

Yanco Memorial Front

FOUNDATION STONE LAID ON ANZAC DAY

Anzac Day was celebrated at Yanco with an impressive ceremony in the local hall, which was followed by the laying of the foundation stone of the additions to the Memorial Front by Col. K. Hutchens, D.S.O., in the presence of a large gathering of townspeople and many visitors from Leeton and other parts of the area.

The Anzac Commemoration service in the hall commenced at 2.30 p.m. The shire president (Cr. W. Arbuckle was present), and after the singing of the National Anthem Mr. J.J. O'Donoghue read the names on the honour roll. Mr. T. Dunn then laid a wreath on the memorial, and the children's choir of Yanco Primary School sang "Our Heritage." Then followed prayers for those who made the supreme sacrifice, and the hymn "Recessional" sung by the children of the Primary School.

REV. VINCENT'S ADDRESS

The address was delivered by Rev. Vincent, who said that they were assembled to honour the heroes of two world wars. The word commemorate meant preserving the memory of some person or thing, and the word sacrifice meant recalling that some persons had died and given their lives for a particular ideal. This day throughout the land Anzac services were being held. This commemoration was a real thing and had some particular purpose especially when it was associated with the memory of a husband, a father, a son, a brother, a sister, or a very dear friend who had paid the supreme sacrifice. Those who had made the supreme sacrifice had done so in the belief that they were striving to make this world a better place to live in. It would be sheer hypocrisy on our part if we attended a commemoration service such as this and did not determine in our own hearts to carry out the full idea of sacrifice in our own lives and help to make this a better world to live in. To gather at a commemoration service once a year to recall the memories of those who had made the supreme sacrifice, and then go away and forget all about them and the purpose for which they died was

the purpose for which they died was nothing less than hypocritical, and something that we must avoid. There were opportunities for us to help build a better world. One way was by becoming conscious of our local life in our own particular district or town or village, and taking a live interest in our local government centre, by helping our hospitals, the Far West Health Scheme and many other worthy causes, and by doing that they would be working for the betterment of this country and furthering the ideal of those who made the supreme sacrifice whilst striving to make this a better land to live in.

In conclusion Rev. Vincent expressed the hope that the people of Yanco would from year to year have fine gatherings such as the present one to commemorate those who died in the two world wars.

FOUNDATION STONE CEREMONY

At the conclusion of the commemoration service the ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone of the additions to the Memorial Front was held in the open air, and presided over by the shire president (Cr. W. Arbuckle). Cadets of the Yanco Agricultural High School formed a guard of honour which was inspected by Col. Hutchens who afterwards complimented them on their smartness and general bearing. The precision and smartness with which the cadets carried out their drill movements also impressed the whole gathering and reflected credit on their instructor.

SHIRE PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Cr. Arbuckle it was his pleasure to extend a hearty welcome to all present and especially to their distinguished visitor, Col. Hutchens who had consented to lay the foundation stone of the additions to the Yanco Public Hall that afternoon. He called upon Mr. A. D. Malcolm, President of the Returned Soldiers League, to introduce Col. Hutchens.

Mr. Malcolm said he was honoured to have with him their guest Col. Hutchens. This was our Jubilee year and it was appropriate that they should have with them a visitor from New Zealand to lay the foundation stone of the additions to the Yanco Hall, on this Anzac Day. Ever since the birth of Anzac Day the happiest of associations had existed between the Dominion and Australia and he believed that those happy associations would continue for all time. He thought they would all agree that it was just an ideal time to have a New Zealander present as their guest, and he had great pleasure in introducing Col. Hutchens to them.

Mr. T. V. Cook (president of Yanco Progress Association) supported the previous speaker and recalled that

Progress Association) supported the previous speaker and recalled that the hall was built in 1912. It must have looked a pretty good hall in those days especially when the people were used to living in tents. But that was 39 years ago, and while the people of Yanco are still proud of their hall they were not so proud that they were prepared to see it stuck there for another 39 years. They wanted a new hall. In the not distant future Yanco would become a bigger place than it was to-day and they wanted a bigger and better hall. Money had been collected for this object for some time past and there was nearly £500 in a trust fund. To-day they were to see the laying of the foundation stone of a new front for the hall. They needed a lot more money, as they did not intend to stop at the Memorial Hall Front but wanted a back and sides as well. A "Buy a Brick" appeal was being launched priced at 2/- each and by this means it was hoped to augment the funds.

In conclusion Mr. Cook apologised for the absence of Cr. H. Lewis who was unable to be present but signified his approval of the project by forwarding a cheque for £5/5/0 towards the foundation stone collection, and another for the "Buy a Brick" appeal.

Cr. D. Langham supported the welcome to Col. Hutchens on behalf of B. riding Councillors in the Leeton Shire and apologised for the absence of Cr. S. Dunn, who was unable to be present. As Mr. Cooke had said they had plans for a hall which although they did not seem elaborate, would provide for a hall of which they could be proud. They would

do their bit, and help those who started the job and see that it was brought to a successful conclusion. On behalf of the B. Riding Councillors in the Leeton Shire he thanked Col. Hutchens for coming along.

Cr. T. H. Dunn recalled that the Yanco hall was built in 1912, and he was at the first function that was held in the hall. He had grown a few grey hairs on top of his head since then (laughter). In conclusion Cr. Dunn said he hoped it would not be long before they saw a magnificent new front to the hall.

FOUNDATION STONE

Amidst applause Col. Hutchens then proceeded to perform the ceremony of laying the foundation stone. After this was completed a number of donations were placed on the stone.

THE COLONEL'S ADDRESS

Anzac Day had very similar significance to Australia and New Zealand, said Col. Hutchens. It was 35 years ago that day that the Australian

and New Zealand Army Corps landed at Gallipoli and made an achievement of human endeavour that had yet to be bettered in the records of Military history. We celebrated Anzac Day as a commemoration of the servicemen of Australia and of New Zealand who fought together, and performed the same deeds of valour and gave their lives for a cause in which they believed. In Australia and New Zealand that day many thousands of people were paying homage to the memory of those men. This new front to Yanco Hall, would be a fitting memorial to their honour. It would be a symbol of remembrance and an inspiration to emulate the spirit of the Anzacs, so that we who were left would carry on and learn from the lessons of the past, and not repeat mistakes that had been made in years gone by, and if we carried out that resolve the lives of those who made the Supreme Sacrifice would not have been wasted.

Col. Hutchens said it had given him great pleasure to perform this little ceremony, and he felt as he picked up the trowel that the hand of every New Zealand serviceman was held out with him and he was a fortunate and honoured person to be carrying it out on their behalf. He had declared the stone well and truly laid, and he hoped that the memory of those who fought for their ideals would never grow dim in our minds.

As a memento of the occasion Col. Hutchens was then presented with a gift on behalf of the Yanco Progress Association of a silver beer tankard.

In expressing his thanks Col. Hutchens said he would have been satisfied with the memory of the occasion, and now he had this tangible reminder which he had not expected.

Mr. Cooke thanked everybody who had come along in this enthusiastic roll up, and it was a very solid sign that their appeal would be successful. Thanks were due for the co-operation of ex-servicemen, the Progress Association, and Yanco Agricultural High School Cadets.

Before the meeting ended Col. Hutchens said he had been so overcome with the ceremony that he had omitted to make mention in his remarks of the Yanco Agricultural High School Cadets who had formed a guard of honour. It was a very fine turn out on the part of the cadets, and their steadiness, which was the hallmark of a good guard had impressed him.