

THE SEVENTH WAR LOAN.*

Address by A. J. de Torpor-
Markowicz.

Local Committee Formed.

A public meeting was held in the Oddfellows' Hall on Thursday night to form a local committee to assist the seventh Commonwealth War Loan. The Mayor presided, and there was a fair attendance, over 40 being present, including several ladies.

The Mayor introduced the visitor and said he felt sure they would all be interested in what he had to say. Mr. A. J. de Markowicz had come to them duly accredited from Brisbane.

Mr. A. J. de Markowicz said that he had come to Cairns as district organiser for the Seventh War Loan. It was being issued to them when they required money and men. Unfortunately men were not being obtained as freely as they might be in this country. Money was required so that our soldiers could defend themselves against the common foe. It was reported that the Germans were supplying a machine gun for every ten men, whereas our lads were satisfied with one machine gun for every 250 men.

It was better for us to spend our money, and waste machinery rather than waste human life. Referring to the war, he said that we had entered it for the sake of the safety of the smaller nations. They must have their liberty. We entered the war to make conditions safe for democracy. We were out against the despotism of Germany. Austria was only the vassal serf of the Hun, and so were Turkey and Bulgaria. There was a lot of talk about German freedom, but what did it mean? Look at the nations which at present were under the German heel. What about Poland, Servia, and Belgium? Half

of the Servian population was now dead through Austro-German cruelty. The food of the people had been taken out of the mouths of the people, and men, women, and children had been murdered. Here in Australia we had not suffered the horrors and miseries of the belligerent countries. He was appealing that evening on behalf of their friends and brothers in this great war. We must help them with our money if we could not go and fight. It was not a gift, but a loan, and a better investment could not be found in this country. It was backed up by the resources of the whole of the Commonwealth. The investors would get 5 per cent. interest on their money. He would like to see a committee formed that night which would carry the propaganda into every household. The committee should consist of live members who would take an interest in their country and recognise that the land of their birth was a place worth living in. So far Australia had

the land of their birth was a place worth living in. So far Australia had only subscribed £10 per head of the population in regard to the war, but he would like to tell them that England had contributed £187 per head. The taxation here during the period of the war had only risen 101 per cent., whilst the taxation in England had risen 450 per cent. Think of the inflated prices we were getting for our products. England was producing munitions of war so that we could live in peace. Every war loan in England had been over-subscribed so that we could live in peace and safety here. All classes had cheerfully subscribed. If we sacrificed anything in this war we would have the satisfaction of knowing that we had done something whereby our children would be able to live in peace. The war loan was of five years' duration at the rate of 5 per cent. It was free from State taxation but not from Federal taxation. The bankers here had promised to do their utmost to support the loan. He urged all present to do their share. Money was wanted and the people had the opportunity to do their best for the successful issue of the war. The Mayor and Aldermen of the Cairns Town Council had promised their support, and the Chairmen of the Cairns Shire Council and the Harbor Board had done likewise. The same must be said of the Red Cross and the representatives of the Churches, and he thanked them very much. (Applause.)

The Mayor said that it was quite plain a duty was thrown on the citizens of Cairns to carry out the work which had been so ably outlined to them that evening. Large sums of money had been subscribed in this district to previous war loans, but it was thought that there were many people here who had refrained from in-

vesting because they were waiting for others in more affluent circumstances to put in their money. The time had now arrived when the Federal Government had seen fit to send organisers throughout the length and breadth of the land in order to arouse the minds of the people regarding the necessity of contributing to the war loan. It was quite clear that an active committee must be formed. He admitted that the committee would have a task ahead of them, but the time had arrived when those who could not bear arms themselves should put their money into the war loan and try and help to provide our men with food, ammunition, and guns.

Mr. Hoare moved that all present form themselves into a committee to further the success of the war loan.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Allen and carried.

The visitor then explained the aims and objects of the committee. Their local expenses would not be very great. They must make a personal census of the district. If they had a

great. They must make a personal canvass of the district. If they had a town clock it might be covered over for a week with a war loan advertisement. People were always looking at the town clock. They could get permission to cover the clock.

The Mayor: Ask Mr. Murphy.
(Laughter.)

The following executive was appointed:—The Mayor, Chairmen of the Barron Shire Council, Cairns Shire Council, President of the Chamber of Commerce, heads of the banking interests, and President and Secretary of the A.W.U. (if willing.)

Mr. G. R. Mayers said if it was the wish, the Cairns Shire Council should work in with the Cairns Town Council in regard to the loan he would have pleasure in going on the executive.

The Mayor cordially supported the suggestion.

A vote of thanks to the Mayor concluded the meeting.