

COMPLIMENTARY BANQUET TO MR MATTHEW CAMPBELL, LATE MAYOR OF BALLARAT WEST.

A grand complimentary banquet was given, on Tuesday evening, to Mr Matthew Campbell, late Mayor of the Borough of Ballarat West, in Craig's Royal Hotel, on the occasion of his approaching departure from the colony. Between sixty and seventy gentlemen assembled to do honor to the guest of the evening, comprising, besides nearly the whole of the members of both Councils, some of the principal citizens of the town. The banqueting room was tastefully decorated for the occasion with flags and various appropriate devices, and when the company was seated and the proceedings had commenced it presented a very brilliant appearance, The tables were adorned as well as the walls of the room with numerous elegant emblems in addition to the other delicacies which covered them. They were arranged one along each side of the room and another across the top, over the centre of which hung in graceful folds the Union Jack and other national flags, all arranged in due order. On the opposite end of the room a similar decoration was shown, surrounded with numerous mottoes, which served to add considerably to the appearance of the whole. The tables were loaded with viands of every description, and the banquet was served up in that style of excellence for which the establishment is noted.

Mr W. C. Smith occupied the chair. He was supported on his right by the guest of the evening (Mr Campbell); and on the left by Mr Lewis, M.L.A. The vice chairs were occupied by the Mayors of the two Boroughs, Mr Doane, of Ballarat West, and Mr Fussell, of Ballarat East.

After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts had been disposed of, the chairman proposed the toast-" The guest of the evening, Mr Matthew Campbell." Be stated that in the first place he begged to express great satisfaction in having the honor to propose the toast as it was because he had co-operated with Mr Campbell in his public career in Ballarat, that the honor was conferred upon him. He had had an opportunity of judging of Mr Campbell's character during the five years he had been a member of the Council, and for the time he had been Mayor of the borough, and he could confidently state that no gentleman ever held an office better or with more credit to himself. On all occasions it was a matter of great difficulty to a public man to do his duty and please all parties; Mr Campbell had never flinched from his duty if it was for the benefit of the many, and he therefore was all the more to be appreciated for it. His services as a public man had been almost inestimable to the town. He first acted as the pioneer to industry in the erection of the first steam-engine in Ballarat, and considering the jealous spirit which then existed in Ballarat, that was an undertaking of no mean character. His example was speedily followed, and at the present time the machinery on the gold field of Ballarat alone was more than double that of any other gold field in the colony. Having conducted himself so well as a public man, Mr Campbell could with credit visit his native country and reflect on the great example he had offered to his fellow colonists, and the benefit which had resulted from it. It was not Mr Campbell's intention to remain altogether in the mother country, for he had it in view to return as his health was restored, and give the town the benefit of his wealth and experience. He had hitherto done so, both in public and private, and always to the satisfaction of the public, and he would, there was no doubt, continue to do so on his return. In whatever capacity he was engaged, whether as a member of the Council, Mayor of the borough, or member of the Mining Board, Mr Campbell had always been attended with success. But through the duties consequent upon these offices he had impaired his health to a certain extent, and it would be therefore the wish of every one present that his health might be speedily restored. Slight differences might have existed occasionally among his brother members, but as soon as the meeting was over that friendly feeling which previously existed made itself felt as strongly as before. He (the Chairman) had much pleasure in proposing the toast; and he felt assured it would be responded to with enthusiasm. Before sitting down, however, he had another and very pleasant duty to perform-

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<sup>3</sup> <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/72513984>

to present Mr Campbell with an address expressive of the opinion in which he was held by his friends and the public generally. (Mr Smith here presented to Mr Campbell, amid loud cheering, the following address, which was beautifully engrossed):

To MATTHEW CAMPBELL, Esq., J.P., Mayor of Ballarat, in the colony of Victoria.

DEAR Sir, -We, the undersigned residents of Ballarat, understanding that you are about leaving this colony for a time, for the purpose of visiting Europe feel that we cannot allow this opportunity to pass without expressing our high appreciation of your character

We have carefully watched your conduct, and are glad to bear our unqualified testimony to your worth as a private gentleman, a man of business, and a public man.

