

THE TASMANIAN

Electrical & Radio Trader

Registered in Australia for transmission by post as a periodical.

APRIL —

Is National Washing Machine Month

£50,000 IS TO BE SPENT DURING APRIL IN A DRIVE
TO ACCELERATE

WASHING MACHINE SALES

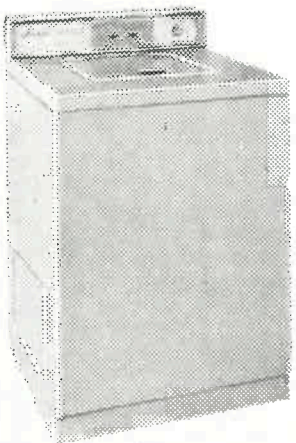
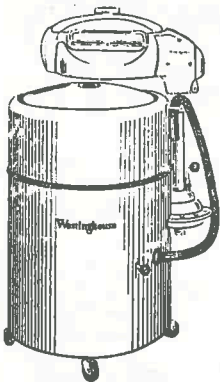
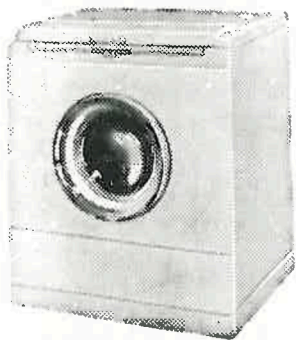
DOUBLE YOUR TURNOVER BY TYING IN WITH THIS
HUGE, PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN



Planned by the Home Laundry Manufacturers' Association of Australia



**EVERY WOMAN DESERVES A
WASHING MACHINE**



LOOKING BACK OVER FIFTY YEARS

Mr. Harry Medhurst, of Medhurst and Sons Pty. Ltd., recently retired. In the following interview he looks back over half a century of association with the electrical industry in Tasmania.

Mr. Medhurst was born in October, 1892, one of several boys whose names have been synonymous with electrical power in this State.

Harry Medhurst started work in 1906 at the age of 13 years, but at the turn of the century when about seven years old, he was carrying water to charge 50 Daniel Batteries at Blinking Billy Point, to operate wireless which communicated with the Ophir and conveying battleships which in 1901 brought the Duke of York, the late King Edward to Australia to open Canberra. These three ships were the only ones fitted with radio, secret to the British Navy. "Our message of welcome to Tasmania was received and we recorded the reply" Mr. Medhurst said.

Continuing his reminiscences, he said: "During our later school years my father purchased a wonderful set of tools and machines, lathes, milling machine, shaping machine drills, etc. I started work making thousands of parts for the new telephone exchange, which was being installed in the present Post Office, Hobart. Later I made hundreds of induction coils for the Post Office which were to enable telephone and telegraph to be used on the same wire. My father fitted them in Tasmania and Queensland.

The electric supply in Hobart was 110 volts from the Gas Company and extending in the city blocks only, bounded by Park, Melville, Harrington Sts. and the waterfront. By this time my brother Rowland had started work for Bert Heathorn in a small shed behind Heathorn's Hotel as an engineer at 2/6 per week. He left this job to work for the post office on the new exchange wiring. He later joined me and we set up in business as R. A. Medhurst, Electrical Engineers. We had moved from Ethel Mount, Sandy Bay, to a home in King Street, Sandy Bay, which had a large school room in the yard which we used as a workshop, our activities being mainly intercom. office telephones and bells with a small amount of electric wiring. We then moved to a small shop in lower Collins Street, and the next year, 1908, to a new larger one in the yard of the old Tasmanian News

Building, Collins Street. About this time I came to Launceston to put telephones and bells in the present E.S. & A. Bank which was built by the Commercial Bank of Hobart.

Now came the big change. In 1909 the English Company, Complex Ores & Metallurgical Co. Ltd., obtained the rights to use the water of the Great Lake for Hydro-Electric power for distribution to industrial and private consumers.

Here are some interesting sidelights. The Gas Co. erected two of the largest



Mr. Harry Medhurst

wooden poles they could obtain at the Rosetta Rail Crossing, the law being that any other supply company would have to go six feet above them. Also a prominent Launceston gentleman, who was a Member of Parliament at the time, had a clause inserted in the contract that the Hydro supply could not come within 25 miles radius of Launceston which had its local gas supply and its own hydro plant at the Gorge.

The first Hydro-Electric plant in the Southern Hemisphere was built in 1894 by Siemens Bros. who also started the Hobart Tram Service in 1892. By now the mad rush was on. We had moved

to new premises in Argyle Street and were wiring many of the new industries—Zinc Co., Carbide Co., Electrona, new homes and existing industries for the new hydro. Then in 1914 came the Great War and Complex Ores failed, and the Government took over. The Hydro-Electric Department was formed in 1916. Waddamana plant was opened with a capacity of 10,000 h.p. In 1919 the Zinc Co. made a further contract for 30,000 h.p., which was far beyond the hydro capacity and new plants had to be developed. Waddamana was increased to 66,000 h.p. in 1933 and by a further 14,000 h.p. in 1931 by the addition of the Shannon River and the Hydro Department was placed under the control of a Commission.

About 1919 Paton & Baldwin and Kellsall & Kemp wanted to settle in Launceston and the clause regarding hydro supply was cancelled, the Launceston Council purchasing 6,000 h.p. from the Department. This brought about the change-over to 240 volts and the Gorge plant was also remodelled. In 1923 the change-over was in progress. I came to Launceston to wire Patons and Kellsall & Kemp and in 1925 opened a modern showroom in 14 Quadrant, Launceston. (The charlady cleaning up said: "Isn't it wonderful, everything electrical, gas stoves and all" as I had thirteen McClary ranges on display).

