

BIG HILL

The Empire Day celebration at Big Hill was carried out more extensively, it having been arranged to unveil the honor roll. In the morning the scholars of the school went through the order of observance in a very hearty manner, under the direction of the head teacher (Mr. W. G. Eustace), who addressed them on the purpose and significance of the occasion, trusting they would prove worthy subjects of the great and good Empire they were remembering that day.

In the afternoon there was a large gathering of parents and residents of the surrounding district. The scholars enjoyed themselves in the school ground for a while and were re-assembled for the unveiling ceremony. Mr. R. McDowell, chairman of the school committee, asked the audience to sing the National Anthem and hymn for the soldiers which, being done, the Rev. J. Ray offered a prayer. The chairman then called upon Cr. E. G. Yeates, president of the Marong Shire, to unveil the honor roll. Mr. Yeates said he was glad to be present and with them pay a tribute of honor and grateful memory to those who had gone from their midst in this time of our Empire's need. They met with disappointed feelings on that Empire Day somewhat as we hoped that by this year the dread flame of war would be quenched. There was much to boast of and to be thankful for as we read the history of our nation—away back to the primitive age when Britons were only a very small section of the earth's population. We find they bravely and successfully resisted invasion, and though there was an intrusion of several races, yet the identity of her people and their progress was manifest. He always considered that from the 9th century (Alfred the Great's time) the advance in civilisation, Christianity and national culture and progress has been most evident, and on sea and land had our nation achieved great things. It was due to the noble pat-

things. It was due to the noble patriotic spirit and recognition of duty to God and man that had been displayed and they felt that the great sacrifice that is being made now, sad and painful as it is to all, and to some more deeply than to others, would bring about greater and lasting good, and those whose names are enrolled in the various parts of the world will never be forgotten for the sacrifice they have made and the deeds that will win the victory. He unveiled the roll and read out the names as follows:—D. Dobson (killed), R. Westgarth (killed), H. Tarr (killed), M. Furness (killed); F. Westgarth, W. Westgarth, W. R. Stoneham, F. Harwood, W. Rainbow, E. J. Jenkins, H. Jason, J. Maxfield, E. Gallagher, A. Gallagher, F. Rich, R. Ruston, T. C. Pittaway, R. C. H. Burgess, W. Field, J. Atkinson, C. Stanley, E. J. Tarr, W. E. Kilfeder, P. Davenport, A. Harris, W. Makepeace, S. Strotton, R. Gee.

The Rev. T. Ray said they owed a debt to the parents who had given their sons to the war and their true sympathies were towards them in the anxiety that they felt, and in many cases the loss they sustained in that their sons had fallen in the fight. They felt proud and were glad to know that in the desperate battle now raging our Australian boys were proving themselves brave and fitted for the encounter and had won success.

The honor roll was in attractive form in its mountings of flags and emblems, and the way the names were inscribed. It was encased in a cedar frame, and was the generous gift of Mr. Robert McDowell, of Big Hill.

The scholars were usually awarded prizes, but this year the amount of £1 was donated to the patriotic fund instead. The scholars, upon being asked if they would agree to same, responded unanimously. Mr. McDowell was heartily applauded for his gift. He said, in reply, I am only too pleased to do it. I have no boys to enlist and I feel I owe a debt of gratitude to those who have gone to

gratitude to those who have gone to fight our battles.

Mr. John Gee moved a vote of thanks to the chairman and speakers. It was seconded by Mr. H. S. Bissel, and cordially carried. Tea and refreshments were supplied by the ladies, Mesdames Eustace, Bissel, Allen, Misses Burgess, Marks, and others attending to the visitors. A very enthusiastic gathering closed by singing the National Anthem.