IPSWICH IN THE EIGHTEEN FIFTIES
(Read by Mrs. K. T. Cameron on 26 May 1960.)

This paper was read to the Society by Mr. A. G. Davies in July 1941, but as it was not published previously, it has been read again to enable publication this year. Much of the material is drawn from personal reminiscences of Thomas Mathewson. A previous paper, "Personal Reminiscences of '53," by Thomas Mathewson, is published in the Society's Journal, Vol. I, pp. 95-98.

To those of the present generation who are genuinely interested in Queensland's early history the rivalry between Brisbane and Ipswich always will be regarded as a phase of outstanding interest. In June 1827, Captain Logan, travelling by boat up the river, reached the Limestone Hills and made a partial exploration of the surroundings. But, nearly two years before that, Allan Cunningham, the botanist and explorer, in a despatch to Governor Darling, had declared it highly probable "that upon the site of these Limestone Hills a town will one day be raised." A convict post was established there and George Thorn, sen., who was placed in charge of it, actually was the pioneer free settler in Ipswich. He was elected a member of the first Parliament of Queensland, which met in May 1860. His son, George Thorn, jun., followed in the paternal footsteps, entering the Legislative Assembly in 1867 as one of the three members for West Moreton. A few years later political exigencies led to his attaining the Premiership; but a Cabinet reconstruction nine months later left him in comparative obscurity.

Much of the material for this paper is drawn from personal reminiscences of the late Mr. Thomas Mathewson, for many years an active member of the Historical Society of Queensland, and it is believed to be material which hitherto has been unpublished. Reference is made by Mr. Mathewson to the building activities of three men in the early days of Ipswich—Messrs. Donald Bethune, J. Robertson and T. R. Barker—though it is not made quite clear whether the three were actually

1. George Thorn was transferred from the Commissariat Department, Sydney, to Limestone Hill in 1838, where he was appointed Superintendent of Stock.
2. Mr. Thos. Mathewson arrived in Moreton Bay with his parents on January 10, 1853, in the ship The America.
working in partnership. He mentions that Mr. Robertson was the father of the Rev. Joseph Robertson, and that Mr. Barker was the father of “Tom” Barker, well known as a member of the staff of the “Queensland Times” newspaper.

Large Buildings

Among other large buildings built by this firm of contractors were the North Australian Club House in South Street and the Palais Royal Hotel. This latter was built as a private residence for the “Father” of Ipswich, the late Mr. George Thorn, sen. Sir George F.

Bowen danced his first dance in the latter building during his initial visit to Ipswich in 1859. Donald Bethune, who was an Imperial commissioned soldier, assisted materially (as an instructor) in establishing the first Volunteer Corps in Queensland, gazetted as No. 1 (Ipswich) Company, Queensland Volunteer Rifle Brigade.

Another structure of ancient date still in use was that used for so many years by Messrs. Watson Bros.,

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and more recently Samuel Watson & Sons as a butchery, and the residence of Mr. Samuel Watson, the pioneer member of the firm. In 1854 Mr. John Panton carried on a general store while his family lived at the western end of the same building. Mr. Betts was manager and Mr. David Hughes was chief book-keeper. This Mr. Hughes was married to Miss Scells. Mr. C. C. Cameron was junior assistant. Later Mr. Hughes joined with Mr. Cameron in establishing the well-known firm of Hughes & Cameron. In the following year John Panton built a substantial stone store at the river end of Thorn Street and also commenced that very fine stone residence which he and his family occupied for some years. It afterwards passed into the possession of Mr. George Thorn, sen., and later again into that of his son, who also resided there until he died some years later. One of Mr. Panton's daughters married Mr. Samuel Moffat, of Kaimkillenbun, near Dalby, and another became the wife of Mr. J. F. G. Foxton, who was Home Secretary in the Philp administration.

