

AN UNVEILING CEREMONY.

NUMULGI'S HONOUR ROLL AND WAR TROPHY.

A FINE RECORD OF PATRIOTISM.

The Numulgi Soldiers' Memorial Hall was altogether too small to accommodate the large number who desired to take part in and witness the unveiling of the complete honour roll and war trophy on Tuesday evening last. This was not to be wondered at, as Numulgi is recognised as one of the most patriotic centres on the Richmond River, and did much towards contributing to funds and providing comforts for those whom they had sent abroad. Of the 37 enlistments no less than 16 paid the supreme sacrifice, 7 were wounded, 3 disabled, and 11 gassed. Among the distinguished visitors present were Matron Smith and Nurse McNamara, of the Lismore District Hospital, the former performing the unveiling ceremony. Mr. R. W. Simes presided, and read apologies from Messrs G. Nesbitt, R. S. Perdreau, and T. J. Swiney, M's.L.A.; Mrs. Hindmarsh, president of Lismore Red Cross Society; Dr. Bignell, Dr. Aspinall, and Dr. and Mrs. Kellas.

The proceedings opened with the singing of "God Save the King." During an interval in the proceedings a flashlight photo was taken of those assembled in the building, and later another one of distinguished visitors, returned soldiers, honour roll and war trophy on the platform, by Mr. W. G. Parker, of the Radford Studios, Lismore.

The chairman stated he was pleased to see such a fine gathering of the residents of Numulgi on such a unique occasion. Not much was printed in the newspapers about the centre, but it was able to boast of many things in which they felt a pride, chief among which was the loyal patriotism they had shown during the dark days of the war. Numulgi could be reckoned as one of the historic spots on the Richmond River, claiming the distinction of being the first centre to hold a ploughing match—and the only one ever held—as far back as the year 1890, the winner turning up in Mr. Matthew Bulmer, now of Casino. A black boy, under the age of 18, also won a match. Numulgi came into prominence in later years in connection

of 18, also won a match. Numulgi came into prominence in later years in connection with the great war, Mr. J. Langdon being the first volunteer for active service abroad. Subsequently it came into greater prominence by the many sacrifices made by its soldiers, probably greater sacrifices in proportion to its population than any other place in the whole of the Commonwealth. Of those who had left for the other side fully 50 per cent. never returned, and of those who were fortunate to reach home every one of them took his share in the firing line, and with one or two exceptions through illness all were in the thick of the battle. The function for which they had assembled that evening reminded them the people of Numulgi were still doing their part. Messrs. F. Elliott, W. Monigal and F. Crowther had been appointed trustees for the war trophy, which they had accepted, further reminding the people that was another record day in their history, added to by the unveiling of the honour roll and the placing of the war trophy in the building as something to perpetuate the memory of the brave boys who did their bit at the front. They did not want to look upon the gun simply as something won from the enemy, but as something which would create enthusiasm in their hearts, causing the people to act up to their principles and promises made to them when they left to go and fight their battles on the other side. Their soldiers had done great and noble work, their pluck being equalled but never surpassed, and largely through their efforts victory had been brought about. They had met that evening to honour them, and to show they were grateful and thankful to them for the noble deeds performed. They were glad also that the trophy they were taking possession of had been won by their own deeds on the front line. Those who were unable to go felt privileged in doing something at home to assist towards comfort on the other side. He thanked them for the honour conferred on him in being asked to preside, and hoped Numulgi would continue to make history, and in the days to come would look back with pride on the great things achieved for those who had enlisted. The chairman stated that in order that every returned man in Numulgi should have a fair deal, each battalion was put in the hat and drawn for. The first out was that of Mr. P. Gaffney, 26th Batt., and the gun they would see that night was captured by that battalion.

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The chairman then invited Matron Elsie M. Smith, A.A.N.S., and Sister Eileen L. McNamara, A.A.N.S. (of the Lismore District Hospital), to occupy seats on the platform, sitting on the former, amid much applause, to unveil the honour roll and war trophy.

