

# ALBURY IN 1896

*The following is an article published in the "Australian Town and Country Journal" (Sydney) of Saturday June 20, 1896 (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/71247146/5330189>) giving a description of Albury and District and some of the town's notable features. The article also included photographs and illustrations of Albury landmarks from 1896 (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/71247146/5330187>)*

## **The Border Townships of the Murray - Albury**

The beautiful garden of the Murray, as Albury has not inappropriately been designated, is most attractively situated on the banks of the famous river, the Australian Mississippi, the surrounding hills giving it somewhat the appearance of a vast amphitheatre. A more suitable location for the border metropolis it would be difficult to find. Yet the selection of the site of the township was largely a matter of chance. When Hume and Hovell, the intrepid explorers, after penetrating through the dense bush and forest which, for many miles, had barred their way, came in sight of the broad flowing waters of the river, they were not long in discovering that they had touched it at a point where it was readily fordable, and it was within a couple of hundred yards of the tree under which Hume and Hovell camped in 1824 that the pioneer building of the future township was erected some twenty years later. This was the Hume Hotel, built by the late Mr. Robert Brown, and so called after the river, which was originally designated the Hume, Millewa being the native name. Mr. Brown subsequently became the owner of Collendina Station on the Murray. The next building was a general store, situated near the hotel, and erected by the late Mr W Conley. Then followed a few scattered huts, the residents being more or less connected with the adjoining pastoral properties. Population continued to increase, and here and there enterprising tradesmen began to open shops, and the infant township began to display signs of a sturdy growth.

The late Mr J C Everett, we are told struck the first anvil in the district at Mungabareena Station, two miles distant from Mr Brown's hotel, and later he became the first blacksmith in Albury. Mr Luke Everett, father of the present proprietress of the Albury Hotel, in Dean Street, was the first builder and undertaker, commencing business in 1845. The first gristmill was at Yackandandah, the owner being Mr David Reid, who is yet living at Moorwatha. The leading station owners in the surrounding country included the Humes, Mitchells, Dights, Stuckeys and other well known names. But Albury was still, and for several years afterwards, merely a bush township, an oasis in the great Australian wilderness.

"The first farm in Albury" says a local writer, "was situated where now the athletic young fellows gather for cricket and exercise, near the Botanical Gardens. The blacks proved sometimes troublesome, and at periods their marauds on the flocks and herds of settlers were frequent, and even the lives of pioneer residents were in danger. One old black named Merriman, was a noted murderer of white people, and was held in great fear of them, and also by his own race, for he was not particular who suffered at his hands. In 1846 the few residents were much excited and perturbed to witness a native battle near the Hume and Hovell tree. Eight hundred of the Murrumbidgee and Murray blacks fought for a week over

some point of difference, and the sight was a most imposing one. But the settlers had other and more serious difficulties to contend with. They were largely dependent on food supplies from Sydney, nearly four hundred miles away, the bullock drays taking nearly three months to perform the journey, there being no roads the greater portion of the route. But out of this trouble came good, for it taught the settlers to become more self reliant and energetic. They learn to make their own furniture, their own farming implements, and many other things, and so acquired those habits of plodding industry which has become characteristic of the town and surrounding district.

A great change was now impending. Gold was discovered in New South Wales and Victoria. The gold fever found its way to Albury, and speedily the young township became, like many others in the two colonies almost deserted, the residents, fired by dreams of auriferous wealth, having made their way to the leading Victorian gold fields. Albury Hill in the Castlemaine district being so named by a large number of tents belonging to Albury people pitched upon its slopes. Not a few of the successful gold seekers returned to Albury, and wisely invested their rapidly acquired wealth locally. This was the beginning of the real development of the town and surrounding district. The proximity of Albury to the Ovens gold fields in Victoria furnished an opportunity of which storekeepers were not slow in taking advantage. They sent large quantities of goods across the Murray, and did a considerable business, especially Mr Mate the founder of the widely known Albury firm. Trade continued increasing, and with it additional population, the townspeople being encouraged and made sanguine by better communication being established between Sydney and Melbourne, the town forming as it were the gateway of the two colonies.

