

RETIREMENT OF MR. J. LYONS.

Mr. J. Lyons, who has for the past five years faithfully and well discharged the duties of gaoler at Wollongong, retired from the public service on Saturday last. Mr. Lyons is a Crimean veteran, and many interesting and sensational stories he can tell concerning incidents of that great war. He joined the 68th Regiment of Light Infantry in the year 1854, and took part in the Crimean war during the whole of the first winter, when the cold was so intense that thousands of men were frost-bitten and many died from its effects. He served through the famous engagements of Alma, Balaclava, Inkerman and Sebastopol, and in recognition of his services was awarded the silver medal with those names engraved on separate bars, as well as the Turkish medal. In the last engagement he was severely wounded, and in August, 1856, was discharged on a pension, receiving besides a grant from Lloyd's Patriotic Fund. Mr. Lyons subsequently entered the Irish police force. Later he was engaged in the convict service at West Australia, and on returning from that service came to Wollongong in 1864, where for seven years he supervised the coal-loading operations at Wollongong. On resigning that position he received a flattering communication from Mr. James Byrne, then Minister for Public Works, acknowledging the capable and faithful manner in which he had performed his duties. Mr. Lyons then paid a visit to Ireland, and having returned to New South Wales entered the gaol service in 1877. While a warder in Darlinghurst gaol, in 1881, he behaved so gallantly in connection with an assault by a prisoner named Quinlan on Warder Elliott that his meritorious conduct was specially commented on by the Governor and the Comptroller-General, and, as a result, promotion speedily followed. He had charge in turn of Mudgee, Trial Bay, Berima, and Young gaols, and was for some time Deputy-Governor of Parramatta gaol, receiving from the authorities on every express one of appreciation of his services. From Parramatta he came to Wollongong, and after five years' service at the local gaol he has retired on a pension. The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Lyons will be glad to know that they will continue to reside in Wollongong, having taken that fine cottage in Upper Kembla-street known as "Sveaborg."