

MAYORAL ELECTIONS.

BENDIGO CITY.

The annual election of Mayor for the City of Bendigo took place at the Town Hall on Monday morning. Present:—Crs. Wilkie (retiring Mayor), Curnow, Abbott, Dunstan, Hamburger, Andrew, Ross, and Beebe. Ex-Cr. Knight was accommodated with a seat near the council table. Several citizens were also present. An apology was received from Cr. Murphy.

Cr. Curnow moved that the Mayoral allowance for the ensuing year be £400.

Cr. Ross seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The retiring Mayor (Cr. Wilkie) gave a resume of the year's work.

Cr. Dunstan moved that Cr. Beebe be appointed Mayor for the ensuing year. He said that Cr. Beebe had proved himself a good citizen and an active councillor. He was also held in high esteem by the citizens. (Hear, hear.) They felt quite sure that in electing Cr. Beebe to the high and important position of Mayor they, as representatives of the ratepayers, would gratify the whole of the citizens of Bendigo. Cr. Beebe had been connected with nearly every public institution in the city, and his services were highly appreciated and valued. He was recognised as a progressive citizen, and had set before the public many good examples which had been followed. He was sure that no more fitting compliment could be paid to Cr. Beebe than by electing him to the important position of Mayor. With the able assistance of Mrs. Beebe, who was a worthy helpmate, and the Misses Beebe, they could look forward to the ensuing year as one of prosperity as far as the mayoralty was concerned. The councillors would be pleased to do all they could to make the year of office of the Mayor and Mayoress as pleasant and enjoyable as possible. (Applause.) If he wanted any advice as to how he should conduct the Mayor's room or any other matter, the councillors would be pleased to give it to him. (Laughter.)

Cr. Ross seconded the motion, and said that Cr. Beebe had been the means of saving the ratepayers a considerable sum of money owing to the experience he had gained abroad.

The motion was carried by acclamation

In returning thanks to the Mayor and Mayoress

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In returning thanks, the Mayor said he was grateful to the councillors and citizens for having elected him to the high position of Mayor of his native city, in which, with the exception of two short periods, when he was travelling, he had spent the whole of his life. It was also an honor to think that the councillors had sufficient confidence in him after such a brief experience as a councillor to elect him to that high position. He had only been at the table as a councillor for two years and five months, a term hardly long enough for one to have cut his "wisdom teeth" as a councillor, but they had seen fit to put him in the position. He thoroughly appreciated the honor, and would endeavor to justify their confidence. With the aid of his good wife and daughters, he would do all he could to further the interests of the city, which had been so good to them. Mrs. Beebe and he had certain ideals as to what the duties of Mayor and Mayoress were, and in giving effect to any slight deviation from the established custom of the past, he hoped that if they were subject to any criticism their critics would be charitable. He sincerely hoped that before his term expired the war would be over, and that he would be able to preside at a great gathering to celebrate a glorious victory for the British army and the Allies, and also an everlasting peace. But while he spoke in this optimistic tone, he still thought that greater efforts would have to be made as regards men, munitions, and money before this glorious ideal was reached. If further appeals were made, he hoped the response would even eclipse the magnanimous result achieved in Ben-digo in the past. He anticipated that the Sewerage Bill would soon become law, and the council would be able to launch the sewerage scheme it had so long desired. He thought he could promise, on behalf of his fellow councillors and himself, that no attempt would be made to involve the city in any large financial obligation until the money market was sufficiently satisfactory to launch such a scheme. (Hear, hear.) He hoped, however, that the preliminary work would be undertaken during his term of office. With the assistance of his wife and daughters, he hoped he would have a successful year, as they were prepared to assist him in

as they were prepared to assist him in carrying out his duties. (Applause.)

In moving a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, the Mayor said Cr. Wilkie had made a hobby of his position as

Mayor. He had been very attentive to his duties at the Town Hall. Mrs. Wilkie had done a great amount of charitable work, which was only known to a few. The Mayor had his peculiarities—where was the public man who hadn't?—but with all his peculiarities they had got on well together. Cr. and Mrs. Wilkie had had a most strenuous time, but if he (the Mayor) carried out his duties as well as the retiring Mayor he would be satisfied.

The motion was seconded by Cr. Dunsan, supported by Cr. Hamburger, and carried. A sub-committee, consisting of Ers. Andrew, Curnow and Abbott, was appointed to make arrangements to suitably recognise the services of Cr. and Mrs. Wilkie as Mayor and Mayoress.

Cr. Wilkie said he had had a very strenuous year of office. The first six months was a hard period indeed for Mrs. Wilkie and himself. Mrs. Wilkie and he had done their best to carry out their duties satisfactorily, and no one could do more than that. He consulted his own conscience in all matters, and his conscience was absolutely clear that they had carried out the duties of Mayor and Mayoress as they should have been carried out. If anybody could cavil at them and came out in the open and asked him about it, he would give them his reply. As long as he was at the council table he would do his best for the citizens generally. (Applause.)

The proceedings terminated by the passing of a vote of thanks to the press. This was acknowledged by Mr. A. Mackay ("Advertiser") and Mr. W. Wright ("Independent.")

THE NEW MAYOR.

The new Mayor is a native of Beldigo, and has been closely connected with several of its institutions for many years. As a boy he attended the School of Mines, walking a considerable distance from his home in order to take advantage of the educational opportunities afforded. In later years he became president of the School of Mines Council, and is now on the executive council of that institution. He is also

Mines Council, and is now on the executive council of that institution. He is also a trustee of the Art Gallery and A.N.A. At one time he was president of the latter



CR. W. BEEBE,
Mayor of Bendigo.

(Vincent Kelly, photo.)

body. He is in partnership with Mr. G. D. Garvin, and his work as an architect is too well-known to need more than a passing mention. His experience in municipal life has been comparatively a short one. He entered the council in March, 1913, on the retirement of Cr. Carolin. In August the same year his term of office expired, but he was re-elected by a very large majority. He is chairman of the parks committee, and is on most of the sub-committees of the council. He took a prominent part

of the council. He took a prominent part in the framing of the building regulations in the city, and also supervised the alterations at the Town Hall.