

Avenue of Honor.

The function of planting two trees as the opening performance in forming an Avenue of Honor in memory of fallen soldiers took place in Barkly street on Saturday afternoon under fine weather conditions. There was a large assemblage. From a raised platform adorned with flags and wattle blossom, improvised for the occasion, several addresses were delivered. Immediately in front was a square formed by returned soldiers and the local cadets about 100 strong, and the newly-formed branch of the W.A.A.C., under command of Lieut. Morgans.

Mr H. Guppy presided, and read an apology for the absence of Mr Leckie through an attack of influenza.

The chairman, after the singing of the National Anthem, referred to the object of the gathering, and said the avenue was to be planted in memory of Benalla's fallen soldiers, the boys who heard their country's call and had paid the supreme sacrifice for the liberty of Australia and the whole world. The silky oak (native of New South Wales) had been selected as fitting to the memory of the Australian soldier. The idea was to attach to each tree at a later date a memorial recording the facts of the heroic sacrifice. The influence for good in establishing a national sentiment among the children attending the adjacent schools by the presence of such an avenue would be great. As the trees grew so would the memory of those gallant lads be preserved evergreen. The avenue would be invested with a respect and pride that would be lasting. He took the opportunity of congratulating the ladies in the ranks of the W.A.A.C. on their appearance.

The president of the shire (Cr. Dunlop) at this stage introduced a resolution, which he thought fitting to move at that gathering seeing that no other celebration had been arranged for, supporting the declaration of determination on the fourth

anniversary of the war to continue to a victorious issue, as follows:—

That on this the fourth anniversary of the declaration of a righteous war, this meeting of the citizens of Benalla records its inflexible determination to continue to a victorious end the struggle in the maintenance of those ideals of liberty and justice which are the common and sacred cause of the Allies

Cr Burness seconded the resolution. He expressed the hope, please God, that it would never devolve upon him to record another such resolution. Before the next anniversary came along he hoped that they would have beaten and crushed the Germans as they would any other reptile. They wanted to see this terrible war brought to a successful finish. They could determine to assist in bringing this about by sending all the necessary reinforcements for the brave men who were away fighting; also forwarding comforts and money. When the men came back it would be their duty to do all they could for them, and to those who did not come back they would hold their memory in honour. They must fight on until peace with victory was assured, otherwise if the Germans were left with any strength at all it would mean a worse condition of things than ever. He had pleasure in seconding the resolution, which was then carried, three cheers being given for the King and Empire.

Rev. A. C. McConnan, in an introductory to his remarks, congratulated Mr Guppy on his elevation to the local magistracy. In this district Arbor Day for years past had become a big day for the schools. The planting of trees was fraught with important meaning in that the children in years to come would feel some satisfaction in being able to say they had taken part in tree planting. To-day it was not an ordinary Arbor Day, but they were engaged in tree planting of a very superior kind. There was no need to labour the point, but he desired to emphasise the fact that in planting the trees to the memory of the brave boys who had fallen they wished to not only keep their memory green but evergreen.

wished to not only keep their memory green but evergreen. They should never forget those who had fought and died for them. There had never been such a function as this with all it signified. By this they were showing their undying affection for those who had fallen in the great fight. He was more than ordinarily pleased that that street had been selected for the planting. As chairman of the East School committee and the High School council he felt no better site in the town could have been chosen for an avenue of honour. The children attending the schools would be able to grow up as it were under the shade of those trees. The avenue would remain as a living reminder to the children of future generations of the tremendous sacrifices that had been made in order that their freedom should be assured. The trees would be a silent yet visible token of those sacrifices of our boys. Like the other speakers he hoped the war would soon come to an end, but the memory of it would abide. The avenue would be a very pleasing memorial of the supreme sacrifice made for all. (Applause.)

The president of the shire then planted the first tree in the east corner of Barkly street and Mr Guppy the west corner.

A rousing cheer was given the W.A.A.C. as they were marched off in true military style to the Drill Hall.

A glass of good wine and a choice cigar
Promoters of comfort undoubtedly are.
Soothing the nerves in a wonderful way
After the worries and work of the day.
But when drenched and cold on a winter
night,
And needing a "soother" to put you
right,
There's nothing so soothing and warm-
ing be sure
As a "nightcap" of Woods' Pepper-
mint Cure.