

OPENING OF THE WAURALTEE INSTITUTE.

Anyone passing through the quiet little village of Wauralteo on the 3rd of December would know that something a little out of the common was taking place, for such a gathering is rarely seen in Sleepy Hollow as the little place has been somewhat appropriately called by our friends on the slope. But to return, the occasion referred to was the opening of the Literary Institute. The event had been looked forward to with considerable interest by the friends and supporters of the movement, and various prognostications were indulged in as to the success of the opening ceremony. The more sanguine ones prophesying such a gathering as would tax the capacity of the hall to the utmost and they were not mistaken. Just a few words about the building itself. It is 26 by 46 feet and 16 feet from floor to ceiling. It is built of limestone and finished in cement. The stage is 8 feet, this is intended for a reading and committee room till an additional room is built. Mr Whittier of Yorketown was the contractor for the masonry work, Messrs Russell and Company of Port Adelaide supplied the timber etc., while Messrs Patches & Bowen carried out the carpentry work. The whole of the work has been finished to the satisfaction of the committee. Its cost is £500 approximately, and it is a source of much pleasure to the committee to know that it will be about free of debt. Considering the surroundings they have every reason to be satisfied. At about 3 o'clock p.m. in the presence of the large

gathering, Mr. J. C. Leonard J.P., said he was sorry the members of the district were not present. Mr. Beaglehole had an important engagement that day, he had, however, forwarded a cheque for £33s. Mr. Caldwell had just left the Peninsula when he got the secretary's letter so he could not come. He, (Mr. Caldwell) promised after harvest to deliver a lecture in the hall in aid of the funds. The president then handed the key to Mr. Hussey of Maitland and asked him to declare the building open to the public.

Mr Hussey said it afforded him much pleasure to be with them that day. He thanked the committee for the honor they had done him in asking him to open the building. He regretted the absence of the members of Parliament; but thought with such a large gathering success was assured. After a few further remarks Mr Hussey unlocked the door, and declared the building

unlocked the door, and declared the building open to the public. He then called for three cheers for the Queen, which were heartily given; with three for Mr Hussey. As soon as the door was open, a host of hungry and thirsty souls besieged the tables which were laden with most tempting viands. The ladies had an exceedingly busy time of it, it seemed however, anything but a disagreeable task. After satisfying the inner man, the tables were cleared and preparations were made for holding a concert or an entertainment. The room was packed to its utmost limit. The president in opening the proceedings said he was extremely glad to see such a large attendance. He thought it was an evidence that the building was necessary, he trusted it would be the means of fostering a love for literature and the arts. The overture by Miss Humberstone was followed by a song by Mr. Clucas, a recitation by Mr. Hussey, a song Miss Hincks, song Mr. McLeod, recitation Mr. Ponder, another song by Mr Clucas, a duet by Mrs and Miss Humberstone, another song by Miss Hincks and recitations by Mr Barnes and Mr Kem. brought the first part of the entertainment to a close. The Currumulka Christy Minstrels opened the second part by a very creditable performance, the corner men being very amusing, especially to those to whom such a class of entertainment was a novelty.

Some of the songs were very good indeed, and the get up altogether was very creditable. A farce 'The Quarrelsome Servants,' brought the entertainment to a close. Perhaps the ladies said about this the better. The servants, Bill and Pete (Messrs Eardly and Glover) making the most of their parts, while Mr Bickers as Boss Johnson did his best, but the farce was a very poor one. At the close of this performance Mr Pearce proposed a vote of thanks to all the ladies and gentlemen who had contributed to the success of the opening ceremony. In thanking the company for their attendance, he observed that it was useless to have first rate entertainments unless there was a first class attendance, that night they had had both. The singing of the National Anthem brought a most successful days proceedings to a close. After a supper dancing was indulged in for a short time. Finally the last one left and the Wauralteo Institute opening ceremonies were over. About £34 were taken during the day and upon all hands it was pronounced an unqualified success. The committee made one great mistake. They failed to notify the clerk of the weather what they pronounced

great mistake. They failed to notify the clerk of the weather what they proposed doing, and he resented the slight. The night before it blew great gusts and in the early part of the day it was not altogether agreeable, but as the day wore on it was very suitable for the occasion—too damp to reap, too windy to cart hay, but not too rough for pleasure.