

**SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL AT BYADUK  
UNVEILING CEREMONY.**

The ceremony of unveiling the monument which has been erected by the residents of Byaduk in the memory of the late Privates Frank Suttie and D. Ross, was performed yesterday by the Rev. W. J. Wallace, military chaplain. The local detachment of V.M.R. turned out in full force, and were augmented by members from Hamilton and Bransholme. After reading the memorial Mr. Wallace addressed those present as follows:—

"Follow citizens of Byaduk and comrades of the V.M.R. Boys. The task was allotted to me by your committee in charge of this work, and I esteem it a very honorable one. The task of giving some expression, in words to the meaning of the occasion. It means in the first place that we would pay in fitting tribute of respect to the memory of our dear friends and comrades, Private Frank Suttie and Private Donald Ross. It means in the second place that we would give expression to our sympathy with our widows, and we still fatherless boys, sisters and their families, whom we would comfort by sharing their grief. And it means further, that we would perpetuate for our children of coming generations, as long as this monument shall stand, the memory of those of the brave self-sacrifice of these young men in volunteering for their country's service in what seemed its day of need. One of them met death on the field of battle, weeping, we may hope, and writing the glory that is conventionally coupled with such forms of death. It was the lot of the other to meet death in less tragic form indeed, but with infinitely greater pain and suffering to all concerned, through the slow wasting of disease contracted amid the hardships of the campaign. Both alike they gave their lives for the service of their country, and we honour their memory alike. May this monument long stand to perpetuate the memory of their pleasant comradeship and of their brave self-sacrifice. We are fain to think too that the lasting honour, which we are to-day putting upon the memory of their lost sons, may be to the bereaved mothers a source of legitimate pride that will in some measure prove a compensation for the pain their loss has caused them. We can recall, not without a heart-ache, the weary months of uncertainty, more painful almost than certain loss, that hung over the fate of both, uncertainty in the case of Private Suttie as to what his fate had been, and in the case of Private Ross uncertainty as to what his fate was to be, and our sympathies flowed out in fuller measure. But this day's observance has another meaning than merely that of sympathy with grief for loss. It has also its aspect of gain; for in this monument Byaduk comes into possession of a standing object lesson, which may yet do much to mould the manhood of its sons for good. It is now some 15 years since the movement which led to the formation of a detachment of the V.M.R. in this district began, and it is only with unqualified satisfaction that I look back on what the history of the V.M.R., and especially the Byaduk detachment, has been. Under Sergeant John Ross, who by and by, and deservedly, became captain of the H Company of V.M.R., the Byaduk detachment at once became, as I have been assured by the distinguished officer who organised and so long commanded, and still continues a credit to the regiment, and I am certain that there is not one of you people of Byaduk who will not agree with me when I say that there is not one young man connected with the detachment who has taken harm or indeed anything but good from his connection with the detachment. It has been, by the discipline it supplied, an element of both physical and moral education to all who have been connected with it. Since the recent war in South Africa began there has come into existence a small but loud-voiced society, arrogating to itself the title of the "Peace and Humanity" Society, which has not ceased to denounce that war as an unrighteous war, and its ravages over the ravens which our armies met with in the prosecution of it to the successful issue which has crowned it. It is composed of men of oversteering nerves, who shrink with horror from the thoughts of death by violence, men who seem incapable of looking at both sides of any question, and men who miss an opportunity of airing their disloyalty to the mother country. And they have found in the term militarism an epithet of opprobrium with which to stigmatise every movement that has the maintenance of an efficient defence force in these states for its object. I have no intention to speak slightly of these men; but they forget that as long as Great Britain has, and fulfils her mission of peace and humanity in the world, and as long as militarism prevails among the leading peoples of the world, so long will it be incumbent on Britain and her colonies to keep their defence forces in a state

so long will it be incumbent on Britain and her colonies to keep their defence forces in a state of the highest possible efficiency for the fulfilment of their mission. The prime object of our defence force is peace and humanity. Geivous as is the human slaughter incident to all war, with its attendant miseries—and I will make no attempt to minimise it—and especially as it has been in the late Boer war, yet it is in this case as nothing compared with what would have been the case if Great Britain's prestige had been lost, and her efficiency as the world's leader in the vanguard of civilisation and humanity had been destroyed. These would not have been a dependency of the Empire where liberty and safety would not

have been imperilled, and the self respect of the citizens, which is more precious by far than safety, would have been destroyed. And of this war it may be said, that, with all its horrors and miseries, there is not in history any record of a great war that has been carried on with anything like so much regard to humanity, while it may be said with equal confidence, that as regards the victory, there is no record of any so magnanimous a victory, which has been so magnanimously used. And I will not name without dwelling on, for they are obnoxious to all honest minds, the possible, nay certain fruits which will follow this victory for God and for humanity. These I am certain will be and by enable us to feel that we are compensated and far more for all our sorrows and sufferings in connection with this war, which has cost us these two dear sons and comrades. I conclude by quoting the well-remembered lines of one of our greatest poets.

If from the land, by breathing life's pure  
Whom we both mourned and most desire  
Pierces and bids may flourish or may fall,  
A breath unmade them, as a breath has made  
But a wild paean to their country's pride,  
Whom once destroyed can never be supplied.

Young men and boys study always what goes to the making of men, rather than of success. I now unveil this monument to the sacred memory of our dear dead friends, and long may it stand to hold up to the coming generations of Byaduk young men the lesson, which I have thus tried to point.

Sergeant Major Baker, in referring to the late Captain J. M. Ross, said that it was a great pity if his memory were allowed to die without some effort being made to entitle perpetuate it. He had been closely connected with the deceased officer for about eight years, and during that time he had seemed to him to be one of those men who only occasionally entered the world—one of Nature's gentlemen. From what he (Sergeant Major Baker) had heard from others, he believed that the late officer was always acting the Good Samaritan to anyone in trouble, and carrying out the old saying "Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you." Byaduk had set an example to many towns in which they could see Byaduk by erecting such a memorial, and the whole district had done remarkably well in raising one at Hamilton, and now Mr. Gould was collecting subscriptions in order to erect a stone over the remains of the late Private M. Kinnon at Bransholme. He thought they might get enough to put up a marble or brass slab to the memory of the late Captain Ross in the church where he was accustomed to worship, and as far as the Mounted Rifles were concerned, he was sure that they would do all they could to help on such a movement. Instead of making it purely a corps affair, however, it should be open to the public.

A honorary subscription followed in Sergeant Major Baker's proposal, and it was decided to hold a public meeting in Byaduk later on.

Mr. Wallace M'Leod, who was also present, delivered an address, principally to the children. He narrated an anecdote about an old man who was taken before a magistrate at Jerusalem, who ordered him to be flogged. The old man asked how they dared to scourge him, seeing that he was a Roman. The magistrate said that he himself had paid a large amount of money to obtain that privilege, and the old man replied, "I am free born." He urged all the children present to remember that they were free born British.