

A HUNDRED YEARS OF LUTHERANISM

HAHNDORF CELEBRATES

DEDICATION OF ST. MICHAEL'S TOWER AND BELL

One hundred years ago the location of Hahndorf was virgin timber land, then came the German immigrants in quest of liberty and worship. They found it—as the result exemplifies, and on Sunday adherents of St. Michael's Lutheran Church, and visitors, assembled in great numbers there for the dedication of the recently-erected tower and installation of the new bell as centenary memorials to the pioneers of 1838, who founded the church with the establishment of the town. The present church, which was erected 80 years ago, had also been completely renovated—repainted interiorly, reseated and refitted electrically for the occasion, and presents a particularly pleasing appearance.

Congregated in the church grounds for the initial ceremony, under the fine cedar and pines, must have been 400 people, which later severely taxed the edifice.

Proceedings opened with a hymn and psalm, then an address (in German) by the Lutheran president, Rev. C. Hoopmann, following which was the dedication of the tower, for which the builder (Mr. B. Nitschke) handed the president the key. "Thus I consecrate this tower, erected in memory of the Lutheran immigrants of a hundred years ago, founders of this congregation, to the glory and services of God and for the use of His church in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Pastor F. J. H. Blaess delivered an address, and dedicated the bell, which had been donated by four adherents, Messrs. G. A. Hartmann, C. F. Altmann, W. A. Paech, and J. F. Liebelt. Mr. Blaess said that the old bell, still standing in the church grounds, had done duty for just on 80 years. It had called to worship, done duty at weddings and other joyful occasions, been used on the occasion of fire outbreaks, and rang out many old years and rang in many new years. Its successor was an appropriate gift for the occasion. He then stepped inside the porch and set the bell tolling for the first time, consecrating it "for the use of this Christian congregation, to ring out to the glory of God, to

to ring out to the glory of God, to comfort the sad, to make glad the joyful, to admonish the living, to remember the dead." The donors and Mr. Wotzke then tolled the bell a hundred times while the congregation became seated.

An impressive service followed, during which the choir rendered two anthems, and among the hymns was that sung by the new colonists upon their landing in South Australia a century ago, as a thanksgiving for protection on the journey: "Now thank we all our God. . . . Hath blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day."

An important ceremony was the unveiling in the church of a memorial tablet to the late Pastor Strepel, who was at Hahndorf for over 50 years. Pastor Blaess spoke and Mrs. C. G. Zadow, of Hahndorf, youngest daughter of the departed pastor (who with other members of the family contributed to the tablet), effected the actual unveiling. The brass tablet bears the words: "Memorial tablet to the glory of God and in honoured memory of Pastor C. F. Adolph Strepel, who until his death on January 20th, 1908, faithfully ministered unto this congregation), a reading desk made from August, 1855, to March, 1901."

Dedication was also made of a lectern, candelabra, vases, altar cloths, and floor covering (donated by the Women's Guild and ladies of the congregation), a reading desk made from the old canopy, new seats and several other things, while thanks were expressed for the donation by Mr. Harold Glerke of an illuminated cross, which forms a fitting finish to the tower.

The centenary sermon was by Rev. C. Hoopmann, who gave an inspiring address from St. Mark X, 29-31—the promise of reward to those that forsake anything for the Gospel. He extolled the great faith of the pioneers, who forsook their country for their consciences' sake—would not worship to a common formula as laid down by their King; suffered persecution, im-

prisonment and other things, then set

prisonment and other things, then set out for Australia in search of religious freedom—and afterwards never ceased to give thanks. The pioneering 200 Lutherans had so grown that there were now over 50,000 throughout the glorious Commonwealth. The early pilgrim fathers loved their bibles, which were their constant inspiration, and they believed that every loss for Christ's sake could be compensated, as a review of the last hundred years proved. One could not fail to see the blessings down the years. The pioneers pushed their goods in wheelbarrows to Hahndorf, or carried them on their backs; now the finest automobiles were used by their children's children; in place of the sickle, scythe, and kindred implements they had the most modern machinery. When the persecution in other countries was compared with the liberty under the British flag they could not but be thankful and admit the great things the Lord had done. If they did not appreciate the wonderful blessings these could be soon taken from them. They had a rich blessing, and should be and were loyal to their earthly as well as their heavenly King. With Luther, he said, "the word shall stand despite all foes."

The fences and church grounds have been painted, renewed where necessary and cleaned up, and everything connected with the edifice and its surroundings has an appearance consummate with the entering upon a new era. Near the entrance, a marble tablet has been placed upon the old flour-mill gristing stones; it states: "These millstones, from the first flour-mill, established about 1840 by J. F. Wittwer on Cox's Creek, were presented by C. Jaensch in 1909 to St. Michael's Lutheran Church."

—Pastors of the Past—

Since the church's inception, the following pastors have ministered at Hahndorf:—Pastor Au. L. G. Kavel, 1839-51; Pastor G. D. Fritzsche, 1841-55; Pastor C. F. A. Stempel, 1855-1901; Pastor A. Brauer, 1902-21; Pastor J. Homann, 1922-26; Pastor F. J. H. Blaess, 1927 to date.

—Service at Hectorville—

At 2.45 on Sunday afternoon a special centenary service was conducted at Hectorville and pilgrimage made to Klemzig cemetery. The attendance was again large.

—Over the Air—

At 9.30 the same evening Pastor

At 9.30 the same evening Pastor Blaess gave an interesting radio talk from 5CL on "Lutheran Immigration and Settlements."