

NOWRA SHOW PAVILION.

Laying the Foundation-Stone.

The foundation-stone of the new show pavilion being erected for the Shoalhaven Agricultural Society was laid on Wednesday afternoon last by Mr M. F. Morton, member for the district, in the presence of an assemblage numbering some 600 or 700 persons, including most of those who had taken an active interest in the movement to provide a new and improved exhibition building. The event was made the occasion of a basket picnic and sports. About the time of the ceremony, a slight thunderstorm passed over, marring to some extent the success of the demonstration. The foundation-stone was surmounted with bunting, the flags being lent for the occasion by Captain Bishop, of the Crookhaven pilot station.

Mr John Monaghan, J.P., President of the Society, in opening the official part of the programme, said they were met to witness the pleasing ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the new pavilion. This was a necessary work, long contemplated, but the committee had to defer making a start owing to having to raise the money to carry out the work. They had succeeded so far in finding the funds as to justify them in commencing the work in earnest. There was nothing now to prevent the work being carried out with despatch, so that at the next show they would have a commodious new pavilion—a building that would be a credit to the society and an ornament to the show-ground. He hoped good use would be made of the building, and that the successive shows held in it would be more and more prosperous, alike in the number and quality of the exhibits. The agricultural industry was the mainstay of this country, and that being so it was right and proper that the great industry should receive every encouragement. The holding of annual shows for displaying the staple products of the district was very desirable, showing its resources and productiveness, and fostering a healthy rivalry. The time was when farming was looked upon as not a very lucrative pursuit, but in that respect had changed very much of

in that respect had changed very much of late, and the industry was now looked upon in a most favorable light. It was now generally recognised that the work of primary production called for the application of skill, energy, perseverance, and science.

Mr C. J. B. Watson, hon. secretary to the building committee, read the following statement, which was subsequently deposited in a glass jar in the cavity under the stone:—
“ Nowra, Oct. 19, 1904. The plan of the building, the foundation stone of which is being laid to-day, was prepared by Mr Ernest R. Laver, of Cootamundra, and was

approved of by the Executive Council Association on the 30th August last, on which date also the tender of Mr A. Schuler, of 208 Sussex-street, Sydney, at £1100, was accepted for the erection of the building, in respect of which the contract was signed and memorandum of agreement completed on 12th September last. A sub-committee was appointed by the society to arrange for a contract after inquiring as to the merits of plans submitted, which numbered 16, and which came from the city and several country parts of this State, and to attend to all business connected with the building and to see to its completion. Such committee consists of Messrs T. Shepherd (chairman), John Muller, O. J. Beckett, Kenneth M'Kenzie, T. Sinclair, J. J. Scotchmer, C. R. Woodhill (hon. treasurer), and C. J. B. Watson (hon. secretary). The Executive Council for the present year consists of Messrs John Monaghan (president), Jas. Monaghan, W. H. Noakes, W. Watts, Jas. Watts, T. Shepherd, C. Lamond, Jas. Morison, T. F. Herne, J. D. Caines, D. Hyam, T. Binks, jun., J. Crawford, W. M'Lelland, C. J. B. Watson, John Muller, C. R. Woodhill, J. J. Scotchmer, W. J. Wotton, Gerard Armstrong, R. M'Donald, A. K. Morton, K. Aberdeen, and J. A. Woods, with Mr R. O. Leeming as secretary. The association was established in 1875. Population of the district, present year: 13,000. Population of the town of Nowra, present year, 1904. Mayor of Nowra: Mr W. Westbrook. Present trustees of showground: Messrs J. Green (secretary), Z. G. Bice, S. Elyard, P. Walsh, John Monaghan, R. Aberdeen, W. H. Noakes, L. M'Intyre, T. Robson, F. W. Rogers, and Hugh M'Kenzie. This

F. W. Rogers, and Hugh M'Kenzie. This bottle also contains copies of local newspapers and the Sydney morning newspapers." He explained that the committee had about £700 in hand towards meeting the cost of the building, and they hoped to raise the balance in time. He announced the receipt of apologies from Messrs J. Sharpe (president) and J. Somerville (secretary), Kiama Society; W. M'Kenzie and J. A. Beatson, president and secretary, Wollongong Society; G. W. Fuller, Federal member for Illawarra; and

Mr J. Green, J.P., secretary to the ground trust.

