

ST. GEORGE'S HOMES MEMORIAL HOME OPENED

HONOUR BOARD UNVEILED.

ROCKHAMPTON, May 5.

The third addition to St. George's Homes at Parkhurst, known as the Mothers' Memorial Home, was opened in the presence of about 400 people from Rockhampton and surrounding districts on Saturday afternoon. The home, which cost £2550, was dedicated by the Mothers' Memorial Committee to the memory of the 324 soldiers of Central Queensland who made the supreme sacrifice during the Great War.

Housed in the beautiful building is a very fine honour board on which is engraved the names of the soldiers whose memory will be perpetuated by the home. The board is surmounted by a bronze A.I.F. badge, with the inscription "Their name liveth for evermore" just below. It is a finely carved board, and together with the home is a most fitting tribute to their memory.

The ceremony of unveiling the honour board was performed by Colonel F. De Lorenzo, A.A. and C.M.G., and the opening ceremony was performed by Cr. T. Smith (chairman of the Livingstone Shire Council).

The Ladies' Committee dedicated the honour board to the memory of H. P. Mallyon, a Springsure boy, and an old Rockhampton Grammar School boy, who made the supreme sacrifice at the war and they also dedicated and erected a tablet to the memory of Christina, wife of Mr. W. H. Rudd. This is also housed in the memorial hall.

The comfort of the children is the keynote of the new building, which has been occupied by 25 boys under the age of seven years since January last. Twelve of the beds in the spacious dormitory have been presented and dedicated to the following:—In memory of Mildred and Lowes H. Skyring (2), Loyal Victoria Lodge No. 17, M.U.I.O.O.F.; Capricornia Masonic Lodge; Rockhampton Jockey Club; P.A.F.S.O.A., Central District; Foresters of Rockhampton; U.A.O.D. Lodge No. 15; Amalgamated Engineering Union; M.U.I.O.O.F.—Loyal Alexandra, Pioneer, Fitzroy, Gracemere, Wattle and Caves lodges; R.S. and S.I.L.A.; Rockhampton Bowling Club.

At the time of opening there was a debt of £550 on the building. This

debt of £550 on the building. This will be reduced somewhat, for the committee received a large number of donations on Saturday afternoon.

The following is the committee who were responsible for the erection of the Memorial Home:—Madames T. D. Skyring (President), W. B. Edgar (vice-president), T. W. Kingel (treasurer), A. M. Murray (hon. secretary), G. H. Wheeler, O.B.E., L. S. Twigg, R. M. Hearn, L. H. Coar, A. B. Mensies, A. White, G. N. Roach, A. H. Freeman, G. A. Baglow and A. E. Pywell, and the late Mrs J. Jones.

In a short address Archdeacon Kenny dealt with the religious aspect of the work of the homes. The soul of the hill on which the homes were situated, he said, was the children and the heart of the homes was the chapel. The homes did not exist merely for the purpose of giving certain children better clothing and food; there was a large humanitarian spirit in Australia that would see to it that the children were clothed and fed, and the Government

would see that they were sent to school. Those responsible for the homes set out to make up for what they had lost—an ideal home for their dear little lives to grow up in, to assist in the moulding

to grow up in, to assist in the moulding of their wills, consciences and character. That their efforts had been crowned with success was borne out by the testimony they had received as to the character of the boys who had left the institution.

Before unveiling the honour board, Colonel Lorenzo said he was deeply sensitive of the honour conferred on him in being asked to unveil the board, firstly from the point of view of a returned soldier, and also from the fact that it recalled memories of some of his dearly beloved officers who came from Rockhampton. During the war he had commanded a Queensland battalion and Captain Reeve and Peter Stuart, two Rockhampton boys, were two of his officers. They were very fine officers and gentlemen indeed, who now lie in a part of Flanders where the majority of the battalion stayed.

It was certainly pleasing, said the speaker, to have such a fine home erected to the memory of the soldiers from the Central District, than to see a useless piece of plaster stuck in some remote corner, that was seen by nobody and was of no use to anyone. Such a monument would not bring to one's memory the thoughts the memorial home would. It was fitting that Central Queensland should build such a memorial as this home. It was an exemplification of Anzac, the spirit of self-sacrifice, the spirit of help and comradeship, which were present wherever the A.I.F. were. And it had been left to the mothers and friends of those who had fallen to erect such a fine memorial.

The memorial, he concluded, would bring to the minds of future generations that the Australian soldiers did do something during the war and that their memory was thought of sufficiently to be perpetuated in such a magnificent memorial—an orphanage.

"On behalf of the A.I.F.—those that have gone before and those that live to-day—I have very much pleasure in unveiling this memorial," said Colonel Lorenzo as he pulled the tape releasing the Union Jack, disclosing the beautiful honour board.

The new home was declared officially opened by Cr. T. Smith (chairman of the

Livingstone Shire Council). One had only to look around him, he said, to realise the good work of the homes. Personally he thought the homes should have been called the Lee Kenny Homes instead of St. George's Homes, for it was

instead of St. George's Homes, for it was mainly due to the Archdeacon's efforts, assisted by a band of willing workers, that they had such fine buildings.

It should be the chief aim of all to make the children's home life as clean and enjoyable as possible, and that was what the Homes had set out to do. He had no doubt but that the inmates would grow to be very fine citizens. He extended his congratulations to the ladies' committee, who had done wonderful work in raising so much money in such a short period. They were indeed a great band of workers.

As vice-chairman of the committee in charge of the homes, Ald. D. D. Dawson thanked Colonel Lorenzo and Cr. Smith for their part in the function and the many people who had assisted the homes for years past.

Ald. Dawson went on to give an interesting outline of the history of the homes. The first thought of their establishment dated back to the time of Bishop Dawes, when His Lordship appointed Archdeacon Kenny, then rector of Clermont, to look after the interests of the children. Bishop Halford, who followed, had very definite views for the establishment of orphan homes within the diocese, but the first start was really made by the late Mrs. Fred Young when she sent in a contribution of £50 towards the establishment of a fund for the erection of a home. The Rev. Farnham Maynard then took up the work for a period of 12 months. Archdeacon Kenny then took up the work and created mothers' committees throughout the length and breadth of Central Queensland, and it was to those committees, including the Ladies' Appeal Committee in Rockhampton, that they were so much indebted to for the homes. Then came the Mothers' Memorial Committee under Mrs. T. D. Skyring, which had worked energetically and collected £2000 for the third home. They had to thank all those ladies in Central Queensland, as it was on account of them they were able to carry on.

Concluding, Ald. Dawson paid a tribute to Archdeacon Kenny, who, he said, had done wonderful and marvellous work for the homes. "He has laboured most unselfishly and has been devoted to the homes. The three homes at Parkhurst will be a living and everlasting memorial to the name of Archdeacon Lee Kenny. Everyone appreciates what he has done."

After the ceremony the visitors were entertained to afternoon tea.

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The homes were thrown open for inspection, and this opportunity was availed of before the train departed for Rockhampton.