Next to Watson Bros. was a wooden cottage in which John Slaughter carried on business as a tinsmith. Between Slaughter's and the present Lyric Theatre was Mickey Ford's butchery, built in 1863. Ford was fond of keeping racehorses. Near to Ford's was an old two-storied building which had been occupied in the later 'fifties by a German named Besser and used as a general store, but in which Mrs. C. Walter afterwards had dining rooms.

On the eastern side of the Lyric Theatre was a wooden cottage occupied by Miss Reid, which really was the oldest wooden structure in Ipswich. It was erected by Mr. James Josey, who owned a squattage near Goodna named "Possum Creek," and was one of the oldest pioneers of Moreton Bay. This cottage in 1854 was occupied by the Rev. Dr. Nelson, father of Sir Hugh Nelson, and it was in this cottage in 1855 that Miss Nelson was married to Mr. John Watts of Eton Vale Station. One incident in connection with the marriage festivities recalled by Mr. Mathewson was that

4. Colonel J. F. G. Foxton, C.M.G., was one of the three original Vice-Presidents of The Historical Society of Queensland. In later years he lived at Bulimba House. Died June 23, 1916.
5. Dr. W. L. Nelson was unseated from the first Queensland Parliament on the ground of being a minister of religion.
when supplies of champagne ran short he had to take to the cottage, in a wheelbarrow, a basket containing a dozen bottles of the sparkling beverage.

Near to the corner of Ellenborough Street was a one-storied brick hotel, under the style of “The Highland Home,” conducted by Mr. Ogilvie, whose wife was one of nature’s ladies.

Then came George Dowden in the later ’fifties, who occupied the site of the present “Queensland Times” office. He was a cabinetmaker and really the first undertaker that Ipswich had, although in the early ’fifties Mr. Shenton undertook the burial of any who died. There was no hearse at that time and the coffins had to be conveyed to the cemetery in a fire-wood cart. Dowden was the first to introduce a hearse.

**St. Paul’s Church**

On the block of land on which St. Paul’s Church now stands there was in 1854 only one structure. This was a one-storied brick parsonage facing Nicholas Street. A brick church stood on the opposite side of Nicholas Street where the Bank of Australasia now
stands. This church was used as a day school during the week. Mr. Mathewson attended this school for a few months in 1854. The teacher's name was Hazelton. The Rector (the Rev. John Wallace) had left Ipswich for the old country about the time the Mathewson family came to reside in Ipswich. In the following year news was received of his (Mr. Wallace's) death by drowning.

The Rev. John Mosely (at that time a bachelor) was appointed to fill the vacant post. He was a man of kindly and gracious disposition and a great lover of music. In 1855 a music class was formed from among the boys and meetings were held in a room in East Street known as Thorn's Billiard Room. Mr. Mosely paid a Frenchman to teach the boys the Tonic sol-fa notation. Mr. Mosely afterwards married Miss Willis.

**First Court House**

The next building, situated where the present telegraph office now stands, was a long wooden one of very humble pretensions and yet some of the most important matters were decided within its walls. It was the only Court of Justice that Ipswich could boast of in 1854. Col. Gray presided as Stipendiary Magistrate, while Solicitors Macalister and Walsh and an occasional advocate from Brisbane would pour out their eloquence in a most convincing manner. It was also in this building that election contests were decided for the New South Wales Assembly, and owing to the voting being all open in those days, scenes of the wildest excitement were sometimes witnessed towards the close of the evening. If the votes cast for the contestants were nearly equal, a few old drunks might be wheeled up to turn the victory the opposite way.

At the rear of this building were a few cells for prisoners.

A little later a new courthouse was erected opposite the present Congregational Church in Brisbane Street, which is still standing. After this removal the old courthouse was used as the first School of Arts.

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7. The Rev. John Mosely read the address of welcome to the newly arrived Governor, Sir G. F. Bowen, in December 1859, on behalf of the United Churches.

