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MR. AND MRS. A. J. COBCROFT I

A FAREWELL FUNCTION.

PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS AND

PLATE.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Coberoft were the guests of honour at a very successful complimentary conversation held at the Town Hall on Saturday evening. The gathering was organised with the idea of affording the townspeople an opportunity of saying farewell to Mr and Mrs. A. J. Coberoft, who are to leave Warwick in the early part of the month to take up their permanent residence in Sydney. The Mayor (Alderman J. W. 'Gilliam) presided over a representative attendance, numbering over a hundred. The hall was neatly decorated, and had been arranged in a comfortable fashion. Light and dainty refreshments were served during the evening by a band of ladies, who had voluntarily undertaken to enact the role of waitresses. Mr. Weimers' orchestra supplied excellent music. Musical items were rendered by Messrs. Hugh Millar and W. Kudd. Mrs. Cainc played the accompaniments. Dancing was also enjoyed, the proceedings throughout being of a most informal nature. At a suitable interval the

Mayor presented Mr. and Mrs. Coberoft with a handsome illuminated address and a beautiful piece of plate in the form of a solid silver salver. Letters of apology were received from the following: Mrs. G. P. Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. F. Gravsoii, Mr. and Mrs. F. Lyons, Gladfield, Mr. and Mrs. J. Benson, Mr. and Mrs. Palmer, Mr. B. C. Kirkegaard, Mr. J. Hyslop, Mr. J. P. Lyons, Mr. L.

R. Sams, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. S. Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson (N.S.W. Bank), Mr. and Mrs. Bourke (Bodumba), Mrs. A. O. H. Phillips, Mr. F. W. Caino, Mr. I. E. A. Flower, Mr. and Mrs. Kasch, Mr. I. Eli Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Toms

(Maryvale), Mr. and Mrs. A. W. McLcod, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Seiko, Mr. T. J. Cook, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Minnott, Mr. R. W. Ward and Mrs. Ward, Mr. C. F. Counsell. •

proposing the toast of 'Our Guests,'

the Mayor said he was rather at a disadvantage in not having been so closely associated with Mr. and Mrs. Coberoft for so many years as had some of those who were present that evening. His first recollection of their guests went back some 12 years ago at an evening similar to the present one. Mr. and Mrs. Coberoft, continued the Mayor, had been resident in Warwick for some considerable time and had proved themselves good citizens. During their residence in Warwick, Mr. Coberoft had been prominent in connection with most of the public institutions of the town, and any time when any movement was going forward for the progress of the town, Mr. Coberoft was always at the head of it. The Mayor went on to say that he had also heard a good deal about the excellent work Mrs. Coberoft had accomplished. The town was about to suffer a great loss by the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Coberoft. What would be the gain, for some other district, would be Warwick's loss. However, he wished "Mr. and Mrs. Coberoft every happiness and success in their future undertakings, and he was sure that wherever they went they would shine as they had shone in Warwick. No doubt if Mr. Coberoft had remained in the district longer, he would have found a seat in the Council Chambers, and might have been made Mayor of the town. He was sure he would prove a great acquisition to the Council, and would have also made an excellent Mayor. Concluding the Mayor said that, on behalf of the town and district he expressed extreme regret that Mr. and Mrs. Coberoft had been compelled to leave Warwick, and he also expressed the wish, and that wish was echoed by everyone present, that in the district to which they were proceeding, that they would find friends as hearty as they had found in Warwick.

(Applause.)

Mr. G. P. Barnes, M.L.A., in supporting the toast, said he was pleased that the opportunity of supporting the Mayor's expressions had been afforded him. He was sure that if one was to travel from one end of the Warwick district to the other they would find, as he had found, that the people were alive and in sympathy

