

more than pay a small deposit and instalments of £10 per month, so what they did was to pay a visit to Mr. A. Osborne, late General Manager of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Ltd. They turned out their empty pockets to him, and they said this—"The M.L.C. will back us for £450,000. If 150 members take 150 shares of £1,500 each that will create a liability on those members to pay £225,000. We shall only call up £150,000 of that sum so there will be £75,000 of uncalled capital. You lend us the whole of that amount, viz. £150,000". This the Bank agreed to do.

On 8th February, 1954, details of the scheme were put to the Bar. It was realised that before the scheme could be launched 150 shares would have to be applied for. It was hoped to close the list by 15th March, 1954. By that date sufficient applications had not been received. On 26th March, 1954, Barwick said in a circular:—"The erection of this building affords the major hope of preventing the dispersal and disintegration of the Bar. If the Bar has no enthusiasm for it it is no purpose or function of ours to press it on an apathetic group. We have done no more than to offer our good offices to promote and foster the scheme."

On 1st April, 1954, Barwick stated that unless the response from the Bar improved by the end of the following week a halt would have to be called. By then only 135 shares were applied for and the scheme was doomed unless something could be done. They made then the final throw—the idea of calling on some of the Senior men to see if they would underwrite the extra shares necessary and a meeting was held on 12th April in Barwick's Chambers.

"I think" said Meares "that was the only time in two years that their courage and their enthusiasm faltered a little." However, seven members agreed to underwrite the additional shares; Barwick and Manning headed the list by each taking three further shares, involving them in a liability of £4,500 each. With 150 shares applied for the scheme could proceed.

A building contract was let on 27th August, 1954, and as a result of the then response of the Bar it was ultimately decided to provide two further floors for Barristers' Chambers, making a total of 11 floors for them.

On 8th November, 1955, the Builders advised that they were in financial difficulties and asked to complete on a costs plus basis but in view of the undertakings to shareholders such an offer could not be accepted. Manning and the Architect then undertook the task—(a) of finalising the contract with the Builders; and (b) of preparing new bills of quantities and finding a firm prepared to complete a building half completed.

There were conferences with the Architects, the Builders, the Receiver for the creditors and the former builder. The Architect described the problem as a gigantic one, but it was overcome and on the 24th January, 1956, a contract was signed by Sir Lindsay Parkinson (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. to complete the building which involved an expenditure of something less than £5,000 more than the original contract price.

You will appreciate the supervision entailed in a building of this nature—all sorts of problems, ventilation,

sprinkling systems, types of windows, floor layouts and hundreds of other building problems were dealt with and finally it became necessary to consider rents to be charged and the arrangements for the occupation of the building in stages because of the delay in completion.

On 20th August, 1957, the building was officially opened. I will quote again: "Barwick spoke at length of what everybody else had done. He made no mention of his own efforts but referred to the great personal spirit and unflagging enthusiasm of J. K. Manning. If one tries to get the whole story from Barwick he speaks of the terrific enthusiasm and energy of Manning; if one goes to Manning he can think of nothing but stories of the wisdom and foresight and efforts of Barwick, and so perhaps it can best be said of them that they worked together for two years in harmony, the one helping the other to provide a home for the Bar and to advance its corporate existence. So many others helped them but theirs was the vision—they dreamed the dreams and by their foresight, wisdom and untiring efforts they converted those dreams into reality."

In September, 1954, a copy of Barwick's address as Chairman of the Company was sent to the Chief Justice and he replied in these terms:—"It is true, in the words of Horace, that their monument is more lasting than bronze."

Meares concluded his speech by saying that it was proper that firstly we should know what these men had done and secondly that we should respect and honour them for it.

The Common Room

On 24th March, 1961, the Premier of New South Wales (the Hon. R. J. *Heffron*) was the guest of the Association at an end-of-the-week party held in his honour. The party was attended by large numbers of the Bench and Bar.

On 5th April, 1961 the President entertained at lunch in the Common Room Mr. Justice *McCarthy*, a Justice of the Supreme Court of New Zealand who was visiting Sydney on vacation and on 26th April, 1961, he had as a guest Sir *Francis Adams* formerly a Justice of the Supreme Court of New Zealand.

On 7th April, 1961, the Dean of the Faculty of Laws in the University of Sydney (Professor K. O. *Shatwell*) and the senior lecturers in the faculty visited the common room as guests of the President and members of the Council in the late afternoon. Dean *Russell Niles*, Dean of the New York Law School, who was visiting Sydney at the time, accompanied them.

On 15th June, the members of the Taxation Board of Review (Messrs. J. L. *Burke*, R. C. *Smith* Q.C. and R. E. *O'Neill*) had lunch in the common room as guests of the Vice-President.

The Trustees of the Nielsen Vacluse Park Trust have recently presented to the Association a plaster cast bust of William Charles Wentworth. When the Association's premises are remodelled, provision will be made for its display in the common room.