

CAMBRIAN HILL AVENUE OF HONOR. OFFICIAL OPENING OF EXTEN SION.

The Cambrian Hill Avenue of Honor was recently extended by the addition of 20 trees, making a total of 60 trees, which stand as memorials to that number of young men who went from the district to the war. The work of planting the trees and erecting the guards was carried out in the winter, and the official opening of the extension was performed on Saturday afternoon by the Hon. Alex. Bell, M.L.C., in the presence of a large and representative assemblage. At both ends of the Avenue, which runs along the main road—the scene of very great activity in the early mining days—flags of the Allied nations fluttered gaily in the breeze. The St. Joseph's Home Band was in attendance, and enlivened the proceedings with patriotic airs. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr D. C. McGrath M.H.R., the Mayor of Sebastopol (Cr D. Hughes), and Cr D. McKay (Buninyong Shire Council). The president of the Buninyong Shire (Cr Geo. Eason) presided over the gathering, which included many ladies. Amongst the visitors present were the Hon. A. Bell, M.L.C., Mr D. Gibson, M.L.A., Crs E. M. Tonkin, R. Odgers, and E. Jenkins, and Mr W. D. Thomas (of Camperdown), a former teacher at the Cambrian Hill State school.

The proceedings opened with the singing of the National Anthem.

The Chairman remarked that they had assembled to do honor to the young men of Cambrian Hill who had responded voluntarily and cheerfully to the Empire's call. It was remarkable that a place with the small population of Cambrian Hill should have contributed 60 men. This was a truly magnificent response, and the district was to be congratulated on the achievement. They deeply regretted that 18 of the Cambrian Hill boys who had enlisted had made the supreme sacrifice, and their sympathy went out to the bereaved relatives. He sincerely hoped that the Government would do its duty, and provide amply for the returned men and the dependents of those who were incapacitated. It was pleasing to see that the people of Cam-

bridge were so interested. It was pleasing to see that the people of Cambrian Hill had risen to the occasion, and had established an Avenue of Honor in memory of the brave men who had gone from their midst.

Mr D. Gibson, M.L.A., paid a tribute to the bravery of the Cambrian Hill men who had volunteered, and expressed the hope that repatriation would be carried out on sound lines.

Cr Jenkins (Sebastopol) spoke of the sacrifices which the young men of Cambrian Hill had made in giving their services to the Empire, and of the noble part which they had taken in the fight for freedom.

Mr W. D. Thomas said he was proud of the fact that some of the young men who had gone to the war from Cambrian Hill had been taught by him, and he supposed that some of them had been caned by him. (Laughter.) In educating the children it had always been his aim to instil into them a spirit of loyalty to King and country. A few years ago they regarded a disloyal person as the meanest thing on God's earth and by what they read in the newspapers in these days, there must be many mean things on God's earth. A few years ago there was no such thing as disloyalty, but they now had it rampant in their land, and this was to be deplored. He was pleased to know that there were not many disloyal people in Cambrian Hill judging by the avenue of honor and the number of boys who had enlisted. They sympathised deeply with those who had lost sons, but there was some consolation in the fact that they had died the most glorious form of death that could be desired.

Cr Tonkin (ex-president of the Buninyong Shire) said he felt confident that their politicians on both sides were sincere with regard to repatriation, and he thought they were going to do the best that they could for Australia. (Hear hear.)

Cr A. Bell, M.L.C., said he had just left England for Australia when news was flashed to the steamer that Great Britain had declared war on Germany. In the discussions which followed the attitude which Australia would take up was mentioned, and he then predicted a great response on the part of the men here, for he knew how plucky they were, and how free from any

they were, and how free from any fear they were. They had proved this right up to the hill at Gallipoli and in Flanders and France. These men by their noble deeds had shed honor and glory on Australia. What else could they expect when they remembered that these men were the descendants of the old pioneers, who were as loyal as any people who ever breathed. (Applause.) The sons and daughters of those old pioneers had shown most conclusively that they were proud of the nation to which they belonged. He asked would any other nation on God's earth have done what Britain had done in connection with the war? She had stood resolutely with her back to the wall, and it was only a question of time when her efforts would be rewarded. When the history of Mons and Neuve Chapelle came to be written it would be shown what a glorious part in the war the men of Britain had played. When he was coming home from England, and they were on the steamer at Gibraltar it was stated that the Germans were in Paris. Like a shot he said, "It is a damned lie!" (Laughter.) It came out before he realised it, but it was what he felt, for

he had sufficient confidence in his country to know better. (Applause.) He was glad to take part in the opening of the Cambrian Hill avenue of honor. They had heard of the Government putting men without any qualification on the land. Personally he thought it the height of absurdity to put men on the land when they did not possess the necessary experience. (Hear, hear.) Men to go on to land and make a success of it had to serve an apprenticeship just as they did at any trade. They did not want to see any mistake made in dealing with the returned men. The wounded and permanently incapacitated must be properly cared for, and kept in comfort as long as they lived. He had much pleasure in declaring the avenue open. (Applause.)

On the motion of Mr Owen Williams, seconded by Mr A. Redgwood, a vote of thanks was passed to the speakers.

Subsequently refreshments, provided by the ladies, were served in the State school.

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