

## CITIZENS' TRIBUTE

### LATE MR. O'FLYNN

#### MEMORIAL UNVEILED

A bronze memorial plaque erected in the Lismore council chambers in memory of the late Mr. James Francis O'Flynn was unveiled in the presence of a representative gathering last night. The plaque bears a bust of Mr. O'Flynn in bas relief and the inscription: Born 1842. Died 1926. Founded in 1883 with his partner Lismore's first engineering works. Seven years Mayor of Lismore, 1889-93, 1896-99. A prominent fighter for the establishment of sewerage treatment works in Lismore; these were completed in 1905. Honourable in public and private life and to the day of his death freely gave his time, talent and money to develop his town and North Coast district and sought as his only reward the welfare and comfort of his fellow citizens. The Mayor (Ald. D. McA. Ross) presided at the gathering and Mr. J. H. Frith, chairman of the O'Flynn Memorial Committee, performing the unveiling.

Members of the family present were Mrs. J. F. O'Flynn (Lismore), Mr. J. A. O'Flynn (Lismore), Mesdames J. A. Daley (Alstonville), Mrs. J. Leary (Booval, Q.), Mrs. C. F. Kane (Lismore), Miss E. O'Flynn (Lismore). Others present included the Mayor and Mayoress (Ald. and Mrs. D. McA. Ross), Messrs. J. H. Frith and J. Stewart (president and secretary of the O'Flynn Memorial Committee), Canon A. G. Moore, Dean Hennessy, Aldermen W. Frith, W. H. Catterson, R. White, N. W. Sidney, Col. F. J. Board, Messrs T. J. Doolan. J. B.

Board, Messrs T. J. Doolan, J. B. Carlton, S. McLean, W. G. Bondfield, J. Maloney, T. O'Leary, F. Mattress, S. W. Hodge, D. Bohanc, A. T. Stratford, W. Hurley, A. M. Sullivan, W. F. McDermott, V. M. MacDermott, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. McIntosh, senr., C. Kane, A. C. Dunstan, R. E. Friend, C. W. Grimwood, and H. Wyatt.

### HISTORY OF MEMORIAL

Mr. Frith traced the history of the memorial movement as follows:—"It devolves upon me to-night to give a resume or explanation of the labours of the committee appointed to carry out the work in connection with the erection and completion of what is known as the J. F. O'Flynn Memorial. It will be remembered about four years ago a movement was made to acknowledge the services in public matters of the late J. F. O'Flynn, who was an alderman for 13 years, and during that period occupied the Mayoral chair for seven years. Besides taking a lively interest in hospital matters, also the drainage scheme of the lower river, he was an ardent New Stater and later a member of the Primary Producers' Union of this district.

"A good sum was collected in the room and, Dr. Kellas presiding, the following gentlemen were appointed as a committee to carry out and collect the necessary funds for the purpose: V. B. MacDermott, C. H. Riley, P. W. Davis, G. J. Elliott, the late C. A. Barham, also the late Captain Storey; John Stewart was appointed secretary and J. H. Frith chairman. After publicity was given to the project subscriptions flowed in from all parts of the district, demonstrating the esteem in which the deceased gentleman was held, until the sum of £130 had been raised. It then devolved on the committee to procure something suitable for the oc-

procure something suitable for the occasion. In the first place a contract was entered into with a Sydney firm, but to the total disappointment of the committee, the memorial did not meet their approval and did not comply with the contract.

#### **ARBITRATOR'S VERDICT**

"This was followed by a lot of contentious matter and correspondence, which led to the appointment of an attorney in Sydney instructed by Mr. Stewart and keenly assisted free of all costs by Mr. V. B. MacDermott, solicitor, a member of the committee. A fair amount of expense was incurred by this. The attorney had to be employed and an expert artist appointed to arbitrate on the casting. After much delay and correspondence the arbitrators found in favour of the committee. After all this work Mr. Stewart was again appointed to make further inquiries, which proved more successful. A contract was entered into with a Brisbane artist, Mr. Muller, who undertook the work of an electric casting, but, after strenuous efforts, had to revert to a bronze casting, which you will see here now. All those difficulties prevented the committee being able to carry out the unveiling on the day of the opening of the new council chambers. The late Captain Storey, first selected to perform the unveiling, was a sincere friend of the late J. F. O'Flynn. Hence it falls to my duty to give an explanation to the many friends and subscribers to the memorial.

