

THE EXPLORER MITCHELL.

MEMORIAL UNVEILED AT DUNKELD.

Tuesday, December 1st, was a veritable red-letter day in the annals of Dunkeld, for on that day a memorial, the first public monument in Dunkeld, erected in honour of Major Mitchell, was unveiled by Mr. F. Tate, M.A., I.S.O., Director of Education. It had been intended to perform the ceremony on September 14th, the 78th anniversary of the date on which the Major climbed Mount Abrupt, but the war and the State election caused a postponement.

Mr. Tate was accompanied by Dr. Smyth, principal of the teachers' training college, Melbourne, and Mr. C. R. Long, M.A., editor of the Education Gazette and School Paper, and an authority on Australian history, members of Parliament, shire councillors, other prominent local residents, and members of the various district school committees had been invited.

Proceedings began at the school, Dunkeld, at 10 a.m., at which time the school committee and the Major Mitchell memorial committee met the director and party, now reinforced by the arrival of Mr. G. E. Parker, E.A., district inspector, and Mr. J. B. Westacott, president of the Hamilton school committee.

The visitors, under the guidance of Mr. John Cameron, president of the Dunkeld school committee, were shown through the school rooms, and suggestions for improvements in school and residence were made to the director, who listened sympathetically to the requests.

At 10.45 the district children fell in at the school, and were addressed by the director, who told them how the children of some schools, even small schools, raised money for the patriotic fund by cleaning yards, cutting wood, selling frogs for scientific purposes, and by pumping water. He concluded by asking them all to do their best to raise money of their own for the fund. After three cheers for the director had been lustily given, and the scholars had sung "God speed the right," they all marched under the supervision of their respective teachers to Victoria Park in which the monument had been erected, and near which the Union Jack received from Scotland was flying proudly.

By this time a roodly crowd of people from Glenthompson, Strathmore, Victoria Valley, Warrayure and Hamilton had assembled. All sang the National Anthem, and the scholars saluted the flag, repeated the oath, and cheered the King and Queen and memorial day.

The day being very hot the children were considerably allowed to sit in the shade of the trees. Then Mr. Cameron took charge of the proceedings. He formally welcomed the distinguished visitors; he trusted all would fraternise and spend a pleasant day, and concluded by calling upon Mr. Overman, the secretary and treasurer of the movement, for the financial report.

Mr. Overman said he was happy in the fact that he had a small surplus. He gave a brief resume of the history of the movement, incidentally remarking, that to Inspector Parker should the credit be due that a monument had been erected at all. He paid a tribute to Mr. Howell, of Hamilton, who had put much more work into the monument than his contract for £25 really warranted.

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Mr. Long congratulated the children on their appearance. Mounted on a case, and with the help of a map of the major's route, drawn with coloured chalk on a large blackboard, and a picture (kindly lent by Mr. J. Scullin), showing the meeting of the major with the Hentys at Portland, Mr. Long, after giving a brief account of Major Mitchell's early life, took his audience in imagination from Mitchell's starting place—Sydney—then via the Lachlan, the Murrumbidgee, Swan Hill, Mount Hope, Mount Arapiles, Portland, Grange Creek, Lake Labritgow, Mount Sturgeon, Mount Abrupt, Lake Repose, Expedition Pass, right back to Sydney. He trusted that the scholars would visit the monument at least every Discovery Day. The address was a splendid effort, Mr. Long being loudly applauded at the conclusion.

Dr. Smyth said that by the erection of memorials people's thoughts were turned in the direction of the land from which the resolute explorers had come—in this case, Scotland. He trusted the connection between old England, Scotland, Ireland and Australia would never be broken. They had now a good chance of showing their preference for those countries, by purchasing goods made by them. Sons from over-sea countries were fighting shoulder to shoulder with those from the mother land.

Mr. Parker remarked that though Mr. Overman disclaimed any credit for the erection of the monument, a good share of it undoubtedly was due to him. He was very pleased that another link in the chain of the major's line of march was complete. He trusted that the site of the latter's camp at Lake Repose would be one of the next

site of the latter camp at
 Repose would be one of the next
 sites marked with a memorial. He
 then referred to the excellent answer
 given by a little Glenthompson girl
 to the question asked earlier at the
 school by the director—"How can
 the girls help in this time of
 stress?" The child had replied,
 "By making home happier." He
 trusted all the girls present would
 act on this excellent advice. It was
 really about the best thing girls
 could do, and all could do it, leav-
 ing the fighting with perfect safety
 to the men.

