

SOUVENIR OF THE WAR.

**PRESENTED TO THE WARRAGUL
SHIRE COUNCIL,**

**IN HONOUR OF THE TROOPS FROM
THE WARRAGUL DISTRICT.**

A GRACEFUL COMPLIMENT.

The many expressions of admiration and praise of the gallant exploits performed by the Australian troops in the South African war, and especially those from this part of Gippsland, assumed a concrete form some five weeks ago when the residents of the district—at the welcome home and social to the troops—presented the men from the Warragul shire with a handsomely mounted and framed group of their photographs. Through the forethought of Lieut. Farrar (Victorian Rangers) an extra group was ordered for presentation to the Shire Council, and at the meeting of that body on Wednesday last the ceremony of presentation took place. Cr. P. J. Smith, when introducing the deputation, said it was the desire of the residents represented by the deputation to ask the Council's acceptance of the souvenir as a memento of the splendid work done by our troops at the seat of war, and to commemorate the safe arrival of those who had once more returned to their native land. The occasion was one of unique interest to both the people of the district and to the Council, and he quite coincided with the committee in their desire to perpetuate the historical significance of the occasion by presenting the photographs of the men to be placed in the Council Chamber. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. J. L. Parkes—who had been selected by the deputation to act as spokesman—said the high honour had fallen upon him of asking the Council's acceptance of that memento, to perpetuate the memory of those who had fought so nobly in the cause of their Queen and the Empire. (Hear, hear.) He felt assured that the Councillors would fully appreciate their desire to place on record their sense of admiration and esteem of the men who had fought so well in the service of the Empire. In recognition of the splendid work which they had accomplished, the residents of the district decided to ask the council to permanently place their photographs in the Council Chamber of the Shire. (Applause.)

Lieut. Farrar—who acted throughout as secretary to the movement—said he hoped that the souvenir which they were presenting to the Council would not be

the only picture to adorn the walls of the Council Chamber. If he might make the suggestion, he thought an enlarged photograph of the swearing-in ceremony of the Governor-General and of the opening of the Federal Parliament by the Duke of York might be obtained. These would form the nucleus of a museum of interesting events. Later on, groups of the President and Councillors might be added, thus connecting the past with the present, in the service of the municipality (Hear, hear.)

The President expressed the thanks of the Councillors for the happy thought which suggested the presentation of such a suitable souvenir, to commemorate one of the greatest historical events in the history of Australia. He felt sure he would be echoing the sentiments of the councillors and ratepayers in saying they would be delighted to have the pictures of the men who had done such excellent work in the service of the Empire, and the souvenir would adorn the walls of the Council Chamber. (Hear, hear.) The suggestion made by Mr. Farrar in reference to the swearing-in ceremony by the Governor-General and the opening of the Federal Parliament was also an excellent one, for it would mark an epoch of vital importance in the future history of the Australian Nation. It was intended, however, to present a handsomely illuminated joint-address to the Duke of York from all the municipalities in the State, and it was possible the various councils might be able to obtain a copy of that interesting document. He again thanked them for the handsome souvenir of the returned troops, which in future would adorn the walls of the Council Chamber.

The deputation then withdrew.