

## OPENING OF THE BRINKLEY HALL.

Wednesday, April 28th was quite a red-letter day in the history of the Brinkley district, for on that date the residents turned out in large numbers to witness the opening of their new hall.

It is nine years since the people of the district erected the present school building, and it has certainly served for very many purposes. Day school, Sunday school, church, concerts, socials, and meetings of all kinds have been held in this one and only available building. Although the building has proved to be quite suitable for school purposes, it is neither large or convenient enough to meet the many demands made upon it. Some time ago the residents made up their minds that they would erect a new hall and they immediately set about the work of raising the necessary money. A strong committee was formed, and combining ability, unity, and enthusiasm, they were soon in a position to start with the work of building.

Having settled in their minds the class of building required, the work was soon commenced, and Wednesday witnessed the opening of a very substantial and well finished hall, measuring 40 ft. by 30 ft.

The building has a double front door, a door at the back, and two large windows on both sides. A nice stage has been erected, which concert parties will appreciate and find adequate to their needs. The floor is of jarrah, nicely planed, and the seating is plain and comfortable.

The people decided to make a pretty full day of the opening ceremony. In the afternoon sports were held, and young and old alike had a real good time. Children enjoyed themselves immensely with races and young men found excitement and pleasure in the same pastime. Tilting, weight throwing, and other competitions were held, and at about 5.30 a happy and hungry company found their way back to the school building for tea. The Brinkley ladies know how to provide teas and suppers, and Wednesday's tea and supper was of the very highest order.

The trustees of the building had decided to ask Mr. W. Pearson to open the hall, and at 7.30 the secretary of the committee (Mr. E. W. Pearson) asked his father to open the door and declare the building open.

Mr. Pearson, who thanked the people for honouring him in that way, opened the door, but as the evening was cold he decided to speak from the platform inside the hall. The building was soon crowded, and Mr. Pearson, in a very interesting address, gave the history of the movement for a new hall, and expressed the hope that it would be well used. He expressed the belief that it would prove a great boon to the residents, and he urged the young people in their use of it not to forget that they had minds to cultivate, and hoped that a library would soon be formed and that the young people would make the new hall minister to their mental growth. The speaker referred to the splendid action of Mr. M. Richards who had put the roof on the building, coiled it, put down the floor, and erected the stage without charge. This reference to a generous act was loudly cheered. The secretary presented a financial statement which showed the cost of the building to be about £320 (so much work had been done free) and the present cost stood at £120.

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The Rev. D. J. Wellington offered his heartiest congratulations to the Brinkley people in their fine achievement. The social life of the residents would centre around that building, and he assured them that the Murray Bridge people would be only too willing to come out and assist at concerts and other gatherings. On the motion of Mr. Humphry, Jun., a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Pearson for opening the building.

After the opening ceremony the members of the Murray Bridge Methodist Social Club took possession and presented a much appreciated programme of musical and elocutionary items. After the concert supper was served, the ladies having a particularly busy time in attending to the wants of such a large number of people, but it was quite easy to see that they lost the duty in the joy of serving. Couples were not long in testing the floor of the new hall and those who ought to know say that for dancing purposes it is just the thing; anyhow they stayed there until after midnight.

From a social point of view the day's proceedings proved a most unqualified success, and the finances benefited to the extent of about £20.

The members for the district (Messrs. Ritchie, Laffer, and Hudd, sent apologies for non-attendance, and enclosed a donation, and wished the residents a happy and successful day.