

THE OAK AND THE WATTLE

MEMORIAL TREE PLANTED.

"CHIPS OF THE OLD BLOCK"

Creswell Gardens was the chief scene of interest during the morning. A number of wattle trees were planted, and also a memorial oak. His Excellency Sir Henry Galway and Lady Galway were present, being met at the entrance of the gardens by a guard of honor, formed of boy scouts. Scholars from the East Adelaide School, under Mr. J. J. Fairweather, and the Thebarton School, under Mr. J. Donnell, were in attendance, and the life-and-drum band from the former school enlivened the function with its music. Most of the wattles—eight in all were planted—were placed along the southern roadway to the oval. The Governor and Lady Galway (each of whom had been presented with a buttonhole of wattle blossom), the Hon. P. McM. and Mrs. Glynn, Mrs. Peake, Mr. A. A. Simpson (mayor), Lady Butler, and Mrs. W. J. Sowden each planted a tree.

Interesting and Unique Mementoes.

There was not much speaking at this celebration. Mr. W. J. Sowden (president of the league) indicated after the wattles were dispatched that the Governor was to plant a memorial English oak, saying that it was planted in a purely patriotic spirit to commemorate the greatest year in the history of the world, and a year that would probably be the most epoch-making. It was hoped later on to place a plate on the oak containing an inscription, "Planted on Wattle Day, August 29, 1914, by his Excellency Sir Henry Galway, then Governor of the State." He handed the Governor a memento of the occasion in the shape of a little oak case that was made from the tree that grew from the acorn planted by the first military Governor of South Australia (Governor Gawler) in the year 1838. In the same year that the acorn was planted silver was discovered at Glen Osmond, and the little chimney they saw standing on the hillside was a memorial not only of the finding of the first mine in South Australia, but of the first mine in the whole of Australia. In token of that they asked Lady Galway to accept from the hands of Mrs. Peake a little silver box which contained the first bud taken from the first wattle tree planted on the first Wattle Day ever held in Australia. Their gifts might be of little value intrinsically, but they were unique.

The Governor then planted the oak, after doing which he said that a great compliment had been paid to him by the Wattle Day League in inviting him to plant the oak as a memorial of the great war of 1914. The conception to plant the oak was a very happy one, not only in the idea, but in the choice of the particular tree. Both he and his wife would always remember that day with pleasure, and their remembrance would be strengthened by the permanent memorials which the league had presented to them. The choice of the oak was very fitting, because the tree was typical of Old England—

"Hearts of oak are our ships,
Hearts of oak are our men."

If their ships were no longer built of oak, as they were when those lines were written, the men of Britain would re-

oak, as they were when those lines were written, the men of Britain would remain the same. Might the oak which he had just planted during the greatest war of nations the world had ever seen flourish in the years to come, and might its strength mature with that of the mighty British Empire. Might it as the years went on stand as a permanent record of a time of great trial bravely borne by a united and steadfast people, and might it ever prove to be an illuminating and steadfast landmark to the rising generation in South Australia and stand as the emblem of strength.

Brave in Prosperity.

Planted in war might the oak flourish in the year to come during continual peace. Until that peace came let them prove themselves "hearts of oak," stanch and confident, yet humble. Might they all be able to look back upon the present period of trial with pride and without any misgiving of having shown any trace of unworthiness in affliction. It was easy enough to be brave during prosperity. Any fool could be that. On the other hand, to be stanch and brave and cheerful in the face of adversity were virtues whose value to the nation were incalculable. To the boy scouts and other young people who were there that day he would say, "Grow up as young oak trees," with the determination of being some day worthy citizens of a great nation. Let discipline and obedience go before them as guiding stars along the path of life. Let them hold their heads high with the pride of race, and prove themselves chips of the old block—ready, should the occasion arise, to defend and uphold the glorious heritage handed down to them, and to emulate those deeds which had won and were now holding the Empire. (Applause.)

This concluded the morning's proceedings, and the singing of the National Anthem and "The Song of Australia" marked the dispersal of the gathering.