with the happy recognition that was being paid to their guests that evening. No tribute to two citizens had ever been more worthy or more deserving than the tribute which was being paid that evening to their honoured friends. It had been Warwick's good fortune to have had in its midst for thirteen years two such people as Mr. and Mrs. Cobcroft, who had allied themselves to the best interests of the community. He knew of nothing in connection with the life of the town and district in which their two friends had not taken part, and with which they had not been interested in from start to finish. In the various phases of life in the town they had shown a disposition to enter into the affairs and doings of their life, in a manner that had at once made a place for them in the hearts of the community. The gathering that evening and what would take place later was, he thought, the best evidence that they could have that Mr. and Mrs. Cobcroft lived in their hearts and affections. Proceeding, Mr. Barnes stated that both their guests had taken a deep interest in the local institutions, and above that, he thought, they could call to mind that evening the fact that during the four years of stress and danger of war no people in the community, or no citizen had taken a greater interest in matters of imperial importance. No people had more closely identified themselves with their soldier boys than had Mr. and Mrs. Cobcroft. "My heart," continued Mr. Barnes, "has been warmed again and again when I have seen our two distinguished guests standing out prominently in every sphere of life, and entering enthusiastically into everything which was likely to be of service to the town. They have rendered most distinguished services to our community, and have set an example, which, I am sure, the town will appreciate." Mr. Barnes said that in addition to taking an interest in matters he had already mentioned and taking an interest in the community generally, Mr. and Mrs. Cobcroft had left behind them monuments of their enterprise in the town. There were people who came and went and left nothing to indicate that they ever lived in the district. He defied anyone to say that when Mr. and Mrs. Cobcroft left that there was no evidence that they had lived in the town. There was the best of evidence. He believed they had found their way into the hearts of the people, and that many of them would revel in the happy memories of a friendship of their

two guests, who had lived amongst them for 13 years. In conclusion Mr. Barnes

said he was glad to have been given

the privilege of saying a word of ap

preciation of the esteem in which he personally held Mr. and Mrs. Cobcroft, and in striving to voice the appreciation of the town of Warwick. He regretted that their friends were leaving them,

but he was sure he voiced the sentiments of all when he said he wished them good luck and prosperity, and his warm friends among their new associates

■ tions as they had found in Warwick.]

(Applause.) ., .

Alderman D. Connolly said they were all sorry to lose such estimable citizens. Sydney would benefit by Warwick's loss. Mr. Cobcroft had played a prominent part in the progress of Warwick. As a bank manager, he was held in the highest esteem. Mrs. Cobcroft had also played a prominent part in the

social life of the town, and had performed many charitable acts, many of which, however, were not known but to herself. He felt that they were losing two valuable friends.

Mr. A. E. Hardaker, who also supported the toast, said that the regret expressed at the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Cobcroft was universal. It seemed to him either the privilege or the guilt of some people to be able not only to gain the respect and admiration of those with whom they came in con

tact, but also to be able to instil a distinct liking almost approaching love. They found that such a feeling was not only present in Warwick, but also in the whole of the surrounding district. They were all sorry that they were leaving, and they could not say more than that. As a banker Mr. Cobcroft

had always been most cheerful, and most correct in the opinion on business matters he ever favoured anyone with. As a social man he had been a great acquisition to the town. Mrs. Cobcroft was well-known in the town and district and was always the first to come forward, when any social movement was being

organised for the benefit of the general public. They would both be missed from the district. He wished them success wherever they went.

The Be v. Father Potter's name was also on the programme to support the toast, but unavoidable circumstances prevented him being present.

Others who supported the toast were Messrs. J. Ho Conlay, K. J. Shilliday, B. Papi, T. Vauglian Jones and Alderman J. Allman, who spoke on behalf of the Warwick Turf Club.

The Mayor then presented Mr. and Mrs. Cobcroft with the address and

^ The plate, which was enclosed in a

handsome case bore the following inscription: "Presented to Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Cobcroft by the citizens of Warwick and district as a token of their esteem. Warwick, February 1st, 1919.

The handsome illuminated address, which was read by Alderman A. P. Jutsum, was worded as follows:—

An Address of Appreciation and Farewell, to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Cobcroft, upon the occasion of their removal from residence at Warwick, Queensland.

