

Welcome Social.

On Friday evening last, weather conditions being favourable, a highly successful and well-attended welcome social was held at the town hall in honour of Bombadier F. Woods and Private A. Grave, who have recently returned from the front. In addition to the customary program of dances the music for which was contributed by Mrs Bayley, Misses Blew Huxley and Thompson, there were some interspersed items of considerable interest, including four songs by Miss Una Warne, "My Dear Soul" and a loudly demanded encore "Sink Red Sun," both of which were accompanied by Mr and Mrs J. R. Robinson, the latter with cello obligati, and later in the evening Miss Warne also most obligingly sang "When you come home," followed by "Out of the South" as an encore. All these items were evidently highly appreciated by those present. Miss Griffin's humorous recitations "The House that Jack built," in which the dumb actions were excellent, "Charlie," "My little dawg," "The Wife that Sat Up" but who was effectually cured by her loving husband, and her fine rendering of the border story of "Lochinvar," were all most refreshingly welcome and formed a charming series of ungently demanded encores. Miss Colgan's finely rendered pianoforte solo "Remembrance," was much applauded. During an interlude in the musical portion of the evening's entertainment the platform being occupied by the guests and their parents the chairman, Mr H. V. Watson, and committee, and Ptes. Birch and W. P. Scott, the Chairman said it was quite unnecessary to inform those present of the object for which they gathered, as everyone was aware that on this occasion it was their great privilege and pleasure to mark the return of Bdr. F. Woods and Pte A. Grave to the island. (Loud and prolonged applause). Some

(Loud and prolonged applause). Some people did not hold sport in much esteem, but he was not of that opinion, which he considered was the backbone of the British Empire, and a fine example of its beneficial effects could be afforded by Bdr. Woods who had always shown himself a true sport in every sense of the word (loud app.) Bdr. Woods had enlisted in July 1915, after spending eight months in Egypt had gone to France and was among the first lot of Australians to serve being sent to Arrmentiers. He was wounded on the Somme in March 1917 just before the taking of Bapaume, spent three months in hospital in France and was then transferred to Brighton and finally left England for Australia in November 1917. Though he had been through very trying times it was hoped that by the aid of mechanical appliances he would be enabled to do the duties of a worthy citizen (app.). Referring to Pte. A. Grave, the chairman said he had enlisted in July 1916, and after training in Australia had proceeded immediately to the scene of action and having served some time in the trenches had then contracted rheumatism so badly that after spending some time in hospital both in France and England the authorities had decided to return him as unfit for further active service. It was interesting to note that Pte. A. Grave was the first native born islander to return from the front (loud applause). As Pte Grave was a neighbour of his up north, the Chairman was personally very pleased to welcome him back, and trusted that despite his disabilities there would be many ways in which he would be enabled to reap the reward of the services he had rendered to his country (app.). The Chairman referred to the result of the referendum and pointed out that men were still need-

ed and trusted that King Island, with its fine record of response, would continue to keep up its quota of re-

continue to keep up its quota of reinforcements under the voluntary system which was to be given another trial. Bombadier Woods, on rising, was vociferously applauded, and after the singing of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow," was allowed to proceed, he said that everyone present knew that he was no good at this kind of work (laughter) and coming so soon after his trip he was not prepared to say much. However, he cordially thanked the Chairman and those present for kindly welcoming Pte Grave and himself in the manner they had done, and he was sincerely glad to be among them once more (app). Pte A. Grave on coming forward was also heartily welcomed with the good old song and much applause. He said it afforded him much pleasure to sincerely thank the Chairman and those present for the hearty welcome accorded to his comrade and himself and he hoped that all others who returned would be similarly welcomed, but that was really all he found himself able to say (laughter and applause). Mrs Grave kindly thanked everyone present for the cordial welcome extended to her son, and was loudly applauded. Mr Thos. Woods on behalf of himself and family cordially thanked those present for the welcome to his son and Pte. A. Grave. He said he thought it was still up to all single men to see what they could do, and would like to see some other young fellows volunteer, who had not yet done so (app). Refreshments having been partaken of dancing was resumed and continued till 1 a.m. when this most successful welcome concluded, the welcomers returning to their various homes.