

OPENING OF THE REDHILL BRIDGE.

During the past few years very great progress has been made towards settlement in the North. The agricultural interest has flourished, and the increase of traffic demanded that the Government should make roads and bridges in order to develop of the interior. The Broughton River proved a very great barrier, being very difficult to ford, especially during the winter months, and since the township of Redhill made headway it became an imperative necessity to span the river at that place. Some time since tenders were invited for the construction of a bridge there, and Mr. Frank George was the successful contractor. The work has recently been completed, and Thursday, the 19th inst., was the day fixed for the opening ceremony. It was a red-letter day at Redhill, and a very large number of persons were expected to witness the ceremony. The day, however, turned out very stormy, which no doubt prevented many persons at a distance from visiting the place. Early in the morning it threatened for rain, but instead there was a most terrific dust storm. The wind was blowing from the north, and increased in force till about eleven o'clock when it became alarming. The whole country was one vast cloud of dust, and the road was darkened so that it was with great difficulty any one out of doors could find their way, and horses would scarcely face the storm. The wind abated considerably about two o'clock, and arrangements were made for the opening ceremony. About half-past 2 o'clock the procession started from the Post-office, headed by the gentlemen forming the Committee, followed by the Sunday school children of the place, and the members of the friendly societies—Oddfellows, Foresters, and Good Templars, in full regalia. On reaching the centre of the bridge the procession stopped, and Mr. W. B. Wilkinson opened the proceedings by stating that, owing to unforeseen circumstances, Mrs. John Waddell, who had been invited to open the bridge, had not arrived, and that Mrs. Henwood had very kindly consented to perform the opening ceremony. He said that he was exceedingly sorry the day had turned out so unfavorable for the satisfactorily carrying out of the programme, but he hoped that all would do what they could to make the affair a success.

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Mr. J. F. Davey stated that, as one of the earliest settlers on the North Broughton, he fully appreciated and expected to benefit by the erection of the bridge. He referred to the inconvenience of the old crossing. It spoke well for the Government in having the bridge constructed, and as there were other important works required at Redhill he hoped they would show the same energy in carrying them out. Great praise was due to the contractor, Mr. Frank George, for the manner in which he had executed the work.

Mr. J. Golding proposed "the Health of the Queen," but as the champagne was all spilt the honor was done by giving three hearty cheers for her Majesty.

Mr. G. F. Claridge proposed "the Health of Mrs. Henwood." Their best thanks were due to her for the very gracious manner in which she had, at a few minutes' notice, discharged so important a duty. He was very pleased to see a lady officiate on such an occasion, and it was gratifying to know that the ladies of South Australia were willing to take their part in any progressive movement. Three hearty cheers were given for Mrs. Henwood, and another for the little Henwoods.

Mr. Henwood thanked the public for the very kind feeling they had shown towards Mrs. Henwood and family. He felt that the programme would not be complete without proposing "the Health of Mr. Frank George," the contractor. Although the inhabitants of Redhill were happy to see the bridge completed and opened, still they were sorry to lose the society of Mr. George.

The bridge has two piers made of piles of hardwood, with cross braces and struts. The top cross beams carry the longitudinal girders. There are also four sets of suspending bolts and strainers to each span. The abutments are built of brown freestone neatly hammer-dressed, and laid in courses. The height of the bridge from the bed is 28 feet 8 inches, and the width of roadway 20 feet. The length of the abutments is 18 feet, and the span 60 feet. The approaches to the bridge are well formed and fenced. The contract price, with additions and extras, is a trifle over £1,800. After the ceremony at the bridge was concluded the sports commenced, and although the wind was still blowing hard there were upwards of 500 persons on the ground.