The matron said she esteemed it a great privilege to be associated with any movement to commemorate the deeds of the brave lads whose suffering it had been her unfortunate lot to witness on the fields of France. In unveiling the honour roll she stated she hoped it would be as a lasting memorial to the brave lads who had given their best for their King and country, as well as to those who followed after them. The matron then unveiled the board amid great applause, subsequently being presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers by Miss Thelma Gordon, who had lost an uncle in the war.

Rev. A. E. Preece (Anglican) was pleased to be present on such a unique occasion and to join in the beautiful ceremony, but expected to be a common spectator only of the function. He had had a deal to do with similar functions in Victoria, where he had taken part in many scenes of welcome, presenting them with war medals, congratulating them, and also condoning with the sorrowing ones. He was glad to be associated with the brave soldiers, and was mindful not to allow their doings to fade from his memory. As they looked upon the trophy their hearts welled up with gratitude, remembering their sacrifices were not in vain, for by them they had won victory. The awful tyranny was lifted by their wonderful deeds. They felt and realised what had been accomplished had been done for them, many of whom had not been able to go. They were not forgetful of what the nurses had done in succouring the sick and suffering, attending to their wounds, and alleviating their pain by their cheery words. They owed much to these great-hearted women, without whose aid victory would not have been possible. He congratulated them on their beautiful honour roll, which was neat and attractive. He hoped in looking at the gun that they would always remain silent, for wars were devilish and hellish, and opposed to everything Christian and God-like. He hoped by the ringing down of the curtain on the late great war they would never witness or see the like again, but in that respect there was only one guarantee, and that was in the wonderful

guarantee, and that was in the wonderful League of Nations pledging themselves to prevent it. It was the only instrument to prevent a war in the future. If men persisted in going round with their fists up they invariably got what they were looking for, but so far as he was able to judge their safeguard lay in the League of Nations. He hoped the honour roll would remain as a lasting memory of the great things done by their men, and the part taken by the Numulgi heroes in the war.

Rev. F. H. Druery (Presbyterian) spoke particularly of the work done by those who did not go, and of the fine work achieved by the nurses. He would not say much about the soldiers themselves seeing he was one of them. But of those on the board with the letter K opposite their names—signifying they had made the supreme sacrifice—it was impossible to speak too highly, and their names should be held in reverence. The war nurses had taken many risks on many occasions great and grave, considering it as nothing to go forward and lay down their lives. In the hospitals the wounded were pleased to look upon the sisters' faces, which was a great comfort to them when other things crowded in on their minds; they assisted to brighten one's life and did much to keep their hearts up. Comforts

were provided by those who stayed at home and remained active. He also eulogised the brave parents who willingly said good-bye to their sons, thereby contributing largely toward bringing a victorious ending to the war.

Col. F. J. Board, 41st Batt., A.I.F., officially handed over the war trophy to the trustees on behalf of the war museum, not in any war spirit, but as a lasting reminder of what had been done by the volunteers from the Numulgi district. It would also remind the young generation they had a duty to perform to their King and country should the occasion arise. There could be no doubt whatever that the men of the A.I.F. had proved worthy of their country by their splendid deeds on the other side. He congratulated the Numulgi folk on their splen-

gratulated the Numulgi folk on their splendid display of patriotism both before the war and subsequently: it was an object lesson to those who had done little to emulate the deeds of those who had fought so bravely, magnificently, and successfully. Many centres had made valuable contributions towards the establishment of memorials, but many larger towns had not done their best. He thought the public were beginning to forget the war, but while he heard one man say it took four years to win the war and only took two years to forget it, that, said the Colonel, could not be laid at the door of Numulgi. He congratulated them on the unveiling of their beautiful honour roll, and considered it a gracious act indeed to have it performed by one of their war nurses. The gun was captured from the Hindenburg line by the 26th Battalion.

Major C. A. Munro, 11th L.H., said he much appreciated their invitation to be present at such a pleasing function, and was pleased to see such a fine attendance on so worthy an occasion. It was also a serious one, which Australia had not much chance of forgetting after paying so great a price.

Mr. D. Richardson, a resident of Numulgi, whose son figures among others on the roll as being killed and who himself served as a son of the sea, also spoke.

