

KADINA MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL.

SUCCESSFUL OFFICIAL OPENING.

Despite the bleak day and cold wind, there was an attendance of well over a thousand residents of Kadina, district and the other Peninsula towns on Thursday afternoon, June 26, when the official opening of the Kadina 2nd District Memorial High School took place. The school was decorated with bunting and flags, and the classrooms were also indicative of a red-letter day, and were thronged subsequently by the large and appreciative crowd. The building was planned on the most modern principles, is of freestone, and contains thirteen rooms, eleven of which are 24ft. by 24ft., two offices being 12ft. by 12ft. There is admirable lighting by huge double windows, and splendid provision has been made for ventilation and for heating, there being a fireplace in every room. The appearance of the school is considerably enhanced by reason of a tiled roof, and the building stands on an eight acre site which will ultimately contain an oval, tennis courts, cricket pitch, etc. The equipment of the school is generous and modern, and a special petrol gas plant supplies the science laboratory with gas for the Bunsen burners. Other equipment is fully up to requirements. There is a staff of seven, including four graduates of the Adelaide University, and the headmaster is Mr E. P. Rowe B.A.

After an official inspection of the building by the Minister of Education (Hon. L. L. Hill), the Supt. of Secondary Education (Mr W. J. Adey) the secretary to the Minister (Mr G. W. R. Lee) and local officials, the master briefly introduced the new chairman of the Council (Dr. S. E. Holder) who then took charge of the proceedings, and called on Col. H. A. Powell C.M.G., V.D., (an ex-Mayor of Kadina) to unveil the memorial tablet affixed to the school. Col. Dr. Powell, in the course of a stirring

Powell, in the course of a stirring speech, thanked the R.S.A. local branch for inviting him to take part in such an important ceremony, and said that the soldiers could have no better monument nor one of more lasting use than the Memorial School. He felt it a great privilege to participate in anything that did honor to the local men who were units of that mighty army which rose to a nation's need. He exhorted the scholars to reverence the traditions of those fine men, and emulate them in sportsmanship, scholarship, statesmanship and patriotism. He unveiled the tablet to the undying memory of those who responded to the call of patriotism, honor, and the freedom that all men loved. (Cheers.)

Dr. S. Holder (chairman) in welcoming the Minister of Education, said that no better type of memorial could have been suggested, and he was sure of the interest and sympathy of the citizens with it. The fine men had fought to uphold justice, honor and truth, without which no nation could exist; and the school stood for those high principles. (Cheers.) They had a splendid staff, and he asked the students to work up to as high a standard as possible. The soldiers' hall would be erected at the school, which had the solid support of the returned men behind it. (Applause.)

The Hon. the Minister of Education who was received with cheers, regretted the absence of the Premier, and regarded the invitation as an honor. Since attaining office he had visited many schools, and been appalled by the over-crowding, lack of adequate lighting and other disabilities. This the Government would endeavor to remedy. The department lost 193 teachers every year, fifty per cent. by marriage, and the other portion probably because of dissatisfaction with conditions. The Gunn Government intended to pursue a vigorous educational policy, and he had already told the people of an expenditure of £300,000. Fully 193 new class rooms would be built to mitigate the over-crowding. They also wanted a

crowding. They also wanted a teachers' college. The present one was at the rear of the Destitute asylum (Voice—Under destitute conditions.) That was so, unfortunately. He was pleased to state that the Government had been able to agree to the building of another class room to their High School, at a cost of £600, and the Government thanked the people of Kadina for their generosity in granting the splendid site of eight acres. It was the full intention of the Government to encourage education and provide all possible facilities in the country. He heartily congratulated the town and district on a High School second to none of its kind in the Commonwealth, and had great pleasure in declaring it open. (Cheers.)

After Dr. Holder had welcomed representatives of various bodies assembled, the following addressed the gathering:—Messrs J. N. Pedler, I.P., A. Mashford (president of local branch R.S.A.), P. Roach (Mayor of Kadina), W. H. Harbison (Mayor of Wallaroo), Cr. V. G. Crutchett (Moonta), Geo. Charlesworth (head teacher, Kadina primary school), G. R. Haddy (chairman Kadina school committee) and Cr. J. Atkinson (District Council of Kadina).

Mr W. J. Adey (Supt. of Secondary Education) said that no one was prouder than he at the consummation of the Kadina Memorial High School,

and as an officer of the department he was doubly proud of what Kadina citizens had done to bring the school into being. Apart from size, there was not a finer school in the State. (Cheers.) Five years had seen a big change. In 1919 the school had an average attendance of 58. It was then situated at Wallaroo Mines, and in that year Mr Rowe took charge. The attendance gradually increased, and last year it was 126. They began 1924 with 180 pupils, and the average should be 150. (Cheers.) And all this progress despite the depression and ultimate closing down of the mining industry. A doubling of average in five years, the success being due to the fine

years, the success being due to the fine primary schools feeding the high school, and the good staff. He had every faith that the students who had attended the impressive function that afternoon would do their best. (Applause.)

Mr R. S. Richards M.P. moved and Dr. Holder seconded a cordial vote of thanks to the Minister and other officials, which was carried with cheers. The Hon. L. L. Hill in reply said that the contract price for the building had been £6,389, but already a sum of £7,283 had been spent on it. They did not intend to spoil the ship for the sake of a little extra tar, and any other reasonable request by the committee would receive consideration. Col. Powell also replied briefly, and the function ended with the Song of Australia, after which a public inspection of the school took place, followed by afternoon tea.