On June 4, 1859 Albury was incorporated as a municipality in accordance with the desire of the majority of the townspeople at a meeting presided over by Mr Roper JP. This was the commencement of a new epoch in the history of the place. As soon as the newly elected municipal council had got fairly into working order, the members began to improve the layout of the township. At that time the main body of the population resided near the river, but as business increased, a new Albury, that of today, began to make its appearance, the most rapid development being during the period 1870-1880, a result partly of the increased value of land in the surrounding district, occasioned by augmented facilities of intercommunication, and partly of the energetic manner in which leading Albury firms had extended their operations in the Riverina district.

The progress of the township was also favourably influenced by the opening of railway communication between Wodonga on the Victorian side of the Murray, which was here crossed by a wooden bridge, and Melbourne. At the same time the great southern line from Sydney was gradually being extended in the direction of Albury, the coach journey from the town to the nearest point touched by the railway steadily diminishing, until at last, instead of a long and wearisome trip to Goulburn, Cootamundra, Junee or Wagga Wagga, a few hours ride to Gerogery, a few miles from Albury sufficed. Those were the busy times for the coaching people, and the daily arrival of the coach was a sight to witness. On February 3, 1881 the line was formally opened to Albury, and on June 14, 1883 the union of the New South Wales railway system, by means of a fine bridge across the Murray, with that of Victoria was celebrated with due ceremony.

It was feared by many that the establishment of direct railway communication between Sydney and Melbourne would deprive Albury of much of its trade. But such has not been the case. On the contrary, the facilities afforded by the railway have tended to increase the importance of Albury as a business centre, and there are not wanting indications that the continued development of the pastoral, agricultural and mining industries in the surrounding district will largely accelerate the progress of a township that may yet become the Australian Washington, for its claims to be regarded as the federal city are second to none in the colonies.

Although not regarded as a pleasure resort, Albury is one of the prettiest places in Australia, and possesses many picturesque features, to which neither the pencil nor the camera can always do justice. "Situated" (says a local writer with justifiable pride) "on the banks of the Murray which turns among its jutting banks, and with hills on every side, Albury has many pretensions to be beautiful." The location resembles an amphitheatre, overlooked by hills. From the rises above, its well planned street lined with trees, its pleasure resorts and high buildings, and farms in little valleys can be seen, and delight one and impel meditation on the enterprise of Britishers in other climes. The rich valleys, with their trees, the winding river, exhibiting a silver sheen in the sunlight and the hills across the way, all contribute their share to the general effect.

There are many beautiful rides and drives near at hand. In springtime the beauty of these astonishes all visitors. On the borders of the roads are many hedge-rows of high rose trees, literally hidden by perfumed red, pink and white flowers. The acacias are laden with white blossom, and the lilac and elderberry thrive, wild flowers are numerous, and by the streamlets which emerge from the hills are several varieties of ferns. Uphill and along these roads supply an ever-changing panorama, and bear the marks of peace and plenty. The cereal crops wave in the fields, and the long grass and high trees and vineyards on the gentle rises and orchards in the valleys all impress one.

The town itself always favourably impresses a visitor by its cheery, home like appearance, its broad thoroughfares, in places lined with luxuriant shade trees, enhancing its picturesque aspect. It contains several good buildings: a most imposing one, and certainly not the least useful, being the railway station, one of the best in Australia. It is of red brick, faced with white cement and is 300ft in length by 46ft in width. In the centre of the edifice is a clock tower 80ft high. The platform is 400ft in length by 20ft in width; a goods warehouse, engine shed for 12 locomotives, a turntable, stationmaster's house, engine-drivers' quarters, porters' cottages, &c, and there are about 4 miles of sidings and crossings in the yard.

On the northern side of Dean Street is a group of public buildings, including the Post Office, Crown Lands Office, Municipal Offices Mechanics Institute, and Telegraph Office, giving a distinctive look to the thoroughfare. The newest structure among those mentioned is the Mechanics Institute, a very fine building of red brick with freestone dressings. It is very ornate in appearance and contains a large hall, with stage, gallery, &c, a good library and reading rooms, billiard-room with two tables and other conveniences.

