

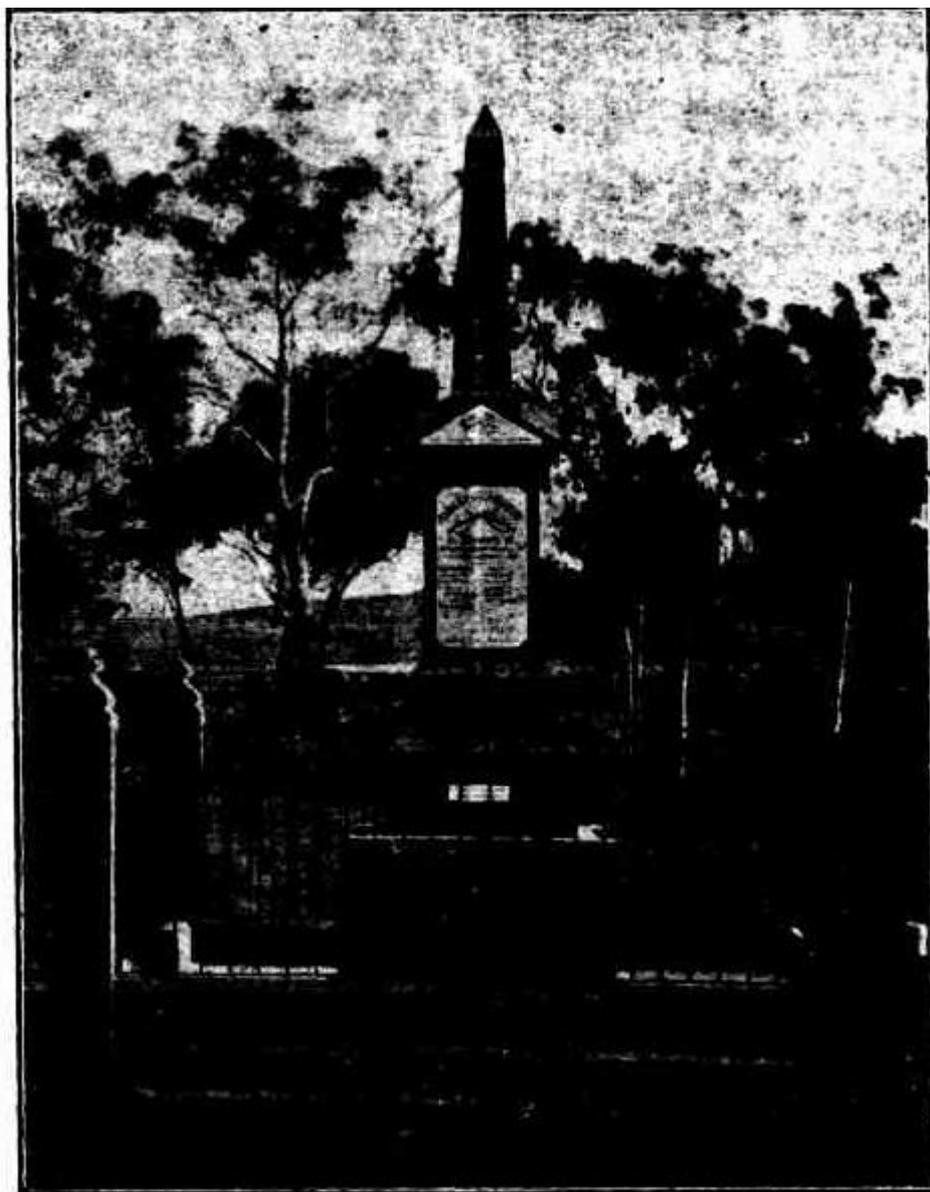
OBLEY SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL

Unveiled by the Hon. W. H. Dunn

Saturday last was a red letter day at Obley, the occasion being the unveiling of the Soldiers' Memorial, which has been erected to the memory of the soldiers who had made the supreme sacrifice and to those who had also enlisted from the district. The Hon. W. F. Dunn, performed the ceremony of unveiling the memorial in the presence of a large concourse of people. In addition to Mr. Dunn, Mr. Dick Wilknis, Councillor W. Smith and the Rev. Mr. McCallum, of Dubbo, were invited as guests of the committee. Mr. C. J. Shakespeare, the designer and contractor for the memorial, very kindly provided a car for the Wellington visitors.

The memorial Committee were: Messrs H. Baird (President), N. O. Wood, C. Keiran, S. Hunt, M. McCulloch, S. Keiran, M. Vaughan, senr, M. Vaughan, junr., J. Ryan, C. Howerst, W. Coady, H. Coady and G. Cooper hon. secretary. Owing to sparseness of the population it was no light task that the committee undertook to erect a fitting memorial at a cost of considerably over £100, but assisted by the ladies, who bore no small share of the work, they have succeeded in erecting to the honor of the soldiers a very fine obelisk, which stands nearly twenty feet high, built in the Public School grounds and faces the road, where it can be seen by all comers and passers by. The obelisk is of reinforced concrete, with marble facing on which are the names of the Soldiers which are as follows: H. Cooper, L. Cooper, E. Merryman, D. Gow, G. Hendricks (killed); L. Coady, W. Coady, L. Gow, (wounded); D. Gillis, J. Gillis, S. Wilkin, C. Wilkin and W. C. Wilkin. The memorial is enclosed with a neat iron railing with concrete pillars, the whole being enclosed by a palisading fence, which has a good effect. The whole work was carried out by Mr. C. J. Shakespeare, monumental mason, of Wellington, and he has carried out his work well.