The Director, who was received
 with loud applause, said successful
 explorers had very little written ab-
 out them, and very little fame made
 about them. Blunderers like Burke
 and Wills found chroniclers in plenty,
 but a successful explorer like Major
 Mitchell, who owed much of his suc-
 cess to his own forethought and pru-
 dence, had not much honour paid
 him. The spirit shown by hardy ex-
 plorers like the Major, and those
 pioneers who followed him as the re-
 sult of his glowing account of "Aus-
 tralia Felix," was still abroad in
 the land, as witness the rush for

Dr. Smyth he knew well by repute.
 He promised Mr. Tate that the mo-
 nument would be well cared for by
 the children, and that on Arbor Day
 they would keep on improving the
 park, and he promised Mr. Long
 that he would adopt the latter's
 suggestion respecting lessons on Ma-
 jor Mitchell at the monument on
 Discovery Day.

Mr. R. Woodburn seconded the vote
 of thanks to the visitors, and thank-
 ed all who had helped in any way,
 the vote being carried by acclama-
 tion.

The singing of the National An-
 them and cheering concluded the pro-
 ceedings at the memorial.

The general public held a basket
 picnic under the shade of the numer-
 ous trees in the park in which the
 tennis club have lately opened a
 splendid asphalt court. At 1 p.m.
 the distinguished visitors were enter-
 tained at luncheon in the
 mechanics' hall, about thirty
 sitting down to a splen-
 did repast catered for in excellent
 style by Mr. A. Schultze, Dunkeld.
 At the luncheon the toast of "The
 King" was proposed by the chair-
 man, Mr. Cameron; that of "Parlia-
 ment" by Dr. Irving, responded to by
 Mr. R. H. Barton—the Parliamentary
 representatives intimating by tele-
 gram their inability to be present;
 while Mr. J. W. Westacott proposed
 "The department of education." This
 was responded to by Mr. Tate, who
 described the activities of the de-
 partment in providing higher educa-
 tion, and who hoped to see increas-
 ed interest taken by parents in the
 education of their child-
 ren, especially between the
 ages of 14 and 18. The Ger-
 mans especially were thorough in their
 system of education, leaving nothing
 to chance. He was followed by Dr.
 Smyth, who said that the best
 scheme of education had not yet
 been evolved—they were still in the
 experimental stage; by Mr. C. R.
 Long, who incidentally remarked that
 it was not generally known that
 Major Mitchell was for a short per-
 iod a representative of Port Philip
 in Parliament; and by Mr. Parker.
 "The Municipalities" was proposed
 by Mr. J. H. Murray, and was re-
 sponded to by Mrs. Beggs, W. Young
 and R. Woodburn. Mr. Tate propos-
 ed "The Chairman," complimenting
 him on the way he had managed af-
 fairs during the day, to which toast
 Mr. Cameron suitably responded. Mr.
 Young proposed "The Teaching Pro-
 fession." To this toast Dr. Irving
 also spoke, advocating evening
 schools for places inconvenient to
 centres where higher educational fac-
 ilities were available. Mr. Overman
 (Dunkeld) responded briefly. He was
 followed by Mr. Ellis (Glenthomp-
 son), who also spoke for Miss Al-
 levne (Strathmore).

After luncheon, the Director and
 party were taken on a motor trip
 to the Gap, where the scenery was
 most beautiful, after which they left

enrolment in army and navy to fight
 the battles of the Empire.

Mr. Tate then untied the Union
 Jack, which had covered the inscrip-
 tion on the stone, disclosing these
 words in gilt letters:—

In Honour
 of
 MAJOR MITCHELL,
 Who, having discovered
 Mt. Abrupt,
 Ascended it 14th Sept., 1836.
 Erected by the Residents
 of Dunkeld and District.
 14th Sept., 1914.

He congratulated the people on
 their fine memorial, which he trusted
 would be well looked after and not
 neglected. They had a pretty park,
 well worth beautifying further.

Mr. Westacott was proud to be
 present. He thought good would re-
 sult if Hamilton helped the outlying
 districts to get memorials, and the
 outlying districts in turn helped Ham-
 iltion.

Mr. W. Young remarked that it
 was not often they were privileged
 to listen to such splendid addresses
 as they had heard that day. He for-
 mally handed over the monument to
 the care of the council.

Mr. Beggs, representing the council,
 formally accepted the charge.

Mr. Overman, in moving a vote
 of thanks to the visitors for attend-
 ing, said he was pleased to do so,
 for he might call both Mr. Tate
 and Mr. Long old friends, while
 Dr. Smyth he knew well by repute.
 He promised Mr. Tate that the mo-

to the Gap, where the scenery was much admired, after which they left Dunkeld, per motor, for Hamilton.

Mr. Howell kindly supplies the following particulars respecting the monument:—The bottom stone is of bluestone from Monivae quarry, near Hamilton, and weighs 2 cwt. The second stone is of Mount Sturgeon bluestone, and weighs 15 cwt. The next stone is also of Mount Sturgeon bluestone, and carries the inscription already referred to. The whole is surmounted by an obelisk 4ft. 5in. high, and weighing 5 cwt. The total height of the memorial is 10ft. 5in., and total weight about 2 tons 16 cwt. As the Major named both Mount Sturgeon and Mount Aorapt, it is fitting that in the memorial to him stones from both mountains should be blended.