

## Super deal

In April 1954 the company seal was affixed to a deed setting out the terms and conditions of the Craig Mostyn Superannuation Fund.

The fund had its origins in the 1940s when RL had inaugurated an assurance scheme with the Prudential Assurance Co. Ltd for the benefit of his employees. He decided to replace this with a company superannuation scheme (among the first to be set up in Australia) that would invest in CM. This was a novel arrangement in those days and one that is impossible today.

The 1954 deed, in effect, transferred the responsibility for the scheme from RL himself to the company that had been incorporated since the scheme had been launched. The deed said in part:

AND WHEREAS the said Robert Long Mostyn took out a number of endowment policies on the respective lives of the several employees in accordance with the terms of the said Agreement and the said Deed ...

AND WHEREAS the business formerly carried on by the said Robert Long Mostyn has now been taken over by the Company known as Craig Mostyn & Co. Pty. Limited ...

AND WHEREAS the said Company has decided to assume responsibility for the carrying on of such schemes and to relieve the said Robert Long Mostyn from all responsibility in respect of the Agreement and the Deed entered into by him as aforesaid ...

In June 1954 the first moneys were paid over to the trustees, who were R.L. Mostyn and E.B. Lawson for the company and H.L. Nicholas for the employees.

terms of the contract. Ignoring bars that exceeded the specifications, they pounced on some that were slightly lighter and smaller than required, and withheld payment for months. It took three trips to Karachi by Burt Lawson to resolve the issue for good and all. As *Alert* put it, "soap was not the subject of froth and bubble at Head Office for some considerable time" after that. In fact it was the company's last, as well as first, venture into that commodity.

In 1954 overseas expansion continued with the nominating in January of a representative for both CM and Growers Packing in London. The plan was to capitalise on the toehold the company had gained in Europe with fresh fruit and to expand in meat, tallow and other products. Russ Fretwell was pleased to be slated by RL for the job but was not surprised when Bob Mostyn vetoed the idea because of the Tasmanian operation's rapid growth. William Fincher, who had had many years' experience in Singapore, was the man chosen for the spot.

On 12 April 1954 Franz Hofbrucker, a qualified engineer who had been an apprentice in his father's Bavarian tannery, joined CM's Tanning Machinery Department from Germany. Hofbrucker brought with him knowledge of the German language, a boon in CM's dealings with the German manufacturers of the tanning machinery it was importing, and familiarity with the machines themselves.

After the war, advances in technology had ensured a ready market among tanners keen to keep abreast of developments. One such advance enabled the surface area of leather to be