Although we will not take it upon us to decide this point, we, however, recommend that the Resident Magistrate shall be authorised to take it on behalf of the Crown and it can be protected in the same way as other Crown property.

Signed John Kinchela,
Attorney-General.

John Plunkett,
Solicitor-General.

* This view was adopted by the House of Lords in R.V. MONDAY (1841) 3 A.C., followed in TINRIB, RUMBLE & ORS. V. THE KING AND QUEEN, the leading authority on the legal status of whales in the penultimate stage of decomposition. (See Herbert, Misleading Cases in the Common Law, at p. 24) — Ed.

No Law Against Temperance: Sir. — In reply to your letter of Yesterday’s date stating that you have been requested by the members of The Total Abstinence Society of the District of Wollongong to request my opinion whether “Their Marching in Procession from their Hall to the National School House for the purpose of holding a Tea Party without Banners or Flags is contrary to law.”

I beg to inform you that I am of opinion such a Procession will not be contrary to Law. I have, etc., J. PLUNKETT, A.G. (Letter from the Attorney-General to the Resident Magistrate, Wollongong, 15th June, 1847.)

Prejudiced Testimony: In January, 1874, one Michael O’Hara, of Mt. Keira, was tried before His Honour Judge McFarland for maiming cattle, and on conviction was sentenced to two years’ imprisonment. The citizens of Wollongong sent a petition to the Governor, Sir Hercules Robinson, asking him to set aside the conviction. They relied, inter alia, on the following grounds:

1) That the offence was committed six years prior to the conviction.

2) That the prisoner was convicted on the testimony of his mother-in-law, who knew of the offence when it was committed but decided to reveal it only after O’Hara himself had married and left her house, thus making it rather difficult for her to pay the rent.

3) The mother-in-law herself was convicted at Wollongong Quarter Sessions and sentenced to one year’s imprisonment for trying to pass a bad sovereign at a store. She admitted at the hearing that she had accepted this base coin from a strange man in the street after dark, evidently not desiring to be considered a woman of good repute and character.

C Series Index, 1837: (Return for 6 months ending 30th June, 1837, of average wages and costs in District of Illawarra, submitted by Magistrate to Colonial Secretary).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bricklayer</td>
<td>7/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stonemason</td>
<td>6/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenter</td>
<td>6/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plasterer</td>
<td>7/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ploughman</td>
<td>2/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fencer</td>
<td>3/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd</td>
<td>(No free shepherds in district).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Labourer</td>
<td>2/2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Roughly 2/- per diem was deducted if board and lodging provided. A carpenter received £50 per annum with board and lodging.

Average prices in the District included the following:

- Bread, 2lb. loaf: 6d.
- Butter, 1lb.: 1/8.
- Beef, 1lb: 5d.
- Ducks, per couple: 4/3.
- Eggs, per dozen, 1/-.
- Fowls, per couple: 2/9.

W. G. McDONALD,
President,
Yates Avenue,
Mt. Keira.
2-6161.