Bank of New South Wales

Below this courthouse, and opposite Cribb and Foote's corner, was a two-storied brick building, opened in 1854 by Mr. E. B. Cullen (afterwards of the Queensland Treasury) as a branch of the Bank of New South Wales. Below this, and facing Bell Street, was Mr. H. Kilner's chemist and druggist shop. Then came Mr. P. O. Sullivan's store, and next, Mr. W. Munro Smith's saddlery establishment.

At the corner of Brisbane and East Streets where the Palais Royal Hotel now stands was a large enclosure where Mr. John Gordon had livery stables and held frequent sales of horses. Mr. Mathewson was able to remember how, in 1856, when news of the fall of Sebastopol (which terminated the Crimean War) reached Ipswich there was great rejoicing at this spot, where, in the evening, a stuffed dummy of the Czar was hung up to the limb of an ironbark tree in the yard and finally exploded.

First Congregational Church in Queensland

Farther down the street where the Congregational Church now stands was commenced the first church of
that denomination in Queensland. It was a wooden structure of modest architecture. This house was opened for worship in March 1855, the Rev. Dr. Nelson conducting the morning service. Mr. Mathewson, with his two elder brothers, was present in the morning and sat next to the pastor’s (Rev. E. Griffith) pew. Neither the sermon nor the text can be remembered—for the Doctor’s learned effusions had no interest for the ordinary boy—but Mr. Mathewson was interested in the younger of the two pastor’s sons (who was three years his junior) taking notes of the Doctor’s address, thus early foreshadowing the dawn of no ordinary intellect which so fully matured in the life of Sir Samuel Walker Griffith. At the front of the ground on which the church stood was a gully which in time of rain flowed into Devil’s Gully. This watercourse was crossed by a narrow footbridge some ten or twelve feet long.

Next on the slope of Limestone Hill was a fairly large wooden building kept as an hotel by an aged Scotch lady and her daughter under the style of the “Glen Cottage.” “I remember, in 1855,” says Mr. Mathewson, “a ball was held in this building before the opening and I had the job of pounding up some chalk to sprinkle on the floor.”

About 300 yards from the Glen Cottage, towards the limestone ridge, was a butchery in the later ’fifties, conducted by Coleman and Hill.

**Pound Yards**

Between Limestone Hill and Thorn Street stood the old pound yards, where many a horse suffered incarceration. In 1854 Limestone (for that was the name by which Ipswich was known in those days) was infested by goats and the very atmosphere was scented by the gentleman with the horns. However, there came a day when a decree went forth that all the unclaimed innocents were to be slain; hundreds of them were mustered in this pound yard and killed. This occurred about September 1854. “I remember,” says Mr. Mathewson, “enjoying some of the venison thus killed. The police (two of whom were neighbours of ours) did the yarding and killing.”

**Roads Department**

Adjoining the pound yards and situated where Dr. E. E. Brown’s hospital afterwards stood was a roughly
constructed structure which served as the office and domicile of Captain Vigors, who had charge of the roads department which included the streets of Ipswich. Mr. Mathewson's father was appointed to the position of overseer, and under his direction the first alignment of the footpaths in Ipswich was carried out. After a few months this first overseer fell ill and passed away early in December 1854. Before the end of 1854 Captain Vigors was recalled to join his regiment, owing to the outbreak of the Crimean War.

The next structure, situated where the Imperial Skating Palace now stands, was a cottage occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Towel (this was Mr. Towel's first wife). Mrs. Towel was the leading dressmaker of Ipswich at this time. Towel was a man of genius. He was an analytical chemist and the only man in Ipswich who could discover if a body had been the victim of poison. Mr. Mathewson remembers in the early 'sixties, when the first plate-glass was imported by Cribb and Foote to replace the small squares, it was found that, because the cases containing the glass had been under salt water for a considerable time on the voyage, it had produced a rainbow-tinted screen on each sheet which days of ordinary window-cleaning could not obliterate. Mr. Towel was called in and soon produced a chemical combination before which the phantom vanished. He was also the first to make sugar from cane grown by the Rev. Thos. Deacon in West Street. He was a most versatile man — sometimes working at carpentry, at other times painting, and he was one of the most industrious of men Mr. Mathewson ever met. He eventually became associated with the Telegraph Department and was head of that Department in Ipswich before he died.

