

## PRESENTATION TO THE MAYOR.

### PORTRAIT OF MR. HANDS UNVEILED.

A pleasant little ceremony took place in the Council Chamber of the City Hall yesterday afternoon, when the Mayor (Mr. H. Hands) was presented by the Deputy-Mayor (Mr. R. J. Verster), on behalf of the councillors, with his portrait in oils.

The Council Chamber is already adorned with large oil paintings of former "burgomasters," starting with Johan van Riebeck, and including the late Sir John Woodhead, Mr. Atwell, Sir William Thorne and Mr. O'Reilly, as well as those who are still in the land of the living, such as Mr. T. Ball, C.M.G., Mr. H. Liberman and Sir Frederick Smith.

Mr. Martin's portrait of Mr. Hands depicts the latter in his robes of office, rising as if to address the assembly. "I have been told I wear a rather anxious look," the Mayor humorously said, but explained that this might be due to the cares of office, and keeping a heterogeneous council of 42 members in order for the past three years. At any rate, there is no doubt about the likeness.

There was a large attendance, including many ladies; amongst those present being General Martin, Messrs. W. Duncan Baxter, M.L.A., E. R. Brydone, L. Mansergh (Provincial Secretary), Senator Lance, Sir Frederick Smith, the Rev. Dr. F. C. Kolbe, the Rev. Dr. S. R. Welch, the Rev. A. P. Bender, the Rev. Canon Lavis, the Rev. F. J. Rettief, Messrs. C. J. Eibbett, W. T. Buissonne, H. Liberman, M. Buxton Forman, A. E. Perkins, Dunn, F. B. D. Smith, J. Fairbairn, and others, as well as the following members of the Council: Messrs. Cunningham, Sawkins, Neave, Gardener, Goodwin, Hopper, Brown, Smit, Purcell, Wiener, Bradford, Martin, Hare, H. Wright, Beeton, Coulter, Derty, Harvey, Honkman, Buchanan, and others, as well as the Town Clerk (Mr. J. R. Finch), the Deputy Clerk (Mr. G. A. Marsden), the Engineer (Mr. Lloyd Davies) and other officials of the city.

#### CHIEF CITIZEN'S MANIFOLD DUTIES.

In performing the ceremony the Deputy-Mayor said that, in September next Mr. Hands would have completed his third year of office of Chief Citizen of Greater Cape Town, and the fourth year as Mayor of the Mother City, and his fellow councillors felt that they could not allow the mayoral year to pass without, in some tangible manner, giving expression to their appreciation of the way in which the Mayor had at all times carried out the manifold duties devolving upon the occupant of Van Riebeck's historic chair. (Applause.) Mr. Hands had been asked to take office shortly after unification, when many problems that had been allowed to accumulate still required to be solved, and at a time of great national stress. No one could have blamed the Mayor had he shirked shouldering the responsibilities entailed. However, on that and every other occasion which he (Mr. Verster) knew of, he had proved by his conduct to be no "slacker."

"This is not the time to recapitulate the municipal work which you have been responsible for or connected with," proceeded the Deputy-Mayor, "but it does not require a very retentive memory to recall the many important matters in the interest of all sections of the community, in the solving of which the Council has been much indebted to your industry and business acumen. No reference to your work as

Mayor, however sketchy, would be complete without of what I may call your war work. You have at all times been ready to throw yourself heart and soul into any scheme having for its object the furtherance of the cause of humanity and the amelioration of the condition of those who have not been afraid to risk death that others may live. (Hear, hear.) Much of the good work that has been undertaken in this connection was inspired by you and successfully carried out, owing to the enthusiasm engendered by the noble example set by yourself. You have addressed yourself to what some may think obscure and tedious details with regard to rating, to taxation, and to other matters which do not figure at all well in platform speeches, but which require to be diligently attended to if the interests of the community are to be served."

Mr. Verster went on to say that he spoke as a citizen of no mean city, proud of its prosperity, developments and far-famed beauty, deeply interested in all that concerned it, and anxious that it might have the help of their leading citizens in the administration of its affairs. They were thankful for the great part Mr. and Mrs. Hands had taken in the civic work for the past three years, which had been to the advantage of the city and the furtherance of the great cause for which the Empire was fighting. Might the work be an inspiration to others to devote themselves to the service of their fellows by undertaking a share in municipal work!

#### A TIME-HONOURED CUSTOM.

"Mr. Mayor," the Deputy added, "it has been a time-honoured custom to perpetuate the memory of men who have helped to make history and deserve well of their country or city, by means of a portrait in oils. In your case, Mr. Mayor, such a reminder is unnecessary; your work will serve as an inspiration to future generations and a record of the features of a man who, in time of stress and trouble, spared neither himself nor those near and dear to him in the interest of his country and fellow-citizens. (Applause.) In asking your acceptance of this portrait in oils by Mr. Martin, I would beg that you would receive it as evidence of the feeling of appreciation of one whose sterling character has brought him the confidence and esteem of his fellow-Councillors and citizens; and in the second place as a small token of gratitude and recognition of the work he has done, and an assurance that those who are here as his friends and supporters are hopeful that the future may hold in store for him the recognition of the work for the Empire which we all feel is so justly merited. (Applause.)"

