

UNVEILED

SOUTH ARM WAR MEMORIAL

FITTING MONUMENT TO HEROES OF GREAT WAR

Memories of the Great War of 1914-1918 were revived in the minds of many residents of the Tweed River on Saturday, when the South Arm War Memorial was unveiled. Vividly they pictured well-known faces now gone forever from the sight of man—those brave young men who went forth to fight for the freedom of their country, and returned not again.

It is nine years since peace was declared between the warring nations, and if memory of some deceased soldiers has been dimmed, that of the South Arm men who paid the supreme sacrifice has been immortalised until the end of time. A column of stone has been erected, with the names of the killed and returned soldiers thereon, and its structure is such that it will withstand the elements right through the ages in honor of the dead and the living. From a utility standpoint, it will serve to tell South Arm residents the time of day, for embedded in two faces of the column are large clocks, worked by electric batteries installed in the public school, which is nearby.

The greater portion of the popula-

The greater portion of the population of the South Arm gathered around the cenotaph at Uki on Saturday afternoon, when the unveiling ceremony was performed by Mrs. George Sweetnam, of Murwillumbah, who has the distinction of being the oldest lady resident of the South Arm who lost a son in the Great War.

Mr. D. C. Marshall, another old resident, a staunch friend of the Digger, and chairman of the Memorial Committee, presided. The ceremony opened with the National Anthem, played by Murwillumbah Town Band.

Cr. J. H. McCollum (President of Tweed Shire Council), said the gathering would remember that a few weeks ago they celebrated the ninth anniversary of the signing of the Armistice. All would call to mind the feeling of elation when news came through that the sheer waste of blood and the dreadful carnage necessitated by the war was to cease, but mingled with that elation was a note of sadness. They could not forget that many who went forth would never return, and that many others would come back maimed. It was a long time, comparatively, since the war ended, and many were apt to forget the long drawn-out suffering. The human mind was so constituted that it could forget suffering easily, and remember pleasures for a long time. Perhaps it was better that it was so.

INSPIRE RISING GENERATION.

The memorial they were going to unveil that day would call to mind men who went and gallantly fell; also those men who sallied forth, risked their lives and returned to their loved ones. They had the greatest sympathy for the relatives of the fallen—they were all thought of, even amongst the jubilation at the signing of the Armistice. The monument would be an inspiration to the rising generation. It

spiration to the rising generation. It would show them what the men of the South Arm had done at one time, and that, should occasion arise again (he fervently hoped it would not), they could do no less than emulate those who went before them.

Cr. McCollum appealed to school teachers throughout the South Arm to inculcate in the minds of the children under their charge, respect and reverence for the monument. He added that, perhaps a few of the men who went to the war were not a credit to the army, but they could not detract from, or lower, the status of the whole.

In the olden days, particularly among the northern nations of Europe, the women fought alongside the men. Any nation whose soldiers were not backed up by its women was doomed. However, he was pleased to say that during the European War the Australian women came forward courageously, and staunchly backed up the men. Cr. McCollum referred particularly to Mrs. Culbert and Mrs. Milson, who had given time freely in the interests of the Red Cross and other war work.

Ald. J. A. Jay (Mayor of Murwillumbah), thanked the citizens of the South Arm for the honor they had done him, and the citizens of Murwillumbah, in extending him an invitation to be present. He congratulated the people of Uki and the South Arm on the splendid memorial they had erected to the honor of the men who went to the war. It was argued by some people that the erection of such monuments was waste of time, and that the money would be better expended in providing relief to returned men. People who said that were very short-sighted in their viewpoint. Australia had not been neglectful of her returned heroes. Since the war ended the Government had expended

the sum of £140,000,000 in according relief to returned men, the yearly expenditure being something over £14,000,000. He thought these figures

showed conclusively that the returned soldiers had not been neglected. In addition, thousands of pounds had been subscribed to public funds, but in spite of all this it could not be denied that there were individual cases of hardship. On the other hand, the sentiment behind the erection of a memorial, to his mind, was one of the best in the world.

The soldiers went forth to uphold the honor of the country and to keep Australia free, and in the war, thank God, they had been triumphant. But what a great sacrifice of men and money, which we could ill afford, had been necessary to keep Australia free for Australians! The monument would tend to show at what cost. There was a clarion call coming across from the poppy fields of Flanders, where many of our bravest and best lay sleeping, and it was—"Lest We Forget!"