WAR TROPHY.

Mr. F. Crowther as president of the Soldiers' Memorial Hall then unveiled the war trophy. He thanked Col. Board and other speakers for their kind words in handing over the war trophy to the trustees. It would be kept as a memorial of the obligations they owed to the brave lads. He recognised Numulgi had played its part, and did it well. The Red Cross ladies were entitled to the highest praise, and they had sent away £500 18s 11d in funds, the residents believing they had a right to do their best in the cause. Mr. Crowther then moved a vote of thanks to the matron and sister for their presence, to Colonel Board and Major Munro, and the chairman, who was present at the first committee meeting held at Numulgi, and who practically did everything possible for the welfare of the lads. The people did not sufficiently recognise the chairman's valuable services in the cause, both in a financial manner and labour entailed. He was one of the executive committee on the Repatriation Department, which had done its best in the interests of the returned men. They should not be unmindful of the work performed by the Hon.

returned men. They should not be ungrateful of the work performed by the Hon. W. Massy Greene, who had been most attentive to their requests and it was largely through his efforts that they had secured the war trophy. They were also deeply indebted to those who contributed vocal and instrumental items to so successful an evening.

The vote was seconded by Mr. Forster, who was pleased to see so many distinguished visitors present on such a memorable occasion.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

Col. Board responded on behalf of the matron and nurses. It was a gracious act on the part of the committee to have the unveiling performed by a war matron, as the nurses had done quite as much on the other side as the men of the A.I.F.

The chairman acknowledged the vote.

Mr. F. Elliott on behalf of the residents of Numulgi eulogised the work done for the centre by Mr. F. Crowther during the war. He had been their leader. Had it not been for him the honour roll would never have been completed, nor would they have had the war trophy. He was entitled to the best thanks of the community. Mr. Crowther suitably acknowledged the compliment.

THE HONOUR ROLL.

The following names appear on the honour roll, which is of cedar and finished at the establishment of Mr. Chester Snow, Lismore; the words were done by Mr. Dee Watson, Lismore; the lettering by Miss May Somerville, Numulgi; while the design was the work of Mr. F. Crowther, on whom it reflects the greatest credit:—D. L. Clark, J. Langdon, returned disabled; L. S. Carter, gassed; P. Gaffney, returned disabled; O. G. Clark, returned; J. C. Watts, amputated leg; I. H. Skellington, gassed; H. S. King, E. Watts, W. McMonigal, A. Harvey, F. Elliott, E. Harvey and I. Dawson, all wounded; G. A. Small, E. Heron, A. E. Kimber, G. S. McBlack, G. A. Miller, W. Duncanson, and J. F. Crowther. The "In memoriam" tablet contains the following names:—S. S. Smith, P. B. Mailey, V. Hudson, E. Condon, S. Wilson, D.C.M., R. Clarke, D.C.M., W. P. Low, J. G. F. Richardson, F. Harvey, T. W. McMurtrie, A. Chapman, W. S. Elliott, J. H. Elliott, M. Gaffney, H. O. Kirke. The great war 1914, armistice signed 1918.

During the evening the following contributed to a musical programme:—Piano: fore overtures, Miss Nellie Gaffney; song: Master Fairfull: cornet solo: Mr. W. R.

more overtures, Miss Nellie Gattney; song, Master Fairfull; cornet solo, Mr W. R. Clark; recitations, Miss McGinness; songs, Rev. F. H. Drury; pianoforte solo, Miss Hazel Patten; dance, Miss Eva McTaggart; cornet and trombone duets, Messrs Clark and Edmonds; songs, Miss McMahon; piano and violin duet, Miss M. Clark and Mr. G. McArthur; violin solos, Miss D. Patten. Both the cornet and trombone items and the piano and violin duet were encored.

The singing of the National Anthem and cheers concluded a pleasing, interesting, and successful function. Refreshments were subsequently partaken of.

William Schuetz, of New York, who recently won national fame by winning a prize for an essay entitled "Ideals of Americanism," was arrested last month on a charge of burglary. He pleaded guilty, and was committed for trial.
