

BITS AND PIECES

"Saucers" Taken Seriously:

The best brains in America are working on the "flying saucer" problem. General Nathan F. Twining said. General Twining is the United States Air Force Chief of Staff. He said 90 per cent. of "flying saucer" reports were pure imagination. "But the Air Force could not explain the other reports. General Twining said "some very reliable persons" had reported objects which could not be identified. He added: "We are not discounting all these reports." So far, no facts had been found to show there was "anything to" the reports, he said.

Gifts Problem: Customs and excise men are going through presents given to the Queen on her Commonwealth tour. They want to see which are liable to duty. The Queen does not have to pay duty on articles given to her as Sovereign. But duty is payable on gifts made to her as a woman. Customs men travelled with the Royal luggage to Buckingham Palace after it was unloaded from the Royal yachts Gothic and Britannia.

Abattoir Men Staying Out:
One hundred and ten meat

One hundred and ten meat workers at the Wagga Abattoir decided to continue a strike which started yesterday. The men have stopped work because the Wagga City Council, which owns the abattoir, has decided to dock one and a quarter hours' pay. This time was taken up on Wednesday by a union meeting during working hours at the abattoir. The strikers claim that they are entitled to the full day's pay, because they filled their quota despite the time lost. The City Council has told local union men that they will not discuss the matter until the men return to work.

Plea to Save Pet Pig: A man who this week lost his pet pig appealed to its new owner not to kill the pig. "Don't eat him for Sunday dinner," he said. The man is Mr. Ray Ferguson, of Bundara Road, Bourke. Railway officials at Central (Sydney) found a black pig on a compartment seat in the train from Bourke. Mr. Ferguson told a newspaper by 'phone that he had an attack of malaria on the train. He got off the train at Strathfield and left the pig—"Perce" behind." When he rang the railways he said officials told him they had sold the pig for £2 to a man who didn't give an address. Mr. Ferguson said

to a man who didn't give an address. Mr. Ferguson said: "I wouldn't like the man to knock 'Perce' off for Sunday's dinner. "Perce is my little pet." Railway officials are keeping a 65lb. Murray cod which Mr. Ferguson left on the train on the "frig."

Sunken "River" in Ocean:

An American research ship has discovered a "buried river" far beneath the surface of the Pacific. Scientists say this explains why ships drift to the east close to the Equator in the Pacific. The ship reported that the river flowed eastwards at a speed of about six miles an hour. Its direction is opposite to that of motion on the surface. Although the undersea river is deeply submerged scientists said it probably rose to the surface in some places. With specially designed apparatus scientists on the research ship measured the rate of surface motion westward, in the direction of the rotation of the earth. Then they sank drags 200ft. and attached them to floating objects. They measured the rate at which the currents retarded the objects. The scientists made most of their observations on the Equator at the approximate longitude of 150 degrees west. The area is near Christmas Island, about half way be-

island, about half way between Australia and America. The scientists believe a similar undersea river may exist under the Atlantic Ocean.

Air Pilots Seek Rises: Airline pilots asked the Federal Arbitration Court to award them a maximum salary of more than £82 a week. The Australian Airline Pilots' Association has served a log of claims on 13 airline operators, seeking a maximum salary of £4142 a year for Captain Grade I. Qantas Empire Airways, Ltd., and British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines, Ltd., have submitted counter-logs. Present salaries of airline pilots range from £804 to £2024 a year. The hearing is expected to last six weeks. Most of the evidence will be heard in Melbourne, but the Court will hold some sittings in Sydney. Companies involved in the hearing include Australian National Airways and Trans Australia Airlines. The pilots are seeking: Proportional increases for Grade II and Grade III captains and for officers Grades I, II and III. Proportionally lower increase from £550 to a new rate of £900 for probationary first officers.

'Phone Bribe for Children:

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A former P.M.G. acting foreman told the Special Federal Court in Sydney he had taken a £5 bribe to buy Christmas presents for his five children. His wife was an invalid, and he had been "mother and father" to the children. He is Kenneth John Dean, 35, of Sheffield Street, Merrylands. Dean pleaded guilty to a charge of having taken the bribe between September and November last year. Mr. L. S. Fisher, prosecuted for the P.M.G. department. Dean had admitted to investigating officers that he had taken £5 from Samuel Verner Lecky to instal a telephone at Lecy's business office in Wilson Street, Liverpool. Mr. Meagher, S.M., released Dean on a £30 good behaviour bond for 12 months.

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