

### "Spot Check"

"We take it for granted that the gold is still in Kentucky," a U.S. senator remarked several years ago. "If it isn't, and nobody should find out, it wouldn't make any difference."

The gentleman was perfectly right! If the rumor once started, however, that the bullion had disappeared from Fort Knox, and the people began to believe it, there would undoubtedly be the devil to pay! The mere acceptance of such a story would rock American and world economy, even though, in actual fact, every ounce of the gold was still in the vaults.

No doubt it was with this appalling contingency in mind that President Truman, in April 1952, offered Fort Knox passes to an "inspection committee" of the "Daughters of the American Revolution" after that important organisation had voiced misgivings about the national hoard.

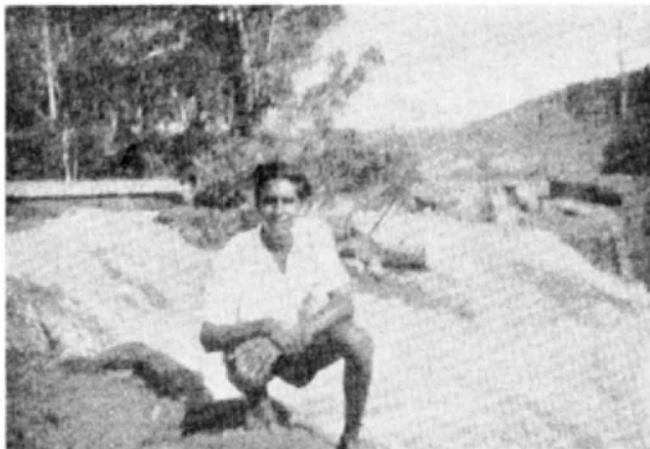
"Go and look for yourselves," the President told them in effect, but the worthy ladies declined the offer.

The Eisenhower Administration, however, promptly accepted. A special "settlement committee" jointly appointed at the end of 1952 by the outgoing Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. John Snyder, and his successor, Mr. George Humphrey, made a "spot check" of eighty-six thousand of the gold bars stored at Fort Knox.

About nine thousand bars—a hundred and thirty tons of them—were weighed on special scales registering to the hundredth part of an ounce. Tests for fineness were also made on twenty-six bars selected at random and drilled from top and bottom.

"Results were in exact agreement with the record," the committee reported to the new Secretary of the Treasury.

In order to allay the fears of even the most hardened sceptic, the investigators went on to say that "results would have been the same," if every single one of the gold bars in stock had been tested.



Ross French, of Mallangarel.

### THE 1956 SUMMER CAMP . . .

## Essay Competition

The response by children who attended the Summer Camp at La Perouse to the essay competition was somewhat disappointing, as only twelve entries were received out of a total number of 79 children who attended the Camp. The twelve entries were from:—

ALLAN, Lola	... ..	of Carooona.
BRENNAN, Mary Anne	.. ..	.. ..
CUBBY, Ray	... ..	.. Goodooga.
MORRIS, Dawn	... ..	.. Brewarrina.
PITT, Daphne	... ..	.. Moree.
RAVENEAU, Ivan	... ..	.. ..
SAUNDERS, Mavis	... ..	.. Carooona.
SHILLINGSWORTH,		
Percy	... ..	.. Goodooga.
SLATER, Ismay	... ..	.. Carooona.
SMITH, Patricia	... ..	.. ..
TAYLOR, Frances	... ..	.. ..
WEATHERALL, Ada...	.. ..	.. Moree.

The essays were judged at Head Office by Messrs. Saxby and Mullins, and Mrs. English, who found it a very difficult task to separate the best entries. After a great deal of deliberation, the following prizes were awarded:—

First, £1 1s. od., Ismay Slater of Carooona.

Second, 10s. 6d., Daphne Pitt of Moree.

Third, 10s. 6d., Percy Shillingsworth, of Goodooga.

Here is the winning entry by Ismay Slater:

### "WHAT I LIKED BEST AT THE SUMMER CAMP"

#### LUNA PARK

Of all the wonderful sights that I saw in Sydney, I liked Luna Park the best. There were so many strange and exciting things to see which I had never seen before. I enjoyed every minute of my visit.

I went for a ride on the Ghost Train, the boat ride among the River Caves, a ride on the Big Dipper, a ride in the Dodge'em cars. It rained very heavily whilst we were at Luna Park.

Drinks and cakes were ready for us, and when we had finished we went to Coney Island. As you go in, wind vents on the floor blow up your clothes. There are two boards that go back and forth; it is very hard to walk on them. Inside there is a large saucer-like wheel which goes round and round. We couldn't stay on long, but it was fun. Then there were the moving bridges to walk on. I went on the slippery dip at least five times.

When we came out of Coney Island, we ran through the pouring rain to the bus and went back to Camp. We had had a lovely day.