

CAPT. CASTILLA DECORATED.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER.

A very interesting ceremony, and the first of its kind in this State, took place at Government House on December 6, when Captain J. C. Castilla, who served in South Africa with the Second West Australian Contingent, was decorated by His Excellency the Governor with the Distinguished Service Order. Captain Castilla lately accepted the position of Inspecting Major in the Transvaal Constabulary, which was offered him through Lord Milner, and yesterday left Perth for Albany, en route for South Africa. He held the commission of lieutenant in the Perth Artillery, and resigned his position as assistant chief clerk in the Lands Department to take up the Transvaal appointment. The presentation of the D.S.O. was made at Government House, as there was no time to arrange for the ceremony to take place more publicly, Captain Castilla having to catch the same evening's train for Albany. Those who attended the presentation were:—The Acting-Commandant (Lieut.-Col. Campbell), Major Hobbs, Major Sherwood, Capt. Collett, Lieuts. Wilkinson, Nicholson, Bryan, Sutherland, and Wisden, Dean Goldsmith, Mr. G. Leake, M.L.A., Mr. T. F. Quinlan, M.L.A. (Minister for Public Works), Mr. A. H. Barlee, Mr. J. Corbett (acting-Town Clerk), Mr. M. E. Jull (Under-Secretary), Mr. H. C. and Mrs. Castilla, Mrs. Denny, and Miss Denny.

His Excellency, who was attended by Capt. Wolfe-Murray, A.D.C., and Mr. Parker (private secretary), read the warrant accompanying the insignia, and then decorated Capt. Castilla with the Order.

Following upon the ceremony, Sir Arthur Lawley said that it was a matter of regret to him that he had not been able to present that honour to Captain Castilla in a manner more worthy of the occasion and in the presence of more of his fellow-officers and of the men who had had the honour to serve under him, and also in the presence of the public. But, unfortunately, the warrant and the insignia had only arrived late the previous night, and as Captain Castilla would, he understood, leave Perth that day to proceed to South Africa, there was not time to arrange for the presentation to be made in a manner fully befitting the occasion. He regretted to say that the Bishop was absent from Perth, but he was glad to see the Dean there. The Mayor of Perth also desired him to express regret that he could not attend, but he was pleased to see the Mayor's

but he was pleased to see the Mayor's deputy present. Those Ministers who were not compelled by electioneering duties to be absent from the city were also present. He expressed regret that the President of the Legislative Council was not there to join with them in expressing to Captain Castilla the very great gratification they all felt at his having won that distinguished honour—an achievement that reflected credit not only on the recipient and the corps to which he belonged, but also to the State in which, as a citizen, he had earned the esteem and respect of all who knew him. He asked Captain Castilla to accept their very hearty congratulations on that recognition by His Majesty of the eminent services he had rendered to the Empire. He knew he expressed the wish of all present when he said he hoped the recipient would live long to wear that Order on his breast. He also rejoiced to know that Captain Castilla's services had won for him a high and responsible position in the Transvaal. His Excellency hoped also that he would have good health and strength to carry on his arduous duties in that new country. They felt confident that in the execution of those duties Captain Castilla would display the same tact, the same ability, and the same sagacity as he had shown here, and he could rely on the friendly interest and good wishes and the very sincere sympathy of all the friends in Western Australia who now joined in wishing him God-speed.

Before the company dispersed, the health of Captain Castilla was honoured.