

FOREWORD

Part of the history of Newstead House is set out in one of the papers published herein and I am thereby saved the work of tracing it here. I should state, however, that because of a keen desire on the part of the Historical Society to preserve one of Queensland's outstanding historical buildings, the Government of Queensland and the Brisbane City Council agreed to spend up to £1,200 between them on the restoration of the building. Portions of the House have been fireproofed, and the whole building has been fitted for the purpose of housing items and records of historical value.

Those who follow us a hundred years hence will think poorly of us if we do not make every effort to record and preserve all those things which will enable them to see clearly the early days of this part of Australia. They will not want to see the early days out of mere idle curiosity, but out of a desire to understand the foundations of many things, and to gain from them the lessons history teaches. Centuries ago it was said that "History is the witness of the times, the light of truth," and every effort to so preserve things that the truth must be evident is a worthy effort, because the value of history is that it points to-day's duty. We can no more set our course if we have no knowledge of the ocean we desire to sail than we can plan a right future without a clear knowledge and understanding of the past.

FRANK A. COOPER.

The Treasury,

Brisbane, September 10th, 1940.