

SENATOR LAWSON. BRONZE BUST UNVEILED.

TRIBUTE AT CASTLEMAINE.

CASTLEMAINE, Sunday.—When Senator Lawson retired from the Victorian Parliament after representing the Castlemaine district continuously for 30 years a movement was initiated to recognise his services to the district and the State. Large subscriptions to the fund were not desired, and without canvassing or solicitation more than £400 was contributed. The committee decided to erect a bronze bust of Senator Lawson on a central and picturesque site in Lyttleton street. The work was entrusted to Mr. Paul Montford, the well-known sculptor, who had the casting done in Italy. The base is of hardcourt granite, the pedestal, which is mitred in a most attractive manner, of Angaston (S.A.) white marble. The bust is life and a half size, the whole having a height of 9ft. The inscriptions are in bronze letters, that on the front being, "Senator H. S. W. Lawson," and on the panels on either side are, "Premier of Victoria, 1918-1924," and "Member of Legislative Assembly, 1899-1928."

The unveiling took place yesterday afternoon in the presence of a very large gathering, representing all parts of the district. Councillor G. D. McLean, chairman of the committee, presided, and the unveiling ceremony was performed by Mr. W. A. Watt, who, as Premier, gave Senator Lawson his first portfolio, that of Minister for Lands, at the end of 1913. Sir William McPherson, the former Premier, who was Treasurer in the Lawson Ministry, was also present.

Mr. Watt said that he had been closely associated with Mr. Lawson for 30 years. When Mr. Lawson first entered Parliament there were 85 members in the Assembly. Not many months passed before Mr. Lawson's manner, character, and gifts had won him universal admiration. He made the third of a trinity of illustrious representatives who went into the legislative halls from Castlemaine, namely, Sir James B. Patterson, Sir James McCay, and Senator Lawson, men differing from one another, all distinguished, and no other constituency had sent out in succession such a magnificent galaxy of distinguished representatives. There was stretching before Senator Lawson a long Federal career. However, Senator Lawson should be in the House of Representatives. At a time like this his experience, counsel, and judgment would be of great service because he was an impartial man. Though not a Labour man he would help that party in the terrible trouble facing the Ministry. There was not a man in the ranks of Liberalism or Nationalism, and he knew the lot of them, who would make a better Prime Minister than

them, and he knew the lot of them, who would make a better Prime Minister than Senator Lawson. The tribute paid him by his former constituents would be pointed to by future historians, who would say that he was big-minded, sincere, honest, far-seeing, and capable.

In replying, Senator Lawson acknowledged the kindly advice and help he had received from Mr. Watt and Sir William McPherson. When he was Minister for Lands Mr. Watt asked him to take charge of the Local Government Bill, and it was in the handling of that bill that he acquired confidence and experience in the ways of Parliament. He thanked those who had initiated the movement and those who subscribed to it, and said that such indication of good will was one of the greatest rewards of public life. There were men and women in every part of the electorate who voted for him as a raw youth, and had maintained that faith in him, and that also was a great reward.

Sir William McPherson, Mr. Watt, and Mr. Paul Montford were entertained at dinner by the committee, and Sir William McPherson spoke of Senator Lawson's personal worth and sterling character.