

## Tenterden.

All day on Saturday the bells of the Tenterden Parish Church rang forth a joyous peal, and the new Mayor, Councillor F. Edwards, was met with hearty congratulations on every hand.

The retiring Mayor (Councillor A. R. Boorman) presided at the commencement of the annual meeting of the Town Council, there being also present Aldermen Jabez Checkfield, H. S. Norton, E. Howard and E. H. Hardcastle, Councillors F. Edwards (the Mayor-elect), E. Apps, F. Care, J. S. Jordan, S. Hook, W. Love, J. Sutton and John Checkfield, with the Clerk (Mr. J. Munn-Mace) and the Borough Surveyor (Mr. W. L. C. Turner).

### COUNCILLOR EDWARDS HONOURED.

Alderman Howard moved that Councillor F. Edwards be elected to the Mayoral chair. There were many reasons, he said, why he took pleasure in so doing. Though Mr. Edwards was young, he had acquired a good deal of experience. His comparative youth was a fact in their favour, for they hoped that in front of him there was a long period of useful service. They all knew him personally and they all liked him well (hear, hear). He was a thorough gentleman (applause), and he felt certain that they would as cordially support him during the year as they would support the motion to make him their Mayor (applause).

Councillor Boorman said it gave him the greatest possible pleasure to second the motion. They knew that their affairs would be in safe hands. He felt sure that Mr. Edwards would have an enjoyable year of office. As outgoing Mayor he could assure Mr. Edwards that he would have the cordial support of the officials as well as the members of the Council. He expressed his own thanks to the clerk and officials of the Corporation and to the Councillors for the cordial and loyal support accorded to him during the past year, and in asking Mr. Edwards to accept the chair and the insignia, wished him a happy year of office (applause).

The Sergeants at Mace then divested Councillor Boorman of the robes and chain, which were duly transferred to the shoulders of Councillor Edwards, who took the chair amidst a chorus of applause.

The newly-elected Mayor thanked the Aldermen and Councillors for the confidence they had shown in him. The office was not one to be entered into lightly, or to be thought lightly of. He had in mind its ancient associations which stretched back for so many hundreds of years, and was conscious that it was the highest honour that the town could confer upon one of its citizens. One of the principal duties he would have to perform would be to preside over the meetings there. He intended to perform that duty to the best of his ability. He hoped to carry on the work of the Council in a business-like way and with all possible despatch. In the achievement of that object he knew that he could rely upon the members and officials to support him. He thanked Alderman Howard and Councillor Boorman for their kind remarks and trusted that he would give satisfaction to them, to all the Councillors, and to the town itself (applause).

### THE RETIRING MAYOR'S GOOD QUALITIES.

The Mayor then took the oath and afterwards proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor. Councillor Boorman's ability and fairness in ruling that Council, he said, could not be exaggerated. Like the speaker, Mr. Boorman was a man of business, and it was in all ways fitting that his name should adorn the long list of Mayors of Tenterden.

He hoped that Mr. Boorman would live for many years to come, and that he would enjoy a good measure of health and strength, and that he would long be able to give to the Council the benefit of his opinions and experience (applause).

Alderman Norton seconded the vote of thanks. Alderman Howard had referred to the fact that their present Mayor was a young man. Well, they could congratulate themselves, too, on the youth of their retiring Mayor, who during his year of office had allowed nothing to interfere with the carrying out of his duties (applause).

The motion was carried with acclamation. Councillor Boorman, in reply, said it had been for him a happy year of office. While he fully appreciated the honour which was conferred upon him he was conscious that in many ways he had not carried out his duties as well as they might have been carried out perhaps by others, but he had done his best (hear, hear). He thanked them all once again for the support they had accorded to him.

The members of the Council then warmly toasted the health of the new Mayor.

The ordinary business of the Council was proceeded with and will be found reported in another column.

### THE MAYORAL BANQUET.

The Mayoral Banquet, held in the Town Hall in the evening, was on an elaborate scale. Upwards of 50 guests had accepted the invitation of the Mayor, amongst whom were the Revs. J. A. Babington (Vicar of Tenterden) and A. J. L. Barker, Aldermen G. N. Hardcastle, E. Howard, W. S. Norton and Jabez Checkfield, Councillors A. R. Boorman, J. Sutton, A. W. Cooper, F. Care, John Checkfield, E. Apps, H. Judge and W. Love; Messrs. A. D. Latter (Clerk of the Peace), H. Hilliard (Borough Treasurer), B. Dewhurst, A. H. Smith, L. Carver, G. D. Mayer, J. F. Austen, G. R. Clifton, W. H. Rybett, H. Edwards, R. Edwards, T. Edwards, A. E. Bishop, H. M. Kingsland, C. A. Foreman, A. Masurier, G. E. Varley, A. J. Whitmer-h, Captain Body, Messrs. J. S. Winger, W. L. C. Turner (Borough Surveyor), W. E. Elliott, A. Hilder, J. Bates, T. J. Pearson, R. A. Skinner, J. Munn-Mace (Town Clerk), and H. B. Munn-Mace (Deputy Town Clerk).

