

**MT. KEMBLA C. of E.**

**NEW CHURCH DEDICATED**

For about 80 years the old Church of England at Mt. Kembla stood as a landmark, surrounded by the graves of some of the hardy pioneers and on the tombstones to-day may be read the names of men—and women—who blazed the track of progress. Many happy incidents were associated with the old Church, and very many sad ones. When the great disaster occurred at the Mt. Kembla mine, the idea was suggested that a memorial Church should be built, and a start was made to collect funds for such a purpose, the idea being to erect a brick structure. Year after year slipped by, and something always cropped up to prevent the idea being consummated. Strikes, and the great war, being the chief obstacles. However, recently, it was realised that something would have to be done, and the Rev. T. Terry, the Rector, made a suggestion, which eventually was acted upon, and the old Church was demolished to make way for a new one.

On Sunday afternoon last the official opening and dedication of the new Church took place. The structure is a very neat one, and the interior of stained wood, has a very attractive appearance, whilst the Mount Kembla Disaster Memorial Window from the old Church, takes on an even more striking appearance in its new setting, in the eastern end, over the holy table. There is a neat entrance porch on the northern side, with a gable roof, whilst the vestry is on the southern side.

**THE DEDICATION SERVICE.**

Long before the appointed time on Sunday afternoon, the sacred edifice was filled to its capacity, and forms had to be secured for the late comers,

and some had to be content with standing outside the building.

The Rural Dean (Rev. E. Walker) and the Rector (Rev. T. Terry), followed by the Church Wardens, and members of the Committee, entered the Church from the porch.

The service commenced with the singing of the hymn, "The Church's One Foundation." The service was conducted by the Rev. T. Terry, and the Rev. E. Walker preached the sermon and performed the dedication ceremony. He based his remarks on the text, "My House shall be called a House of Prayer." He emphasised upon those present the need of using God's House as a house of prayer.

The lesson was read by Mr. F. Kirkwood.

wood.

The Rev. T. Terry explained how the idea of a new Church had been in the minds of the people for 27 years, and how that wish was now an accomplished fact. The Church had cost a little over £600, and it would be opened free of debt. It had been a great venture of faith. He desired to thank the Church Officers for the help they had given, also the Rural Dean for being present to dedicate the Church. He also thanked Mr. Caldwell, the builder, and those associated with him in the work. It was a good job, honestly and faithfully done. Mr. Terry also thanked Mr. Baldwin for granting the use of his hall for carrying on the services and Sunday School whilst the new Church was being built, and the Sunday School teachers for the manner in which they had carried on their work in the hall. Mr. Terry expressed pleasure at seeing Mr. Henry Parsons present.

The Rural Dean next dedicated the Church to the glory of God and in memory of the men who lost their lives in the Mount Kembla Disaster, and the soldiers from Mount Kembla who made the supreme sacrifice.

The benediction brought an impressive service to a close.

There were representatives of the Wollongong, Pt. Kembla, Figtree and other Churches present.

The Church Officers associated with the new Church are: Messrs. W. D. Stone, J. Benjamin and F. Dungey, Church Wardens, and L. Dungey, F. Kirkwood, J. Lewis and E. Ryall, committee.