On the southern side of Dean Street are the branches of the Australian Joint Stock Bank, Bank of Australasia, and the Bank of New South Wales. The new offices of the Australian Mutual Provident Society are also in this street, and the Commercial Bank of Sydney. There is a Temperance Hall at present occupied by the Salvation Army, also an Oddfellows Hall,

which is used as required by the local Masonic lodges until a new Masonic Hall can be erected.

The Albury Hospital enjoys the reputation of being one of the best managed in the colony. It was erected in 1860, the first cost being £2578, of which the Government contributed £970. An additional expenditure of £2960 has since been incurred towards this outlay, the Government granting £1638. The present cost of maintaining the institution is £1400 per annum, the Government contributing £1 in respect of each £1 otherwise subscribed. The hospital has thirty-five beds, twenty-five for males and five for females. The average number of inmates is twenty-two, while during the year as many as 270 out-door reliefs have been granted.

The gaol, situated on a slope overlooking the town, is a very large and commodious building. The Botanical Gardens, a fine reserve of about 13 acres, are tastefully laid out with avenues of limes and beds of choice plants and shrubs, each carefully labelled, whilst near the centre is an ornamental lake with an island and fountains, the whole of the arrangement reflecting the highest credit on the Albury Municipal Council and the curator Mr John Howard, who has had considerable experience as a botanist and gardener. In the grounds is a memorial erected to commemorate the discovery of the Murray by Hume and Hovell.

About a mile from the township, near the river, is the tree, preserved with jealous care as a landmark of the past, on which are seen the initials of Hovell, the explorer and the date, November 17, 1824, marked by himself to record his discovery, with Hume and eight other colonists, of the great stream that now forms portion of the boundary line between New South Wales and Victoria. The tree is protected by an iron rail fence.

The Albury district embraces the two electorates of Albury and Hume. The municipal area is 17,760 acres, containing 1095 houses and having 11,066 ratepayers on the roll. The capital value of the property in the municipality is assessed at £437,945. The annual revenue is £6700, made up as follows: Rates £1999; lighting £506; water £2104; Government endowments £55; and miscellaneous £1970. The estimated population of the township is 5600; of the district about 9000. The members of the municipal council are Mayor D S Watson, Aldermen James Hodge, R A Potts, Joseph Adams, W Ashby, G H Billson, J C Chenery, W Cleaver Woods and W J Jones. Mr John H Paine is the town clerk. A court of petty sessions was established in Albury in the fifties (1850s) and proved a great convenience to residents, especially in those days when law cases were somewhat numerous.

Among the public institutions of Albury are the pastoral and Agricultural Society, who possess a most excellent showground, a racing club, Cricket Association, Lawn Tennis Club, the Albury Club, Cattle Stealing Prevention Association, and a rifle club. Two Companies of Volunteer Reserves were formed at Albury in 1885, about the time of the sending away of the Sudan Contingent from Australia, and were under Messrs T A Cooper and D Abercrombie. In 1889 the remaining volunteers were formed into the present H Company, under Major Wilkinson, then Captain and transferred to the partially-paid forces attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment. The company now has its full strength, consisting of Major Wilkinson, commanding, and Lieutenants Radford and Curran and non commissioned men numbering 60 in all. The last inspection by Colonel Farrell was the most satisfactory ever held in Albury, both as regards numbers and efficiency, the men parading well, and going

through the manoeuvres to the entire satisfaction of the colonel. The whole of the men have now formed themselves in to a rifle club, with the view of becoming thoroughly efficient with their weapons, and to them is attached a reserve rifle club numbering forty members, who practise at the same butts.

The places of Divine Worship in Albury are: St Matthews (Anglican), Rev Canon Kingsmill, vicar, St Patricks (Roman Catholic), Presbyterian, Wesleyan and Congregational churches. There is also a convent, with chapel attached; likewise grammar, public and denominational schools.

