

CARISBROOK FIRE BRIGADE.

AN ENVIABLE RECORD.

HONOR ROLL UNVEILED.

The Carisbrook Fire Brigade, prior to the war, had a total complement of some 20 men. They were men, too, who, despite the difficulty under which they trained, could hold their own when it came to a competitive display or exhibition at the annual demonstration. Who has not heard of Arthur Herd, who won, four years in succession, the one-man engine event, and broke the world's record by 2½ seconds? But circumstances are somewhat different with the brigade now. The war has diminished the personnel, and 17 out of the original 20 are now at the front or in camp. It is the rule of the Country Fire Board that each fireman's place be kept for him till his return, the vacancy in the ranks being filled by a substitute in the interim. The idea works in populous centres, but in Carisbrook there is a dearth of substitutes. The brigade, however, has battled along with its depleted membership, and performs its functions of usefulness with laudable alacrity whenever necessity demands. The names of the 17 members who are serving their country have been placed on an honor board, and it was the unveiling of this memorial that formed the occasion for the function which took place at the Carisbrook fire station on Monday evening last.

The function, which was in the nature of a banquet, synchronised with the inspectorial visit of Chief Officer Marshall, who, as the chief guest of the evening, performed the unveiling ceremony. Colonel Marshall arrived by the night train.

The chair was occupied by Captain J. H. Herd, who, after Rev. F. J. Betts had said grace, proposed the toast of "The King," which was honored with the true patriotic fervor engendered by thoughts of the national crisis through which we are passing.

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The toast of "Our Allies" fell to the lot of Rev. F. J. Betts, who spoke with a passionate zeal of the outrageous action of Germany in commencing hostilities without first making a declaration of war. He enlarged upon the spirit which actuated the armies of England, France, Russia, Italy, the smaller nations, and the latest addition to the Allied fold—America—in prosecuting the war, and remarked upon the fact that though England had fought against some of these nations, they were now by her side fighting in the common cause of humanity. The proposer of the toast dwelt upon a description of a tableau he had seen of Belgium, and expressed the desire of being able to put it on some day in Carisbrook. It first represented Belgium defying the lust-lit legions of the War Lord, then of her falling before his mighty forces, afterwards of her lying prostrate, and finally standing erect, with the Allies grouped about her. This told the whole story of Belgium's deeds of daring and sacrifice. When the call came for men, they responded from all parts of the Empire. The men of Australia did not stand idly by, or hang back, but they joined the serried ranks of the nation's heroes, and went to do their duty. In the armies of the Allies were soldiers from all portions of the Empire and the associated nations, and in them, too, were men from Carisbrook, which some critic had referred to as the "decadent mining town, and the "dead horse town." He felt sure that when the war was finished it would not only be a victory for the United Kingdom and the Allies, but a victory for the whole world. (Applause.)

At this stage Chief-Officer Marshall arrived on the scene, and was introduced to the company by Captain Herd. Subsequently he was called upon to perform the task of unveiling the honor roll.

In doing so, the chief officer said that he had been on the go ever since the war, and at times longed for a spell. He did not make up his mind to leave town till that afternoon, but Captain Herd had sent word that he had to come, and,

had sent word that he had to come, and, like a good soldier, he had obeyed. (Laughter.) It was a great honor that the firemen had conferred upon him. He knew the lads who were at the front—they were all "his lads," and he may have been responsible for causing them to go. "His lads" were all the firemen in the State of Victoria, and when he went round he talked war and the duty that every man owed to his country. He was of a martial spirit—he did not mean it as an intentional pun on his name—for he came from a martial country and a martial people, and he could not help it. His land was the land of Bobby Burns—one of the best. (Applause.) Some people said that this was not our war, and that the only flag they would fight for was the Red Flag, but if any fighting was being done these men would be somewhere safe out of the way. Germany started to prepare for this war in 1864, when she declared war on little Denmark, and beat her in seven days. This enabled her to assume possession of those points of Denmark jutting into the North Sea, formerly called the German Ocean, and this was the cause of all the trouble at the present time. If Germany had not beaten Denmark she would never have been able to construct the Kiel Canal, through which now passed all the submarines and battleships which harassed the Allies. Just across from the Kiel Canal was a bit of mud called Heligoland, which originally belonged to England. When the Kaiser went over to see Queen Victoria, with his retinue—all spies—he did so with the intention of starting war some time or other on the country whose hospitality he was receiving. He asked for Heligoland; said it was only a bit of mud of no use to the British at all, and finally Lord Salisbury gave it to him. If they had retained possession of the place the war might not have occurred. Afterwards Germany went to war with Austria, and beat her in seven weeks. Some time later she declared war on France, and beat her in seven months. The price that France had to pay before German soldiers left her soil

was £250,000,000, and she also had to hand over Alsace-Lorraine. Seven seemed to be the German number, but if she fought for seven or seventy years she would never conquer England, the Allies or Australia. (Applause.) Germany engineered a compact with Austria and Italy, and this was called the Triple Alliance. They had only to look at the map to see what this meant. These three nations comprised nearly the whole of Europe. The condition of the Alliance was that in the event of one of the nations being attacked the others were to go to her assistance. England then entered into an alliance with France and Russia which was called the Entente Cordiale. When Germany attacked France, Italy was free to pursue her own course, and she joined the Allies, because she knew she was fighting on the right side. (Applause.)

