

YEELANNA HALL

FOUNDATION STONE LAID

YEELANNA, March 24. — The foundation stone of the new Centenary Memorial Hall at Yeelanna was laid on Saturday afternoon by Mr. G. W. Proctor, under ideal weather conditions. There was a large attendance, including Mr. E. J. Craigie, M.P. and Mrs. Craigie.

Mr. L. B. Smith was M.C. He stated that it was the first time a foundation stone had been laid at Yeelanna. The residents had seen the need for a new hall for the district. As Mr. Proctor was the only original member of the old hall trust, a pioneer for over 30 years, with 25 years' service as chairman of the Agricultural Bureau, and was chairman of various sporting activities for many years, the committee had chosen him to lay the foundation stone. Mr. Smith presented Mr. Proctor with a trowel, and asked him to lay the stone.

Mr. Proctor said the Yeelanna district had proved itself by its success in the wheat crop competitions, and in the wool and lamb industry. The late Mr. William Morris Smith gave the two blocks of land on which the old hall was built. For many years the building was used for school purposes, church services, and social fixtures and many good old-time dances. He referred to the splendid work done by the members of the C.W.A. in raising money for the new hall. On behalf of the committee he thanked them, the men who willingly assisted at the busy bee held, those who responded to the wheat appeal, and others who assisted in any way to help swell the funds. He tendered special thanks to Mrs. M. G. Best for her work as secretary.

Included in documents placed in a cavity behind the stone was the following information about the district:—Hundred of Shannon allotted 1904; nearest township at time of allotment was Tumby Bay, 37 miles distant; railway extended from Cummins to Yeelanna, 1909; township surveyed by Mr. Farr, 1909; first hall erected 1910 on land presented by William Morris Smith; railway dam constructed.

on land presented by William Morris Smith; railway dam constructed, 1914; Mount Hope railway constructed, 1914 (contractor, Mr. Geo. Baxter); championship shield for State's best crop of wheat won by Mr. W. H. Watkins 1935/36 season; numerous prizes have been won during the past few years by farmers of this district for exhibits of grain at the Adelaide Royal Show. The names of the hall trust who are guarantors of the overdraft raised for the erection of the hall were also placed in the cavity:— Messrs. G. W. Proctor (chairman), L. E. Clarkson, G. C. Smith, L. B. Smith, E. D. Robinson, W. H. Watkins, W. D. Wemyss, R. R. Wilson and Mrs. M. G. Best (secretary).

Mr. Craigie said Yeelanna was one of the finest districts in South Australia. The freezing works at Port Lincoln was a big development, and 2,000 lambs would be dealt with each day after the extension of the plant. This would be a great encouragement to the people of the district.

Mr. L. E. Clarkson said although in a way some were sorry to see the old hall pulled down, it was pleasing to see the new one in course of erection. The old hall did not meet the requirements of the district, and a new building was needed.

Mr. D. H. Porter (Cummins) congratulated the people of Yeelanna upon their enterprise.

Mrs. L. E. Clarkson, voicing the sentiments of the C.W.A., said they had been pleased to help in whatever way they could. The amount of £85 2/6 was placed on the foundation stone. Afternoon tea, supplied by the women of the district, and convened by the C.W.A. realised £3 6/-. This will go toward the hall funds. An anonymous donor presented the trust with a silver tea service to be used to raise funds for the new building.

The foundation stone was donated by the contractor (Mr. Lock). The hall will stand as a memorial to the 56 men who left the district to serve in the war, where 30 made the supreme sacrifice.

Mrs. J. H. McKenzie returned to Adelaide on Wednesday night, after her holiday spent with her

Adelaide on Wednesday night, after an enjoyable holiday spent with her mother, Mrs. Ventura, of Port Lincoln.