

THOMAS STREET SCHOOL.

Memorial Gates Opened

Yet another tribute to the heroes of the Great War was paid on Saturday afternoon at the Thomas-street School, when the new memorial gates were opened with impressive ceremony.

The gates are of stained jarruk, suspended from two massive roughcast pillars. The latter were draped with the Union Jack and the Australian flag, concealing the bronze tablets and wreaths dedicated to the ex-students of the school who saw war service. Stirring music appropriate to the occasion was played by a brass band, while a choir of school children drawn up within the grounds sang hymns.

Mr. J. Totterdell (president of the Parents and Teachers' Association) who acted as chairman, said that the association was formed in 1920, since which about £1,000 had been collected and judiciously spent in the interests of the children. The association's latest effort had been to erect these memorial gates (Applause.)

Mr. Wallace Chubb, in introducing Mr. J. Tucker, for many years headmaster of the school, said that the parents might congratulate the association on having carried out this splendid piece of work. Nothing finer than the erection of these gates could have been done as an inspiration to the school children. He asked Mr. Tucker to open the gates.

Mr. Tucker said that the erection of the gates represented the accomplishment of another of his long-cherished dreams, and he was deeply indebted to the committee of the Parents and Teachers' Association. Five months ago he had walked over the graves in which some of the lads of the school lay buried. The War Graves Committee had done wonderful work. In every cemetery he visited, lawns were planted between the rows of crosses and flowers were growing at their foot. He had spoken with Marshal Foch and others in France, who had expressed the opinion that the Australian soldiers were the saviours of France.

Mr. Tucker then cut the cord which suspended the flags over the gate pillars, and as the flags fell, exposing the beautiful bronze tablets inscribed to "the honour of the ex-students killed in the war" and "in appreciation of services rendered by ex-students in the Great War," they went out on the tense air. Prayers were offered by the Rev. C. L. Riley and then Mr. Tucker swung wide the new gates. Inside the grounds, the choir of school children sang the school hymns, whose concluding line—

"All I offer to thy service
Motherland of mine,"

seemed to come as an expression of preparedness to continue upholding the ideals for which the young men of the school made their sacrifice. The children then marched through the gates to the strains of martial music and doffed their hats in respect to the dead.