

THE SOLDIERS' MONUMENT.

UNVEILING CEREMONY.

Lithgow's memorial to its soldiers who have fallen at the front was unveiled in the park on Sunday afternoon before a very large gathering. For more than two years a committee of five ladies, and an energetic secretary (Nurse Hutchison) have worked untiringly to assure the erection of the monument. Their splendid work, now almost complete, should reflect that credit on them, which is justly theirs.

The monument is of granite, obtained from Harcourt, Victoria, and was erected by Mr. D. B. Acton, who may be warmly complimented on the excellence of the finished work. It stands 11 feet high, and is created by a magnificent six foot statuette of two soldiers, one crouched, wounded at the foot of the other, who looks fearless, and has a rifle tightly clenched. From the point of view of art, a critic says it excels anything of its kind in the Commonwealth, and to the ordinary observer its symmetry and realism at once appeal. The names of 108 men are in gold lettering on the sides, under the headings of France, Gallipoli, and Egypt. An inscription, "Erected by the women and children of Lithgow in honor of Lithgow's fallen heroes," is below the names on the front. Wreaths lay at the foot, placed there by relatives of the fallen.

Prior to the unveiling ceremony, both the Town and Union Bands, the small arms factory guard, and many returned soldiers assembled at Eskbank bridge. The procession was headed by Drum-major Master Jimmy Paul, a sturdy little chap. The Union Band was followed by the S.A.F. guard, in charge of Lieut. Campbell. Then came the Town Band and the returned soldiers, led by Serjts. Maxwell and Barrett.

The Mayor, Ald. Pillans, presided, and on the platform with him were Messrs. J. Dooley, M.L.A., and J. Ryan, M.L.C. The factory guard and returned men formed a guard around the monument. The Mayor said it had been a difficult business to get the monument to the state it was, and only for the determination of the ladies concerned it would never have been there. They were thankful to the people of Lithgow for the way they had supported every patriotic appeal. They had subscribed nobly and had done well. It was right that such a memorial should be erected to the memory of those boys who had fallen in the fight against the Hun. They were out to beat Germany, and would keep going until they did it. Lithgow had not yet made up its quota to the war loan, but he hoped before it closed they would be able to fly the honor flag as well as those who had it. (Applause.)

Mr. Dooley, who spoke briefly, said that he was present at one of the greatest functions Lithgow had celebrated for many years. Looking at the names on the roll he saw those of many young men who were very dear to him, and he wished to express his deepest sympathy

to many young men who were very dear to him, and he wished to express his deepest sympathy to every one who had paid the war's price. Some of the men from Lithgow who had fallen on the fields of Gallipoli and Flanders were amongst the truest and finest of the land, or of any town or country in the world. He paid a tribute to those men. The little wooden crosses over their graves would always be cherished and the ground would be sanctified by the blood they had shed. He hoped when the war was over they would have everlasting peace and unity. Everyone would then be able to live for the higher and better things of life.

Mrs. Callaghan, of Lithgow, whose three sons paid the extreme price of war, drew aside the Union Jack that veiled the monument, and the "Last Post" was then sounded by Bandsman Annesley.

Mr. J. Ryan said it was appropriate that the unveiling ceremony should be performed by Mrs. Callaghan, who in losing her three sons for the cause of freedom had made the greatest sacrifice of all. It was the mothers of the gallant Australians who had fallen fighting for them who made the great sacrifice in the tragic war. He congratulated Nurse Hutchison and those associated with her on the consummation of their effort. The memorial would remind all the men and women of the generations to come that thousands of brave men had died so that they and their children might live in freedom. The reminder was necessary because the public memory was apt to be very short. Every Australian should take pride in their soldiers, pride in their achievements, and pride in the way they had conducted themselves throughout this fearful war. They had the verdict of experts of every army that in courage, initiative, and in that unflinching determination to accomplish whatever they set out to do, the Australian soldiers stood out amongst all the armies of the world. The Australians were recognised as the elite of the armies of freedom. They had the satisfaction of knowing that they fought for a great cause. They fought not merely for their own security in the Commonwealth, or for the future of the Empire, or for the French and American republics or the Italian kingdom; they fought for the universal cause of freedom which was assailed by the German. Their sons fought the battle of right against might, the battle of freedom against force; they were going to win in the fight and the day of ultimate victory was not far distant. Already the blackleg state of Bulgaria had caved in. The determination of Turkey and Austria was waning, and there only remained Germany. The time was not far distant when Germany would have to surrender and allow the terms of peace to be dictated at a council of all the Allies. That was the only peace worth having because it was the only one which would give some reasonable guarantee against a recurrence of such horrors in the future. If they needed any inspiration to continue in the conflict, anything to stiffen their resolve, they had it in the lengthy catalogue of horrors which had marked the trail of the chief Hun throughout the war. The Australian soldiers were fighting so that they might live in comparative security and that they might witness the dawn of a better day.

live in comparative security and that they might witness the dawn of a better day, when the armies engaged in slaughtering each other would go back to their peaceful pursuits of industry. There was not one true democrat in Australia who would prolong the struggle for a single day, but it would be a tragedy to end the war before they had the enemy beaten and proved to the world that right was greater than might. All the Allies were resolved to go on until they achieved a crowning triumph for the democratic peoples of the world. (Applause.)

The Town Band played "Nearer My God to Thee."

Nurse Hutchison, in an appeal, mentioned that there was still needed from £40 to £50 and she hoped the people would keep on giving until that was cleared. Each name cost about 10s, and as there were many more to be added they could easily see why the money was wanted.

The Mayor thanked the bands, the factory guard, and the returned soldiers for their assistance, as well as all who had helped to

make the function a success. He thought the Council would accede to the committee's request and erect a railing around the monument. He had heard that children were interfering with the wreaths on the monument, and would urge parents to try and prevent them.

The collection amounted to a little over £25.

Several patriotic airs by the combined Methodist and Union bands, the National Anthem, and cheers concluded the proceedings.