

## WEST WYALONG MINERS' MEMORIAL.

### SYMPATHETIC SPEECHES.

#### MINING CONDITIONS UNSATIS- FACTORY.

WEST WYALONG, Monday.—Yesterday afternoon there was an attendance of about 500 people at Barnardo Park, to witness the unveiling of a monument erected by the members of the Goldfields Rugby Football League, assisted by the general public, to the memory of six men who were killed in the Barrier mine accident on January 13 of last year.

George Tunton, president of the shire, presided, and briefly referred to the very sad circumstances of the accident. He then called on Mr. A. J. Kelly, local member, to perform the unveiling ceremony.

Mr. Kelly said the news of the accident, 12 months ago, caused a deep wave of sympathy to traverse the whole State, and the introduction of the relief fund met with large support. About 1600 was collected at Sydney, which amount was increased to £1500 from the Wyalong local fund. He brought the matter before the Government with a view to securing a further £1500 and after considerable delay was successful. Immediately the Government paid the money over he communicated with Mr. Nesbitt, Town Clerk of Sydney, with the result that the widows and orphans received payment from the Lord Mayor's fund right from the date of the accident to the present time. He was extremely pleased with the action taken by the Football League in order to keep green the memory of comrades, the unfortunate young men having been active members of the league. He sincerely hoped they would never be called on to perform a similar ceremony again.

Senator M'Dougall said the department was very lax in the inspection of mines, and he was under the impression that the Barrier accident was the result of lack of supervision on the part of the Government. He had been down one of the Wyalong mines, and was surprised at the exceptionally insanitary and unsatisfactory conditions which the miners worked under. The department must be held responsible for the state of affairs which existed, and prompt action was necessary. The risks taken by miners in the struggle for their daily bread were extreme, and they should have all the protection possible. He considered those men who risked their lives in the rescue were worthy of the highest praise. They entered the scene of the disaster knowing well the danger they ran from poisonous gases and other death-dealing causes, yet they asked no questions, but did their best for their suffering comrades below. He trusted the Wyalong district would never have another such bad accident. The monument unveiled that afternoon was a credit to the members of the Football League, and showed the high esteem in which the unfortunate young men had been held.

Mr. J. N. Crowley, district coroner, supported the previous speakers, and trusted the trustees of Barnardo Park would erect a railing round the monument. He was pleased the Royal Humane Society had recognised the splendid work done by the party of rescuers. He contended the Mines Department should have proper inspections made periodically of all mines, with a view to safeguarding those brave fellows who-

inspections made periodically of all mines, with a view to safeguarding those brave fellows who-tolled in them in the fight for an existence.