

## SOLDIERS' MEMORIALS.

### DIGBY AVENUE OF HONOUR.

In all parts of the Wannon electorate various movements to perpetuate the memory of the men who have gone forth to play their part in the great world war are being carried out. In no part of the electorate does greater enthusiasm prevail than in the little hamlet of Digby, situated six miles south of Merino. Digby has decided that every one of its soldiers shall have a tree planted to his memory, and not only to Digby soldiers to this honour restricted, as the committee has decided that a tree may be planted to any soldier, whether he was formerly a resident or otherwise. Two conditions only are insisted upon—not hard conditions, but extremely wise ones. Firstly, the person planting the tree must look after such tree until such time as the tree has firmly established itself, and secondly, that all trees must be the same. The tree selected is the Canadian Elm tree, which has proved itself at home in this district. The site for the avenue is on the rising ground on the Digby to Portland road, and a more suitable site it would be impossible to find. On August 11th, 1917, 87 trees were planted, and owing to the great interest and care taken in the trees by those who planted them, backed up by the assistance and knowledge of the tree planting committee, every one has made splendid growth. In the cool of the evenings during last summer the trees received every attention. At one tree could be seen an aged couple, watering the tree which was so dear to them, because it stood for their dear boy "some where" in France. At another tree an even more touching picture could be seen, for those gently tending it knew that within the past few months their boy had given his life for the Empire. It is not, however, all sadness, for further along the avenue is seen a happy little group, and their happiness is caused by the fact that they are this evening showing their soldier lad the tree planted in his honour. The soldier, as he gazes at the tree, feels that it is good to have been spared to return, but as he casts his eyes along the avenue he feels the sadness for those whose dear ones will never return. Looking upon such pictures, it is impossible to imagine a more appropriate manner in which to honour the memory of our lads. Every tree is protected by a strong guard, upon which on a metal plate is printed in large letters the soldier's name. To those soldiers who pay the supreme sacrifice a small black cross is placed on the plate. It is greatly regretted that about 25 per cent. have already the cross on the plate. A small souvenir of the Digby soldiers' av-

enue has been printed, and it contains the names of all soldiers and of those who planted the trees. On Saturday, July 27, the second tree-planting took place in the presence of between two and three hundred people. Complete arrangements were made by the committee. In Mr. G. T. Graham the committee has a most enthusiastic worker, whose heart is thoroughly in the movement. The visitors were welcomed by Cr. Gavin Shaw, and after the tree planting all present were entertained by the ladies of Digby at afternoon tea. Short addresses suitable to the occasion were delivered by Crs. Merrill and Rhodes (Glencel), Mr. S. L. Officer (Hamilton), Rev. J. P. Schussler, and Mr. Dunstan. The singing of several patriotic songs by the school children was heartily applauded. At the conclusion, Mr. G. T. Graham proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies for their kindly hospitality, and this was carried by hearty acclamation, and the proceedings terminated with the National Anthem. Apologies for unavoidable absence were read from Mr. A. S. Rodgers, M.H.R., Mr. H. J. M. Campbell, M.L.A., Mr. Jno. Little (resident Glencel shire), and Cr. Malseed (of the Portland shire).