

THE GEDDES MEMORIAL HALL.

PORT PIRIE, March 31.—On Saturday afternoon the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the new edifice in Norman-street—to be called the "Congregational Hall: Geddes Memorial"—was performed by Councillor J. S. Geddes, an ex-Mayor of Port Pirie. Mr. Geddes' father (the late Mr. Charles Geddes), who also was at one time mayor of the town, occupied the position of teacher and superintendent of the Congregational Sunday-school here for between 35 and 40 years. The Geddes family have been substantial donors towards the erection of the building, and a window will be placed in the structure to the memory of Mr. Geddes, sen. Around the stone were the Revs. J. E. Crosswell and T. D. Webb (pastor of the church), the officers of the church and Sunday-school, and clergymen from other denominations. Mr. Webb introduced the Rev. J. E. Crosswell (chairman of the Congregational Union). Mr. E. H. Green (superintendent of the Sunday-school) was the subject of much praise for his excellent work in connection with the school, and in acknowledging the compliment paid him said it afforded him much pleasure, on behalf of the teachers and officers of the church, and Mr. Pimlott (the contractor), to present Mr. Geddes with a trowel with which to perform the ceremony. Mr. Geddes thanked the Rev. J. E. Crosswell, the Rev. T. D. Webb, and Mr. E. H. Green for their kind remarks. He also complimented Mr. Jenkins on the excellence of the plans. He had pleasure in accepting the trowel and declaring the stone well and truly laid.

At the invitation of the chairman of the Union the following representatives of other churches spoke:—The Revs. E. W. Caust (Methodist), J. A. Pawson (Presbyterian), and J. E. Shipway (Church of Christ). The Rev. T. D. Webb said he had received apologies for their unavoidable absence from Rev. John Chapman (who for many years occupied the pulpit at the Port Pirie Congregational Church), Rev. A. Gowans, and Adjutant Seaman: the Mayor (Mr. A. B. Forgan), because of illness; Mrs. Charles Geddes, and Mr. T. O. Simpson. A vote of thanks to Mr. J. S. Geddes and the contractor (Mr. H. M. Pimlott) was carried by acclamation, on the motion of Mr. F. T. Bond, seconded by Mr. A. E. Gara. The offertory from all sources during the afternoon amounted to £300. The cost of the structure will be approximately £2,000. It will be known as the Congregational Hall, and will comprise three departments—kindergarten, primary, and senior schools. There will also be an assembly hall and an outer porch. The dimensions of the main hall will be 40 x 30 ft., the height to the wall-plates 15 ft., with cove ceiling, making in all 18 ft.

PEKINA, March 26.—On Monday evening, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Cocker, a farewell social was tendered to Mr. and Mrs. J. Reilly and family, who are leaving the district. Mr. O. E. Pearce occupied the chair and expressed regret at losing Mr. and Mrs. Reilly. Other speakers included Messrs. E. T. Sampson, James Crocker, L. Duffy, and John Crocker, Mr. Crocker, L. Duffy, and John Crocker. Mr. Crocker, on behalf of friends, presented the guest with a clock. Dancing and supper followed. Mr. F. Dwyer was M.C., and Messrs. D. Maloney, O. Pearce, and G. Harris supplied the music.

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MALLALA, March 26.—A meeting in connection with the Mallala and Grace Plains Red Cross was held at the home of the president (Mrs. J. Nairn). Large sums of money have been raised for patriotic funds. The committee has a good secretary in Mrs. O. E. Playner, and the gathering was to honor her. Messrs. J. Nairn, A. Dunstan, and T. H. Worden spoke in high terms of appreciation of the work done by Mrs. Playner. On behalf of the committee the president presented her with a writing desk.

RIVERTON, March 26.—At the residence of Mr. W. E. Bowden, Riverton, on Tuesday, a farewell social was given to Mr. Laurie Wutke, who is leaving the district. He has been connected with the post-office for several years, and is going to the Adelaide office. He was a member of the Church of England choir and the football and tennis clubs. Supper was served.

REMARK, March 26.—Steps are now being taken by some of the public bodies in the town to safeguard the river banks in the town and against further incursion by the river during floods. A sub-committee has been formed representing the town district council, the Irrigation Trust, Packing Union, Remark Club, and the hotel with a view to joint action by means of planting willows and other trees as well as by other methods.—A large number of fruit-pickers will leave the settlement during Easter, as the fruit season has practically ended.—At a meeting of the board of management of the hospital it

was decided not to accept any of the applications for the position of secretary, and Mr. S. J. Dridan, of Remark, was appointed to act in that capacity for the present.—The officer for health (Dr. Krakowski) has inspected the children attending the Remark school, and the general health was found to be above the average. Incision of finding between 30 per cent. and 40 per cent. with defects of the teeth, as was expected, only between 5 and 1 per cent. were affected. The doctor has expressed his willingness to treat the poorer children at the school who are suffering from any disease free of charge, including medicine. He recommended strongly that the school should be connected with the telephone.