As a councillor, and as mayor of the borough of Ballarat, you have done much to conduce to the material progress of this district.

As a magistrate, you have acted with intelligence and mingled true mercy with strict impartiality.

As a captain of the Fire Brigade, you have been ever foremost in braving danger and in earnest efforts to save life and property.

As a captain of the Ballarat Volunteer Corps, you have been remarkable for your efficiency, regard for discipline, submission to authority, and courtesy to your comrades, particularly to those holding an inferior rank to yourself.

As a member of the Mining Board you have acted with a strict regard to the important trust reposed in you, and the onerous duties you were called upon to discharge, and

As a merchant we have found you honorable in all your dealings.

We beg to assure you that your name will be long associated with the commercial, intellectual and social progress of the district.

Wishing you and Mrs Campbell a safe and pleasant voyage, a speedy return to these shores, and a future of unclouded prosperity, we beg to subscribe ourselves on behalf of the inhabitants of Ballarat,

Yours sincerely,

W. C. SMITH, M.B.C., Chairman.

J. FUSSELL, M.B.E.C., Vice-Chairman.

W. R. WATSON, Hon. Sec. of Committee.

Song-"Auld Lang Syne," Mr Bellair.

Mr Campbell in rising to acknowledge the compliment paid him was received with loud and prolonged cheering. He stated that he never rose to address any number of gentlemen in the state of excitement he then was in, and he considered the company would allow that he had some reason for being so excited when they reflected upon the high compliments which had been passed upon him that evening. When he first arrived in Ballarat ten years ago, he began to identify himself in public matters, and he had since continued to do so to the best of his ability. When machinery was first introduced the greatest difficulty was experienced through the jealous feeling which had been alluded to by the chairman; but since then, Ballarat had prospered, and that too in a permanent degree. The first efforts in starting one of the foundries were very small indeed, and also attended with very great difficulty. But since then, industry had prospered and work of that description could now be executed within the town to any extent. In other branches of industry the rapid strides of the district were amply apparent, and there was no doubt but that the prosperity so commenced would long continue to exist. He had had his difficulties in starting, but he always considered that Ballarat presented a great field for enterprise. The prosperity of the town was in the hands of good

men, and there was no fear but that it would continue. He was very glad to state that the chairman was correct in observing that he intended to return to Victoria. He had been, he was thankful to state, successful in business during late years, and intended to return either to Ballarat or an adjoining district after spending year or so in the mother country. During his absence he would leave his affairs in the hands of his son, and that was an earnest of his intentions. His friends at home, he was sure, would be happy to hear he had been treated with such respect, and he would long remember the kindness of his fellow townsmen. He thanked those present or absent most sincerely for the flattering encomiums they had, one and all, both publicly and privately, passed upon him, and also for the highly complimentary address which had been presented to him. (Cheers).

Mr Fussell, Mayor of Ballarat East, proposed the next toast - "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," and in doing so he briefly referred to the efficiency of the latter corps, and the great assistance it would undoubtedly offer the two former in time of need. He also referred to the cause of the first enrolment of the volunteers, and remarked that in addition to his other labors Mr Campbell had also enrolled himself as one of their number, showing that besides wishing to represent and protect their interests, he was willing even to fight for them if occasion required. (Loud cheers.)

Song, by Mr A. F. Rowe.

The Rev. Mr Henderson rose to reply, amid great cheering. He commenced by stating that he neither belonged to the army nor navy, and was but a poor private in the Ballarat Rifle Corps. (Cheers.) He thought that his superior officer, then present, should have responded, but since he had not done so he would perform the duty to the best of his ability. He had always considered it a great honor to belong to the volunteers, and he had no doubt that the local volunteers were equally sensible of the honor he conferred upon them by being a member of the corps. (Cheers and laughter.) He hoped the volunteers would always do their duty. On their behalf, and also on behalf of the army and navy, he thanked the company for the toast. (Cheers.)