The place was perfectly level and very suitable for athletic sports, and they were entered into with spirit. There was a refreshment booth on the ground under the superintendence of Mrs. Gollins, of Collins-

superintendence of Mrs. Gollins, of Collinsfield. There was also a large pavillion on the ground where the dinner was to be held. The Committee could not come to satisfactory terms with the publican and were obliged to erect a place, Mr. C. J. Lang, baker, undertaking to do the catering. The accommodation at the hotel for man and beast was anything but satisfactory. No attention whatever was paid to the comfort of visitors, which caused great dissatisfaction. The township is going ahead, and buildings of a substantial character are being erected. There is a new public school and teacher's residence, a mission house for the Primitive Methodist minister, and a new Wesleyan Chapel has been commenced, as the original building is too small for the congregation. The Roman Catholics have a fine chapel, which has been recently opened. Messrs. J. F. Davey & Wilkinson, auctioneers, have had a neat and substantial office built facing the main street, in a good business position. A number of private buildings are also in course of construction, and notwithstanding the bad season the place is quite brisk. The following is a list of the sports:—

Maidens, 100 yards, silver cup, R. Hussey; 7s 6d, C. McPhail. Seven entries.

Running high jump, 20s, R. Hussey, 4 feet 8 inches; 7s 6d, A. McDonald. Ten entries.

Champion race, gold pendant, value £1 10s, W. McDonald. Six entries.

Walking race, 1 mile, gold locket, value £1 10s, J. Prichard. Six entries.

Ladies' race, 100 yards, 30s, Miss K. Smith; 10s, Miss M. Miller; 5s, M. Tosteven. Eleven entries.

Tilting match, double-rein bridle, value £1 5, Eli; whip, value 12s 6d, Munro; spurs, value 7s, C. Ingerson.

Handicap steeplechase, 200 yards, over 4 jumps 3 feet high, last jump over 10 feet of

water, gold locket, value £1 15s, Ferme; 15s, W. McDonald; 7s 6d, R. Hussey.

Pick-a-back race, 100 yards, each man to carry rider 50 yards, 15s, A. McDonald and J. Buchanan; 5s, Tully and Holland.

Handicap, 100 yards, for boys under 13 years, accordion, value 15s, M. Tosteven; 7s 6d, A. Jennings; 5s, A. Britain.

Three-legged race, 100 yards, 15s, Pearce and Lowe; 7s 6d, Holland and Tully. Eight entries.

Boys' race, under 10 years, 100 yards, 10s, McKenzie; 7s, J. March; 5s, Davey.

THE DINNER

Was held in a large pavillion erected for the occasion, and was catered for by Mr. C. J.

Lang, late of Adelaide, and about 170 persons were present. Several of the ladies of the township and neighborhood graced the occasion by their presence, which was a novel but pleasing feature at such gatherings, and was a decided improvement. Mr. J. Waddell, J.P., occupied the chair, and was supported on the right by Messrs. H. Warren, Mayor of Port Pirie, and J. Patterson, and on the left by Messrs. J. F. Davey and Cowled. The vice-chair was filled by Mr. J. Golding.

The Chairman said he felt great pleasure in presiding over the first public meeting of that kind that had been held at Redhill, more especially as there were a number of ladies present. They had set an example to the colony in that respect, and he thought they should always be present at such gatherings. He proposed "the Health of the Queen and Royal Family," and the toast was received with the greatest enthusiasm.

Mr. Golding proposed "the Governor," and spoke of his many excellencies.

Mr. J. Jennings proposed "the Ministry and Parliament of South Australia," adding the names of the members for Stanley, Sir G. S. Kingston and Mr. C. Mann. He had known Sir George Kingston for 20 years, and he believed that he had the best interests of the colony at heart, and were it not for his position as Speaker he could do even more for the district. Mr. Mann's professional duties prevented him from devoting his time and attention to the requirements of the district, while another man whose duties were less onerous might do more good.

Dr. R. Ryley responded. He would endeavor to discharge a duty which ought not to have been entrusted to him, and he thought that their members had been guilty of a dereliction of duty in not being present, and that matter ought to be borne in mind at the next election. He had been in Victoria, New Zealand, and elsewhere, and had seen the working of Parliaments, but he believed that South Australia would compare favorably with any Parliament in the world.

