

## BEAZLEY'S BRIDGE.

### UNVEILING HONOR ROLL.

(From our own correspondent.)

A record in numbers was put up at the Beazley's Bridge Hall on the 25<sup>th</sup> April (Anzac Day), when the greatest crowd in the history of the place assembled for the twofold purpose of commemorating the great deeds of Gaps Taps two years before, and unveiling the local Honor Roll. The hall was nicely decorated with flags and bunting, kindly lent by friends for the occasion. Or. Arbut's presided, and Mr. J. W. Pennington, M.L.A., and Or. E. G. Bath occupied seats on the platform. The proceedings opened with the National Anthem.

The chairman said they had met to pay their tribute of respect and admiration for the brave men who had been and were still fighting for us. It gave him great pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to the many visitors present, a number of whom, both town and country, had travelled long distances. They were particularly grateful to Mr. Pennington, who had given them their choice of dates, and Or. Bath, whose health was not as good as could be desired, for valuable help. They were also pleased that Miss Wetland and her scholars had embraced the opportunity of joining in the evening's programme, the first part of which would be short, but he hoped none the less interesting, after which the building would be handed over to the young people.

The following programme was then proceeded with:—Song "Star Cross Flag of Australia," scholars; recitation, "Right to the End," scholars; chorus, "Anzac," Beazley's Bridge choir.

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The chairman, before inviting Mr. Pennington to unveil the Roll, said he felt it was very fitting that gentleman should do so, as he had taken a great interest in that matter from its very inception, having donated something like 52 Honor Rolls himself to various school committees throughout Kara Kara. He explained that the local Honor Roll contained 24 names of young men having homes in the district, with the exception of one who belonged to an adjoining parish, but was a member of the Beazley's Bridge cricket club for years, and who enlisted and went to the front with them. The Honor Roll was blackwood frame and pillars, with siddleback panel resting on a foundation of oak, and the sturdy old tree was represented to a greater extent by the stout hearts of the boys whose names appeared thereon. It had been subscribed for by the residents, the young people in particular taking a keen interest in it, as they should do, seeing they were school mates with those whose names were on it. Mrs. J. M'Ivor and Miss M'Lean had undertaken the responsibility of making the Australian flag which covered it, and their work was a credit to them, having been carried out well and expeditiously. It was just two years since the memorable landing on Gallipoli, and many brave fellows had been killed, while others were still fighting for their very existence. He knew there were many anxious hearts in that room, but he hoped the cause for anxiety would soon cease, and that loved ones would soon be back again. He now had much pleasure, on behalf of the residents and as a compliment to the boys whose names were on the Roll, in inviting Mr. Pennington to perform the unveiling ceremony.

Mr. Pennington complimented the

Mr. Pennington complimented the people on their splendid Honor Roll, and the fine response the young men of the district had made to the call to duty. After unveiling the Honor Roll, he spoke at length on a variety of subjects, including true patriotism and repatriation. In regard to the latter matter, he explained what the Federal Government was doing, and impressed on his hearers the necessity for every effort in the way of assisting, as the men would want kind and careful treatment for some time until their shattered nerves were restored to normal conditions again.

Song, "Soldiers of the Klug," Beazley's Bridge choir.

Or. Bath, in a very appropriate address, also complimented Beazley's Bridge on their very fine Honor Roll. It was the best he had seen. He dealt with the reasons for young men enlisting. It was not from a spirit of adventure, but a love of home and country, and a determination to put down the foe who were guilty of such brutal deeds. He approved of the idea of Honor Rolls, not because they would play any part in winning the war, but because they would be handed down from one generation to another, and children would look to them with pride and refer to the names as those of brothers and fathers. He also asked for careful treatment for returned men, as on account of nervous troubles they would be more susceptible to vices than when in good health.

Song, "Good Night," Mr. Len. Moore.

Mr. H. Jackson, of Gro Gro Village, was pleased to be present. He had known a number of the boys whose names appeared on the roll for many years. He had deep sympathy for parents in their anxiety for loved ones at the front. Mr. Jackson dealt fully with many phases of the war,

fully with many phases of the war, and hoped all volunteers who had done their duty would receive equal recognition with the man who won a V.C., as many brave deeds were done which were never made public.

Oborne, "The trail that leads to home," Beazley's Bridge choir.

Mr. W. Rowe, of St. Arnaud, and Mr. Byrne, principal of the St. Arnaud High School, at the invitation of the chairman, also addressed the audience. Mr. Rowe, as an old cricketer, spoke of the pleasure it had always given him to meet the local club in the field, not because they were an easy snap—they were anything but that—but because they could always depend on

a game which was played in a manly spirit. They were true sports, but were now playing a greater game, and he was sure that manly spirit would still be maintained.

Mr. Byrne was pleased to see that the name of a lady was the first on the roll. He was very much struck by the number of Mac's which appeared among the names, there being no fewer than 16 out of 24. After complimenting the district on the fine response its young men had made, he delivered a very nice address to the scholars who were present.

Recitation, "Bill Uggins," Mr. H. Jackson; song, "When Australian soldier boys come home again," Mr. W. Irwin.

A vote of thanks to all who had assisted in making the evening's arrangements so successful was moved by Mr. T. J. Bath, and supported by Mr. J. McIvor, and carried by acclamation. Mr. Pennington proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, who suitably responded. The singing of God Save our Splendid Men terminated a most interesting and impressive programme. Mrs. Bath and

pressive programme. Mrs. Bath and Miss Wellard presided at the organ.

The following is a list of the names which appear on the Roll, and are in the order in which they enlisted, with the exception of Nurse Hall, who was given pride of place:—Nurse J. Hall, G. E. Long, D. M'Taggart, J. J. M'Gowan, C. M'Kay, T. M'Gowan, H. T. Hosken, A. Lalog, M. M'Queen, A. W. L. Fithall, J. W. A. M'Gregor, E. Fithall, G. M'Ivor, R. M'Lean, J. H. M'Donald, J. Lalog, A. D. M'Callum, O. Baldwin, C. J. M'Rae, M. M'Callum, J. V. M'Callum, S. M'Kay, A. M'Callum, J. M'Queen.

Refreshments were dispensed by the ladies, after which the building was handed over to the young folk, who also had a full house, and danced well into the early hours of the morning, to music supplied by Mr. W. Lewis.

#### THE MICE PLAGUE.

Next to the war, mice are the principal topic of conversation. They are everywhere—in the earth, the water, and in the air. I notice the great increase is ascribed by many to the prolific year, but I think other reasons must be looked for, as there is sufficient food for them in any normal year. It is significant that the last time they appeared in such numbers was in 1903, when the spring and early part of summer was similar to the last one, which was wet right up to Xmas. This, in my opinion, goes to show that moisture and heat together have something to do with the rapid multiplication of the pest. In many places they are rooting out and shelling the seed that has been sown.