

## Cave Hill Butter Factory

### The Opening Ceremony

#### A great success anticipated

On Monday last the new creamery at Cave Hill was opened under the most memorable auspices. In response to invitations issued by Mr C. Mitchell, manager of Cave Hill, about 60 of the leading residents of Lilydale and district assembled to witness the opening ceremony.

Prior to the starting of the works Mr Mitchell jun. conducted the visitors over the sheds and stable, exhibiting the prize cattle, which were duly criticised and admired. About 11.30 the company assembled in the large churn room, and Mr Mitchell jun., stepped forward and apologised for the unavoidable absence of his father, but on behalf of that gentleman gave them a cordial welcome to Cave Hill on this occasion. (Cheers.) He trusted that the factory would be a success, and he had much pleasure in calling on Mr J. Lithgow, J.P., one of the oldest residents of the district, to start the machinery of the Cave Hill creamery. (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

Mr Lithgow spoke of the very great pleasure it gave him to be asked to perform such an interesting ceremony. The creamery was one of the many benefits Mr Mitchell had conferred on the town of Lilydale and district, but what those benefits were are best known to the working men and tradespeople of Lilydale. (Hear, hear.) He could honestly say that this was not one of the least of the benefits conferred. In the past the milk producers of the Lilydale district have been at the mercy of the middlemen of Melbourne. The prices given would not pay for fodder during the winter and after all there was but a very small margin of profit to the producer. In the spring the price of milk was very low, and only on Saturday one farmer had been told that the price would be 5d per gallon. It was well known that such a price would not pay the farmer. He hoped that all the district producers would send their milk to this factory. (Applause.) If creameries were started close to Melbourne, and all the milk produced in that portion of the district area sent to various factories, what position would the people of Melbourne be in? This would cause a better price to be paid to the producers. If he were in the milk business he would send all his milk to the creamery. The district should take the initiative and cease sending all the milk to Melbourne. He could truthfully assert that creameries were the salvation of dairy farmers. He wished Mr Mitchell every success in his new venture. He asked those present to drink success and prosperity to Mr Mitchell.

The machinery was then started, cheers being given, and the health of Mr Mitchell drunk enthusiastically.

Mr Mitchell jun., replied on behalf of his father. He thanked them for the hearty manner in which they had honoured his father. As regarded the trials of the producer, he could thoroughly endorse Mr Lithgow's remarks. The milk produced in this district was good, but it takes 2½ gallons to make 1lb of butter. The price given for milk was 4d a gallon if retained by the creamery, it returned to the producer 3½d would .... Then the agents had to get their commission. Then there was carriage to the storage at the freezing chambers in Melbourne, then the freight for export to the English market, where the butter managed 1s 2d per lb, so it was very evident that for some time the profits could be small. However, if the dairy farmers of the district thoroughly supported the project there would no doubt be ultimate success.

Mr H. Jordan, late manager for Mr Mitchell, also made a few remarks, and told the history of the creamery. He said that this was the greatest boon conferred on the farming community of the Lilydale district. (Cheers.) He said he thoroughly endorsed all that had been said about the middlemen of Melbourne and the milk supply. The local people would support the factory, for they knew that when they had dealings with Mr Mitchell they were sure of being paid. (Applause) he wished every success to the undertaking, and hoped Mr Mitchell would make it the success it should be (Cheers.)

Mr Mitchell proposed the health of Mr Lithgow, which was enthusiastically applauded.

Mr Lithgow briefly returned thanks for the manner in which the toast had been honoured.

Mr Blair sen., referred to the many benefits conferred on the district by Mr Mitchell and the farmers should give the creamery all the support they possibly can.

Mr Mitchell prosed "The Tradesmen of Lilydale."

Mr G.R. White responded on behalf of the business people of the town. As concerned himself, he could say that Mr Mitchell had been a good customer to him. He (the speaker) came to Lilydale over 11 years ago, and for the first six there was no blacksmith at Cave Hill and he had to do the majority of the work. Even now he got a good deal of all classes of trades in Lilydale benefited largely through the works at Cave Hill.

This new venture would give additional labour, and if the farmers carted milk to the creamery there would be ore work. (Laughter.) The opening of the factory was a new era in the history of Lilydale. (Cheers.)

Mr J.C.C. Jones proposed the health of Mr D Mitchell, It rested with the farmers as to whether the creamery was a success. As regarded the management of the creamery, that was bound to be job for Mr Mitchell and himself who were born in the same town, and that spoke volumes. (Laughter.)

Mr Mitchell briefly responded, and proposed "The Farmers."

After this toast had been drunk with special honours, Mr R. Black J.P., responded. He said that whenever he had visited Cave Hill he had learned something new, and he had no hesitation in saying it was the best-managed place in the district. He felt sure that Mr Mitchell jun., would make a good managers. He trusted the factory would be a success. It would be a splendid boon for the farmers, as their money .... (Cheers.) The small and large farmers would benefit by it and it would be one of the greatest boons every conferred on the farming community. (Applause.)

Mr Blair also responded, and spoke of the high qualities of the late manager Mr Jordan, and asked those present to toast the health of that gentleman.

Mr Jordan, in responding, said that he always tried to do his best for both the ... and man. (Applause.) The factory did in a great measure owed it existence to ... and he would ask all interested to support it.

Mr R.T. Kings, in an eloquent speech, proposed the toast of "The Press" which was acknowledged by the Lilydale Express representative.

This concluded the toast list, and the machinery was inspected by the visitors and the making of butter was watched with great interest, one and all expressing the greatest praise to Mr Mitchell for his energy and enterprise.

After the ceremony a number of the district dairymen had a discussion as to the remark of Mr Mitchell in saying that it took 2½ gallons of milk to make 1lb of butter. They admitted at the present time that such was the truth, but in a few weeks' time, when the young grass was fully matured, it would only take 1¼ gallons to make 1 lb of butter. Mr Mitchell was interviewed on the subject by our representative, and he admitted that when the grass became more matured it would take a less quantity of milk to make a pound of butter. He further stated that he did not with a wrong impression to get abroad as to his remarks re the quality of milk produced in this district as it would improve with the season.

*(Lilydale Express September 20, 1892).*

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