

BON VOYAGE TO MR. W. BEEBE.

On Thursday evening about 40 of the friends of Mr. W. Beebe, J.P., assembled in the A.N.A. Hall to wish him "bon voyage" prior to his departure on a six months' European tour. The gathering had been arranged by the Sandhurst branch of the A.N.A., of which Mr. Beebe is a trustee, the chair being occupied by the president (Mr. A. G. Daymond). Amongst those present were Messrs. J. H. Abbott and Joe. Sternberg, M.L.C., Mr. W. A. Hamilton, M.L.A., and Dr. Quick, a trustee of the branch.

After the toast of "The Queen," the chairman briefly proposed the toast of "Our Guest," and designated him one of the most useful members the branch had ever possessed. He very heartily wished him "bon voyage."

Mr. Sternberg spoke of the guest's intention to take a trip to the old world from the utilitarian point of view. Mr. Beebe would see much to improve his mind in respect to architecture. He would come back with new ideas which would be practically developed in enhancing the architectural features of Bendigo. He wished him an enjoyable trip, a safe return and invigorated health. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Abbott found a great deal to admire in Mr. Beebe for the manner in which he had raised himself in life. He was an example of the excellent results of that indomitable perseverance which was only another name for genius. He had taken advantage of the local School of Mines, and in other ways educated himself, and he should be proud of the position he occupied to-day as one of the leading architects of the city. (Applause.)

Mr. Hamilton referred to the guest as one who had taken no mean part in the life of the city. His experience of the civilisation of the old world would be a great education indeed, and he wished him every enjoyment and benefit. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. Quick referred to the guest as an architect in a double sense. He was the architect of his own fortunes as well as a material architect. He had built up his character and education by utilising the means around him, and was a living demonstration of how a man could qualify himself for a professional life without the ordeal of going through a university career. He trusted Mr. Beebe would experience a very pleasant voyage and would return even a better man, a happier man, and fonder of Bendigo than ever. (Applause.)

Messrs. W. J. Campbell (President of the Chamber of Commerce), J. R. Daley (on behalf of the contractors, of whom there were several present) and A. J. Hampson and G. Mackay, supported the toast. Mr. Beebe's honorable character, privately and professionally, being emphasised.

Mr. J. H. Curnow then presented Mr. Beebe with a handsome travelling bag and pair of field glasses, from his Bendigo friends. He characterised Mr. Beebe as a man who had, by his courage, conquered adversity and prejudice, and referred to him as "one of the straightest men Bendigo possessed."

The toast was then heartily honored.

Mr. Beebe, who was warmly received, said, in reply, that whatever he had done had been done from selfish motives, as he had himself most in view. He considered it his duty to set straight towards his fellow men, and, of course, he was glad that this spirit was appreciated. He thanked them most sincerely for their kind wishes and handsome presents. It was one of his ambitions to take the projected tour and, on his return, he might attempt to give effect to another ambition and be more prominent than hitherto in public matters. (Applause.)

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A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded
the proceedings, which were enlivened by songs
by Messrs. Berchdolt, Honeybone and Daley,
and a recitation by Mr. Glass.