

MILLICENT PUBLIC SCHOOL.

ROLL OF HONOR UNVEILED.

At the Millicent institute on Thursday evening last, in the presence of a large gathering of old scholars and relatives and friends of the present generation of school children, Mr P. Reidy, M.P., unveiled a roll of honor, which bears the name of a hundred old scholars of the Millicent public school who enlisted for active service. The roll is handsomely designed in oak and antique metal. It cost £40, and the school children have raised £23 of this amount by their own efforts. The chairman of the district council (Mr R. C. Mowbray) presided, and with him on the platform were Mr Reidy M.P., Mr H. J. Armitage (head teacher), Messrs T. F. Stuckey, Alex. McRostie, J. C. A. Nitschke, and G. Willshire (members of the school committee), and Mr Jas. McLaughlin. The proceedings opened with the National Anthem, and a pianoforte overture by Miss Jean McRostie. The chairman, in explaining the purpose of the gathering, mentioned that of the 230 Millicent men who had enlisted, a hundred of them were old public school scholars. Of this number 16 had made the supreme sacrifice. The men had served on all fronts and were represented in every branch of the Australian army service. Miss Valda Harvey having contributed a solo, the memorial was unveiled.

Mr Reidy, M.P., congratulated the old scholars upon being able to place on record such a magnificent list of men who served their country in its hour of need. To those who would not return they owed their first homage, and to their parents and relatives they offered their deepest sympathy. To the teachers of the school they were grateful for having instilled into the minds of the past generation of school children such a deep sense of the duties of citizenship. These rolls of honor would serve a valuable purpose in the future. To the boys and girls of the coming years they would be an incentive to patriotism and the cultivation of unselfish principles. Periods should be set aside in the school life, when instruction should be given as to the meaning of the roll, and in the debt that was due to the men whose names were inscribed thereon. An incident he read of about 12 months ago had made a great impression on his mind. Somewhere near Villers Bretonneux, in France, a tablet was unveiled by the Premier of France. It bore an extraordinary inscription. It was

by the Premier of France. It bore an extraordinary inscription. It was:—"Erected to the memory of the Australian soldiers, who saved France and civilisation." They had only to realise the millions of soldiers who were fighting in the cause of the Allies, and to remember the sacrifices that France herself had made, to appreciate the magnitude of that tribute to the Australians. There was a period in 1918 when the Germans had broken through the Allied lines, and our troops were in retreat. A few companies of Australians were called into action from far behind the lines. They marched to the front through the host of retreating men. The latter turned, followed the Australians back into action, hurled the Germans back, and from that day France and civilisation were saved. (Loud applause.) Possibly some of the names on that tablet in France were also on the roll of the Millicent school. They should realise not only the sacrifices that had been made, but what had been accomplished as a result of those sacrifices. As a people they had made great promises to the men when asking them to enlist, and now they had returned he felt that the progress in fulfilling the promises had been slow. The men were not getting all that had been promised to them. The people were already inclined to forget the war and all that it involved, including their own obligations. While he remained their representative in Parliament, nothing would be lacking on his part to see that returned soldiers received all that a grateful people could offer them. There were 60,000 reasons why Australia should be true to the ideals for which her soldiers had fought, and 16 of those sacred reasons appeared on the honor roll, to remind them that 60,000 of the best of our manhood had ~~lost their lives for this country~~ (Loud applause.)

The roll having been unveiled, Mr Armitage read the list of names, and "The Last Post" was then sounded by Bugler Holland. Miss Valda Harvey sang "Abide with Them."

The Rev. D. Chapman said he had been asked to endeavor to convey to the men whose names were on the roll the thanks of the people of Millicent for the great service they had rendered. In connection with tangible expressions of gratitude, Mr Reidy had touched on a vital point. There had been a specific case at Millicent. A soldier had come home, and while he was still in khaki he was overtaken by disaster. All of his personal belongings were destroyed. While the memory of the occurrence was fresh an appeal was made and less than half of the total amount of the man's loss was subscribed by the public

man's loss was subscribed by the public of a great and wealthy district. He felt sorry that the district had not made a better response, because it was the first appeal made in behalf of a local soldier, who was a genuine man and was in genuine need. In the name of the district, of that gathering, and of all he stood for, he thanked the men whose names were on the roll of honor. (Loud applause.)

Mr Armitage spoke of the work done by the school children during the period of the war. The total amount raised for the children's patriotic fund by the Millicent school was £500, and by the schools throughout the district £1,100 was contributed. (Applause.) He congratulated an old scholar in Miss

Valda Harvey upon the progress she had made with her musical studies. (Applause.)

Messrs T. F. Stuckey and Jas. McLaughlin also spoke.

Captain White and Cpl. Milton Stanway returned thanks on behalf of the soldiers.

Mr R. E. Bowering rendered a song. The proceedings closed with the National Anthem.
