

Tree-planting Ceremony at Belvidere.

On Saturday, 1st July, a very pleasing ceremony took place on the Belvidere Reserve, when 16 trees of honour were planted. A small and attractive park has been established on the reserve, and the trees are in honour of men of the district who are serving in the forces. The District Council of Strathalbyn sponsored the idea, and have received the whole-hearted co-operation of the Belvidere residents.

Councillor G. S. Davidson, in whose ward the reserve is situated, presided, and welcomed the large gathering of visitors. In narrating the steps leading to the establishment of the area, he said the whole venture had been marked by outstanding enthusiasm, and he thanked the members of the council and the residents of Belvidere for their interest and practical assistance. On the advice of the Director of Parks and Gardens, Aleppo pines (*pinus halepensis*) were being planted, they were the most suitable to the area. The reserve was situated adjacent to the centre of a virile and progressive community, as well as at the junction of two main highways, and the trees would serve a useful as well as ornamental purpose. But principally they were trees of honour—a gesture of appreciation to those who were serving in the forces of the King. As these men were rendering a service to their King, country, and mankind, so these trees would render a quiet, small service to this community. Further, the trees were a living and evergreen symbol of the spirit in which they served, and which must needs be kept living and evergreen in the post-war years.

Mr. Davidson paid a tribute to the splendid work of Mr. E. Sparrow, without whose practical co-operation the scheme would not have been so successful. Also to Mr. A. Vivian, who had generously offered to care for the trees over the difficult period. He was pleased to be associated with the venture, and hoped the trees would grow and add beauty and usefulness to the district.

Mr. E. E. Newell, the district overseer, speaking on behalf of the Chairman of the Council, pointed out the debt the community owed to the men who were defending this country. He stressed the symbolism that was evinced in the establishment of the

evinced in the establishment of the area—the situation at the junction of the roads; near by was the bridge, representing service to the community; then the hall, representing social life; then the church, representing the highest plane of the life of the people—the spiritual; and here, set in the midst of these was a tribute to the men who were making the establishment of these privileges possible.

The Mayor of Strathalbyn (Mr. N. D. Richardson), expressed his pleasure at being associated with the ceremony, and congratulated all who had been connected with it. He paid a tribute to the sons of Belvidere who were serving in the forces, and also to the high spirit of patriotism of the residents. He urged the necessity for caring for the trees, so that when the men returned they would see a practical expression of appreciation. He wished the venture every success, and hoped such schemes would be extended.

The President of the Strathalbyn Sub-Branch of R.S.S.A.L.L.A. (Mr. H. A. Dale) tendered the thanks of his committee for the invitation to be present and participate in this pleasing ceremony. He thought the idea was a splendid one, and offered any assistance that might be required. He stressed the need for caring for the soldiers after the war; the park would be a worthy tribute to their sacrifice.

Mrs. J. W. Collett, speaking on behalf of the mothers, wives, and relatives, expressed the wish that when the boys returned the trees would be growing nicely, and would show them how much their service was appreciated. She was very pleased to have the opportunity of taking this part in the ceremony.

Mr. H. A. Eckert, in accepting the trees, thanked the District Council and Mr. Davidson for their foresight and fine gesture in establishing the area. He paid high tribute to the fine work rendered by Mr. E. Sparrow, and thanked Mr. A. Vivian for his offer to care for the trees.

Mr. E. Sparrow, in supporting Mr. Eckert, thanked all those who had helped to make the idea possible, including Messrs. Read and Virgo, and especially Messrs. A. B. Eckert and G. McMillan for their assistance. It had meant a lot of work, but he had been pleased to do it.

The trees were then planted by the relatives of the servicemen, and afterwards an adjournment was made to the hall, where afternoon tea was served by the ladies. Miss M. Norman sang with Mrs. J. Blackwell as accompanist.

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iste, while a trading table did brisk
business.

The whole afternoon was a pro-
nounced success, and as a result the
sum of £15/15/- was raised to augment
the funds of the Bureau Red Cross.