The town possesses several large stores, hotels, and other business places, some of which are illustrated in this issue. The two leading hotels are the Globe and the Albury. The first named, of which Mr G K Brown is the genial proprietor, is situated on the corner of Dean and Kiewa streets, and faces the Post Office, thus occupying a very central position in the business portion of the town. As will be seen from our illustration, it has a most imposing appearance, being a fine two storey building, with a very wide verandah and balcony, and has a double frontage facing both streets. The balcony is ornamented with tree ferns, plants, and aviaries. Between the ferns, seats and lounge chairs are placed, from which the visitor can overlook the main business thoroughfare, Dean Street, or obtain a distant view of the surrounding hills. Its length, 266ft by a width of 20ft affords a very pleasant promenade in all weathers. The Globe contains no less than fifty six rooms; the largest of these an upstairs dining hall, opening out onto the balcony, is capable of seating sixty persons, and is occasionally used for banquets. At all times one finds the tables tastefully laid and ornamented with the choicest flowers in season, and the excellent and varied bill of fare inevitably provided leaves nothing to be desired.

Adjoining the dining room are well furnished parlours and sitting rooms, beyond which are numerous bedrooms and suites of rooms for private families; also bathrooms, with both hot and cold water, all being arranged and furnished with a view to the comfort of the guests. On the ground floor are two well fitted bars, where the best brands of liquors and cigars are obtainable, and adjoining these are other parlours and commercial rooms. At the back is a billiard room containing one of Alcock's best tables. Several sample rooms and stables complete the establishment, the hotel holding the certificate of the Commercial Travellers Association of both New South Wales and Victoria. Mr Brown, who has had extensive experience as a hotelkeeper, both in the old country and the colonies, has been the proprietor of the Globe for over four years, and is most ably assisted in the management by his amiable wife; the kindness and attention they invariably show to visitors ending to continually add to their already great popularity as host and hostess, and of the excellent house they so admirably conduct.

The Albury Hotel is a well constructed two storey building fronting Dean Street and is also near to the Post Office, and contains fifty well furnished rooms. Mrs Darby, the popular proprietress, has had the hotel for the past five years, and is well patronised both by the residents of the town and visitors to the district, the capacious hotel affording every facility for the accommodation of a large number of guests. In the main building and wings at the back there are thirty five bedrooms in close proximity to which are the bathrooms, with a supply of both hot and cold water. The large upstairs dining room is well furnished and ornamented, and the table provided is of the best both as regards variety and quality. In the

summer months several punkahs suspended from the ceiling are worked by means of water power during meal times, and cool this apartment and adjoining reading room. There are numerous parlours and sitting rooms in the hotel, all of which are suitably furnished. Those in the front of the building look out upon a wide balcony, from which there is a fine view of the main thoroughfare and surroundings. On the ground floor, and adjoining the entrance hall, are two elaborately fitted bars, where the best of spirits and other liquors are to be had. Convenient parlours and commercial rooms occupy the remaining portion of the front basement. The special feature of the Albury Hotel and one that immediately strikes the visitor upon passing through the entrance hall, is a wide courtyard or fernery at the back, and is enclosed by the wings from the main building. On either side, are tables and seats embowered amongst giant tree ferns and plants of luxuriant growth, with here and there an aviary of birds. The walls of the courtyard, and also of the balcony running round above it, are relieved by pictures. During the summer months this fernery is the favourite resort of the hot and thirsty townsmen or visitor, the place being so delightfully cool as to form an astonishing contrast to the outside temperature.

At this hotel special attention has been given to the accommodation of commercial travellers, for whose convenience six large sample rooms have been built, and so placed that lorries and drays can load and unload at the doors. The Albury holds the certificates of the Commercial Travellers Association of New South Wales and Victoria. In addition to the above there is a billiard room with one of Alcock's best tables and accessories, and at the rear of the premises are several well built stables, at present leased to Mr George Carter a well known livery-man. The ample accommodation afforded by this hotel as outlined above, together with the constant attention bestowed by Mrs Darby and her family to the comfort of their patrons, has placed the Albury in the position it holds as a first class hotel.

