

Gippsland Times (Vic. : 1861 - 1954), Monday 16 June 1924, page 3 (2)



Yesterday afternoon the Fallen Soldiers' Memorial erected by the people of Sale and District was unveiled in the presence of a large and reprethe vicinity of the memorial were congested with motor cars, the whole countryside turning out to pay tribute to Australia's sons who had died in defence of their country, and in the cause of freedom and justice. Mingled in the gathering were a large number of returned soldiers from all parts of the district. The memorial which occupies a commanding position in Raymond Street near the Post Office, is a very fine one, worthy of the men in whose honor it has been erected, and also of the district. The Memorial, which is symbolical of Victory, is twenty feet high. Its base is of Harcourt granite of five tiers, on which is erected four polished granite pillars surrounding the die stone, which the inscripton is ion in raised metal lettering, surmounted by a bronze A.I.F. badge. The inscription reads: "Erected by the people of Sale and District in grateful memory of their men who fell in the Great War. 1914-18.

"Greater love hath no man that this that a man lay down his life for his friend."

The coping stone on the pillar supports additional tiers of fine granite, which is surmounted by the figure of a woman carved out of the best Italian marble. In her right hand is the bronze figure of an angel holding out a laurel wreath symbolical of Victory, and in her left upraised hand she holds a palm leaf

upraised hand she holds a palm leaf typifying Peace. The memorial, which is situated in the foreground of an avenue of trees, was erected at a cost of over £900, which was raised by direct appeal to the people, the success of which was largely due to the activity displayed by the ladies' committee which comprised Messlames Coulson, T. A. Robinson, and Mrs C. M. Mills, together with a men's committee composed of the Mayor (Cr. S. Bolithe) Hon. G. H. Wise, R. J. Mitchell (Secretary.) A build ing committee comprising the Mayor, Hon G. H. Wise, Cr. Stevens, and Messrs R. J. Mitchell and R. P. Jamieson superintended the erection of the memorial, the work being carried out by Mr J. Triggs, who, as his donation also executed the inscription.

The monument was veiled with the Union Jack, whilst the flags of the Allies were suspended across the highways.

The 13th. Light Horse, 40 strong, were in attendance with Colonel Daley in command, also the 3rd. Cavalry Brigade Band, which latter rendered selections and hymns. It was the first occasion the Band appeared in public in their new uniforms.

The Sale Company of Girl Guides were also in attendance with their Captain (Miss Loder) in command. They presented an impossing appearance in their neat uniforms.

Associated with the Mayor at the Memorial were Brigadier-General Forsyth, Hon. G. H. Wise, Mr. R. J. Mitchell (members of the committee), Mr. A. Mathieson (Fathers' Association), Archdeacons Weir and White, Revs. R. Robinson (Baptist), W. D. Revs. R. Robinson (Baptist), W. D. Marshall (Presbyterian), H. M. Knuckey (Methodist), and Ensign Quantock, each of the church representatives taking active part in the service.

The Mayor briefly referred to the steps that had been taken in the erection of the memorial, from the inception of the movement. The memorial, which had been selected from 30 designs submitted, was a most beautiful one, which would serve to remind the rising generation of the brave deeds performed by the Australian soldiers, and the sacrifices they had made. It would be invidious to single out any subscription that had been received towards the

memorial, but the committee fe': that they must make an exception in the case of Mr. Nicholas Ray, of Marley street, who, though he had lost three sons in the war, had come along and handed in £6 towards the memorial.

Brigadier-General Forsyth delivered a very fine address, in the course of which he said it was a great honor to him to be invited to unveil the monument. He had seen many monuments all over Australia and he would say that nowhere had he seen a more beautiful or better memorial than that which had been erected by the people of Sale. The fact that he had unveiled it would cause Sale to have a place in his affections for the remainder of his life. The General went on to relate the liking the Australian soldier had of singing hymns while in camp, and when upon the battlefield. He related one incident where four thousand Victorians waited in a wood, unable to disclose their location because of a German obser-

location because of a German observation balloon in the air. While they waited they asked permission to sing hymns, and he well recollected hearing every word across the valley of "Nearer My God to Thee" which was their favorite hymn, and "Abide With Me." Later on when those four thousand went past to the hell of a fight at Pozieres, he noticed that everyone of them had a smile upon his face Of those who went into that fight a thousand had not returned-they had gone nearer to their God. Of the others many of them were bruised and battered. After dwelling upon the Australian soldiers as he found them at the front, General Forsyth referred to the proclaiming in Sydney of Australia as a nation, 24 years ago, amidst all the pomp and ceremony of State. But the birth of Australia as a nation took place through her soldiers in 1915. Their men with the men of Allied nations had set out to fight for Right as against Might. He referred to the time when doubts were expressed as to their ability to win the war, when Peace by negotiation was advocated by a few craven spirits. But the true Britishers were in the majority, and they never wavered in the fight for justice and freedom and righteousness. But though Victory was attained and Peace had come the War had left an aftermath which was just as serious for coming generations as was the winning of the war. They had problems that required their most serious consideration today. Since Australia had become a nation the eyes of other nations were upon her. Her White Australia had become endangered and they needed to fill this continent-Immigration was badly needed, both for production and defence. The United States had imaginary boundaries, but Australia was the only nation that possessed a whole continent with the wide ocean