Coming to the corner of East Street, where Herbert Hoare's new auction mart was situated, was a brick building in about an acre of ground. This was known as Thorn's Billiard Room. It was about 30ft. x 20ft. in size and was sometimes used by visiting concert companies.

**Queen's Arms Hotel**

On the opposite side of East Street, at the corner where the Q.N. Bank now stands, was the Queen's Arms Hotel. This was a long one-storied brick building

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with the main frontage facing East Street. It was the most popular rendezvous of the pioneer squatters. Mr. Mathewson remembers early in '56 being among a crowd listening to a political speech by Mr. John Richardson from the verandah of this hotel. Mr. H. M. Cockburn was chairman of the meeting.

Mr. Mathewson remembers the polling day for this election. Mr. F. A. Forbes was the other contestant, presumably the squatters' candidate as he owned a station at that time. On the forenoon of that day two buckjumping horses made their appearance—one ridden by Peter Gentle (afterwards a publican at Toowoomba), the other mounted by Adams, a jockey. Each of the riders had cornstalks in their hands, ornamented with royal blue ribbons (which was Forbes' racing colour)—the cornstalks also being appropriate as Mr. Forbes was a native. These two horses emerged from the "Red Cow" Inn yard in Bell Street and, upon the application of a liberal amount of spur, began their capers, to the intense enjoyment of the youngsters who followed them street after street until the poor animals were fairly exhausted.

Cribb and Foote's

Next we come to what is now known as Cribb and Foote's Corner. In 1854 this ground was owned by Mr. F. A. Forbes (at one time speaker of the Assembly in the Sixth Parliament of Queensland). There was a two-storied brick building on the ground, in which the owner carried on a general store, while his family occupied the upper portion. In 1855, through a gamble, this property fell into the hands of William Horton of Drayton, after which Mr. Forbes built a large two-storied brick building below Cribb and Foote's in Bell Street, for business and residential purposes. Both this property and the corner fell into the possession of Cribb and Foote, the lower one being used for many years as residence and dining rooms for Cribb and Foote's employees. The corner in 1856 was occupied by Mr. H. M. Reeve as a residence and first-class drapery establishment. Between the vacating of this building by Mr. Forbes and its occupancy by Mr. Reeve, Mr.

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10. Elected as a member for County Stanley, Moreton Bay District, in the first election to the N.S.W. Parliament in 1851. Elected as one of two members for Stanley Boroughs in 1856.
Mathewson was present at a meeting in the vacant shop when Dr. Lang delivered an address setting forth the desirability of Separation from New South Wales.

Bank of Australasia

Adjoining Forbes' building in Brisbane Street was a long one-storied brick building which had been used as a public house in 1854. This was opened as a branch of the Bank of Australasia under the management of Mr. George Faircloth. One end was devoted to the business of Banking Room and the eastern end was the family residence. Mr. Faircloth afterwards built a two-storied brick building as a residence on the Brisbane Road, about a mile and a half from the Ipswich Post Office. This house he called "Booval House," hence the present name of that suburb. This Mr. Faircloth became a Police Magistrate and was in Maryborough for many years.

At the corner of Nicholas Street (the property now owned by Mr. John Greenham, but at that time owned by Mr. Martin Byrnes) stood a wooden building kept by a Mr. Newton under the style of "The London Tavern."

In April 1854 this Mr. Newton was a salesman at Cribb's boot department. He soon afterwards left to become landlord of this hostelry. A large bar business was conducted here, and it was generally understood that he accumulated money very rapidly.