Another very commodious hostelry is the George Hotel, which has lately changed hands, Mr Carkeek, the new proprietor, intending to make it one of the leading hotels of the town. The house is very capacious, containing forty three rooms, comprising dining, reading, commercial, and sample rooms, numerous bedrooms, well fitted bathrooms, with a billiard room with an Alcock table, downstairs and upstairs bars and parlours, and in fact all the requirements for the conducting of a large business. The hotel is situated immediately opposite the Mechanics Institute in Dean Street, a most excellent site. Mr Carkeek is also the proprietor of the Town Hall Hotel, close by which business is run by Mr Carkeek jun, who together with his father, enjoy a large section of public patronage. Ohler's Club House, situated near to the Botanic Gardens, is another popular hotel; and in fact there are many others of note, which together provide Albury with hotel accommodation second to no other township in the colony.

A description of Albury would be incomplete without special reference to the great business house of T H Mate and Company Limited, general storekeepers. This business was established by the late respected Thomas Hodges Mate as far back as 1850, when Albury was merely a collection of a few huts. A small concern only at first, it soon obtained a name in the district, and gradually grew through several decades, until today the business transacted is equal to that of many large houses of Sydney and Melbourne and is a standing monument to the energy, foresight, and ability of its founder. In the year 1888 the business was floated into a limited liability company, the whole of the shares being taken up by Mr Mate's family. At the present time 60 odd hands are employed, and the firm possesses a

trade connection through the whole of the Riverina. Nearly everything required in the business is imported direct, the greater proportion of the goods being station and farm requisites. The main premises are located at the corner of Townsend and Hume Streets, and are shown on our page of illustrations, and these, together with out-buildings, cover an area of about three acres. Mr G Arthur Thompson is the able managing director of this great concern, and Mr John Bald Wilson secretary. The firm have offices in both Sydney and Melbourne.

Another first class establishment is that of K McLennan and Company drapers and general outfitters, Dean Street. The extensive and varied display made by the firm of the very latest fashions in millinery, drapery, boots and shoes &c, from Sydney and Melbourne, form the centre of attraction to the fair sex of Albury, and a "quite up-to-date" person from either capital might stop in front of their handsome plate-glass show windows and see something new and original in character and design, rarely met with in a country store. Commanding a most extensive business, the firm believe in keeping pace with the time, and endeavour to secure the best and most fashionable goods the markets afford, for which they find an ever increasing demand. To conduct the business of the dress, Manchester, clothing, mercery, fancy goods, millinery and boot and shoe departments, the firm employs some forty hands, the whole being under the management of Mr J Campbell, who has been connected with Mr McLennan for the last eleven years, the last six of which he has been the manager. In this latter capacity he was so successful that about 12 months ago he was admitted into partnership. Mr McLennan commenced business in Albury nearly forty years back as a general storekeeper, and is therefore an old and esteemed identity of the town. He holds a commission of the peace, has served in the council and also held the position of Mayor of Albury.

A very old-established business house in Albury is that of Mrs F A Selle, furniture importer. A visit to the extensive premises in Dean Street convinces one that the surrounding districts have special facilities for furnishing and beautifying their homes close to hand. The warehouse has a dimension of 200ft by 60ft and is stocked with valuable furniture, carpets, glassware, crockery, hardware and fancy goods, imported from the old world markets, and selected with a view to meet the requirements of all classes. Cabinet-making and upholstery also form an important branch of the business conducted by Mrs Selle.

The flour milling industry is well represented in Albury, there being two large mills equipped with the best and most modern labour saving machinery. The Hume Flour Mills, owned by Mr John Burrows, is capable of turning out 140 bags in twelve hours, the machinery being driven by a 100 hp compound beam engine. The wheat is supplied in the district, and the flour manufacturing from it has won the highest praise for quality from experts.

