

Bank Notes



The
Monthly Staff Magazine
of the
Commonwealth Bank
of Australia

Souvenir
of the Visit of
H.R.H. The Prince of Wales

Vol. 2

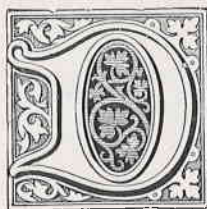
July, 1920

No. 8





HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, EDWARD ALBERT CHRISTIAN GEORGE ANDREW PATRICK DAVID, PRINCE OF WALES AND EARL OF CHESTER IN THE PEERAGE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, DUKE OF CORNWALL IN THE PEERAGE OF ENGLAND, DUKE OF ROTHESAY, EARL OF CARRICK, AND BARON OF RENFREW IN THE PEERAGE OF SCOTLAND, LORD OF THE ISLES AND GREAT STEWARD OF SCOTLAND, K.G., C.M.M.G., G.C.V.O., G.M.B.E., M.C.



DEMOCRATIC Australians might naturally have been somewhat diffident about receiving, as their guest, a gentleman bearing such a number of names and titles, but when they found, by literally rubbing shoulders with him, that there was a man beneath the tunic, Australians threw their diffidence to the winds and took the Prince to their hearts. That they persist in calling him a boy, is just as complimentary as the Diggers' description of a friend, "a good lad," when the description is preceded by adjectives. The Prince's visit to Australia is of such historical importance, and so much has already been written regarding it that to attempt adding anything new is but to paint the lily, yet for we members of the Commonwealth Bank staff, the visit is of special significance, and links a series of incidents together in a memorable manner. To commemorate the visit, this issue of *Bank Notes* has been produced.

The influence of the visit upon the children has been so marked and will have such a lasting effect that the story of one child, typical of all, is called to mind. The child fell, and in falling broke her collarbone on the day before the Prince's arrival. The first question after the doctor reached the house was: "Can I go and see the Prince?" She went.

The outstanding feature in Sydney as in all other places visited by the Prince, is the fact that the visit unquestionably will do the Empire an enormous amount of good. His welcome in Sydney every time he appeared in public, whether by night or by day, was truly magnificent, and tempered with consideration for his personal feelings. The women and children unquestionably have taken the Prince to their hearts, and the men have been just as glad to see him wherever men alone have gathered, as in the case of one or two visits to the racecourse.

There is something appealing about this Prince of ours that sways us. What is it? Probably it is his simplicity of character that has won Australian hearts.

He has a duty to perform; he does it, and does it well, be it speech or greeting, an important social function or a meeting. If there is any fun to be had he is all for it—horse or games, races or driving a car. The total absence of "I am the Prince of Wales—move on, give way," his perfect naturalness is perhaps the secret.

Let the secret remain a secret, one fact shines pre-eminent—the visit of his Royal Highness is an astounding success, proving beyond all shadow of a doubt that Australian loyalty is what we would have it, and that this part of the Empire is secure.

Men and women in all parts of the country have waited for the Royal train to pass that they might cheer, having ridden miles and miles to see but a flash of lights and cheer again. The reception the Prince has received has been a full answer to any would-be disturbing element. Australia's heart is in the right place.

The shopman summed it up—"Well, all I've got to say is that if there were any Bolsheviks or I.W.W.'s about to-day, they have had their answer! This country is alright."

It so happens that the Governor-General of Australia has an office in the Commonwealth Bank for his use when in Sydney, and the staff luncheon room is probably one of the best halls in Australia for a banquet, such as it was proposed to give upon the Prince's arrival in Sydney. On the 16th June, 1920, his Excellency Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson, had as his guest the Prince of Wales, and this to the best of our knowledge is the first occasion upon which a member of the Royal family has been banquetted in a Bank.

Naturally the Governor of the Bank, Sir Denison Miller, was more than honoured when the onerous duty devolved upon him of making the hall ready for the banquet for the Prince and the Governor-General's guests.

Then the visit has another significance. When a citizen in one of the far-flung outposts is created a Knight, the actual investiture is usually conducted by the King's resident representative. In the case of Sir Denison there was the additional honour of being invested by the hands of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, on June 17th.

ERIC N. BIRKS, *Editor*.

Banquet in Commonwealth Bank, Sydney, June 16th, 1920

The main entrance to the Bank was covered for the occasion by an awning, projecting to the edge of the footpath, ornamented with coloured lights, and festooned with the Prince's colours.

Directly inside the Bank's entrance a guard of honour was drawn up, consisting of returned soldier messengers, who wore bank uniform, and their service ribbons. The guard was under the command of Capt R. C. Webb, M.C., Australian Machine Gun Corps, and pride of place was given to the other decorated members of the guard.

Waiting to greet the Prince upon his arrival, was his host for the evening, the Governor-General Sir Ronald Munro-Ferguson, and Sir Denison Miller, Governor of the Bank.

Our photographer secured an excellent flashlight photograph of the scene at the entrance door, which appears elsewhere in this issue.

In due course his Royal Highness and members of his staff and the dis-

tinguished guests arrived at the Luncheon Hall on the ninth floor. The entrance was decorated with flags and palms; a long table was set along the southern wall, with spur tables running from it across the body of the hall.

Decorations consisted mainly of flags and palms, the central design at the end of the long hall being a drapery of flags festooned above a huge bowl of wattle. The flower scheme was carried out in the national colours, and everywhere the refreshing green of asparagus fern, pot plants and trailing creepers, lent their softening grace to the scene on tables, walls and roof.

Naturally, all these added adornments to the Luncheon Hall took time; meant extra assistance and much thought; but the fact is worth noting that during all the elaborate preparation of Bank decoration, the ordinary routine of the Bank was in no way disturbed, and furthermore, during the

busy period of preparation for the Royal banquet, the meals for the staff were served in the customary manner. It is to be regretted that, owing to the size of the hall, it was impossible to artificially illuminate it for photographic purposes, and the flashlights taken, therefore, only show a limited number of the distinguished guests assembled.

Owing to the fact that another important engagement had to be kept at 9.30 p.m., the toasts were limited to two in number; the toast to the King being proposed by the Governor-General, and the Prince's health being proposed by the Prime Minister, Mr. W. M. Hughes.

The Prince's reply was the feature of the evening—a long speech, clearly and vigorously delivered. The speech is printed in full in this issue. After its delivery, the Prince conversed for a few moments with Mr. Hughes, Mr. Holman, and then with General Rosenthal.

Mr. W. M. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia, Toasts the Prince.

Mr. Hughes said:—

We rejoice that the enthusiasm and cordiality of your reception in this great and splendid city have not fallen short of those you have so recently experienced in Melbourne and throughout the State of Victoria, and which has indeed marked your epoch-making journey throughout the Empire. And our joy is heightened by the knowledge that the respite from your strenuous public duties has completely restored your health.

When I had the honour and privilege of proposing the toast of your health in Melbourne I said that you came at an appropriate hour, at a time when, after five years of titanic struggle, the Empire had emerged triumphant from the greatest ordeal to which any people had been subjected from the beginning of time. I said that, apart from those demonstrations of affectionate welcome, the people love to shower upon you in order to express what they feel towards you, personally everywhere throughout the Empire you had been hailed as the great Ambassador of Empire and the veritable symbol of all that Empire stands for, its history, its traditions, its struggles for freedom, its progress, its achievements, and its ideals.

Your triumphant tour through the self-governing Dominions has given the people an opportunity of expressing in unmistakable fashion how much this Empire of which you are the symbol means to them. They realise clearly what it has done not only for them, but for civilisation; what it stands for, in war and in peace. In the great struggle between militarism and democracy they knew that it was the verit-

able sword and shield of the free peoples of the earth. They realise that behind the mighty battlements of the British Navy, the free peoples of the earth, attacked unawares, found safe refuge from the furious onslaught of the legions of autocracy. The broad highways of the seas, swept clear of the enemy by the Navy, the peace-loving nations of the earth beat their ploughshares into swords, girded up their loins, and set themselves in battle array against the legions that had been massed for their destruction. They realised that but for the British Navy military despotism would have bestraddled the earth like a colossus. That but for the armed forces of the Empire victory for liberty would have been impossible.

Sir, there are some who, sheltering under its broad wings, enjoying those priceless privileges of freedom which they have done nothing to deserve, are wont to sneer at the Empire. But where would these self-acclaimed champions of liberty be to-day but for the British Empire."

Sir, the wonderful demonstrations of joyous welcome which everywhere are extended to you show in what spirit the Australian democracy—perhaps the most advanced in the world—regard the Empire.

Sir, there are some who speak of the British Empire who do not in the least understand it. They seek to interpret it in terms of other Empires, ancient and modern. But the Australian public who overwhelm you with their affectionate demonstrations of welcome understand far better than those carping spirits how unbridgable is the gulf

between this and all other Empires. For what is this Empire of ours but a loose confederation of free peoples glorying in their freedom. The people of Australia know, sir, that, while other Empires throughout the ages have stood for might and power, ours stands for right and liberty. Freedom and love of liberty are engrained in our very bones, being handed down to us as precious heirlooms by our ancestors, who for centuries have fought, suffered, and died for freedom. Britain is indeed the very cradle of liberty. When the lamp of liberty flickered but feebly, or was utterly extinguished elsewhere, in England its sacred flame shone clear and bright and steady like unto a beacon light. The broods which have left its shores have taken with them to the uttermost parts of the earth those ideas of free government which are the glory of our race. In the land of their adoption they have set up and developed those institutions under which they had been bred and which they loved dearer than life itself.

Sir, there are some who speak of the British Empire as if it were a synonym of conquest and oppression. Yet it is the very bulwark of liberty. And as every free institution, every stride forward by democracy, every development of free government was achieved by those whose forefathers were sired in Britain. So in the hour of peril all found safe refuge behind the Navy and armed forces of the British Empire. American democracy not less than Canadian and Australian springs from the same source. Environment has modified it, but the seed was gathered from the same soil, and all exist to-day because of the Empire.

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Now, sir, let me interpret the welcome which the people of the Dominions and everywhere have showered upon you by touching for a moment upon another aspect of Empire.

Australia recognises to the full the debt she owes to Britain for protection and aid rendered during the great struggle which has now been so happily terminated by triumphant victory. But for Britain, Australia was undone. Its ideals would have been shattered; its liberties destroyed. For more than a century of peace we rested under the broad wings of the Motherland. And thanks to the British Navy, though the horrors of the world war drenched the earth with blood, not the faintest idea of its furies disturbed our peace in this sheltered and pleasant land. All these things we know; they are indeed engraven upon our hearts. So, when the people of the overseas Dominions hail you with such enthusiasm they are seeking to show that they are not unmindful of this, and all that the Motherland has done for them and theirs. This is one side of what Empire means to us. There is another. The Empire is not Britain alone. It is a house of many and spacious man-

sions. During the war Britain, within the narrow seas, gloriously upheld her proud traditions. But the Britons across the ocean played a part not unworthy of their breeding. The self-governing Dominions placed a million white troops in the field, who stood by Britain's side unfaltering in the darkest hours. Their blood and that of their kinsmen from the Motherland mingled together in France, Flanders, Gallipoli, and Palestine. On sea and land they bore themselves proudly. The enemy himself has testified to the valour and prowess of the soldiers of the Dominions, who gave freely of their best for the cause for which the civilised world fought. In this war Australia and her sister Dominions won a place amongst the free nations of the earth. Australia is a nation, and we are very proud to call ourselves Australians. But not the less proud to call ourselves citizens of the Empire. Empire is literally the sword and shield of the free nations who compose it. Empire means not only something to us overseas, in that it ensures us the protection of the British Navy, but it means something, too, to Britons of the Homeland. A blow struck at one is

resented by all. Let Britain be in danger, and Canada, Australia, and New Zealand will unsheathe the sword, and their young men will go forth to battle by her side. Let the enemy but menace Australia, then not only Britain, but Canada, South Africa, and New Zealand will fly to her aid. We are then in very deed a League of Nations—a league that endures even unto the end, a league fashioned by time and tried by the ordeal of fire. And the great ideal of this Empire is not like that of Germany—world-power but world liberty. Empire and Empire alone has enabled us to uphold and develop this great island continent, and to develop our institutions of free government. Empire and Empire alone will enable us to hold Australia and maintain and still further develop our liberties. This British Empire is a league of free nations bound together by ties of blood and common interests. It is the most effective instrument for the preservation of all those free nations that comprise it, and of the peace and liberties of the world that has ever existed. It is the only sure and certain means by which Australia can ensure her national safety and achieve her great destiny.



His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales being received at the entrance to the Commonwealth Bank by the Governor-General and Sir Denison Miller, June 16th, 1920.

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One word more and I have done. What is it that enables these free nations, each enjoying and jealously guarding their free rights of self-government, to act as one united Empire? Sir, it is that institution—the Monarchy of Britain—of which you are not merely the symbol but the heir.

Sir, we have lately seen mighty Empires, that but a few short years ago seemed built on solid granite, shattered into fragments; we have seen institutions that seemed impregnable crumbled to dust and proud monarchs driven from their thrones and become hunted and despised exiles. Terrific convulsions have shaken these nations to their very foundations. The pendulum of circumstances has swung wildly from one extreme to the other. The terrorism of autocracy has been supplanted by a terrorism even more ruthless. Ground under the heel of despotism, denied the rights of free men, the people of those countries, realising that the hour was at hand when the Cause of Liberty, for which the Allies fought, would be triumphant, resolved to be free. And realising that freedom was impossible under autocracy, they battered down its battlements and drove their former rulers into exile.

But if we turn from the contemplation of tottering thrones and bloody

revolutions, and look at Britain and the British Empire generally, a very different prospect meets our eye. There we find a monarchy, after five years of dreadful war, standing firmer than ever. It is true, sir, that we see a democracy girding up its loins to meet the consequences of war; demanding, as did its forefathers, a still greater share in the government of their country, and insisting upon better conditions for all. We see great changes effected by constitutional means, the scope of the people's liberties widened, progress more rapid, but revolution undreamt of save by a few fanatics. The British race is eminently sane and practical. It revolts only when constitutional redress for its grievances are denied it. And it knows that under the British Constitution what the people want they can have. For what changes could revolutions effect that the British Constitution could not ensure? And this is the reason why the monarchy of England, standing to-day in a world resounding with the crash of falling thrones, is but more firmly established than ever. The monarchy of England is the handiwork of free men, and so free men, far from seeking to overthrow it, guard it jealously. The autocracies of Europe stood between their peoples and liberty. While Czardom

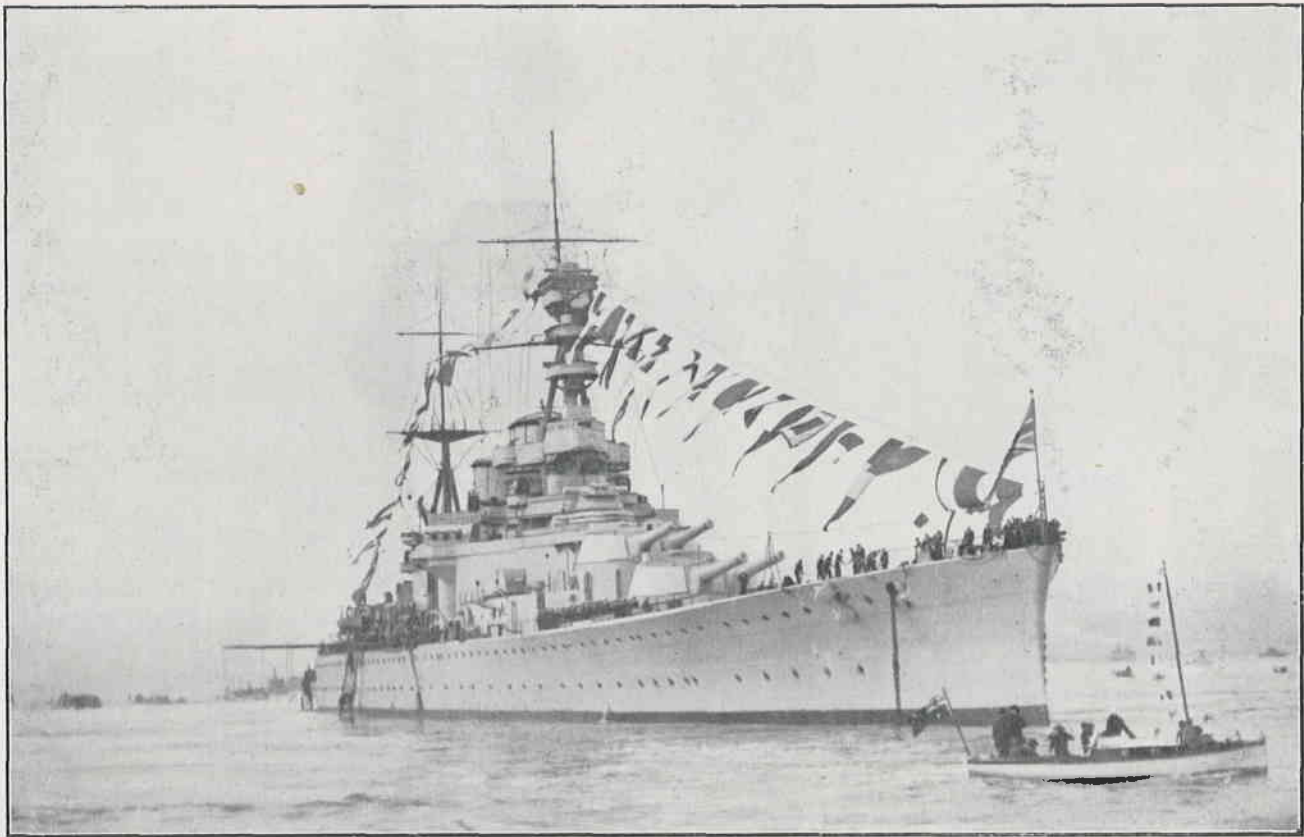
and Kaiserism stood, liberty was impossible. And so the people made an end of them.

