

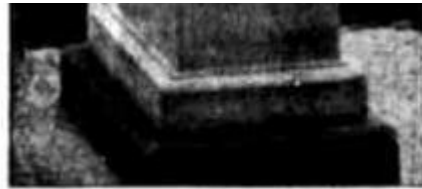
Statue of Queen Alexandra.

Unveiled at Alexandra.

The statue of Queen Alexandra was unveiled on Friday afternoon last in the presence of a large gathering of residents and the children attending the school. The statue has been erected in the small park created by the C.W.A. on portion of the Library block.

Cr. W. A. Murray, Shire President, opened the proceedings, and said the statue had been received on permanent loan from the Trustees of the National Gallery. Mr. Elliott was instrumental in having it sent to Alexandra. Thanks were due to the committee of the local Library for permission to place the statue on their land, and he would also like to mention the assistance given by the local branch of the C.W.A. Later on the C.W.A. hoped to erect a building to serve as a baby health centre. Cr. Murray then asked Mr. Elliott to unveil the statue.

Mr. R. D. Elliott said he was very pleased to be present. He thought the action of the Trustees indicated a wider outlook, and showed that the National Gallery was a national institution—not a Melbourne one. There was no fitter site for the statue than Alexandra. It was



“lent” to Alexandra, and would never be returned. The statue, the work of Charles Somers, was a permanent monument of that artist's work. He was born in 1825, and as a boy received 1/ a week for scaring crows from the field. Later on he attended the Royal Academy School. He arrived in Melbourne in 1853. When at Tarnagulla goldfields he saw an advertisement for modellers at Parliament House, and disposed of his claim (the purchasers of which afterwards struck a patch that netted £20,000.) He modelled figures in the Legislative Council Chamber, and was responsible for the statue of Burke and Wills. He went to Rome, and died in 1878. Continuing his remarks, Mr. Elliott said:—The life of an English King (or Queen) is one of complete devotion to duty and personal sacrifice. More than a man in position and less than a man in human liberty. Monarch and servant in one. Trustee of the rich heritage of the past and guarantor of the immeasurable future. Above the law, yet the assurance that justice will be done. The ruler of the people, the slave of the people, and the embodiment of the people's immortality. One holiday time when the royal family were all at Sandringham, the late King George V. (son of the Queen) was checking up on church attendance and found that his three elder sons were missing. Sending for Sir Louis Greig, the King banged the table with his fist and roared, “I'll take no excuses as long as I am the King and their father, these young rascals have damned well got to go to church every Sunday morning.” In regard to the international situation to-day it must be remembered that Britain is strong, and Germany knows it. Therefore, in spite of all the massing of troops, the fiery speeches and the rattling of the sabre, and because of the strength of Britain, there will be no war.

But there is one very great danger—the war of nerves. The cam'

ger—the war of nerves. The campaign is become intense all the time. It is being conducted from Berlin, with Goebbels in command. Tientsin is part of the campaign. Goebbels' army extends beyond the frontiers of Germany to international financiers who spread rumours to the stock markets of the world, so that confidence is destroyed. Nor does it stop there. There are the unpaid, unwitting agents here in Australia, Melbourne (even Alexandra) who spread the news to their fellow townspeople that the war is coming in September. Goebbels and Hitler believe that by rumours, alarms and excursions they can create such a state of nerves that to end the intolerable strain we shall give the Nazis what they want. Denounce the prophets of war! Criticise the

people who go about saying war is inevitable. They are enemies of the public. They spread unemployment, driving many out of work. They breed in every class of the community anxiety and fear. Fear can do much mischief. It is an active force for harm. Have no fear of war in the Far East. Have no fear of war in Europe. The war that can be lost is the one of nerves which has for its battle cry the foolish bleating of 'it's coming in September.' Kill the bogey; don't believe it; develop our own industries—develop Australia!

Mr. Elliot, then unveiled the statue, which had been covered with the National flag. He also intimated that he would pay for the cutting in of the lettering on the base of the statue.

The Hon. E. J. Mackrell said he was delighted to be present at the unveiling of the monument by Mr Elliott, whom he hoped would be a Senator again. He was not so optimistic as Mr. Elliott in regard to the war rumblings, but sincerely hoped there would be no war. They must, however, buckle on the armour, and endeavor to be prepared. Mr. Mackrell then spoke of the various forms of government in the world, and the great freedom enjoyed under the British flag.

Mr. C. R. Long was the next

Mr. C. R. Long was the next speaker. He said:—I esteem it a great privilege to be present and to speak at this ceremony to-day. I should be thankful; it is a unique experience. Just think of it. To be on this spot where we are standing before there were any houses in sight, and to be so circumstanced as to be able to return and find around me a prosperous community and a thriving town. I was driven in a waggonette with my father, mother, and a sister along a bullock dray track, which led from the Josephine cutting to the Recreation Reserve, crossed the creek, came down this side of it, turned into Grant Street, and then went in the direction of Thornton, at a time when there was not a house to be seen from the vehicle. That was in the summer of 1865—74 years ago. Gold was discovered in the neighborhood in June of the next year—'66, and a township speedily came into being. Most of the houses were placed along the bullock-dray track. Gold was being got in plenty, both from quartz and from alluvial. The Government decided, therefore, to have a town and parish surveyed. John Downey, surveying in the district, was given the work to do. Most of the town was laid out in January, 1867, commencing from about where we are now. The Shire Hall is on Allotment 1 of Section 1. Downey named the town 'Eglington' after Henry Johnson's 'run,' which had been called that after a town in Scotland by Archibald Thom, who had occupied it in the late forties, before he went to Eildon. Most of the streets were named by Downey after prominent pioneers of the town. Grant Street was in honor of the head of the Lands Department, J. Macpherson Grant, a great land legislator, and the other chief street after Downey himself. In the Melbourne office, however, a slip with 'Alexandra' on it was gummed over Downey's 'Eglington.'

Princess Alexandra, of Denmark, became the wife of Edward Prince of Wales, afterwards Edward VII. She had been married to him for about four years when her name was bestowed upon the town and the parish. She was an exceedingly handsome woman and amicable. She was therefore much liked, and the change of the name

liked, and the change of the name of the town was a graceful act, and a wise one. We who are interested in the town should be grateful to the Trustees of the National Gallery in Melbourne, of which body Mr. R. D. Elliott is Treasurer, for such an attractive and valuable gift.

Mr. Long concluded his remarks with an earnest request that the statue should never be defaced or damaged in any way.

Mr. H. Buxton (Headmaster of the School) called for three cheers, and under his direction the children sang God Save the King.

(Mr. Long brought with him a copy of Mr. Downey's original plan and handed it to the Shire Secretary for safe keeping.)