An attempt will be made to secure some copies for issue at future meetings.

THE END OF AN ERA — THE CLOSING OF THE "SAVOY" THEATRE —

MONDAY, 14th SEPTEMBER:

The "Savoy", on the Corner of Church Street and Globe Lane, following the evening screening closed its doors as a theatre after a life of 28 years, the building being purchased by Messrs. David Jones Ltd. from Wollongong Theatres Pty. Ltd.

The writer as a young man attended the opening night on Thursday, 3rd December, 1936, when circumstances in the movie trade were far different to these days of clubs and TV.

Described as one of the most modern theatres in the country, it was opened by the then Mayor of Wollongong, Ald. W. H. Hurt, the proceeds of the night being donated to the Hospital and Ambulance.

The programme consisted of "Poor Little Rich Girl", starring Shirley Temple, then one of the "Queens" of the screen, supported by the daring "Audioscopiks", in which the audience went back in their seats as objects from the screen seemed to jump out.

The seating capacity of 1,100 was fully occupied with prices ranging from 1/- ("peanut alley") to the sublime heights of the lounge at 2/6 (the adult basic wage at the time being £3/9/- per week for 44 hours' work).

The "South Coast Times" in reporting the opening said, "The Lady Attendants looked chick(?) in costumes selected by the Company and their courtesy and attention were pronounced. This also applied to the Gent Ushers". For some years until affected by the war the dressing of the usherettes was a feature.

In contrast, at the closing the programme was of a very minor standard and there would not be fifty people in the house.—A.P.F.

"DEATH OF THE GREAT SWEEP-PROMOTER — Mr. GEORGE ADAMS (from Albion Park and Shellharbour Chronicle and Advertiser — September, 1904):

Mr. George Adams (Tattersall) died on Friday last at Hobart, Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Government has authorised the trustees of the estate to carry on the sweep business, without any intermission, under the same management as during several years past. Mr. George Adams, the proprietor of Tattersall's, who was 65 years of age, was one of the best known men in the Commonwealth, as periodically the great speculative consultation that he controlled was hopefully looked to by thousands and thousands of people of both sexes in every portion of this vast continent and New Zealand as the prospective means of securing for them wealth and luxury. But the rich prizes sought by the many could only be gained by the few.

It is not perhaps generally known that the late Mr. William Forrester had the opportunity, but did not avail himself of it, of being a partner of Mr. George Adams in these money-making concerns known as "Tattersall's sweeps." When the idea of promoting sweeps first engaged Mr. Adams's attention, which was some little time after he acquired Tattersall's Hotel from Mr. W. J. O'Brien, he consulted his bosom friend, Mr. Forrester, and thought he saw great possibilities in the scheme. His only doubt was that he being comparatively unknown the sweeps might not catch on at once, and he suggested running them in the name of Mr. W. Forrester, who was then, as he continued to be, one of the most popular of Australian sportsmen. One of the terms of the proposal was that in return for the use of Mr. Forrester's name Mr. Adams would finance the sweeps and equally divide the profits. But for some reason or other, and which he had reason to regret ever after, Mr. Forrester declined the invitation, though he gave the scheme his most generous assistance. It was in 1880 that Mr. Adams conceived the idea of sweeps, and he gave practical effect to it in the following year. When Mr. Adams settled in Sydney he was not by any means a racing man, but the love of the sport grew on him, and in later years he owned, bred, and raced a few horses, which Mr. Forrester trained. On one occasion, as some of today's layers of odds will doubtless remember, he tried to pick the Hawkesbury Handicap
and Sydney Cup double to win £1,000. But as he received fresh advice almost every day, and invariably acted upon it, Mr. Adams all but "got round," and in a backing book invested so liberally that though he succeeded in picking the double, won but very little.

Mr. Adams was a native of Hertfordshire, and in 1855, at the age of 16, he emigrated to Australia, and his early life in Sydney was marked by the characteristic vicissitudes of the early pioneers. In turn, he was butcher, baker, saddler, confectioner, and hotel-keeper, and many times he knew what it was to be "stone broke."

Mr. Adams spent over £100,000 in Hobart in effecting building improvements, and also built the Palace electric lighting station and bought the Bulli coke works, then the Bulli colliery, and the steamship "Governor Blackall." Then he acquired the Broken Hill electric light station, which he recently sold. Of late years his interests have been vastly extended in Tasmania, his latest undertaking being the erection of the Adams' Tasmanian Brewery, which, when completed, will be one of the best equipped breweries in the southern hemisphere.

Mr. Adams attributed all his success to hard work. He was known for his benevolent disposition, and he gave much in charity. Men, rather than books, were Mr. Adams's instructors, and he learned much from them. "Perhaps," he once said, "if I had come unto the world better equipped, I would have done nothing."

(George Adams, prior to removing to Sydney, was in business in Kiama as a butcher and inn-keeper, holding the license of the old "Steampacket Inn".

The main dining room of Tattersall's Hotel in Sydney is still named the "Sandon" Room, after the Adams's estate at Bulli near the old jetty.)

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