

St. Andrew's Church, Cooma.

UNVEILING ROLL OF HONOR

The Rev. C. F. McAlpine, recently purchased a handsome tablet, to be hung in the church and inscribed with the names of the members of the Presbyterian Church who had volunteered for service in the great European war. This was unveiled yesterday afternoon at a service held in the church in the presence of a large gathering. Hymns appropriate to the war period were sung and an address delivered by the Rev. C. F. McAlpine, who took for his text 8th Judges, 14th verse. The preacher dwelt upon the fact of the small army of Gideonites who defeated the hosts of the Midianites, victory crowning their efforts because they found favour in the sight of the Supreme Being. Drawing a parallel with the present war, the preacher, urged the people to obtain the degree of righteousness which in the Divine eye would justify their victory, which was possibly withheld for the time until they should turn their footsteps into the paths of God. They were reminded of the men who had gone forth on their behalf, the sons, husbands, and brothers and friends and they thought of the names of the men they desired to honour, who had gone forth for their country's cause. The preacher paid a tribute to the Ven. Archdeacon Ward who was about to start for the war. In the days of Gideon the armies were conscript, it was not a question as to who was to go, the men who were fit had to go. It was every man's business, every man's loss if they failed, every man's gain if they won. In Israel there were certain exemptions, the aged and infirm were not taken into the battlefield, and the victory was not accomplished by the magnitude of the host, but by the goodness and power of God. The confessed cowards returned to their homes, they were of no use to Gideon; the Lord was not satisfied with them; there were also the men who were cowards and afraid to confess. Let them emphasize two things: God made it plain that the victory was given by Him; if God himself were against them it did not matter if the whole world were with them; their strength was but weakness if the Divine strength were turned away from them. The call went out, not only from the country but from God, to the men who were ready to stand for the high ideals of the purest national life: the men who thought that justice, freedom, and mercy were worth making sacrifices to retain. Gideon's 300 men were of the right spirit, "faint yet pursuing" the

enemy.

In connection with the list presented there that day, and also that of men who had given, voluntarily, their services to their country, they had heard the call of duty. Their men at the war were "faint, yet pursuing"; they sought for their part until victory were accomplished or they died. It was by that fact that the call came for others to make the victory complete; to lessen the horrors of war, yet it seemed they should be prepared to do whatever was wanted. Their little band of volunteers was doing its best, and they honored them, they could honor them by fidelity in the path of duty; they heard the call and God led them. Let them join the little multitude "weak yet pursuing," not only by their help but by the help that would come from, and when, the nation came to its senses and rose to the crowning call of national duty.

There were 29 names on the Roll of Honour, which the Rev. McAlpine explained was confined to Presbyterians. There were others, outside that list, and whatever their religion they were soldiers of the King. The Roll contained names of Presbyterians who had enlisted in the parish, or their parents or friends lived there. The list might not be complete, and he would ask them to tell him of any omissions. He would call upon Mr. J. C. Ryrrie to unveil the Roll of Honour.

The flag of Scotland covered the tablet, and this was removed by Mr. Ryrrie, who said he felt very highly honoured at being given the opportunity of unveiling the Roll of Honour. He hoped that when the boys of the congregation looked on that roll they would remember what their country expected of them.

The assemblage stood as a mark of respect to the soldiers whose names were enrolled.

The Rev. McAlpine said they would notice that there were stars opposite three names, viz., those of C. Campbell, J. C. Oliver and J. Adams. Those lads had had given their lives for their country. The gathering stood while Mr. Swadling, in Highland costume played on the bagpipes "The Land of the Leal."

The ceremony concluded by the singing of the National Anthem; Miss D. Jardine presiding at the organ. The officers of the church present were Messrs. J. C. Ryrrie, John Jardine, and W. McKinnon.