

## FRUIT HARVEST HAS COMMENCED

### Further 120 Hands Allotted this Week

The harvesting of the vine fruits has commenced this week, a start being made with currants in the earlier areas. It is expected that next week will see currant picking fairly general.

Mr. W. C. Germein (District Manpower Officer) reports that a further 120 workers have been allotted to the various districts. These comprise mainly farm hands, who have volunteered from a wide field, including Murray Bridge, Peterborough, Minlaton, and Port Pirie.

Making a general survey, Mr. Germein said that it seemed that the labour position was fairly well in hand. It was however, only early in the season. What the weather would be could not be foretold, and the true extent of the crop could not be gauged until picking was actually in progress. In this he referred more particularly to sultanas.

Mr. Germein stated that in addition to the bigger sources of labour—Military personnel, aliens, Women's Land Army and farm hands—the problem was being considerably eased by people being brought in privately through the personal efforts of growers themselves.

He reiterated the fact that accommodation must be provided for all harvest hands.

Mr. Germein had nothing further to report concerning the Army personnel being brought to No. 9 Camp to work on the harvest, but it is understood that growers are hopeful that the full number of 700 hands as originally quoted, will be secured from this source. The first soldiers will arrive by train next Tuesday February 15, and the remainder on February 21.

Of the 300 applications lodged for seasonal leave for soldiers whose homes are in the River districts, the number granted has been relatively small.

Quite a "fair sprinkling" of men are reported to have been released from the Forces to return to primary production in the districts, in cases of hardship.

## Currants Started at Kingston

Currant picking commenced at Kingston last Thursday. There are 36 hands engaged at present, and a further 12 are expected through the National Service Office. Harvesting will not be general until next Monday.

Fifty-six points of rain were registered over the week-end but no serious damage is apparent.

## Growers' Meeting Called at Renmark

The Renmark Local War Agricultural Committee has called a meeting of growers for next Monday evening in the Roxy Theatre. At this meeting it is proposed to place before growers the many difficulties being met in connection with harvest labour, and to ask their co-operation in meeting these various problems.

Seventy-odd workers to be housed at the Showground will be available for distribution as from next Monday, February 14.

Mr. W. H. Eaton has been appointed to the Renmark Harvest Labour Office to assist Mr. W. T. Marcus for the harvest period.

## Board for Soldiers

Growers employing Army personnel housed at No. 9 Camp, will be required to lodge eight weeks' board with their local Labour Exchange. This was decided upon at last week's meeting at Barmera. At the end of the period an adjustment will be made for any time that the soldier was employed by another grower.

## Currants Should be Picked Without Delay

By "NEMO"

Growers who have not yet had a look at their currants will get rather a shock when they do. Although less than 10 points of rain fell, the fruit was wet for about 24 hours and the berries cracked around the stem, and are wilting badly. They have the appearance of having been on the rack for a week.

There is likely to be a considerable amount of falling, and in the circumstances the fruit should be picked without delay. The urgent need is for labour now, and the earlier it is available the more fruit can be saved.

## QUOTAS INCREASED FOR FIRST VICTORY LOAN

### £130,500 Sought from River Districts

Quotas for the First Victory Loan, opening next month have been announced during the past week. With the exception of two smaller districts, which remain stationary, all River centres have had their allotted sums increased considerably. In several instances the new quotas are not in excess of the amount subscribed in the Fourth Liberty Loan. The total amount sought from the River districts for the new loan is £130,500, from 1,660 subscribers. In the previous loan the sum subscribed for these areas was approximately £110,000 from 1,630 subscribers. Comparative figures for the two loans are:—

|                         | 4th Liberty           |       | Subscribed         |       | First Vic. |       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|------------|-------|
|                         | Quota Amt.            | Subs. | Amt.               | Subs. | Amt.       | Subs. |
| Renmark                 | £30,000               | 500   | £35,560            | 420   | £34,000    | 400   |
| Berri                   | 22,000                | 250   | 25,130             | 418   | 24,000     | 310   |
| Barmera                 | 12,000                | 160   | 13,570             | 200   | 18,000     | 200   |
| Waikerie                | 15,000                | 200   | 18,150             | 278   | 18,000     | 220   |
| Keyneton and Swan Reach | Figures not available |       |                    |       | 6,500      | 80    |
| Loxton                  | 10,000                | 140   | 12,310             | 237   | 12,000     | 130   |
| Blanchetown             | 2,000                 | 20    | Fig. not available |       | 2,000      | 30    |
| Kingston                | 2,500                 | 35    | 2,750              | 44    | 3,000      | 30    |
| Morgan                  | 5,000                 | 70    | 1,930              | 24    | 5,000      | 70    |
| Karoonda                | 7,500                 | 180   | Fig. not available |       | 8,000      | 190   |

This loan of £150 million is a record for the Commonwealth. It will open on March 28 and close on May 9, but advance subscriptions may be made immediately through any bank, savings bank or stockbroker.

