

Coomandook Hall

Opening of Parkin Memorial Hall

The rapidly developing district of Coomandook presented a busy scene on Wednesday last on the occasion of the opening of the New Hall. For months past the residents have been at work, and after the delays incidental to these undertakings rejoiced in knowing that at last their hopes were fulfilled.

The train from Adelaide and the South-East each brought their quota of visitors. Senator Varden, Mrs Wm Parkin (relict of late Hon Wm Parkin, founder of Parkin bequest,) Rev B C Kirby, Rev J E Cresswell, Rev J G Shackley and representatives of the various Congregational Churches in the Border Downs.

The opening ceremony was performed by Senator Varden; Mr Guy on behalf of the residents, requesting him to perform that function.

Mr Varden said, Mr Guy, Mrs Parkin and friends—It is with considerable pleasure I attend this ceremony. I am rejoiced to see with us Mrs Parkin whose husband by his generous bequest made possible the work in which we share to-day. The late Hon Wm Parkin was a man of deep religious convictions, likewise of practical ideas and practical Christianity. He had set aside certain properties the increment for all time were to be devoted to preaching the Gospel in new districts, consequently in addition to the work done here men were sent to France, stations on the river Murray, and the West Coast. Parkin College had also been established to train men for the work and in all about £3000 per annum was being spent.

The Hall would serve as a centre for social purposes and there would be the religious services from time to

in the religious services from time to time ever be continuous witness for Christianity in their district. He had much pleasure in declaring the Hall open.

A Dedicatory service was then conducted by the Revs J E Crosswell and J C Kirby assisted by Rev J MacIntyre and Mr G Muller.

The Rev J C Kirby preached the dedicatory sermon from the text "And let them make a Sanctuary that I may dwell among them. Exodus xxi, verse 89. After the Service a Public Tea was held. The Public Meeting which followed was largely attended. After Hymn and Prayer Mr A J Nibbis, Senr played an overture and the chairman Mr Guy spoke briefly.

Senator Varden gave a most interesting address dealing with the work of the Church. He said "The questions asked of any institutions to day where: What is its work? Does its work justify its existence? Not age nor tradition were the test. If an institution had passed its useful stage put it away. The Church had the same mission; the same appeal as when established by the Master. It was here to care for the lives of men, for the Salvation of Souls in the truest sense. The question was not how a man died, but how he lived, what his life was. The question still was "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

Life was to be accounted for. For this reason the Church was developing on its Social side. It was seeking to remove temptations from the path of men. This might be seen in their own district in the establishment by Rev J E Crosswell of the Men's Club at Keith. If a man's nature was Godlike he was inspired to righteous deeds on behalf of his fellows. It was for the development of this, that the Parkin Mission laboured.

Mr W S Dawe on behalf of the Methodist Church, said that he recog-

Methodist Church, said that he recognised with pleasure the fraternal spirit of the gathering and rejoiced that the Hall would also be used by Methodist Ministers. Mr G Muller, assistant Congregational missionary, spoke highly of the need which the Hall would supply.

The treasurer, Mr W W Brown presented the financial statement which showed that the total cost of the building with furniture was £174 towards which £30 had been subscribed and £120 borrowed from the Congregational Chapel Building Society.

On Friday evening a devotional service was held and afterward a Congregational Church fellowship was formed. The pastor, Rev J E Cresswell explained the usual custom of Congregational Churches in receiving candidates for membership. He then with the Rev J C Kirby, gave to those willing to join, the right hand of fellowship. Twelve members were received and it was mentioned that a number not present, contemplated membership.

At a business meeting held subsequently the following were reported deacons—Messrs A S Chapman, W W Brown and F G Marsh.

On Sunday 19th the Rev J C Kirby preached to large congregations morning and evening.