

THE GOVERNOR AT WOLLONGONG

Visit to the Golf Links

His Excellency's Impressions

The idea suggested itself to the promoters of the local club that if the Governor, who was known to be an enthusiastic golfer, should consent to accept the position of patron and occasionally visit the links, the Wollongong course would be brought prominently under the notice of golfers in New South Wales, as well as other colonies, and once here, the magnificent scenery and many other natural advantages of the district might safely be relied upon to exercise such influence on their minds as would ensure repeated visits by themselves and their friends. His Excellency not only agreed to accept the position of patron of the local club, but intimated that he would take an early opportunity of going around the links. That opportunity presented itself on Thursday last.

Lord Hampden, accompanied by Captain Fielden (private secretary) and Mr. Burnside, arrived by special train at quarter past eleven, and was met by Major MacCabe, Mayor of Wollongong, who is also president of the Golf Club. Although this was His Excellency's first visit to Wollongong, no public reception was accorded him, at his express desire, the visit being made simply in his private capacity. The vice-regal party were at once driven to the green, and immediately commenced a round of the links, the Governor playing with Mr. Burnside and Capt. Fielden with Mr. Prott, secretary of the local club. Lord Hampden displayed the best form, and, although considerably handicapped on account of the course being strange to him, did the nine holes in 50 strokes -- a very creditable performance.

At one o'clock an adjournment was made for luncheon, which was partaken at the Brighton Hotel; and on resuming shortly after two the Governor paired with Major MacCabe, Capt. Fielden with Mr. D. J. Stewart, Mr. Burnside with Mr. O. W. Prott, and Mr. R. Finlayson with Mr. W. J. Wiseman. The play (which was witnessed by a large number of interested spectators) was somewhat interfered with by the strong south-westerly wind which prevailed; nevertheless a very fair exposition was given. A feature of the proceedings was the magnificent driving of Mr. Burnside, who several times sent the ball a distance of over a couple of hundred yards, but his lack of familiarity with the greens discounted to some extent the advantage thus gained, and, on the twelve holes which were played, he was beaten by three, his opponent, Mr. Prott, being in very good form. Lord Hampden defeated Major MacCabe by four holes, Captain Fielden defeated Mr. Stewart by two, and Mr. Finlayson defeated Mr. Wiseman by two. At the termination of the game the players assembled near the cricket club's pavilion.....

At this point I shall spare the reader the details of the very fine speeches delivered by the Mayor and the Governor, who complimented the club on the condition of the course and its situation "along the sea-shore" but also suggested that it needed a few more bunkers. He declared Illawarra to be a very beautiful district, and described the atmosphere-today at any rate-as splendidly bracing. "Three cheers for His Excellency were then given and the vice-regal party drove off to the station shortly after four o'clock, whence they proceeded to Coolangatta."