

THE LATE MR. D. WYLLIE, M.P.

We take the following, concerning the late David Wyllie, M.P., from the North Melbourne Advertiser:—

David Robert Wyllie was born in Hotham, on February 14th, 1856. His schooldays were passed principally at the Scots' Grammar School, then under the Superintendence of Mr Gilchrist. With all the boys he was great favorite, and the great attention with which they listened to him reciting at the half-yearly examinations of the school, shows that even then they had great respect for him.

The manner in which he delivered these pieces struck his master and he frequently asked Wyllie to recite at some of the speech days of the college, and more frequently at the Bands of Hope. After he left school his first employment was as a newspaper boy, but he soon gave this up, for a desire to learn a trade had come upon him. Accordingly he was apprenticed to Mr Radford, tinsmith, and passed the greater part of his life in his shop.

It was about this time that the State night schools were opened, and Mr Wyllie was a regular attendant at Mr Mattingley's school, in Erroll-street, and afterwards at the new school at the end of the street. One night Mr Burt, during an electioneering campaign, addressed the electors of Hotham in the school-room. Young Wyllie managed to get into the room undetected by the doorkeepers, but he ran full but into the headmaster of the school. Looking down at him the master said, "What are you doing here, Wyllie?" The boy excused himself by saying, "Oh, I'll have a vote some day, sir." Then said the master, in his usual severe tones, "See that you use it judiciously, Wyllie."

Mr Wyllie, in 1876 and 1877, owing to his connection with the Hotham United Cricket Club, made himself a great favorite with the young fellows of that club, and received great recognition from them for the manner in which he had toiled for it. Afterwards a football club was formed, and Mr Wyllie's services to that club will never be forgotten.

and was formed, and Mr Wyllie's services to that club will never be forgotten. The poems which he wrote excited them to victory, and one was of special merit entitled "Cricket," which was a short review of all the leading juniors in the district.

He now turned his mind to elocution, and at this he worked so assiduously that he turned out a real good amateur reciter. Of his merits as a singer you all know.

The various Friendly Societies were now obtaining a firm footing in Hotham and Mr Wyllie threw his lot in with the Hotham Union Independent Order of Oddfellows. No one has an idea how hard he worked for this lodge, and many a member blessed the day that brought Wyllie in his house as a sick visitor. He passed through the various offices of the lodge, and was several times elected delegate to the Grand Lodge Conference. Out of respect to Mr Wyllie, the last meeting adjourned.

His connection with the Trades Hall is well-known, for besides being the founder of the Tinsmiths' Society, he was a member of the Trades Hall Council.

Mr Wyllie worked hard and honestly for every cause in which he was in any way connected. His integrity was such as received praise from all acquainted with him, and he worked for the cause of labour night and day, neither sparing his health or his pocket. His work on the finance and control committee during the great maritime strike will never be forgotten while trades union exists. His good qualities made him a favourite with everybody; his honest and manly character, his courteous and obliging manner, every ready to assist those desiring help—all these qualities caused him to be honoured and respected.