Messrs Hayes Brothers Patent Roller Flour Mills contain a most complete plant in every respect, and can give an output of 10 tons a day of the finest flour, as instanced by the fact that this firm took first prize at the Sydney Centennial Exhibition, competing against the best flour in Australia. The firm's trade extends throughout New South Wales to the borders of Queensland, and in addition to buying the best of wheat to be had for their own use, they also purchase large quantities for metropolitan millers.

With so many hotels to supply, it is not to be wondered that the town supports two local breweries. The largest concern, the Albury Brewing Company Limited, being situated near

the Murray River bridge crossing over to Wodonga. The firm have extensive plant, and manufacture large quantities of excellent beer. The New Brewery, established by Mr W J Billson is in Dean Street; the present plant, which is all of modern type, having a capacity of 40 hogsheads per week. As the demand for his ales is steadily increasing, he will probably require to add to his existing plant.

The coach factory of George Dallinger and Company is the scene of a thriving industry, and shows that Albury is in no way behind other large country towns in this branch of trade. Mr Dallinger started as a lad of 14 as an apprentice to the blacksmithing and coach building, after the termination of which he soon commenced business for himself, and today has the largest concern of its kind in the district, employing a large staff of workmen at the factory in Olive Street, where the blacksmith and wheelwrights, body-making, paint and varnish shops, and shoeing forge all present a scene of great activity. Mr Dallinger has also exhibited his vehicles at almost every show for years past, and has taken many prizes in every class he exhibited. Waggonette sociables, single buggies, with and without hoods, double buggies, farmers' wagonettes, farm and carriers' wagons, and tip drays are made in the best style, both as regards appearance and durability.

In speaking of coaches and coaching, the firm of Crawford and Company may be mentioned, as they possess the largest livery and bait stables in the town, under the supervision of Mr Macdonald. They run lines of coaches from Albury to Tintaldra and from Albury to Bulgandra and Mahonga; also from Corowa to Urana and from thence to Widgiewa. Their cabs ply to and fro in connection with the railway and town.

The firm of Chas L Griffith and Company, stock and station agents, occupies one of the handsomest blocks in the town, most centrally situated at the intersection of Dean and Townsend streets, on the main route from Albury to Wodonga. The business of this well known firm has been built up within the last twenty years by the enterprise of Mr Chas L Griffith and his popular partner Mr Thos H Griffith, and it is now the largest and most important auctioneering concern in the stock and station business outside the metropolis. For straight dealing and promptitude in business they are known and esteemed from Carpentaria to Cape Otway, and even to far Westralia.

During the past three years Albury has been steadily growing in favour as a natural centre for the disposal of wool, hides, skins, tallow, and other produce. To meet the demand for increased storage and sale room accommodation required for this class of business, the Riverina Wool Hide and Produce Company Limited which had founded and built up the market here, added to their already large premises extensive stores on the railway line at the junction of the Victorian and New South Wales systems, with ample facilities for loading and unloading produce direct from and to the tracks on either line of rails. Their monthly sales of hides, skins and tallow attract the principal buyers from both Sydney and Melbourne, and at their fortnightly sales during the wool season the principal buyers in the colony are represented. During the season 1895 and 1896 the quantity of wool sold in Albury far exceed that sold in any former season, and demonstrated the growing confidence of farmers and graziers in Albury as the natural market for the sale of their wool.

Younghusband and Company Limited, is a branch of the well known and enterprising firm of that name in Melbourne. About twelve months since, realising the growing importance of Albury as a natural centre for the sale of wool, sheepskin hides, tallow and other station



produce grown in the Riverina, they decided to erect large and commodious stores and arranged with the New South Wales Railway Commissioners for a convenient site at the railway station, between the New South Wales and Victorian lines, whereby trucks could be loaded and unloaded, so that consignments could be received from either colony and delivery given without extra handling or cost of cartage. They hold fortnightly and monthly sales of wool, skins, hides and other produce, which are attended by all the principal buyers in this and the adjoining colony, and the sales have now reached the proportions second to none in the Riverina. In conjunction with the above they have lately added the business of stock and station agents, and hold fortnightly sales of stock at Albury, besides Wodonga and Tallangatta (the latter two towns bordering on the Victorian side). This branch has also exceeded their most sanguine expectations, and is growing into large dimensions. The office arrangements are conducted by a numerous and efficient staff under the supervision of Mr Robert Cadden, who has been there since its inception.

