

War Diary

September 6, 1916

Stories from the ECHO during the war years

SHORTLY after conferring the honorary freedom of the city on the Australian Premier, the city council have now decided to inscribe on the roll the name of a local worthy, Sir William Bowring. The Lord Mayor presided at a special meeting this afternoon, when the proposal was most cordially adopted.

Sir Charles Petrie said they proposed to do the honour to one of their colleagues. Sir William entered the council in 1884, and they knew that he had been a most active, generous, hard-working citizen. They rejoiced that he still had such good health and they hoped they would have him with them for many years to come.

Liverpool, said Sir Charles, had jealously guarded the names placed on its freeman's roll, but they felt the honour was thoroughly deserved by Sir William Bowring.

He was born in 1837 in Newfoundland, came to this country very young, and was now head of a firm of considerable size, giving much employment in Liverpool. He was elected Liberal leader in 1891, and Sir Charles said that his close relationship with him, as the Conservative leader, had been of the pleasantest character.

Sir William became an alderman in 1893 and Lord Mayor in 1894. He was a most generous citizen who gave most liberally and unostentatiously to the charities of the city, and a most patriotic gentleman. Everyone knew of his gift of Bowring Park.

Mr Harrison Jones, who seconded the motion, said it would add to the pleasure of Sir William and Lady Bowring that so large a number of members who were political opponents had joined so heartily and generously in this resolution of the council. Sir William was not exactly a non-combatant. He had taken a vigorous part in their debates, and was a man of strong convictions who was not easily to be turned from the course to which he set himself.