Mr Laver, architect for the building, said a function of that sort should give everyone pleasure, more especially as the negotiations for the erection of the pavilion had been going on for a considerable time. The committee, after due consideration, had accepted a design of a building furnished by himself. Last week, when going away in the train, he had read a report in a local paper of a committee meeting, at which a member adversely criticised the stability of the building. The committee wanted a design with certain floor space. His design gave the floor space required and it was worthy of the site, one of the most magnificent in the State; in fact, there were few sites like it. Nowra people may not appreciate it, but visitors would. One statement was made that he felt justified in correcting, and that was that the grandstand above the roof was not strong enough, that it was not substantial. He asked the person who made that statement to meet him, and he would go through the plans with him, when he was sure he would convince him that he was mistaken. The statement was made that the roof of the building formed the floor of the grandstand, but that was entirely wrong. The construction of the building was a platform to carry the public, and pillars carried the roof. When remarks of that kind were made it was his duty to correct them. Some criticism had also been made regarding a lime foundation recommended by him. He took the whole responsibility of that, and he would back his opinion, supported as it was by the highest authorities on architecture, against the opinion held by any country amateur architect. His recommendation was in ac-

architect His recommendation was in accordance with recognised formula, and would bear looking into by any competent man. They would excuse him if he spoke a little warmly, but as a practical man he resented the criticism of bush authorities, of whom there a number in every country town. He was only too pleased to take the responsibility off the committee. He trusted that any friction that may have occurred would now be removed, and that all would work together to make the society the premier one on the coast. The building would be economically constructed, and when completed it would be well adapted for the purposes for which it was intended, and would reflect credit upon the district and the society.

Mr Morton was then called upon to lay the foundation-stone. It having been adjusted and dropped into position, he declared the stone "well and truly laid, under the most favorable auspices—in good rainy weather"—(a shower falling at the moment). He said he was not at all sorry the rain had come on; they had all been looking for it for some time. He had to apologise for the absence of Mr Moore, Minister for Agriculture, who would have strained a point to be down, but it was impossible for him to get away just now in the middle of the week. He expressed sorrow that he could not accept the first invitation he had received since accepting office, but assured him that he would come down to open the building and the show. He apologised also for the absence of Captain Millard, that gentleman being unable to get away. As regards laying the stone he was glad the Minister could not come, as the duty thus devolved upon him. He had more interest in the society than the Minister. He was an old member of the society and was treasurer for a number of years. Though there were several societies in the district which he represented, and while he would do all he could for the others, he would be excused for having a special interest in the Shoalhaven Society. He recognised the difficulty the society was under in regard to the ground. It was one of the best sites in the State, but it was not their own, and never could be their own. That being so they could not raise money on mortgage of the building, but the committee had to give a personal guarantee. They under-

to give a personal guarantee. They undertake a serious responsibility in putting up a building to cost £1200 when they had only £600 in hand. Twenty members of the committee had become responsible for £600 in the bank. He did not know why they did it, for they got nothing out of it. They did it for the benefit of the public, and the people of the district should see that that responsibility did not rest upon them more than a couple of years at most. To put it straight, they must fork out. At one time he thought there were too many shows, but seeing the good work each society was doing he took a different view now. The committee were to be commended for what they had done, and it was only right that those who were not taking a prominent part in the management of the society should assist in relieving the burden. From what he could understand they were not likely to get any assistance from the Government, because they had no money to give. The present Government were going to let the people depend more upon themselves. They would get no assis-

tance this year or next year. That being so it would be necessary for them to be economical in regard to their next show. Mr Morton then read the following history of the Shoalhaven Agricultural Society, as compiled from the records:—"The society held its first show at Terara on February 11, 1875 (a one-day show). The entries numbered 324, with a membership of 63, and an attendance of 500, and £128 was given in prize-money. For the 1904 show in Nowra they had a record number of entries (4300), 325 members, and the prize-money totalled £485, whilst the attendance was 7000, and the gate takings were close on £200. The schedule of prizes for the first show was drafted by Messrs John M'Arthur (who was for many years a valued officer), Jno. Monaghan, Isaac Hewitt, D. Hyam, and Arthur Elyard. In the opening year, 1875, there were in Shoalhaven 7124 acres under cultivation for grain, 215,911 bushels of maize being produced, and some 102 bushels of wheat. Potato cultivation the same year represented 478 acres for a product of 1924 tons; oats, 326 acres, product 2988 bushels; hay, 22

