

# 105-year-old organ restored

**A** PIPE organ installed in St. John's Church of England, Cooks Hill, is 1866, has been restored to its original condition.

It will be re-dedicated

tomorrow afternoon by the Bishop of Newcastle (Rt. Rev. J. A. G. Housden).

A recital will be given by Mr. Keith Murree-Allen, deputy organist of Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle, at 3 p.m.

Arrival of the organ was reported in the "Newcastle Chronicle," on November 7, 1866.

"Many lovers of fine sacred music," it was stated, "will be glad to learn that a very superior organ has just been erected

## *in New York*

By  
**E. K. LINGARD**

in St. John's Church, Lake Macquarie Road.

"It was ordered some months ago from Mr. J. W. Walker, of London, and has recently been sent out by him in the Strathnaver, its total cost being over £300.

"It has been privately tested by competent judges and proves to justify the certificate of superior excellence sent out with it, furnished by an eminent London organist, Mr. Turpin, of the Irvingite Cathedral."

The organ was said to have two manuals and a full complement of stops on the great organ, also an effective swell, constructed on the Venetian principle.

Usually, it was added, some particular stop or stops proved to have peculiar beauty and grandeur. The horn diapason was such a feature. Its tone was said to be of beautiful quality.

Advantage was to be taken of a public holiday, the Prince of Wales's birthday, to arrange for a public testing of the fine quality of the instrument.

On November 10 it was recorded that Rev. J. R. Thackeray, of St. Paul's, Maitland, had "presided at the instrument and elicited from it some magnificent music."

There was a fair attendance, "including several strangers from Wallsend and other places."

The organ has been restored by Mr. Arthur Jones, of Sydney.

Mr. Jones said the case

and pipe front had been completely restored. A new 30-note Royal College of Organists pedal board had been fitted. The pipe work had been left cone tuned because of its excellence.

Mr. Jones said the organ was prepared for two more ranks of pipes. This would involve additional expenditure of \$1500. Mr. Jones expressed the hope that a benefactor would provide for the completion of the organ, which, he said, was a fine example of English romantic organ-building by J. W. Walker and Sons, of London. The company was established in 1828.

Another Walker organ, built in 1857, was installed in St. Luke's, Wallsend, in 1858. Mr. Jones described it as a magnificent organ, although having only one manual.

Mr. Jones supervised the renovation of the organ in Christ Church Cathedral. He is the Australian representative of the Walker company.

"Our prime purpose," he said, "is to restore the organs of yesteryear."

The character of any organ built 50 to 100 years ago should not be changed, he added. Organs such as that at St. John's were built by great artists. They should only be restored to their original condition.

**Peter and Arthur Jones at work on restoring the organ.**

