

## BOYS WHO FOUGHT Tumblong's Honor

Although the speakers assured their hearers at the unveiling of the Soldiers' Monument at Tumblong, yesterday afternoon, that they would not talk of Conscription, the whole trend of the speeches delivered was in the direction of the Referendum—in fact, the delivery of the Hon. S. R. Innes-Noad, M.L.C., was really the first shot fired in the Referendum campaign in this State.

The weather behaved shockingly. Rain was on tap all day—it came down whenever the Band played and the speakers burst into eloquence. The attendance was expected to be something that would astonish the natives, but the rain upset all calculations. As it was, the gathering numbered several hundred, and was clothed in smiles, overcoats and umbrellas. About 3 p.m. the function commenced. On a raised platform, Mr W. H. Sitthorpe presided, and he called on Mr. Manns to unveil the monument.

Mr Manns (who has three sons at the war) pulled off the Union Jack covering the monument, and Gundagai Town Band (Bandmaster A. J. Browning conducting) played a suitable selection.

The Hon. S. R. Innes-Noad, M.L.C., apologised for the non-attendance of Premier Holman—nothing but matters of extreme urgency in these critical times kept him from being amongst his constituents that day. He said he had often been present at the unveiling of honor rolls, but this was the first time he had seen a marble monument like the one in front of him, and it was only right that the names of these men should be written in imperishable marble. In years to come the children present that day would be able to bring their children and show them, on this monument, the names of the men who saved them in the greatest war humanity had ever known. The speaker told of how one of his own daughters had been employed in the Anzac Buffet, London since the commencement of the war—how, writing home to Australia, she said it would make the heart bleed to see how deadly tired were the poor boys who were doing the fighting, and it was not fair that they should be kept

doing the fighting, and it was not fair that they should be kept up to the collar. He asked them to remember the boys who were making sacrifices by keeping up in Australia, the required reinforcements. All through last Conscription campaign he never for one moment accused the lads of Australia of being wanting in their duty. He believed the opposition came from those of alien blood who had battered on the community, sentimental ladies and the effeminate man (who because they could not go themselves said they would not send another man.) Such an argument as the last showed that these folk must be non compos mentis. In the forthcoming fight they had to consider what was their duty to their country—not what was their duty to Bill Jones. They had to find the men to fight, and, God helping them, they would do so. No one could fail to be impressed by the recent speeches of Premier Holman—a man of wide reading and culture—a man who had been in touch with the "heads" in Britain. Previously they only got news to cheer and buck them up, but Mr Holman told them how France was within appreciable distance of exhaustion, and at one time it would not have been, supposing if she had sued for a separate peace. He would ask them to remember that when the Referendum came round it was not the same as on the previous occasions—in fact, the list of exemptions was so liberal that he doubted if they could keep up the required reinforcements. Last time many voted 'No' for different reasons. There were those who voted to see our country defeated, and men who wouldn't send another fellow to fight. Then there was the man who declined to go when he saw another man like himself left. But now they had to get the men—there was no escape. They were in this war right up to their necks—the flood waters were running in their lips. Russia was now a negligible quantity, Italy could never recover, France was on her last legs, and England was being torn by pacifists. He was sorry to say that we had in our midst aliens whose one desire was to see us go under and get control of the State; but the people should say that no disloyal element was strong enough to crush out national sentiment. He believed the ending of this war was going

to be England's job—if she failed the world would be Germanised. England had never been beaten in a war since the days of the Norman conquest, and it was England who gained the great victory at Agincourt, who smashed Austria, defeated the Spanish Armada, and broke the power of Napoleon. He asked those present to think of their boys who had made the supreme sacrifice—what greater sacrifice could a man make than lay down his life for his friends? "Don't leave the boys in the lurch," pleaded the speaker, "help them with reinforcements. All their names will be written on our memories as they are now on the imperishable marble." Loud applause.)

The public school children sang "Advance Australia Fair."

Hon. J. M. Dodd, M.L.C., congratulated his old Tumblong friends on the handsome monument they had erected to honor the boys at the front—their example was one other part of the district might follow.

