

## FAREWELL TO MR. AND MRS. G. T. COTTERILL.

### NEW SCHOOL INSPECTOR WELCOMED.

Mr. G. T. Cotterill (District School Inspector) and Mrs. Cotterill were tendered a farewell tea at the District School on Saturday afternoon last and presented with a silver tea and coffee service by the citizens of Young. Mr. G. Redshaw, B.A., presided. On his right were the guests and on the left Mr. Cotterill's successor.

The proceedings were opened by the singing of the National Anthem after which the chairman remarked—

We have assembled to say farewell to a very old friend—one who has wormed himself into the hearts of everyone in this district. It was also an opportunity to welcome Mr. Noble who came to the district with an excellent departmental reputation. There was no disguising the fact however that Mr. Noble had a hard task to follow in the footsteps of Mr. Cotterill. It was conceded on the other hand that had the people been given the choice they could not have made a wiser selection than the new inspector. (Hear, hear). In conclusion Mr. Redshaw said the late inspector had found the district teachers most efficient, and there were no "black sheep" among them. He hoped the relations here would be on a most friendly footing with Mr. Noble. (Applause).

At this stage a very lengthy list of names from all parts of the district were read for non-attendance, including one from the Mayor, Ald. A. J. Rabbett, and Cr. F. H. Tout.

Mr. J. Lynch, M.H.R., was in a reminiscent vein. He remembered when the school was a stringy bark structure, and when he saw the great improvement that had been made in the school that day he felt proud of his native town. It was true, Mr. Lynch added that the children of to-day will be the custodians of the future. Mr. Cotterill had done splendid work for the schools. He had made sacrifices which dwarfed into insignificance the claims of many others.

Mr. George Burgess M.L.A. said that on occasions when he came into contact with Mr. Cotterill he found him always most courteous and amenable to reason. In other districts the public endeavoured to override the inspector's authority, but such was not necessary in Young. Mr. and Mrs. Cotterill had given a son for his country, and his example in recruiting matters was unparalleled.

Ald. Rintoul apologised for the unavoidable absence of the Mayor. He characterised the late inspector as an ideal citizen, one who had been closely identified with everything that his duties permitted. Parents and Citizens were grateful for what Mr. Cotterill had done to advance the Association. Ald. Rintoul also welcomed Mr. Noble, assuring him that the Parents and citizens would always be glad to have any helpful advice from time to time.

Mr. Crichton, President of the Shire Council said that Mr. Cotterill had inspired the confidence of the people throughout the district. (Hear, hear) In his sorrows the wide sympathies he enlisted were an indication of Mr. Cotterill's popularity.

The Rev. S. A. T. Champion said that in his school days an inspector was regarded in the light of a visitation. Mr. Cotterill's sojourn had been an influence of good on the part of the parents and teachers. His geniality had disarmed the children of all fear. Mr. Cotterill had succeeded in bringing out the best traits of the children. There was no laxity however, for behind the genial side there was a seriousness which an inspector's duties demanded. With a very strong bond established between teachers and inspector, Mr. Cotterill

had put up an unrivalled record.

Mr. J. Forsythe, President of the Young P. and A. Society referred to the valuable assistance which Mr. Cotterill rendered in the school sections at the P. and A. Show. Under his guidance the children had done very creditable work.

Mr. Redshaw then introduced the new inspector.

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but whether Young would like him. He came from the Inverell district where the people claimed that the climate was the best in the world. Last year he had travelled 3,334 miles. He did not expect to please everyone at Young. Naturally enough his coming to this place caused him to wonder if the move would prove a good one. Continuing, Mr. Noble remarked with emphasis, the schools are coming into a new era that is dominated by the forces of democracy. The teacher is the main factor of the future. Nothing can perfect a teacher better than his own earnestness, and personality. The teacher however, could not do much without the co-operation of the people.

Several district teachers, added their opinions in a most cordial strain of Mr. Cotterill.

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On behalf of the Correspondence class of the Wallendbeen School, Mr. Burgess M.L.A. made a presentation of two pipes to Mr. Cotterill.

Mr. Cotterill prefaced his remarks by referring to the time when he was appointed to Young. He had been here for four years and it was pleasing to say that not one serious charge had been preferred against the teachers. To live among the teachers at Young he said was to live in ease. He regretted leaving. The developments of the past were nothing as compared with the changes which the war would bring. His heart throbbed as he recited the words of the sage:—"The way to have a friend is to be one." He had endeavoured to be a friend and the school children had always revealed their affection towards him. In his experience Mr. Cotterill had always found it better to trust a teacher rather than to haunt him with suspicion. There were occasions when it was thought he did not see everything. But he saw plenty. (Laughter). It was sufficient to observe that a teacher was doing his best. He did not have much leisure to put into the affairs of the town, other than recruiting matters. In referring to a remark touching on the death of his son, Mr. Cotterill said there was one in the trenches and another (a married man) at Liverpool camp. Mr. Cotterill concluded by remarking that if the character of the child had to be built up it was necessary for the teachers to have the parent's co-operation. The teachers were engaged from day to day nourishing the plastic mind of the child with knowledge which had to be retained for ever. There was much that the parents could do. The spirit of self-sacrifice and fight against wrong was necessary. Mr. Cotterill thanked the people for their kind recognition shown him and his wife.

After the singing of Auld Lang Syne the gathering was served with afternoon tea.

The following programme was interspersed with the speeches:—Piano selection, Miss France; solo, Miss Jennings; solo, Miss Miller; solo, Mr. A. R. Chelwell; solo, Miss Nellie Hillis; solo, Mr. W. G. Wood.

Messrs. G. Redshaw and R. Nixon were joint secretaries of the function.

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