

Port Pirie News.

March 17.

HUNDRED OF PIRIE SOUTH ROLL OF HONOUR.—On Friday evening, March 9th, the residents of the Hundred of Pirie South Electoral District met at the Public School on the occasion of the unveiling of a roll of honour containing the names of thirty-two young men who have gone to the front from that neighbourhood. The arrangements were made by an enthusiastic Committee, with Mr H. F. Welch as Chairman and Mr J. C. Afford as Secretary. The roll of honour, a splendid piece of work—of beautifully polished wood, with the names in gold lettering—was supplied by Mr W. J. Pimlott. There was a large attendance, and prior to the ceremony tea was provided by the ladies, whose efforts in the way of catering were much appreciated. Afterwards an adjournment was made to the front of the school where the residents and visitors formed up before the roll of honour, which was mounted on an easel and covered by the Australian flag. Included in the gathering were the children attending the school, who were marshalled by their teacher (Miss Evans), and who led in the singing of the National Anthem and "God Save our Splendid Men." Mr H. F. Welch presided and referred to the fact that the roll already contained the names of thirty-two of their young men, while there were two or three others to be added. He then called on Mr W. Clark (Port Pirie) to address those present. Prior to doing so the latter invited Mrs John Evans—who has two sons at the front—to unveil the roll. This having been done, Mr Clark gave an earnest and patriotic speech, which was listened to with much interest by those present. He congratulated the district on the number of those who had already answered the call of duty. They were all wanted—the Empire was still asking for men, and more men—and to-day throughout Australia an appeal was being made for support for those who were fighting in the trenches in France to uphold the cause of liberty and justice. Australia's sons had won imperishable fame in this great fight for freedom, and they were proud of the men who had offered their services at the time of the nation's need. Mr S. W. Osborne briefly supported, and a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman and members of the Committee was moved by Mr Clark, who referred to the good services rendered as Secretary by Mr Afford. The motion was seconded by Mr J. Evans and carried by accla-

Mr Afford. The motion was seconded by Mr J. Evans and carried by acclamation. Supper and a dance followed.

PRESENTATION TO MR G. W. BURGESS.—The Management Committee and members of the A.S.A met on Friday, 8th March, to finalise matters in connection with the amalgamation of the union with the A.W.A. Advantage was taken of the occasion to present the Secretary, Mr G. W. Burgess, with a handsome gold medallion, suitably inscribed, as a slight acknowledgment of the services he had rendered ever since the A.S.A was established. The President (Mr J. H. Smith) made the presentation, and expressed his pleasure in doing so, remarking that ever since Mr Burgess had been their Secretary, he had done yeoman service for the Association. All that he had done was well done, and he had proved himself to be the right man in the right place. He was pleased to know that Mr Burgess was not leaving the town. He wished him every success in any business he might be engaged in, and hoped in the near future to be able to assist him in anything he might undertake, either union or personal business. Mr Brusnehan endorsed the Chairman's remarks, and said that, although they had to temporarily lessen their relations, he hoped they would soon be going strong again in any matters that would be for the benefit of union and industrial matters. Mr Milburn, another, committee-man, concurred with all that the previous speakers had said, and said he hoped soon to be associated with Mr Burgess again. Messrs Phillips and Byrne also wished the retiring Secretary all kinds of good luck in his future undertakings. Mr Burgess, in response, thanked the members for the handsome present, which he would always treasure, and also thanked them for the kind things they had said about him. He had only done his duty, and what he was paid to do, but he was pleased to know his efforts had been appreciated. He wished to thank the Presidents and Committees he had been connected with for their loyal support in difficult situations. So far as he knew he was not leaving Port Pirie, and if at any time he could assist any of his old colleagues in union or other matters they had only to command him. Now that all old scores between the A.S.A and A.W.A had been amicably settled, and all differences explained away, he hoped everything would go on smoothly and the members would work together and make the union prosperous and an advantage to themselves. Votes of thanks were proposed to the President

thanks were proposed to the President and Vice President, Messrs Smith and Bowden, who suitably responded; also to the retiring Committeemen, who returned thanks.

REAPING BY SICKLE.—Although few of the younger generation have ever seen the operation, hand reaping by the means of a sickle has apparently not altogether died out, for during the past few weeks the owner of a 12-acre plot of wheat in the neighbourhood of Port Pirie has been observed carrying out his harvesting by this primitive method. It is stated that the process of threshing has been performed by the old-fashioned flail.