Precisely at 3 o'clock Mr. Baird entered the enclosure, accompanied by the Rev. McCallum, Hon. W. F. Dunn,



OBLEY SOLDIERS MEMORIAL.

Erected by C. J. Shakespeare, Monumental Mason, Wellington and Molong.

Mr. Wilkins and Cr. Smith. The President said it gave him much pleasure on behalf of the Soldiers Memorial Committee and the residents of Obley and district to welcome their visitors and called on the Hon. W. F. Dunn, M.L.A. to unveil the Memorial that had been erected by the people to the honor of the Soldiers who had enlisted to fight in the Great War. He called on Mr. Dunn to perform the ceremony of unveiling the memorial.

Mr. Dunn thanked the President and Committee for the honor they had paid him in asking him to unveil the splendid memorial that they and their fellow residents had erected to the memory

of those soldiers who went away to fight against the German nation. He had always looked on war as wrong, but in this case we had no alternative but to fight. To the comrades of these men whose names will be handed down for all-time it gave much satisfaction as they knew what hardships those men had gone through, some laying down their lives in the great cause of liberty. He knew what the building of such a memorial must be in a sparsely populated district, and the many self sacrifices that they all must have made to erect such a beautiful one. It was worthy of their town, their dis-

was worthy of their town, their district, themselves, and still more of the heroes whose names appeared thereon. He thanked them again for the honor they have paid him and he now unveiled the memorial. Mr. Dunn then pulled the ribbon that secured the flag enshrouding the marble tablet, all heads being uncovered and the returned men standing at attention.

Mr. Dick Wilkins said it gave him much pleasure to be with them that day to pay honor to their gallant comrades who had come from Obley. He had thought it impossible at first to be able to attend but at the meeting of the Soldiers League in Wellington he had been asked specially to attend and he had done so. None knew better than himself what the soldiers did in the war, and it gave him great pleasure to see the people give credit to those who had done so much for them. The Soldiers who had returned were not being treated too well at present and it was time that their work was recognised. He thanked them again for their tribute to the soldiers and

also the invitation for himself to be present.

The Rev. Mr. McCallum, Dubbo, said he considered it a great honor to receive an invitation to take part in such a function. Such a memorial was an honor to the men who had done so much for their country and themselves, it went further, it spoke of loyalty to the great British Empire. It would inspire the present generation and generations to come to train not for aggression, because that was a wrong war, but to defend their King and their country and their Empire from all foes. He admired the architecture of the memorial. He felt sure the spire would remind some of the soldiers of the spires and minarets they had seen in some of the cities of the East. The people were well entitled to be proud of the result of their work.

Councillor Smith, thanked them for the invitation to be present at the unveiling of their Memorial. To those who had the inestimable privilege of being the mothers of the soldiers, he would say, Grieve not too much for those who have stayed "Over There". In years to come their country would

In years to come their country would more than now, realise the great sacrifice the Mothers had made for it in giving their sons. Let us say:—

"God make us worthy of the great sacrifice

Bought at so great a price
And may the death of these men,
Give to all Nations, Civilization and men,
Everlasting and universal Liberty."

The Last Post was then sounded by Trumpeter B. Ward, of the Wellington Light Horse. The large audience standing in silence.

Before leaving Mr. Dunn moved a vote of thanks to the President, Mr. Baird, and this was carried by acclamation. Mr. Baird briefly acknowledged.

Mr Dunn moved a vote of thanks to Mr. C. J. Shakespeare, the contractor for the work, which Mr. Dunn said was a credit to him, both for the design and workmanship, which could not be excelled. The vote was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Shakespeare: I thank you all.

Three cheers were given for the King and the ceremony terminated. Owing to Mr. Dunn and Mr. Wilkins having to get to Sydney by the evening's mail each speaker was limited to a very few minutes speaking.

At the invitation of the President and committee, the guests and visitors adjourned to the local hall. (a very fine building by the way) to partake of afternoon tea, which was in reality a well advanced banquet as far as regards eatables and the floral decorations. Ample time having been given for the good things to be enjoyed, Mr. Dunn rose and said he wished on behalf of himself and the visitors to thank the President, the committee, and the ladies for the sumptuous repast they had given them. It had shown them that although they were so far away from town life, yet the ladies could excel in the art of housekeeping. He had attended many similar functions, but he had never seen exceeded the viands and flowers that were decorating the tables there that day—it showed what small communities could do. There was one small community in his electorate, he referred to Gilgandra, that had won a prize given to the town that had done the best in

to the town that had done the best in Church work, this prize was open to all the British Empire. The next to it was a town in Canada. He felt proud of Gilgandra being in his electorate. The people of Oblev had shown also what they could do, and he felt very proud of representing them. He thanked them all. Cheers.

The President briefly replied.

An adjournment was then made for the return to Wellington, the visitors being highly pleased with their trip.

The ladies committee were Mesdames Hunt, Cooper, Coady, Vaughan, C. H. King and the Misses Richardson, Ida King and others. Several of the visitors were kindly given bunches of flowers, Mr. Dunn taking an especially fine bunch of violets to Sydney with him.

After the Theatre or a Dance a cup of Bovril is refreshing at the Golden Key (late Golden Gate.)