The British Empire without the nexus of the Monarchy of England is unthinkable. There is now some talk about republics. Sir, I am not concerned with the theoretical excellencies of a republic; every people must decide these matters themselves. I am concerned not with theories, but with things as they are. Time, circumstances, and the age-long struggles for freedom by men who held liberty dearer than life have fashioned the Constitution under which we live. The monarchy is an integral part of it.

If Britain decided to adopt a republican form of government that would be the end of the Empire as we know it to-day. The Empire has grown up; it is, if you like, the most illogical of institutions, it is composed of many free nations very jealous of their own rights, and brooking no interference with these; yet to the outside world it is, in the hour of danger, one.

And the institution which binds all these together is the Monarchy of England.

Your Excellency and gentlemen, I ask you to charge your glasses and drink to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.



We are indebted to Mr. Henri Mallard for this splendid photograph of the "Renown" taken shortly after arrival in Sydney.

Prince of Wales' Speech at the Banquet.

Your Excellency, Gentlemen.—

I thank you sincerely for the kind way you have received me this evening, and for the cordiality with which you have drunk my health. This is the second time that I have been thus honoured and entertained by the Commonwealth Government, and it is the second occasion on which the Prime Minister has greeted me on their behalf. I am once more very grateful to him for the far too kind words that he has used in referring to myself.

When I replied to this toast at the previous similar gathering in Melbourne I had only just landed in Australia, and so did not feel justified in saying very much. But after three weeks I feel more in a position to express something of what I feel about the Commonwealth.

I have had a wonderful time in Victoria, but this is my first day in the capital of New South Wales, the Mother State of the Commonwealth, and I feel behind the Prime Minister's eloquent greeting the wonderful welcome that this great city, Sydney, the oldest and the largest in Australia, has given me to-day. I value and appreciate it all the more as much against my will I arrived here a week late.

I must at once apologise for the postponement of my visit, and I only hope it has not caused too much inconvenience. But it happens that I cannot help feeling things very deeply, and I was quite overwhelmed by my first welcome to Australia.

Mr. Hughes has spoken of the war, and I cannot refrain from dwelling on that outstanding subject. We have with us here to-night his Excellency your Governor-General, whom I wish to congratulate on his distinguished tenure of his high post during the last six years.

I wish also to congratulate the Commonwealth on the appointment of Lord Forster as the new Governor-General, who, I feel confident, like his able predecessor, will do credit to his great office.

We have also here to-night two out of your three war Prime Ministers, Mr. Hughes and Sir Joseph Cook. The one who is absent is my friend, Mr. Fisher, your High Commissioner in London, who was one of my hosts at a luncheon on Australia Day. These were the men who expressed Australia's policy during the war. But throughout the Empire British policy was dictated by the peoples and by their spirit. Now I was able to realise the spirit of Australians long before I came to the Commonwealth three weeks ago by my close association with your gallant troops in Egypt, in Flanders, and in Belgium. I have been travelling in the Empire ever since peace was signed, and the more I travel the more I feel what a privilege it was to see and to live with the men of the Empire at the front. The service men of the Empire expressed two things. Firstly, they expressed the spirit of their own nations, *and there was no finer body of men than those which Australia sent to represent her in the various theatres of war.*

But they also expressed the unity of sentiment and belief which made all the peoples of the British Empire stand together against Central Europe's challenge to freedom and right. It is very difficult in speeches to do justice to the devotion and vigour with which Britishers fought, and to the manner in which they fought. Mere words sound pompous, and are always inadequate. But it was Britishers on active service who gave me my first real initiation into the spirit of the Empire, and I owe them much for that alone. I shall never forget the splendid impression which they conveyed of the force and the unity which has made the British Commonwealth of nations so living and invincible a power.

As I have said before, I have been travelling a great deal in the Empire lately, which means I have been seeing its peoples for myself. That has taught me that the British determination which won the war has everywhere been handed down by pioneer ancestors, who by sheer grit, and through their vision and judgment, have built up our British institutions in times of peace. It is quite true that the wisdom of great statesmen and the ability of great commanders have served the Empire—have even saved the Empire—in ways for which we cannot ever be too grateful, but the fact remains that the life of the Empire, its character and its destiny, have been made, are made, and always will be made by its peoples who have conducted their own affairs. When I think of Australia I am reminded of a fine saying used, I think, by the first Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, Sir Edmund Barton, whose recent loss, in common with that of another great Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Deakin, I greatly deplore.

Sir Edmund Barton expressed Australia's aspirations in one sentence: "A continent for a nation, and a nation for a continent." And I can now see with what faith and force the Australian people have taken that ideal to their hearts.

You are determined that this nation shall be pure of race, and that all the citizens of your Commonwealth shall have an equal chance. You have also proved in the last five years that you do not follow this ideal in selfish isolation, but are prepared to give of your best for the King, for the Empire, and for the world-wide cause of liberty and justice.

And I am quite sure of one thing—that as Australia stands by the Empire, so will the Empire stand by Australia for all time.

There is another part of my experience in coming to Australia that I should like to mention. Before the war we, the nations of the British Empire, were naturally all very busy with our own affairs, and it took Germany's challenge in 1914 to make us all realise how solid and indivisible we are. Our enemies had failed entirely to allow for this. They may have expected to find themselves up against a few battalions from the Dominions, but they certainly did not count on several army corps, and the whole-hearted participation of the Dominions was one of the factors that upset their war plans and brought about their defeat as much as anything else. Since my travels I have realised how very deeply the roots of our common civilisation are set. It is the continuity of British methods and ideals which is their strongest point. On my way to Australia I passed sea after sea and island after island, which bore the record of our race, and called to mind such names as Grenville, Drake, Captain Cook, and Flinders; and when I reached New Zealand and finally this great continent, I felt that I had come upon the realisation of long centuries of continuous British vision and enterprise. I am sure that no nation of the Empire can properly understand itself or the links which bind it to other British peoples unless it follows British history a long way back into the past.

I have only one more thing to say, but I say it with hesitation, because it is about myself. I am not so vain as to suppose that the wonderful welcomes that have been given to me in Australia are given to me as an individual.

I know that they are accorded to me as the King's son and heir, because the King represents the unity and the continuity of British life and ideals throughout the Empire.

I shall never forget the welcomes given me, nor all the kindness shown to me by Australians in their two greatest cities. I only trust that I shall not be unworthy of these welcomes, which speak so forcibly to me of Australia's affection and of Australia's confidence.

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The Investiture of the Governor of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, 17th June, 1920.

All those who were delighted to hear of the Governor's knighthood were also very pleased to read that the investiture had been made by the Prince of Wales.

To give some idea of how many admirers outside the staff were pleased, we may mention that telegrams, cables and letters of congratulation received number over six hundred.

The actual investiture took place at Government House, Sydney, on the 17th June, and although the day was a cold, unpleasant one, a large and representative section of the public appeared at the gates to witness the arrival of those who were to participate. A large number of distinguished visitors among

whom were members of the Ministry, senior Naval and Military officers,

Justices of the Supreme Court, officers of Parliament and heads of the Churches were invited to the first levee. The Prince, who was dressed in the uniform of a Colonel of the Welsh Guards, was attended by Rear-Admiral Sir Lionel Halsey, Lieut.-Colonel Grigg, Sir Godfrey Thomas, Captain Dudley North, Captain Lord Claude Hamilton, Captain P. W. Legh, Lieut.-Commander Janion and Sub-Lieutenant Lord Mountbatten.

The State Governor, Sir Walter Davidson, was attended by Captain D'Apice, A.D.C., Commander Allison, A.D.C., Mr. F. Lamb, Private Secretary, and Mr. H. C. Budge, Official Secretary.

The Governor of the Bank, Sir Denison Miller, was introduced to his Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, by the State Governor, Sir Walter Davidson. His Excellency said that "Sir Denison was the head of a most marvellous institution, the largest financial institution in Australia, and had made a big success of it."

The Prince then pinned the Star on Sir Denison's breast, and passed the ribbon around his neck. Sir Denison

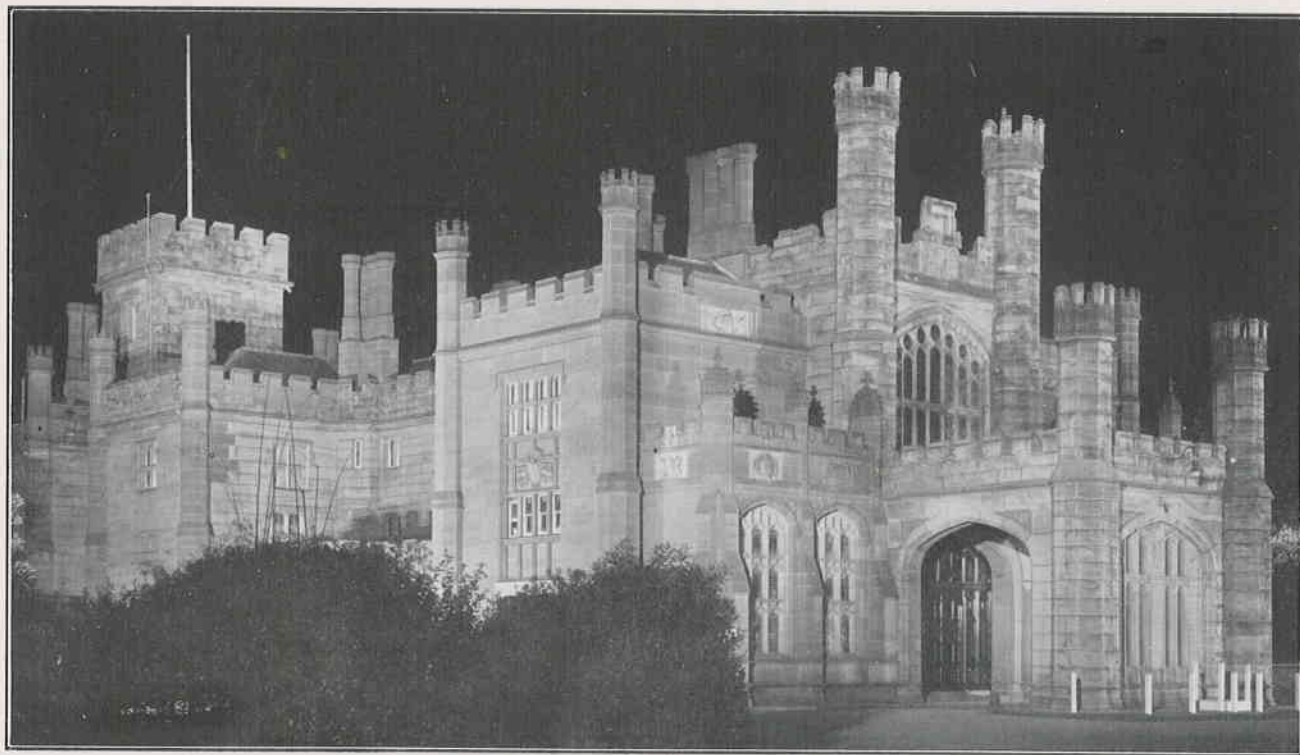
knelt, and was touched on both shoulders by the Prince with his sword, in the customary manner.

Mr. Armitage (chief accountant) and Mr. Jack Miller, of the Architect's Department, were fortunate enough to be able to witness the proceedings.

The civil investitures included Sir Denison Miller, K.C.M.G., Sir Charles Wade, K.C.M.G., Sir George Fuller, K.C.M.G., and Dame Alice Chisholm, D.B.E.

At the second levee addresses from a number of societies, municipalities, etc., were presented to the Prince, the addresses being in book form, and in rolls, and were placed on the table nearby where the Prince was standing.

The military investiture which followed was a subject of great interest, a large number of honours being conferred.



Government House, Sydney, like almost every other important building, was beautifully illuminated by night during the Prince's visit to Sydney. In the original photograph a dove can be quite clearly distinguished, perched on the right-hand turret.

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Photograph of Illuminated Address presented to Sir Denison Miller by Mr. J. Scott on behalf of the Melbourne Staff Club. At least five colours would be needed to reproduce the beauty of the chaste design.

Prince Personalities.

Some people never believe a politician, perhaps on principle. I always believe everything I am told; but in the case of this particular story, there is the additional satisfaction of personally knowing the politician whose experience I recount.

It was at a social function in Melbourne, and the politician was that day dressed in uniform. On a previous occasion he had been introduced to the Prince, who had said but a few words, asking the politician where he had served. He answered, "In Mesopotamia," on which the Prince laughingly commented, "Oh, that pleasure resort."

Getting back to the social function and the politician in uniform, we note that he soon felt the need of the soldier's fag, and strolled down the garden to have it. A few minutes later the Prince and two of his staff appeared, apparently for the same purpose. As soon as the Prince saw the politician in uniform, he sauntered across and said, "I am sure I met you somewhere before! Ah, I remember, you are the man from the pleasure resort."

This is but one of many instances of a remarkable memory for faces.

Another case: At a meeting in Melbourne, the Prince noticed a returned soldier, a Bendigo man, in civilian clothes, wearing the Discharged Badge. He chatted to him pleasantly for a while, and then asked the returned man why he was not in uniform. The reply was one often heard, and well understood by Australians who enlisted purely for war purposes. "Oh, I don't know. I have the uniform at home,

but I have finished with that game now!" The Prince replied, "You ought to wear it, you know. You are entitled to it; you have earned the right; turn out in it whenever you get the chance, for the sake of the country."

Some days later the returned man was back in his home town—Bendigo—and the Prince arrived. The Prince shook every returned man by the hand, who was at the parade, and presently he stopped before the Bendigo man whom he had met in Melbourne, and exclaimed, "Well, I'm glad to see you have got them on!"

