

# TO HELP SURGERY



# onal Jobs" Rail Line

RA. — The Commonwealth the cost of strengthening y line between Parkes and because it was of national Mr. Harrison said yesterday.

He said Parkes could become the centre of an Australia-wide unified rail system.

Trains would be able to travel at high speed from Western Australia to New South Wales.

But unless the Parkes-Broken Hill line was strengthened there would be a weak link in the system.

[The Commonwealth has rejected the N.S.W. Government's request to help pay for the strengthening as an extension of the Port Pirie-Broken Hill standardisation project.]

Mr. Harrison said the line did not need strengthening to meet N.S.W. railway needs, but strengthening was necessary as part of the Commonwealth standardisation scheme.

# Award Rates Asked for N.T. Natives

DARWIN. — Negotiations are under way that could cost Northern Territory cattle producers more than £300,000 a year in wage increases for Aboriginal employees.

The secretary of the North Australian Workers Union (Mr. Paddy Carroll) said his union was asking cattlemen, through its central council, to delete from the award a clause which precludes Aboriginals.

There are about 1300 native workers on stations in the Territory.

Most are paid a minimum, under the Ward's Employment Ordinance, of £2/8/ a week plus 15/ clothing allowance and keep for themselves, a wife and one child. The standard of keep varies widely from property to property.

The Pastoral Award provides for a wage of about £16/17/ a week for white stockmen, and the union believes that if Aboriginals are included in the award most will receive about £5 a week rise.

Mr. Carroll said he hoped cattlemen would agree to include Aboriginals rather than fight out an Arbitration Court battle.

He said the union would not agree to discriminatory wage levels now that Aboriginals had been given citizenship rights. It would move to recruit the Aboriginals in pastoral and other industries as union members.

If Aboriginals working on settlements and at missions were brought in about 3000 Aboriginals would be eligible.

This would more than double the existing strength of the North Australian Workers' Union.

## £3 to £30

Mr. Carroll applauded the Australian Workers' Union claim to increase an Aboriginal stockman's wage from about £3 to £30.

The secretary of the Northern Territory Cattle Producers' Council (Mr. Bill De Vos, of Sydney), said cattlemen were considering the union's claim that Aboriginals should be included under the award.

It is known that the cattlemen will want to incorporate "slow workers" wage levels in the industry on the grounds that many Aboriginals are not good

enough to warrant full award wages.

But the industry employs far more natives than whites, and Europeans are hard to lure to the tough, isolated life on cattle stations.

Many properties still provide only the most primitive accommodation, although standards on the major company properties are improving steadily.

It is expected here that the cattlemen will try to get the Government on their side on the grounds that many hundreds of natives will be out of jobs immediately if award standards are introduced.

Large-scale strife looks certain on the pastoral and other industrial fronts next year when the union launches its recruiting campaign.

# Cattlemen's "Great Strides"

CANBERRA. — The Northern Territory cattle industry was making "tremendous strides," the Minister for Territories (Mr. Barnes) said yesterday.

"This progressive movement will continue," he told the House of Representatives.

He was replying to Mr. Beasley (Lab., W.A.), who said that U.S. rancher and television personality Art Linkletter had stated that the technical level of the cattle industry in the Territory was similar to that of the United States in the 1840's.

Mr. Barnes said that in 1922 cattle prices had dropped disastrously and the industry had not recovered until the end of the 1940's.

"The industry in the Territory has been making a tremendous recovery since those years," he said.

An abattoirs had been established at Katherine, and for the first time graziers were getting a reasonable price for beef in the Northern Territory.

Earlier, Mr. Barnes said sealing of all beef roads would slow down the beef road programme.

Replying to Mr. Nelson (Lab., N.T.), Mr. Barnes said the Government was considering the question of sealing gravel roads.

# Pay Offer But Unions Seek More

REPRESENTATIVES of 3 yesterday accepted a pay offer to workers in defence and other wealth Government departments.

However, the representatives declared that the offer — from the Commonwealth Public Service Board — was unsatisfactory.

They called on the Australian Council of Trade Unions to "immediately initiate a forthright campaign" to conclude the claims.

The board recently granted tradesmen — on a margin of 106/ a week or more — three yearly increments of 16/6. At present they receive three yearly increments of 11/.

# Lost His Taste for Pies

SYDNEY. — Kenneth Everden has lost his taste for meat pies after one cost him a total of £17 14/-.

Kenneth, 20, of Yagoona, developed an allergy to the Australian national dish when the Sutherland court fined him £10 for dropping a partly eaten meat pie in a gutter at Cronulla.

Kenneth, a sales clerk, said yesterday that he threw away the pie after he had taken a bite out of it and found it "tasted awful."

"I'd no sooner dropped it when a bloke came up to me and asked me my name," he added. "I told him and he said that I'd be fined a fiver for dropping the pie."

It later turned out that the "bloke" who had questioned Kenneth was a special constable with the Sutherland shire council.

Still later, the magistrate at Sutherland court also took a stern view of Kenneth's pie-dropping. After fining him £10, he ordered Kenneth to pay court costs, £4/4/ professional costs and £2/10/ witness expenses.

"That's the most expensive meat pie I've ever eaten and most likely the last one I'll ever eat," Kenneth declared.

# Concert Will Take Place

A folk concert organised by folk artists would definitely be held at Melbourne next night, the organisers said last night. Posters advertising the

Non-tradesmen of less than £1000 granted through they receive increments of 11/6. A.C.T.U. E. Monk said the unions the 16/6 gr men, but w amount for

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