

## HONOR ROLL.

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UNVEILING AT LONG PLAIN.

The unveiling of the Long Plain Honor Roll took place at the Sinclair Public School on Saturday afternoon. There was a large gathering of the residents, as well as visitors from Inverell and Brodie's Plains. The Roll is a neatly designed and clearly printed record, framed in oak, and was presented to the school by Mr. T. G. Mitchell, of Long Plain. The names—20 in number—of those inscribed on it are—E. L. Allen, L. Bell, C. Bell, C. Colley (wounded), W. R. Colley, S. Colley (killed), H. Dix (killed), W. Edwards, W. Kent, O. Johnston, A. Lyall, C. Maurer, T. McKenzie (killed), T. G. A. Mitchell, E. Prince, H. Stops, U. Wicks, W. Winkworth (killed), and J. B. Worgan (killed).

As it was impossible to find room for the gathering in the school-room, the ceremony took place on the verandah. This served as a platform, the Roll being temporarily placed on the school mazel for the occasion, whilst the crowd sat and stood around.

Mr. G. H. Arkinstall occupied the chair, and the unveiling was entrusted to Mrs. Bell (the mother of two sons whose names are on the roll). In opening the proceedings, the chairman tendered apologies for Mr. Inspector Clemens and the Rev. Mr. Stammer, both of whom were unable to be present. In a brief speech, the chairman said the Honor Roll to be unveiled that day contained the names of 20 young men well known to them all. Unfortunately five of them would never return, having given their lives for their country. It was meet that they should do honor to the living as well as perpetuate the names of the dead. He then called upon Mrs. Bell to unveil the Roll. As the Union Jack covering it was drawn aside by that good lady the crowd loudly applauded.

The first speaker called upon was Alderman Mellveen, who said he appreciated the honor of being invited to be the first to address them on such an important occasion. He complimented Long Plain, though only a tiny centre, on having sent 20 men to the front. The Roll unveiled that day, to be kept in the school, would be an everlasting reminder to the rising generation of the noble part played by their brothers in the greatest war the world had ever seen. To future generations also it would serve to recall the splendid example of their forefathers in voluntarily giving their

recall the splendid example of their forefathers in voluntarily giving their services—some of them their lives—in the cause of freedom, of the Empire, and of Australia. To the bereaved mothers of the five boys who would never return our hearts went out in sympathy. They should not mourn, however, as if their sons had died ordinary deaths. They should be the proud mothers of dead heroes. Far better thus than the shamefaced mother of a living coward or shirker. There had been many stories told by returned officers of the extraordinary comradeship existing between the boys at the front. The most pathetic, perhaps, was told of the evacuation of Gallipoli. As the troops were being marched down to the shore to embark one of them exclaimed, "Tread softly, boys, lest our dead comrades will think we are deserting them." Are we, the speaker asked, in this part of the world treading softly? The daily papers only this week published the fact that 60,000 people attended a race meeting in Sydney on one day. Their own local papers of Friday recorded a proposal to borrow a large sum of money to spend on a new showground for the purpose of holding a jubilee show. Was this the time for enterprises of this kind, when the Empire was fighting for its very existence? The war was not yet over. It was their duty to help win the war, and they should devote every ounce of energy to that purpose, and put every pound that could be spared into the war loan. (Applause.) Mr. Mellveen concluded by hoping that before the anniversary of that day came round the survivors would return victorious, be accorded a fitting welcome, and, as long as they lived, be treated with honor, respect and esteem.

The Rev. T. F. Johnson, the next speaker, complimented Long Plain on its Honor Roll and the patriotism of the 20 men whose names were recorded. Since the war started three years had slipped by; it would soon be four years. Two or three years in a nation's life were not much, but when crammed with the stress of fighting, as our men had to fight, they were a long period. We were indebted to the great British nation and its invincible navy that Australia had not been invaded. From Verdun to the Belgian coast the fighting line extended 500 miles. Of that line Britain only held 100 miles. Sometimes they might wonder why she did not hold more. They must remember that she had to maintain great armies in various parts of the dominions. But on that 100 miles of line and the 2%

on that 100 miles of line and the 2% miles held by Australians what great scenes of battle were there, what splendid victories had been achieved, what notable feats of arms had been performed. To those the 20 men from Long Plain had helped. We owed a debt of gratitude to them—a debt we could never repay. (Applause.)

The Rev. A. W. Parton said he felt sure there was not one present but was very proud to see the names of the boys from their small centre on the Roll. From small centres great armies were made up. No matter from what center of the Empire their sons went, they all displayed that wonderful British spirit. They should also remember what they owed to the British Navy. Its spirit was on a par with that of the army. How different from that of the German navy, which was hiding away behind the Kiel Canal. We should all do our part. The racecourse and the stadium

crowds were evidence that there was too much unnecessary pleasure. The duty of the clergyman was often an unpleasant one in having to convey sad news to the bereaved. We had everything here we required, and we should see to it that as far as possible we should keep in touch with the boys who were fighting for us. Whatever brought pleasure in the line of gifts or money should be sent to them. (Applause.)

Ensign Rignold, who was the last speaker called upon, said every district should feel proud to have an Honor Roll. Looking at the one unveiled that day, it seemed to speak to us and ask were we doing something? The greatest honor we could pay to those whose names were on it was by every one doing his duty. We could not rise to heights of true manhood or womanhood without self-sacrifice. Australia had sent a lot of good men to the front, but not enough. There would be more there if the young women who were keeping them back had the courage of a young woman in New Zealand who promised to marry a young man on the condition that he gave up drink. On the wedding day, in answer to the usual question as to whether she would take this man to be her husband, she answered with an emphatic "No." To the astonished clergyman's request for an explanation she stated, "This man promised to give up drink for me; why I can smell it on him." (Laughter.) He ventured to say that if the Germans owned Australia they would have more than double the number of its men in the field. He

number of its men in the field. He was opposed to the principles of conscription, but in the present war it was the right thing. (Applause.)

The chairman extended a hearty welcome to Private Lyell. The singing of the National Anthem and rounds of cheers for the King, the boys at the front, and the mothers of those whose names were on the Honor Roll, brought an interesting ceremony to a conclusion. Afternoon tea was then served in the school grounds by the ladies of Long Plain, after which the gathering dispersed.