

HOME AGAIN.

MAJOR C. H. RAITT.

A PUBLIC WELCOME.

There was a large crowd at Maryborough railway station on Saturday night to meet the 9.25 train from Melbourne. Particular interest centred in the arrival home from active service of Major C. H. Raitt, invalided on account of persistent breakdown in health. The returned soldier was one of those who experienced the Southland disaster, and there can be no doubt that the torpedoing of the troopship and the consequent hardships militated against the Major's chances of a lengthy sojourn in the trenches. As a banker and citizen of Maryborough Major Raitt had gained and retained a large circle of friends and well-wishers, and he made no secret of his pleasure at grasping many of them by the hand on his return from very different scenes in a far land.

As the train entered the station the Citizens' Brass Band, under Bandmaster Quinn, struck up "Australia will be there," and Major Raitt was met, on alighting from his compartment, by the Mayor and other citizens and friends. Staying for a few moments to speak to returned soldier Private Dew-

to returned soldier Private Dewhurst, who was one of a number of soldiers drawn up under Lieutenant Lucas, the Major was piloted to Mr R. Lardner's waiting motor car, and, preceded by the Brass Band playing patriotic airs, passed along Nolan-street to the Town Hall, accompanied by the crowd.

Arrived at the Town Hall, the Major and a number of citizens accepted the Mayor's invitation to his room, where an official welcome was tendered the returned soldier.

The Mayor said that, on behalf of Maryborough, he extended to Major Raitt a cordial welcome home. The people of Maryborough appreciated his efforts at the front on behalf of the Australian soldiers. They had all read of his experiences in the Southland in the Ægean Sea, and were pleased to see him home once again. When they considered what had happened to some of the men like the Major, it seemed that the latter was lucky to be home again. They all appreciated meeting him again. His letters had been read with much interest. The speaker hoped to see Major Bateman and the other officers home again before long. (Applause.)

After the loyal toast had been honored, the Mayor proposed Major Raitt's health, saying that they hoped he would soon be restored to health. He had had a trying time in hospital, and they were glad to

in hospital, and they were glad to see him looking as well as he was.

Mr D. Berriman, P.M., expressed pleasure in seeing Major Raitt again, who for years had been an honored and respected citizen of their town, and was returned from the exciting scenes of Gallipoli. Their guest was one of the two first officers to go from Maryborough. He would have rejoiced greatly if Major Bateman had returned with Major Raitt. He could fully appreciate their guest's rejoicing at being once again home with his wife and family, and had pleasure in warmly welcoming him as a citizen.

Cr. Richardson endorsed the welcoming remarks of the previous speakers.

Major Raitt said he had tried to do his bit. He felt extremely grateful to his dear old friends for their kind remarks with reference to himself and his most esteemed chum, Major Bateman. He had been lying in his dug-out very ill, and Bateman had asked him to stick it out for his sake. He said he would try for a few days. They used to talk over the Maryborough news, and among other things the attainment of the present Mayor to office. They agreed that he must have had a hard fight for it, and so it proved. Bateman and himself mentioned all their names. He had a letter from Mr Berriman saying that Mrs Raitt was well, and that was all he cared about. Major Bateman had done more than he had done, and was now at Luxor.

had done, and was now at Luxor, getting on well. A soldier could not say much, but could do his bit. He had tried to do his bit and had done it. If they had seen the scene on the Southland they would have understood what the Birkenhead meant. The order was sounded, "All hands to the boats," and each man stood until his company or platoon commander told him to get into the boat. They had shown that Australians could fulfil British traditions. He was glad to be portion of an Australian if not a whole one. (Applause.)

This terminated proceedings, and Major Raitt was driven to his home by Mr Lardner.
