

17.12.24

Council

on behalf of the ex-students stated that they were delighted with what had been done. Included with the visitors were the sculptor of the Bust - Mr Paul Montford of Geelong, Professors Mica Smith and D. Walker Mr J. Dunstan, Heidelberg and Mr W. E. Parsons of Millars Kanni Trumbull Co. Melbourne whose firm had made and donated the pedestal. It was altogether a splendid tribute to the Professor and to his former students who have so worthily upheld the name and traditions of this school.

Appended is the Press Report of the Junction.

THE BALLARAT COURIER, MONDAY.

"THE PROF" 15.12.24

OLD BOYS AND PROF. MICA SMITH.

BUST PRESENTED TO SCHOOL OF MINES.

In the presence of a large gathering of members of the School of Mines Council, staff and old students, a marble bust of Prof Alfred Mica Smith was presented to the school on Saturday morning by old students residing in West Australia. Among those present were Messrs C. M. Harris, of Perth, S. G. Turrell, of Kalgoorlie, secretary of the W.A. committee, W. Parsons, Melbourne representative of Millars Jarrah Co., who gave the pedestal, and Paul Montford, of Geelong, the sculptor. Mr W. H. Middleton, President of the School Council, welcomed the visitors of the Old Boys' Association, and also Mr Montford, the sculptor. They all knew what he thought of Prof Mica Smith, so he need not enlarge upon it. It was a splendid action on the part of the W.A. Old Boys to make the presentation; indeed, it was one of the most important moves that had taken place in the history of the school. A man might be thought a good deal of as a man, but if he had not ability as well his pupils soon found it out. Prof Mica Smith had been such a teacher that all his old pupils were proud to have been under him. Mr Harris, as spokesman for the W.A. students, said:—(On behalf of the ex-students of the Ballarat School of Mines associated with Western Australia, I thank you for the welcome you have given us to-day. We have but one regret that our worthy chairman, Mr J. W. Sutherland, has not been able to come across to make the presentation of the bust of our beloved Professor to the school. To Mr Sutherland we owe the happy and kindly thought of letting him see during his lifetime how he is loved and respected, and I am afraid that I am but a poor substitute. Before speaking on the results attained by the students of Prof. Mica Smith I would like to say how much the ex-

the way in which Mr Montford met them. A number of old students had asked him to remember them personally to the Professor and also to "Danny" Walker. (Hear, hear.) Mr Harris then presented the bust to the school with the affectionate remembrance of the students in West Australia associated with the school. He approved of the position which had been chosen for the bust, which was one where every student entering the school would see the life-like presentment of the man to whom in their opinion the school owed most. Mr Middleton accepted the gift with pleasure, and said it would have been one of the proudest moments of the lives of some of the old members of the council, such as the late Andrew Anderson, R. T. Vale, and J. M. Bickett, could they have been present on that occasion. Mr F. J. Martell, in the course of reminiscences of the early days, said the man to whom the students perhaps owed most was Mr Wm. Henry Nicholls, headmaster of the Mount Pleasant school. He remembered a meeting of the school council at which one member threw a book at the chairman's head, and that was over Prof. Mica Smith, too. (Laughter.) As far as the students were concerned Prof. Smith had been the mainstay of the school. Mr Martell congratulated the old students on having selected Mr Montford, who had a very great English reputation, as the sculptor. Prof. Mica Smith said Mr Harris' eulogium had put his head in a whirl. It was not a little embarrassing to be suddenly brought face to face with one's graven image. (Laughter.) Not in his wildest dreams did he ever think that the term of his natural life was to be prolonged in marble. (Laughter and cheers.) But it was there, because he had touched it and spoken to it. (Laughter.) It was an astonishing sight for a man to see himself born again: made out of clay for the second time by the skillful and creative hands of Mr Montford! A man was hardly quite able to judge his own likeness, but there was one thing about it that was really good—it was all good, but one that appealed to him as very true, it did not say much and it was a very good listener. (Laughter.) The occasion was, perhaps, a very fitting one for the ex-

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The President also reported having attended the Prize Distribution of the Junction school on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst.

The Principal, Mr Kerstone and the Headmaster Mr D. W. Steane were present.

The Assembly Rooms of the school are not sufficient to provide for the 240 Boys and 80 Girls together with parents and friends.

A pleasant and successful evening entertainment included instructional films on the cinema, choruses by students, speeches and prize distribution.

Confirmed

18-2-25

F. Barrow

*[Handwritten scribble]*