On the corner on the opposite side of Nicholas Street were two or three small wooden shops owned by the Rev. Thomas Deacon, grandfather of the late Lieut.-Colonel W. T. Deacon. The corner shop was occupied by Mr. Given, a watchmaker, who with his brother-in-law, Mr. Lyons, carried on a very successful business at this place. The shop adjoining was a stationers, kept (it is thought) by a man named Warner. Mr. Mathewson remembers being sent by Mr. H. M. Cockburn in 1854 to this shop for a “Courier.” This was the first time he had ever heard of “The Courier.”

Next to the newspaper shop was Mr. John Hanran’s boot store. Mr. Hanran afterwards kept the North Star Hotel and subsequently migrated to Townsville, where he conducted the Criterion Hotel.

Dr. Challinor

Beyond this boot shop was a long one-storied brick building owned and occupied by Dr. Challinor. The verandah was in a line with the path and on about the same level. The surgery and consulting room were at the eastern end and the family lived at the west end. A fire consumed this building about the year '61, after which the Doctor built a new wooden home at the corner of Nicholas and Limestone Streets—now occupied by Broughton Bros., coach builders. The site of the burnt building was later owned by Alderman Shillito. A cousin of the Doctor’s (Mr. George Challinor) acted as Dispenser in 1854; a few years later he took up photography and had a very fine studio built at the rear of the brick building, where he photographed many notables. He afterwards went into cotton growing on Warrill Creek, and finally became Clerk for the Esk Shire Council.

The North Star Hotel stood then, as now, at the corner of Ellenborough Street, but Mr. Mathewson could not remember who was the lessee before Mr. John Hanran, who entered into the business in 1855.

12. Moreton Bay Courier established June 20, 1846.
13. Dr. Henry Challinor was the medical superintendent of the first of Dr. Lang’s emigrant ships to arrive in Moreton Bay. The Fortitude on January 21, 1849.
On the opposite side of Ellenborough Street where Bostock's building stood later, there was a rough slab structure facing Brisbane Street but standing at the back of the allotment. Mr. Mathewson believed that it was “Barney” Sloan who occupied this in 1854.

Farther along, where Ryan (fruiterer) and Raymond (milliner) were, was a wooden building which, in 1854, was occupied by Mr. Sam Southerden as a provisions store. Mr. Southerden had married, some three years before, the widow of Mr. Wm. Deacon, son of the Rev. Thomas Deacon. When Mrs. Southerden died soon afterwards, Mr. Southerden sold out the store and went into the employment of G. H. Wilson, but he also died suddenly, about the year 1861.

Farther on, where the Club Hotel stood in after years, was a wooden hotel kept by an ex-police officer named Eggleston, who was a very bright and cheery man, his wife being an industrious little body. After a few years, however, they sold out and returned to the land of their birth.

A little farther westward was a cottage occupied by Mr. Harvey and his family. In the large yard at the rear of the cottage a large shed stood, in which blacksmithing and wheelwright work was carried on. In 1854 it was chiefly the old-fashioned two-wheel bullock dray that was turned out or came in for repair. Mrs. Harvey's maiden name was Handcock and she was a sister of Mrs. George Thorn, sen., Mr. Handcock (storekeeper of Drayton), Mrs. Lloyd and Mrs. Mack, of Drayton.

Somewhere about here was Webb, a baker, who afterwards went to Toowoomba and carried on a similar business there.

Water Carts

About here, a Mr. James Challie kept a little store and nearby lived Mr. Scells, who supplied Ipswich with water. Scells also employed a man named Thomas Burr, commonly known as “King John,” who did the larger part of the water carting. In the early fifties nearly the whole town had its water supply for drinking, cooking and washing from the Bremer River, and at all hours of the day might be seen a water cart backed against a log at one of the wharves close by where one of the river steamers would be lying, and being filled by a wooden bucket attached to the end of a long rope—
a very primitive method indeed, and the liquid to-day would be regarded as very insanitary. These water carts consisted of a cask mounted on its bilge between two shafts, and "King John" looked quite ornamental astride the cask which his under limbs so finely fitted.

