

PRESENTATION TO MR. T. G. AND MRS. DAVEY BY RESIDENTS OF BRIGHT DISTRICT.

At a meeting convened by the president of the Shire of Bright a few weeks ago it was decided to recognise the interest taken in public matters generally by Mr. and Mrs. Davey during their nearly eleven years' residence, by making them a suitable presentation. A committee was appointed to carry out the wishes of the meeting referred to, and on Monday evening about forty gentlemen met at the Alpine Hotel to make the presentation over a farewell glass of wine. The following were present:—Messrs. H. Traulsen and T. Jones, M's.M.B.; J. Murray, R. A. Maddison, O. V. Briner, H. H. Manning and T. C. Kaighin, members Bright Shire Council; E. L. Smith, shire secretary; H. S. Smith, manager Bank of Australasia; C. H. A. Davies, manager National Bank of Australia; T. Pascoe, manager New Options G.M. Co., Harrierville; D. S. King, manager Fairley's Creek G.M. Co., Buckland; H. P. Richards, manager Peabody G.M. Corporation, Wandiligong; W. Bell, manager Mount Orient G.M. Co., Freeburgh; Drs. Altmann and Smart, Rev. G. A. Parker, and Messrs M. G. G. Fox, B. A., W. Hooper, J.P., J. T. Harvey, S. B. Abraham, G. Larkin, R. Beveridge, J. M'Farlane, L. O. Thomas, S. Metcalfe, J. M'Phee, A. H. Wallace, A. Attridge, R. M. Gill, T. Gribble, W. H. Mitchell, J. M'Convill, W. Beveridge and Gaunt.

Mr. H. S. SMITH, manager of the Bank of Australasia, presided, and after the customary loyal toasts had been disposed of, proposed the guest of the evening. He said that Mr. Davey had during then ten years he had been in the district shown the possession of high attainments as a mining man. Privately as a friend he had endeared himself to them all by his hospitable qualities, while as a public man what he had done in the council and elsewhere spoke trumpet-tongued of his capacity and energy. Everything worthy of being assisted had been pushed forward by Mr. Davey in an able, honest and straightforward manner. They all knew what he had done in connection with the Tawanga road, and that it was, to a great extent, due to his tact that the negotiations for severance and afterwards for the floating of the loan for the construction of the road were successfully carried through during his term of office as president. Mr. Davey's removal would be a distinct loss to the district, and he asked

distinct loss to the district, and he asked them to show in a hearty manner the appreciation and respect they entertained for him.

The toast was received and honored with musical accompaniments.

Mr. E. L. SMITH, on behalf of the subscribers, then asked Mr. Davey to accept an elegant silver salver. He said he had the pleasing task of requesting their guest to accept a small piece of plate as a parting gift from his many friends in the Bright district, and expressed the hope that Mr. and Mrs. Davey would often think of them, for he was sure they—the residents of Bright—would never forget them. (Applause.)

The salver bore the following inscription:—"Presented to Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Davey, by their friends in the Bright Shire on the occasion of their leaving the district. 28 | 8 | 99."

Mr. DAVEY, on rising to respond to the toast and acknowledge the present, was received with prolonged applause. He said he felt satisfied he must have a large number of friends in the district or so large a number would not have assembled to meet him and say good-bye that evening. He reviewed the proceedings during the previous few days at Harrierville, particulars of which are to be found under their respective headings. The 11 years spent in the district were the best and in many respects the happiest in his life. As a mining man he had endeavored to do his duty to the companies who employed him, and to the men, and was proud to think he had won the respect of the men. When six years ago he acceded to the request to join the Bright Shire Council, he took a step for which he had no cause to regret and he would always look back with much pleasure to his connection with that body. He referred to the correspondence that had been going on in the press of late in which the council was charged with extravagance, and that such was the case he totally denied. The health officer was paid the extravagant sum of £17 10s. a year. He supposed if 10s. were taken off and the pay made £17 all would be well. Then as regards the engineer a lot of people seemed to think that engineers were made of mud, and that all one had to do was to go out and pick them up. He had an idea that the secretary must have a knowledge of the English language, the engineer must have a university education at the cost of thousands of pounds to some one, and the secretary

pounds to some one, and the secretary must in addition be a book-keeper. According to some a man with such attainments would be well paid at 8s. 4d. a day, but perhaps it was the extra £10 they objected to, and that if the pay were reduced from £260 to £250 it would be all right. Were he a member of the council for 50 years he would fight against the uncalled for demand for reduction in salaries. He expressed his hearty appreciation of the many kind things said of him, and asked that when he was far away they would only think of his good points and forget the bad ones. He had to express his many obligations to Captain McFarlane, than whom they would have to travel a long way before they would find a more genial, jolly, fine old landlord. For Mrs. Davey and himself he heartily thanked them for their parting souvenir, and wished them all individually, and the district, prosperity and happiness. (Applause.)

The Rev. G. A. PARKER, in proposing the health of the chairman, said he was not surprised at the esteem in which Mr. Davey was held. If after all Mr. Davey had done for the district, he was not recognised in a practical manner, all he could say was that they would be an ungrateful lot of wretches. It had been his privilege to enjoy the personal acquaintance of Mr. Davey. He was sure he expressed the opinion of all when he said they were pleased to welcome Mr. Pascoe—Mr. T. G. Davey's successor—who, from what he had seen, was a real good fellow.

The toast was duly honored, and Mr. SMITH responded briefly.

Mr. PASCOE expressed the opinion that Mr. Davey must have worthily filled all the positions he occupied or there would not have been so large an attendance of citizens that evening, nor would he have been so well spoken of on all hands. Following a man so universally popular he felt that he was on gingerbread. He looked upon politics as an abomination, and he would have nothing to do with them, but as it was necessary that someone should discharge public duties, his advice was when they found good men, stick to them. (Applause.) He would assist anything worthy of support, and was glad to have made the acquaintance of all present.

The company joined in singing "Auld Lang Syne," and then adjourned to the Masonic Hall, where a few hours were spent in a social dance got up in honor of the guests of the evening.

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STATE MAGNANIMITY.—The committee of the Nhill Free Library has received 8s. 11d. from the Government as subsidy. It is stipulated that 75 per cent of this sum must be spent in the purchase of new books.

Several residents of Dookie have turned their attention to the production of raisins, which are found to be more lucrative than sending the fruit to market or making wine. Those who possess currant vines have been doing well, one grower having made £70 per acre last season.

Prince Ranjitsinhji, the celebrated cricketer, has beaten all previous records for run-getting during the season in first class matches. He has compiled a total of 3000 runs, thus surpassing his own record and that of W. G. Grace.