Mr. H. Warren said he esteemed it a very great privilege to be able to say ladies and gentlemen. The presence of the ladies was a guarantee of good order. He entered his protest against what had been said about the influence of Sir G. S. Kingston being lessened on account of his being Speaker. It was altogether a mistake, for his position in the Assembly gave him greater influence than if he were privileged to take part in the debates. He would not say much about Mr. Mann, but he thought they would be better represented if they

say much about Mr. Mann, but he thought they would be better represented if they could send a man from their own district. He would rather have one local member than a dozen city lawyers. (Hear, hear.)

The Chairman said that he had seen Mr. Ward recently, and he told him that none of the members of the Government could possibly be present, but if the opening had been deferred for a fortnight they might have been.

Letters of apology for non-attendance were read from the Ministry, Sir G. S. Kingston, Mr. C. Mann, M.P., Mr. John Morris, Superintending-Surveyor, Mr. F. George, the contractor, Mr. J. W. Gleeson, J.P., and Dr. Bain.

Mr. Warren proposed "the Agricultural, Pastoral, and Mineral Interests." He said that 20 or 30 years ago the pastoral interest was the most important one, and as pioneers the squatters had done a great work, but with the progress of the colony things had altered, and now the agricultural interest stood first. Looking around they found that the country appeared rather sterile, but they were not going to give up because of one bad season. He had lived where they had five bad seasons in succession, but they pulled through, and they would get over the present bad season. It was necessary for agriculturists to exercise strong faith. They must have faith in good horses, good ploughmen, good seed, good ground, and also faith in their Maker. If men in their folly forgot God, it might be necessary for Him to give them a bad season as an infliction to produce salutary reflection. The opening up of the areas had been a good thing for the colony, and they were indebted to Mr. Ward and others for the active part they had taken in land reform. The mineral interest was a most important one, and he believed an impetus would be given to mining when the great North line of railway was made.

Mr. J. F. Davey responded. He remarked that they had good reason to be thankful for what the Parliament had done for them as regarded the land laws, for the area system had greatly assisted agriculturists. The season had not been favorable, but the crops were on the whole not so bad as was at one time anticipated. He had travelled through several districts lately, and he had seen crops of wheat that would yield from 16 to 18 bushels to the acre. There was, therefore, still corn in Egypt. All the interests, he said were dependent on each other, and they would find that the crops would not be the failure some thought.

Mr. James Waddell proposed "the Health of Mr. Frank George, the contractor," and spoke favorably of the way in which he had executed the work.

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Mr. Wood said that he had been requested by Mr. George to apologise for his absence, as business elsewhere demanded his attention.

Mr. Warren responded. He had known Mr. George for many years, and he had proved him to be a thoroughly straightforward hard-working man. He had done his duty, and it would be well for the colony if there were more contractors like him.

Mr. T. Henwood proposed "the Town and Trade of Redhill." He said that both had advanced greatly since he first resided there. They had a bad season, but he believed it would have a beneficial effect, as it would probably cause those who had been lavish in times of prosperity to be more careful in future. He hoped that there might soon be a revival in trade, and that the township would continue to prosper.

Mr. R. Bowes responded. He remarked that the bridge had been long talked about, and its completion was a substantial proof that they were progressing. They had the promise of post and telegraph offices, and it was high time they had them. He believed that a great improvement might be effected in the postal department if the

Postmaster-General was made sixth Minister, and had a seat in Parliament.

Mr. J. Bowes proposed "The Visitors."

Mr. Warren responded.

Mr. W. B. Wilkinson proposed "The Ladies."

Mr. Claridge responded.

The toasts of "The Chairman," "Vice-Chairman," "The Press," and "The Secretary" were all duly honored, and the proceedings terminated about half-past 11 o'clock.