Between Harvey's and the ridge dividing little Ipswich from the town proper and a little back from Brisbane Street, at the corner of Waghorn and Darling Streets, lived a well-known family in the early 'fifties—the McGrourys. Mr. McGroury was a bootmaker and a typical son of Erin, and when Mr. Mathewson saw him on New Year's Day, 1855, with brass-buttoned and tailed coat over knee breeches, grey stockings and buckled shoes, prancing over a primitive cricket ground, he presented a very queer spectacle. Not far from McGroury's in Darling Street lived an old dame known as "Cranky Nelly" and her little tan-coloured dog "Tiny," which she vigorously defended from the teasing assaults of the neighbouring urchins.

Rev. Thomas Deacon

At West Street there lived that devout and saintly soul, the Rev. Thomas Deacon, who, it was said, had lived for over twenty years with only one lung. He belonged to the Baptist denomination, but as there were more Congregationalists than people of his own persuasion, he ministered to the united flock until he saw the former suitably provided for by a pastor of their own, before he suggested the establishment of a Baptist Church on ground, which he presented to the Church, adjoining his own cottage. He passed away in the early 'sixties, leaving a widow and one daughter (Mrs. Samuel Shenton), and one grandson in Ipswich to whom I have already alluded.

Adjoining the Deacons, on the lower side, was Mr. Samuel Shenton, a builder, who did the bulk of the contracting for wooden structures in those early days. He subsequently took up the profession of architect, was an alderman of the town and also occupied the Mayoral chair. He purchased "Rope Hill," adjoining Mr. James Cribb, where he passed away in the 1890's leaving a widow but no descendants.

Ellenborough Street

Passing to Ellenborough Street and speaking of matters as they existed in 1854, beginning from the
river end of that street and taking the western side, there was a Mr. and Mrs. Stanley who lived in a neat brick cottage. Nearby was Mrs. Murphy, whose son Peter was a stockman at Clifton, and who afterwards joined George Loveday in taking up a cattle station at Crow’s Nest. Next to this was a long wooden building in which Mr. J. Cooper and family lived. Cooper was still living in 1941, at Lark Hill via Walloon, in his ninety-fifth year. In this same long building lived Mr. and Mrs. Seymour. Seymour and Cooper at that time were friends and were engaged in building (with the old-fashioned slabs) a store for G. H. Wilson, in Lime­stone Street, where the firm still has its quarters. This Mr. Seymour afterwards owned a sawmill at North Ipswich.

Adjoining this long cottage, and standing well back from the frontage of the ground, was a humble structure in which Mrs. Ferguson and her daughter lived. She was the mother of Mr. James Ferguson, who years after carried on the manufacture of soft drinks. Miss Ferguson before the end of 1854 was married to Mr. Johnny Harris (Harris’s Pocket), and old Mrs. Ferguson married a Mr. Adams.

Nearby, and apparently on this same ground, stood a large house built with a verandah in front and along the lower side. This was occupied by Joe Whalan, who owned several bullock teams and drays, employing ticket-of-leave men to drive them. It was on one of Whalan’s drays that the Mathewson family were conveyed to the Balonne River in 1853, and also brought back to Ipswich in the following year.

Subsequently Whalan had a public house in Myall Street, Dalby, where he died leaving his widow and daughter to carry on the business.

“Ipswich Herald” Established

In the later ’fifties, the late Mr. Edmund Gregory (afterwards Government Printer) started a newspaper named the “Ipswich Herald,” which in 1861 merged into the “Queensland Times” and Parkinson, Sloman and Kidner became proprietors. These three had all been previously on the staff of the “North Australian” newspaper as compositors.

Next to this or nearby was the cottage of Joe Lovell, and a little nearer Brisbane Street lived the Newbould family. Both of these were engaged in carrying by means of bullock teams, conveying supplies to the stations and returning with loads of wool or hides and tallow.