His Royal Highness is, beyond doubt, observant and quick to note any innovation or change made for his personal comfort or benefit, and it must be gratifying to all those who were connected with the official landing in Sydney on Wednesday, 16th June, to know that the Prince was particularly impressed with the organisation and the smoothness with which the official functions were conducted.

The other day I was anxious to obtain, if I could, some purely personal experience of the Prince of Wales; some indication of what sort of man he really was. I was trying to check up the glowing articles that have been written about him and his doings in Australia. So I went to one of the official pressmen touring with the Prince, and I put it up to him just like this:—

"You have interviewed all sorts of people, from crowned heads to messenger boys; but have you every been interviewed yourself?"

"No," he said, laughing, "I don't think I have, and if you are going to interview me, I must tell you I am very busy, and have enough work to keep me going to-day, right through to 10 o'clock to-night."

"Never mind," I said, "You can tell me what I want to know in a few moments."

And he told me, as we wandered up and down the hotel lobby, taking it in turns to sneeze and cough (the prevailing "flu" had seized us).

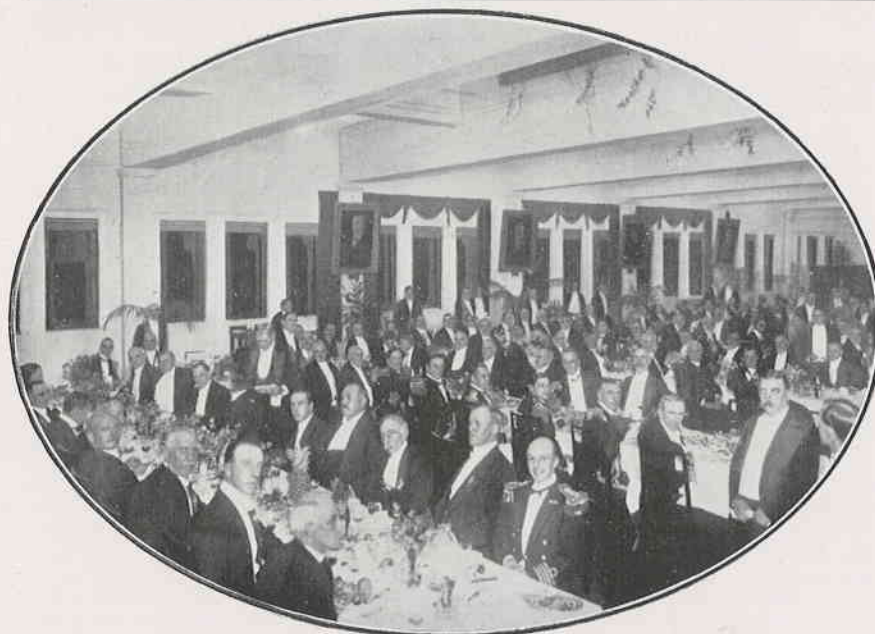
"I want to know what sort of a fellow this Prince of Wales really is. Is he what the man in the street thinks he is; essentially a good fellow?"

My friend answered: "It is pretty hard to know what the man in the street thinks, but if he does think he is a good fellow, and by that I mean a typical product of the great English schools, a typical English gentleman, the flower of the country, then the man in the street is right, for the Prince, as I see him, is just exactly that. He is clean and straight, frank and candid, undoubtedly is possessed of more than the average Englishman's amount of diplomacy. He has more than the customary finesse, if you know what I mean. In addition, he has worked hard to improve those qualities, which are essential to his position."

"Do you happen to know," I asked, "if he studied elocution? I think he must have done; he speaks so well."

"There can be little doubt about it," my friend answered. "He must have worked at it, because the average Englishman cannot speak in public as the Prince does, without having devoted a good deal of thought and attention to the subject."

My friend concluded by saying: "You can safely say that this man, when the time comes, will fulfil the obligations that will be thrust upon him to the letter, and he will prove, undoubtedly, all that the British Empire expects and needs in their King."



A glimpse of the Banquet to the Prince of Wales in the Commonwealth Bank Luncheon Hall.



A glimpse of the Royal progress passing along Martin Place towards the Commonwealth Bank. The procession can be seen turning into Pitt Street.

The "Renown."

(By "EMMA GEE," Head Office.)

Being a landlubber of the sort that couldn't even hazard a guess at what the wild waves were saying, and hardly knowing a battleship from a bunsen-burner, I hied me forth, with Head Office party of 45 or thereabouts on the afternoon of Thursday, 24th June, to view the famous battle cruiser, the Renown, which has been the floating home of the Empire's Prince for many months.

To really "cover" an assignment like this—the task of writing up the trip being assigned to me, though what I'd done to deserve it, I don't know—one should get into "rapport," so to speak, with one's subject or medium. Well, I sang "Larboard Watch, Ahoy!" and

murmured R. L. Stevenson's classic, "Fifteen men, on a dead man's chest Yo ho, and a bottle of rum!" but didn't feel steeped in the traditions of the fleet or hear the song of the seven seas. However, determined to do my best, I boarded the bobbing pontoon from a skittish launch that seemed determined not to stay put, but delighted in going down when the pontoon was going up. There's good reason for a skirt-like flare to a sailor's trousers. Tight skirts were never meant to go aboard a battleship, nor were high heels intended to navigate the ships' ladders and gangways.

From the pontoon we ascended to the ship, and arriving on the quarterdeck—that sacred spot where all the Navy, no matter what the rating—salute, in solemn memory of the spot on which

Admiral Lord Nelson fell—handed up our ticket of entry, and just on the eve of scattering to the four quarters of that battleship, were sternly commanded to stop, by a De Reszke model in the garb of a sub-lieutenant, who as officer-of-the-watch demanded to know the how, when and why of our presence. The corporal of marines who had let us past became excited and explanatory, the officer of the watch was aloof and distant, and seemed hardly to know of the existence of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia—and what is more, didn't seem to care. We waiting, behind an imaginary line drawn by the spyglass-waving officer of the watch, trembled, and trembling thought of the discipline of the British Navy, and speculated if the punishment would fit the crime—if any!—and if keel-hauling was to be our end.

However, his almost-royal highness, after the first outburst of displeasure at sight of us, became real human, allowed us to pass, and regretted his inability to detail off an escort. So you see we escaped by the skin of our teeth. I know now how you'd feel getting across enemy frontiers, with a bogus-vised passport!

Then we dispersed—some to the great heart of the thing where the fires are fed with oil fuel, and the heat and the smell are almost overpowering. In tropic climes, going on top gear with throttle wide open, I think in that battle cruiser specially built for speed it must be very uncomfortable to be down among the engines. And when I picture them in battle, with all the crew locked in, and the man holding the master key, missing, I think there must be a nasty clammy feeling of fear spread over the men in the gun turrets and the crew locked in below.

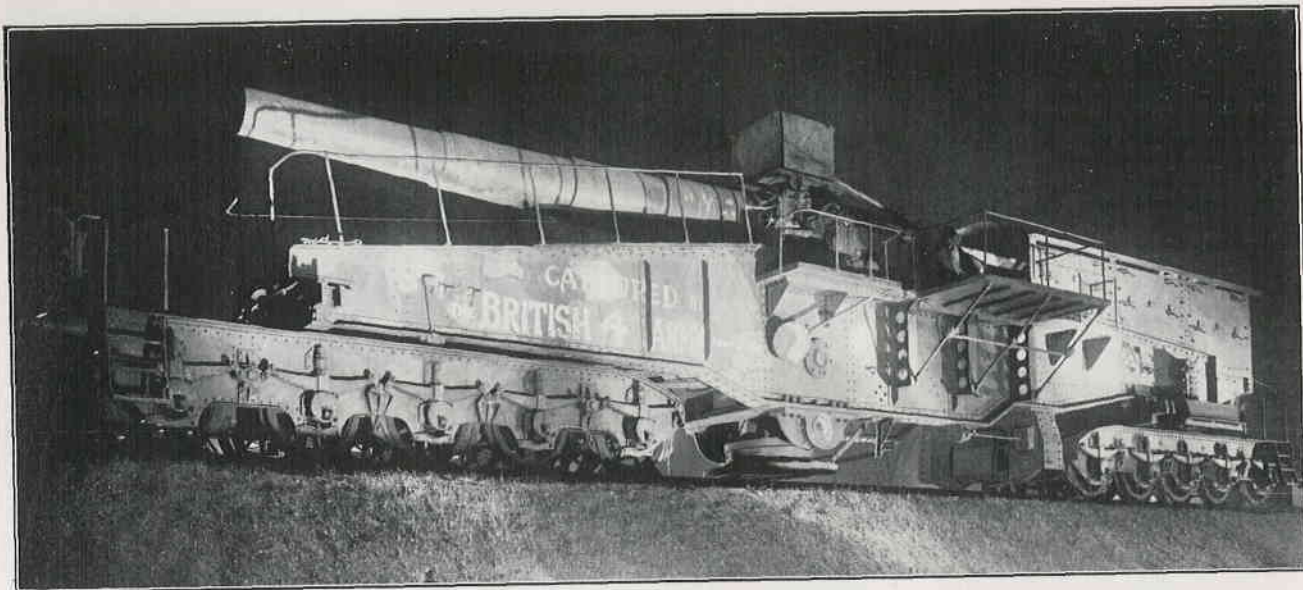
Those who got up among the guns were entranced. Mammoth ordnance has thrilled the world with its wonders, and there's no peace persuader to equal a 15in. gun, the Navy will tell you! Guarding the canal at Panama there is a 16in. gun, with a projectile over 5ft. in length, but the Navy so far is featuring the 15in. with a range of up to 17 miles, and a reverberation that can be heard 97 miles off. The splash caused is like a Niagara going in the wrong direction, till all of a sudden the rushing torrent of seething water curves and plunges downward, in many cases swamping completely lesser craft in its vicinity.

GUNS.

The Queen Elizabeth was the first dreadnought battleship to use this big gun in anger, and the world knows of the shelling of Forts Hamidieh I. and III. across Gallipoli, and how she quietened the guns of Fort Kalid Bahr. When you remember that every shot from these big guns cost the nation something like £1000, you realise war means bills and H.C.L.

The big guns are housed in turrets, which revolve according to the direction of the gun. The projectile is brought

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Big guns are mentioned in connection with the "Renown." This is the German gun that shelled Amiens, and was captured by the Australians. During the Royal visit, it was illuminated and formed a centre of attraction.

up from the arsenal on a self-propelled trolley, hydraulic machinery places it directly on a line with the bore of the gun, no matter at what angle the gun is trained. When the breech block is opened, a mechanical hydraulic rammer comes along and pressing against the projectile forces it into the breech of the gun. It then forces the powder charges (of which there are two) into the gun chamber behind the projectile, the breech-block is closed, and very soon there's a shell weighing about a ton soaring up to the blue!

My attention was drawn to the calcium life-buoys, which in the event of a "man overboard" at night, glow, thus showing their position on the darkest night. They consist of four cylinders in a squarish-looking framework, and are said to contain a whistle and a bottle of rum. I asked an old friend who had been a guest on board a battleship at Lemnos for some days, if this were true about the rum. He said, being an elderly friend and inclined to take liberties, "No, my dear, there's no rum in them—it's always pinched." That confirmed my suspicions.

The switchboard on a battleship is a busy department in days of battle. It is the great nerve centre of the whole floating city, and I should say there would be no time for airy persiflage when the wires begin to hum, and messages are flying from turret to nethermost depths, down across and along this leviathan, with her 798ft. of length and her family of something like 1300 men.

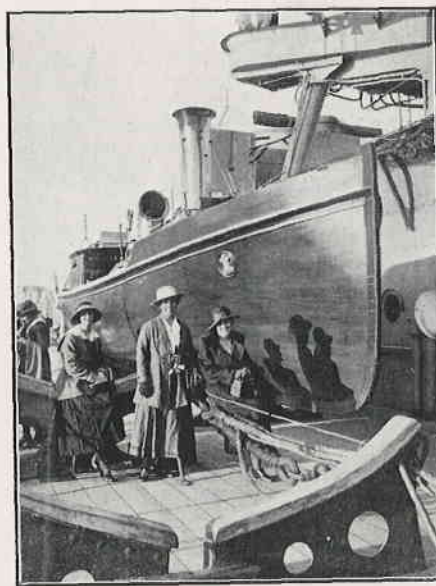
Built with more freeboard than most of the ships Australian eyes are accustomed to, she suggests at a distance

nothing more than the flat iron of grandmother's day. On a closer inspection the heavy solidity is less striking, and one sees her wonderfully-slender lines forward, and all the devices in the build of the hull to accelerate speed.

The cooking galleys, the wash and bake houses, the men at sewing machines patching and darning, the mess for the lower ratings—just trestle boards and stools, the hammocks slung overhead for sleeping, the steam cookers and the big bulldog, all have an unusual charm for the landsmen. A plain simplicity is the keynote, as it is also, in the Prince's suite and that of the Admiral and the quarters of the officers. The Prince's dining-room carried out in white, with three immense rose bowls the only plate visible, is as simple an apartment as one could see. A grate supplies heat, there are cupboards, a pianola presented by the American Pianola Company and the cabinet for records, a long table for the staff, and some etchings—that is about all. The lounge is small and comfortably furnished—just comfy chairs and a lounge here and there, with bright-coloured cushions adding colour. His cabin is tiny and very simple. Many a merchant ship carries a smarter!

One other feature suggests itself—the afternoon was beautiful, the tour of the ship very instructive and interesting. We met the British Navy, and we know now we like the freedom of the American better. To feel as welcome as a drop of holy water in the hot place is not nice. A bored tolerance makes a person feel chilly all over, and clerks should be warned against adopting it as a banking practice. The home trip was made without accident, but with

some considerable delay around which one might write a story, and with "Sapper's" kind permission call it "Men, Women and Guns," but rest assured, for the sake of the Bank, it will never be told. The persons involved will recognise and be grateful for my reticence, but I owe it to one worthy member of our staff, to say that she, like a good skipper, stuck to the ship to the last!



Members of the party from Head Office who visited the "Renown," taken in the lee of the Royal Barge. Photograph by Mr. E. A. Wallace, of Savings Bank Department.

A Diggerette Sees the Banquet.

Rarely is it the proud honour of a big banking house to be the scene of a Royal dinner, and when it was known Sir Ronald Munro-Ferguson would banquet our Prince on the day of his arrival in Sydney, in Head Office Luncheon Hall, well excitement was rife, to say the least of it.

The staff—though not officially present—saw enough and heard enough to justify an account of its sumptuousness, and for the sake of the girls who dearly love detail, we've found out just what the Prince had to eat, just how he was placed, what he said to Mr. Hughes in replying to the toast to himself, and a multitude of inconsequential detail that may or may not interest.

What he said to the Governor-General at the entrance to the Bank, when he approached through a clamorous throng, all laughing and eager to see their coming King, brands him undeniably as a Digger Prince, and has endeared him to ex-service bank messengers on guard for all time. We are not repeating it—but we can safely say the place mentioned could not possibly have been more populated than was our Harbour City on this great occasion. The streets were a seething mass of people lined up waiting the Royal progress through the city to the bank, and it is typical of him that he had his car slowed down before the approach to the bank, whilst he waved and bowed his greetings to a welcoming city, despite the fact that all day he had been acknowledging the greetings of Sydney's thousands. The little word, laughingly spoken, so fittingly showed the Prince was cognisant of the fact that Sydney was giving him royalty of her best in the way of welcomes.

The Luncheon Hall in the hands of decorators, caterers, and florists, was transfigured. Flags and palms draped the entrance and vestibule; at the end of the hall a trophy of flags was looped up and immediately beneath was placed a huge bowl of golden wattle.

