

Official Opening Of McKie Memorial Hall

LARGE GATHERING HEARS MODERATOR-GENERAL PAY ELOQUENT TRIBUTE

Guyra Presbyterian Church grounds were filled to overflowing last Saturday afternoon when the new McKie Memorial Hall was dedicated and officially opened.

The service was conducted by the Presbytery of New England, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of N.S.W., the Right Reverend R. C. Lawton, performing the dedication, and Mr. J. T. Stewart, an elder of the Guyra parish, the opening rite. The Rev. J. M. McDonald and Mr. A. Pearson delivered the Scripture readings, and Mr. D. W. Brown rendered the solo, "Bless This House."

The official party on the dais consisted of the Revs. R. C. Lawton, C. G. Mathieson, J. M. McDonald, A. Hewitt, T. M. McBurnie, the Hon. D. H. Drummond, M.H.R., Cr. E. M. Mulligan, Messrs. R. N. Hickson, J. T. Stewart, A. Pearson, B. Youman, and Mesdames E. M. Mulligan, C. G. Mathieson, and R. C. Lawton.

On behalf of the General Assembly the Moderator-General extended greeting to the the church in Guyra, and congratulated them for the splendid memorial they had erected to the memory of a man who had given so much for the town and district, Rev. E. Norman McKie.

For more than 36 years, he said, Mr. McKie had laboured conscientiously for God and man, and was a sincere friend to all with whom he came in contact. His activities did not cease with his having carried

out his church responsibilities, but overflowed into matters relating to the cultivation of the soil and to agricultural problems generally. He was an authority on pasture improvement, potato culture, and allied subjects.

Was Man Beloved

The late Mr. McKie, the Moderator-General continued, was a man beloved for his devotion to duty, and because he was ever studying his neighbour's rights and his own responsibilities. His duty to his neighbour was ever governed

sponsibilities. His duty to his neighbour was ever governed by his duty to God, that is, to feed the flock. He cared for the lambs and led them into the Master's presence, to be nurtured and fed by God's Almighty Hand. One could not think of a more fitting memorial than the church hall, typifying man's duty to the present generation. The hall would help the minister and workers to nourish God's flock. It would prove a place where Christianity could radiate from life to life, as one loving heart sets another on fire.

"One might easily say, 'Well done thou good and faithful servant,' you have built even better than you knew," the Moderator-General said. "Many today will rise up and call the Rev. McKie blessed. His memory is perpetuated in the beautiful and serviceable hall. It is a privilege to subscribe to such a building in honour of so fine a life."

Spheres Of Duty

Mr. Lawton said he had chosen to speak on the spheres of duty as referred to by Paul in his letter to Timothy. "Study to show thyself approved unto God."

"The spheres of duty are," he said, "to self, to others, to God. Duty to self should make us realise that each of us is a child of God, that rank begets obligation. We must respect ourselves for our bodies

are the temple of God. One who has found God has found his true self. Self respect involves culture. Care must be exercised over mind and soul. The body is to be the residence of the Spirit of God—not the prison house. Duty to oneself demands self maintenance. In

demands self maintenance. In every department of life we must stand on our own feet. We must develop self reliance, character, personality, and wisdom. God has no delight in ignorance. We must use our God given talents and be slaves to no man whether intellectually or politically. We must study to live that our life may be approved of God, not merely to seek the praise of men.

Duty To Others

"What of our duty to others? Many are selfish Christians, but selfishness serves no purpose. We are in a new world. Isolation is now impossible as the present world is constituted. We can say we are rubbing shoulders with the world. The Book of Genesis asks the question—'Am I my brother's keeper?' Jesus Christ gave the perfect answer when he said, 'In as much as ye do it unto the least of these my brethren, ye do it unto me.' Duty to others looms large on our horizon today. We are all units in the living stream of humanity. We belong to others in a social system as part of that system. Such life of soul we venerate at today's service. The pertinent question that faces every one is—What contribution can you make that others cannot? In short, have I placed my talents and endowments on the altar of sacrifice? What rent am I paying for the space I occupy? I must use my life in deeds, not words only. Our relation to Christ is the true ground of our relation to others. Jesus is an elder brother among brothers. The Golden Rule of life becomes as Elbert Hubbard puts it, 'Do unto others as if you were those others.' We must make life positive and be after God's own heart. Unjust workmen, and dishonest businessmen are unjust and dishonest to themselves as well as to others. It is the way we apply ourselves

is the way we apply ourselves to life's tasks that builds our character. Fairness is said to be one of the rarest of moral virtues."

Fair Day's Work

Mr. Lawton expressed the hope that this was not true. He still believed in a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. As Christians, what con-

cerned others concerned ourselves. Jesus' injunction was to weep with the mourner and laugh with the glad. Every kindness and good deed contained an element of self. Christianity would be largely judged by our life and our attitude to others.

"In our attitude to God our first call is to worship," Mr. Lawton continued. "Man is a worshipping creature. For our duty to God we must search the scriptures. Our duty to God is influenced by our recognition of the Divine Fatherhood. We are His children. Our daily tasks should glorify God. Prayer is the reaching out of the soul for contact with the Divine. Prayer leads to God. Here, and here alone, life finds fullness and completeness."

The Shire President, Cr Mulligan, expressed his great pleasure in being called upon to welcome the Moderator and said he was always glad to see leaders of religion visiting the country. It revealed that religious faith exists for all, and the hall which stood as a memorial to a clergyman and a gentleman, was also an asset to the town and district for which the late minister had done so much.

Mr. Drummond's

Mr. Drummond's Tribute

The Hon. D. H. Drummond spoke in tribute to the late Mr. McKie, and warmly commended the congregation in its choice of a memorial to a man who had left an ineffaceable mark on the culture and progress of the district. The building was also a tribute to the craftsmanship of both architect and builder.

Following the ceremony, tea was served by the ladies. The collection, which is to go to the building fund, amounted to £380.

Ex-members of the congregation came from as far as Sydney, Tamworth, Armidale, Glen Innes and Walcha.