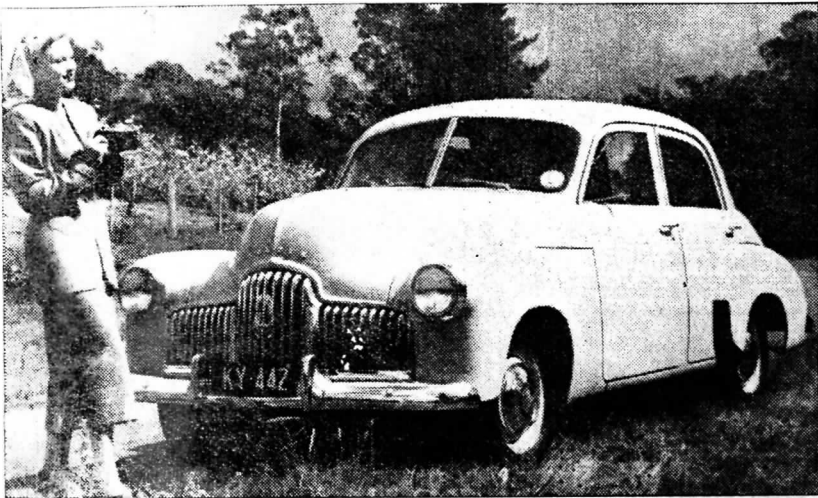


TRADE UNIONS TO CLAIM BIG BASIC WAGE RISE



FIRST PICTURE released today of the new Australian car, the Holden. A six-cylinder, 21.6-horsepower type, the Holden will be sold for £675, plus sales tax (£67/10/-).

Holden car to sell at £675 plus sales tax

Australia's new car—Holden—which made its first public appearance in Melbourne today, will sell at £742/10/-—£675, plus £67/10/- sales tax.

Rescue ship for Shanghai

The Italian motorship Castelbianco is working at top pressure in Walsh Bay to load stores for Shanghai, where she will evacuate Americans endangered by advancing Chinese Reds.

Plans were made to get the ship to sea tonight, but had to be abandoned when no labor was available over the weekend.

The Castelbianco is expected to sail tomorrow morning.

Orders to rush the ship to Shanghai were received on Friday night, too late to secure labor or place foodstuff orders for the weekend.

The orders came from the International Refugee Organisation, to which the Castelbianco is chartered.

The vessel brought 900 displaced persons to Sydney on November 19 from Genoa.

16 killed in store fire

MEXICO CITY, Sunday.—At least 16 were killed when a hardware store in the heart of the business section was gutted today.

Twelve were firemen and four were Red Cross assistants.

It is feared that 10 more people may be buried under the debris, AAP.

Mr. W. J. Stack, managing-director of Stack & Co. Pty. Ltd., said today that, as announced by the Minister for Transport on September 23, no permit will be necessary to purchase a Holden car.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) will attend the first official inspection at a ceremony at Fishermen's Bend this afternoon.

Within the next two weeks the car will be on view in showrooms in every capital city.

General Motors - Holdens, Ltd., the producers, hope to achieve a production rate of 20,000 cars a year by the second half of 1949.

Final assembly of the Holden will be carried out in the company's assembly plants in five capital cities, and by next year 9000 Australians will be employed in these factories.

Holden is a six-passenger sedan with a spacious rear luggage box.

It has a rating of 21.6 hp, and has three synchro-mesh gears.

No tests have yet been possible by private owners or clubs, but in a recent test, two Holdens, over a 600-mile course of varying surfaces, at an average speed of 35 mph,

recorded 37 miles to the gallon.

Plans for the production of another Australian car were submitted to Mr. Chifley in Canberra on Saturday by Mr. L. J. Hartnett, former general manager of General Motors-Holden, Ltd.

British and Australian capital would be used in the project, it was stated.

The Prime Minister is believed, without committing other Cabinet members, to have reacted favorably to the proposal.

Huge UK Army depot in Africa

LONDON, Monday.—Britain's vast new overseas Army depot at Mackinnon Road, 70 miles from Mombasa (Kenya) was opened on Saturday.

First of its two main purposes is to take by September, 1949, 182,000 tons of Royal Engineers' stores.

The depot's second purpose is to provide an East African installation readily convertible into a base depot in the event of war.—AAP.

56 RETAIL BUTCHERS TO BE PROSECUTED

Fifty-six retail butchers are to be prosecuted for failing to exhibit notices of the selling prices of meat.

Announcing this today, Minister for Labor and Industry (Mr. Fanning) said regulations under the Home Delivery Act require the notices to be exhibited in the shop windows.

Investigations would be completed this week, added Mr. Fanning.

CANBERRA, Monday.—An application for a basic wage increase of nearly £2 a week will be lodged next year by the trade union movement.

Equal pay for men and women will also be sought by the Australasian Council of Trade Unions, which will submit applications to the Arbitration Court.

