

OPENING OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

SCHOOL AT WALLAROO MINES.

The above school was formally opened on Thursday, January 31, by the Minister of Education (Hon. N. Blyth), who was accompanied by Mr. J. A. Hartley (President of the Council of Education) and Mr. W. D. Glyde, a member of the Council.

The school, which is intended to accommodate 800 children, is situated on the southern side of the Wallaroo Mines property, and has been built by Messrs. Hancock & Nottle, of Kadina, at a cost of nearly £8,000. The building is similar to numerous others erected by the Council, with the exception of a large shed erected at the rear capable of sheltering two or three hundred children, which will be very beneficial as a protection either from the heat of summer or of the rain in winter. The school is conducted by Mr. J. A. Plummer, Head-Master, and a staff of seven teachers. The school has been open since the 14th inst., and from present appearances there is every reason to hope that it will be a success in every way.

The Minister of Education, accompanied by Messrs. Hartley, Glyde, the Mayor and Councillors of Kadina, and several other gentlemen, arrived at the school at 11 o'clock, where they were received by the Local Board of Advice. They were then shown through the several class-rooms by the teacher, Mr. Plummer, commencing with that occupied by the elder boys.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION (the Hon. N. Blyth), in the course of an address to the children, pointed out the advantages that were held out to them, and urged upon them to accept those privileges and strive to keep up the character of their school. After this the visitors retired to the shed at the rear of the school, and were addressed by the MINISTER OF EDUCATION, who said that it afforded him great pleasure to be present on that occasion, and he wished the new school, the Head Master, and all connected every prosperity. The Government had been guilty of making mistakes, but they certainly had not made one when two years ago they decided to build such schools as the one just opened. It was certainly a wise measure in spending money for the advancement of education in South Australia. He said he had been told that there was a great depression on the Peninsula at present, but it did not look as if there was anything of the kind affecting the children that he had addressed, for he had never seen a lot of merrier or neater-dressed children together. They were a credit to their parents, as he hoped they would be to their teachers. He, in conclusion, hoped that the teachers would have the encouragement of those ladies and gentlemen who had identified themselves with it.

Dr. FISHER moved a vote of thanks to the Hon. N. Blyth (Minister of Education), Mr. Hartley (President of the Council), and Mr. W. D. Glyde, who had come up at such great incon-

venience during the hot weather to open the school. He was sure that they must have felt it warmer coming across the Wakefield Plain than they did even at "Muirhead's corner," where it was said a rasher of bacon could be broiled. (Laughter.) The speaker dwelt on the superior advantages of the new buildings as regarded ventilation, which he said must be of great advantage to the children compared with the old system. He advocated the establishment of public washhouses and baths on the mines, for a clean body helped to a clear conscience. He had known the Minister of Education for many years, and could say that by his urbanity and uprightness he had won the respect of all with whom he came in contact, and he had no doubt that the affairs connected with education would prosper under his Ministry.

Mr. BLYTH returned thanks, after which the company retired to one of the large class-rooms and partook of a luncheon provided by the mine proprietors. Mr. H. R. Hancock, Superintendent of the Wallaroo Mines, occupied the chair, while Mr. J. Gaskell filled the vice-chair. After the toasts of "The Queen, Prince and Princess of Wales, and Royal Family" had been disposed of,

Mr. A. M. WILSON proposed the toast of "The Governor and the Ministry," coupling with it the name of the Hon. N. Blyth, Minister of Education. He said their Governor was new to them all, but he saw that he had been praised at all the gatherings that he had attended, and they could only follow suit. The Ministry was the same (with two exceptions) as that known as the Boucaut Ministry. Mr. N. Blyth now held a place instead of his brother, and in this instance it would not be as he was sure suffer. He hoped they would carry out the Boucaut policy, which was a progressive one. It might have wanted a little steadiness, but he thought that it was pretty well balanced now. This was the first visit the Minister of Education had paid to the district, and it was their place to give him a hearty welcome. It was one of the great events for the time to have such a school opened. He had known Mr. Blyth for eleven or twelve years and could endorse the sentiments of Dr. Fisher.

