the inquiry which began on June 25.

Govt. Studying Lease Control

Existing legislation on the use of residential land for business or industrial purposes could not be enforced satisfactorily, the Minister for the Interior, Mr. Freeth, said last night.

He was replying to the Advisory Council which had recommended enforcement of the lease regulations where residential streets were spoilt and noise and smells offended.

Mr. Freeth said the Government was considering amendments for more effective action to enforce the observance of lease conditions in cases mentioned by the Council.

Civil

"Council will recall that by an amendment introduced to the Court of Petty Sessions Ordinance last year, provision was made for civil proceedings to be instituted in a Court of Petty Sessions by persons seeking redress against nuisance created by the actions of other persons," Mr. Freeth said.

Mr. R. P. Greenish said the big question now was not residential areas but enforcing the terms and conditions of warehouse leases at Kingston.

Needed

The land was leased to store goods, pending their use in the retail trade.

Existing legislation on this needed strengthening, Mr. Greenish said.

Chairman, Mr. W. I. Byrne, said he had received many complaints about lease misuses.

Campbell residents were complaining that a person, by using his backyard for storing fruit, was cheapening a high covenant area.

Professor Arndt said he welcomed the promise of more effective action.

TEMPERATURE DOWN TO 18

The temperature dropped to 18 degrees on Sunday night—the fourth successive reading below 20.

The grass reading of 13.1 was the lowest since June, 1960.

Temperatures in the last four nights have been 19, 19.1, 17.9 and 18 respectively.

Maximum yesterday of 53 degrees, was one degree above normal.

SHOP PLAN CHANGE SOUGHT

This was said to be the reason for the presence in Goulburn yesterday of the Public Relations Officer of the N.S.W. Teachers' Federation, Mr. M. Kennett.

Small district schools within a 10 miles radius of Goulburn felt some effects of the Goulburn school closures.

One tiny school at Tarrana, five miles from Goulburn, which normally has 28 pupils, to-day had more than 40.

In Goulburn, president of St. Patrick's Technical School



The gates to Our Lady of Mercy Preparatory School, Goulburn, which might remain locked for the next six weeks. The State aid issue came to a head at this school when school authorities were unable to pay for erection of additional toilets demanded by the Department of Education and Goulburn City Council health officers.

Department may have which will assist me in making a firm decision.'

"It was, therefore, with astonishment that I saw the Minister's letter rejecting the Council's recommendation.

Council postponed discussion on the question until Dr. T. H. Harrison returns from New Zealand later this year.

Dr. Harrison said he would investigate the fluoridation experiment at Hastings, New Zealand, and report on it to Council.

The Advisory Council will ask the Minister for the Interior, Mr. Freeth, to build a permanent shopping centre in Downer.

Council will ask that building permanent shops be a matter of urgency in preference to converting old C.S.I.R.O. store buildings near Downer Primary and Infants Schools.

Mrs. Ann Dalgarno's successful motion said the conversion was "proposed by the National Capital Development Commission and opposed by so many hundreds of local residents."

Dr. T. H. Harrison said the conversion proposal would perpetuate "a major mistake in planning for I do not know how many years.

"I think the proposal ought to be abandoned," he said.

"To convert these buildings into a shopping centre would be a criminal bit of folly."

Mrs. Rose Andrews said the C.S.I.R.O. buildings could be given to Downer school for tuckshops or gymnasiums.

Council will recommend this proposal to Mr. Freeth.

Mr. E. Kean (Department of Interior) said Mr. Freeth's last statement was that no suitable land was available in the area the shops were designed to serve and he was not prepared to change the area.