At intervals, all round the room, a symmetrical design in red drapery, relieved the white walls, and above great trays of palms, shrubbery, and trailing creepers were supported by the wide horizontal pillars immediately below the ceiling.

Table decorations were carried out in ferns and flowers. The colours of the flag appearing alternately at the tables which ran at right angles from that of the Prince. The flowers mostly used were red carnations and sweet peas, white sweet peas and Roman hyacinths, blue violets and delphinium.

The dinner was a five-course repast, featuring a rich puree, a fillet of fish, the piece de resistance was, of course, the time-honoured roast—not of old England—but of good bull beef from the sunny plains of New South Wales.

The Prince consumed innumerable cigarettes, toyed with the menu as far as the chicken, and then nibbled away at salted almonds.



This Photograph gives some idea of how the Commonwealth Bank appeared by night. Both direct and flood lighting were used, the building as a whole being one of the most attractively dressed in the city. Sir Denison Miller acted as Chairman of the Martin Place and Moore Street Committee.

During the course of the dinner—which, beginning at 7.30, was drawn to a close two hours later, owing to the attendance of the Prince at the ball at the Town Hall—the “Guest of the Evening” chanced to look up. Visitors to Head Office may recall the oval, eggs-à-cook, portholes in the roof of the Luncheon Hall, which look out on to the roof garden. Here opposite the Prince, and high above him, at two of the peep holes, were stationed half a dozen of the sex that is incurably curious when the function is strictly for the opposite sex. There was more interest displayed, we warrant, in the Prince's dinner than there would have been had the function been a Masonic affair, and that's saying some.

Well, the girls never dreaming the Prince knew of the cute little windows, felt secure, till the princely eyes, roving, saw a porthole full of heads; followed a tiny smile and an eye twinkle, but, we believe, when his gaze met the second crowd at the other porthole, the smile turned to a grin that, losing the princely element, gained a lot for democracy by its heart-warming naturalness. One touch of nature makes the whole world kin!

Speeches followed. Sir Ronald toasted the King, and our Prime Minister, Mr. Hughes, the Prince. The Prince's speech in reply was made in a clear ringing voice, and created great enthusiasm.



Sydney was divided into blocks, and each block had a committee. In the case of the Town Hall, nothing was left to chance. The building at night was a credit to all concerned, as was the case with many other public buildings.

Viewing the Procession from the Bank.

On the morning of the 16th June, quite a number of guests foregathered in the Commonwealth Bank, Sydney, to view the Royal progress of the Prince of Wales through the city streets. Special stands of a temporary nature were erected behind those windows on the first floor, which offered the best view of Martin Place and Pitt Street.

Those present were able to see the procession turn from George Street into Martin Place, and watch its progress along the wide space in front of the General Post Office, and then see it turn and go down Pitt Street. Some idea of the enormous crowds that gathered all along the route of the procession may be formed from the photographs appearing in this issue. The sight was, perhaps, one of the most impressive ever witnessed in Sydney.

Of necessity, owing to the dense mass of people waiting in the streets, some of the guests came early into the Bank, being admitted on a special pass ticket for the day, and what might otherwise have been a tedious wait was relieved with morning tea, served on the lower floors by the Luncheon Room Staff.

The guests welcomed by the Governor and the Manager, Mr. Hulie, were:—

Miss Stevens, Mrs. and Miss Roseby, Mr. and Mrs. McMurray, Mr. and Mrs. Manton, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Preston, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Lucy, Miss Gladys Cooper, Mr. G. S. Buzacott, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Henderson, Mr. I. A. and Miss Kiss, Mr. and Mrs. Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. K. Williams, Lady Cook and two children, Mr. A. A. and the Misses Hollander, Mrs. W. N. Kelman, Colonel and Mrs. J. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Griffith, and Master Griffith, Miss

Lakeman, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Hemmley, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Kell, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Young, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Kraegen, Miss Jervis, Mrs. W. A. Windeyer and two Masters Windeyer.

Prince of Wales Visit to Ballarat.

(By S. C. BOND.)

After a period of preparation and expectation, the people of Ballarat crowded into the city on 2nd June to give the Royal visitor a great reception. Although the rain interfered to some extent with the festivities, it could not damp the ardour and enthusiasm of the Ballarat citizens.

One and all were deeply impressed with the Prince's personality and amiable bearing, and at once took him to their hearts. Our distinguished

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visitor was met at the station by the Mayors of Ballarat and Ballarat East, and other Councillors and Parliamentarians. There were more than 20 cars waiting for the Prince and his party, and as they moved off a very imposing procession took place along Lydiard and Sturt Streets to Ballarat East and back to the City Hall.

As is generally known, Ballarat lends itself to a fine demonstration. Sturt Street, with its beautiful lawns and garden plots, its statuary and large shops, was set off to perfection with a grand display of bunting. The Prince must have been very much impressed when first viewing this thoroughfare, with its thousands of persons cheering to the echo.

After receiving an address of welcome at the City Hall, the Prince and party moved off to the Arch of Victory two miles distant, which was another centre of attraction. The arch was

officially opened by his Royal Highness, who was again given a rousing reception.

It may here be interesting to give a few particulars of the arch in question. It was erected by the girl employees of Lucas and Co. at a cost of over £1,600, which has almost all been raised. It is a fine structure 53ft. high, and makes a magnificent entrance to our avenue of honour, 14 miles long. Over 3,900 trees have been planted, solely due to the efforts of the girls before-mentioned. Ballarat people are justly proud of this permanent memorial to the soldiers who left the district to assist in fighting against military despotism.

After the arch had been opened, the Prince was presented with an elaborate pair of pyjamas, beautifully worked: over 500 girls employed had put a stitch or two or assisted in some other way in the making of the suit. No doubt this form of presentation is a very unique one.

On the way back to the city a brief stay was made at the Botanical Gardens, where his Highness viewed the statuary. On returning to the City Hall a reception took place, and afternoon tea was provided. The Prince then moved off to the station, when the people became so excited that it was difficult for the car to pass. Hundreds reached the platform before the train moved out to see the last of the Royal visitor.

It was a great and memorable day for Ballarat, and every minute of the Prince's 3½ hours stay was made the most of.

Ballarat Branch had some difficulty in obtaining a supply of flags, none being procurable in the city, and Melbourne Branch supply was in use, so application was made to Adelaide Branch, who very promptly forwarded 10 large flags with which to adorn our fine new premises.



Looking down Bridge Street, Sydney, through the Wool Arch. Bridge Street, compared most favourably with any other street in the city, one feature being the flags of the numerous shipping companies strung from side to side, which hardly appear in this photograph.

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Educational.



Training of Bank Officers.

(By D.B.M.)

We are indebted to "M.B." for the American Bank Presidents' words of advice to his officers, which appeared in last issue. The exhortation, although addressed to American bank officers, has equal force here in Australia. Add a plea for the development of juniors by their senior officers, and a kindly interest in them, and you have about a complete text for the Bank officer in Australia.

Now the point emphasised by our contributor was "Courtesy." Happily this is a quality our officers are not lacking in, but it is as well to emphasise it. Speaking of "Courtesy," a friend who is a client of the Bank stopped me in the street to say how glad he was to hear of the honour conferred upon the Governor and through him on the Bank, *his* Bank. In the course of our short conversation my friend paid a tribute to the courteous and attentive service of the men in the Bank—principally the tellers—with whom he came into daily contact. I have heard similar acknowledgments over and over again, and always with feelings of great satisfaction, for we know how hard it is sometimes to keep a smiling face when the pressure is greatest. It is appropriate to say here that, as pointed out in the article by "W." headed "Faith," the men behind the scenes should not neglect their part, but remember the man on the counter upon whom it devolves to make excuses for delays or perhaps placate an irate customer.

A good many articles on the Training of Officers have been written, and the outstanding point at the present stage appears to be a difference of opinion as to the value of study. I say at once that a course of study cannot but be beneficial. At the same time, however, I am inclined to agree with Mr. Wald that the training from within is what is likely to be of most service to the staff and the Bank. We assume that all our lads come to us with a sound education; if they have that their minds are ready for the reception and retention of the details of their work. Here ambition comes in. A junior having mastered his first post, naturally looks to the next, and sets about acquiring a knowledge of it. At first all is easy, but later on the developing officer requires help and guidance, and I plead with senior officers to be always ready to extend that sympathetic assistance and encouragement which mean so much.

In other services, and to some extent in ours, I have noticed a tendency among some senior officers to "keep things to themselves" instead of taking

their immediate subordinates fully into their confidence. This is not fair to the man underneath, neither is it in the interests of the Bank.

Our guiding principle should be, "Show the next man all we know."

Correspondents have quite rightly stressed the importance of practical experience in the Security Department, because the knowledge gained there is wanted to the end of an officer's banking career, no matter how far up the ladder he may climb. This is a department in which the head man has great opportunities of assisting his subordinate officers, and in no department is it more necessary to have a thoroughly competent "Second." Security clerks, as we know them, are exceptionally busy men, and yet I know of some who take time and patience to thoroughly train their assistants, and, what is more, impart to them all the knowledge of the work which they themselves possess.

Speaking of the Security Department brings me to "Billy's" contribution in that issue. As he puts it, a good many are never lucky enough to go through the Security Department, and there is no denying his contention that without a knowledge of Securities a young man sent to take charge of a Bank would be at a great disadvantage. That is where the value of systematic training would come in—every promising junior would pass through this important department.

Balance Sheets.

(By W. M. TONKIN.)

In writing this article I have taken the subject partly from an auditor's point of view, because when estimating the strength either of a private trader or a limited company's balance-sheet an auditor has to use more thorough methods, and forms his opinion more upon facts than a Banker, who, as a rule, has to make his deduction from the mere final figures placed before him. There can be nothing more profitable to anyone having to take or consider applications for advances than the knowledge which will enable one to use an auditor's methods, and I take this opportunity of endorsing Mr. D. C. Phillips' remarks in a recent issue of our magazine regarding studies to be followed by our younger officers. A man's honest balance-sheet is the one true index of his means, but a Banker has to make himself assured of its honesty, and unless it has been vouched for by someone he can trust, he would take upon himself the task of verifying the figures to his satisfaction. An applicant's security if coupled with

good personal qualities and a satisfactory balance-sheet should influence a Banker a great deal—the best of security with the other qualifications unsatisfactory were better not dealt with, but I do not wish to convey the inference in any of my statements that advances may be granted on good balance-sheets alone.

Taking firstly the liabilities of a private trader, his obligations, such as mortgages and other liens, can be covered by searches, but other engagements such as acceptances and open accounts with merchants should be carefully enquired into, and, if possible, confirmed. Clients have a natural desire to make their position better by depreciating their liabilities. Contingent liabilities are often lurking in the background, items which your customer secretly or thoughtlessly asserts as not likely to be a liability, and therefore not worthy of a place in his balance-sheet, such as guaranteeing other people or endorsing bills for friends. As a rule, his assets consist mainly of book debts and stock-in-trade, and it is unlikely that the trader would take the careful view of the financial position of numbers of his customers that you as a Banker would do, and his ultimate realisation of his book debts in case of a sudden need would be at its best disappointing. Nothing will therefore be lost by always liberally pruning this item. Stock is more difficult, a Banker not being a merchant does not possess a practical knowledge to help him, but he can form an estimate by knowing the demand, market value, and the perishable or fashionable value of his applicant's goods. If proper stock sheets or records are kept the whole task is simple, but as a rule stock-taking is done in a rough and ready way and not very reliable. If shares form part of the assets submitted their market value and liability to calls must form their value. All property must be valued with provision for wastage and depreciation.

The foregoing remarks apply to a private trader, and do not bear the same significance when we come to a limited company's balance-sheet, because in the latter case an auditor must be employed, and therefore all the figures submitted for one's perusal have been carefully checked and in most cases compiled from a proper book-keeping system, nevertheless if fraud be contemplated it can be done on a larger scale by company promoters and directors, and it behoves the Banker to be able to pick out the faults and weaknesses himself. Before granting accommodation to companies it is a necessity to digest its articles and memorandum, and in some cases have recourse to the Companies' Act.

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The verification of a company's assets is in most cases easy, but it should be done by actual inspection and to take care to guard against inflation of values, stock-in-trade in this case calls for special care, and for two reasons it is wise to endeavour to get previous periods of trading account for comparison of the gross profits. If there should be any outstanding difference which cannot be explained by a rising or falling in the cost of production or its selling price, then it is probable that errors unintentional or otherwise have been made in stock-taking. This comparison also serves the dual purpose of showing whether the turnover is increasing or standing still and the percentage of expenses.

The item of goodwill need not be seriously considered, and if it must be brought into account owing to some monetary or other consideration having been paid for it, it should be eliminated by appropriations from profits. Although in a business progressing on sound lines, goodwill may actually be appreciating, it should always be looked upon with suspicion by Bankers, and placed outside their calculation.

From a creditors' standpoint, capital always takes his first attention the uncalled portion of which is commonly known to them as the "buffer," that is, an available stand-by in case of need. It should be always ascertained whether this uncalled portion can be used for ordinary purposes or if it can only be called up in case of liquidation. Calls in arrears may indicate a weakness that is known to certain shareholders, or it may warn one that the uncalled money is not realisable when required. While examining the capital make it your business to find out the rights of preference, founders, or deferred shareholders.

The working capital—a very important factor (a company should have sufficient working capital to enable it to take advantage of its cash discounts)—can always be seen by comparing the floating assets of a realisable nature such as stock-in-trade, bills receivable, sundry debts, and cash with the current liabilities. It is always thought to be unsatisfactory if the latter exceed the floating assets, even although there may be some considerable value of fixed assets to meet the claims of creditors.

If any mortgage debentures are already in existence, find out whether they cover the uncalled capital, or whether they are a floating charge on the concern or only certain assets.

Reserve funds are confusing if they are not represented by specific investments, and it is safer to assume if they are not so represented that they have been built up out of profits which would not have been in existence if the assets had been properly depreciated at previous balancing periods. Lastly, always have in your mind the matter of insurances, such numbers of people have a

constitutional dislike to paying insurance premiums, forgetting that their affluent position may be turned in a few hours into one of insolvency.



Looking down Moore Street at night, past the Commonwealth Bank towards the Post Office Tower.

Some Notes on the Origin and Development of Savings Banks.

(By FACIUS.)

No. 1.

There are comparatively few homes in the British Empire to-day where a Savings Bank passbook is not in possession of at least one member of the family, and yet a little over a hundred years ago no such institution as a Savings Bank was in evidence.

To-day in round figures the Savings Banks of the United Kingdom have 14,000,000 depositors with £300,000,000 balances. Australia has 3,000,000 depositors, with £130,000,000 balances, and New Zealand has 700,000 depositors, with £37,000,000 balances.

What has caused such a marvellous development in this branch of banking in so short a time? Undoubtedly the rapid growth of the thrift habit amongst all classes of the community. (Read "The Master Key to Thrift," issued by the Bank to see what a good habit it is to acquire.)

The idea of thrift to enable a youth to accumulate a sum sufficient to gradually raise himself to a new way of life, and perhaps to enter into business and become independent, or in the case of older people to provide for the proverbial "rainy day," first entered the brains of a few imaginative individuals, engaged in philanthropic work, in the last few years of the eighteenth century.

Thus Joseph Bentham in 1797 put forth the idea of establishing what he called a "Frugality Bank," to alleviate the sufferings of the poor. A year later Mrs. Priscilla Wakefield tried to induce the people among whom she worked to make a little saving out of their earnings. With these savings she doled out in case of sickness, a weekly allowance, or in case of death a lump sum for funeral expenses.

In the next year (1799) we find the Rev. Joseph Smith persuading his parishioners to deposit with him, during the summer months when work was plentiful, small sums from twopence upwards.

In this case the money was returned to depositors with one-third added at Christmas time, and a Christmas dinner was given to the depositors to encourage others to join the following year.