Mr McDowall, in the absence of Mr Trench, proposed the next toast, "The Parliament of Victoria,". He considered it was one of the most important interests which could be proposed. A great deal had been said of the progress of Ballarat, but it must be remembered that it was to a great extent due to an enlightened Parliament. Passing over those who should not be members of Parliament, and also without alluding to the noted Corner - often before referred to - he would consider it as representing the popular opinion of the citizens at large. As such he believed it deserved credit for the laws that had hitherto been promulgated, though there was room for great improvement in that respect, yet considering the nomadic habits of the population it was a wonder, that they had any Parliament at all. It might not be as pure a body at present as the most sanguine citizen would wish, but in a few years more he hoped it would be as pure as could be desired. (Laughter and cheers.)

Song-Mr Siaw.

Mr Robert Lewis, M.L.A., in rising to respond to the toast, was well received. He said that he begged to thank the company most sincerely for the manner in which they had drunk the toast. He was but a very young member of the House (Voice- a growing one) - and could say very little of its capabilities; but from what he had seen during the few times he had been present, he could see it was no easy billet for any gentleman to be member and do his duty. The "corner" referred to by Mr McDowall appeared to be the most respectable part of the House, from the little he had seen of it. (Cheers and laughter.) On a future occasion he would be in a better position to speak of the House as a body, and perhaps also to refer to the "pickings," which had been considered attendant upon the office of a member. (Applause.)

Mr Lock, an ex-member of the Parliament of Victoria, also responded to the toast. He remarked that, generally speaking, the members of House spent a great deal of time in the public service for which they should be thanked. Mr Lewis had therefore, in his opinion, properly remarked his views of the duties of a member as he had witnessed them during the few evenings he was present. The speaker

here referred to the important services guest of the evening in his various public capacities and remarked that he had many years ago his qualities as a public man and a gentleman

The Rev. Mr Henderson proposed the Borough Councils of Ballarat and Ballarat East. He remarked that when previously called upon to respond to the toast of the Army, &c. he did not well know how to commence his address, and he might say the same in the present case, as he did not know until entering the room that he would have been called upon to propose the toast at all. Before referring to the toast then proposed he would, however, just return thanks to the guest of the evening for the great service he had rendered to the congregation of St Andrew's Church, of which he was the pastor. Then, with regard to the toast, so far as he had occasion of knowing members of both Councils, he had always reason to think highly of them, as well in their public capacity as in his experience of them in private. The speaker here alluded to several old Scottish anecdotes peculiarly appropriate to the occasion, which served to excite the mirth of the whole company. He then briefly referred to the many benefits the councillors had conferred upon him in furtherance of their duties, and concluded by expressing a hope that there would always be peace between both Councils (Cheers.)

Mr Fussell, Mayor of Ballarat East, responded briefly and appropriately, referring in the course of his remarks to the difficulties, both geographical and financial, under which the Eastern Council labored to do justice to the citizens.

Mr Doane, the newly elected Mayor of & Western Borough, responded on its behalf. He commenced by alluding to the many works which had been executed under the notice of the Council, a conspicuous member in which was the guest of the evening, and expressed a hope that it would long continue in its career of usefulness and importance.

Mr Robert Dunn proposed the next toast – "The Mining, Commercial, and Agricultural Interests". The mining interest, he stated, had made Ballarat the greatest goldfield in the world, and the mineral resources of the district were apparently unbounded; the agricultural interest was equally extensive and lasting, and supported by these the commercial interest bid fair to continue prosperous. (Applause).

Song, by Mr Ivey.

Mr Downes responded on behalf of the mining interest, and in alluding to its increased importance he referred to the great impetus it had formerly received from men like Mr Campbell, mining capitalists, who provided the necessary machinery to miners, in the hope of receiving payment from the mine.

Mr Hunt, on behalf of the commercial interest, also responded to the toast in a few humorous remarks, in which he took occasion to refer to his own success in Ballarat, and also to the success of other members of the company.

Mr McArthur responded on behalf of the Agricultural Interest.

Mr Doane proposed the toast of "The Press."

Mr Nicholls, on behalf of the *Star*, and Mr Lockett for the *Evening Post*, duly responded.

Mr Campbell then proposed "The health of the Chairman," in doing which he remarked that the success of the water supply for Ballarat was in a great measure due to his exertions.

The Chairman briefly returned thanks.

The toast of "The Ladies" followed; after which the company broke up.