With the evidences of prosperity that one cannot fail to remark about Albury, it is not surprising to find several good jewellers shops in the town. The one illustrated is that of Mr Blasbalk, at Temple Court, Dean Street, who has been in business in Albury during the past six years. His shop is of very neat design, and was specially decorated to his order in the Continental style. The ceiling is of the Wunderlich patent stamped zinc of striking pattern, and the walls are papered in rich olive and gold, giving a very finished appearance to the interior, which together with the handsome window and inside fittings, enables him to make a most attractive display of watches, clocks, jewellery and optical goods. Mr Blasbalk makes a speciality of purchasing Australian gold, opals and precious stones, working them up into rings, brooches and pins in a most artistic and novel style. Several rings and pins recently made were most admirable specimens of the jewellers' art. An Australian opal and diamond ring, and a ring set with a large and brilliant diamond from the Tenterfield district, could not but be admired. In addition to the manufacturing of new jewellery and watch repairing, a good business is done in working up old jewellery into the most modern patterns, and the constant increase of trade shows that his skill and practical knowledge are appreciated by the townspeople.

The photographic art possesses an able exponent in Albury in the person of Mr W Oakley, whose display of portraits and views appears equal in merit to that exhibited in many of our city studios.

A trip through the surrounding district readily explains the business pre-eminence enjoyed by Albury. It forms a natural outlet of the immense Riverina district, all parts of which are accessible by good roads.

With the increase of settlement in the Riverina, the prosperity of Albury will continue to expand, and it is probable that within the next few years there will be a considerable development of gold mining enterprise, for portions of the district are known to be highly auriferous, especially the hills known as the Black Range. They are situated about five miles from Albury, and payable reefs are being worked at several parts.

The cultivation of the wine is however, the industry with which the name of Albury is most intimately associated, and to Messrs Schubach, Frauenfelder and Rau is due the credit of having first planted the vine in the neighbourhood. Their early operations proving successful they induced others from Germany to join them in planting vineyards on the hills and slopes

bordering on the Murray River. About the year 1858 an association called Murray Valley Vineyard Company was formed. This body obtained the rights to select 640 acres of ground suitable for vine-growing, with the privilege of purchasing the land at £1 per acre. The vineyard planted by the company, which is situated at about four miles from Albury, was purchased in about the year 1862 by the late Mr J T Fallon, through whose enterprise the now celebrated Murray Valley wines were placed on the European markets. The acreage now in bearing is nearly 200 acres, while there is stored in the cellars in Sydney and Albury about 300,000 gallons, varying in age from one to twenty years.

Two miles beyond the above is the Ettamogah Vineyard, the property of Messrs Harbottle, Alsop and Company. It is 32 acres in extent and the wines made here by the expert manager Mr J D Lankester have won a name for Ettamogah over the whole of the colonies and in the home markets. The great reputation these enjoy may be in a great measure attributed to the custom of maturing the vines, which has never been departed from. Mr Lankester's opinions are sought after by vignerons on vineyard and wine making matters, and his services as a judge of wines are much sought after in both New South Wales and Victoria. His own property, called Emu Park is near to Ettamogah, and consists of 400 acres of which 18 acres are in vines in full bearing. A portion is devoted to raisin and currant growing. A visit to Ettamogah is rendered most enjoyable by the hospitable reception accorded one by its manager, who spares no pains to impart whatever information he deems of interest to the visitor in the business of which he has proved himself a past master.

Albury is well supplied with local newspapers, these being the "Albury Banner," the "Border Post" and the "Daily News." To Mr T Affleck, of the "Border Post" I am much indebted for much interesting information regarding the early history of the town and district; also to Mr T Matthews, a very old resident.