

Soldiers' Memorial

UNVEILING CEREMONY

On Saturday afternoon last there was a large assemblage at the corner of McGee and High streets to witness the unveiling of a magnificent monument to the memory of those brave lads who gave their lives in the cause of freedom during the recent world war.

The monument is a magnificent piece of work of blue grey granite, and was designed by Mr. Laird, architect (brother of Mr F. Laird, Willandra), the work being carried out by Messrs. Wilcox Bros., of Geelong, and she is a credit to the firm. It was erected by this firm on arrival at Hillston, and it is hoped that it will remain in its present position for many generations and thus remind posterity that the boys of Hillston were not slackers when the necessity arose for them to defend their King and country against the attack of an alien enemy.

Mr R. W. Stewart, chairman of the Repatriation Committee, said that some considerable time ago the Repatriation Committee, in company with the townspeople, decided to erect a monument in honor of those brave lads who gave the last sacrifice and also to those lads who returned from the late great war. The monument which they were unveiling that day had cost over £300, and had been paid for. It is intended in the near future to put a decency fence around the monument, and very likely more money would be required for that. When fenced very probably a few trees would be planted and some seats placed inside the enclosure. Mr Dibbs had generously offered to supply water required from Royal Hotel

ply water required from Royal Hotel. Difficulty was at first experienced in obtaining a suitable site, and Mr. Parker very generously came forward and gave them the present site, which is most conspicuous. He was very pleased to see the returned soldiers present.

The Mayor (Mr J. R. Teague) said he was pleased to be present to unveil the memorial in honor of the men who responded to the call when necessity arose, and placed Australia on the map. Had it not been for the splendid response made by our boys Australia would be in a different position to-day. If it had not been for the determination of our boys to win the war the world would be standing in a different light to-day. The men who are going to make this country successful are mostly Anzacs. He had great pleasure in unveiling the memorial which had been erected by the committee. Many of those who went away to fight paid the great sacrifice in honor of the country. The boys who went from Hillston, combined with boys from other parts of Australia, helped to give us that freedom which we enjoy to-day. The monument was erected in honor of those who returned as well as those who paid the great debt.

The following inscription is inscribed on the monument "Erected in honor of those men of this district who fought for King and country in the Great War, 1914-18." Over the inscription is the Australian coat-of-arms with the words "Australian Commonwealth Military Forces."

Rev Stewart Robertson said he regarded it as a privilege to be present at the unveiling of this splendid monument in honor of the men who did their part on the other side. He would have liked to see many more present at the ceremony that day.

present at the ceremony that day. The memorial should help them to remember those who made the great sacrifice. "Less we forget." They did their best, and they should not forget those who returned. They often need a helping hand, and we should always endeavour to assist them. They should do every thing that is possible to maintain the memorial, and may we remember when passing along the street that we will do our part as they did theirs. May this memorial long remain to remind us to do our part as was done by the men who made Australia what it is to-day.

Rev. Father Treacy said he was glad to see that Hillston was doing the

same thing as other towns in N.S.W. and other parts of Australia—erecting a memorial in honor of the men who fought for our home and country, and the Empire itself. They placed Australia on the map of the world. Even in England very little was known of Australia except the cities. He was proud to be in Australia and to be associated with Australians. When he came to Hillston about twelve months ago he suggested that a memorial should be provided, but subsequently ascertained that steps were being taken to erect something suitable, and he was pleased to have the opportunity of taking part in such an important ceremony. Every man was sincere who was fighting for his country. "Greater love than this no man hath that He laid down his life for us." Besides those who laid down their lives for us were those who returned to us, and to those we owe a debt of gratitude which we would

debt of gratitude which we would never be able to repay

The Chairman apologised for the unavoidable absence of Rev R. K. Hobden

Mr R. T. Parker said they were gathered together that day to pay a fitting tribute to the men who had made such a sacrifice so that we might enjoy that freedom which has always been the birthright of all British speaking people. Had our men not voluntarily answered the call when the fate of the Empire was threatened we would not now have the privileges we so highly prize. The erection of the memorial will not bring back to us those who were left on the battle field, but it will ever tend to remind us of their brave deeds to retain us our liberty. He hoped the people of Hillston would be proud of the fine monument which meant so much to them

Mr Stanley Smith, returned soldier, on behalf of his comrades thanked the people for their tribute of respect to the men who forfeited their lives on the battle fields of France. Those men who returned deeply appreciated their sympathetic sentiments for their late comrades. Those who were privileged to return would never forget their brothers who were left behind

Mr. F. Laird said he had very little to add to the remarks already made by previous speakers. The memorial was not only for those men who gave their lives but also those who went away prepared to make the supreme sacrifice if necessary. The cost of the memorial was £350. Sufficient has already been promised to defray cost of fencing. The memorial was in the hands of three trustees (Messrs S. J. Southwell, J. Busch, and F. Laird) and when the fence was erected and other necessary work carried out the

other necessary work carried out the trustees would probably apply for permission to hand same over to the Municipal Council to hold in trust for the people of Hills on

The "Last Post" having been sounded by Mr. J. Olimas, a returned soldier, the proceedings terminated