At the river end of Ellenborough Street, on the eastern side, there was, in 1854, a house occupied by the Beverley family.

First Presbyterian Church

Near to Beverley's was a cottage which had had all the partitions removed and was used as the first Presbyterian Church in Ipswich. Dr. Nelson conducted services until the erection in 1855 of a stone church with tower on the site now occupied by St. Stephen's. Mr. Mathewson said he had seen the cottage church most respectfully filled on a Sunday morning by some of the leading families of the town. Among them he mentioned Colonel and Mrs. Gray and their children. One of these boys (Robert) later became Commissioner for Railways. The daughter became the wife of Mr. Leith Hay. Others were John Rankin and family, the McDonald family (afterwards of Dugandan), the Turner family (of Helidon), Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Cockburn and the Misses Coulson and brothers, etc., etc. It was in this humble structure that Mr. John Watts (later a prominent public man) first set eyes on Miss Nelson, who afterwards became his wife. In this primitive church the choir was led by Mr. John Clarke Foote.

Not far away from this church was a little cottage occupied by Mr. John Yule and family. Adjoining was his blacksmith's shop on the higher side, where an extensive business was carried on. Mr. John Yule later started business at The Swamp (now Toowoomba), combined with Mr. Bamford, a wheelwright (the father of Mr. Fred Bamford of Federal Ministerial fame). John Yule afterwards settled down at Dalby, where he died at an advanced age.

Nicholas Street

On the western side of Nicholas Street, at the river end, was the "North Australian Hotel," of which

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Mr. John Clune was the lessee in 1854. This John Clune was a brother of Lady Mitchell, the wife of Sir Thomas Mitchell of exploring fame. A little above this was Burgess, a butcher, who had hundreds of cattle grazing in the open spaces around the town with the "AB" brand on them.

Near to Burgess' was Mr. Fletcher, a barber, who between his hair-cutting industriously filled up his time at whip-making. His stock-whips were famous and commanded good prices. He accumulated considerable means and erected a large hotel at Laidley, which he carried on successfully for some years.

Higher up the street was a Mr. Paddy Dwyer, who carried on the business of cooper. In those days the demand for kegs was very great: every bullock dray had a two-gallon keg hung at the side, in which to carry water. As bullock teams could travel only from eight to twelve miles a day, they often had to camp a considerable distance from water. These kegs were also much used for wines and spirits, and almost every private home delighted in being able to offer the friendly cup to the thirsty traveller. Mr. Mathewson remembered on one occasion a bullock team being loaded with station supplies for Gordon Sandeman, of Burrandowan. There were several cases of spirits among the loading. Wet weather came on and the drays were delayed on the way. When finally they arrived at the station, the manager found that the spirit had been consumed, the bottles showing evidence that some had stood in mud an inch deep. Most of the bullock drivers were ex-convicts who dearly loved the contents of the bottle.

Mr. Mathewson paid a high tribute to the abilities and personal qualities of Mr. H. M. Cockburn who, after having gone through a course of training for the Presbyterian ministry, went in for commercial pursuits and became manager of the Bank of Australasia in Sydney in the 'forties. He later entered the Audit Department in Queensland, was Police Magistrate at Gladstone, and died at Ipswich in the early 'nineties.

Mr. Mathewson referred to a little greengrocery shop in Nicholas Street, kept by the Wilkinson family, a son of whom (James) became a Queensland Member in the Federal Parliament.

Near the spot where the railway bridge now spans Nicholas Street was the Sawyers' Arms Hotel, con-
ducted by a man named Benstead, who besides having the hotel, worked at pit sawing.

**Pit Sawing**

The timber cut up in this way was vastly superior to that cut by sawmills in those days. Mr. Mathewson said he had seen flooring boards in the middle 'fifties measuring in width five and a half inches at one part and over six inches at another part in a fifteen or twenty feet length. The disheartened tradesman had to jack plane them down to a uniform width. This was the usual kind of boards turned out at the Bremer Sawmills (the nearest timber mill to Ipswich) in the early 'fifties. Planing and tongue and groove were not available at that time. All planing and tongue and groove had to be undertaken by hand. This Benstead family went to the Beaudesert district, where they continued in the timber business for many years.

