

Cr Green, and briefly responded to by the Governor. "Don't let us get into the way of differentiating between Australian people and people of the Old Country; they are all one," he said. (Applause). "I have absolutely no cause whatever for anything but the deepest gratitude for the way I have been treated by every man, woman, and child in New South Wales for the three years I have been here. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the way you have received us who have come for a time from Home."

Mr. John Garlick proposed a vote of thanks to the Shire President. The Blue Mountains Shire had been exceedingly fortunate in the presidents it had had, he said, but he doubted whether any preceding

president had exceeded the word of Cr. Percy Wilson.

The President briefly responded.

After the proceedings in the marquee had terminated the Souts, round a camp fire circle, indulged in games. Pennant Hills Rovers and lady Cubmaster attended.

Another diversion was an exhibition of tree felling by the Shire tractor.

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1933

A BRIDGE CENTENARY

David Lennox Honoured

GOVERNOR UNVEILS TABLET

Lapstone Reserve Officially Opened

In ideal weather the Governor, Sir Phillip Game, unveiled a tablet on the century old stone bridge on old Lapstone Road on Saturday afternoon in memory of David Lennox, the bridge builder of 100 years ago. Afterward his Excellency opened the new reserve on Lapstone Hill.

These ceremonies were organized by Blue Mountains Shire Council, which, under the guidance of the President, Cr. Percy Wilson, is never lacking in initiative in bringing Mountain areas agreeably under the notice of people of other parts. Saturday's function did deferred homage to a worthy pioneer and advanced the claims of the eastern end of the Mountains to sight-seeing attractiveness.

On the hairpin bend of the old road that, for many years, up till about seven years ago, carried the main traffic over the Mountains, about a thousand people gathered at 1.30 p.m., for the unveiling of the tablet. Cubs, Scouts, and Rovers of the Mountain districts, from Blackheath to Penrith, under District Commission H. E. Calver, formed a guard of honour, and were inspected by his Excellency.

The Royal Australian Historical Society was represented by the President, Mr. O. E. Friend, and other members, Shire Councillors, officials of State departments, N.R.M.A., Penrith, Katoomba, and Blackheath Councils, and other organizations were well represented. The Mayor of Penrith (Ald. A. H. Hand), Ald. Markham, and the Town Clerk (Mr. W. E. Orth), were in the large gathering.

Hazelbrook – Lawson Band provided music for the occasion.

"The Lennox Troupe".

In some introductory remarks the Shire President, Cr. Percy Wilson, referred to the presence of the Scouts. "As Chief Scout for N.S.W. his Excellency takes a very keen interest in the boys' activities," said the President. "When they are in camp at Pennant Hills he is a frequent visitor, and joins with them in their amusements. One troupe is known as the Lennox troupe, after the constructor of this bridge. This is the first official visit of his Excellency

of his Excellency to the eastern end of the Blue Mountains Shire, but his Excellency is not unfamiliar with our region, in fact, on numerous occasions he has visited our beauty spots and gained a good general knowledge of this area. One of the first holidays taken by Sir Phillip and Lady Game was to Mt. Victoria, where he spent quite a time amid the magnificent scenery of that area."

The Name of the Bridge.

"There has been some little differences of opinion as to whether this should be called Lennox Bridge or not," said President Wilson. "As far as the Blue Mountains Shire is concerned, we have known it by no other name, and every resident in the area knows it as Lennox Bridge. (Hear, hear). It is true that there are other bridges constructed by Lennox, but this was the first, and there is no reason why a man should not be honoured in more than one place, so long as the places are separate and no confusion arises. We have always known this as Lennox Bridge, and the name will never be altered. I extend to his Excellency a hearty and sincere welcome to this area, not only on behalf of the Blue Mountains Shire Council, not only on behalf of residents within our area, but on behalf of all the people assembled here today. In the past we have had many notable Governors. It seems only yesterday that the former Governor, Sir Dudley de Chair, and his daughter, Miss Elaine, drove over this road to open the magnificent deviation of the Great Western Highway. Sir Dudley was a prince among gentlemen. Prior to that we had the late Sir Walter Davidson, a man whose memory is loved, and who, while he was here, was adored. I have read Mark Antony's oration over the body of Julius Caesar, in which he said, "When the poor hath

cried Caesar hath wept." I will say of Sir Walter that, when he heard of distress and suffering of returned soldiers tears came into his eyes and his voice faltered."

"You sir", continued the President addressing the Governor, have come to me with the highest credentials, being thrice honoured by our King. When historians come to record the happenings of this period, the name of Sir Phillip Woolcott Game will not be the least among his illustrious predecessors. (Applause).

