

PROGRESS IN ALBURY, 1857

The following is an article originally published in the "Border Post" then reprinted in the "Ovens and Murray Advertiser" (Beechworth) of September 29, 1857 giving a description of early development of Albury and District (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/113017012>)

THE PROGRESS OF ALBURY

In an article upon this subject the *Border Post* has the following:

One of the most interesting of our domestic events has been the founding of the Church of England building: a structure which will reflect credit upon the feelings of the people in this district, and which, in point of architecture and operative skill, will form one of the most beautiful religious edifices out of Sydney. A commencement has also been made by the Presbyterian body, who intend erecting a substantial manse, but whose operations have been delayed by the defalcation of the contractor. The present church used by the Presbyterians in a tolerably commodious place of worship, but we believe a new one is shortly to be built [site of part of the car park area at the back of Quest apartments, Townsend St]. A handsome subscription has been raised towards the erection of a Roman Catholic church, and an advertisement soliciting tenders for the work will be found elsewhere.

The premises now in course of erection for the Bank of New South Wales are rapidly progressing, and when completed, this building will be a great ornament to the town [after a fire of 1879 the bank moved to Dean St and these premises became *Kia Ora*, Townsend St]. The hotel-keepers have not been behind in the path of advancement. Layton's new hotel on the Sydney road—a splendid building, consisting of two storeys—is just completed [licensee in 1894 was James Soden and hotel now known as Soden's]; and the Imperial Hotel, another two-storey building, fitted up and finished in a very tasteful manner, was opened a few days ago [Townsend St, destroyed by fire in 1879]. A magnificent ball-room and several new bed-rooms (including the bridal chamber and Governor's dormitory) have been added to the Rose Inn [John Nichols publican in 1857, 2015 site is Target carpark, Kiewa St]; and Mr Conley's Sebastopol Hotel is now being proceeded with in earnest. This latter is one of the most solid stone buildings in the township, and consists of three storeys [Sebastopol was the proposed name of this hotel but William Conley died and the hotel was renamed the Exchange Hotel - the site became Farmers & Graziers, corner of Smollett & Townsend streets]. A large brick store has just been built by Mr Crisp for Messrs Mandelsohn Brothers, and the same gentlemen are putting up a somewhat similar building for Messrs Evans Brothers [William & John Evans, Townsend St].

Extensive premises, two storeys in height, (originally intended for a hotel) have been erected by Mr Pearce, of Howlong, and Mr Solomon, the auctioneer, occupies them under a lease [John Solomon, corner of Hume & Townsend streets]. Messrs Horsley & Co have put up a three-storey home, the lower part of which is intended for a butcher's shop, Mr Charles King has also erected a very neat building, now occupied by Mr Kennedy, the butcher [on south side of Presbyterian Church], Mr Lester has considerably improved his premises adjoining the Rose Inn [William Lester, Kiewa St]. Mr Sawtell has put up a double-storey shop with dressed stone front, and a wing is being added which will double the size of the structure [James Sawtell, corner of Smollett & Townsend streets].

Several excellent private houses have also been built during the year, the mansion of Mr Wise being perhaps the most conspicuous [William Wise or Wyse, corner of Kiewa & Wyse streets]. Amongst the parties who have established themselves in business during the year, we may

mention Mr Botterill, of the Medical Hall [Edwin Botterill, chemist, Townsend St next to Royal Hotel]; Messrs Collier and Lawrence, saddlers [Townsend St]; Mr Johnson, saddlers; Messrs Davidson and Co., of the brewery [established 1856, Dean St, top of Townsend St]; Mr Podmore, of the tannery [Richard Podmore, corner of Atkins & Townsend streets]; Mr McGovern, of the tallow factory; Mr Musing and Mr Bennett, both watchmakers, &c., &c. Some new brickfields have also been opened.

The quantity of land under cultivation is about one-third greater than last year, and we notice that increased attention has been bestowed upon vine growing. The demand for vine-cuttings this season has been heavy, and the proprietors of the existing vineyard, have found it quite impossible to furnish the quantity required. In a very few years, wine will have become one of the staple products of this district; and many persons consider this one of the most promising branches of our industry.

The recently formed town of Howlong is making rapid strides. Large quantities of land in that locality have been sold during the year, and the soil has proved itself to be equal in richness to any in the district.