

## LURG HONOR ROLL

### Unveiling Ceremony.

The unveiling of the honor roll in the Lurg State school was performed on Tuesday afternoon last by the Rev. A. C. M'Connan. Lieut. Col. Thwaites had been invited to perform the ceremony, and had consented to do so, but at the last moment he was prevented from attending. Mr. Thos. Elliott, the chairman of the School Committee, presided, and there was a very large attendance, including the Hon. J. J. Carlisle, M.L.A., Rev. A. C. M'Connan, Major Mitchell, Captains Monteath and Manwell, Mr. F. J. Green, B.A. (inspector of schools), Mr. H. J. Guppy (president of the Benalla branch of the Fathers' Association), and Cr. Dallas. The meeting opened with the singing of the National Anthem.

The Chairman in opening the proceedings explained that during the war the Lurg school had contributed £98 18/5 to the Patriotic fund and £30 4/6 was subscribed in War Savings Certificates. He was glad to see so many returned boys present that afternoon. To each boy who had gone away a send-off and wristlet watch were given, also a welcome home to each of those who had returned. He apologised for the absence of Mr. Cook, M.P., Dr. Harris, M.L.C., and Dr. Thwaites.

The hymn "God of Our Fathers" was sung by the children.

Mr. Carlisle, who was greeted with applause, said it gave him great pleasure to be present that afternoon. As the war receded, it became apparent what a great sin it was on the part of those who started the war. Germany, as a nation, lost its head, and wanted to control all the world. The other nations found that they had to oppose that. Instead of being slaves to-day to the German nation, we were a free empire. It had been the greatest war in the world, and the death roll had

in the world, and the death roll had far transcended anything before. Things were in a bad state all over the world, and it would take generations to get back to the prosperity we enjoyed before the war. In all parts of the Commonwealth memorials were being put up to those who made the supreme sacrifice. It showed a fine feeling on the part of those who were doing this, and showed that they were not forgetful of those who made the sacrifice. He spoke of the critical condition in which many soldiers who had gone on the land were placed, owing to the slump which had taken place in prices. They could not let them go to the wall without giving them all the help possible. He congratulated them on erecting a memorial which would remain for many generations. The war showed that amongst the most disciplined troops the Australians could hold their own. At the close of the war they showed that they were better able to stem the German advance than any other troops. They felt very proud of the memorial, and they hoped that those who came after them would appreciate the feelings they had towards them. (Applause.)

The Rev. A. C. M'Connan then unveiled the honor roll, and before doing so read the names on it. The names were inscribed on a handsome blackwood tablet, and in the centre were photos of the soldiers who had enlisted from Lurg, and on the side were 16 other names of soldiers who had attended the Lurg school. The names were as follows:—Old School-boys:—G. Bowden, J. Bowden, W. Bowden, W. Challis, E. Challis, Alex. Elmslie, F. Gardiner, F. S. Gardiner, O. Helms, J. Lloyd, J. Lloyd, W. Lloyd, W. Mills, H. Plant, R. Sutton, W. Sanders. Photos:—Pte. E. Brown, G. Lewis,\* E. A. Smith,\* R. H. Gardiner,\* B. McClelland, G. Ford, W. Pringle, P. P. Smith, W. H. Gardiner, T. Green, P. C. Joyce, H. E.

diner, T. Green, P. C. Joyce, H. E. Ford, F. S. Smith, F. Brown, A. L. Gardiner.

*\*Supreme sacrifice.*

Mr. M'Connan then offered up a prayer, after which he unveiled the roll.

Mr. M'Connan said Mr. Carlisle had spoken of what was thought of ten years ago, but to some of them that did not seem a very long period. Ten years ago they would never have believed there would have been such a gathering as that in the Lurg school that day. There had been strange happenings and great changes. They had heard of the great war and they felt that they had been favored to live in very extraordinary times. They lived in a quiet spot, but the war had touched them very much indeed. It was said to be a national war, not of professional soldiers or the heads of Governments, but a war of the people. We could see how true that was, as in all parts of the country there went forth our fairest and our best. Those who were unable to go did their part, and all had shown how deeply and closely the great war had touched their hearts. They thought of the returned soldiers, and it could be understood that the position of many was not quite that which was expected. He would like to say to those present who "did their bit" there was one thing that could never be taken from them, and that was the glorious sense of duty done. That was something which could never be taken from them. There were those all over the country who had to mourn the loss of their very best, and he need not say there was a very deep sympathy for those who had lost their dear ones. Especially did one like himself, who had been able to welcome all his boys back, feel for those who had suffered bereavement. They had the compensation of knowing that their boys had died gloriously, and surely that was a comfort that they could never lose. In conclusion, he thanked the promoters of that gathering, not only for inviting him to be present, but also

for the great honor they did him in giving him such an important part in their programme. (Applause.)

Mr. Green, on behalf of the Education Department, thanked them for presenting the school with the roll of honor. There was nothing which would have such an effect on our nation as their rolls of honor. It was not military training and war that made Great Britain the nation that she was, but sentiment and the right aspiration. It was tradition, and the national sentiment of the British nation. Australia before the war had no history but the war had left us a history—a very sad one to some fathers and mothers; but it was now hoped that Australia would stand up for what was right. He spoke of the influence of the teacher, and said that the children were going to receive a silent lesson under that roll of honor, in realising what it meant. (Applause.)

Major Mitchell, who was received with applause, said he was very pleased to be with them that day. He wanted to thank them on behalf of their lads for what they had done in erecting the honor roll. He also desired to thank all those who gave their best, and to extend to them his heartfelt sympathy. It was a difficult thing to say what the boys had done over the other side, but he thought what they had done would go down to history. The present generation, he hoped, would emulate the splendid spirit of self-sacrifice and loyalty of

those who went over there and helped their country. He spoke of the impetuosity of the Australians, and said many of them lost their lives in that way, but there were thousands of men who had shown great bravery. He also thanked the people of Lurg for sending so many of their men to the war, and erecting that honor roll. (Applause.)

(Applause.)

Cr. Dallas was received with applause, and he said there was not a braver race in the world than the Australians. They were also the best workers, and why should not they be, because they came from the best stock. He would give every boy who went to the war the V.C. The Government were not doing their best for the lads. They put the lads on the land, and put valuations on, and so took away in expenses all that they gave. (Applause.)

Mr. Guppy said it struck him very forcibly when he looked round that Lurg had not an eligible man left in the district while the war was on. He urged the younger generation to reverence the honor roll, and to be obedient to their parents and teachers. (Applause). He believed they were a good lot of children, because Lurg children had always been well spoken of. (Hear, hear.) He hoped they would never be called upon to go to a war, but they could live up to high ideals and do their duty. (Applause) Those who fell at the war died a noble death, doing their duty to those who remained. (Applause.)

Mr. Carlisle, on behalf of the Defence Department, then presented the school with a machine gun captured by the A.I.F. He complimented Miss Osberg (the teacher), who had been instrumental in getting up that honor roll, and also did a lot of patriotic work during the war. (Applause).

The Chairman then moved a vote of thanks to all those who had assisted and the proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

The visitors were hospitably entertained by the ladies of Lurg at afternoon tea, which was greatly appreciated.