Mr A. D. Donnelly said the names of the men on the monument would be kept green when all present that day would be dead and gone. But erecting monuments was not the end of their obligations—they must not let the boys at the front cry in vain—they must fight on. They must not be divided amongst themselves. There must be only two classes now—those loyal and anxious to win the war and those who were not. In the name of the Lord why were they not united? It only wanted a division in India to-day, and then no one could say what would happen. He asked everyone present to strip their souls naked and ask themselves if there was any but one answer to the big question which would be asked of them later on.

Master James Neve sang "Keep the Home Fires Burning," the school children joining in the chorus, and the Band gave a selection.

Mr P. Sullivan congratulated Tumblong folk on the beautiful monument they had placed on the hillside to commemorate the doings of those lads whose actions were a pattern to "men of grosser blood." Of the 34 lads who had gone from Tumblong, three had fallen at the front—two

had gone from Tumblong, three had fallen at the front — fine young fellows like Bob Isaac, Eric Johnson, and O. Fathers, Tumblong could remember them next month, when the people were asked to say if their blood had been shed in vain.

Mr R. T. Beatty was pleased to see the way the Tumblong people had perpetuated the memories of their men engaged in the great war. He told of how it was the young men of Great Britain who stood up to the great Napoleon and saw the thing through in those days, and they would do so again to-day. He warned his hearers to beware of Bolshevism in this country. The speaker told off how he had heard a returned soldier relate German atrocities he had been an eye-witness of—men crucified to their own doors, babes murdered, etc. How was it that they never experienced such things in Australia? Because that piece of bunting, the Union Jack, had sheltered them, when in their swaddling clothes. They must remember that the sacrifice must be made—he was willing to make it in his turn. If the Germans overwhelmed them life would not be worth living.

Mr Scotter (headmaster of the Tumblong Public School) told how, six months ago, the idea to perpetuate the memories of their soldier boys had been taken up in Tumblong. The people first intended erecting a honor roll, but they subscribed so generously that the result was the fine monument they had unveiled that day. It was the work of Mr. F. Ruseoni, of Gundagai, who had carried out his contract faithfully and generously. They were pleased to have a visit from the Hon S. R. Innes-Noad, and, on behalf of Tumblong people, he thanked him for the fine unveiling oration he had delivered.

Mr Sibthorpe thanked all those who had assisted at the gathering, and especially the speakers.

Cheers were given for the speakers, the King, the Allies, and the boys at the front, a "tiger" accompanying the last.

After the ceremony a tasty afternoon tea was provided in the Assembly Hall by the Tumblong ladies.

The monument stands on the public school grounds. It is of the best white marble, on a pedestal and octagon basement of

the best white marble, on a pedestal and octagon basement of stone. On the two bases are big gun shells, supporting cannon, pointing outwards. The monument is topped with a vase, and underneath it, on the sub-base, is inscribed, "In honor of our Tumblong boys who fought in the great war." Then follow the 32 names. On one side of the base the date of the start of the war, is inscribed, and on the other side the figures 191—, the blank to be filled in when the war is over. The whole is surrounded by an iron railing, the work of a returned soldier.

The monument cost over £80, and was paid for by Tumblong district people alone. The design and whole work was that of Gundagai's artistic monumental sculptor, Mr F. Ruseoni, and the monument is a fine advertisement of his capabilities.

The names of the soldiers inscribed on the monument are: — A. Brown, F. Bell, C. Carter, C. Clarke, G. Clarke, Geo. Cole, J. Diamond, T. Diamond, M. Embury, Geo. Frank, O. Fathers, R. Gittoes, R. Horton, E. Hardwick, R. Isaac, E. Johnson, F. Keihone, W. Lewin, L. Manns, O. Manns, C. Manns, C. Metrose, H. Robertson, M. Spicer, Geo. Sibthorpe, E. Sibthorpe, J. Waterhouse, James Whitleker, R. Whitleker.

At night a very enjoyable dance was held in the assembly hall. The bad weather militated against the attendance, but about 35 couples danced till daylight this morning.