

SMOKE NIGHT TO MR J. L. DREW

OBJECT OF PRESENTATIONS.

SOME 200 admirers on Saturday night gathered at the Esplanade Hall to bid "An revoir" to Mr J. L. Drew, who has identified himself over a length of years with many sporting and other activities of the town. The Mayor (Or S. Byrne) presided. Caterer Ramsay had provided substantially for the inner man.

Apologies were read from Mr Evans, (V.F.A.), and others. Mr H. J. Harvey rendered "Sing to Me."

Mr John Cameron proposed "Our Comrades at the Front." Williams town's enlistment total was over 1000. (Applause.) Many of them were at the front; many of them would never return; some of their bodies lay buried on the hills of Gallipoli. In connection with the Williamstown Cricket Club and Boys' Naval Brigade, fully 50 were at the front. There were 160 members of the Sub-District Association at the front: Williamstown sending 24, representing 40 per cent. cricket, 80 per cent tennis, and 40 per cent. baseball. Yet some people had the audacity to say that cricketers were "shirkers." (Cheers.)

The toast was drunk in silence, save for a stanza of "Australia will be there."

Mr W. Powell sang "Will o' the Wisp," and Mr H. Harvey "Alice, where art thou?"

The chairman proposed "Our Guest." Few people in this town had done so much in its interests in various ways as Jimmy Drew. He is the worthy son of a noble father. Many seated at the tables would remember his sire, and few people took greater interest in cricket than did Mr James Drew, with his lithe figure and flowing beard. As an umpire he was a terror to evildoers. No fairer man ever took the field as an adjudicator. (Applause.) And Mr J. L. Drew was a worthy son of that good man. (Cheers.) He (the Mayor) had had a fairly good acquaintance with him in many walks of life, and wherever he had met him he had found him to be a man and a good citizen. Scores of people could bear ample testimony to the excellence of his work and straightforwardness in many civic directions. The people of Maryborough would soon discover that he was an excellent citizen. But he trusted to see their guest back amongst them in twelve months' time. (Loud applause.)

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Hon. John Lemmon, M.L.A., in supporting the toast, had had opportunity to note the worth of Mr Drew under many circumstances, and no "whiter man" existed in this State than Jimmy Drew. (Cheers.) As he had been resident next him for some ten years, he could certify he was a good friend and a good neighbour. In respect to the local public schools he had been foremost in advancing the interests of this State. Chiefly he had been recognised as a candid critic and an authority on sport. All would be glad to see him get into his old stride again. (Applause.)

Mr Lemmon here read a letter from the Hon. A. R. Outtrim, M.L.A., member for Maryborough, in which that gentleman had intimated that their guest was bound to receive a cordial welcome there.

Or Dennis, on behalf of the Victorian Football Association, said as a delegate to the Association that body had always regarded Mr Drew as the giver of very sound advice. He was looked upon as an authority and looked up to and frequently his criticism and ideas were the factors in rectifying errors. (Applause.)

Mr Glen Roberts, president of the Sub-District Association (prior to presenting Mr Drew with a purse of sovereigns on behalf of that body) dwelt at some length on the assiduity with which the guest had built up the status of the Association to its excellence. Mr Drew was possessed of true sporting qualities. In respect to the breach between the Victorian Cricket Association and their organization he had absolutely healed it, seconded by the splendid offices of Mr Peter McAlister. Mr Drew's resignation had come to him as a shock. His place would be very difficult to fill. Fortunately, in the person of Mr Ford, they had secured another sterling Williamstown representative. Most of the good people you get round you in cricket circles were from Williamstown: another was Mr Thompson. Practically the Sub-District Association just now was being run by Williamstown cricketers. (Laughter and applause.)

Mr Peter McAlister was reminiscent of the early cricketing days and junior local cricket generally, in which their guest bore a commendable share as a player. He regarded Mr Drew as "a real white man." (Cheering.) There was no more manly sport existed than their friend. His arguments were always sound and for the game. As a selector of teams in the Sub-District Association his judgement was always to be commended, owing to his

District Association his judgement was always to be commended, owing to his distinct personal knowledge of individual cricketers and their performances. His pertinacity had gained for "Tate" Jones and "Jimmy" Matthews places not alone in inter State but inter National cricket. (Applause.)

Mr V. Myers, (Victorian Cricket Junior Association) added his eulogiums. Or Liston, Mr John Cameron (W.C.C.), Mr Robert Ferguson (Newport Workshops), M. J. Testro (Old Victorian Cricketers Association), Mr Wilson (North State School), Mr W. G. N. Young (Newport citizens), Mr D. W. Tuckey (Umpires' Association) and others likewise supported the toast. Before rising to respond Mr Drew (who was accorded an ovation) was presented with a purse and wallet of sovereigns, the latter from Williamstown citizens and handed over by the Mayor. Mr W. Powell sang "Johnny Ludlow."

The guest said he deeply appreciated the gathering together of representation identified with every class in the community. Before him he noticed many of his old schoolfellows—Jack Hansen, Peter McAllister, Harry Harvey and others. He had been identified with Williamstown for 44 years, and much of what he educationally possessed was due to Mr Alfred Fowler and Mr William Farmer. (Applause.) He was grateful to the Mayor for the kindly references made to his father, and might say that he had always tried to live up to the advice his revered parent had given him. That worthy man had had the ambition for his becoming a clergyman, or an L.L.B., and put him in the way of his obtaining ripe tuition at St James' Grammar

to the "Chronicle," and in previous years to the "Newport Times," on cricket, football and other subjects had been purely a labor of love. (Cheers.) With respect to his contributions to the Press, however, he had received a very nice letter from the proprietary of the "Argus," together with one from the linotypers of that journal expressing a hope that his successor would furnish equally legible copy. The speaker recalled the incentive prompting the selectors to introduce "Jimmy" Matthews into high grade cricket. All his life he had held the view that three things were open to a man—to rust out, wear out, or snuff out. He had determined to wear out. (Loud applause.) In conclusion he thanked them very sincerely for their deeply appreciated valuable presents. (Cheers and applause.)

A vote of thanks to the chairman and performers was moved by Dr Esler and carried by acclamation.

School. But he wanted work, and to work he went. He desired to say that the two and a half years with Mr H. Litchfield in the offices of the Melbourne Steamship Company had been invaluable to him. (Applause.) During the course of his life he had seen many changes in Williamstown. He trusted he had not been a laggard in seeing to support its interests. He did detest the act of some who when affluence smiled upon them said that Williamstown was not a good enough place to live in. (A voice—"Batters.") He had always found Williamstown a good place: Williamstown was the place for him. (Cheers.) He had never sought the limelight. Whatever literary contribution he had supplied to the "Chronicle," and in previous