

KINDERGARTEN HALL.

Laying of Foundation Stone.

As the business and residential sites in Orange progress, so do our churches and schools. The next that will become a distinct adornment to Anson street will be the erection of a handsome kindergarten hall in connection with the Methodist Church, the foundation stone of which was duly laid by the Rev. C. P. Walkden Brown, in the presence of a large crowd, on Saturday afternoon. The function was only a formal and hurried one, owing to the departure of Mr. Brown to-day on a three months' trip to Tonga, and, on his return, the building will be about completed, when the opening ceremony will take place in an elaborate form.

The grounds were gaily decorated with flags and greenery for the occasion, and proceedings were commenced with the singing of the Duxology after which the Rev. Brown offered prayer. He followed by saying the occasion which brought them together that afternoon would account for much satisfaction and pleasure. They had many schemes in their desires for years, and the present was one very dear to them. They were, in a very great sense, indebted to the works of their forefathers, and they, as a people, should be thankful that previous Methodists in Orange had given them what they possessed to-day. When the kindergarten hall becomes a reality, the trustees will have gladdened the hearts of the people, so that the best will be done for their children. For the past four years their eyes were looking forward to the beginning of the hall. It had become imperative for them to have a new and larger building, and they never lost sight of having a beautiful home for their little ones. That day they saw the crystallisation or materialisation of such a structure, which was going to be a worthy edifice and a true home. He thanked God to be with them on such a happy occasion, because, often when he was playing for a singer, "It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperary," he thought of the kindergarten hall. He thanked the trustees, well-wishers and supporters of the Methodist Church, and, in the coming days he would be thankful to God for having such a beautiful building.

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ing such a beautiful building.

Mr. S. Lamrock, treasurer of the trust, on being called upon to make a statement regarding the position of the building, both financially and otherwise, said it would be 30ft x 40ft, with an elaborate front entrance, and capable of seating 140 children. In support of its erection they had received from the two previous harvest festivals £216. At the last one in March of this year they appealed for £350 and received £561, making a total of £771 in hand. (Applause). The building and all expenses would approximately amount to £877. When it is to be opened they will practically require £100 to render it free of debt. He explained that the reason for the small function that day was on account of the Rev. Brown's hurried departure, as that was the only time he would have to perform the ceremony. Proceedings also had to be curtailed, in view of the influenza restrictions, therefore no invitations had been issued. The grand opening will take place at the end of July or early in August, when special celebrations will be held. He mentioned that little Miss Clare Hawke had sold £4/6 worth of bricks, and was still going strong. (Applause).

Rev. Brown expressed their thanks to Mr. Davis, the contractor, who had moved very quickly to get ready for them that day, and the appreciation of that gentleman's work was signified with hearty acclamation.

Mr. Lamrock then presented Rev. Brown with a silver trowel on behalf of the kindergarten.

Rev. Brown then declared to the glory of God the stone well and truly laid, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, which he did on behalf of one who has been a valuable member of the church and a very dear friend—Mrs. M. T. Dale, and he would convey all their love to her from that gathering. The foundation stone bore the following inscription: "This stone was laid in honor of Mrs. M. T. Dale, for many years a valued member and a consistent and liberal supporter of the Orange Methodist Church, by Rev. C. P. Walkden Brown, superintendent minister, May 3, 1919."

The singing of the National Anthem terminated proceedings, after which dainty refreshments were served in the school hall by a band of lady church workers.

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There are some historic incidents in connection with Methodism in Orange which render the laying of the foundation stone of the new kindergarten hall, in Anson-st., of special interest. The foundation stone of the ornate church was laid on Boxing Day 55 years ago by the late Mr. James B. Lane, brother of Mr. Edwin Lane, and father of Messrs Tracey and Allan Lane, who are still amongst us. The inscription on the memorial stone of the hall set forth that it was laid on behalf and in honor of Mrs. Dale, of Anson street, a sister of Messrs James B. and Edwin Lane, who has evinced a lifelong and valued interest in the church's affairs. A coincidence also worth recording is that Mr. William Lane, of Orange East, was present at the function 55 years ago and also on Saturday last.