

ILLAWARRA.

(From the Illawarra Mercury, March 2.)

New Court House.—We have inspected the plan of the new court-house for this town. For the information of our readers we will describe the structure, and that they may judge of the justness of our strictures. The ground plan of the main building, independent of the two cells that are set off, at what we suppose will be the north-east corner, covers about 53 feet by 31 feet. In the centre, from front to back, is the court room, 24 feet by 17 feet 6 inches. On the right hand side are two rooms; one for the clerk of the court, 10 feet by 10 feet; and one for the magistrates, 14 feet by 10 feet; the latter is entered by a lobby, out of which the clerks' room is entered, of 4 feet wide; it has also an entrance out of the court room. On the left hand are two rooms, one for the constables' bed-room, and the other the constables' day-room, which is reached by a lobby from the front, and out of this room the two cells are entered, which are alluded to above. We have some objections to put forth to the erection on this plan, being satisfied that it is altogether inadequate to the requirements of the district. The court room is about five feet longer and three feet wider than the present room, and when the platform for the bench is taken off the entire space, in addition to that devoted to the clerk, legal gentlemen, reporter, chief constable, &c., we shall have no more available space for the public than is afforded in the present structure. We have no room in which witnesses can wait until called upon. At present they are sheltered from the weather to some extent, by the verandah, but in the contemplated erection they must wait in the street; this certainly must be an oversight of the architect's. We have known, on Court of Request days, upwards of thirty cases on the list; now, it is not unreasonable to suppose that four persons attend for each case, which would make one hundred and twenty, beside the usual lookers on, officers of the Court, &c., and yet this large number is to be accommodated in about 235 feet. There is another circumstance that ought not to be overlooked, and that is, the county courts, for the establishing of which a bill is now before the legislature, when there will be a very great addition to the business of the court. We take exception too, to the union of the court-house and watchhouse under one roof. As far as our judgment goes, a new watchhouse is not required, the present being more than sufficient for our criminal population, which, happily, is very trifling; beside which, the money was granted for a court-house, and that alone, and the amount £2000, would erect a structure sufficiently capacious for all our wants. We say nothing about the size of the clerk's room, 10 feet by 10 feet, where all records of the court are to be kept; such an arrangement is a mockery. The whole space marked on the plan as the court room and constable's bed and day-room, would be no more than sufficient for the court alone. We do not question the professional ability of the Colonial Architect, but we think that which we complain of arises from a misconception of our wants. We hope that some steps will be taken to prevent the perpetration of so great a blunder.

RESIGNATION OF THE CORONER.—We believe it is the intention of the Coroner, Mr. Knox Ellis, J.P., to resign his office at the expiration of the present month. This fact will be learnt with regret, as Mr. Ellis has performed the duties of his office with more than ordinary assiduity and ability. We should hope that the Government will take immediate steps, after the resignation of Mr. Ellis shall have been placed in their hands to fill up this office, and not allow the district to be left without a Coroner, as was the case prior to Mr. Ellis' appointment.

THE WEATHER AND ITS EFFECTS.—The weather, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday last was rainy and boisterous in the extreme. The consequence of this was that the steamers were precluded from performing their regular trips from here to the south on Tuesday and Wednesday, and that we had no mails from Sydney on either Thursday and Friday. This last fact seems somewhat strange, as the weather had cleared up on

somewhat strange, as the weather had cleared up on Thursday and Friday. The mailman, however, who brought the three days' mail in on Saturday last, assured the postmaster that the Cataract was impassable on both those days. In proof of this he said that a son of Mr. David Johnson's in endeavouring to cross with some cattle was swept down the stream upwards of fifty yards, and it was with the greatest difficulty he regained the bank. In reference to the steamers we have to remark, that on Thursday the steamer that called at Wollongong on her way up to Sydney, found it impossible to enter the harbour, in consequence of it being low tide, and a very heavy sea on at the time. There was a large quantity of cargo which had to be left behind, to the great disappointment and loss of shippers, especially those of stock. The postmaster had prepared the mails to be forwarded by her, but, owing to the brief stay she made off the harbour, he was too late, the steamer having just departed as he arrived at the wharf with the bags. In future, on occasions like this, some arrangements ought to be made between the postmaster and the steamer's agent, to insure the dispatch of the mails, and to prevent the recurrence of a like disappointment to the above. The effects of the weather on the crop is certainly gratifying. The pasture is most prolific everywhere, indeed to rankness.

MAIZE THRASHING MACHINE.—A sample of these machines may be seen at the office of this paper, and as we consider the introduction and use of these articles will be for the advantage of the maize-growers of these districts we invite them to inspect it. It is of exceedingly simple construction, but surprisingly speedy and effective in its operation. It is capable of thrashing 150 to 200 bushels of maize in a day. Considering the scarcity of labour, the price of maize, and the tediousness of thrashing it in the ordinary manner, we think the fact of this machine doing this quantity of work recommends it much stronger to the attention of growers, than anything we can add. The machine is of American invention, and may be obtained at a comparatively trifling cost.