

WAR LOAN ORGANISER.

Send-Off by Cairns Shire Council.

Prior to leaving the north on his return to Brisbane, the district organiser of the Seventh War Loan, Mr. A. J. de Topor Markowicz, was entertained at supper at the Strand Hotel, Cairns, on Friday night by the Mayor, and Messrs. Cra. Reed, Butler, Griffin, Warner, McAlloon, and McPaul, the Shire Clerk (Mr. Stovell), and the Secretary of the Cairns war loan committee (Mr. Millar).

After the loyal toast, the Chairman said they did not like Mr. Markowicz to leave the district without taking the opportunity of congratulating him on the results of his labors. The contributions of Cairns—£115,000—afforded an illustration of the wonderful work that had been done by the organiser in the district. They had never had an organiser that had done his work better, and he was sure that the splendid results of the campaign in the hinterland were a witness, too, of his organising capacity.

Dr. Reed supported the toast. Amongst other things, he hoped their guest would take away impressions of the magnificent district through which he had travelled, and the great opportunities that here existed for settlement of a dense agricultural population. Mr. Markowicz was a native of Poland, and it was generally recognised that the agriculturists of his country make a living where almost

aised that the agriculturists of his country make a living where almost anyone else would fail. It might be possible, when he revisited it, for him to arrange to send some of its surplus agricultural population to settle in the untilled space of North Queensland. (Applause.)

The toast was enthusiastically honored.

Mr. Markowicz, who was cordially greeted on rising, disclaimed any credit as being due to himself for the glowing success of the war loan campaign in Cairns and the hinterland, and the shires north of Cardwell and west to the Gulf. He was not long in the district before the fact was borne to him that the people would respond fully to the call for funds to win the war, aside from any organising from headquarters. His happiest impressions of the north would be the sterling loyalty of all classes and the genuine friendship that had been extended to him during his tour. "I do not know what my plans for the future will be. I am about to be married. I would have been married some weeks ago, but pressure of war loan business withheld me. (Laughter and applause.) But I will tell you that I would like to settle in the North. I have seen a good deal of Queensland—of Australia; but nowhere have I seen country which offers such unlimited opportunities for reward for capital and industry as in the districts I have just been through. You have great tracts of waste lands, not because they are useless, but because

great tracts of waste lands, not because they are useless, but because they are pining for populaion. As to my people, you would have no difficulty in securing millions of them to come to your country. Conditions are bad with them. A man there ekes out a poor existence with his family on two acres. They have only one outlook — emigration. They must have land. You in Australia want farmers, more than any other class. Where you have a tendency to drift to the towns, my people are not happy unless they live on the land." (Applause.)

Cr. Griffin proposed "Australian Soldiers in the Field." It was, he said, to help our gallant fighting men to carry on the war that Mr. Markowicz, who was also a returned soldier, was working in their midst. It might be interesting for him to know how the returned soldier was treated in the Cairns and Northern districts. Relatives and dependents of soldiers living in the North received higher rates of financial assistance from the Northern Patriotic Fund than they were paid in any other part of Queensland. Quite recently the executive of the fund was obliged to reduce the rate payable to dependents of their soldiers who resided out of the district, in order to bring the rates in line with the lower rates ruling elsewhere.

Mr. Millar responded.

The company, before rising, honored, at the instance of Mr. Marco-wicz, the army's silent toast, "Fallen Comrades."