

*On 19<sup>th</sup> April 1932, in St John's Hall Penzance, Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Penzance was conferred upon five men. 97 students, from 8 schools in the Borough of Penzance, submitted essays for a competition in connection with the event. This is one of the winning essays.*

L. W. LADNER, Coronation Villas, Mousehole, Penzance. Age 17 years.

### MY IMPRESSION OF THE CEREMONY.

After a few minutes wait, the proceedings commenced with the entrance of His Worship the Mayor, preceded by the five gentlemen to be honoured, with other officials, and heralded by the rather antediluvian "Oyez – Oyez – Oyez". Meanwhile, an orchestra under the direction of Mr. Walter Barnes played the National Anthem.

Mr. Nicholson, the Town Clerk, as a matter of form read the notice calling the meeting, and also letters of apology from various dignitaries who could not attend. Then in a short speech putting forth briefly the good work done for the town by the five, the Mayor called upon Mr. Goodfellow to propose the Resolution that the gentlemen have conferred upon them the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Penzance. In this speech Mr. Goodfellow extolled the five stalwarts, and spoke of how an essential part in the character of each was the word "service", and desire to do something useful not merely for praise, but because it needed doing.

In his speech on seconding the Resolution, Councillor Vere spoke of the large number of young people present, on whose shoulders rested the responsibility of governing the Borough in days to come, and he hoped that the present ceremony would inspire those who witnessed it to emulate the good deeds of the five gentlemen to be honoured. He also made public the fact that the scrolls to be presented were the work of two members of the local Art School, and thus it is a satisfaction to know that no outside assistance was needed in their execution.

Mr. Borlase, in supporting the resolution, spoke about some of the benefits and good work of the honoured ones, of the purchase of the land now forming the Penlee Gardens, thus preventing a picturesque corner of Mount's Bay from being ruined by present day "jerry-builders", and of the inestimable War work of Alderman Poole in the capacity of Mayor from 1914-20.

At this stage the Resolution was put to the meeting, and was unanimously declared carried, whereupon each of the five, Alderman Bazeley, Alderman Poole, Alderman Matthews, and Messrs. J.H.Tonkin and Howell Mabbott, was presented with a blue leather case containing the Roll of Freedom.

Speaking in response, Alderman Poole spoke of the good work done by the father of the last Freeman, Sir Thomas Matthews. We have a lasting memorial to that great man in the form of the present St John's Hall, for Sir Thomas Matthews had designed and supervised the building of the Hall, and no better tribute to the genius of a great man could be desired.

Mr. Howell Mabbott gave a short discourse on the growth of the town and talked generally of the beauties of Cornwall as a whole; he spoke of the good work and financial assistance for which the Borough was indebted to the late Mr. R.F.Bolitho; of how the latter had responded nobly to the needs of the town, and had presented the Borough with two fire engines.

Also Mr. J.H.Tonkin acknowledged with a short address.

It seemed to me that all the speakers were so modest, that they would rather not talk of the good done the town by themselves but extolled the virtues of others.