

METHODIST CHURCH.

OPENING OF PORT WAKEFIELD MEMORIAL PORCH.

The Trustees of the Port Wakefield Methodist Church are to be congratulated upon the beautiful Memorial Porch and magnificent Memorial Window that have just been completed in memory of our soldiers. On the outside of the porch below the memorial window has been placed a marble tablet inscribed with the following words:—"In memory of our soldiers who served in the Great War, 1914—1919." The porch is of brick and limestone, and is a continuation of the original design of the Church, the symmetrical lines of the architecture being extended round the porch, thus greatly enhancing the appearance of the whole building. Double doors, opening to the east and the west, form the entrance, with a step or two springing off a low ramp. The structure is 10 ft. x 12 ft., and makes a roomy entrance, the floor of which is laid out in square blocks of concrete colored with red ochre. The large original Gothic doors that stood at the main entrance have been removed, together with the old partition within the Church, the archway of which has been embellished to correspond with the arch which rises in the back wall behind the preacher's desk. The whole effect is startling as one enters the Church, especially to those accustomed to the old order, and leaves a pleasing impression as one views the building from the pulpit to the porch, enriching the beauty of the already beautiful interior, giving a more roomy appearance, and increasing the acoustic properties of the edifice.

Mr. W. H. Durdin, of Hamley Bridge, was the contractor, the price being £90, and Clarksons, Limited, prepared the Memorial Window, costing £26, which is distinctly a Soldiers' Memorial, being surmounted with the A.I.F. coat of arms. The halation of light from the rising sun has been continued down into the design of the window, the prevailing colors of which are dark blue, ruby, light and dark amber, and pale green; the whole harmonising in a beautiful design—containing the names of twenty-six sold-

...aining the names of twenty-six soldiers, a small cross being placed opposite the names of those who fell—down the centre of the window and blending with pleasing effect with the colors in the front windows of the Church.

The opening ceremony in connection with the Porch was held on Saturday, the 15th inst. The Minister of the Port Wakefield Circuit, the Rev. C. G. Carvosso, conducted the proceedings. After the singing of the opening hymn and a short prayer, he explained the purpose of the gathering and the object of erecting the porch; stating that no suitable memorial had yet been erected in the town, and that the marble tablet outside, facing the north, and immediately under the memorial window, commemorated the services of our soldiers in general, and the window itself our own men in particular, all of whom fought for King and Country, and for the principles which make for righteousness. The speaker then handed Mr. Donald Fraser a silver key as a memento, attached to which was a purple ribbon gathered in a small bow on either side of the key, on the obverse side of which was inscribed: "Port Wakefield Methodist Church," and on the reverse side: "Presented to Donald Fraser, Esq., on the occasion of opening the Memorial Porch, 15/11/24." Mr. Fraser expressed his appreciation of having the privilege to perform the ceremony of opening the porch that afternoon. He referred to the debt of gratitude all owed to our young men who had served their King and Country. Nice and all as that memorial might be, it was a very small thing in comparison with what had been accomplished by them. The doors on the eastern side were then opened, and the porch declared open for future use. The large crowd that had gathered then entered the Church, and the proceedings were continued.

After singing another hymn, the 46th Psalm (so much used during the war) was read, followed by prayer, after which the Treasurer, Mr. F. H. Drake, gave the financial statement,

explaining that the money spent in the erection of the porch was derived from funds that had been living in

the erection of the porch was derived from funds that had been lying in the bank as the result of the labors of the women of the Church in years gone by. It was hoped that funds would be forthcoming to continue the original idea of erecting vestries at the rear of the Church so as to complete the whole scheme.

A short address was given by the Rev. C. G. Carvosso, who took as the basis of his remarks the initial letters of the R.S.S.A., and referring to the Results of the war in regard to the acceleration of science in many branches; the Suffering entailed during and since the war; the Sacrifices that have been involved; and the Acquisition of some valuable things as the outcome of the war, not the least among which was the League of Nations; and the universal desire to bring the nations together in a determination to render war no longer possible.

The Choir rendered the anthem, "The Lord is my Shepherd."

A vote of thanks was moved by Mr. W. A. Hewett, couched in the following terms:—"That the Trustees of the Church desire to express their thanks to Mr. Donald Fraser for attending here to-day and declaring the porch open for future service." Mr. J. W. Martin seconded the motion.

After the offerings had been taken up the proceedings were concluded by singing another hymn and the pronouncing of the Benediction.

Afternoon tea was served in the adjoining schoolroom, and several availed themselves of the opportunity to inspect the new kindergarten room, the finishing touches of which were in process; and the opening will be arranged shortly before Christmas.

A congregation, larger than that of the previous day, was packed into the Church, when a very impressive service was held in connection with the unveiling of the Memorial Window on Sunday afternoon, November 16th. The service was conducted by the Rev. C. G. Carvosso. After the Invocation the congregataion joined in the singing of the hymn, "God is with us, God is with us! So our brave forefathers sang." The lesson was taken from Hebrews 11 lv. 24-40, followed by prayer and the chanting of the Lord's Prayer. The Choir rendered the an-

them, "Awake thou that sleepest," which was followed by the collection in aid of the window and porch.

At the close of the singing of the hymn, "For all the saints who from their labor rest," the Minister proceeded to escort Mrs. T. Smith (who had been invited to unveil the window) to a position immediately under the Union Jack. A white silken cord, which was attached to the top of the flag, was placed in her hand. Taking the bottom folds and giving the cord a steady pull, the flag gradually came away, and revealed a beautifully stained glass window. The congregation having turned round for the purpose, stood facing the window in silence for a moment or two, after which a short prayer was offered, and the lady was escorted to her seat to the strains of the organ pealing forth the introduction of the solo "There is a Happy Land," subsequently sung by Mr. R. M. Drake, the Choir joining in the chorus.

The preacher based his remarks on Hebrews 1 ch. lv. 39 and 40, referring to the moving conviction of the Old Testament saints in the promise of peace, which crystalised into a vision of the coming of the Prince of Peace, stressing the point that as the Israelites had to subjugate the Caanaites before they could possess the promised land, so must the material world be subjugated by the spiritual before we can hope to see that great day dawn when there shall be peace on earth and good will toward men.

The singing of the hymn "These Things Shall Be! A Loftier Race than e'er the world hath known shall rise" was followed by the Benediction, and thus ended a service long to be remembered by many.

It may be mentioned that Mr. Donald Fraser and Mrs. T. Smith each had a son who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War.

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