

COUNTRY NEWS.

NAPOLEONS STATE SCHOOL

THE HONOR BOARD.

UNVEILING CEREMONY.

Napoleons, Saturday.

One of the most important and interesting functions in the history of the Napoleons State school took place this afternoon, when the honor board of the school was unveiled in the presence of a very large assemblage, the school being crowded to overflowing, despite a heavy thunderstorm which occurred about 2 p.m. The farmers, who form the majority of the community here, came in even greater numbers than usual to jubilate as it were over the welcome downpour, for a good rainfall was very much required in this district. There were visitors present from Ballarat, Melbourne, and other parts of the State. There was an exceptionally large number from Sebastopol. Owing to the reception being given to the French Mission the same day apologies were received from the Minister of Education and the Director (Mr Frank Tate), regretting their inability to attend the function. In the absence of official representatives the Parliamentary representative for Grenville (Mr Gibson, M.L.A.) performed the ceremony. Mr Kingston, of the local school committee, very ably presided, and in introducing Mr Gibson to the gathering, made reference to the fine artistic piece of work contained in the honor board, and explained that it has 44 names (43 of whom had enlisted in the A.I.F. and one in the Australian Navy) inscribed on it, and has the unique feature of possessing a cabinet, containing a book in which are compiled the military records attached to each name on the board. There is also a photographic album in the school for the keeping of portraits of any of the boys whose names appear on the roll, and whose relatives may kindly forward such photographs to the head teacher, Mr Price. Messdames Andrews, Drever, Toomey, and Carpenter have already forwarded portraits of their boys who have gone to the front, two of whom (sons of the two former mentioned mothers) have been killed. Mr Gibson, in his address in unveiling the honor board, said that it was with mixed feelings

of pleasure and regret that he performed the unveiling ceremony, for the roll contained a somewhat large number of fallen heroes. (Twelve or over 25 per cent. of those former pupils of the Napoleons school who had enlisted had been killed in action). He congratulated the school committee, the teachers, and the local people on the fine honor board they had furnished their school with. Mr Gibson, amidst much applause, added that it was one of the finest honor boards he had seen. Among the speakers who followed Mr Gibson were Mr A. Bell, M.L.C., Mr O. C. McGrath, M.H.R., Rev. A. Isaacs (pastor of the local Congregational Church), Mr Stephenson (State school inspector), Crs Jones, Odgers, and Jenkins (of Sebastopol), Major Ellingsen (head teacher of the Sebastopol State school), and who represented the school teachers of the district, Sergeant Fry (recruiting officer), and Mr Ellingsen, in whose factory the honor board was designed and manufactured. The total work cost £20, which sum was generously subscribed by the local people, with a few outside contributions. All these speakers referred proudly to the large number of enlistments (44) which had taken place among the old scholars of the Napoleons school. They also expressed the sincerest sympathy with the bereaved relatives of the fallen ones. As the veil over the honor board was drawn aside all present applauded in recognition of the splendid piece of work unveiled before their eyes, and joined in singing "Remember, Lord," followed by Kipling's "Recessional." In an interval a recitation was splendidly rendered by four children of the 8th grade, namely, Misses Lizzie Kingston, Jessie Martin, Vin Bray and Master Trevor Price. A school fund has been opened for planting trees to honor the memory of the fallen boys. Mr George Morgan has very kindly contributed a guinea to this fund, and Mr Price half a guinea. A hearty and comprehensive vote of thanks, on the motion of Mr McGrath, was passed to the chairman, all the speakers and others who had assisted to make the unveiling ceremony the brilliant success which it was. Mr Price very ably seconded the motion, thanking all for their attendance, their enthusiasm, and their appreciation of the efforts the school committee and himself had made to bring the school honor board to a happy and successful consummation. In justice to Mr Price it should be stated that he has labored exceedingly

stated that he has labored exceedingly hard in connection with the honor board for a considerable time past. In this work he was ably assisted by Mrs Price and Miss Watson (assistant teachers). The above vote of thanks was carried with acclamation. The singing of "God Save the King" and "Bless our Splendid Men" concluded one of the most successful school functions ever witnessed at Napoleons.

Refreshments were provided for the visitors and the general public, the latter contributing a small fee, the proceeds of which will be devoted to the Repatriation Fund. It was a great success, the hall being crowded to the doors. Mrs Austin (piano), Messrs John Austin and Isaac Lloyd (violin) provided excellent dance music, while Mr Kingston, ably assisted by Mr Jas Kinsey, made an efficient M.C.

The following is a list of the names appearing on the honor board, the asterisk after a name signifying killed in action:—Harris, J. E.; *Bourke, T. W.; *Jude, Harold, D.; Davies, Thos.; Bray, Alfred; *Gilmore, George; Morgan, H. V.; Gilmore, Samuel; Parker, H. J.; *Bray, Frank; Austin Leslie; Odgers, Victor; Gay, J. W.; *Coad, Gordon; Garrett, Edward P.; Gay, R. A.; *Morgan, Robert; Austin, George; *Haley, Wm.; Price-Smith, H. S.; Ryan, T. H.; Haulon, Wm.; Porter, A. B.; Rumlér, H. V.; Lamyon, J. R.; *Robinson, Robert; *Kincaide, Richard; Kincaide, T. J.; Toomey, J. J.; *Andrews, Robert; Anthony, R. L.; Anthony, Lewis; Davies, Gordon; *Drever, James D.; Hankinson, J.; *Hooker, Leslie; Austin, H. T. F.; Clarke, C. A. P.; Carpenter, S. E.; Gordon, H. D.; Carpenter, D.; Bourke, Milton; Drever, D. J.; Vance, R. B. All these names are inserted in golden letters. In similar letters the board is surmounted with the words—"For God, King and Empire" and "Capio Lumen."