

UNVEILING OF HONOR BOARD.



AT THE METHODIST CHURCH.

The local Methodist church was crowded on Sunday afternoon last, the occasion being the unveiling of a Board in honor of the men who had enlisted for active service who had been in some way or other connected with methodism in the Avoca circuit. The building was decorated with the flags of the Allies and presented a bright appearance. The assemblage included representatives from all parts of the circuit as well as many belonging to other denominations. The Honor Board was standing on a platform covered with the grand old flag, while on either side hung the Union Jack and the Australian flag.

The proceedings opened with the National Anthem and special verse, played by the Town Band, under the direction of Mr A. C. Summers, followed by a hymn, the Lord's Prayer and the singing of an anthem by the choir, the solos being taken by Miss Stella Currie and Mrs Wrigley.

The Rev J. R. Currie said that in this, the hour of the Empire's greatest need, he welcomed them to the church to do honor to those whose names appeared on the Board. Beneath the flag were the names of a good many of those gallant lads who so nobly responded to the country's call—the call of duty. He felt that they would not fail to appreciate the workmanship and although the cost of the Board was considerable he did not beg and was not going to beg. A good many more names had to go on the Board however and Mr Thomas would, he knew, attend to this. He asked them to give an offering and have some little share in the Honor Board, which would grace the church for many years.

"Abide with Me" was beautifully rendered by the Band followed by that beautiful hymn "Remember, Lord, Australia's sons To-night."

The Rev Currie said he was not going to indulge in much talking. He was desirous that the service be as impressive, helpful and inspiring as possible. Some of those present will see the names of their own sons on the Board, with pride in their hearts, and there will be a feeling of thankfulness to-day that in

feeling of thankfulness to-day that in the terrible struggle they have been preserved. A little symbol opposite the names of some, however, denotes that they have fallen. Some of the lads they knew here will never come back—they have made the supreme sacrifice, they have given their all. Every man and woman with a spark of loyalty in them must have a feeling of gratitude in their hearts, a feeling of indebtedness to the lads who have faced death fearlessly for them. The Honor Board belongs to the District and was going to be placed permanently in the church. He felt it was a gift from the people through himself to the church. He asked Mr J W Field to say a few words.

Mr Field said he would have liked Mr Currie to have kept the matter in his own hands, because Mr Currie was the only one who knew all whose names had been placed on the Board. He was pleased that Mr Currie's son had been included in the number as the Avoca parsonage was his last home. He (Mr Field) then spoke of the church's relation to the great war. They were supporting the cause of freedom and liberty against oppression and tyranny. Why, he asked, is the United States in the war to-day? Because they could not retain their self-respect and keep out of it. The great majority of our boys had gone to fight in the cause of right. The churches have stood behind the army and navy in a body. He outlined his views with regard to reinforcements and to what he believed to be the only effective method of getting the necessary help. He was in receipt of a letter from a former minister, the Rev Angwin, who said that he believed the Empire will come out of the war victoriously, but as a chastened people.

Mr Thomas said he did not know he would be asked to say anything. He was pleased to have the opportunity and was also pleased to know that in connection with the Methodist church they had been able to erect an Honor Board. He was glad that so many of the boys have volunteered and gone to the front. They have been willing to face death for King and country. Every soldier who volunteered and went away from Australia's shores was willing to make the supreme sacrifice if necessary. They were up against one of the greatest evils ever known. Our desire was to honor these lads and they were hoping very shortly to have a public movement which will include in the names of the boys who have gone from the Avoca Shire. He expressed profound sympathy with those whose boys have fallen at the front.

whose boys have fallen at the front.

The Rev. Currie said there may be names of boys on the honor roll who may belong to other churches, but not a name appears thereon, but the owner has in some way been under the influence of the Methodist church. He did not want to say anything to hurt the feelings of any who may be present as it was a mixed gathering. They had heard something of the tremendous struggle of the past fortnight. They read the other day of the gigantic struggle in which our Australian boys were engaged and fought as men have never fought before. He hoped no names of boys who should be there would be left off the roll. He was no longer their pastor but had broken his indignity to come back and unveil the Board. He asked all who were fond of reading to procure the book on the war by an American writer entitled "The Pentecost of Calamity." The writer put the position precisely, touchingly and beautifully. Our lads are dying doing something for re-

demption and humanity — they are dying for freedom and right. He asked for no other proof of man than his opinion of the war. If he has no opinion he is nobody and is a slur on humanity. A man who has no admiration for the gallant lads is a man he did not want to know and would go a street around to avoid him. Our boys not only proved themselves loyal and devoted but some of the finest fighters the world has ever seen. He was pleased his own boy's name was on the Board. He went almost at the first and was one of the first to fall. He expressed his gratitude that his name had been allowed to go on. He then in the name of the King, Empire, Commonwealth and Church had great pleasure in unveiling the Honor Board.

Another selection by the Band, the pronouncing of the Benediction by the Rev. Currie and the singing of the National Anthem and special verse terminated a most impressive ceremony.

The Honor Board which is made of Australian blackwood was obtained from Mr H. F. Classen and is a beautiful piece of work. It has a canopy top and a sprig of golden wattle in bloom with crossed rifles in the centre make it strikingly emblematic of Australia. The words "Avoca Circuit Honor Roll" appear in gold, while "For King and Country" are on a ribbon of blue. The names were

a ribbon of blue. The names were written in gold by Mr Les. Palmer, of Maryborough, and reflect on him the highest credit.

The names are :—

Currie H C	Harbour H H
Porter A B	Landsell H
Resuggan A G	Elackney J E
Harrowfield R L	Kitchell P V
Harrowfield N	Redpath S
Mitchell T T	Randall E
Reid E	Randall W
Wrigley F R	Chambers H E
Gee J	Evans G H
Gee R	Henry C A
Beavis J S	Young F
Beavis J	Turpin H
Stavely W C	Doodt D
Derrick E A	Doodt C A
Livingstone J	Sims H L
Harris N	Robinson R W
Laersen A H	Turner H C
Lyons P J	Elliot T J
Rowlands H H	Bright J F
Rowland W R	Wilson C M
Oppy W H	Wilson V L
Greenwood H J	DaFouts A
Greenwood W H	Davies D
Lannister A W	Broadbent J
Fuller J B	Stuart W C
Fuller M R	Hope C R
Summerfield S E	Roberts R G
Summerfield A J	Henderson J J

Of the above the following have fallen :—C H Currie, N. Harrowfield, G H Evans, C A Henry, H Turpin, H H and W R Rowland, J B Fuller, W H Oppy, W C Stuart and C R Hope.

The Rev. Currie desires, on behalf of the Methodists to express high appreciation of the services of the Band which, under the able conductorship of Mr Sammers, aided greatly in making the ceremony so impressive.