## Renmark Ambulance Called to Peebinga

### Three Men Injured When Car Overtakes

The Renmark Ambulance did a trip of 130 miles last night when it received a call to Peebinga, where three Loxton men had been injured in a motor accident.

The victims were: Messrs. Ernest S. Graham (manager of Media Estate) driver of the car, Lionel Oswald Quast and Paul Quast, both of Lock 4.

The accident is believed to have been caused through a rear tyre blowing out.

Messrs. R. B. Hameister and G. W. Morrell left Renmark at about 11.30 p.m., and in company with Dr. F. Urbin, of Loxton, conveyed the injured men to the Loxton Hospital where they are at present under observation.

MC Wilson of Pinnaroo, and PC J. Harris, of Loxton, are making investigations.

## MANY ADDITIONAL RACKS ERECTED

### Preparations to Dry Increased Tonnages

It is estimated in well-informed circles that approximately 100 new drying racks are being erected in Renmark this year. In a number of cases delay is reported as a result of netting and iron supplies not coming to hand. This extension in rack space is said to be in preparation for the drying of increased tonnages, particularly of gordos and malagas.

Mr. H. D. Howie OBE (chairman of the ADFA Board of Management) stated this week that the association was endeavouring to have produced the biggest possible tonnage of dried fruits this year. It was unlikely, apart from very exceptional circumstances, that there would be any relaxation of the Order in Council restricting the intake of certain varieties of grapes by distilleries.

## Accommodating Pickers At Cadell

Cadell, February 7. A few showers on Saturday relieved the heat of the previous week, making working conditions more favourable for pickers, who have made a start on the currants. Several old buildings have been recommissioned to accommodate pickers. The packing house previously known as "Toorak Packing House" and "Price's Shop" have been purchased by the packing company. Improvements have been added to make these places suitable for camping.

## Tobacco for Pickers

Mr. Germein investigated the position in regard to tobacco for harvest hands, when in Adelaide last week. The five per cent which has been deducted from the allocation to River retailers over past months will be made available, half during February and half in March.

It is pointed out that this five per cent deduction has not meant a restriction on the supplies of the civilian population, as in the years on which the figures are based, harvest workers were supplied with tobacco through local retailers.

## Housing Trust's Survey Officer in River District this Week

Mr. A. Symons (general manager of the SA Housing Trust's Building Survey) is visiting the River districts this week. He arrived at Renmark on Tuesday and in company with the town clerk (Mr. E. E. Jarrett) made an inspection of the town on Tuesday and Wednesday. In an interview with a "Pioneer" representative, Mr. Symons said that he had come up River to make certain inquiries and to have informal chats with councils to see what might be required in the matter of housing. The Trust, he said, was making a survey of housing in the larger towns of the State, for the purpose of ascertaining the extent, situation and urgency of the housing needs of the various districts. This would enable some estimate to be made to the appropriate Commonwealth and State authorities as to the extent of the demands which would be made for men and material for post-war housing.

Councils had received a questionnaire which set out items upon which it was necessary to

## Shops Open Friday Till 8 O'Clock

From tomorrow until March 24 (inclusive) shops in the River irrigation areas will remain open until 8 p.m. on Friday. Trading hours during the week will be amended slightly to bring the hours worked by employees to the requisite 44.

Eventually when a place safe from enemy patrolling had been reached, it was decided, because of lack of food, to leave the stretcher cases in a native garden, and Burns volunteered to remain with one stretcher bearer, and care for the wounded. It was ten days before native bearers reached this place and carried the wounded to safety. During this period of waiting Cpl. Burns did much to relieve the suffering of the wounded. He did his utmost to shelter them from the heat and flies by day and wet and cold by night, and in spite of his own weakness made desperate attempts to forage and cook food from native gardens.

"Two wounded men died and using his bayonet and steel helmet he scraped graves for them. The party was threatened by the proximity of enemy patrols, but Cpl. Burns always presented a cheerful appearance and buoyed up the spirits of the wounded by giving talks on the Bible and other topics. By his action he relieved the pain of those who had been mortally wounded, and saved the lives of the others."