A good story associated with the Rev. Smith's efforts is worthy of narration. A woman handing the clergyman her twopence said, "Well, sir, my husband says that this is the best thing you have ever done. He agrees with you that we should lay up treasures in heaven, but it goes against his nature to lay up treasures in a place where he is never likely to see them again."

Other philanthropists quickly adopted the idea of encouraging thrift, and from these individual efforts the foundation of the present day Savings Bank was laid.

The first Savings Bank that can be likened in a remote way to our modern Savings Bank was established at Ruthwell, Scotland, in 1810, by the Rev. H. Duncan, who is known as "The Father of Savings Banks."

I might mention in passing that the centenary of the Ruthwell Bank was held in June, 1910, at Edinburgh, the celebrations being presided over by the Right Hon. Lord Salvesen. At that time the Savings Bank in the United Kingdom had 12,000,000 depositors, with funds amounting to £220,000,000.

The Ruthwell Savings Bank had some curious rules which are worth quoting. One was that a depositor who failed to put in his regular amount weekly was fined. Another, that interest was allowed at the rate of 4 per cent., but if a depositor wished to get married he was allowed 5 per cent. interest. (Perhaps, Mr. Editor, some day history may repeat itself, and this rule may be embodied in our Savings Bank regulations to encourage the growth of the population in Australia, and incidentally increase the number of our depositors.) A third rule was that if a depositor became incapable of maintaining himself through sickness or otherwise, an allowance at the option of the Directors was to be paid to him out of the money he had deposited. (This last regulation would seem to have had its origin in the old saying, "We are merely stewards of the wealth we accumulate.")

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These instances show how the habit of thrift was nurtured in its infancy, and from these small beginnings have grown the institutions which are familiar in every country, and which are striving more than ever to further develop the saving habit.

It is interesting to note the difference between the Scotch method of encouraging thrift, as instanced above, and that of the Irish. In the earliest Savings Bank in Ireland each depositor's money was kept separate until £1 had accumulated, when it was invested in stocks. Until that happened, however, each depositor could count and inspect his money if he so desired, when making another deposit.

The "thrift" idea once firmly rooted grew amazingly, and at the end of the first seven years (1817) no less than 78 similar institutions to the Ruthwell Savings Bank had been started in the United Kingdom. In that year (1817) Savings Banks first came under Act of

Parliament. This Act provided for what was known as "Trustee Banks." The trustees (usually ladies and gentlemen interested in charitable movements) agreed to take upon themselves the responsibility of receiving deposits and meeting withdrawals, and of using their own judgment in the investment of the funds.

Fifteen years after this (March 9th, 1832) the first Savings Bank Act was published in Australia, but the development in our own country will form the subject of a separate contribution to *Bank Notes*.

By 1860 the Savings Bank had passed beyond the philanthropic stage, and was recognised as an institution which had become a necessity in life.

It soon became apparent that it was a necessity, not only in the large centres of population, but that remote towns and villages were agitating for facilities whereby they could deposit their savings safely. This agitation led to

the establishment of the Post Office Savings Bank in 1861, a Government institution quite distinct from the Trustee Savings Bank.

Each of these institutions had its defects. The Trustee Banks did not provide facilities for banking outside the radius of its own locality, while the Post Office Savings Bank did not provide local facilities outside its one great centre.

The defects have, to a certain extent, been overcome in Great Britain, but there is still a large amount of separateness to be overcome before the Savings Banks can be said to have reached anything like perfection.

Our own systems introduced from Great Britain, through various channels, in the early days, have undergone so many changes that it is difficult to recognise in the Acts under which we now work any relations to the statutes under which Savings Banks were first established.



Staff Club Notes



Senior Officers at Head Office Give Dinner to Governor.

In order that they might, in some way indicate their extreme pleasure, and convey their congratulations to the Governor upon his knighthood, the Seniors at Head Office tendered a dinner on June 11th at the Australia Hotel. The Governor, at short notice, accepted the invitation, and the Dinner Committee, in the few days at their disposal, did their best to arrange a function worthy of the occasion, for the dinner was an historical one, not only in the history of the Commonwealth Bank, but in some respects in the history of banking.

The desire emanated from the staff, and the details were handled and executed by the staff. It was hoped that the dinner would provide the opportunity for those officers not in daily personal contact with the Governor to express their personal pleasure, their loyalty and their ardent desire for Sir Denison's continued success. The officers felt that a mere handshake was not enough; if they could not express what was in their hearts they wanted someone else to say it for them—hence the dinner.

Seven branch managers were able to reach Sydney in time. It was realised that the meeting of managers, administrative heads, departmental heads, and seniors was going to mean much in the future. The dinner provided the opportunity for the discovery that the "Country Cousins" were in-

initely quicker than the "Desk Experts" in some things, whilst the "Desk Experts" were human in spots, anyhow. Much good will come of the meeting.

Another problem which faced the committee and those concerned was how to limit the dinner to reasonable numbers that could be accommodated for it was well known that every member of the entire staff would, if they could, attend. It was well known that the seniors would desire a dinner that would leave no room for criticism, and that sort of dinner the junior could not afford. Finally, and only after a great deal of thought and consultation, the committee arranged that the seniors should help the staff functions in every way, and have a senior's dinner before the strenuous days of the Prince of Wales' visit made the opportunity a thing of the past, for the guest of the evening—Sir Denison.

The Dinner.

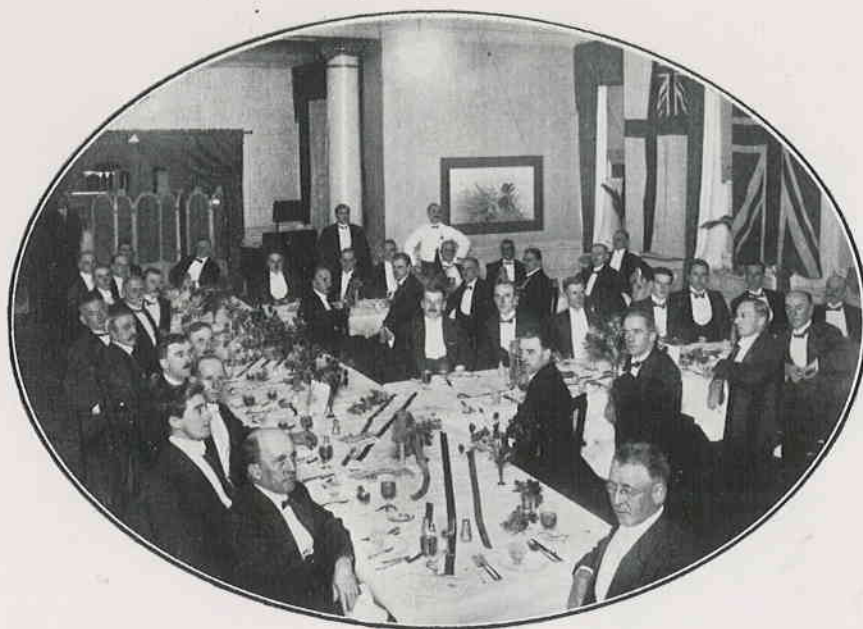
Shortly before 7.30 p.m., thirty-six officers and their guest were assembled in the lounge room of the private suite engaged at the Australia Hotel. They chatted happily, and some from the same office seized the opportunity to swap fish lies—just as if they had not told one that very noon. There the Chairman, Mr. James Kell, led the way into the private dining room. The seat tickets, written by hand, had been done by Miss Atterton, and were an appreciated departure from the typed or printed ones. The tables were decorated with that rigid simplicity and daintiness which particularly

lends itself to the contrast of dark clothing—large bowls of yellow wattle, yellow poppies, relieved with touches of red poppies, low table lights with yellow shades, and on the cloth parallel ribbons of blue and gold, lifting here and there to a bowl of flowers or a vase. Around the base of each champagne glass a knot of blue and gold bebe.

As soon as the party was seated arose a buzz of conversation, for tucked inside a menu card at each plate a special edition of *Bank Notes* was found struck off in miniature size to commemorate the occasion and as a souvenir. This is an opportune time to add our thanks to the words of praise by Sir Denison. Our printers, Messrs. W. A. Pepperday and Co., spared no effort to produce something of merit. They overcame difficulties, not the least of which was paper shortage, and as a token of their pleasure, made the edition a gift. All available copies were absorbed, and so numerous have been the requests for further copies from both the staff, members of the public, and members of other banks, that the edition was sent to press again, as soon as paper was found, and a copy mailed to each branch manager and correspondent of *Bank Notes*.

As far as possible, seniority had been waived in seating at the dinner, and those who had publicly spoken regarding the honour received by the Governor were debarred from further speech in order that full opportunity might be given those not often heard.

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Senior Officers' Dinner to Sir Denison Miller, Governor, to commemorate his Knighthood.

Speeches.

The Chairman, Mr. Jas. Kell, Deputy-Governor, after the toast of the King had been honoured, rose to call Mr. O. A. Smith, the first speaker on the list. He was greeted with applause. "Sir Denison, Fellow Officers—Whilst I have no desire to steal a march on those who have already congratulated you and spoken before, at the same time I feel compelled to say a few words.

Gentlemen, I have known Sir Denison for many years, and if (turning to the guest) I occasionally refer to you as 'Mr. Miller,' you must forgive me (laughter, in which the guest joined). Ever since I joined Sir Denison as second in command, I have never once had occasion to change my opinion of him. He has, always, at all times, been a staunch friend, and if once or twice we have differed—well, he has always won! (laughter.) Gentlemen, it is a very great pleasure for me to be present to-night, to be in the chair, to do honour to Sir Denison, to whom honour is due (applause). When the knighthood was announced, I attempted to express my delight, but I am afraid words failed me as they do now. We are very delighted, Sir Denison, and a number of gentlemen present wish to say a few words, and all wish to drink your health. I will call upon Mr. Smith, but first will read some apologies that have come in from E. T. Gill, J. R. Stewart, M. T. Bryant, C. J. Jauncey, and C. J. M. Magno.

Mr. O. A. Smith.—"Mr. Chairman, Fellow Officers—I have known Sir Denison Miller for 27 years, and during many of those years I served under him before joining the Commonwealth

Bank. To us he is always "the Chief," to me he always has been. Those of us in the Old Bank watched him climb, and climb, and climb. Always to us he was known as "D.S.K."—a power in the land! To-day we all see him in his present position, which he so richly deserved! (applause). No honour bestowed has been better deserved than Sir Denison's knighthood! (applause). This knighthood has been received on all sides as a richly deserved and worthily won honour! (Prolonged applause). I trust, Sir, that you will live long to enjoy good health and prosperity.

Mr. Sheehy, speaking slowly and clearly, with evident emotion, as had the two previous speakers:—"Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen—I also wish to personally congratulate Sir Denison. I served (looking at the guest) long with you, Sir, in that great institution, the Bank of New South Wales, and I have had the honour of serving under you in that greater institution, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Allow me to congratulate you on your well-merited honour, Sir, and to say that no one could be more pleased than I to see you receive such honour (applause). Gentlemen, I assert that the esprit de corps so noticeable in the Commonwealth Bank of Australia is due to Sir Denison's treatment of his officers, and we are to be congratulated on having such a chief." (Cheers, applause.)

At this stage all rose as one man and drank the health of the Governor, singing, "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow," with a vim and swing not often heard. The orchestra played again as Lady Miller's name was coupled with the toast.

Mr. Kell:—"Sir Denison, the meeting was out of hand temporarily—there are several other speakers. Mr. Douglas, Manager of Brisbane Branch, has a few words to say."

Mr. Douglas rose, holding *Bank Notes* in his hand, and said:—"Sir Denison—I put it to you gentlemen, that name sounds well, looks well, and it is well! (Laughter, led by the Governor.) You know, gentlemen, there is something about that name 'Denison' that makes me feel it is entitled to the 'Sir.' I like the look of it in print (applause and laughter). Seriously, Sir, I am pleased beyond words that this honour has been conferred, and had I known that I was to speak to-night, I might have been able to speak more aptly. Speaking for the Brisbane staff, I can assure you that one and all are delighted, and there is a no more loyal staff than Brisbane. Gentlemen, many years ago my wife said to me, 'They are going to start a Commonwealth Bank. Why don't you join?' (Turning to Mr. Kell): 'You know, Mr. Kell, sometimes our wives are right!'" Mr. Kell interjected something which sounded like "nearly always," and the single men looked apprehensively at the married men. Mr. Douglas gazed quizzically around, and was met with laughter. Continuing, he said, "And so as my wife had suggested it, I made enquiries. I did not know Mr. Miller, as he was then, but his fame had reached me. I joined. My wife was right; I have never regretted it. Sir Denison, once again I congratulate you."

Mr. Ward, Manager, War Loan Department, was called next, as being in some manner able to speak for Adelaide:—"I speak for the Inscribed Stock Registries" (interjection: "A good thing to have behind you," laughter) "as well as being not so long severed from Adelaide Branch, as to feel certain of their attitude. I am certain, Sir, that one and all of the staff are delighted. In the course of my duties I come in close contact with many brokers, many members of the public, and one and all have commented on this honour which all agree was justly merited."

Mr. Mason, Manager, Overseas Department, next called as one who had, for a period as private secretary, come in very close contact with the guest of the evening:—"Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen—It gives me very great pleasure to say a few words. As Mr. Kell said, I have had close association with our Governor, and have very pleasant memories of those times. Wherever we went about the world on that trip, people were amazed at what had been accomplished in such a short space of time, and what particularly impressed Americans, we found, was the fact that the Commonwealth Bank had been founded and had grown into an enormous bank, starting without capital. That fact they never really could quite grasp! During the time I was associated with the Governor, I saw that he never spared himself.

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I can tell you, gentlemen, that even crossing the Atlantic, with a life belt around him, in the danger zone, he was working, preparing for the work ahead. Another instance of how little the Governor thought of himself: Not once, but many times, a call would come from Melbourne late in the afternoon from the Ministry, and without warning of more than a couple of hours, we would be up and away. All private engagements, social and home affairs had to give way.

It gives me very great pleasure to congratulate you, Sir, on the great honour conferred by His Majesty the King."

Mr. Kell next called upon Mr. Birks, Advertising Manager, to say a few words, as one who had served "under the Chief but a comparatively short time."—Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen—I thought that when I told Mr. Kell I was still suffering from another dose of fever, that I should be excused (interjections and laughter). After all, you know, my job is to write, not talk! Nevertheless, it gives me great pleasure to add a few words. I have only had the honour of serving under the Governor for a year, but I learnt something in the first two weeks. I thought before joining the Governor's staff that I knew what hard work was—I did not! (laughter). Gentlemen, it is a great pleasure to serve under our Governor, for his orders are clear cut, concise—there is no argument!

Speaking personally of the news of the knighthood, I would just like to say that on the day it was announced I did not read a paper coming down in the train. I was talking golf to a friend! Usually I read about ten papers a day. I got out of the tram, and there at the front door of the bank was a crowd of folk with the Manager, Mr. Hulle, in front waiting for me! (Laughter.) I said to myself, 'Hullo, this is an unexpected honour' (laughter). It was—for the Governor! When I spoke to the first person at the front door—well, from then on I was very busy."

Turning and facing the Governor, Mr. Birks concluded, "Sir, I wish for you, that the future may be as successful as the past seven years." (Applause.)

At this juncture the Chairman called upon Mr. K. E. Barnett, of Albury, to entertain the assembly with a few of his celebrated card tricks. So skilful is Mr. Barnett at leger-de-main that Mr. Hulle firmly grasped his gold watch, and was also given the custody of several others. Mr. Barnett as a banker is a trustworthy individual, but as a tapper of the occult—well, you never can tell!

The Chairman, at the conclusion of an entertaining exhibition, then called upon Mr. Kelman to toast the health of Lady Miller.

