

General
Improvements.

Outside of Municipal work, local progress is visible all around. Extension of the Railway Station, with improved accommodation, is about to take place; the level crossing at Lydiard Street is acknowledged a nuisance as much by the Railway Commissioners as by our Ratepayers, but time will be necessary for the grand change which is admitted to be inevitable. Meanwhile the force of events goes on: the Cattle Yards siding is being extended to Sebastopol, to carry fuel and minerals to and from the trunk lines; the Shires around are agitating for Railway Communication in all directions, and some bold, far seeing, projects are afoot, which no Government can safely ignore.

Visitors.

Visitors are now so numerous that they come and go mostly without much notice; but it has been my good fortune to meet and entertain the Earl of Carnarvon, an English Statesman of great repute in his day. The visits of Gentlemen of his standing, who come to see us as we are, must have a high value toward good relations between the Colonies and the grand old mother country.

Obituary.

I am painfully conscious that I must not close this report without respectful allusion to the loss sustained by this Corporation in the death of the much-lamented Councillor Claxton; a man very outspoken; bold and sagacious in public affairs; and one who has left a deeply-scored mark in the Municipal life of Ballaarat. This tribute is due to his memory.

Gentlemen,—I hope I may be permitted to take a backward glance over the time during which the confidence of the Ratepayers has honored me with a seat at the Council Board of this Corporation; I have always held that seat in great esteem, and on now retiring from the Mayoralty, I cannot forbear congratulating the Ratepayers on the marvellous change and progress between the time when I was first honored with a place among you and the present. I look around and see mining prospects more promising and stable than ever; a large surrounding and well-peopled area of fine agricultural and pastoral country; a City which holds a fitting place as the Metropolis of the Western District; and a settled population everywhere well supplied with the necessities and comforts of life, together with all the benefits that settled Government and Municipal effort can provide.

It only remains for me to thank you for your courtesy and consideration during that part of my term when I was debarred by illness from personal attention to Municipal duties. I now respectfully and gratefully hand over to my successor the duties and responsibilities appertaining to the Chief of a prosperous and well-ordered City.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. COLLARD SMITH,

MAYOR.

Town Hall, Ballaarat,
4th August, 1888.

Mayor Rep Book.
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