

AT MOUNT YORK.

THE UNVEILING CEREMONY.

A procession was then formed to Mount York, the Governor, Admiral, and Col. Wallack being escorted by a troop of lancers. Arriving at the historic spot, after passing through a guard of honor of senior military and naval cadets, the vice-regal party mounted the brightly-decorated and partly-finished pavilion erected in honor of the achievement of Messrs. Blaxland, Wentworth, and Lawson, and the later development work of Surveyor-General George William Evans.

Mr. Walker regretted the pavilion was not in a more finished state, but mentioned that this was due to the unprecedented wet weather experienced of late. That would be a splendid monument to the explorers who first camped at that spot. They afterwards went to Sydney, then came Evans, who explored 90 miles of the western plains and afterwards came Cox, who made the first road over the mountains. Reference was made to the splendid development work of Surveyor Evans and the chairman then called on the Governor to unveil the tablet.

The tablet bore the following inscription:—"This pavilion was erected May 28th, 1913, to commemorate the centenary of the crossing of the Blue Mountains by Gregory Blaxland, William Chas. Wentworth, and Lieut. Wm. Lawson, and Deputy-Surveyor-General George William Evans, whose noble work of discovery and exploration on behalf and in the best interests of their adopted country it is desired to honor." On the other side was inscribed:—"In commemoration of the wise and efficient administration of Major-General Lachlan Macquarie, Governor of New South Wales, 1810-1821, and in honor of Lieut. Wm. Cox, J.P., the first road-maker in Australia, this tablet was inscribed in the centenary year of the first crossing of the Blue Mountains, May 28, 1913."

The Governor said in honor of the exploring spirit of the British race, and of what Australians had done and would do, he dedicated that monument in honor of the memory of Blaxland, Wentworth, and Lawson, and Surveyor Evans, and Governor Macquarie, and in recollection of their having reached Mt. Blaxland across the barrier, and giving Sydney command of the vast resources of New South Wales. (Applause.)

Professor David, who repudiated the idea that he was to deliver an oration, said they were there to honor those men, who carried by that noble spirit of adventure which has taken the grand old flag from equator to pole, carried their courage with them where many had failed before, and where one of them had himself twice failed, they penetrated through what had up till then proved an impregnable rampart, and opened the gates of the golden west. (Hear, hear.) Going back to the time he was speaking of one could not but be impressed, as Mr. Carmichael was impressed, with the wonderful difference between then and now. Those mountains were very unlike what they were now. It required men with stout hearts indeed to tackle the tremendous work of finding a path through

with stout hearts indeed to tackle the tremendous work of finding a path through those ranges. There were no men in Australia whose names were honored more than those of our early pathfinders. (Applause.) The mountains were almost an impassable wilderness in those days. Look at them now! They built a magnificent causeway, and along it had flowed wealth in millions and millions from the western plains to the eastern seas, and the thanks of Australia were due to those noble pioneers who discovered that splendid country at a time when Australia was very much in need of expansion. But apart from that, he wanted them to more fully appreciate the discovery of the explorers—the vastness of the resources of New South Wales, many of which had yet to be discovered. They were standing on a magnificent coalfield. Only a few miles away were the blast furnace and ironworks, while they were almost close enough to hear the whirring and whirling of the wheels at the great small arms factory, the centre of the armaments of the land forces of Australia. They had those vast coal-fields stretching away 100 miles from Lithgow right to the coast of Sydney. "Away to the west of it we had the belt of gold-bearing country, and still fur-

ther west the wheat belt, and beyond that again the old homes of the shepherd kings of Australia. (Applause.) The bringing in of population is above all things the great need of Australia at the present moment. (Renewed applause.) But there is, nevertheless, a great contrast in population, as in other things, between these times and the times of Blaxland, Wentworth, and Lawson, and the work these men did is a testimony to the virility of the Anglo-Saxon race. And let us not forget the debt of gratitude we owe to those who failed, as well as to those who won." (Applause.) Professor David spoke of Caley and a number of French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Dutch navigators and explorers, and said the work they accomplished was worthy work, and he hoped the names given by them to various towns and localities would not be superseded. But we had men amongst us to-day, men who were skirmishing ahead of the army of closer settlement, taking up land and putting in their efforts in the service of and on behalf of their fellow men. These were the men who were opening the land, and he said all honor to those modern pioneers. Australia never had a more openhearted patriot than Wm. Charles Wentworth, the man from whom trial by jury had sprung, the man who brought responsible government, and who also founded a great university. One could not but think that Wentworth must have had the spirit of prophecy, for he had visions of a federated Australia, which had now been consummated. "We owe a deep debt of gratitude to those explorers. We are showing that gratitude to-day. Let us also remember that we owe a great deal to your president, Mr. Walker, and to Mr. Padley, who has linked up Sydney and the mountains in one glorious blaze which will take place to-night." Further mention was also made of the work done by Mr. Walker and the enthusiasm shown by that gentleman; also by Mr. Trickett, who had prepared a comprehensive map of the mountains. The professor mentioned the excellent work

comprehensive map of the mountains. The professor mentioned the excellent work done by trusts, progress associations, and other public bodies in maintaining and looking after the beauties of mountain reserves, and went on to say that though many foreign nations, or representatives of foreign nations had come to Australia they had not been able to hold it. Concluding, the professor said:—"We hold Australia, but can we continue to hold it?" he asked. "If it had not been for the fact that our northern coast is such a step-motherly coast to the Malaysian people, history would have been altogether different here. In Java alone there are thirty millions, and instead of having a few thousand aborigines we might have had many millions of black people, and a white occupation might not have been possible. A large population we must have if we are going to make our occupation effective. It is necessary that we bring in population and find occupation for them. (Cheers.) This memorial stands as a sign and a promise—a sign of what brave men can accomplish if they go straight before them on the path of duty, and a promise that our country will in the future, no less than in the past, honor, and worthily honor, duty so well and nobly done." (Loud applause.)

Sir William MacMillan, in the course of an excellent address, appealed for Imperial unity. During the swaddling clothes period of our growing national life, we had been protected and nourished by the country to which the explorers owed their birth. Happily that time had passed for us in practical peace, without any disturbing element to divert us from our great work of colonial development. But this time of isolation had now passed. We had more people now in Australia than America had when she proclaimed her independence. But in our case during our first century "nobody blundered." We had been working out our industrial and political destiny untrammelled by military autocracy or meddling interference, and the fertile lands of a continent which Blaxland, Wentworth, and Lawson first laid bare were given to us by a generous mother in fee simple, free of any irritating mortgage. We should be recreant to all the acknowledged characteristics of our race if we did not, as a response to this generosity, determine that British possessions with British civilisation shall not be divided into petty States, dominated by different and perhaps hostile ideals, but shall continue as one great group of sister communities. If only in memory of the great men, whose one glory was that they were Britons, and who established settlements in all parts of the world, not so much to glorify themselves, but to expand a strong United Empire from one centre, a centre which all future generations of Britons should still call "Home," and which in the highest sense would recall the glory that was Greece, and the grandeur that was Rome." (Applause.)

This concluded the proceedings, and the large crowd utilised every means of conveyance to get back to Mt. Victoria. Many had to walk, but the weather was so invigorating that this was more of a pleasure than a hardship.

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