

JUBILEE

PARKES MUNICIPALITY.

Celebration Proposals.

On March 1, 1933, Parkes will reach its fiftieth anniversary as a municipality, and if the proposals of the Mayor (Ald. F. W. Spicer, M.L.C.) are accepted by a public meeting to be called in the near future, the event will be celebrated on an extensive scale. This is as it should be, and it is to be hoped that the citizens rally to the support of the Council to see that the Jubilee is fittingly recognised.

At Tuesday night's meeting, the Mayor read the following minute:

"On the 1st of March, 1883, Parkes was constituted a Municipality and 1st March, 1932, will, therefore, be the 50th anniversary of this most important event in the history of our town. The proclamation, to which was added a description of the area, read as follows: 'Whereas the Municipalities Act, of 1867 provides for the constitution of a Municipality on receipt of a petition signed by not fewer than fifty persons, who would upon incorporation be liable to be assessed for Municipal taxes in respect of property or household residence within the area proposed to be so incorporated; and whereas a petition signed by one hundred and one persons liable to be so assessed upon such incorporation has been received by the Governor, praying for a Municipality, to be styled the 'Municipal District of Parkes'; and whereas the substance and prayer of such petition have been duly published in the Government Gazette and otherwise in accordance with the said Act; Now, therefore, I, Lord Augustus William Frederick Spencer Loftus, the Governor aforesaid, in pursuance of the provisions of the said Act, and with the advice of the Executive Council, do, by this my proclamation, declare that the area hereinafter described shall be and the same is hereby constitut-

be and the same is hereby constituted a Municipality under the name and style of the Municipal District of Parkes.' It is my considered opinion that the Golden Jubilee should be fittingly commemorated, and with this end in view, I recommend that authority be given for the compilation and publication of a souvenir booklet, and that a public meeting be convened within a fortnight to appoint an organisation to prepare and carry out a detailed programme worthy of the occasion. A programme similar to, but more impressive than the "Back to Parkes Week" programme would be suitable for this occasion, which is of outstanding importance. I suggest His Excellency the Governor, the Prime Minister, the Premier and the Lord Mayor of Sydney should be invited to be present. I suggest that the celebration should commence on the Monday, 27th February, and terminate on the following Sunday, and that the programme should include a pageant, sports and rodeo on the showground, races, jubilee ball and night carnivals, and, if the necessary arrangements can be made, special church services. The public meeting would appoint various sub-committees, and I am certain that the public generally would enthusiastically assist in the organising work. I also suggest that the programme should include a jubilee queen competition,

clude a jubilee queen competition, each candidate to be presented to the Governor and the successful candidate to be "crowned" at a concluding function to be held as early as possible after jubilee week. Although the primary object of the celebration would be to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of this municipality and to honor the 101 petitioners-pioneers who realised that without taxation it is not possible to establish and maintain community services—the programme of events would realise a profit of probably over £1,000. I suggest that the net profit should be equally divided between the Council and the District Hospital Board, and that the Council's quota should be definitely allotted to purchase and erect a striking town clock or assist to establish some other public utility such as swimming baths to commemorate the jubilee."

MEANS OF REVENUE

The Mayor said that the minute fully set out the position which would arise on March 1. Every town celebrated its Jubilee in some form or other. Goulburn recently celebrated its Centenary, and Parkes could secure from that town valuable material as to the lines upon which to arrange the celebrations. Personally, he thought that it was only right that the town should commemorate its fiftieth birthday, and a great statesman in Sir Henry Parkes. He felt also that by such an effort quite a considerable sum could be raised, and he could see no reason why the Council should not participate in the profits. In a case such as this there was no doubt that the town clerk would

be appointed one of the secretaries, and if the Hospital decided to co-operate its secretary would also act as one so that there would be no expense in carrying out the secretarial duties. He would be in favor of the profits being devoted to the construction of swimming baths, and if they could estab-

lish a public utility of that kind the Council would have achieved something worthy of note. The Council did a considerable business with many firms in the purchase of material, machinery, etc., and would be able to procure from them valuable trophies which would help to boom the week. Although he realised that waltzing did not come within the scope of the Council, it should be possible to have a trophy contributed and arrange for a waltzing competition for the championship of Australia in connection with the Jubilee Ball. That was only one "stunt" that they could arrange, and he could see no objection to this being done.

"We have the best old-time waltzer in Australia at the present time," commented Ald. Mazoudier. "It must be right, for he told me so."

The Mayor said that he thought the week should prove a great success. It would boost business and bring many people back to Parkes who had not visited the town for many years. It would also add money to the coffers of the District Hospital and provide a substantial sum towards the construction of swimming baths. He moved the adoption of the minute.

Ald. Mazoudier said that the suggestion was a very good one, though he regretted that he would not be able to play a big part in the preliminary organisation, as he would be absent from Parkes for the next couple of months. It would provide money towards the construction of baths, something which they should attend to this year.

CAUTION NEEDED

Ald. Geddes said that the question of commemorating the fiftieth birthday of the municipality was one which deserved earnest consideration, but before the Council went on with it a public meeting should be called to

public meeting should be called to see whether the citizens agreed that the minute should be given effect to in its entirety. The Mayor's scheme was a very well thought out one, and he deserved every credit for bringing it forward in such a manner; but the question arose as to whether it was not too big and comprehensive in view of the bad times. The matter had been sprung on the meeting, and it was hard to arrive at conclusion as to the best course to adopt. A lot of detail work and advertising would be necessary, and a considerable outlay would be involved. The people were crying out for swimming baths, and a lot of other things, and it made him hesitate to adopt the Mayor's suggestion in view of the state of the Council's finances. Everyone knew that the Council was considerably in arrears so far as rates were concerned, and the matter needed a great deal of consideration. He would not like to say go on with the scheme unless a public meeting were called.

The Mayor said that Ald. Geddes was speaking under misapprehension, as the minute provided for the calling of a public meeting. So far as the financial aspect was concerned, he would like to point out that the Coun-

cil did not propose to borrow four or five thousands pounds for the construction of baths; but the profits from the week would be allocated towards that purpose, though it might not be possible to spend it immediately. In any case, the Council would have the "say" as to how the money should be spent.

Ald. Geddes: I take it then, that the public would be given an opportunity to say what course we should take.

The Mayor: Certainly.

The minute was adopted unanimously.