

MEMORIAL WINDOW

UNVEILING CEREMONY.

IPSWICH SOLDIERS' HALL.

IPSWICH, Thursday.—A little over 12 months ago Ipswich Soldiers' Memorial Hall was solemnly opened by his Excellency the Governor (Sir Matthew Nathan), and there remained at that time one thing to be completed, namely, the erection of a stained glass window, a fund for which was then being organised by the Ipswich Train Tea Girls, headed by their president, Mrs. J. A. Cameron. This afternoon the efforts of those workers were revealed in a beautiful window, which was unveiled by his Excellency the Governor (Sir Matthew Nathan).

The ceremony, which took place in the main hall—in the northern end of which the window is erected—was largely attended. The Mayor (Alderman A. T. Stephenson) occupied the chair. The Governor, who was attended by Captain Hammond, A.D.C., was on the right of the Mayor, and Mrs. J. A. Cameron occupied a chair on the left. Mr. F. C. Surman (vice-president of the local branch of the R.S.V.L.A.), Rev. A. St. J. Heard, and Mr. H. S. Shapcott (hon. secretary) were amongst those present. The proceedings opened with the singing of the hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," after which Rev. A. St. J. Heard gave a Scripture reading, and then followed the hymn "Lead Kindly Light."

The Mayor, in a brief address, stated that the erection of the window completed the building, of which Ipswich was proud. He endorsed the work of Mrs. J. A. Cameron and her Train Tea Society workers. The Mayor apologised for the absence of the president of the league (Mr. J. C. Minnis), who was absent from Ipswich.

GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

His Excellency, in unveiling the window, said:—

"In the several hundred cities, towns, townships, and shires of Queensland, as in the many thousand towns and villages of Great Britain, there was discussion as to the form that should be taken by the memorial which all the people felt should be erected to the men of the great war. The discussion was generally as to whether the useful should predominate over the decorative, and, if it did, whether the use should be general or confined to that of returned men. A year ago I expressed appreciation of the form the memorial had taken in Ipswich, where there had been erected a good and slightly building of general value to the city, but in which returned men were to have special privileges. Now an addition has been made to this hall, which, I am sure, will seem to the people in general to be a wise one, and to the returned men to be an added honour done to them. It is well that light should come to those who see the building through a true work of art, and this work, like the tablets made sacred by the names of the returned men inscribed on them, further connects the hall with what the soldiers did in the war, adding to its beauty as a monument and to its value as a memorial. The story told by the window has been set forth in plain words by the public Press, and I shall not repeat it. The men who fought are rightly subordinated, as they subordinated themselves, to the cause for which they all risked, and many sacrificed life, health, and vigour. The main feature is the Archangel Michael, whose name means, 'Who is like unto God! It is the Archangel whose humility is said to have triumphed over the pride of Satan, and the presence of this figure in your midst should be a symbol for the peace of the future, as well as a memorial of the war in the past. Under the outstretched wings of victory, strong in the right, evil shall be kept under foot, and the men of Queensland, bound together by strong ties of brotherhood, and by deep memories of a glorious past, shall come in humble reverence, but also in serene confidence to a high destiny."

A dedicatory prayer and address were then delivered by Rev. A. St. J. Heard, followed by the hymn "For All the Saints." Mr. Les. Edye gave an admirable interpretation of the song, "Thou Art Passing Home, my Brother."

The ceremony concluded with the sounding of "The Last Post" and "Reveille" by Mr. O. C. Jones, and the singing of the National Anthem. A number of the members of the Blackstone-Ipswich Cambrian Choir were present, and assisted in the proceedings, while the accompaniments were played by Miss E. England.

DESCRIPTION OF WINDOW.

The window is said to be the finest example of stained glass produced in Australia. The design, which is both dignified and imposing, is the work of Mr. W. Bastard, and was executed under the supervision of Mr. C. H. Lancaster. The glasses used are the best English antiques, and the whole composes a beautiful rich colour harmony. The central feature of the design is a figure of St. Michael, representing the Angel of Victory, with outspread wings embracing four soldier figures, representing the 9th, 15th, and 20th Battalions, and the 5th Light Horse. He is shown standing on a globe representing the earth, with the crushed German eagle lying at its base, and in his hands he is holding a sheathed sword and the palm of victory. The field of Flanders is shown in the background, with scarlet poppies and crosses, while a band of cherubs forms a valuable line in the design. The whole is encircled in a border of grape vine, symbolising life. A valuable feature of the colouring is the richness of the ruby robe of St. Michael, which comprises the use of four varieties of antique ruby, and the beautiful blending of colours in the wings, ranging from rich blues to green, brown, and yellow. Shown on tablets at the base of the window are the dates 1914 and 1918, and in the centre is the inscription, "Vincit qui patitur." (He who is patient conquers.) On the lower end of the framework is placed the following inscription in unobtrusive letters: "This window is erected by the Ipswich Train Tea Society and all the little children who helped them, in grateful memory of the men who gave their lives to keep our Empire, holy, and home inviolate. Ipswich, November 23, 1922."