

## **BALLARAT ELECTRIC TRAMS**

### **INSTALLATION CEREMONY**

**BALLARAT. Friday:** The new machinery of the Electric Supply Company was formally set in motion today, and subsequently the electric trams were given inaugural run. Mr. Benjamin Deakin, the company's representative in Victoria, had invited about 200 people to witness the event and when the guests had gathered within the powerhouse on the south-eastern shore of Lake Wendouree, Mr. Deakin invited the mayors of the city and town to set the machinery in motion. Afterwards Mr. Deakin handed to each of the two mayors (Councillor Barker and Councillor Elsworth) a souvenir medal of the occasion. Upon Mrs. Barker and Mrs. Elsworth devolved the duty of "switching on" the electric light. After a trial run, the company entertained the guests at luncheon at the City hall. Mr. Benjamin Deakin presided. Councillor Pearse proposed the toast Parliament.

Mr. M'Leod Minister of Mines, in responding, said that he feared that the general feeling was that the Federal Parliament had been a disappointment. He had worked to bring about federation, but he was now a convert to the view of older and wiser men that the movement had been premature. There had been too much legislation to the neglect of the encouragement of settled industries and the finding of avenues of employment. As far as the state Parliament was concerned, there was a growing necessity for stable and domestic legislation. If the Braddon clause were not renewed the state Government would be completely at the mercy of the Commonwealth. It would therefore be well for the people to see that the federal representatives were pledged to a continuance of the safeguard. He had heard with interest of the proposal of the people of Ballarat form a prospecting association, and if any scheme were placed before him it would receive his careful consideration. (Applause.)

Mr. M'Donald M.L.C., and Mr. Scott Bennett M.L.A., also responded.

The Mayor of Ballarat proposed the toast of the Electric Supply Co.

Mr. Benjamin Deakin, who responded, said that the company, in inaugurating the system, had aimed at stability. Within the last 10 months they had an average of 148 men employed, and £17,000 had been distributed in wages. A sum of £4,400 had been contributed to the Customs, and £5,200 had gone in railway freights. The material (all of British manufacture) had cost £32,500, and the complete outlay within the period had reached £106,000. The general tram service would be a 10-minute one, but they hoped at times, to have a three-minute service in Sturt-street. The company would have special tickets for workmen and school children, and hoped to be able to issue return tickets to the lake at a reduced cost. The machinery was sufficient to supply power within a radius of five miles.

Further toasts were honoured before proceedings ended.

*BALLARAT ELECTRIC TRAMS. (1905, August 19). The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957), p. 13. Retrieved February 8, 2014, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article9871651>*

### BALLARAT ELECTRIC TRAM

#### INSTALLATION CEREMONY

**BALLARAT**, 27th. The new motor cars of the Electric Supply Company were formally put in service today, and afterwards the electric trams were given an inaugural run. Mr Benjamin Danks, the company's representative in Victoria, had arranged about 200 people to witness the event, and when the guests had gathered at the power house on the north corner above of Lake Wendouree, Mr Danks in a speech to guests of the city and suburbs set the machinery in motion. After words Mr Danks handed to each of the commissioners of the tram and the council for the electric supply a copy of the certificate. Then Mr Danks and Mrs Danks withdrew the drive of "switching on the power light."

After a trial run the company entertained the guests at luncheon at the club. Mr Benjamin Danks presided.

Mr Michael M.L.C. also responded. He said that he had been glad that the great and long-expected day had come. He had wished to be at the ceremony, but he was now a member of the town of Melbourne and could not be there. He had been to the factory of the electric supply and the finding of the electric supply. As far as the electric supply was concerned, there was a great deal of work to be done and the electric supply was not complete. It would therefore be well for the people to see that the electric supply was not complete. He had heard with interest of the progress of the people of Ballarat in forming a prospecting association, and if any scheme were placed before him it would receive his careful consideration. (Applause.)

Mr Michael M.L.C. and Mr. Hunt responded. M.L.C. also responded.

The Mayor of Ballarat proposed the toast of the Electric Supply Co.

Mr Benjamin Danks was responded and that the company, in manufacturing the cars, had aimed at quality. Within the last 20 months they had had an average of 180 men employed, and \$17,000 had been distributed in wages. A sum of \$2,000 had been contributed to the Otago, and \$2,000 had gone to railway freight. The material cost of British manufactures had cost \$2,000, and the company could within the period had raised \$10,000. The general view would be a 10-minute car, but they hoped to have a three-minute service at first effect. The company would have great hopes for the future and would be glad to be able to have other trams in the line at a reduced cost. The company was confident to supply power within a radius of 100 miles.

Further toasts were honored before proceedings ended.

A LITTLE LONDON IN BRISBANE  
The idea of having a little London in Brisbane is being carried out by the Brisbane Electric Supply Co.