The excellent repast provided by Mr. A. E. Bishop would have given satisfaction to the most epicurean taste.

The loyal toasts were enthusiastically honoured at the instance of the Mayor.

Councillor Sutton proposed The Clergy and Ministers of Religion. After expressing his congratulations to the Mayor, he said that he hoped Councillor Edwards would follow in the footsteps of his father, whose chief concern was for the welfare of the borough and its people (applause). Referring to the subject of his toast, he said the ministerial office was a responsible and by no means an easy one. A minister of religion was always open to criticism and had to maintain a high standard of living. Were he addressing a gathering of ministers he would urge them to sink their difference and unite as one Church. They would then get the sympathy and support which religion deserved. He coupled with the toast the name of the Vicar, who, he said, spared no effort to keep in touch with the needs of the parish. He also mentioned the work done by the Vicar's daughter, Miss Babington, and of the love which the parishioners had for her (applause).

The Vicar, in reply, said this was the third time that the highest civic honour and dignity in Tenterden had been conferred upon a sidesman of his church. He only needed one thing to complete his satisfaction, and that was that the office of Mayor should fall to one of his wardens. He could not help feeling what he

hoped was a pardonable pride in the fact that the office he held was some centuries older than that held by their Mayor (laughter). Mr. Sutton should have coupled with his toast the names of his Churchwardens, for they had been most zealous in their support and most loyal in their devotion. Mr. Sutton had referred to his daughter. No father had ever had a more devoted daughter and he could only use the words of the prophet "I rise up and call her blessed" (applause).

### THE ARMY AND NAVY.

Mr. H. M. Kingsland proposed The Sea and Land Forces of the Empire. He was sure that this toast would receive hearty acceptance, for every Englishman at the present moment was turning his attention to the question of the sea and land forces. It had been brought home to us during the last few days what a serious thing war was. As far as England was concerned we could rest easy. No one could see a British man of war without feeling that he could depend upon it. The Navy was in a good state of efficiency and he believed that every man could and would show the same fighting spirits as the Jack Tars who won Trafalgar (applause). Whatever our politics might be we all ought to feel grateful to the First Lord of the Admiralty (Mr. Winston Churchill), who was doing all in his power to keep the Navy at full strength (applause). The standing army was small, but it was in a remarkably high state of efficiency and was ready for active service at a moment's notice. The Territorial Force was at present a subject of great interest. He was not a believer in the National Service League, because if they could not get their own way in regard to conscription they resorted to running down the existing military material (hear, hear). Conscription would not be the success which many people imagined, because we could never make the "never do well" and the loafer pressed into service into as good a soldier as the Volunteer (applause). The Territorial officer of the present day had to put all he knew into his work, and as far as the local force was concerned they had in Colonel Munn-Mace an officer who was a credit and an honour to the town of Tenterden (applause).

Colonel Munn-Mace, in reply, said he was specially proud to congratulate Councillor Edwards, who was the first Territorial Mayor of Tenterden (applause). That showed, at any rate, that the Territorial force was not a drawback to a man obtaining equal posts of honour as a civilian. The Vicar had spoken of his pride in having a sidesman for Mayor, and he (the speaker) felt an equal amount of pride in having for Mayor one whose military career he had had a hand in training. Deducing a lesson from the present war in the East, he said we should do well to adopt the motto of the Boy Scouts and "be prepared." While the condition of affairs remained as it was to-day, we were bound to have soldiers. He ventured, therefore, to ask those who were present to do their share by supporting the Territorial Forces. He was grateful to the Council for the help given to him, and for giving every facility for their employees to go to camp and attend drills, etc. He trusted that other employers would realise their duty in this respect. The average Territorial had no quarrel with the idea of national service. But it was a very difficult job to fire two rifles at the same time, and while they had one job in hand they ought to make the best of it. He was not there to say that the Territorial scheme was absolutely the best that could be devised, but he did think it was the duty of the British taxpayer to make it go. We ought all, in fact, to try to keep the existing forces on as high a level as possible, and he would like to say, sotto voce, "If you want a man to do better work, make it a little easier for him, and pay him a little better" (applause). At present the man who put his back into the job because he was a patriot received no more credit than the man who did nothing.

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