The New Co-operative Premises

NEW CO-OPERATIVE PREMISES FOR MELBOURNE.

The new Co-operative building erected by the Derby Society at Melbourne were opened on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Farnsworth presided over a good attendance. The Chairman said when they took over the old Melbourne Society the takings were only £50 a week, but they had increased to nearly £300 weekly. They erected the building by their own workmen which no discredit to either Melbourne Derby. They now owned the property which had cost £203,000, which was written down to a very low estimate. Then they had a reserve balance £12,000. He then handed Mr. E. Merchant. J.P. (Derby) a gilded key to unlock the door and open the new shop. Mr. Merchant performed this task, and, dealing with the productive side of operation, he said that there was much wasted land in the country that ought be brought into a state of cultivation as at Melbourne, and even, Melbourne land could be improved. We in this country ought produce more food and buy less from foreign countries. The new building is situated on the east side of the Market-place and occupies the site the old Nag's Head Inn, picturesque relic old Melbourne. After a visit to the noted Hall gardens the party adjourned to the Public Hall for tea, over 200 sitting down. Later an enjoyable concert was given in the games room. Mr. Gudgeon presiding. The artists were Miss Gladys Parker (soprano), Miss Jones (contralto). Mr. Adkin (tenor), Mr. Rodgers (bass), and Mr. Woodward (humorist).

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