At the last meeting of the Coal Seam Discovery Commemoration Committee at Bulli Council Chambers arrangements were finalised for the dedication ceremony to be held on the site of the proposed memorial at Coalcliff. Hon. T. D. Mutch has accepted our invitation to give the oration for the occasion, and the Minister for Education (Mr. Heffron) has been invited to turn the first sod. Other parliamentary representatives are expected to be present. The ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, 2nd August. A bus to convey members of this Society to the ceremony will leave Wollongong Town Hall at 2 p.m. on that date.

One of the most interesting parts of the ceremony will be the handing over of the deeds of the land by the directorate of the Coal Cliff Collieries Ltd. to Councillor L. B. Kelly, M.L.A., President of the Bulli Shire. The action of the Coal Cliff Collieries Ltd. in donating this land (an area of about 1 acre) is deeply appreciated by all concerned with the erection of the proposed memorial.

At the above meeting we had two representatives of the Royal Australian Historical Society present in the persons of the Hon. T. D. Mutch and Mr. K. R. Cramp, O.B.E., M.A., Past President and Original Fellow of the R.A. Historical Society. These gentlemen were present to put before our committee certain views in regard to the discovery of the coal seam in this district. The ensuing discussion was very informative. Still in the air is the exact wording of the inscription to be placed on the memorial. However, this should be resolved in good time, and there now seems little doubt that the memorial will be erected before the end of this year.

We have received some designs and suggestions for the construction of the memorial, and we would like to have the benefit of further ideas. None of the suggestions have been considered yet by the Committee, as time has not permitted. However, every proposal submitted by members of this Society will receive due consideration. We will not be able to determine the design until it is known what funds are to be received for the purpose.

The Society recently received enquiries as to the origin of the following: Stuart Park, Robertson's Lookout, and the old rolling stock at Windang. The latter query has us rather puzzled. If any member can supply authentic information regarding the old
Soon, further discoveries were made on the Turon River, at the present site of the town of Sofala, along the Macquarie and Hunter Rivers, and in the Shoalhaven district. In September of the same year as the result of a reward offered by a Committee finds were made at Araluen and Braidwood.

Six weeks after Hargreaves' discovery the gold fever reached Victoria. The first discovery was made at Clunes, by James Esmond, which was quickly followed by finds at Deep Creek, Buninyong, Ballarat and Mt. Alexander. In Ballarat and other places the gold was only to be won with difficulty, and many were forced to give up the quest, but at Mt. Alexander the metal could almost be picked up from the ground. A pound weight of gold a day was a small return for a party; many obtained five or six, and in some cases fifty pounds weight. In a few days 20,000 people thronged the place. Melbourne and other towns of Victoria were practically denuded of their men. Ships at the wharves were deserted by their crews, the public services were threatened with complete suspension, and even Governor Latrobe was forced to groom his own horse. In private employment wages went up from 5/- a day for labourers to 15/- and 20/- a day; artisans received increases of 80 to 120%, and food prices rose from 50 to 100%. Clothes, hardware, and furniture increased 100%.

During all this turmoil the criminal element was very active. It was not uncommon to find bodies floating in the Yarra, and all that could be said was “that the deceased had met his death at the hands of some person unknown.” A commander of a ship in Hobson's Bay, writing on 7th April, 1852, says, “Scarcey a day passes in which some person or other is not knocked on the head, assaulted or robbed, and it is by no means safe to be out of doors after dark,” and then relates how a band of armed thieves had boarded the ship “Nelson” and stolen £25,000 worth of gold.

A surgeon, writing from Fryar's Creek on 14th February, 1852, tells of the utterly lawless condition of life around him. He and his mate had always to keep watch in turns at night, and they lived in a state of siege. Even his medicine chest, which weighed about two hundredweight, had to be secured by tying a fierce dog to each of its handles. There were, of course, the bushrangers who collected “toll” on the road, also to be contended with.

The discoveries created great interest in England, and every vessel for Australia was packed with migrants. Fares ranged from £15 to £18 for steerage and £40 to £70 for first class passengers respectively. Mrs. Caroline Chisholm did much valuable work in aiding destitute migrants who found their new home not all they had expected. She also became very interested in social conditions in the gold fields and her agitation succeeded in interesting the Victorian Government in making travel to the fields more bearable by building a series of huts along the road.

With so many people desiring passage to Australia, many guide books were published in England for the assistance of the would-be emigrant, and one of them, “Mackenzie's Guide to Australia,” has the following interesting paragraph on the notorious "License" System—"Every person on the gold fields, whether digging or not (women and children excepted) must take out a license of 30/- a month, which should be procured in the first week of the month, and parties should arrange to arrive about that time, as afterwards, if unlicensed, they are liable to a penalty of £5. The license is paid willingly by every honest digger; but it is notorious, notwithstanding the vigilance of the police, prompted by a share of the fine, that a large proportion do not pay."
railway gear at Windang Island and vicinity we shall be obliged. Why was it put there? By what concern? When?

- Stuart Park, of course, derives its name from Sir Alexander Stuart (1825-1886) who was Prime Minister and Colonial Secretary of New South Wales from 5/1/1883 to 6/10/1885 in which latter year the Park was proclaimed. Robertson's Lookout is named, we think, in honour of another famous Prime Minister of this (then) Colony—Sir John Robertson (1816-1891). Yes, they were really called Prime Ministers until 1901!

- Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Lyons, of Port Kembla, have come forward with a splendid offer to take photographs for our Society of old identities and historic buildings as well as views of general interest in this district, and to donate these slides to the Society!

- Mr. Tom Mutch has come across some new material in connection with Bass and Flinders' landing in this district. It may well be found as a result that the first (and involuntary) landing was further north than we have been accustomed to think. Towradgi Beach is a possibility. It has been recently ascertained that the landing took place at a creek which had a small reef of rocks to the north.

- Mr. R. A. Broinowski, who delighted his audience at our last general meeting with his whimsical observations, promises to come down to talk to us again—some time in the coming year.

- With the warmer weather approaching there are schemes afoot for 'bus excursions. One bright idea is to accept the proffered invitation of the Lithgow Historical Society and spend a week-end on the mountains.

- The Society's lantern slide projector will 'definitely be in use at the next meeting.

- Our popular treasurer, Mr. C. Law, has just received advice of his promotion and transfer to Toowoomba, Qld., and will be leaving us early in August. Mr. Law is the Society's original Treasurer and (we think) holds an unique record in that he has attended every official function since its inauguration. We feel sure that all of our members who have received his genial and ever-ready assistance over the past three years will wish him, Mrs. Law and family, health and happiness in their new home.

J.S.G.W.