"At Gona Cpl. Burns showed exceptional courage by carrying his portable radio into action, and maintaining communication under heavy fire until he was wounded."

Cpl. Burns' own more modest version of these exploits were published in the form of a letter in "The Pioneer" some time ago, and tribute to his devoted and gallant deeds was paid by one of the wounded soldiers, Pte. Norman Hoffmann, when home in Renmark on leave.

John Burns was born at Renmark 31 years ago, when his parents were living at Chaffey during the "construction days." A younger brother, George Kevin is serving in the same battalion as Cpl. Burns. Capt Burns commands the Waikerie Unit of the VDC, and is also president of the RSL Sub-branch.

## FATHER AND SON WIN MILITARY MEDAL

### Citation of Award to Cpl. J. Burns, Waikerie

In the winning of the Military Medal by Cpl. John H. Burns, of Waikerie, history has repeated itself, as his father, Capt. George Burns, of Waikerie, won a similar decoration, serving with the same battalion in the last war.



Cpl. J. H. Burns

The official citation of the award to Cpl. Burns states: "Cpl. John Henry Burns by his conduct in the Owen Stanley Ranges and at Gona has earned the admiration of and set an example for all members of the unit. Both during the hardships of action and monotony of training he has displayed the highest qualities of courage, unselfishness and devotion to duty."

"Between September 9 and 23, 1942, Cpl. Burns was one of a party who were cut off by the enemy and compelled to proceed from Elogi to Itiki along a difficult and dangerous track, carrying on stretchers several wounded personnel. During the first ten days of this hazardous journey Cpl. Burns worked untiringly in assisting to carry the stretchers across almost impassable ravines, and encouraged many of his weakening comrades to maintain their efforts to carry the wounded to safety. Each man commenced this task with one day's ration only, and it soon became necessary to forage for jungle food. Here again Cpl. Burns made devoted efforts to comfort the wounded men, ad-

## Fruit and Eggs Needed For Hospital

The Renmark District Hospital has asked "The Pioneer" to make an appeal to the public for gifts of fruit and eggs. These are two important commodities to hospitals. Fruit is particularly sought after at this period of the year for jam making and preserving.

Although the request has come from only one institution, no doubt other River districts hospitals would be glad to accept such gifts.

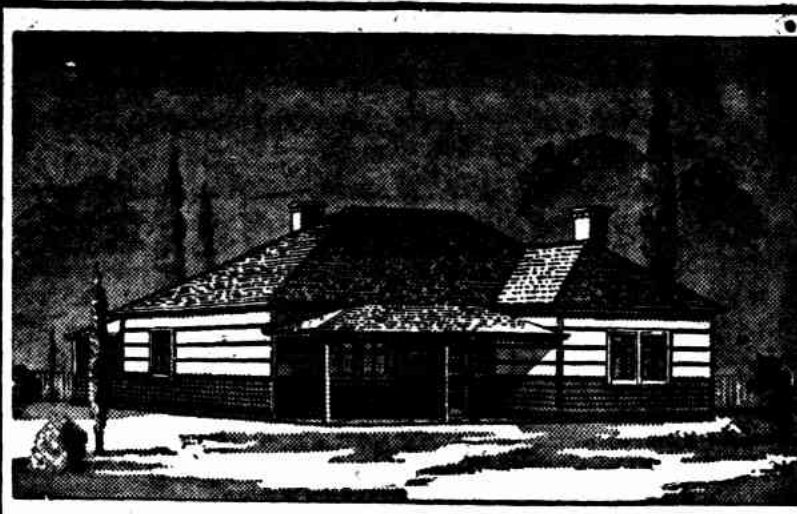
justing the dressings on their wounds regularly, and providing them with food and water, when others had given in with exhaustion.

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## High School's Resume

### Increased Enrolment At Glossop

High Schools throughout South Australia resumed after the summer vacation on Tuesday. The new head master (Mr. E. K. Johnson) advises that the enrolment at Renmark is 160, which is the same as at the commencement of 1943. At Glossop Mr. W. M. C. Symonds (head master) has enrolled 200 students and expects some additions. The Glossop High School began last year with 188 pupils.

Mr. Johnson said that there appeared to have been some leakage from the total number of QC's gained in the Renmark district last year. Miss Joan Tucker, from the Croydton Technical School had joined the staff as domestic arts teacher, and Miss Phillipa Malcolm, of Renmark had been appointed junior teacher. Mr. Johnson said the staff was busy reorganizing timetables and book supplies, and they hoped to be settled down in a few days.