"Mr. Chairman, Sir Denison, and gentlemen," he said, "I consider it an honour and a pleasure to have the privilege to-night of proposing the health of Lady Miller. We all know

that, besides taking an interest in the wonderful progress of our Bank, Lady Miller has taken a keen personal interest in the welfare and happiness of the staff, and I know that I am expressing the feeling of the whole of the staff when I say that we are all very pleased that she now shares with Sir Denison the well-merited honour which the King has been pleased to bestow."

Mr. Latham seconded the toast. He expressed the admiration of the staff for Lady Miller, and their pleasure that she should share in the well-deserved honour that had been conferred on the Governor.

"Lady Miller," Mr. Latham went on, "possesses the qualities of genuineness which won the admiration of the staff, and she evidently found her chief satisfaction in efficiently filling her place in the home. Her interest in all matters affecting the Bank and the staff was greatly appreciated by the staff." She had, he said, been of great assistance to the Governor, who had doubtless realised the truth and power of the idea in Rudyard Kipling's mind when he said:

"For until we all are angels,

With hammer and sword and pen

We'll work for ourselves and a woman

For ever and ever, Amen."

—(Applause.)

The Governor, Sir Denison Miller, Responds.

The Governor's reply was the feature of the evening. It was a private function at which only his own senior officers were present, and he lifted the veil shrouding a part of Australia's war history. It was a fascinating peep into the past which made one long for more.

Sir Denison is a fluent after-dinner speaker. He can be witty at will; but this was not an after-dinner speech in the ordinary sense of the term. It was a homely happy talk to men. A quietly, clearly delivered appeal to the best of his hearers were capable of.

"Mr. Kell, Mr. Douglas.—You will forgive me if I do not name the other gentlemen who have used such eulogistic terms, and said so many nice things about me to-night. It is a very great pleasure to be your guest this evening at this very fine dinner, for you gentlemen form the backbone of the Bank.

Mr. Douglas remarked to-night that he thought my name looked well in print. I would just like to tell him that as it happens he is in very good company.

Gentlemen, you have paid me a pretty compliment in giving me this dinner to-night, which I appreciate. You have made reference to the progress of the Bank, and I want to assure you that the same work performed in the future means the same progress as in the past.

This Bank is not a one-man show at all. You officers from the country and from the city, and those in England, come in contact with the public, and often have to say 'No,' when you would rather say 'Yes.' The ability

displayed in explaining to the public why 'No' must often be the answer has largely contributed to the Bank's success and popularity.

Some reference has been made to-night to the past history. I can tell you just how the Bank started. After my return from abroad, I received a letter from Mr. Fisher, asking me to come to Melbourne and see him on an important matter, which I showed to Sir John Russell French, who was then Mr. Russell French. Mr. French said, 'Go down and see him.' So I went to Melbourne. I met Mr. Fisher, who showed me a rough draft of the Act, and we read it together for twenty minutes, and that was sufficient. I could see what wide powers were provided for the man who took the position, and I took it.

Some reference has also been made to how some of you came to join my staff. I have always considered the fact that many of you gentlemen left safe, assured positions with your old banks to join the Commonwealth Bank—to many of you an unknown quantity—indicating that you had backbone. The fact that you left a "sure thing" for what might, at the time, have seemed a doubtful venture, was something very much in your favour. Another thing that none of us must overlook is the fine work performed during the war by girls and boys, who were the only ones to be taken on the Bank's staff during the war period.

I wish to draw attention to the special issue of *Bank Notes* placed before us to-night. It is worthy of the highest praise, and I think would prove a credit to any institution anywhere."

The Governor then went on to speak of various details of the Bank's history, stating that as only his own officers were present, he had no hesitation in giving the facts, and some very interesting facts were given, particularly in regard to the flotation of the various War Loans.

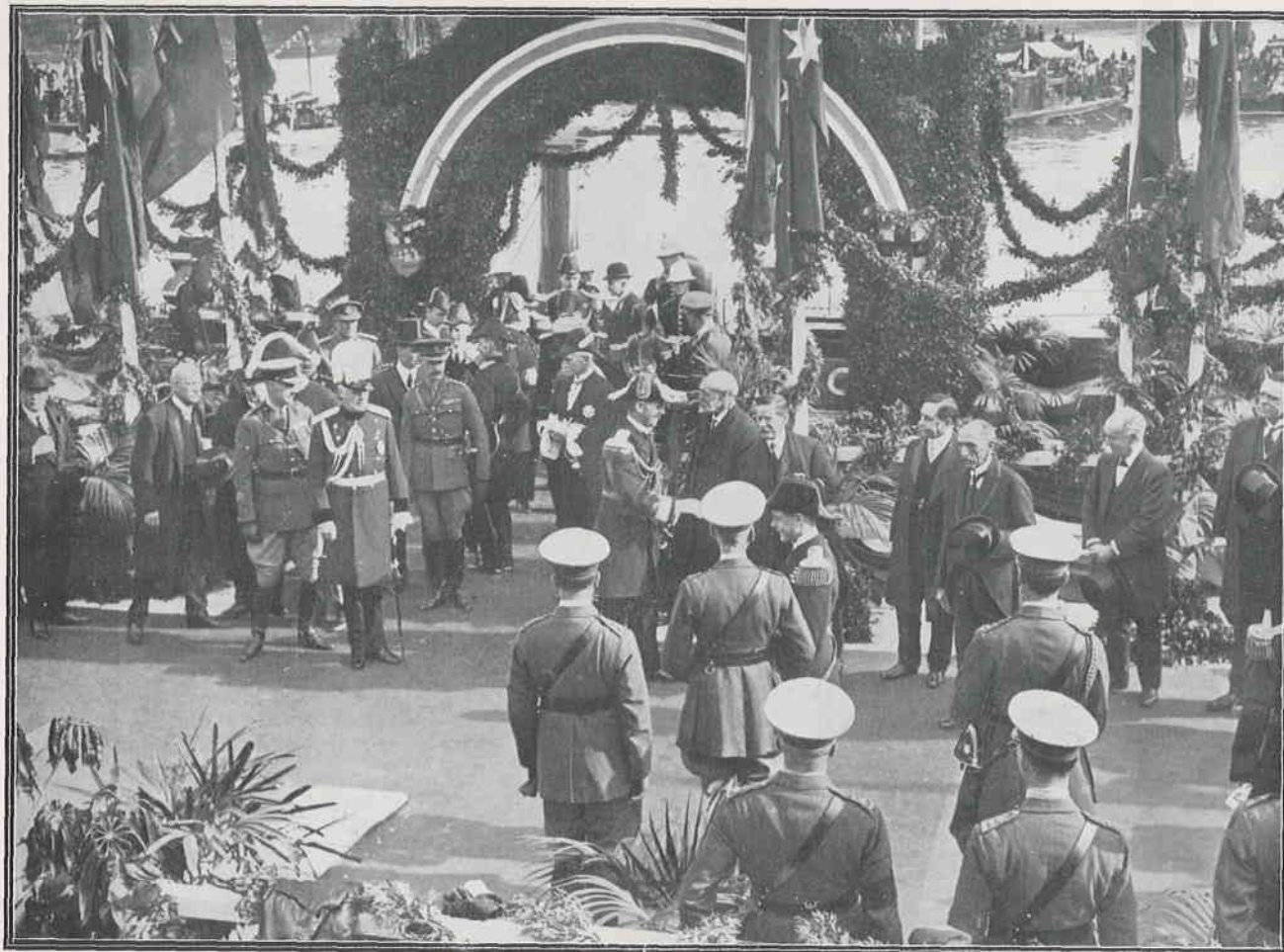
"There is no need to go outside our Bank to fill any post or any position on the Bank staff," he went on to say "and that is a very important thing, and well worth noting. Each and every one of you gentlemen present were selected for a reason, and many of you selected for a special task.

Gentlemen, some reference has been made to the fact that I usually get my own way. Perhaps I do (laughter). But you must remember that sometimes when your advice is right and I refuse to act upon it, there are other matters to consider, known to me alone. And another thing is that I know what you have to put up with—I think I know it all, for I have been through every stage, from living as a bank clerk on £90 per annum (applause).

I shall endeavour to tell Lady Miller all the nice things you have said, and if I forget any, I shall try to make up some others!

I thank you very much for the way in which you have honoured the toast of my health."

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This photograph was taken a few moments after the Prince of Wales landed from the Royal Barge at Farm Cove, Sydney, on June 16th, 1920. His Royal Highness is in naval uniform in foreground.

Speeches and Staff Presentation to Governor and Lady Miller at Head Office.

The June issue had been sent to press before the presentation of the silver rose bowl had been made. It was necessary to print the June issue a few days earlier on account of the festivities in honour of the Prince of Wales' visit.

On Friday, June 11th, a large number of the staff gathered in the luncheon room, which had been cleared for the occasion. Punctually at 4.15 p.m., the Governor and Lady Miller arrived, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Kell and Mrs. Clive Miller.

Mr. Kell, Deputy-Governor, took the chair, and then said:—

"Sir Denison, Lady Miller, Ladies and Gentlemen.—I do not propose to deliver a speech to-day. I have already had an opportunity of doing so on the day the good news reached us, so I will hand over this speechmaking to somebody else. I always enjoy

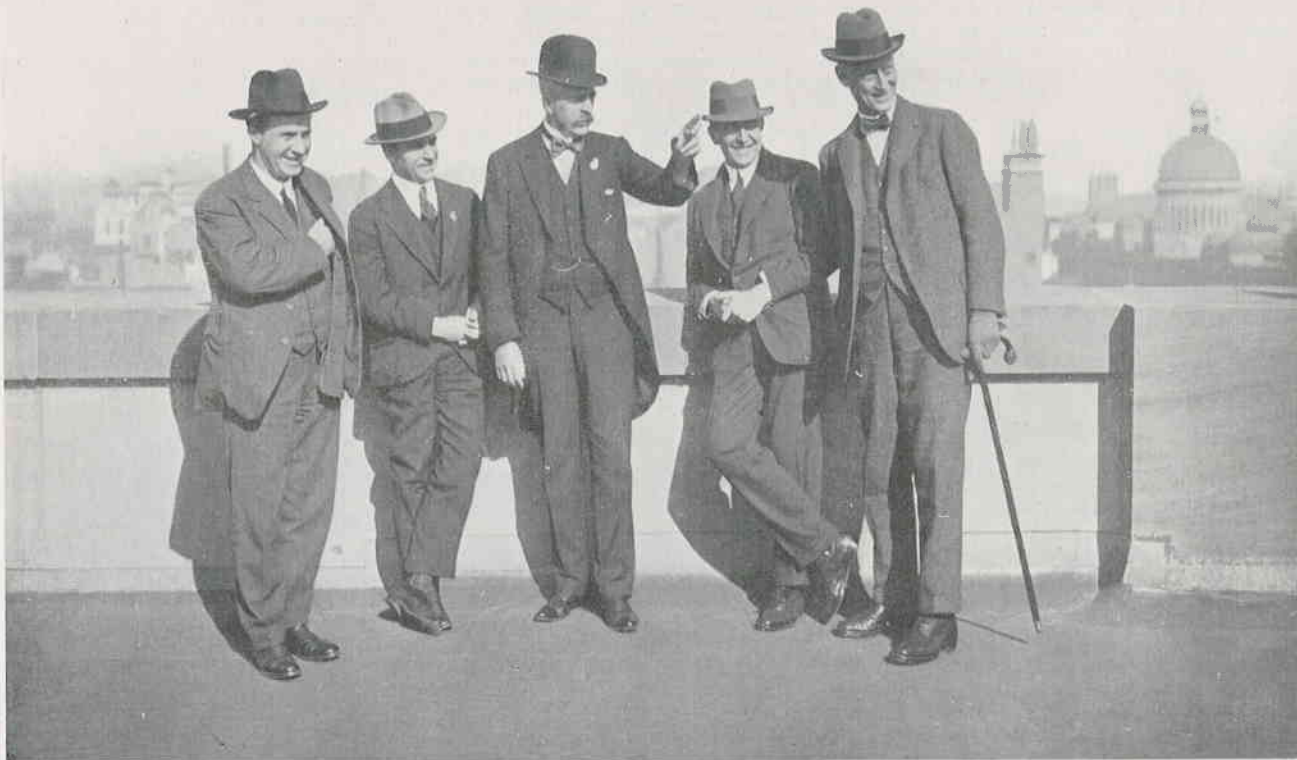
doing that, especially in leaving it in good hands. I feel a little jealous of Mr. Armitage in having this privilege, since he has had a chance to collect his thoughts. When Mr. Hulle, Mr. Young and I offered our congratulations, we were suffering from excitement, shell-shock, perhaps, and we did not have time to prepare our speeches, and there was very much we did not say that we should have said; but I am sure Mr. Armitage will remedy any little defects of that kind. This little gathering has been got together to-day by the Staff Club, and Mr. Armitage, being president of the Staff Club, the onerous but pleasant duty devolves upon him. After Mr. Armitage has made this little presentation, most of us will have the pleasure of shaking Sir Denison and Lady Miller by the hand. I know the first thing that prompted me when I first met him was to shake him by the hand, and congratulate him, and although

his right hand has had very good use, it is not suffering like the Prince's just yet, and he will be only too pleased to receive your congratulations. I now ask Mr. Armitage to present this little present (applause).

Mr. Armitage:—

"Sir Denison and Lady Miller.—The Staff Club of the Bank are gathered here to-day to express very great pleasure, and also to congratulate you both personally on the honour which the King has bestowed upon you. The Committee of the Club are here with us on the platform, and it is my privilege, as President of the Club—as Mr. Kell said—of conveying to you the congratulations of the members of the staff. Looking round on this gathering to-day, I see all grades of the staff, from the Deputy-Governor himself down to the latest junior, and knowing you, Sir Denison and Lady Miller as I do,

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Sir Denison entertained the Overseas Pressmen accompanying the Prince of Wales at luncheon. Reading from left to right: Mr. J. Myers, Mr. G. H. Goddard, The Governor, Mr. B. K. Long, Mr. E. Cotes.

I feel that amongst the many congratulations which have been showered upon you, none will give you more pleasure than to know that not only those with whom you actually come into personal day-to-day association, but those also who are known to you throughout the Bank, are just as pleased as the rest of us that this honour has been bestowed upon you. May I say, Sir, that we feel that in you we have a Chief who will lend dignity to a title, and not a case of the title overshadowing the man, and we feel that in you and Lady Miller we have representatives of the Bank who will always stand out above their title, and at the same time carry it with the greatest dignity and without ostentation. Perhaps my words, as the mouthpiece of the staff, are not as eloquent as they might be, but in spite of that, I feel sure that you will recognise the true sincerity of the rejoicings which the staff has felt on learning of the very high honour that has been bestowed upon you. I only wish that the full feeling could be imported into my words, and I could then, no doubt, tell you in very much more fitting language than I am doing, how very pleased we all are. Be that as it may, I feel sure that the true ring of sincerity which is behind all our greetings you will feel without any

words of mine. Some of us who come into close daily contact with yourself know the very great responsibility which has devolved upon you. The great work which has been done by yourself in wartime, and through you by the whole Bank, we know the extent to which your own energy and personality has been communicated down through all ranks of the staff. Others amongst us who, perhaps, have not had the opportunity of coming into personal touch with you, feel that it is due to you, as their Chief, that the Bank is now the wonderful institution which it is, and they honour you and rejoice that the King has also seen fit to honour you. Well, Sir Denison and Lady Miller, we are not here to-day to weary you with set speeches, but simply to offer you our heartfelt congratulations on your honour. I feel sure that if it were practicable, each one here to-day would like to tell you in their own words how very pleased they are, but as this is not practicable, I ask you and Lady Miller to take my words as an echo of the sentiments in the hearts and mind of all those here to-day. It is, therefore, my privilege, as the President of the Staff Club, to convey these congratulations to you, and also to ask you and Lady Miller to accept this

rose bowl as some slight remembrance of this very great occasion. Just one thing before I sit down. I understand to-morrow is the occasion of your silver wedding. Well, we are all very pleased that this should have synchronised with your knighthood, and we wish both you and Lady Miller long and happy enjoyment of the title bestowed upon you, and also your very happy married life."

