

YAMBA MONUMENT.

UNVEILING CEREMONY.

A large crowd of people assembled at Yamba on Saturday afternoon to witness the unveiling of the monument, which has been erected in honor of the boys who journeyed to the scene of battle to defend their homes and country in the late war.

The monument is very imposing, standing as it does on the corner of the street adjoining Mr. W. Black's property, where it may be seen by visitors to the town by road or boat.

The top of the column is round, and the bottom is square, each side bearing a marble tablet, on which are inscribed several names of the volunteers from Yamba and the district. A machine gun is mounted on the base of the monument facing the street.

The names engraved on the tablets are as follows:—V. R. Baker, R. C. Barber, W. A. Collins, G. J. Harrington, H. C. Makinson, C. S. S. Redman, H. Oakes, W. Pegus, R. Pegus, W. E. Perkins, B. E. Plummer, B. G. Plummer, D. J. Raymond, H. Raymond, J. Reardon, T. Reardon, H. S. S. Redman, E. L. Shawman, F. Shawman, C. Unwin, J. Unwin, G. J. Want, G. Anderson, C. Baker, D. Carr, E. Carr, E. C. Carr, G. Cox, E. C. Law, I. McDermid, G. C. Makinson.

Mr. D. Tulloch was in the chair and seated with him on the platform was the president of the Harwood Shire (Cr. J. Parsons). Apologies for the absence of Rev. Father Durkin and Mr. J. R. Smith were received. The proceedings were opened by the rendering of the National Anthem by the Maclean Band, who gave their services free for the occasion. After the band the company joined in the singing of the National Anthem.

The chairman, in opening the function, said that they had been successful in erecting a monument in honor of the boys who had gone to defend their homes and country in the Great War. It must be considered a credit to a small place like Yamba. They had not had

any large donations. Everybody gave heartily and willingly according to their means, and it might be considered a Yamba monument and that was the most pleasing fact of all. The men came forward bravely, and they fought bravely, and some of them died bravely, and the monument would be an everlasting memorial to those who fell. The ladies of the district and the mothers stood loyally to the boys and never lost interest during the whole duration of the war. A committee had been formed for the erection of the monument, and two of the committeemen stood out above all the others—Mr. George Holmes and "Daddie" Carr.

These two gentlemen worked in a wonderful way; nothing was too much for them to do by way of getting up entertainments or anything in aid of the funds to provide comforts for the boys. Mr. and Mrs. O'Keeffe also worked hard and they had to thank them also for a good deal. One thing they were certain of, the boys from Australia went a long way towards winning the war. The men sent from Australia seemed to weigh the balance on the right side.

Cr. Parsons, in thanking the committee for the invitation to be present, said that he was not a stranger to Yamba. He had lived there 30 years ago, and was not aware at that time that he would be here under the circumstances which he was under that day. Continuing, Cr. Parsons said that they had something inspiring to talk about—they were really making footprints on the sands of time. He presumed that there were some there that day who had lost loved ones at the front, and to those he offered his deepest sympathy. But it was not as though we lived without hope—we might all look forward to the time when there would be a reunion of those who had parted here. The women of Australia took a prominent part when the war was on, and he did not know what the men would have done without their aid and assistance. They worked hard, burning the midnight oil in the preparation of comforts for the boys at the front. There was a sorrow in the hearts of many that, if you laid the world at their feet they would not part with it. He thought that if a trial could be made, or, if a comparison of the work done by the women, if

son of the work done by the women. It would compare more than favorably with anything else. When the war broke out, the great question was, how were the Australian boys going to stand the strain of war? But, on the morning of the landing at Gallipoli, they showed what they were made of. Once they landed they never looked back, they did their duty and did it well. Before the war a lot of people never knew that there was such a place as Australia. This was only one of the many monuments or reminders that had been erected throughout the world. It had been said that we could not concentrate, neither add nor subtract from the hallowed mounds that are dotted about the battlefields, under which the bodies of many of our men lay. He congratulated the people of Yamba on the movement they had made. At the present time many nations were honeycombed with disloyalty. It was a pleasure to be among loyal people they had there that day. He believed that Yamba was going to be a very important place in the future, and in time to come they would be able to look back on the good work that they had done that day. To those who had not been able to go the war he would like to see that they should remember that the liberty which they enjoyed to-day was due to the work done by those who had been in the thick of the battle, many of whom gave their lives. It was up to those who still lived to endeavor to promote the interests of the community at large.

Cr. Parsons then performed the unveiling ceremony, using the words: "I unveil this monument in honor of those who died and hope that this monument will be an incentive to those who still live to live better lives."

The school children, under the baton of Mr. Dalby (headmaster), sang "Lest We Forget."

All stood bareheaded while the pilot performed the ceremony of dipping the flag.

Rev. A. Wood said that he was pleased to be present to join in the important unveiling ceremony. Though he was practically a stranger to those present, he had had the privilege in Queensland of assisting in farewelling and welcoming home many young men. He would

like to pass along a word of sympathy to those who had tender memories of those who fell in the war. He prayed that God would sustain them. He congratulated all those who were instrumental in erecting the monument to the memory of those who gave their lives over on yonder shore. These monuments told him of noble men who lived in by-gone days—men who had paid the price. Perhaps, after the war had been forgotten, and the names of those represented on the monument passed away, it would serve to remind us of those who fought in the Great War.

Rev. L. E. Gray said that he felt it a pleasure to associate with the people of Yamba on an occasion like this one. It spoke well of the loyalty of the people, and the monument was a memory of duties having been well done. This monument was only one of the great many which stand in other places in the

Empire in memory of deeds done in the Great War. It also reminded us that when this youngest and untried part of the Empire was put to the test, they were not found wanting. When the call came, loyalty was very evident. The nation was not to be found wanting, work and service were given without stint. They went forth to uphold the principles of liberty, justice and right. We felt that the memorial reminded us that these three were in danger of being jeopardised, and that we were not as men without hope. Many of our men who went forth, went not to return, and their mortal remains lay buried on foreign soil. In our hearts these would remain consecrated spots, because they hold the mortal remains of those we loved.

The meeting was concluded by the band playing "Abide With Me," and the children singing "Advance, Australia Fair." Refreshments were handed round to the company by the ladies of Yamba.