

20.11.29

The President took the opportunity of extending a welcome to Messrs Clark and Wilson. He said that Mr Clark had done a lot both for this school as well as other schools in the State. In filling the appointment of an officer to take the place to be vacated by Mr Clark in February next it would be urged that a Director of Technical Education responsible to the Minister only should be appointed. Under present conditions, there was not the same sympathy with Technical Education as with Primary and the body which controlled Primary Education was not the proper body to control Technical Education. He would like to see the position thrown open to the best men available throughout the State.

Mr Clark's assistance and advice had always been available to this school and this help had ^{always} been very much appreciated.

Mr Clark in responding, agreed that the post of Chief of Technical Education was a most important ^{one} position and must be carefully considered.

If we don't get a man who thoroughly understands the technical side, the schools will be handicapped accordingly.

Mr Clark remarked that Technical Education had been a cause dear to him and ~~in~~ he owed a debt of gratitude to Ballarat — He came to Ballarat on the occasion of his appointment, and the help offered by this school, which was then generally recognised as the leading school of the State was very valuable to him. Prior to this time he had been associated with technical work at Rainnisdale, Bendigo and the Melb. University.

At the time, schools were in a bad way — Technical Education was being preached by the Department. There was a consultation to link Primary and Technical Education; Teachers had to start at State School work and from many discussions a scheme was adopted to overcome the difficulties.

The subsequent introduction of High Schools and continuation classes led to a clash of Primary and Technical teachers and these schools took the cream of available students leaving the residue ^{for Technical schools.}

In the past the S. M. B. was able to attract Public School Boys, then known as "hundred guinea" students. That was in the hey day of Mining.

With the ^{establishment} introduction of Junior schools at Swinburne, Ballarat, Geelong and Bendigo the work of these schools