

## MELBOURNE.

Monday, 18th June.

The will of the late Joseph Barker, grazier, of Kyneton, has been lodged for probate. Deceased leaves £9105 in real estate and £1709/7/ personalty, the bulk of which is divided between his children Mary Siddall and Joseph Barker, the latter also receiving all deceased's shares in the Squatting and Investment Co. of Queensland. An annuity of £1 per week is to be paid out of the estate to his daughter Catherine Hill, and the sum of £500 is to go to his son-in-law John Reed, exclusive of certain of his real estate.

At the Morgue to-day Mr. Candler, the city coroner, inquired into the pathetic circumstances surrounding the death of John Flood. It was elicited that Flood was a carriage cleaner in the Victorian railways, but that the sudden death of his wife in child birth had engendered a deep despondency in him. Deceased left home on the 5th of June, and had about £3 in his possession. John Brewett, a seaman, found his body floating in the Victoria Dock on Saturday, and Dr. Brett deposed that it had been in the water for about 10 days. In a letter found in a pocketbook on the body, deceased wrote:—"I am sitting under Queen's Bridge writing this. I am queer in my head, but not insane. I am about to take my life by drowning myself. I cannot live any longer as I have too much to live for. God knows what will become of my children. I cannot face it." The deceased left four children. The coroner said that deceased's mind appeared to have been weakened in consequence of the death of his wife, and the jury returned a verdict of suicide during a fit of temporary insanity.

As is the usual custom, Mr. Holden, the new member for Warrenheip, who is the latest addition to the Legislative Assembly, will move the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's speech in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, the 27th inst. Mr. Harwood will undertake a similar task in the Council.

There was a surplus of £1727/10/9 paid into the Treasury by the Railway department last week as compared with the corresponding week of last year. The department has paid in £2,375,656/12/4 since the beginning of the financial year (1st July), which is an increase of £122,821/8/4 over the same period for last year. These figures have been received with great satisfaction.

A deputation from the municipalities of the northern suburbs waited upon Mr. Metcalf, the Minister of Defence, to-day, and asked for assistance in finding and preparing a suitable rifle range for the use of the clubs which have been formed in those districts. It was pointed out that considerable difficulty was experienced in getting one, as land was so valuable and the distance to the Williamstown butts was too far to suit the convenience of members. The Minister, in reply, told the deputation that he would consider the matter as a special case, but in regard to cases such as clubs in country districts, where land could be more easily found, the Government did not expect to be asked for assistance by the local authorities.

ASSISTANCE BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

The Glenelg inquiry still continues to drag along in a most wearisome fashion. Witnesses are examined, cross-examined and re-examined at unreasonable length, and there is no indication of the end approaching up to the present. The court sat nearly the whole of today, but there was no evidence which in any way helped to clear up the cause of the disaster.

A young man named Stephen Ryan was charged at Carlton to-day with assaulting his sister, a married woman named Mary Rouse. The evidence went to show that Mrs. Rouse visited a house in Pelham Place, where accused and his sister were. She had occasion to remonstrate with the latter about taking too much liquor, when accused interfered and told her to mind her own business and then struck her between the two eyes, falling her to the floor and then kicking her whilst on the ground. He was subsequently given into custody. The only excuse Ryan had to offer was that he was very drunk at the time and did not know what he was doing. A fine of £5 was imposed, in default six weeks' imprisonment.

The judges of the Supreme Court sat in conference to-day to discuss a scheme of new rules of practice to be introduced in the court, with a view of simplifying and cheapening the cost of litigation.

A caucus meeting of the Opposition has been called for Tuesday next, at two o'clock, at Parliament House, when the question of the advisability of attacking the Government on the Address-in-Reply, will be considered. It is stated in some quarters that the Opposition will not take a hand until the budget is under consideration, as it expects that some of the nominal supporters of the Government intend condemning it upon certain acts of administration, and that the discussion of these will materially weaken the Ministry, and a direct motion upon the budget would be more opportune.

To-night it was reported that an old man named John Barden had committed suicide in a most determined manner at North Melbourne. The deceased, who carried on business as a dealer in Raglan-street, had not been seen for a couple of days, and the house agent, Mr. Ed Walsh, burst the door open and found his hanging by the neck to a beam. He had put a step-ladder against one of the walls, and had piled some boxes against the other, and from the top of the ladder to the boxes he placed a beam. He then stood on another box, fastened one end of a rope to the beam, and placed the other end in the form of a running noose around his neck. He then fastened his hands behind him, and kicked the box on which he was standing aside. The body was removed to the morgue.

To-night Detectives MacManamy, Carey and Considine arrested a young man named Alfred Lawson, 23 years of age, on a charge of stealing jewellery to the value of £160 from Victor Pritz, of Riversdale road, Hawthorn, on the 18th ult. On that night Pritz was in Flinders-lane east, and was subsequently driven home by a cabman. It was then discovered that he had been robbed of his jewellery. When arrested to-night, Lawson, who is a dealer by occupation, had a gold keyless watch, a double gold Albert, and a diamond ring, part of the stolen property, in his possession. He told the detectives that he had seen a man planting the jewellery at the rear of Alecock's billiard table manufactory in Russell-street.