Mr. BLYTH, in responding to the toast, said he did so as he was the only Minister present, and he would say that had it not been for pressure of business he would have been accompanied by some of his colleagues. Respecting the Governor, he was to leave in a few days for England, but would return speedily, and would be accompanied by Lady Jervis and family. During the short time that Sir William had been in the colony he had shown a deep interest in the good of the colony, and had spared no pains in making himself personally acquainted with its requirements. He (Mr. Blyth) did not intend to go in for politics, as the time would soon arrive when they would all have enough of that. (Laughter.) As Ministers they were simply trustees for the

they would all have enough of that. (Laughter.) As Ministers they were simply trustees for the people, and so long as they proved themselves worthy of the trust so long would they occupy their positions. He had great pleasure in thanking them for the cordial way in which they had honoured the toast. (Cheers.)

Mr. T. ANTHONY, Superintendent of the Yorke's Peninsula Mining Company, proposed "The Council of Education," coupling the names of the President and Mr. W. D. Glyde. He looked upon this as a most important toast, for to the Council of Education was left the responsibility of training those who would be growing up to take the rule. They had not only to direct, but also to provide the means of education; they had to provide for the rapidly-increasing population of the colony, and had to regulate the expenditure, and to moderate and keep in check the demands made for schools, as a mistake once made would go on multiplying. He was glad to see the energy displayed by the Council, and he was particularly pleased to see how heartily the President was working with all those connected with him in furthering the work of education.

Mr. HARTLEY briefly responded on behalf of himself and the members of the Council who were absent.

Mr. GLYDE was glad to see the grand structure that they had that day opened. There were only 450 children attending at present, but there must be a lot more somewhere. He had known many men who had raised themselves from the ranks without education, and what must be the result now when such privileges were held out. There should not be a man or a woman in the colony who could not read fluently. The old Board of Education, which existed for years before the creation of the present Council, was powerless, as the people did not care for education. Now, however, they were awakening, and it was the people themselves who were to be thanked. They had asked and striven for a more extended and liberal form of education, and now they had it. He thought every boy or girl going out into the world should have a start, and what start could they have equal to a good useful education? (Applause.)

The MAYOR of KADINA (Mr. Haselgrove) proposed "Success to the School," coupling the name of the Head Master, Mr. Plummer. This he thought was the most important toast of the day, as it interested not only those present but a great many who were absent, viz., the parents. He would say that good as the schools were there was room for improvement. This was fast becoming an aristocratic colony, where Institutes were no longer called Mechanics' Institutes. Many would remember the days gone by when in those institutions there were classes from which many young men gained a great deal of useful knowledge. For his own part he had learnt all he ever knew about the building trade at one of these classes.

building trade at one of these classes. Now a child being sent to one of the best schools from five to thirteen years of age would if taken away for a year or two and set to work forget all that he had been taught. He thought there should be classes of a higher order, more especially in a mining district like theirs. The speaker spoke in high terms of the system of setting apart lands for educational purposes, for in time the schools would become self-supporting. He thought in Mr. Plummer they had a good and firm master, and it was the duty of parents to encourage and support the teachers, more especially in cases where more than ordinary means were required to "teach the young idea." He could not speak personally of Mr. Plummer, but from what he heard and saw he felt satisfied.

Mr. PLUMMER responded, and said he had had a long experience in the other colonies in teaching and had been successful, and had no doubt he would be here. People must walk before they ran, and if Mr. Haselgrove would come in and see the material upon which they had to

make a foundation he would understand. As time went on he had no doubt they might establish such classes as had been spoken of. South Australia had for some time been behind the other colonies as regarded education, but from the liberal way that the authorities were now acting there was no doubt that in a short time she would be in advance of them. To have Model Schools required a large attendance and a large staff of teachers, and the way to get these would be for every one to exert himself in swelling the attendance.

Mr. GASKELL proposed "The Health of the Superintendent of the Wallaroo Mines, Mr. H. R. Hancock," and Mr. HANCOCK responded.

After singing the National Anthem the company dispersed, and the Minister and party, with several gentlemen from Kadina, proceeded to Wallaroo.