

SOLDIERS' HONOR ROLL.

UNVEILED AT CENTRAL
SCHOOL.

EARL OF STRADBROKE
SPEAKS.

Tuesday was a great day at the local Central State School. It had been chosen by the School Committee as the fixture for unveiling the handsome brass memorial affixed to the north-east corner of the extensive building. The event represented the first visit to Williamstown of the Earl of Stradbroke, who was accompanied by Lady Stradbroke. Others of the visiting party were Hon. Mr. Disney, M.L.C.; Mr. Frank Tate, Director of Education; and Mr. John Lemmon, M.L.A. The visitors were met by the Mayor and Mayoress (Cr. and Mrs. E. Bliss), Mr. W. D. Morgan (chairman), Mr. H. S. Woolfe (secretary), and other members of the School Committee. Nearly 1000 pupils welcomed the visitors, who were received by a "guard of honor." As the naval and military cadets were apparently not obtainable, the headmaster, Major S. Barclay, improvised as such 200 of the "tiny tots" of the Hanmer-street Kindergarten to fill the void, which the youngsters did most enthusiastically, with the aid of the teaching staff. The incident evidently commanded unique interest for His Excellency and Lady Stradbroke. What Her Excellency doubtless regarded as a pretty little courtesy was the presentation to her at arrival, by the orphan daughter of an unreturned sailor, Jean Myles, of a handsome bouquet. The act was much applauded by all present, including a large assemblage of sight-seers. The memorial roll contains 504 names (including 4 nurses), 69

of whom made the "supreme sacrifice." Central State School, it may be mentioned, collected £474/1/3 in cash, and also a good deal in kind, towards assisting the great efforts made by the State School children all over Victoria during the currency of the war to provide comforts for the soldiers.

Addresses were given by the Earl of Stradbroke, Mr. J. Lemmon, M.L.A., Mr. W. D. Morgan, the Mayor and Mr. Frank Tate. Among other things shown the visitors during an inspection of the class rooms was a handsomely illuminated certificate, bearing the names of 180 "old boys," who had been members of the Victorian Naval Contingent that in 1900 took part in the Boxer rising in China.

The memorial is in bronze, and cost £150. It is 6ft. 6in. high, and 6ft. broad, and at the top was draped in the colors of 17 battalions. In addition to the names, it bore a border lettering thus:—"School No. 1183. In honor of the Old Scholars of this School," and at foot, "The Great War, 1914-1919." In the centre, under "Lives Sacrificed," appears the names of the gallant fellows who never returned. It was designed and executed in his best style by Mr. E. L. Morton.

The school ground and its approaches from Cecil and Parker-streets were lavishly "dressed" in bunting.

Chairman Morgan, having duly welcomed the visitors to the dais, said the school committee now offered this handsome memorial to the city to hold and respect in remembrance of the gallant pupils of that school, who had gone to uphold the honor of their country. (Applause.) They had now this handsome memorial in bronze executed with Mr. Morton's best skill. It had cost £150, and was a proof that the "digger" had not been forgotten. (Applause).

The speaker likewise later paid compliment to Mr. Lemmon, M.L.A.,

compliment to Mr. Lemmon, M.L.A., for the practical interest he had taken in the matter. He desired to appeal to the headmaster and teaching staff of the school to continue to uphold the high ideals before the children that this memorial was designed to foster. (Applause.) They were delighted to have with them that day his Excellency the Governor, the Earl of Stradbroke, and Lady Stradbroke. (Renewed cheers).

His Excellency was proud, as the representative of his Majesty the King, to have the honor of unveiling this handsome memorial. Until he had traversed the 12,000 miles himself, he had not realised the tremendous distances they had travelled to and fro in the service they had rendered to the British flag. (Cheers.) That so many men should come from Australia "to do their bit" showed a splendid sense of duty. That day they had gathered to do honor to those who had left behind them so splendid an example to follow. (Applause.) The names they were now honoring were the names of those they had known in life and respected, and was a proof positive that they were one people; men of a race always ready to uphold its rights. They must all realise that, as the result of this war, men participating in it were not what they originally were. Their nerves were shaken; they had not yet returned to normal. He knew it by himself. He had become irritable without any apparent cause at times. In conclusion, he desired to say he trusted all present would keep in mind the gallant conduct of those whose names he was now about to unveil.

Assisted by ex-Warrant Officer T. Mooney and Chief Petty Officer J. Forbes, his Excellency then withdrew the coverings from the ornate brass tablet, while all sang, "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow."

Mr. Frank Tate, Director of Education, was pleased to assist in placing this memorial on their school. During the war the Education Department had organised the schools for service, and the Comforts Fund had benefited through their instrumentality to the extent of 442,000 articles—socks and garments suitable for, and which had been used, in the trenches by Australian soldiers.

for, and which had been used, in the trenches by Australian soldiers. (Cheers.) He knew of a case where a little girl had knitted 300 pairs of socks herself. And this self-sacrifice helped to mould character; her act would burn into her soul; she would be a finer woman for it. (Hear, hear.) And not alone did the children of the Victorian State schools contribute in kind, but through their efforts no less a sum than £438,000 was raised in cash, while thousands of eggs and preserves and other comforts were given.

Mr. John Lemmon, M.L.A., in proposing a vote of thanks to his Excellency and Lady Stradbroke for their attendance, paid a deserved tribute to the guests for the manner in which they had thrown open their English home and showered hospi-

talities upon the Australian soldier. (Cheers.) He was pleased to have assisted in the welcome to their Excellencies in their first visit to so historic a place as Williamstown.

The Mayor, in seconding the motion, alluded to the praiseworthy interest the citizens of Williamstown had shown for their gallant sailors and soldiers during the war, and the patriotic spirit of those who had gone. (Applause.)

The motion was carried unanimously, and his Excellency, having responded, the "Last Post" was sounded by Bugler A. Murdoch.

After the ceremony the School Committee entertained the visitors with afternoon tea in the infant schoolroom.