

BALLARAT TRAMWAY GIRL WINS QUEEN COMPETITION

1-9-1944

£3,587 RAISED FOR PRISONER OF WAR FUND

MELBOURNE, Thursday.—Mrs Sylvia Mitchell, of Ballarat, was proclaimed Victoria's most popular conductress before some 2000 dancers in the Melbourne Town Hall tonight, after it had been announced that Ballarat had raised £3,587 for patriotic funds in support of Mrs Mitchell.

Miss J. McCurdy, of Geelong, was second with £1150 and Mrs D. Roseworn, of Benargo, third with £1725. Mrs L. Pickup, of Kew, headed the metropolitan candidates with £1473. The competition raised over £15,000 for Prisoners of War Fund.

Mrs Mitchell was given an enthusiastic ovation as she mounted the stage of the Town Hall accompanied by the president of her committee (Mr A. G. Purdue) to take her place among the other thirteen candidates. The tension for the little group of Ballarat supporters increased as the Master of Ceremonies (Mr J. V. O'Connor) announced the total for the other queens, and it was noted they were all well below the amount raised by Ballarat. Their delight knew no bounds when her total was announced, and it was realised that Ballarat had won with nearly £2000 to spare.

Mrs Mitchell, who was dressed in white with red carnations in her hair and on her frock, told the gathering she was overwhelmed and was almost speechless, but she felt very honored to have won. She, herself, had done very little. She owed all her success to her wonderful committee who had spared no effort to obtain this result. Mrs Mitchell congratulated the other candidates upon the splendid totals they had raised for this worthy cause.

Mr Purdue said he was very proud to be associated with the winner in what had been a strenuous campaign. Mrs Mitchell had been an inspiration to the committee which had been delighted to assist in such a worthy appeal.

The secretary of the Ballarat committee (Mr F. Bowden) also briefly thanked those who had assisted with the campaign to place Mrs Mitchell at the top and congratulated the others on the amounts raised.

Mr O'Connor and the President of the Metropolitan committee (Mr R. Broadby) thanked the candidates and their supporters for raising such a magnificent sum for the Prisoners of War fund.

As the winner of the competition Mrs Mitchell will receive £5 from the Tramways Board, the State Electricity Commission and Foy's, an enlarged photograph by Anton Kershaw, of Melbourne, and a carton of Black and White cigarettes.

Red Cross Receives Cheque

Before the Ballarat party left for Melbourne the cheque for the Red Cross Prisoner of War fund was handed to the president of the Ballarat branch of the Red Cross (Mr E. H. Price) at the Red Cross rooms.

The tramway visitors to the rooms comprised the Ballarat Tramways candidate (Mrs Sylvia Mitchell), Mr T. A. Farr (manager of the Ballarat branch of the State Electricity Commission), the organiser (Mr F. Bowden) and secretary (Mr W. Sewell) of the Tramways Patriotic Fair Committee. Mr Sewell presented the cheque to Mr Price, and Mr Farr expressed the deep satisfaction of the Fair committee that they were able to contribute so substantially to the P.O.W. funds.

title of Victoria's most popular conductress. He commended her and her committee and workers for their labors during the campaign, especially mentioning Mrs W. D. Thompson's wonderful effort with the Treasure Tram. He assured them that the money would be of immense assistance in meeting the great expenses to be met in providing comforts for the prisoners of war, both now and later, when the Japanese released further information regarding those interned in the Near East.

£15,000 FROM TRAM GIRLS' COMPETITION

More than £15,000 was raised by the Popular Tram Conductresses' Competition conducted by the Victorian Tramway Employees' Association for the Trades Union Prisoners-of-War Fund.

This is easily a record for Australia for any competition of the kind and was a commendable achievement by metropolitan and country committees. The first three places were won by country conductresses.

The chairman of the competition (Mr R. Broadby) today expressed keen appreciation of the splendid support given in an effort which had attracted attention in overseas transport services.

£3580 WINS

The splendid result was achieved only by the hardest work by the candidates, their committees and voluntary helpers. In one suburban depot, middle-aged men who had to do a long shift after rising at 4 a.m. stayed on to sell raffle tickets in the shopping streets or to conduct a house-to-house canvass for donations. Many neglected their gardens to carry on.

The winner, Mrs S. Mitchell, of Ballarat, raised £3580.

Amounts raised by the other competitors were: Miss J. McCurdy, Geelong, £1750; Mrs D. Rosewarne, Bendigo, £1725; Mrs L. Pickup, Kew, £1473; Miss J. Lake, Camberwell, £1370; Miss B. Campara, Central Buses, £1133; Miss M. Pelly, Hanna St., £973; Mrs W. Gibson, Preston, £836; Mrs R. Bale, Malvern, and Mrs M. Berry, Brunswick, each £878; Mrs M. Holmes, head office, £491; and Mrs G. Morrison, Port Melbourne Buses, £171.

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Mr Price thanked them cordially and congratulated Mrs Mitchell and her committee on their wonderful effort. The amount of the cheque, he said, was so astounding that he felt some difficulty in adequately expressing his appreciation. Handing the secretary a receipt for the amount, Mr Price added that he hoped the splendid total would bring Mrs Mitchell the honor of winning the

title of Victoria's most popular conductress. He commended her and her committee and workers for their labors during the campaign, especially mentioning Mrs W. D. Thompson's wonderful effort with the Treasure Tram. He assured them that the money would be of immense assistance in meeting the great expenses to be met in providing comforts for the prisoners of war, both now and later, when the Japanese released further information regarding those interned in the Near East.

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