DETAILS OF MEMORIAL.

Mr. Marshall said many people might be wondering why he was chairman that day. It had been his honor and privilege to preside at every send-off to South Arm soldiers, also at every welcome-home function, and in addition he was chairman of the Memorial Committee. Those were the reasons why he was presiding. The material used in the monument was everlasting, and should another war occur the memorial might serve to inculcate in the minds of the young men of that generation a spirit of emulation of the glorious sacrifices of the soldiers of 1914-18. The material was the best procurable—Gosford stone and Bowral trachyte. The clock was one of Proud's electric models, driven by batteries from a master clock placed in the school. There

models, driven by batteries from a master clock placed in the school. There were 93 names inscribed on the monument—those who fell and those who returned. The original estimate for the monument, which had been designed by Sir John Sulman, and the erection supervised by a Government officer, had been greatly increased through having all the names of the men who enlisted from the South Arm inscribed. The contract price for the monument was £300, and the cost of the trachyte tablets and engraving of names amounted to £82. Installed, the clocks cost £85, while the architect's fees amounted to £10. It was proposed to erect a fence with galvanised railing around the monument, and this was estimated to cost £20. The timber for the fence, to cost £7, had been donated by Mr. J. Priest. Efforts to raise funds to finance the work resulted in a sum of £325, and this amount he had placed in the bank to earn interest of £25. There was still a balance of £147 required to complete payment.

Mr. E. E. Newell, popularly known as the "Tweed Diggers' Friend," and who was responsible for the construction and beautification of the park near Murwillumbah bridge (now named after him) and for the erection of the splendid monument in it to the honor and memory of Tweed Diggers, declared it was an honor for him to be invited to attend the function. However, it was always an honor, a privilege and pleasure, for him to assist in furthering the interests of the returned men. He had no greater admiration than for the man who had fought in the face of awful danger that we might live peacefully, own our own farms and businesses, and so on. Mr. Newell congratulated the committee on the fine memorial they had erected; their selection of a design and site. Such a monument was a necessity to show the children of coming generations what the soldiers had done, and what was properly inculcated in a child's mind would stay

in a child's mind would stay forever.

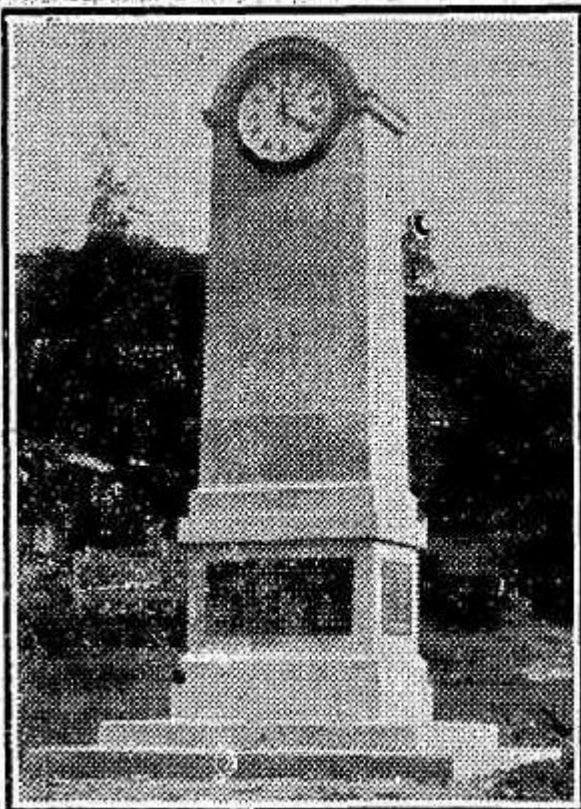
Continuing, Mr. Newell said: "While we regret the necessity for erecting such monuments throughout Australia, we must congratulate the soldiers on the ready response they made to the call to arms, and particularly those who went from the South Arm. The mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers left behind must have found it hard to suffer the months and years of suspense, anxiety and sorrow. To those who have not returned we bow and bare our heads; to those who have been bereaved we offer our most sincere and heartfelt sympathy, and to those who have returned we offer our congratulations and express our great pride in their fine achievements. The South Arm folk, in the provision of this splendid monument, intend that the memory of their fallen heroes shall forever be kept green."

WORTHY OF SACRIFICE.