ROBERTSTOWN, March 27.—A farewell social was given to Mr. S. G. McGilchrist and his sister, Miss Grace McGilchrist, prior to their departure from Robertstown. Mr. McGilchrist has been in charge of the public school here for nearly seven years, and has enlisted with the A.I.F. Forces. He will go into camp in April. Mr. Armstrong presided. A musical and elocutionary programme was given, and the following took part:—Misses A. Smith, Bax, Mosey, Farley, Mrs. Neale, Mosey, jun., and Karran, and Mr. H. J. Karran. Mr. T. Corey presented Mr. McGilchrist with a purse of sovereigns. Mr. W. Roberia (parents), Mr. Milde (taxi-driver), Mr. H. J. Karran (patriotic workers), and Mr. E. H. Neale (schools) spoke of the splendid way Mr. and Miss McGilchrist had worked in the interests of the town and patriotic work. Supper was provided by the ladies, and a dance followed. Mr. H. Corey acted as M.C.

WALLAROO, March 27.—Miss Gilbert, of the League of Loyal Women, delivered an address in the parish hall this afternoon on the objects of the league. The mayoress (Mrs. T. E. Ashton) presided over a large attendance. It was decided to form a branch, and Mrs. W. H. Harbison was elected hon. secretary. The Check-up Society provided afternoon tea.—On Sunday afternoon in the council chamber the mayor welcomed Mr. Tudor, the leader of the Federal Labor Party.—Miss Emily May, who has been connected with the Methodist Church for many years, received a presentation from the church and Sunday-school.

AUBURN, March 28.—A fire occurred here on Tuesday last. Clouds of smoke were noticed shortly after the train had passed, and for a short time the dry grass and wild turnip burned merrily. Willing helpers were soon on the spot and the flames were under control, only to break out again later in the afternoon. Water taken from the train and the outbreak was soon conquered. Fortunately the fire did not spread to the stubble paddocks on both sides.—A

consumed. Fortunately the fire did not spread to the stable paddocks on both sides.—A "kiddie afternoon" was given to Miss Hazel Overton yesterday in the kindergarten room. The Rev. E. F. Freer spoke highly of the guest, who since childhood has been connected with the Methodist Church and Sunday-school, and also acted as organist for the kindergarten. Miss Thomas spoke on behalf of the Sunday-school. A programme of songs and recitations was carried out by Misses O. Overton, L. Muddern, M. Ticeburn, O. Hood, and L. Bestall.

PORT VINCENT, March 28.—The Adelaide Steamship Company's steamer Koorunga was delayed for about three hours on Wednesday. The boat had a big cargo of barley and horses, and about 50 passengers. At 10 o'clock the tide had gone down too far for the Koorunga to leave the wharf. The delay of the boat caused considerable inconvenience to the passengers and fishermen, whose fish were not able to catch the Melbourne express for Thursday's market. Mr. S. G. Gernoin left Port Vincent on Saturday for his raw farm at Pine Point. Mr. Gernoin has been a prominent resident of this district for many years. He was a member for the Port Vincent ward of the Minlaton District Council for several terms, chairman of the vigilance committee, school committee, and secretary of the Liberal Union. He always took a leading part in patriotic efforts.

PENNINGTON, March 28.—Heavy ice occurring in bringing into service the new punt provided by the Government at Parings crossing. Having regard to the great importance of this crossing and the amount of traffic that has to be handled the delay is particularly annoying. It is understood that the cause of the trouble is the necessity for constructing new approaches for the vessel.—No consideration was shown the residents of this district in the matter of train accommodation for the Easter holiday excursionists who left Parings on Thursday morning. Only a single coach, and the only first-class smoking compartment was reserved for the way official, was not nearly sufficient to seat the large number of travellers, and when the accommodation was filled the remainder had to start on their 200-mile trip in the grand's van. Travellers picked up at the wayside stations before Alawona would have to stand also.

