

**Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser (NSW : 1856 - 1861; 1863 - 1889; 1891 - 1954), Saturday 26 December 1857, page 3**

**Country News.**

**GRAFTON.**

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

**SCHOOL OF ARTS.—COMMITTEE MEETING.**

At a meeting of the Committee of the Institution, held at the National School-house, North Grafton, on Thursday, Dec. 10th, 1857, Mr. William Collier in the chair—members of committee present: Messrs. Alfred Lardner, David Kirke, J. Penzer, James Page, Alfred Page, George Podmore, and W. H. H. Becke (Secretary)—it was proposed by Mr. JAMES PAGE, and seconded by Mr. Podmore:—"That efforts be made to get in the amount of subscriptions promised by the last Thursday in January, 1858." Carried.

A letter was read by the Secretary from Mr. James Page, offering to give the opening lecture of the Institution on the second Wednesday in January; subject—"Industrial Investments."

Mr. KIRKE proposed, and Mr. LARDNER seconded—"That Mr. Page's offer be accepted, and that the Secretary be instructed to give public notice of the same in Grafton." Carried.—Ordered by the committee that the lecture be free to the public, and that the subject be open to discussion after the lecture.

Proposed by Mr. ALFRED PAGE, and seconded by Mr. KIRKE—"That the Secretary be instructed to ascertain the cost of printing the rules of the Institution, and to report the same to the committee at the next committee meeting." Carried.

A letter was read by the Secretary from seven members of the Institution, addressed to the committee, requesting that a Debating Class may be appointed.

Proposed by Mr. BECKE, and seconded by Mr. LARDNER—"That a Debating Class be appointed accordingly, and that this class meet the first and third Wednesday in each month, at seven p.m., and subject to the general rules of the Institution." Carried.

Mr. BECKE handed in to the chairman a list of the subscriptions, amounting to £50. The meeting then adjourned.

**BALLINA, RICHMOND RIVER.**

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

**Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser (NSW : 1856 - 1861; 1863 - 1889; 1891 - 1954), Saturday 26 December 1857, page 3**

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

**PUBLIC MEETING.**

IN consequence of the secondary movement which has now been got up to alter the decision of the Imperial Government on the boundary question, a meeting was held at Mr. Eyles' inn, Ballina, on Saturday, 12th December, for the purpose of meeting Mr. Bawden—deputed by a committee at Grafton to wait on the inhabitants of the district. There were about thirty persons present.

Mr. JOHN EYLES proposed, and Mr. ALCOCK seconded—"That Mr. Clements do take the chair."

The CHAIRMAN briefly addressed the meeting, stating the object of its being called, and concluded by requesting Mr. Bawden to address the meeting.

Mr. BAWDEN said that he had been deputed by a committee consisting of farmers and others on the Clarence to wait on the inhabitants of the district with an address to her Majesty, thanking her for the decision that had been arrived at with regard to the boundary of New South Wales and the new colony of Moreton Bay. He said that he was really sorry that the question should be opened up again, but a movement was now being made in certain quarters to alter the decision of the Imperial Government; and, therefore, in consequence of that movement, the anti-separationists were compelled in self-defence to come forward. It was stated at a meeting at Casino, the other day, that the people of Grafton were unanimous in favour of annexation to Moreton Bay. "Now such is not the case, nor is it likely it ever will be; the farmers who have lately settled on the Richmond are nearly all opposed to such a movement; and every person who wishes to see the working man get on would also be opposed to it—because I believe that there will be very little land sold in the new colony. It is said that they must sell land to meet the expenditure; that can be done by taxation, and the taxation will fall on the working man." The speaker then read a printed circular and some notes on the subject, which went to show the great folly of our petitioning to be joined to Moreton Bay, where there would be one class of persons who would have all the power for many years to come; and concluded, after a

Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser (NSW : 1856 - 1861; 1863 - 1889; 1891 - 1954), Saturday 26 December 1857, page 3

years to come; and concluded, after a speech of some length touching on the equality of members, debt, taxation, squatting, &c., &c., by reading the following address:—

“ To Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith.

“ The humble address of the undersigned inhabitants residing in the Clarence and Richmond district of the colony of New South Wales,

“ MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH—

“ That we have learnt with much satisfaction that, in consequence of a petition from these districts, the question of which colony we were to belong to has been decided according to our wishes and interests; and that we are to remain politically, as we have always been commercially and socially, connected with New South Wales.

“ That your Majesty may long be spared to reign over us, and that every prosperity may attend your illustrious Consort and Family, is the prayer of your most loyal and dutiful subjects.”

He (Mr. B.) now begged, to leave the address with the meeting, and trusted that

householders.]

Mr. BAWDEN had much pleasure in seeing them so alive to their own interests, and thanked them heartily on behalf of the Grafton committee for their cordial co-operation and for the reception he had himself received from them, he being comparatively but a stranger. He hoped their movement would succeed, and be beneficial to the two rivers for all time. He begged to move that the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. Clements, for his impartial conduct in the chair.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman was carried unanimously; and the meeting separated.

they would take that side which would be most conducive to the welfare of themselves, their posterity, and the working man (hear, hear).

Mr. SANDERS said, after having heard the address of Mr. Bawden, for which he was certain they were all very thankful (hear, hear), there was little left for him to say, further than he felt, and he was sure they all felt, that it was the interest of the people of the Richmond River to remain with New South Wales. He should therefore move—“ That this meeting, having heard the address to her Majesty the Queen now read, do resolve to adopt the same, and further pledges itself to use every exertion to prevent the district of Clarence and Richmond Rivers being separated from New South Wales.”

Mr. Ross cordially seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, amidst loud cheers.

[A number of persons here signed the address, the signatures being limited to householders.]