"Mr. Mayor, to many of us who have not had the advantage of your experience, you have proved yourself guide, philosopher and friend, and I am glad to have this opportunity of publicly testifying to your unflinching courtesy and good nature, which has been the foundation of many a friendship between you and your fellow-Councillors. I am sure I am giving utterance to what my colleagues are all thinking when I say in conclusion, 'May the wing of friendship never moult a feather.' (Applause.) I ask you to accept as a token of appreciation this portrait of a man who Cape Town is honoured by honouring." (Applause.)

Mr. Verster then unveiled the portrait.

#### HIS WORSHIP'S REPLY.

The Mayor, on rising to reply, was received with cheers. He said that he sincerely esteemed this generous mark of appreciation on the part of his colleagues in the Council. The very kind words which had fallen from the Deputy-Mayor and the manner in which they had been received, even allowing something for the glamour of the occasion, were the very best recompense that one could expect for the small services that he had been privileged to render to the city that he loved in a time of stress and strain. (Cheers.) He regarded this mark of appreciation as really a recognition of the collective efforts of a number of zealous workers in the city

of which during the greater part of the war period he had had the honour of being the official head.

If he were to speak for himself alone he would simply say "Thank you," but he thought it would be ungracious and ungrateful on his part if he did not acknowledge how much of the tribute paid to him was due to others. The many workers engaged in the war efforts in the city were really responsible for that gathering, and he could not express his thanks too heartily for all the assistance he had received during his term of office. He was conscious of much strenuous work, of few leisure moments, and a certain amount of responsibility, but it had been a privilege and a blessing to him to have shared to some extent in the labours which the war had imposed upon them—a privilege because of the opportunity of rendering even the smallest service to the cause for which the Empire was giving so liberally of its manhood and of its resources—(cheers)—and a blessing because the fulness of the occupation had left very little time for thoughts which would crowd upon anyone uncircumstanced as he was.

#### TRIBUTE TO WAR WORKERS.

Mr. Hands went on to say that if his efforts had met to some extent with the appreciation of his colleagues, it was largely due to the help he had received from Mrs. Hands. (Cheers.) She had shared to the full in most of the activities connected with his office. He thanked those present for the appreciation they had shown of one to whose devotion and sympathy he owed so much. He would like to take the opportunity of saying how much he valued the co-operation and support he had had, not only from his colleagues in the Council, but also from the many war workers to whom he had referred. He was indebted to his fellow-councillors for much forbearance and loyal assistance and to the war workers for the way in which they had helped to make it possible to extend the city's hospitality to many thousands of visiting troops and to care for the wants of our own brave fighting men. (Cheers.)

Included in the category of war workers he would mention the following bodies: The street collectors, Troops Refreshment Committee, Visiting Troops Entertainment Committee, Troops Recreation Committee, Troops Literature Committee, Gifts and Comforts Committee, Cape Corps Gifts and Comforts Committee, Recruiting Committee, Mayor's War Relief Fund Committee, Returned Soldiers' Committee, Vocational Training Committee, and the Sunday Service Committee, with which last-named body would always be connected the name of that energetic citizen, Mr. Brydone. (Cheers.) He could not speak too gratefully of the work which these committees were doing in the city.

Let him not forget what he and the city owed to the Corporation officials, headed by that urbane, courteous and energetic gentleman, Mr. Finch. (Cheers.) No Corporation ever had a more zealous officer or one more jealous of the reputation of the old Mother City, or of the dignity which it should maintain as the Parliamentary capital of the Union and the centre from which municipal government in South Africa had had its origin. The courtesy and attention which he (the Mayor) had at all times received from the City Hall staff had been of material assistance to him in the discharge of his duties. He had also been extremely fortunate in having as his deputy during the three years of his office a loyal colleague in his friend, Mr. Verster, who had worked with him in complete concord and whose ready assistance throughout that long period he most gratefully acknowledged. (Cheers.)

This concluded the ceremony and light refreshments were afterwards dispensed amongst the company.

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The portrait of the Mayor, painted by Mr. Martin, which is the gift of the members of the City Council to Mr. Harry Hands in recognition of his services as Mayor, will be presented to him in the Council Chamber at the City Hall this afternoon at 4 o'clock. No formal invitations have been issued, but citizens who may desire to attend will be cordially welcomed by the Deputy Mayor, who will make the presentation on behalf of the Council.