## Intermediate Exhibition to Glossop Student

John M. Collins, son of Mr. C. V. Collins (head teacher of Berri Primary school), and Mrs. Collins, has been awarded an Intermediate exhibition. John, who is a student at the Glossop High School, passed in Eg, L.A.M1, M2 (credit), Pe (credit) and C.

David Sutton, who topped the State to win a Leaving Exhibition is continuing his studies at the Adelaide High.

## Berri Police Court

In the Berri Police Court before Messrs. O. E. B. Kunoth and H. M. Harrison JP's, Joseph Zvonar was fined 15/-, costs 7/6 for drunkenness. Joseph Zvonar was fined £2/10/-, costs 7/6, for unlawful possession, in default 7 days imprisonment.

Before Messrs. M. A. Guy and H. M. Harrison JP's, R. F. Edwardsen was fined 10/-, costs remitted, for drunkenness. Edwardsen was further fined £1, costs 10/-, for offensive behaviour in the Berri police station.

Before Messrs. A. Hunt and N. S. Fotheringham, JP's, Alexander Oswald Muller was fined £5, costs 10/-, for failing to keep to the left.

Before Messrs. O. E. B. Kunoth and A. Hunt JP's, Vance Sabol was fined £2/10/-, costs 10/-, for failing to keep to the left with a buckboard. John Leonard Colbert was fined £2/10/-, costs 10/-, for overloading a passenger bus. Edna Eva May Harvey was fined 12/6, costs 7/6, for drunkenness. George Skenderi was fined £1, costs 7/6, for drunkenness. Salvatore Russo was fined 15/-, costs 7/6, for drunkenness, in default 72 hours imprisonment, 7 days to pay.

Frederick Edward Wall was fined 10/-, costs 7/6, for drunkenness. William Christie was fined £1, costs 7/6, for drunkenness. Christie on a further charge of being an idle and disorderly person was fined £5, costs 7/6, in default 14 days imprisonment, 4 weeks to pay.

Before Mr. M. A. Guy JP (by consent) Thomas James Ahearn was fined 10/-, costs 9/-, for drunkenness. Before Messrs. H. M. Harrison and L. S. Trenaman, JP's,

## MAN FOUND DEAD

### NEAR WAIKERIE

### Sudden Passing of Lowbank Farmer

Waikerie, February 8. On Saturday evening the body of Mr. Frederick Richard Ellery an elderly farmer of Lowbank, was found in a bedroom on his property. The body was found by Rex Irrgang.

Mr. J. G. Irrgang, who was a neighbour of Mr. Ellery, was in the habit of seeing him fairly often and of conveying supplies from Waikerie for him. Not having seen him since Thursday morning, and knowing that he was in poor health, Mr. Irrgang sent his son Rex to make inquiries. The body was found lying on the bed, unclothed.

Rex immediately reported to his parents and the police at Waikerie were informed. PC Schmere proceeded to the farm and arranged for the burial which, owing to weather conditions, had to take place on the spot.

Mr. Ellery, who was 68 years of age, had been treated by Dr. G. C. H. Nicol several times during the past two years, and had been advised against living by himself as his heart was in a poor condition.

An inquest was not deemed necessary.

## HORSES SENT SOUTH FROM MALLEE DISTRICTS

Mr. E. F. Pfau (manager for Goldsbrough Mort & Co. at Loxton) considers that between two and three hundred horses have been sent south to good pasture lands from the Loxton area. The horses, said Mr. Pfau, were in good condition when they left the district. He reports a very busy time during the past month or so. Farmers through the Murray Lands advise that a large number of horses have left their districts for various localities where there is feed.

## Frederick Edward Wall, was awarded 7 days imprisonment.

Wall was further sentenced to 21 days in the Renmark Police Prison for being an idle and disorderly person. Nicholas Johnson was sentenced to 4 weeks imprisonment in Renmark Police Prison for being a half-caste Aboriginal native of Australia was found to have been drinking liquor. Malcolm Pentland Slater pleaded not guilty, but was found guilty, by the court and sentenced to 14 days imprisonment in the Renmark Police Prison for being an idle and disorderly person.

## Conveyance of Ren. South Children to Town

### Tenders Being Called

Tenders are being called for the conveyance of Renmark South School children to the Renmark Town school.

Tenders will close on March 11, and it is understood that if a satisfactory tender is received the consolidating of the two schools will be proceeded with at an early date.