articles. They quoted too low for their work and many times were close to bankruptcy. As an example - one Friday evening when Charles arrived home from work late as usual, his mother asked him the time. Putting his hand into his pocket he said "Oh, I have not my watch". Further questioning by his mother elicited the information that he had pawned his watch to pay their one and only employee.

Both men were ingenious - nothing stopped them from having a 'go'. A produce merchant asked them to design a hydraulic hay squeezing machine to press the bulk of two bales of hay into the size of one. It was such a success the Agricultural Society exhibited it at the Show.

Another device manufactured by the Hoskins Bros. was a Potato Thrower for which they charged 15pounds. The wharf labourers were on strike and there were 2000 tons of bags of potatoes awaiting loading. The crew of the ship were willing to stack them if they could by-pass the wharf labourers. Hoskins Bros., with the aid of an air pump, designed a device to shoot the potatoes from a platform on the wharf into a spread sail on the ship.

The Hoskins Bros. became known as craftsmen and business men of integrity, their customers increased, and they took on extra employees. They could not afford to waste manpower turning the lathe by hand, so they designed and built their own steam engine. This worked well, and business continued to improve, but both men were always looking for new challenges and new fields of endeavour.

They turned next to pipe making. At the time all pipes were imported into the country. This is the way they became involved in pipe making. In 1888 the Water Board had let a contract to an overseas firm to lay 5 miles of 6ft. imported riveted pipes which were connected with steel collars and sealed with lead joints. The pipeline was to carry the main water supply for the city of Sydney. The contractors failed because they couldn’t get the molten lead to run completely around the joints. Charles Hoskins used to sit on the bank and watch them try and try again without success. As the pipes had a circumference of about 19ft., around which the lead had to run, their difficulty was to prevent the lead setting before it completed the circuit. Charles went to the Water Board and said his firm could undertake the work and guarantee success. They got the contract. Their method consisted of getting thicknesses of rope, soaking them in kerosene, and winding them round the joint, then lighting them and getting the joint as hot as possible. While the heat was still contained in the joint, the molten lead was run around and the joint was sealed successfully.

The success of this job lead to much more work for the Water Board and it became necessary for Hoskins Enterprise Ironworks to expand. Nevertheless their progress had its ups and downs. For instance they undertook an order for a private company to make a long main of steel rivetted pipes for an irrigation scheme at Mulgoa. However, the private company went bankrupt and could not pay for the pipes and the Hoskins Bros. made a loss of $28,000 on this contract alone.

(to be continued)

**BUSTLE FARM COTTAGE — HOUSE — HALL**

The Council recently received a letter referring to a talk given by Frank Osborne, in which he said that C.D. Smith’s home in Wollongong was known as Bustle Farm,
and that Bustle Cottage was built nearby, having been erected by his son C.F. Smith. Our correspondent was perplexed by the fact that in the early records, C.T. Smith’s home was itself referred to as Bustle Cottage. This is true, but what Frank Osborne said is nevertheless quite correct. C.T. Smith actually had three residences in Wollongong, the first two having been destroyed by fire and the third demolished in the early decades of this century, leaving only Bustle Cottage still standing as most of our older members will recall, but this did not alter the fact that although the original name was Bustle Farm, it was often referred to by the public as Bustle Cottage, and later it then became known, although not by the family, as Bustle House or, worst still, Bustle Hall. So far as the family is concerned, they always referred to it simply as Bustle, the name deriving from the fact that there was always a bustle of activity going on there.

The site was, of course, fronting what is now Church Street on the upper southwestern slope of Smith’s Hill. In view of this, it may be timely to recall that a certain bank in Crown Street, Wollongong has a plaque indicating that the bank is built on the site of C.T. Smith’s property. In a sense this is true, but it is nevertheless misleading because the same can be said for every building between Crown Street on the South, the coastline on the east, approximately Stuart Park on the North, and approximately the railway line on the west.

E.B.

**WYE LODGE, WOLLONGONG**

Members will have observed advertised notices of intention to redevelop this important old building in Smith Street. It is understood that the National Trust has classified the front part of the building as worthy of preservation, though the newer rear section is not so distinguished. One can only hope that the front part will be protected, for two reasons: first, that it is one of our few remaining old domestic buildings of true colonial character; and second, that it has already been restored in a manner which makes it of double interest.

The fact is that Wye Lodge, the Georgian simplicity of whose facade may be readily appreciated on inspection, originally had a verandah with (from memory) a curved galvanized iron roof of a design which, while typical of the period of construction, was not as elegant as the simple lines of the substantive building. But in the late 1920s the verandah needed replacement. The house had for long been medical surgeries, and at that time was the surgery of Dr. Robert D. Goldie, a cultured man who was conscious of the aesthetic and historic value of his premises. Therefore he called in an architect to renovate the front section. This was Douglas Wilson, whose father was manager of the old E.S. & A. Bank in Wollongong and who had won a travelling scholarship to the U.S.A. But that did not mean he had rejected the influence of his native country. Indeed, he was a disciple of the colonial revival period of Australian architecture as fostered by the great W. Hardy Wilson (no relation to Douglas) who did so much to preserve our architectural heritage and encourage its re-development. For him we Australians must be grateful evermore.

So Dr. Goldie could not have chosen an architect more suitable than Douglas Wilson. The resulting design is still to be seen today: not in the authentic style of the original building, but treated most appropriately in spirit and feeling. In other words, you can now see two styles there: the basic excellence of the old building, and a later re-shaping of the verandah so sympathetic that many people might not recognise Wye Lodge as being representative of two styles: the original colonial, and the excellent colonial revival. And that, surely, is a very good reason for preservation, for at that period - and others, as we now realise to our sorrow - the rule was not preservation, but destruction.

E.B.