VALEDICTORY SOCIAL.—On Friday last a social gathering was organised by the Caledonian Society to bid farewell to Past Chief Jas McGregor. The Chief (Mr J. Ross) presided. A long toast list was submitted. The Chief presented Past Chief McGregor with a smoker's outfit as a token of appreciation. Several members heartily supported the Chief's remarks. The guest expressed his gratitude for their useful gift and the kindly sentiments expressed. He had had a good time in Port Pirie, and was sorry to leave his old associates. He specially thanked them for their kindly references to his wife and bairn. Mr Murray proposed the toast of "Our Boys at the Front" in a most creditable manner; this was supported by Mr J. Munro, who made a most excellent and praiseworthy patriotic speech, and gave a lot of facts to back up his remarks, which were listened to very attentively. "Scotland" was proposed by Past Chief J. J. Ogilvy, and

responded to by Piper Mackiggan. Pipers Duncan and Mackiggan enlivened the proceedings with skirls upon the pipes, which were very attractive, and the folk in the street must have appreciated the skirls very much judging by the number present. Towards the "we sma' oors" Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem brought a very enjoyable social to a close. Mr McGregor has taken up land on the Murray, near Monteith.

A DISTINGUISHED YOUNG SOUTH AUSTRALIAN.—In the "Register of Monday appears a most interesting interview with Mr G. H. Wilkins, a member of the Stefansen Arctic expedition (a brother of Mr H. W. Wilkins, of Port Pirie). The following are extracts:—Mr Wilkins was born at Mount Bryan East on October

The following are extracts:—Mr Wilkins was born at Mount Bryan East on October 31, 1888. By profession he is an electrician, but he has always taken a close interest in cinematography, and it was with the idea of improving his knowledge in this direction that he went to England. Crossing over to Paris he became connected with the Gaumont company, and he soon displayed to that firm that he was possessed of more than ordinary ability in securing pictures. On one occasion he flew over London in a balloon, and later by aeroplane, with the idea of taking a moving picture, and his efforts were crowned with success. Subsequently Mr Wilkins became connected with the Stefansson Canadian Arctic Expedition, under the direction of the Naval Service Department of Canada, as journalistic photographer, and after a stay of three years in the north polar regions returned as second in command. While with that party he experienced all the thrills and excitement incidental to such an undertaking. Although he does not make much of the matter, Mr Wilkins was responsible for a remarkable exploit. He traversed 500 miles from Melville Island to Coronation Gulf, the base of the Anderson party, on foot, with no trails, and nothing but a pocket compass to give him the direction. He had no difficulty in locating his objective, although he was forced to judge his daily mileage by dead reckoning all the time. He also earned special commendation from Stefansson for an achievement which helped the explorer out of a precarious predicament. Stefansson at the time was universally believed to have succumbed, but Mr Wilkins tackled the undertaking of a 600-miles journey to his relief through the icefields in an auxiliary schooner 65 feet long from Martin Point to Cape Alfred, Banks Land, and he was successful in his quest. To show his appreciation Stefansson forthwith promoted the Australian to 2nd in command of the expedition. In their work "With Cross and Crescent," Messrs Phillip Gibbs and Bernard Grant thus refer to the young Australian:—"Distinguished by indomitable character, always resourceful and self-reliant when any awkward job had to be tackled. If a cart broke down it was Wilkins who set it up again. If it overturned, it was Wilkins who put it on its wheels again. If horses stampeded in a camp, it was Wilkins who would first come to the rescue. He did all these things not in any arrogant way, not in a bullying, commanding spirit, but quietly and cheerfully, as though it all came natural to him and was part of his scheme of life."

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DEATH OF MRS MURRELL.—

Deep sympathy has been expressed for Pilot Hurrell in the sad bereavement he has sustained by the loss of his wife, who died suddenly on Monday last. She had been ailing, but until Monday morning, when serious symptoms supervened, her demise was wholly unexpected. The deceased lady, who was much esteemed by all who knew her, was only 36 years of age. Five little children are left, the eldest being about nine years and the youngest only three months. Captain Hurrell was formerly the master of the Adelaide S.S. Co's steamer Lameroo, and prior to his joining the Spencer's Gulf Pilot Service his wife resided at Newcastle, N.S.W., of which town she was a native. The funeral took place on Tuesday, and was largely attended. The bearers were Pilots Telford, Paul, Clark, Dix and Chapman and Mr A. E. Brett. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Father O'Mahony.