Mr. Wilkinson:—

"Mr. Chairman, Sir Denison and Lady Miller.—I have very much pleasure in confirming all that Mr. Armitage has said in regard to the pleasure and gratification that this staff feels at the honour that has been conferred upon you. It is indeed a proud moment to us, as it was to you, Sir, to have all the work that you have done for the country during the past seven years, recognised as it has been recognised, and we feel that the honour that has been conferred upon you reflects on each member of your staff; but it is with a deeper emotion that we ask you to accept this little token of our esteem to-day. It is because we are able to recognise and to understand the immense amount of labour and ability that was required to found this institution as it has been

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founded, and to make it the success that has been the astonishment of the world. All of the time, Sir, that you have been busily engaged in this huge undertaking, you have always had the time to sympathise with the ideals of the staff, and to help them in any way that you could, either in business or in their little social gatherings, and it is this personal sympathy that you have exhibited to us at all times, that has won our regard and respect, and makes us feel, as we do to-day, in expressing our pride and gratification at your honour. For these reasons, we ask you to permit us to share with you the pleasure and gratification, and we each one of us hope that you will both long be spared to enjoy the honour and dignity which the King has been pleased to place in your hands."

The Governor:—

Mr. Kell, Mr. Armitage, Mr. Wilkinson, Fellow Officers, Ladies and Gentlemen.—When I came into the Bank the other morning and saw most of you there ready to receive me and congratulate me on the great honour conferred upon me, and through me upon yourselves, it rather took my breath away for a bit, because I had not thought of anything of the sort, and you may have noticed that I stood for a moment or two to pull my wits together. After having heard the eulogistic remarks made by the Deputy Governor, Mr. Armitage, and Mr. Wilkinson, I am beginning to do what Lady Miller asked me to do the morning the announcement was made—beginning to wake up—and I am also beginning to think that what I have been doing as a sort of everyday part of my work, for which I was remunerated by the Bank, that instead of it being an everyday job, I am beginning to think it must have been something quite different from what I thought it was because up to the present it has been a most successful affair, and I am getting the applause and appreciation of the people all over the world, whom I thought never thought about me, or very little about the Bank. All the same, it is very pleasant to hear such things, and I fully appreciate and deeply prize all that is being said, and I want you to bear this in your minds, that I also feel that it is not due to my own efforts alone that this Bank has been so successful. I, as the leader, have dominated the policy possibly, and directed how things ought to be done, but it is the staff who meet the public, and through whom the public find out how the Bank does its work. It is a great pleasure to me, and I am sure it is to Lady Miller to be amongst you here, and it is really worth all the eight years of labour which, to me, has been a labour of love, and I am sure that we both thoroughly appreciate it. At the same time, it is mentioned that we had a great deal of work during the war. Well, the Bank had a great deal more work to

do than the public will ever understand, and at this point I would say that our boys did their share at the front; some of them, of course, as you know, will never come back, but they have left their mark on the history of the Bank, just as much as I am doing myself. Now, it has always been a pleasure to me, and I know it is a benefit to the Bank as a whole, to have a staff such as you are, happy and contented, and as much consideration is given to the affairs of the staff as to any other portion of the Bank's business, and I am glad to find that what I have done has met with your approval, and that you do appreciate what is being done for you. My object is to make you a happy family; to look after your health and welfare, as I look after my own, to enable you to carry out the work as you do, which is very hard, and during the war you worked long hours, and to know that you belong to an institution of which you know you are an integral part, and we cannot get on without you. The public generally are very pleased at the honour which has been conferred upon me, as Governor of the Bank. I am personally, for my own sake, and Lady Miller's sake, quite pleased at the honour, and I am also pleased for your sake. That your future may be linked up with mine in this great Bank of ours, and may the Bank continue to prosper, will be my best wish and my efforts will always be to that end. As regards the little rose bowl which you have been good enough to give us; as a matter of fact, we want a rose bowl in our house, and I am sure that when we have it at home and put it on the sideboard or somewhere else, Lady Miller will always say, "That is the rose bowl that the Bank staff gave us on the day of our 25th anniversary," and I sincerely thank you for meeting us this afternoon, and for the way you have received the toast to our health, and the honour conferred upon us, and for the very nice rose bowl you were good enough to give us."

Member of Staff Honoured.

Captain Cobby, D.S.O., D.F.C. of Melbourne staff, has been requested by the Australian War Museum authorities to sit for his portrait, which is desired for the National Collections to be housed in the Australian Museum.

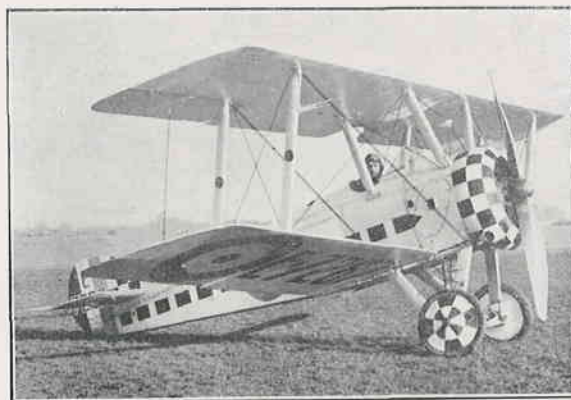
It is very gratifying to learn that this distinguished officer has been selected as the representative of the Australian Flying Corps, and the portrait section of the Museum will, in consequence, have more than ordinary interest for members of the staff of this Bank.



Head Office Engagement.

Old friends note with pleasure the engagement of Miss Irene Catts with Mr. Vitnell, of the War Service Homes Department.

Miss Catts, who is well-known and popular throughout Head Office, was for some time on the Chief Accountant's Staff, and later with the Stationery Department. Mr. Vitnell, who saw nearly five years' service abroad, rejoined the staff in the spring of last year, and is now with the War Service Homes Department.



Captain Cobby, whose photograph appears above, is here seen in his plane.

Melbourne Staff Club Notes.

(By A MEMBER.)

Friday evening, the 2nd July, gave Melbourne Branch its first opportunity of publicly showing its appreciation of the Governor. It may appear somewhat strange to the staff in other centres that this demonstration has been so long in coming, but of a certainty the chance has not previously come our way. However, the provision for the social welfare which has been considerably improved by our very live Staff Club, has made a great difference in the outlook of the Branch; and the idea of

of the orchestra, was converted into a fern bower.

Upon the arrival of the guests of honour, all of the lights were dimmed and the illuminated welcome "Melbourne Staff greets our Governor" flashed out from over the platform. Sir Denison and Lady Miller were evidently impressed by the sincerity of the welcoming cheers, and they lost little time in joining in the waltz, which had been suspended upon their arrival. Sir Denison had as his first partner Mrs. Scott, whilst our Manager led Lady Miller through that measure.

Later in the evening an illuminated address was presented, a photograph of

of the staff who had gained distinctions and served in the great war, and remarked that at the outbreak of war practically the whole of the male staff had endeavoured to serve the Empire in its need by enlisting. That the Bank could not spare all of its available men, he said, was only natural, when so much of importance had to be done in financing the Commonwealth. He concluded by saying that he believed that the Bank was destined for even greater things, and expressed the wish that each member of the staff would participate in the added glory which the Commonwealth Bank would achieve.

When Sir Denison had finished speaking three rousing cheers were given for him and Lady Miller.

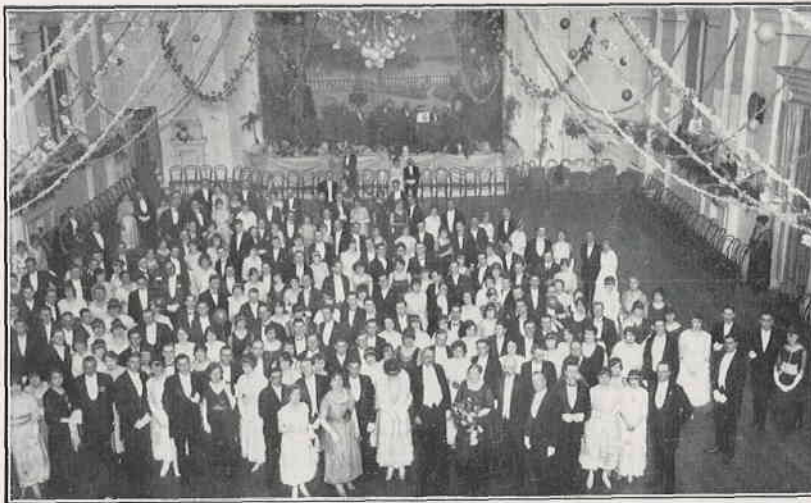
Each member of the staff was personally introduced to the Governor during the evening, and this act alone (which was of his own desire) will do much in cementing the feeling of trust which is such a necessary adjunct to the successful institution.

A sumptuous supper was provided, to which all did justice, and we understand that the special cake (or rather what was left of it), which had been placed at the table of honour, was later forwarded to Sir Denison's home in Sydney. A special room was reserved for the use of card players and smokers, and the sounds of mirth which came from its direction during the evening proved that the evening was of enjoyment to the card players also.

The gowns worn by the ladies were particularly beautiful, and were evidently the cause of much thought and the expenditure of much cash. The guests included Mr. Wood (Geelong manager), whose jovial manner added to the evening's pleasures, the Bendigo manager and Mrs. Spier.

To sum up, the "At Home" was an outstanding success, and reflects great credit on the organising ability of the secretary, Mr. Rigg. It is certainly no light task to make provision for an entertainment which did not conclude until 3 a.m.

We have feted our Chief for the first time, and one feels that it was worth waiting for. Now that the start has been made the general desire is that it will be repeated at no distant date. Every member feels now that he or she knows the Governor. Before, he was admired, as it were, from a distance, but Melbourne Staff now perceive that the man of such brilliant financial genius is an approachable man whose thoughts are not too lofty to think of the needs of his staff.



Melbourne Branch Staff Club faced the camera in Prahran Town Hall. The decorations were so effective and so tastefully carried out that comment has reached us from more than one source.

doing honour to our illustrious Chief followed as a natural sequence.

We of Melbourne give place to no other centre in the esteem with which we hold the Governor, and the great warmth with which Sir Denison and Lady Miller were received on the evening of the "At Home" could not have been greater had the guests been of the Royal Family.

To describe the decorations of the Prahran Town Hall one would require special artistic genius. Suffice it to say that the effect of the drapings of the ball-room and supper-room was truly magnificent. Bold drapings in the Bank's colours of Royal blue and gold were suspended from the centre of the ball-room, and the dazzling effect was intensified by innumerable balloons of similar colours, which were interspersed with the drapings. The platform, which was reserved for the use

which appears in this issue. The presentation was made by Mr. John Scott in a most effective speech. That his speech reflected the sentiments of each member of the staff was evidenced by the cheers which marked its conclusion. He conveyed to Sir Denison the heartiest congratulations of the Melbourne Staff upon the recently conferred Knighthood, and enumerated some of the works which the guest had done to bring the Bank into its present pre-eminent position in the Banking world, and concluded by reading the address itself.

Sir Denison, in responding, expressed thanks on behalf of Lady Miller and himself, for the address and the sentiments it embodied. He said that to the officers of the Bank who had so loyally helped him was due some of the honour which was attached to his knighthood. He paid a tribute to those

Branch Notes.

Newcastle Notes.

(By L.A.)

The members of our staff asked me to forward a few jottings on their doings, so that Newcastle will not be entirely forgotten this month.

There is no doubt about the fact that the interest in *Bank Notes* is growing, so much so that at this Branch, when the packets are opened containing the issue there is nearly as much suspense as when the much anticipated and very welcome half-yearly rise and bonus letter is received.

We have noticed and commented on the marked improvement in *Bank Notes*, and all appreciate the liberality that enables its production. One item which is exceedingly interesting to us all is "Staff Changes." These we read as a palmist reads one's destiny, for surely each move in one's banking career is as a step on the ladder of life, either up or down—preferably up!

As we were not all able to visit Sydney, and there see the Prince, we all worked the harder in order that Mr. Pike, of this Office, might be released, and represent us as a member of the Light Horse Brigade, which went into camp at the Show Ground, Sydney, and

acted as escort in the Royal progress on the 16th June. Mr. Pike renewed acquaintance with many Light Horsemen, and many yarns were told of the blistering days of Palestine, and of cold nights on the desert.

On Friday, 25th June, the Prince arrived in Newcastle and a right-royal welcome was accorded him. The arch extending across Hunter Street at the intersection of Bolton Street was well worthy of banking institutions, and although the day was not a public holiday most of the staff managed to catch at least a glimpse of, as the ladies of the staff term him, "the lovely Prince!"

Launceston.

(By I.D.)

Will Launceston *never* be spared? We are losing the flower of our staff. While we can heartily endorse the remarks concerning Mr. Gill which were published in last issue, at the same time our opinion of that gentleman dropped considerably when we learned that he was to take Mr. Harper away with him. During the time that Mr. Harper has been in Launceston, he has earned a

warm place in the hearts of all his fellow-workers. His genial personality—when was he not smiling?—made him a favourite with everybody, and what will be a gain to the Administrative Staff is a distinct loss to Launceston Branch.

As a token of the esteem in which the staff have held Mr. Harper, Mr. Newman (the manager) presented him with a set of pipes, and in so doing remarked on his sterling qualities both as an officer and as a man. He was heartily supported by Mr. Green (the accountant), and by Mr. Gill. The lady members of the staff are now wearing mourning, the flag is flying half-mast, and the Savings Bank Department is to close down for a week!

But while we are all down-hearted over Mr. Harper's departure, we were somewhat cheered at the news of the Cost of Living Allowance, and are all heartily grateful to the Governor for his consideration. The single officers, however, take strong exception to one part of the scheme, but we understand that numerous engagements are shortly to be announced.

We have to welcome two new members in Mr. Trenear, late of Melbourne Branch, and Mr. Walker, who has joined the service.



Nineteen years ago this gorgeous tra'n, with its luxurious appointments was built to carry the Prince's mother and father. The locomotives are giants of the N.N. class, and there are five carriages, including the Royal car, which is of varnished Australian teak, with furnishings from Australian clear oak.

Bank Notes

Hobart. (By W.H.T.)

No doubt *Bank Notes* will receive for publication this month from many quarters messages of congratulation to our Governor on his being honoured by the King recently. Nevertheless, we cannot allow this opportunity to pass without adding our heartiest congratulations, and expressing the very keen pleasure with which the news was received by the staff. It is undoubtedly a well-deserved honour, for Sir Denison has by his energy and zeal and skilful management raised, out of nothing as it were, an institution which did yeoman service for Australia and Australians during the great war, and which is destined to become one of the bulwarks of our country, a country almost unknown a few years ago, but now one of the nations of the world.

Hobart is anxiously looking forward to welcoming the Prince. He was to have arrived, according to schedule, on the 21st June, and our holidays were timed for that and the following day, but the postponement of the official programme for a week has just about knocked us "kite high." Fancy half-yearly balance-day coming after two holidays! If the holidays were on the 29th and 30th, now, what a splendid opportunity it would be for the staff, and especially the Savings Bank Department to have everything worked up, and ledgers brought down by the morning of the 1st July. (Groans from the S.B.D. staff, particularly the girls, who are making great preparations to see the Prince, or, rather, to be seen by him.)

