

Kerry Hall Honour Board

A large crowd attended the Kerry Memorial Hall on Saturday night when the first anniversary dance was held.

During the evening Mr. T. Flood Plunkett, M.L.A., unveiled an honour board which carries the names of men from the Kerry District who served in both world wars.

In less than two years the residents of Kerry have achieved something of which a far bigger district might well be proud. They have erected a large dance hall, with all the necessary conveniences, and thus provided an amenity for the district, as well as a memorial.

When the movement was first mooted it was proposed that the hall should record the achievement of servicemen, and residents who had pioneered the district. Many of the early day people no longer have their names represented in the community, and it is felt by residents of today that their names should not be forgotten.

It is proposed at some later date to erect a tablet showing the names of the pioneers.

No end of organisation was necessary to bring the hall into being. Timber was a worry, but this was overcome, due to the co-operation of property holders. Shortage of labour was no problem because dozens of men gave up their farm work, and made the erection of the hall a labour of love.

Since the official opening the hall has been lined with pine, and an ornate soft drink bar, with appropriate fittings, has been installed.

Discussing the progress made, the President of the Hall Committee (Mr. A. Stephens) said that they had had no trouble with finance. Many residents had given several donations, and there was a further good response to a suggestion that each resident give a guinea to meet the latest costs. It was estimated that the hall was valued at £2000, and £100 was owing on it.

Mr. Stephens considered the cost of an electric lighting plant was more than justified. The 22 lights provided sufficient illumination inside and there are several powerful lights outside.

On Saturday about 25 men toiled all day providing filling at the property, and doing other work, and the young ladies prepared the hall, which is tastefully decorated.

Guests included Mr. Plunkett, and Messrs. A. L. Lane and A. P. Watson, representing the Beaudesert sub-branch of the R.S.S.A.I.L.A.

Mr. A. Stephens expressed pleasure at seeing so many present at the first annual dance held in the hall. He said the ceremony to be performed that night was a very important one. The board carried the names of deceased and returned men of the Kerry District.

Mr. Stephens relayed thanks on behalf of the hall committee, for the way the people had co-operated in carrying out further improvements to the hall. Wonderful work had been done by Mr. Jack Beaveny, and his band of workers. They were lucky to have men of their calibre, added Mr. Stephens. Those men knew how to do

their work of their calibre, added Mr. Stephens. Those men knew how to do the job, and they gave their time to do it. They all knew that a man could not work on a hall, and keep up his farm work at the same time, which meant that the members of the family also assisted indirectly.

Mr. Stephens said that many functions had been held in the hall during the year, but they did not share a big rental. The hall had proved a wonderful boom to the district. There had been no failures with the functions held and they had been a wonderful success socially and financially.

The speaker said he would like to thank Mr. Harry Buxton, who was responsible for making the board. That class of work was hard to get done, and the gold lettering had to be imported. It was a slow and difficult job carrying out the lettering, but Mr. Buxton had stretched a point and had the board ready in time.

Mr. Plunkett said that he was filling the gap for Mr. A. G. Muller, M.L.A., who had an appointment in Sydney. Mr. Muller asked him to apologise for his absence.

Mr. Plunkett said that they were going to see the unveiling of an honour board in the memorial hall. That in itself suggested that the people recognised what the ravages of war meant, and how indebted they were to those who had made the sacrifice. The unveiling was an honour to those who took part in the war, and an honour to those present.

Mr. Plunkett said that he knew the amount of voluntary work done, and he said that no finer building had been erected in the district, as a result of the co-operation of the people, than in the locality concerned. The hall was a credit to the people, and the district.

Mr. Plunkett suggested that the history of the erection of the hall should be compiled, and placed in a basket, which would be locked away in the hall for use at anniversaries of the future. The records could be brought out in the years to come, and they would show how the hall had been built. There had been more voluntary subscriptions and work done on the hall than on any other place that he knew. In 25 years time the building of the hall would be of interest to the rising generation, and to those of them who were still in the district.

Mr. Plunkett said that it was a great tribute to the people that the hall committee had seen fit to have the board erected so that the names of those who made the sacrifice could be seen as long as the hall lasted. It was their duty to ensure that the names of these men were there for the rising generation to see.

Introducing Mr. Lane, Mr. Stephens said that they might not realise what Mr. Lane did for the district. He was one of the best organisers he knew, and he was on practically every committee in the district. Those who worked on the committees with him knew how efficient he was.

Mr. Lane recalled an incident of the 1914-18 war to show that there was something behind the reason for hav-

1914-18 war to show that there was something behind the reason for having the names on an honour board. He said that they had a boy in their unit who was always in trouble, and his paybook showed more red ink than black ink, which indicated the number of times he had been dealt with.

That same chap was one of the finest soldiers they had, and he was one they could rely on when in action. Towards the end of 1918 when things were serious this soldier was seriously wounded, and it could be seen there was no chance for him. Asked if there was anything they could do for him, the soldier replied, "Dont worry about me, I am not much good, and I will not be much loss." That was one of the things that pointed to the spirit of the thing. The soldier said he was not much good, but he was good enough to give his life for his country.

Mr. Lane said the boys from the Kerry District had the same British spirit, and, when necessary, the spirit came out. They had the names of the men who made the supreme sacrifice, and those of the men who came back. They had not to forget the mothers of those men.

Mr. Lane said the league wanted the assistance of the returned men just as much as their country needed them when they went away. They had an organisation which looked to the interests of members, and the widows of

deceased men. If members were in difficulties the league would see that they were looked after.

Mr. Lane appealed to all to see that the men, whose names appeared on the board, were looked after in future years.

Mr. Plunkett, before unveiling the board, said that there were the names of six men who made the supreme sacrifice and he felt they would all join with him in expressing sympathy to the relatives of those boys. He hoped the sacrifices made would mean peace and harmony, not only in the British Empire, but the world over. Even though there were worrying times at present they hoped that the sacrifices made would result in a greater British Empire, with a continuance of the democratic way of living to which they had been used to living.

Following the releasing of the flag covering the board a minute's silence was observed, after which the gathering sang the National Anthem.