

1893. 14th Sept. New Crs. Lyon<sup>g</sup>, Chaldner and Jones.

1893. Shire Hall built. Crawford. Madigan.

R.H.KERR. 27th April 1893. R.H.KERR writes to "The Argus":

I positively assert that the line of country proposed to be occupied is totally unsuitable for the purpose of village settlements, it being a series of heavily timbered, deep, steep and abrupt gorges, very beautiful and grand to look and wonder at, but unfit for the needy settlers.

There is not a patch of it could be opened for less than £30 an ac. and I truly believe there is not one family of those for whom this is thrown open would ever permanently settle there and my advice is not to waste their energy, time and capital on this Utopian scheme in the present form. It occurs to me that it is not their future advantage that is being considered but only to get rid of their present importunities.

There is not a practical road in the neighbourhood, those already surveyed cannot be traversed with 100 lb. weight on pack-horses. The lowest bed of the Sass. is about 1200 ft. above sea level and is hemmed in with mountains 500 or 600 ft. over that. What a lively aspect and prospect during the coming winter. I trust the Minister will be courteous enough to hold his hand until some public expression of opinion has been taken. I do not presume to question the hon. gent's legal right or intent of purpose to alienate what is understood to be a reserve.

I, with my colleagues the F.T.G.S. Councillors, as guardians of the people's property in this district, claim the right to have a say on the subject of recklessly and uselessly destroying this beauty spot of Vic, useful for rec. purposes and none other. ....

For many months past the Council has been in corresp. with the Lands Dept. to open up a block of suitable country only a little south of the site intended and to which access is comp. easy by reason of roads made and maint. by the Shire, but this was refused ~~and~~ in consequence of an impression that it was wanted for water scheme. .. Now found to be an error - land is still available.

Now, as the subject is of more than local interest and concerns those who toil and are ~~tired~~ tied up in towns, to them I now appeal to at once come forward and assist to protect this, their own exceptional heritage, the great national park, with its giant trees, sass and fern gullies or if not, for ever hold their peace on matters of this kind.

The Quixotic visit of the Minister of Lands on Thurs. last could not have given him much knowledge of the subject or the capacity of the F.T.G.S.<sup>1</sup><sub>2</sub> where the area is 150 sq. miles. It was merely an afternoon outing from 1 - 4; therefore I again tender our information and assistance. Trusting this effusion altho' earnest is not immoderate." R.H.KERR.

J. S. CRAWFORD. Follows: "The southern face of the Range ..... is least objectionable and it consists of few gullies of great beauty.

The area available is 3000 acs. and this adj. the eastern portion of the proposed area stated above as two-thirds of the whole 7,000 acs. which could be added without destroying the beaut. Sass. gullies which have no equal in the world. Fairly easy access from what is known as the main ~~Ma~~