

Soldiers Memorial at Narracan.

Mr Thos. S. Savige writes as follows regarding above memorial :

A public meeting was held on Sept. 12th, 1919, in the Mechanics' Institute to appoint a committee to carry out some form of memorial in honor of the fallen soldiers from Narracan at which I was appointed hon. Secretary and Treasurer. The site chosen was a triangular piece of land near the Institution at the junction of five roads ; namely Morwell, Mirboo, Moe, Thorpdale and Trafalgar. The Council kindly had it surveyed and handed over for the purpose.

Four subscription lists were issued and cash £⁹⁶/₉/₆ resulted. It was resolved to erect a memorial stone of Harcourt granite 12ft. high, bearing suitable inscription with the names of the fallen men ; the inhabitants volunteering to find material and labour, to clear, plow, grade and fence the plot. Curiously the spot chosen is near where the first settlers camp was formed about 50 years ago ; when it was included in the great South Gippsland Forest, with (so called) undergrowth 30ft. high and great Eucalyptus, rivaling the *Wellingtonia gigantea* of California in girth and height, were much in evidence. The plot is on high ground and has a fine view over the Narracan Valley from the West. In our small way we are as proud of our picture as Sydney is of its harbour, perhaps with a little more reason, because the humane element has had more to do with its evolution, and many of the blind artists who worked on it have gone West. It is a lovely picture changing with the seasons.

The unveiling ceremony was performed by the Hon. G. H. Wise on Empire Day, who, in an impressive

and serious speech emphasised the fact that war left in its wake poverty, broken hearts, hatred, and that the betterment of the world could only be effected by cultivating a spirit of unselfishness, brotherly love and helpfulness. The President, Cr.s McGregor and Shackleton were also present. A fine day and large attendance made the ceremony a success. Along the east side of the plot 12 golden cypress trees are planted, which promise to be very beautiful in years to come. The wisdom in choosing this spot will be emphasised more and more as time rolls on.

I congratulate the residents on the fine spirit of unanimity with which this work has been brought to a successful finish.