

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, Professor Mica Smith and D. Walker

connected with Western Australia. I think 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-students appreciate the wonderful life likeness Mr Paul Montford, the sculptor, has made, and we are deeply indebted to him for the care he has taken. To Messrs Millars Timber and Trading Company, who have donated the handsome polished jarrah pedestal. We also owe a great debt of gratitude, not only Mr Norman Timperley, the general manager and his staff at Perth, who built it, but to Mr Parsons, their Melbourne representative, an old Kalgoorlie friend, has spared neither time nor trouble to complete all arrangements to get the bust and pedestal here to-day. The committee at Kalgoorlie only too gladly gave much time to it, and I would especially refer to the work done by Mr J. W. Sutherland, and our good friend, Mr Geo. Turrell, as secretary, and who is with us to-day. It hardly seems 35 years since a shy country boy came to the school to learn to be a chemist, but the welcome given to him by the Professor was such that he became a hero worshipper, and he is here to-day representing forty-one hero worshippers to ask you, Mr President to accept the bust of Prof Alfred Mica Smith as a token of esteem by the ex-students who are and have been connected with Western Australia. Men in different professions made their reputations in different ways. An arch-engineer is judged by the bridges he builds, a mining engineer largely by the dividends his mine pays to its shareholders, but a professor is judged by the success of his students, and although it is impossible to enumerate the work of the old students of the Professor, there are some who may be cited as examples of what the Ballarat School of Mines men have done. We Western Australians always think of Jack Sutherland as the one who has done much to make the old school famous, not only for his work in devising over a quarter of a century ago the filter press for treating tailings slime, his management of the Golden Horseshoe mine for that period, but also for his great good heartedness which has never failed to help all technically trained men, and more especially for those of his own school. Frank Moss, after a successful career as a mine manager, now has large interests in tin dredging, saw milling, and farming, and he gave much time and valuable assistance to the industry as chairman of the mining section for W.A. of the Empire Exhibition. W. H. Corbould, one of the first S.M.B. men to manage a mine at Kalgoorlie, has gone over to base metal mining, and his name is much before the public in connection with Queensland mining. Some five years ago I was reading a paper before the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy in London in connection with the repatriation of miners, and one of the first members to speak in discussion was H. S. Denny. He had just been honored by the King for his success in charge of munition works during the war. He told me that when the Minister for Munitions asked him to undertake this work he said he could not accept it, as he did not know anything about the manufacture of munition, but the reply came promptly. We understand that you were trained by Prof Mica Smith at the Ballarat School of Mines, and that is good enough for us. Could any man refuse service after such a compliment to the man whom we are honoring to-day? There are many others. Geo. Roberts, who for years has acted as the mining representative on the Senate of the University of Perth; Latham Watson, who

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 skilful 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 fifty-one years ago on that day, 13th December, and at that hour the ship that brought him to Australia cast anchor in Hobson's Bay. He had been a student all his life, and hoped to continue as long as nature would allow him. He had a very deep affection for the fine young fellows he met there. They were manly young fellows, full of zeal for their work and with their hearts in the right place. He remembered that Mr Andrew Anderson was congratulated by a mining man from the West on the fine stamp of young men the school sent there, all in important positions, highly respected, and with clean hands. Mr Anderson said he thought that was the proudest moment of his life. They were all proud of them. The whole school was. They had established standards which it behoved other students who occupied their old benches to imitate and emulate. They had established school traditions which everyone connected with the school should do his best to uphold. He would rather be remembered as they were remembered than possess all the wealth of the Indies. He offered them through their representatives heartfelt and lifelong thanks. The bust, which is an excellent likeness of the Professor, and was admired by all present, and is on a pedestal of jarrah, is to be placed in the office of the school. The visitors were subsequently entertained to lunch at Craig's Hotel by the president and council of the school, Mr Middleton presiding. The toast list which followed was brief. Prof. D. Walker proposed "The West Australian Old Students." Mayor Levy supported the toast, and said the citizens of Ballarat had much to be grateful to Prof. Mica Smith for his services rendered gratuitously to the City regarding the purity of the water supply. The West Australian old students were deserving of the thanks of the whole of the citizens for their action. Mr Harris, in response, said it was particularly gratifying to meet around that festive board and realise they were all lovers of Ballarat. The carpenter who made the pedestal in Perth commented on the unanimity with which Ballarat men worked together, and he (Mr Harris) could only account for it by supposing that it was because most of them were Scotch on the father's or the mother's side. (Laughter and hear, hear.) The carpenter was Scotch and appreciated it thoroughly. (Hear, hear.) Mr Turrell also responded. Mr J. J. Dunstan also responded. The meeting concluded with the toast of "The President of the School Council, Mr W. H. Middleton," proposed by Mr Harris.

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The President also reported having attended the Prize Distribution of the Junior school on the 16th inst.

The Principal, Mr Heretone and the Headmaster Mr D. M. 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. Barrard

Handwritten signature or initials.