A cold snap was experienced here recently, and snow fell in the city. A certain visitor from Head Office staff was very interested in the snow (from a spectacular point of view, of course), it being quite a novelty to him, and he actually stood on a table during a storm to get a good view out of the window. He suggested that Hobart should make a fine recruiting ground for the South Polar staff preparatory to the Bank opening up down there.

Melbourne Staff Club Theatre Night.

On Thursday, 10th June, the Staff Club held a theatre night at the Tivoli to witness the play entitled "His Little Widows."

The Manager and party occupied one of the boxes, and the rest of the staff filled the dress circle. The married members took their wives, the single men their best girls, and the young ladies their best boys. All were exceedingly happy, even the members of the staff who received quips from the stage.

The affair was firstly to assist the Staff Club's finances, and secondly to give the members of the staff an enjoyable evening. It certainly did, and, in fact, so much so, that enquiries are being made for a "repeat." This will eventuate about the centre of July, the "profit" to be devoted to the establishment of a lending library for the benefit of the staff. Head Office have a lending library, why should not Melbourne Office? It shall—and the subscription will be 2s. per annum.

Rabaul.



Above is the photograph of our most outlying Branch—Rabaul. We hear regularly from the staff at this Branch, particularly from the manager, Mr. Campbell, and the contributions have been interesting and humorous. At the foot of the page is a photograph of the Rabaul staff, which even includes the cook and messengers. The latest letters from Rabaul tell of a great cleaning and sweeping, much house-painting and general preparation for the Prince's visit to the latest addition to the British Empire.

Poinciana Trees. (By C.)

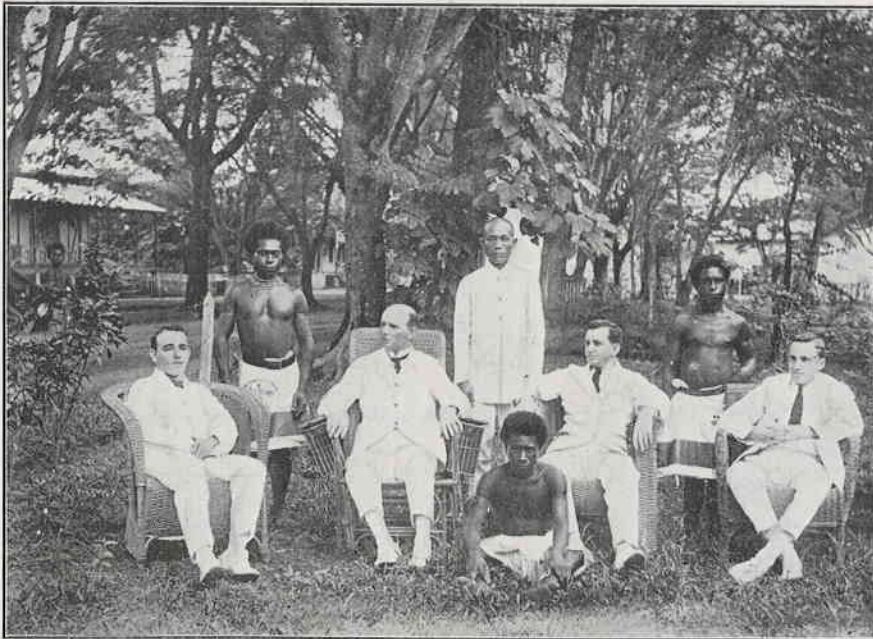
When I awake and contemplate
The beauties of this tropic scene,
The golden sunlight through the trees,
The graceful palms that fringe the seas,
I sometimes feel it is a dream.
Above the spot where lies my bed,
A canopy of lace is spread,
For surely only nature weaves
Such lace as Poinciana leaves
Appear against a sky of blue,
Sun-flecked to almost golden hue,
Or silver-spangled as at night
When bathed in floods of pale moonlight;
Bejewelled by stars that light the skies,
And brilliant flashes of fireflies.
I feel 'twould make a scene sublime
To grace some fairy pantomime.

Head Office Returned Soldiers' Annual Dinner.

Returned soldiers at Head Office intend holding a dinner, which is to be an annual event. The inaugural meeting was held in the Luncheon Hall on Thursday, 10th June, and a committee consisting of Messrs. Hocking, Fussell, and Breakwell, was elected, and, together with the musical director, Mr. Cannon, will be responsible for all arrangements.

Great enthusiasm was displayed by ex-members of the forces—there being about forty-nine at the meeting—and it bids fair to be a great success.

Invitations will be issued to returned soldiers in New South Wales Branches



C. I. H. Campbell, Manager, Rabaul, with Office Staff, Messengers and Cook.

Bank Notes



as soon as a definite date—probably somewhere in the middle of July—is fixed.

Diggers on a visit to Sydney from other States will be very cordially welcomed.

Later.

The Returned Soldiers' Annual Dinner, we understand, is to be held on the 22nd July, at the Burlington Cafe, George Street.

Presentation to a Digger.

Mr. Hocking also had a presentation to make on Thursday, 10th June. It was to a brother Digger, Mr. Vincent Charker, who took to soldiering early enough to winter on the Peninsula, and later became an officer of the 20th Battalion in France, where he was captured by the Germans. This was in March of the dread 1917; in April, 1919, he returned to Australia, married right away, and was back at his desk within a fortnight. Now he is off to Wagga as acting accountant, and with him and Mrs. Charker go an inscribed afternoon tea tray, and every good wish from their many intimate friends at Head Office.

The gathering concluding by the singing of "He's a Jolly Good Fellow!" gave three cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Charker, and at Mr. Bridson's instance, a further one was given for Baby Charker!

(Head Office folk who weren't at the party offer heartiest congratulations.)

Visitors to Head Office.

P. H. Paine, Bendigo Branch.
W. M. Pike, Newcastle Branch.
F. B. Mulholland, Orange Branch.
C. F. V. Clarke, Brisbane Branch.
R. Sabeston, Melbourne Branch.
Miss A. H. Brown and Miss I. H. Brown, late of London Office, called at Sydney en route to Brisbane. 8/7/20.



Brisbane Musical and Dramatic Society's visit to Toowoomba, May, 1920.

War Service Homes Department. Head Office.

Mr. W. H. Gribble, who has latterly been attached to the Legal Staff of the War Service Homes Department in Sydney, and who has been transferred to Melbourne Branch, at his own request, and under medical advice, was, on the 4th inst., farewelled by the staff of the department, and his many friends throughout the whole of Head Office, and presented with a silver cigarette case. The presentation was made in the Security Room by the Solicitor, Mr. Murray, supported by Mr. T. F. Sullivan, the gift being further accompanied by a miniature conveyance, set out in full legal manner, and being not only applicable to the making of the presentation, but also representative of Mr. Gribble's work in the department. Mr. Murray said that he was very sorry to be farewelling such a useful and helpful officer, but glad of the opportunity to express his appreciation of the services of Mr. Gribble, who had proved, not

only a capable, but a most obliging and courteous officer. He, Mr. Murray, was expressing the wish and the hope of all, when he said that he hoped their guest would soon recover his health, and that his career would be as successful as he deserved.

Mr. Sullivan followed and said that, while Mr. Murray had left him little scope, he, as Mr. Gribble's senior, could not miss the opportunity of acknowledging good work done. Mr. Gribble had joined the department at a difficult time, and when it was thought that two men at least would be necessary for the work, but he had carried it on splendidly. It spoke volumes for his work that when the inevitable error happened it was rarely discovered in his work, although nearly every document handled by the department had finally to go through his hands. He, too, hoped for their guest's early return to good health, and for his success in the service.

Mr. Gribble, though embarking upon his maiden speech, and obviously moved by the expressions of good-will and appreciation, made brief but excellently expressed reply, thanking all present for their kindly feeling and presence there, and referred happily to the helpful spirit of camaraderie and co-operation he had found in the department, and (modestly) attributed his success to the help he had received from his associates.

The ceremony closed with three cheers for the departing guest, who left for Melbourne by the Zealandia on the following day.

Congratulations.

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Row on the arrival of a new daughter on the 1st July. Mr. Row, who is the Governor's secretary, is now the father of two bonny little girls.



Splendid Arch at Entrance to Wentworth Avenue.



Head Office by day welcomes the Prince. Window boxes showing masses of scarlet and green struck a unique note in decorative effect for large buildings.

Head Office Cot Fund.

There is one outstanding feature about Head Office Cot Fund Committee. It never grows weary of well-doing. Winter and summer it gathers in the shekels, but to scatter them generously in divers directions. The cot at the Children's Hospital gets its weekly visit from Departments, in turn, and the ward its issue of sweets, cakes, fruit, and novelties. Owing to an outbreak of diphtheria the ward was closed to us—much to the disappointment of the girls in the General Bank—but we are glad to report that visitors will be permitted during July.

The tiny red jackets which the Head Office girls made for the Upper Todman

Ward have been despatched, and were received with much pleasure.

Funds permitting, two cots are now maintained at the expense of £15 per annum each, at "Scarba," Bondi, the Welfare House for Children, run by the Benevolent Society of New South Wales, and anybody wishing to visit them, should see Miss McCourt, who will arrange for a party.

"A successful banker is composed of about one-fifth accountant, two-fifths lawyer, three-fifths political economist, and four-fifths gentleman and scholar—total, ten-fifths, double size. Any smaller person may be a pawn-broker or a promoter, but not a banker."—George E. Allen, in the *Solicitor*.

Farewell to Miss Bird.

On the afternoon of the 19th inst. the War Service Homes Department laid down its pens, deserted its typewriters and desks, and met over afternoon tea to take farewell of one of the most popular members of the staff, Miss Bird, who leaves shortly for London Office. The tea table presented quite a festive aspect, and a bouquet of pink roses, apple blossom and autumn leaves marked the place of honour for "Birdie." Mr. Thom, in a speech (supported by Mr. A. J. Macdonald) echoed the sentiments of all the staff when he said how much Miss Bird would be missed, and wished her every possible good thing for the future. Miss Bird, in responding, said that she would always retain the happiest memories of her sojourn in Melbourne, and hoped some time in London to have an opportunity of returning the hospitality she has received whilst here. (We are wondering what would happen if the whole staff turned up at the same time!) The party was a merry one, and fittingly terminated with the singing of "For she's a jolly good fellow," with which, by the way, we all most heartily agree.

Later in the afternoon "Birdie" came across to the General Bank ostensibly to keep an appointment with Mr. Harry, but in reality to receive a handsome manicure set, the parting gift of her many friends and admirers. Mr. Harry, in making the presentation, expressed our regret that she was leaving us, and "Birdie," who has had so many farewells during the last fortnight, and has become quite an adept at speech-making, responded in her best style.

We wish her a very happy future, and hope some day to see her again.

On the 17th June the Australasian Films released a film of senior officers at Head Office, congratulating Sir Denison Miller, K.C.M.G., on his knighthood.

Citizens of Sydney were very much impressed with the arrangements made by the Police Forces under the control of Inspector Mitchell, and it was at first felt that possibly the Police Force would not receive the public recognition that was their due, but there need not have been any doubt on this question because not only has Inspector-General Mitchell received a sheaf of congratulations from the people of Sydney, but has also been thanked by State officials and the Prince himself. The arrangements were beyond reproach, and made a marked impression upon those who are familiar with large gatherings in other cities of the world.

Bank Notes



Nonsense Notes



Diner: "Waiter, your thumb is in the soup!"

Waiter: "It's quite alright, sir; it isn't hot, sir."

The Advertising Department has been weighed in the balance—and, alas, found wanting!

The sad state of affairs has been pointed out by a member of the party inspecting the "Renown." It is thought a valuable opportunity to present the Bank's booklet on the "Commonwealth Bank's Service" was lost when a mystified officer of the watch, demanding credentials from Head Office party, apparently had not heard of the far-famed Commonwealth Bank of Australia!

Peccavi—but never again!

UP-TO-DATE VERSION OF "BIRD'S EYE VIEW."

Onlooker to motor mechanic beneath the car: "Hello, Jim, what are you doing under there?"

Mechanic: "Oh, just having a 'worm's eye view.'"

Wrote a young soldier to the girl whose name he found in his Red Cross box:—

"Dear Madam,—I am indeed grateful to you for your thoughtful kindness in knitting the sox I have just received. They are a perfect fit in the feet, but I am afraid the girls back home think our legs are the Chippendale variety, whereas army life makes them more closely resemble the Mission style."

CARRY ON!

"Have you had too much to eat, dear?" asked the anxious mother.

"Not yet," replied the youngster bravely.

He had made a great deal of money during the war boom in America, and had bought an old English estate.

"I understand," said a friend, "that your tower goes back to William the Conqueror."

"Not much it doesn't," answered the Yankee. "I bought it, and I'm going to keep it!"

Miss N. V. Walden.

Miss N. V. Walden is the only lady correspondent to *Bank Notes*, and during the past year has been a regular



and helpful correspondent. She reports the affairs of Adelaide Office, and nothing much escapes her eye.

Miss Walden joined the Adelaide Branch as probationer on October 1st, 1915, and was admitted to the permanent staff in January, 1916.

Off to London.

Farewell to Miss Thelma Fletcher.

Miss Fletcher, who has been attached to the Branch Department for some time, is proceeding to London with her mother by R.M.S. "Khyber," which left Sydney on 14th instant. Unfortunately it is a 'permanent transfer,' and London will be Miss Fletcher's home in future.

The staff of the department arranged a neat little afternoon tea to bid Miss Fletcher bon voyage, and many good wishes were expressed. The opportunity was also taken to present Miss Fletcher with a small memento of the regard of her fellow-officers.

Royal Barge Carried on the "Renown."

During the voyage to Western Australia the *Renown* encountered very heavy weather, and it was wirelessly through that the Royal barge had lost a funnel and suffered minor injury, but that repairs were being effected en route.

Staff Changes.

Transferred.

- C. W. Adams, Hobart to Melbourne, 1/6/20
- J. M. Grieve, Perth to Melbourne, 1/6/20.
- A. C. Stewart, Sydney to Administrative, 2/6/20.
- W. H. Gribble, Sydney to Melbourne, 5/6/20.
- F. P. Harward, Sydney to Orange, 18/6/20.
- J. G. I. Gray, Sydney to Wagga, 19/6/20.
- R. S. Lassen, Wagga to Sydney, 22/6/20.
- V. W. Charker, Sydney to Wagga, 22/6/20.
- D. M. Wilkinson, Orange to Dubbo, 21/6/20.
- F. R. Knight, Hobart to Brisbane, 24/6/20.
- A. W. Elvery, Sydney to Administrative, 28/6/20.
- C. W. Harper, Launceston to Administrative, 24/5/20.
- Miss I. M. Clark, Lismore to Sydney, 12/6/20.
- Miss I. L. Bird, Melbourne to London, 18/6/20.
- Miss A. M. Serjeant, Melbourne to London, 10/7/20.
- Miss T. M. Fletcher, Administrative to London, 14/7/20.

Resigned.

- C. C. Oppenheim, Melbourne, 30/6/20.
- Miss V. Hanlon, Adelaide, 30/6/20.
- D. T. W. Neville, Administrative, 15/6/20.
- C. L. Mendoza, Townsville, 31/5/20.

Resumed from Military Leave.

- C. G. Wellington, Melbourne, 8/6/20.

Cost of Goods.

The cables have recently been full of comment regarding the unsettled domestic, wool and other markets in England, and there has also been some news regarding the unsettled conditions in America, but as yet there are no tangible indications of an immediate fall in prices, and a rapid fall beyond doubt will be detrimental to Australia because of the after-effects.

If prices are to reach their pre-war level, which many of us very much doubt, then it will be better for all concerned if the stages of decline are easy and regular without panic or collapse.

There is also another factor that must not be overlooked, viz., low prices in England mean low selling prices for Australian staple products, and that is the real meaning of our remark that a rapid fall would be detrimental to Australia.