

is interesting to note that they then walked in to the nearest patrol post quite a distance away, where they arrived about 11 o'clock at night. The patrol officer was at the club having his nightly grog, and they rushed in there with their still blood-stained knives and said "For God's sake, put us in the clink—we have just killed a sorcerer". He obliged. That is the sort of thing that goes on.

One of the difficulties up there, is that everything has to be done through at least one interpreter, very often two. As you no doubt recall, the High Court said in Gaio's Case that a person can give evidence of a confession which was translated to him orally, provided the translator is called and swears that he interpreted truthfully. You usually get a beautifully detailed confession made to a patrol officer in a language he can't understand and so, translated by an interpreter. The interpreter is then called and gives the necessary evidence as prescribed by the High Court, but some of the bright defending counsel (and all these people, incidentally, are defended by counsel from the Public Solicitor's office) have woken up to a thing which is quite well known amongst people who have worked with the natives—that is, that, if you ask a native a question nicely and politely, he will give you the answer which he thinks you expect. That, of course, rather simplifies cross-examination. The unsuspecting prosecutor puts the interpreter in the box. He answers the three leading questions the way it is expected of him, then defending counsel gets up with a nice smile and says "And you told this man that anything he said would be taken down in writing" and the interpreter says, "Yes". "And you told him that it could be used in evidence in Court proceedings which might take place"—"Yes". "And you told him that he'd better confess or else he would be in more serious trouble", and he says "Yes". Sometimes they build it up a little bit further and say "And you told him that he would get better treated if he made a confession", and he says "Yes". "And you also told him that if he didn't confess he'd be locked up over night with the body of the man he killed", and he says "Yes". Well at that stage defence counsel can safely sit down.

I suppose that anyone who has been in the Territory for any time has a string of stories, but there is a moral to them. They show that it is not only the white man who is going through a difficult time. The native is going through the awkward transitional stage where, on the one hand, he feels bound to follow tribal tradition while, on the other hand, he knows that this is often contrary to the white man's law. It is the Judge's job to try to reconcile the two.

Selborne Chambers

On 5th March, 1962, for the first time during Term since J. H. Want established himself in the building in 1896, no barrister engaged in the practice of his profession at or from Selborne Chambers 174 Phillip Street, Sydney. For, during the fortnight which preceded that date, the legal tenants had been moving to 182 King Street with their books and their papers, their typewriters and their typists, their memories and their hopes for the future.

The preparations for the move brought to light much old dust and old wall paper, a copy of the Law Almanac for 1896 signed "G. E. Rich", and one map preserved on the end of a set of book-shelves—issued by an agent of the A.M.P. Society as an advertisement—which showed "the seat of war" and recommended the immediate taking out of life assurance with the Society in order to obtain a bonus for the year 1899.

The former denizens of 174 Phillip Street have now settled fairly well into their new—though temporary—quarters where they expect to remain for the next eighteen months. The taunts of the rest of the Bar directed to their occupation of what was formerly the Queens Club are of no great concern; but the absence of a lift in a building where three storeys are in occupation is somewhat serious, especially for the older members and in particular for elderly or ill clients. However, it is understood that steps are being taken to get the lift into commission as soon as possible.

The rooms which are now occupied are on the whole more commodious and attractive than might have been expected from an inspection of the building when it was empty. The views from many of the rooms are delightful since most of them overlook Hyde Park.

In the meantime, the rooms in 174 Phillip Street which housed such great legal personalities as Sir George Rich, Mr. Justice J. A. Browne, Sir Frederick Jordan and Sir Dudley Williams, as well as a Governor-General of the Commonwealth, two State Premiers, a number of other Judges, some of whom are still on the Bench, and (among a host of others) three generations of Shands, have been stripped and the building itself is in process of being wrecked, a process which will be completed before this appears in print. It is understood that some small part of the fabric of Selborne will be incorporated in the new building which will take its place.

The construction of the new project gives the opportunity of enlarging the accommodation occupied by the Bar Association to something like four times the size of the present accommodation. Plans for this area which are now under active consideration, will provide a separate library, an enlarged dining room and a lounge with provision for a bar. The dining room and lounge will be so arranged that, for large functions, they can be thrown together. In addition, better provision will be made for the administrative needs of the Bar Association and Counsel's Chambers Limited.

The Bar Building Project and the Accommodation Problem

The contract for the erection of the new building (which will be substantially identical with Wentworth Chambers) on the Selborne site has been let by Counsel's Chambers Ltd. to T. C. Whittle Pty. Ltd.

The building contract provides that demolition will be completed in four weeks and construction in a further sixty-five weeks. The date for completion is nominally 1st July, 1963, but, after making allowances for inclement weather and other unavoidable delays, it is anticipated that the new building will be ready for occupation in about September or October of next year.