"The district those men worked in and fought for," said Mr. Newell, "is worthy of them. It is still in process of development, and on those left behind devolves the task of completing the work started by the pioneers. The desired development, however, can only be attained by work and the money resulting from the produce of such work. In this connection, I am pleased to say that the prospects look better than they have done for some seasons past. The recognition by the Federal Parliament of our claims for increased duties on imported butter is a matter on which we can congratulate ourselves, and it is a matter for equal congratulation that such increase, in a large measure, has been obtained for us by our Digger member, Mr. Roland Green."

"Put your hands together for the Digger," continued Mr. Newell, and the gathering responded with loud applause. Mr. Newell added that our next objective should be legislation to

next objective should be legislation to prevent the lowering of prices through inter-State competition. When that was accomplished the Tweed should prosper, not only as we would wish it, but as our Digger boys of 1914-18



SOUTH ARM WAR MEMORIAL.

hoped to see it—the brightest, happiest and most prosperous countryside in the Commonwealth.

Mr. F. Spratt, Kunghur, said that when one looked upon the monument one could truthfully say the fallen had not been forgotten. The monument would be a great example to the rising generation; it should act as a finger post for them to go and do likewise should occasion demand. The soldiers of 1914-18 had made Australia a nation. The Commonwealth would not be free to-day if the men had not gone forth to do battle. And the men from the Land of the Sun had played a very big part in

the Sun had played a very big part in the war; so big a part, in fact, that Australia had been placed on the map among nations. Their deeds permitted us to say to Japan, "We want a White Australia, and we intend to have it," while other nations accorded us due respect and would be careful not to tread on our corns. Their hearts went out to the bereaved ones, but when they looked up at the monument they would be able to say that the sacrifice of their boys had not been forgotten. It must be balm to their suffering to see that the great sacrifice was to be immortalised. Mr. Spratt pointed out that £147 was needed to complete payment for the monument, and he appealed for donations and the organisation of functions to liquidate the debt.

ENDURE TO END OF TIME.

Mr. C. H. Fuge said he looked upon the ceremony, not only as a mark of respect to the fallen, but as an appreciation of those who returned. The monument would be handed down through the ages, and with it the history of the great war. It would endure to the end of time. Tourists passing through the district might perhaps stop to read the names inscribed, and if they had been privileged to read some of the tombstones in France and other theatres of war, they might find some identical names. That would serve to bring to their minds the great sacrifice. The monument was indestructible, and under the shadow of Mount Warning it would serve as a beacon to the whole district. Mr. Fuge extended deepest sympathy to the relatives of the fallen.

There was impressive silence when Mrs. Sweetnam pulled a cord, allowing the flags that draped the monument to flutter to the ground. The people stood with bared heads, and the Band rendered the National Anthem.

Mrs. J. H. McCollum then placed "Lest We Forget" wreaths on the

"Lest We Forget" wreaths on the monument, another being deposited by relatives of a deceased soldier. "The Last Post" was then sounded by Mr. J. Pike.

Rev. J. Naish, Church of England Minister in charge of Upper Tweed, next took charge of the proceedings. He apologised for the absence of Rev. Owen Evans, Ven. Archdeacon Quinn and a representative of the Salvation Army.

After the hymn, "O God Our Help in Ages Past," had been sung, Rev. Naish led the gathering in prayer. Delivering an address, he took for his text, "What Mean Ye by These Stones?" He said that when the Israelites were being led through the desert of the land of Canaan they experienced a very trying time. But they at last came to the Nile, on the other side of which was the promised land. The Israelites, however, despaired of crossing the river, but by the act of God they crossed on dry land. Their leader, Joshua, then ordered them to take stones from the bottom of the river and erect them, so as to remind their children of what God had done. The people of the South Arm had now erected a monument, because they wanted to remember those who went forth to do battle in the cause of truth, liberty and righteousness. As the years went by, children would ask why the monument was there, and what it signified. It would be the duty of the parents to give them a full and proper answer, so that their children would regard it in the same light as they themselves did. They would have to tell their children that once in days gone by there was a call to arms—a matter of right against wrong—and that the men whose names appeared on the monument went forth in the cause of righteousness and peace. The monument should be made a lasting memorial of the sacrifices made unselfishly by men in order that those who came after them should live in peace.

after them should live in peace. The hymns, "Lead Kindly Light"

and "God of Our Fathers Known of Old" were sung, after which Rev. Naish dedicated the monument and pronounced the Benediction. The National Anthem, rendered by the Band, concluded the ceremony.