Descendants of Lennox.

The President then extended a welcome to descendants of David Lennox who were present, viz, Mrs. Pritchard, Mrs H. C. Dalziel (Mt. Victoria), Mr. A Lennox Rowling, and the Misses Lennox Rowling. "We can quite imagine how their hearts swell with pride, when after a century they see their ancestors honoured," said Cr. Wilson.

Mr. O. E. Friend, President of the R. A. Historical Society, said he would like to congratulate the Shire Council on its very patriotic recognition of the builder of the bridge and on the dedication of the reserve. Detailing a little history, he said that David Lennox arrived in Australia in 1832. His wife died in England, and it was that that really brought him out here. One day Major Mitchell was walking along Macquarie Street and saw Lennox dressing stone in front of the building that is now the Legislative Council building. He asked Lennox where he learnt his trade, and Lennox said that he had been a foreman builder on a bridge at Gloucester, which cost what was a large amount in those days - £30,000. Mitchell said "Leave your work and come along with me to my office. Mitchell at that time was in

charge of the Public Works Department, and was concerned about the nature of the bridges in the colony, which were constantly being destroyed by white ants, fires, and storms. In six weeks from the day Mitchell first mentioned the matter Lennox was on the job and in five months completed this bridge. He sent word to the Governor wishing to be advised as to what inscription he wanted on the bridge. The Governor replied, "Nothing but '*Built by David Lennox*' ". This was the first scientifically constructed bridge in the colony. Dealing with the origin of the name Lapstone Hill, Mr Friend said that some people stated that in the early days men used to use the stones on their laps, and thus came the name Lapstone. "I notice some of the audience laugh," he added. "A great deal of credit for the bridges I think should be given to Major Mitchell. He was really a wonderful man. He was a solicitor, engineer, draftsman, sculptor, and a lot of other things, and all of them he did well. Lennox afterwards built bridges in Victoria. He died in November, 1873, at the age of 85 years, and was buried in a vault with his son-in-law, C. W. Rowling. Some people wonder why a monument has not been erected to this great man, but the greater monument is these magnificent bridges."

Mr Frank Walker, of the Historical Society, said that he would like to emphasise the fact that in these celebrations they were not only commemorating the building of the first bridge in Australia, but they were also commemorating a very fine man.

The Governor was presented with a message stick, being a container in which was a scroll of welcome from the Scouts.

Tablet Unveiled.

His Excellency unveiled a marble tablet that had been let into the masonry of the bridge and which was inscribed, "*The oldest bridge in Australia, constructed by David Lennox, 1833. R.A.H.S.*"

"I am very deeply grateful to the Shire Council for the honour conferred on me and to the President for his kind words of welcome," said his Excellency. "Lennox, I believe, was a Scotchman, and like many of his people, he came out here to see if he could get a better living than the hills of Scotland could afford. He came to this young country of Australia, which I think now offers just as much opportunity to the man of initiative and resource. He built this bridge, and a very fine old bridge it is. Although it has been more or less pensioned off, you are showing that you still have affection for David Lennox and admiration for his work. What impresses me is the speed with which it was built. I want to express my deep gratitude to the Scouts for turning out. I don't think they could have any better message than that they have conveyed – what they see to do, do it and don't make any fuss about it." (Applause).

The New Reserve.

After this ceremony traffic proceeded up the new road to the new Lapstone Reserve, situated above Knapsack, which has two commanding points - Elizabeth Lookout and Marge's Lookout - with a panoramic view of the Nepean Valley.

Afternoon tea was served in a large marquee in reserve.

The Shire President, in an address, welcomed members of the Lands Department who were present, including the Under Secretary, Surveyor-General, etc. "Without

going any further, I will say that Lapstone Hill Reserve could not have been possible had it not been for the broad and liberal policy of the Lands Department. (Hear, hear), Right throughout the Shire we have made a point of investigating every vantage point, picnic ground, and sports ground that might be useful to the people, an asset to the community, and a joy to countless thousands in years to come. The policy of the Shire Council is not merely one for the immediate future, but for years ahead. We have been looking forward 50 and 100 years, and hope to build up this wonderful region. Until recently this area, consisting of 100 acres, was land held by the Crown, and was hardly accessible. It is a little over 15 months since we had it vested in the Council to hold for the people for all time. I remember coming over this reserve, as I have been over many other reserves, with officers of the Lands Department. I have been impressed with the exhaustive and careful manner in which they make inquiry as to whether it is good land opened or retained by the Crown. I will say that they are not only fair, but kind. Don't misunderstand me. The Shire Council has never got any more than it deserves. (Laughter). But we have been very careful not to waste the time of officers, bringing men along on some ridiculous scheme that we know they would not grant. We leave ourselves entirely in the hands of the Department, knowing full well that they are the best ones to judge whether a scheme is justified or not." (Applause).