"I would like to say that the untiring efforts of the secretary, Mr. Stewart, for the last four years—assisted by Mr. V. B. MacDermott—have been most strenuous, and, I am sure will never be forgotten by the committee and relations of the late J. F. O'Flynn. All the committee meetings were properly carried out

meetings were properly carried out and recorded by the secretary, and, after paying all expenses, a few shillings still remain to partly meet stamps and stationery and should any of the subscribers wish for an audit of accounts Mr. Stewart will only be too pleased to give any information so long as they are prepared to pay any increased expenses as all the funds at the committee's disposal are just about exhausted."

Mr. Frith also thanked Mr. C. H. Riley for his assistance and went on to speak of the work of the late Mr. O'Flynn and the public activities he had continued almost to the last hour of his life.

The flag draping the plaque was then removed by Mr. Frith, who afterwards asked the Mayor to accept the memorial on behalf of the committee and citizens of Lismore and maintain it in perpetuity.

#### LONG SERVICE

The Mayor accepted the memorial on behalf of the council and municipality and, in dealing with the work of the late Mr. O'Flynn, said that his activities had not been limited to

local government. The late Mr. O'Flynn had worked for the Lismore District Hospital and was a foundation member of the A. and I. Society, for the Mayor had found Mr. O'Flynn's name in the records of the hospital as a committeeman 33 years ago. He was one of the 29 men who had launched the A. and I. Society, the only one of whom now living was Mr. W. Lockett. The Mayor spoke of the late Mr. O'Flynn as the man responsible for the introduction of a sewerage service in Lismore and pointed out that Lismore was a successful and prosperous town chiefly owing to the far-sightedness of the men controlling civic administration in the early days

far-sightedness of the men controlling civic administration in the early days of Lismore.

The Mayor concluded with the quotation:

“An honest man here lies at rest  
As e'er God with His image blest,  
The friend of man, the friend of truth,  
The friend of age, the guide of youth,  
Few hearts like his with virtue  
warmed,  
Few heads with knowledge so  
informed:  
If there's another world, he lives in  
bliss,  
If there is none, he made the best of  
this.”

#### “A POWER IN COUNCIL”

Ald. White said that when he entered the council in 1900 or 1901 the late Mr. O'Flynn had completed his term as Mayor. But he was still a power in the council and his chief characteristics were his solidarity, industry and pertinacity. No man deserved greater honour from Lismore than the late Mr. O'Flynn. It was unfortunate that so often the nice things to be said about a man's public activities were not said until after his death, and Ald. White hoped that the Mayor's reference to the work of Mr. Lockett would fall on fertile ground, a point that he (Ald. White) did not wish to stress because of his close association with Mr. Lockett over many years. Ald. White also mentioned that the opposition to the sewerage service did not come from outside the town. Those who knew the benefits of that service and another as valuable—the water service—might be surprised to know that the installation of both services was bitterly opposed by some citizens who formed the non-progressive element to be found in every town then and now. He concluded with further references to Mr. O'Flynn's work.

Dean Hennessy desired briefly to ex-

Dean Hennessy desired briefly to express his meed of appreciation of the late Mr. O'Flynn and said that he knew Mr. O'Flynn as a personal friend—one who it was a privilege to know. Dean Hennessy concluded by referring to Mr. O'Flynn as a great townsman, a great man, and a great Christian.

Messrs. J. B. Carlton, W. Hurley, Canon Moore, Messrs. T. O'Leary, S. W. Hodge (on behalf of the Lismore Chamber of Commerce) added their tributes.

The Mayor referred to the good work done by the committee, especially the secretary, Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Maloney proposed a vote of thanks to the committee and Mr. Stewart, and said that the attendance that night was a source of pleasure to him and others of the older generation of Lismore residents and evidence of the public appreciation of the work.

Mr. MacDermott responded on behalf of the committee.