whole continent with the wide ocean all round its shores. It was a beauful and wonderful country. He hav on many occasions stood on vantage grounds in various parts of Australia and viewed their great heritage, with its illimitable Queensland canefields. In other parts his eyes roamed over fields of waving corn as far as his vision extended whilst or the plains he had ridden through country with grass up to his horse's saddle. Theirs was truly a great heritage. Their men had gone forth to preserve it to them. Whilst they considered the privileges they enjoyed they should give thought to the mother land, over which a pall hung due to the economic problems that had to be solved as the aftermath of war, but which were being bravely faced and gradually overcome. It was his pleasing duty to unveil the memorial, which would serve to remind the coming generations of the sacrifices that had been made by Australin's sons in the defence of the principle of right against might. The conument would exist for conturies,

and he hoped it would always remain on British soil. Whilst they recognised the great sacrifices their men had made on their behalf, there remained in their midst those who were suffering from the effects of the war and would continue to do so till the end of life. He tendered words of sympathy to the bereaved ones, who though they had suffered from the horrors of war, bore up courageously, and were continuing to do so.

The Last Post was sounded by Bandmaster Matthews.

Whilst the Band played "Load Kindly Light" a number of wreaths were placed on the monument. One placed on the stone by Miss E. Wise,

placed on the stone by Miss E. Wise, president of the A.W.A., was a very beautiful one composed of laurel leaves. Mrs. J. Mills of "Powerscourt" was represented by two wattle blossom wreaths, one bearing the inscription "Remember the Dead, let the living be grateful." Wreaths were also in evidence from the A.W.N.L., the Bowling Club, the Mayoress (Mrs. Bolitho), Mesdames Coulson, T. A Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Mitchell and Mrs. W. Borthwick, Senr.

At the conclusion of the service, on behalf of the committee and residents of Sale and district Mrs. Coulson in appropriate terms handed the memorial over to the Borough Council.

The Mayor accepted the memorial and made a fitting response.

The service concluded with the National Anthem and the Benediction.

Fellowing is a list of the men who made the supreme sacrifice, in whose bonor the memorial was crected-

| A. Abernethy | C. C. Lord |
|----------------|-----------------|
| A. A. Cernethy | L. Lyons |
| H. Aitken | T. Martin |
| M. Aitken | R. Martin |
| W. R. Bingham | A. Masters |
| J. Bird | C. McLaren |
| W. A. Blair | L. R. Meldrum |
| C. W. Bolitho | A. Milne |
| K. Borthwick | Al? Napper |
| A. J. Bower | A. Napper |
| D. W. Calder | C. T. Nicholl |
| C. Camp | W. O'Keefe |
| G. R. Clapham | J. O'Leary |
| E. R. Cleaver | G. W. D. Oliver |
| W. J. Cloak | C. Pain |
| H. C. Clues | A. F. Paulet |
| C. E. Cox | C. H. Phillips |
| R. J. Cobain | A. Ray |
| - Costello | H. Ray |
| H. N. Cummin | L. Ray |
| M. J. Davidson | C. S. Reid |
| P. Davis | H. Renshaw |
| P. C. Davis | A. Ricketts |
| J. Davis | W. Roadnight |
| J. A. Dix | L. C. Roth |

| J. A. Dix | L. C. Roth |
|------------------|------------------|
| J. C. Duffy | C. Robinson |
| C. H. Dyer | W. H. Ruff |
| V. T. Fitzgerald | W. Sanders |
| W. E. Garrett | M. Sterling |
| A. J. Glass | C. Stone |
| V. D. Grenville | P. Smith |
| E. C. Hagan | J. Templeton |
| C. A. Hall | D. Thomas |
| S. Hansen | B. Thomson |
| C. L. Harrison | L. Tiffett |
| L. James | R. J. Tyler |
| J. Irvine | T. O. M. Vincent |
| W. Jones | H. W. White |
| S. P. Keay | F. Wilson |
| J. Kiernan | J. Wilson |
| W. King | J. J. Woodhouse |
| R. Lawless | R. Worthington |
| R. Leslie | |