Then came a hectic time in Launceston—stoves and water services by the hundreds and the rewiring and development. Also power was extended to the North East and Lower Tamar and North West Coast towns in which we had almost a sole control of the development and extending.

After the last war we established all our returned men in their home towns as contractors.

In 1955 Medhurst Ltd. turnover passed the £1,000,000 mark. This year with further development and the absorption of Medhurst Moore Finance Co. formed in 1927 to conduct the finance of electrical sales and sold to the Holding Company, Medhurst Ltd.,

(Continued at the foot of Column 1, Page 7)

H.M. Reined 30 June 1957

POINTS FROM THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC COMMISSION'S ANNUAL REPORT

The following interesting points have been taken from the H.E.C. annual report.

All engaged in the electrical trade will no doubt be pleased to note that the consumption of electricity in Tasmania continues to grow. New connections numbered 3789, and retail consumers took 572 million units; the Tasmanian figure of some 5500 units per consumer is now about the highest in the world, rivalling that of Norway.

* * *

Electric ranges and hot water services are now installed in 71 per cent. and 58.3 per cent. respectively

MR. HARRY MEDHURST

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in 1956, the gross turnover will be greatly enhanced.

Wireless. 2FC, Sydney and 3RL Melbourne were formed as private companies. Madam Melba was to open 3RL Station and I fitted an aerial at my home at Trevallyn and obtained a large Weston Electric set from England and invited Dr. Ramsay, Dr. Newall and Dr. McClinton up to hear the first reception in Launceston. We twisted and moved the coils all night, but only received the last few bars of God Save the King.

We have now just sold the first television sets in Tasmania which get a reasonable reception under good conditions from Melbourne.

With the ever increasing demand for electrical service the firm is making vast extensions in Hobart, their new store and workshops—a three storey building in Upper Collins Street—is now completed and the remodelling of the shop into a modern Arcade reputed to be the largest in Australia when finished, opening up a thru-way to Medhurst, Fitzgeralds, Goodwills, Charles Davis Ltd., Brownells and G. J. Coles, bounded by Liverpool St., Elizabeth St., Collins St., and Murray St. In this vast off-street shopping arcade the needs of all can be satisfied so we look forward with confidence and progress.

of domestic consumers' premises, a position which still leaves plenty of scope for further sales of equipment.

* * *

Tariff increases came into effect in August, 1956, and the income per unit for the year's operations was .767 pence, a figure far below that of any other authority in Australia. In 1950 the income per unit was .408 pence, so that the increase over this period is 88 per cent.; over the same period the basic wage has just doubled, and interest rates have also risen sharply. Interest charges are in fact a major factor influencing the cost of producing hydro-electric power. Another factor affecting the cost of electricity and tending to increase it is the growing proportion of power being taken by the smaller and particularly the residential consumers.

* * *

Supply to smaller customers costs much more in distribution through the low tension network and also by virtue of their erratic demand and higher peak loading.

* * *

With the demand from all consumers steadily on the increase, a new development has been approved by Parliament for construction over the next five years. This is named Catagunya and it is situated on the Derwent immediately below the Wayatinah "B" Development.

WORLD TOUR FOR MR. O. J. NILSEN

Mr. Oliver J. Nilsen, Chairman of Directors of Oliver J. Nilsen (Aust.) Ltd., has left on a five months overseas trip.

He will disembark from R.M.S. Arcadia at Capetown and travel by road to Durban, Johannesburg and thence by a new turbo-prop. "Britannia" aircraft to London.

His itinerary will include a tour of the Continent and a visit to the German Industries Fair at Hanover, returning via the United States of America. The final stage will be by ship from San Francisco, arriving in Sydney in early July.

TAS. TRADE JOTTINGS

Mr. P. S. Staton, manager of the newly established Tasmanian branch of English Electric, states that his company's principal concern in Tasmania is the engineering field and that at this stage they would not be going into merchandising.

Mr. Staton has been with English Electric for 10 years, five of which he spent in the Melbourne office. He is an engineer.

* * *

Terry Scurrah has been appointed Tasmanian agent for P. J. King Pty. Ltd., of Abbotsford, Victoria, makers of Heetaire fan-forced electric heater. One of the latest productions of King's is an adjustable window exhaust-intake, a sample of which has just been received.

Terry has relinquished the Astor and Servex agencies. These lines are now being handled by Homecrafts.

* * *

Cannon & Hornby are following up their new stove, recently introduced, with a further development in the cooking line. This new appliance will be introduced in the near future and will be of great interest to the trade.

* * *

H. M. Bamford and Sons Pty. Ltd., are now Tasmanian agents for cables, plastics and metals handled by A.W.A. Telcon Pty. Ltd., of Sydney.

* * *

Simpson Distributors, Adelaide, have opened a branch in Tasmania.

They have taken over Enslow and Enslo, Hobart, previously their agents.

The branch will be managed by E. E. Reseigh.

MOVE TO CONTROL H.P. SALES

State Cabinet has approved a proposal to introduce legislation to control hire purchase sales, interest and other charges in Tasmania.

At the present time, Cabinet is waiting for information from New South Wales before going ahead with the drafting of the bill.

New South Wales is considering legislative action to deal with interest rates on the hire purchase of household and other goods.