326 acres, product 2988 bushels; hay, 22 acres, 57 tons. There were then in Camden and St. Vincent 16,636 horned cattle, 2925 horses, 6934 pigs, and 436 sheep. There were in 1904 76,453 cows and 72,839 young stock. The first show in Nowra was held in 1886, when there was an increase of nearly 400 entries. There had been very satisfactory increase since, and the show had grown in popularity. The first year in Nowra there were 323 entries in horses and 185 in cattle. Two years later these numbers increased to 492 and 789 respectively, being more than the whole of the entries for the show five years previously. The first general meeting of the society was held on 10th September, 1874, at the old Temperance Hall, Terara, when the first Government grant of £104 was announced. Agricultural societies were not then so numerous as now, and they were each granted a certain sum every year without any such conditions as were imposed nowadays. The first president of the society was Mr James Aldcorn, and the first secretary Mr John M'Arthur, who gratuitously gave faithful service throughout its initial difficulties. Agricultural shows were held for a number of years in connection with the Berry Estate prior to the establishment of the Shoalhaven society. The first of these was held at Gerringong on January 6, 1864 (nearly 41 years ago). The judges at that time included such men as Lee, Munro, Housten, and others." Continuing, Mr Morton said it seemed a fair increase from 63 to 325 members, but considering the population 325 was not as large a membership roll as they should have. He hoped extra exertions would be made to enrol members, and that as a result the total next year would approximate nearer 500. Every business man should be a member, as the shows brought trade to the town. When the building was finished they should set apart a room for the holding of quarterly meetings. He would suggest that the committee hold these meetings regularly every three months, at night time, for the discussion of agricultural subjects. He pointed out a new feature to be introduced at the next Sydney show, a District Societies Grand Competition, and expressed an earnest desire that the South Coast Societies should compete. He read the terms and conditions governing the competition and expressed his

pers. He read the terms and conditions governing the competition, and expressed his firm conviction that the South Coast societies could win the prize. He also referred to the fact that the Government proposed to establish a separate Agricultural Department, in which event they were bound to have legislation affecting their interests as dairy farmers. Only the previous week a Government official was speaking in the district in regard to what was likely to be done. He was pleased to see that those who held different views to himself on the question of the relationship of the Government to the dairy industry were coming round, and were greatly modifying their views. The farmers should have their own butter exchange in Sydney, controlled by themselves, and should make regulations for dealing with their own product. That should be done by the farmers themselves. If they did not do it for themselves the powers that be would do it for them. He had had the opportunity of seeing the confidential reports of the commercial agent in London regarding the quality of butter exported, and it was no breach of confidence for him to say that they were not so bad as made out in some quarters. He held the opinion that if the Minister received reports from the commercial agent, it was his duty to make them public, as it was the public who found the money to pay the agent's salary. The whole reports should be published, so that those interested could judge for themselves. Referring to the high prices for New Zealand butter in London, he said that was due, not to Government grading, but to improved transport arrangements, a better climate, and a more regular rainfall.

That enabled New Zealand to ensure a continuity of supply to the old country. They could not hold their own in the home market unless they could forward supplies every week. The establishment of a butter exchange, managed by the farmers themselves, would enable them better to control the business, and to secure a high place in the English market. He hoped the society would go on and flourish. They now held as good a show as any on the coast, and with the new building they should have still better exhibitions. The old pavilion should have been burnt down long ago, and no doubt would

burnt down long ago, and no doubt would have been, only they could not get anyone to insure it. With the fine new building now taking its place the shows should be more attractive and profitable, and he looked forward to the society becoming one of the premier societies in the State. (Applause.)

Some £33 was placed on the stone.

SPORTS.

The following sports programme was then carried out:—

Boys under 14 years.

Gordon Higgs	1
Cecil Griffiths	2

Boys under 12.

First heat.

C. Campbell	1
F. Gibson	2

Second heat.

W. Purdie	1
K. Hyam	2

Final.

C. Campbell	1
K. Hyam	2

Boys under 10 years

E. Gyde	1
A. Moore	2

Girls under 12 years.

Una M'Carthy	1
Dorothy Symonds	2

Girls under 14 years.

Ethel Richards	1
Effie Gyde	2

Girls under 10 years.

Mona Linkenbagh	1
Heather Leeming	2

Bicycle Race.

H. Breen	1
J. Smith	2

Boys' Bicycle Race.

K. Hyam	1
F. Brown	2

Wood-chopping Contest.

W. Harvey (10sec.), 2 44 ...	1
A. Whatman (48sec.), 3.12 ...	2
A. James (50sec.), 3 18 ...	3
G. Armitage (scr.), 3 19 4-5 ...	4

Members' Race.

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Jas. Morison	1
John Muller	2

Handicap Trot.

J. Ryan, 25sec.	1
T. F. Herne, scratch	2

Pony Jump.

J. M'Arthur	...	...	...	1
J. Morison	...	...	...	2

440 Yards Boys' Race.

J. Morrissey	...	...	...	1
R. Symonds	...	...	...	2
