

# **TRIBUTE TO THE PIONEERS UNVEILING OF CAIRN TODAY**

Senator Major General Brand will perform a ceremony of great interest to all residents of the Shepparton district this afternoon when he unveils the cairn at the entrance to Lake Victoria in memory of Joseph Hawdon and Charles Bonney, the first white men to enter the district.

The Senator will be the guest of the Shepparton and Settlements sub-branch of the Returned Soldiers' League during his stay in Shepparton, and the unveiling of the cairn has been arranged in addition to his address at the smoke night in the Shepparton East Hall this evening.

## **HISTORY OF DISCOVERY**

It is interesting to learn that Shepparton's district might have been discovered much earlier had the whim of one explorer not been sustained.

The early explorers, Hume and Hovell, were the first to set out from New South Wales for the seaboard of Victoria. Early in the nineteenth

VICTORIA. Early in the nineteenth century they left Albury, and passing through the present Yea district, reached the southern coast. Hovell wanted to explore the lower lying pasture land to the west, but Hume favored the rough mountainous country.

Had Hovell had his way, the Shepparton district would have been explored 11 or 12 years earlier than it was.

Major Sir Thomas Mitchell was the first man to enter the Goulburn Valley. In 1835 he passed through a place known as Violet Ponds—the present Violet Town district. While at Seymour, this explorer said he considered the Goulburn ran into the Murray in the Swan Hill district. He little suspected the river ran almost due north through such fertile country.

### HAWDON AND BONNEY

A friend of Sir Thomas, a squatter named Joseph Hawdon who had stations at Dandenong, Wallan, Tallarook and Howlong, was the first to organise a party to travel to South Australia. He set out with cattle from Tallarook early in 1838 and followed the Goulburn north.

Travelling on the east side of the Goulburn, his manager, Charles Bonney and nine others accompanied

ney, and nine others, accompanied him.

On January 13 they crossed the Broken River near its junction with the Goulburn and entered the Shepparton territory. They were the first white people to enter Shepparton.

Although Hawdon was the organiser of the expedition, which eventually reached Adelaide, great credit has been given for its success to Charles Bonney, who, although only 25 years of age, managed the whole expedition.

### NOT IMPRESSED

It is interesting to note that the party was not impressed with the country, as it was during a dry season, and the weather was particularly hot during their passage through the district.