Warwick, 1st February, 1919.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Cobcroft,—It is with feelings of very keen and very genuine regret, and for which adequate terms of expression are not readily found, that we learn of your intended and immediate transfer of residence from Warwick. For a period extending over some twelve years, it has been our happy and cherished privilege to have you in residence among us and with us. We particularly say with us, because, from the earliest period, of your advent to Warwick, you both, with modesty, unobtrusiveness, and with right good will, have closely identified yourselves with the highest, best, and most vital interests of our town and district. More particularly has this been demonstrated by the

generous devotion of your substance, your talents, and yourselves, to a wise and practical promotion of everything having for its object the expansion, progress, and highest welfare of the town

and interests surrounding you. In all these, high ideal and lofty purpose have ever been the prompting of your thoughts and the motive of your actions

And the direct and enduring result of this, will live, in the happy and grateful memories of those who have been privileged to know you and your activities, a fragrant appreciation

of your work and your worth. As a thanker, first and always, Mr. Cobcroft, has well sustained the best traditions of

the most trusted and honourable profession

and in him the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney have had a most capable, courteous, and dignified man. Of this, the best evidence is borne out by the fact that in the bank a clientele are found his most intimate

and appreciative friends. We will

be best and longest remembered by his

actions of benevolence, philanthropy, and patriotism. To mention some of these—For many years he has been a member of the Warwick Hospital Com

mittee, and its very capable trustee^;

As a member of the Warwick and Dis

district War Council (and here, too, in the

capacity of treasurer), Mr. Cobcroft rendered a unique war service by his help in raising, and by his care of, patriotic funds. As a member of the Hasbrouck Downs Society, he was active and useful: in the Horticultural Society,

the Poultry Club, and the Bowling Association, he was enthusiastic in his attention, and generous in his support. Of Mrs. Cobcroft, very tender and grateful recollections will ever be held

in Warwick and district for her tactful, impartial, and wide generosity. To any deserving appeal by religion, education, patriotism, or philanthropy, she has always been cheerful, prompt, and liberal

In her response: Of her personal services as reporter and collector for the Warwick Hospital. Mrs. Cobcroft was so untiring in her devotion, energy, and

dedication, that it only could be esti-

mated or measured by her unique service

and As a foundation member of the

Warwick Red Cross Society, she has shown consistency, devotion and patriotism To the "Australian Comforts Fund" also. Mrs. Cobcroft has been warm

and practical in her support. While

been liberal in her support. While

By looking of those aspects of individual usefulness and beneficence, we do not forget what has been accomplished by your united thought and combined generosity. Your interest has not been bounded by the confines of your own institutions, to which evidence is borne by the fact of your keen support for nil advanced education. Nor can we forget your interest and influence in the local circle of sports and athletics. By your association with the Warwick Turf Club and the Picnic Race Club, the

sports have benefitted, while, by your patronage, the games of cricket, football, and tennis, have been stimulated and improved. Your going from us will create a void in the professional, commercial, social, and sporting life of

Warwick that we cannot hope to fill. 'The only compensation for our sorrow in losing you is found in the gladness of having had you for a while. Our heartiest good wishes will accompany you to your new home in the Queen City of the Southern Seas, to which, in

addition to this address and the accompanying souvenir, you will carry I

the priceless gem of an enduring affection -

tion of a great company of Warwick : friends and admirers. !

Mr. Cobcroft, replying, said he could not express in words his sincere appreciation of the great evening they had arranged in honour of Mrs. Cobcroft and himself, prior to their leaving the town. It was not so much the beautiful gifts which gave him so much pleasure, but looking round the room, he saw many of his old friends. Their kindly thoughts were even more valuable to him

than were the beautiful gifts. The presence of some of his old clients was also very pleasing to him. He recalled the fact that when he first arrived in

Warwick he believed it to be the

coldest spot in the Commonwealth, and ! ho thought the people similar. That ' night he thought it the warmest spot

and the people the warmest he had ' over met. He always held a high ■ opinion of Warwick. It possessed some ■ of the finest soil in Australia. The '■ town, he said, had not grown in pro- ' portion. To do that they must first of . all induce people to come. An induce- ! ment would be supplied if a good

water supply was offered. The first | impression of any town wont a long,1, way. If he had been elected to the j

Town Council liis first business would

hnve been the arranging for a fair ' water supply. Any little thing he or

Mrs. Cobcroft had done for tho town ' had been amply compensated by that ; night's gathering. He was always j willing to assist Warwick in any way,' and they had tried to do their duty. ; He thanked them for the handsome ' presentations, and the hearty feeoption

tlloy had given him. " j

Mr. Papi moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman and all helpers, and tho gathering closed with the singing of

Auld Lang Syne. j