"Bridge Without a Toll".

Mr J. C. Watson, President of the N.R.M.A, said he thought that members of the Association and also the general public, as well as those of the future visualized by the President, appreciated, or would appreciate, the marvelous work that the Shire

Council had been engaged in, not merely today, but for many years past. Council was deserving of the highest praise for its provision. It was a fine thing on the part of Council to perpetuate and encourage people to remember a man who was really a great man in his generation, who had small opportunities and great difficulties. When one looked at the curve in the arch of that bridge one realized that relatively Lennox's task was as great as the building of the harbour Bridge. "There is one notable thing about that bridge," said Mr. Watson, "showing how out of date they were in those days – there was no toll imposed upon it. (Laughter). We have progressed since then a great deal."

The Shire President said that they were only witnessing Lapstone Hill reserve in the making. Later they would find that there where there was now bareness there would be avenues of Australian trees and innumerable palms striking out in all directions. As a matter of fact they had not yet fully explored this reserve.

Don's Avenue

The Governor, said the President, had remarked that "Don's Avenue" might be taken for Don Bradman's Avenue. "Don Bradman is a very fine fellow," said Cr. Wilson, "but that avenue is named after Cr. Don Skarratt." (Applause). Marge's Lookout, he explained, had been named after the daughter of Cr. S. H. Walker, who had been a member of the Council since the inception of Local Government. (Applause). Elizabeth Lookout, (close to where the marquee was erected) was named after Cr. Skarratt's wife, one of the greatest workers in the cause of charity in the district. (Applause).

Ald. Freeland, Mayor of Katoomba, said that Katoomba did not look with envy on the

achievements of the Shire, but with pride and admiration.

Governor Opens the Reserve

In declaring the new reserve officially open, the Governor said that an hour ago they were paying tribute to a great bridge builder who had done a great deal to open New South Wales by improving its communications, and he thought that there were others who were deserving of a warm tribute too. He believed it was less than two years since this land was dedicated as a reserve, and its control was vested in the Shire Council. He understood that before being opened up it was only accessible to small boys and goats. (Laughter). "Like a former President Wilson, your President seems to have 14 points if they could only be got at," said His Excellency, "and I think he is even a better diplomat than his namesake. I have worked in a public department for many years, and I have never heard a public department described in the way that the President referred to the Lands Department. It wasn't usually said of the officers that they made careful inquiry; it was asked, "Why do these infernal fellows ask a lot of silly questions?" (Laughter). I warn the Lands Department that it is a dangerous precedent, and I can't help thinking that the Shire President is going to blow in some day and ask for something. (Laughter). I think that we should commend anything that tends to the improvement of our reserves and beauty spots. A lot has been done in this way all over the Empire in recent years. Lord Curzon, who was Viceroy of India for 30 years, rescued some historical monuments from decay and neglect. The present Prime Minister of Britain has always taken an interest in the beauty spots at home. It is an excellent thing to see a young country following that example. In declaring

this reserve open, I hope it is going to be of great value and a pleasure to those of you who live here, and to those of Sydney, as well as to a large number of future generations." (Applause).

Presentation.

The Deputy Shire President, Cr. H. C. Grace, presented his Excellency with a walking stick made of Australian ringed gidgee from the west of New South Wales, as a token of appreciation from the Shire Council. "I trust," said Cr. Grace to his Excellency, "that when you return, as you will in time, to the Homeland, which we British people all love so well, this stick will serve to remind you of a sunny day spent on the Blue Mountains. The stick also, I trust, will serve to advertise a little of our timber. (Laughter). If we give you an oak or ash stick, it would be like carrying coal to Newcastle. I would like it to be looked upon as a symbol of the great respect we have for you. (Applause). It would not be right to introduce anything political. You will find small minorities in any part, but I think you will find in our area every man and woman is loyal to the King. (Applause). His Majesty in sending you out as Governor made a very wise choice, and I am sure that the great majority will regret where the time comes for you to say goodbye." (Applause).

His Excellency said he really did not know how to thank them for this beautiful present. He was always being thanked for doing things that he very much enjoyed doing. "I can assure you it will be an excellent advertisement for New South Wales if any advertisement is needed," he added.

Mr. J. Jackson, M.L.A., proposed a vote of thanks to his Excellency for the part he had taken in the proceedings. This was seconded by