It had been said that we should not be in this war, but we were all of one blood and one Empire, and

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead,

**Who never to himself has said,
This is my own, my native land?"**

When the Australians went away to the war someone said that they thought they were going to a picnic. But it did not matter what they thought. The main thing was, they went. (Applause.) The fire brigades had done their share, and out of the total number in Victoria 2600 men had gone to the front. (Applause.) They did not stand a lazy man in a brigade; he must be always a worker. He wanted to see the firemen formed into a battalion or several companies, but when he offered his services they would not let the "Old Chief" go to lead them. He offered his services in any capacity, but it was of no avail. He only had three sons, but they were all at the front. One of them was amongst the first half-dozen to land at Gallipoli. They might not know that the first men to land comprised a company of West Australians and a company of Queens-

Australians and a company of Queenslanders. The only fault of the Australians was their impetuosity. When the Queenslanders ran up the heights they wanted to get to Constantinople and capture it themselves. Some of them did get there—as prisoners. But it was better to be impetuous than slothful. The firemen of Victoria had done their duty both at home and abroad, and all honor to them. Chief-Officer Marshall then unveiled the honor roll, which was handsomely and appropriately illuminated, and read out the following names:—

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| Frank Moss. | Ernest Smith. |
| Frank Maas. | William Crooks. |
| William McIntyre. | David Bruhn. |
| George Maas. | Robert Botten. |
| George Bruhn. | William Hall. |
| John White. | William Clover. |
| Bernie Downs. | Albert Botten. |
| Robert Capron. | Frederick Wright. |
| Samuel Clover. | |

A pleasing incident then took place, the occasion being the presentation to Lieutenant H. Hinks and ex-Foreman H. O'Brien of long-service badges. The badges, which consisted of the seal of the board, surrounded by a laurel wreath, and surmounted with a helmet and branches, were handed to the men by the chief officer, who said that the decorations were equal to the Royal Humane Society's medal, and the possessors were entitled to wear them on the left breast. They were only awarded to firemen who had seen 15 years' service. Both recipients acknowledged the decorations with appropriate thanks.

The toast of "The Visitors" was then proposed by Captain Herd, who said he wished to particularly mention his old friend, Mr. Moss, father of one of the firemen at the front, and who he saw amongst the visitors. He might say that he intended giving to the parents of each man a photo of the honor roll. (Applause.) Only last week he had seen in the paper that a city brigade had sent 13 men to the war. How much more honor it was for them to send 17 out of their 20 men. He was pleased to say that he had two sons at the

front, and if he had another one he would like him to go also. (Applause.) At Christmas time they had sent Christmas cards to all their men, and a little while ago he had received letters from three of them—Firemen Wright, McIntyre, and Botten—thanking him for the cards, and asking to be remembered to all their old comrades. He extended a hearty welcome to the visitors, and trusted they all would spend an enjoyable time.

Response was made by Mr. E. J. Grieve, who said that this was the first occasion since he had been in Carisbrook that the brigade had held such a function, and he thought it only fair and right that the townspeople should respond to the invitation to do honor to those men who had done their duty to the town whilst in the brigade, and were now performing a greater and even nobler duty on the shell-torn fields of battle. (Applause.) He also expressed the pleasure it afforded him to meet the chief officer, whom he styled the "firemen's invigorating spirit."

Further responses to the toast were made by Messrs. J. Nicol, C. J. Whitmore, and Constable Graham.

Mr. J. Nicol toasted "The Carisbrook Fire Brigade," coupled with the name of Captain Herd, to which the officer mentioned made a neat response.

The toast of "The Host and Hostess," coupled with the names of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Davis, was proposed by Fireman C. A. Shebler, and was responded to by Mr. Davis.

Lieutenant Hinks proposed—"The Press," and response was made by the representative of "The Advertiser."

Harmony was contributed by the following:—Song, "Red, White and Blue," Mr. Moss; song, "Mona," Mr. F. Davis; song, "Where the River Shannon's Flowing," Mr. Joe Cole; song, "Mother Macree," Mr. Arthur Smith; song, "British Navy," Mr. H. O'Brien; recitation, "The Baron's Lost Banquet," Mr. H. W. Bucknall; recitation, "Gunga Din," Mr. T. P. Richards. Several songs and selections were rendered on a gramophone by Captain Herd, who also ren-

tions were rendered on a gramophone supplied by Captain Herd, who also rendered a song, "Write Me a Letter from Home."

The singing of the National Anthem concluded the evening.