HOYLETON, March 29.—A farewell social was tendered by the residents of Hoyleton and districts to Messrs. W. S. and S. Saunders and families and Miss Cooper on the eve of their departure for Strathalbyn. As the Messrs. Saunders have resided here for the past 33 years their names are more or less associated with the growth of the district. They took a keen interest in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the town, but were more closely associated with the Methodist Church, the institute, and the rifle club. Mr. S. Saunders was organist at the church continuously since his early boyhood, and as a rifle shot ranked as our most skillful exponent. Both Mrs. S. Saunders, Mrs. W. Saunders and Miss Cooper were energetic workers on behalf of the Red Cross circle, and will be sadly missed. Mr. W. H. Newman, on behalf of the town and district, presented Mr. S. and Mr. W. Saunders each with a travelling bag suitably inscribed. Mr. S. Saunders was presented by the Rev. E. Freer, on behalf of the Methodist Church, with a beautifully bound book of hymns. Mrs. Carter, president of the Red Cross circle, on behalf of the ladies of the district, presented Madames Saunders each with a set of afternoon teaspoons, and Miss Cooper with a silver serviette ring.

NORTH BOOBOROWIE, March 29.—The annual meeting of the North Booborowie branch of the Liberal Union was held on March 20. The secretary's report and balance-sheet showed a satisfactory state of affairs, the work of the branch having been well maintained. Mr. E. J. Dunstan was reappointed president, Mr. W. C. Catt vice-president, and Mr. W. H. Richards hon. secretary and treasurer. A resolution supporting the action of the Barra Barra district committee in regard to holding a plebiscite for the coming elections was carried unanimously.

MOUNT GAMBIER, March 30.—The sum of £14 was collected here on Saturday in response to the button day appeal, organised by the town council, in aid of the Repatriation Fund. The button sellers were Alderman Truman, Mr. Braham (returned soldier), Misses H. Truman, M. Keegan,

sellers were Alderman Truman, Mr. Braham (returned soldier), Misses H. Truman, M. Keegan, E. Delanty, S. Renfrey, J. Teller, M. Gooch, Richardson, Shaw (2), M. Mann, B. Hosking, M. Walter, A. Talbot, Raggatt, H. and A. Millhouse, and Gwen and Gladys Walter.—Today a carnival was held in aid of the Mount Gambier branch of the District Trained Nursing Society, which is endeavoring to raise between £150 and £200 to meet its obligations to the parent society. There were stalls in the streets, at which the attendants did a brisk trade, afternoon tea in the cave reserve, garden, and numerous novelties organised by Archdeacon Samwell, the chairman, and Mrs. W. G. O'Hara, secretary of the branch. The ladies in charge were—Piestall, Mrs. J. S. Brooke; afternoon tea, Madames Alchin and Rogers; novelty cart, Mrs. W. G. O'Hara and Misses Bartlett and G. Wheeler (gollywogs), and Master Fitzgerald; pickles and preserves stall, Mrs. W. B. Crouch; button sellers, Mr. J. M. Carozzi; balloon girls, Misses G. Thomas and M. Webster. A substantial sum was raised at the annual meeting of the Mount Gambier Public School Teachers' Association the following officers were elected:—President, Mr. W. H. Hand; vice-presidents, Messrs. A. A. Haidy and P. W. Francis; secretary, Mr. John Michell. The meeting, in electing Mr. Francis a vice-president, expressed its appreciation of his untiring services to the union in the direction of improving the conditions for country teachers, and its confidence in him as teacher of upwards of 30 years faithful service and unblemished reputation. On Wednesday, at the annual meeting to appoint a new advisory committee for the Mount Gambier public school, the old committee was re-appointed, with Mr. J. F. Palamountain as chairman, and Mrs. O. L. Spahr as secretary.—The railway line between here and Portland has now been open for traffic for three months. In that time 117 vans of stock, containing 197 cattle, 101 horses, and 12,080 sheep, and produce totalling 2,600 tons were railed from here; while the inward loading of goods totalled 630 tons.—Colonel S. Price Weir, D.S.O., lectured here on Wednesday night under the auspices of the Returned Soldiers and Soldiers' Imperial League on his experiences at the front as commander of the 10th Battalion. There was fair audience, and the mayor (Mr. G. B. Renfrey) presided.

ADROSSAN, April 3.—The Sturtlee cricket, tennis, and concert party paid their annual visit

on Good Friday. They played a district combined cricket team on Saturday and won the match by three wickets and a few runs. On Saturday evening the Sturtlee concert party, assisted by some of the local talent, gave a concert in aid of the Red Cross Society, £10 10/ being realised. The items were rendered by Messrs. Baxendale, H. D. Durdin, V. Seith, Richardson, Raymond, and Hennessey, Misses A. Cane, N. Cane, A. Browning, and F. Lodge. The proceedings concluded with a supper and dance.