The basic wage in NSW at present is £6/2/-.

Federal Parliament this week is expected to pass legislation giving the Arbitration Court power to fix a minimum wage for females.

During the war, women's wages in essential industries were fixed by National Security Regulations at 75 per cent of the male rates in the same industries.

In 1946 the Arbitration Court heard an ACTU application for an increase of £1 a week in the basic wage.

In an interim judgment it awarded a rise of 7/-.

It is expected that hearing of the ACTU claim will be continued early next year.

Higher loadings

ACTU officials are working on evidence to be placed before the Court.

In addition to its £1 a week claim, the ACTU will ask that the 1939 prosperity loading and the 1941 war loading, each of 6/-, be consolidated in the basic wage.

The unions will ask that these loadings be adjusted to present-day prices, making the first loading 9/4 a week and the second 8/8 a week.

Further, the ACTU will seek determination of a new loading on the basic wage, to offset the lag in cost of living adjustment now made once every three months.

Legislation now before Parliament not only empowers the Court to fix a minimum basic wage rate for females, but also authorises it to determine margins and allowances for skill.

The bill became necessary when the Arbitration Court last July held that it did not have power to fix a minimum female rate.

Shop assistants' rise

In Sydney today, the Industrial Commissioner awarded wage increases of from 3/- to 14/- a week to shop assistants, to take effect from the next pay period.

Between 60,000 and 80,000 shop assistants throughout the State will benefit.

Increases are:—Senior male assistants in Sydney and Newcastle, from £7/10/- to £8/4/-; senior female assistants, £4/15/- to £5/8/-.

New country rates: Senior male assistants £8/1/6, female £5/5/6.

King may undergo operation

Sun Special and AAP.
LONDON, Monday.—The King may have to undergo an operation to the right leg, says the London Daily Mirror.

Final decision will be made today, after the five doctors in attendance have made their third visit to Buckingham Palace.

Arrangements have been completed for an operation, should it be necessary.

It could be performed in the Palace.

But if the doctors decide that the King is responding to treatment, they may allow him to go to Sandringham for the Royal Family's customary Christmas holiday.

The King remained at the Palace yesterday, where he spent the day quietly.

The Queen, with Princess Margaret, attended Divine service at St. Michael's, Chester Square.

Fruit at prewar prices

Fruit was back to prewar prices at the City Markets today, and marketing authorities predict a glut by Christmas.

Wholesale prices of seasonal lines were peaches 4/- to 16/- (few 20/-) a case; plums 3/6 to 14/- a case; cherries 6/- to 11/- (few to 15/-); oranges 6/- to 14/- (few to 18/-).

Past president of the Northern District Fruit Growers' Association (Mr. H. Heard) said, "A continuation of fine weather will bring on a glut of peaches and plums by Christmas."

Secretary of the Barrowmen's Association (Mr. A. Clifton) said fruit would be dumped this Christmas unless barrowmen were allowed to sell it on the streets.

CONTACT
by
Jim MacDougall

Fire parts from the British Empire in January. We understand the Cross of St. Patrick will still remain in the Union Jack.

Lost and found

A businessman applied to Fuel Control for four gallons of benzine for special purposes.

The Department lost the application, he wrote again, received four gallons.

A month later the Department found the original application, wrote back saying he couldn't have any!

Tough alderman

Alderman Neville Harding, who defends his Macquarie Ward seat at the City Council elections on Saturday, is getting a reputation as a tough guy.

A few weeks ago he figured in a mild bout of histericis in a city cafe, defending one of his electors.

A couple of nights ago he wandered into a Double Bay cafe and almost on his heels arrived the police patrol, fire brigade and ambulance!

From the Parramatta Advertiser: "Experienced fitter and turner, certificate, sokpelei shrdlu shrdlupj tificate, like position contractor, any suburb.

They tell me he couldn't stand another Russian winter.

Search for talent

The local J. Arthur Rank boys have received details of the nation-wide search that begins in Britain today for Britain's most beautiful cow.

Casting qualifications are: Jersey for preference (they're the most photogenic type); horns optional, but good carriage and milking ability essential. Mobile features an asset, since the cow must be able to look alternately sad or happy.

It must also be able to moo to cue!

Just pie!

Ever seen people eating steak and kidney pie?

First thing they do when it arrives is to make a frantic search for the kidney, which they push tidily to one side for the end.

A fellow ordered steak and kidney pie in one of the big city restaurants last week, couldn't find any kidney, and straight way rang up the Prices Office.

An official went into the kitchen, quizzed the chef.

"Well, it's this way," said the chef, "I takes a bowl of kidneys and two bowls of steak and mixes them all up."

"Sometimes you get kidney and sometimes you don't — just like threepences in the plum pudding."

A deputation in my two-by-two office this morning from people who attended the Conservatorium opera school's performance of Louise at the Con. on Saturday night. They say there was no God Save the King either before or after the performance.