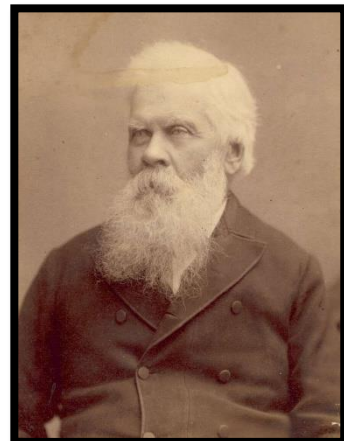


THE TENTERFIELD STAR

FRIDAY OCTOBER 25, 1889

From our special reporter on site at Tenterfield

I'm here at Tenterfield NSW. Our Premier was in town on his way back to Sydney after visiting officials in Queensland. Tenterfield pulled out all the stops to show Sir Henry Parkes the best of country hospitality. Half the town, with flags, banners and the local brass band met him at the railway station.



Sir Henry Parkes. National Library of Australia, obj.136671812

At a reception held in his honour, Parkes spoke about Federation, seeking support from those he believed would benefit most from federating. Parkes acknowledged the significant role of country folk such as us in this idea of federating. One attendee at the banquet claimed that he expected Parkes to speak with the style he is known for, but, that instead, he was not that exciting a speaker. Perhaps a little weary due to his travel.

The Premier said that country people, like us living near a border will benefit from federating, Parkes had a paid a tariff when he crossed back into NSW. Parkes focussed on three main reasons to federate: a uniform rail system, free trade between the colonies and having a unified defence force. These ideas pleased the crowd assembled. He stressed that Australia needs to avoid violence as we work towards federation, and that we would not want to go down the path that the United States did. He said:

The great question which we have to consider is, whether the time has not now arisen for the creation on this Australian continent of an Australian government and an Australian parliament ... Surely what the Americans have done by war, Australians can bring about in peace.



This writer believes that Parkes' speech has been so successful that Parkes will no doubt make similar speeches in support of Federation in the future. Sir Henry has recommended that representatives from the colonies meet together and draft a constitution.

Opening of the Tenterfield railway, 1886. National Library of Australia, obj.148884565

Questions:

1. Parkes mentioned three reasons for Federating being important, what were they?

I.

II.

III.

2. Why do you think that this speech made at Tenterfield was so important?

3. If you had been there, what might you have wanted to ask the Premier of NSW?

4. Sir Henry paid a tariff as he re-entered NSW. What is a tariff, and why do you think they were so important?

5. Research Sir Henry Parkes and list 3 interesting facts about him:

I.

II.

III.