Another hotel, "The Horse and Jockey," on the site now occupied by Casey's Central Hotel, was kept by Mr. George Vowles, the grandfather of Mr. W. J. Vowles, later member for Dalby in the Queensland Legislative Assembly. George Vowles was a school teacher. It was at this hotel in 1857 that one of the Frazer brothers was staying when the news came to Ipswich of the massacre by the blacks of the other members of his family at "Hornet Bank."^16

Mr. Vowles owned a very fine fruit garden situated between Limestone Hill and Booval, to which he subsequently retired in his old age. He was an enthusiastic gardener and took a delight in the hybridising of many varieties of fruit trees.

In Bell Street, a few hundred yards from Wharf Street, was a hotel kept by a coloured man named "Black Nair." "I can remember," says Mr. Mathewson, "a banquet being held under canvas at this hotel when Mr. Benjamin Cribb (the father of the late Hon. J. B. Cribb) was entertained by his friends while he was Member of Parliament in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly. Near to this was the office of Mr. Arthur Macalister, who became Premier of Queensland in 1866 and 1874. Mr. O'Malley, who for a time was chief clerk in Mr. Macalister's Ipswich office, afterwards became one of the Civil Service Commissioners."

Joint Stock Bank

In the same street was a wooden building which was opened about 1859 as a branch of the Joint Stock Bank under the managership of Mr. F. O. Bryant, whose wife was a sister of Sir Edmund Barton. There were two other sisters of Sir Edmund Barton who were married to Queenslanders. These were Mrs. N. Bartley and Mrs. Hobbs (Dr.). The accountant at this branch then was Mr. Walker, who married Miss Lukin and who was the father of Mr. L. E. Walker of Horse Bazaar fame.

Next to this bank in the late 'fifties was erected the first galvanised iron building in Ipswich by a Mr. Louis von Heitz, a German, who carried on a plumbing and tinsmith business. Mr. Heitz being well versed in military training took an active part in the formation of the first Mounted Volunteer Brigade in Ipswich. Adjoining this was a wooden shop with residence attached, where Mr. George Holt in 1859 (formerly known as Captain Holt while master of one of the river steamers) carried on the business of baker.

Next to this bakery was a large two-storied brick building occupied by Mr. F. A. Forbes as a store and private residence. Mr. Forbes became Speaker in the Sixth Parliament of Queensland. This property subsequently passed into the hands of Cribb and Foote and was used by them for about 45 years as dining rooms and domestic quarters for their numerous employees. Mr. J. C. Foote was manager of the Ipswich business for Mr. Cribb until the winter of 1855, when he was admitted as a partner. The stock-taking preparatory to this partnership was an immense undertaking. A big supper was arranged in celebration of this stock-taking and among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Cribb, Mr. and Mrs. John Clarke Foote, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Foote, Master Robert Cribb, Mr. James Foote (afterwards Member for Bundamba), and Mr. Joseph Foote. The two Footes lastnamed owned a sheep station on the Upper Bundamba.

Mr. R. Gill, who carried on a saddlery and clothing business in Bell Street in 1854, also combined with

17. First Accountant in State Audit Office.
his operations the work of the post office. Later, as the postal activities increased in volume, a larger structure was built by the Government in Brisbane Street, of which portion is still standing. Eventually Mr. Gill was induced to relinquish his other business and devote the whole of his time to post office work. It was a great event when Mr. Evans was appointed first letter carrier for the town of Ipswich. Mr. Gill lived to be over 90 years of age and finally died at the residence of his son-in-law (Mr. Mills) at Kangaroo Point. The long wooden building which Mr. Gill had vacated was turned into a bowling alley.