

SCHOOL HONOR BOARD.**UNVEILING CEREMONY.****LARGE AND INTERESTED ASSEMBLAGE.**

The weather, which was threatening, fortunately remained fine for the unveiling of the Honor Board at the North Clunes school last Thursday afternoon. There was a large attendance of the townsfolk, who were augmented by a good contingent from the surrounding country districts.

Prior to the unveiling ceremony, most of those present took advantage of the opportunity afforded them to walk through the school rooms, which were thrown open. The beautiful scene presented as each room was entered well repaid visitors for the time spent. The teaching staff and elder scholars had admirably performed their part as regards giving the rooms a festive appearance by means of decorations. These were profuse and beautiful. The color schemes varied in each room, and the wattle, spring flowers, greenery, etc., were most tastefully arranged, the whole reflecting the greatest credit on those who undertook the work.

The Honor Board is very imposing and handsome in appearance. It is 12 feet wide and 8 feet high. The frame is of picked Queensland maple, and the panels (numbering nine), which bear the names, are of black-wood. The whole is well polished. The frame is embellished by a copper sword on either side. The board bears the following inscriptions:—On top, "Clunes State School Honor Roll;" on either side, "Honor and Justice," "Truth and Right;" at bottom, "In honor of the pupils of this school who served the Empire in the Great War." The names are in gold leaf, shaded in black, and the letters are large enough for the list to be read some distance away. The names of soldiers deceased are distinguished by a red cross. The lettering was the work of Messrs Robins and Payne, who fulfilled the order most satisfactorily. The cost of the board (including lettering), which was supplied by Tunbridge's, was a little over £50.

The unveiling ceremony took place on the north side of the school in the open air. Three lorries had been drawn up and to end. On the centre lorry was placed the Honor Board, which was covered by a large Australian flag. On the lorries on either side chairs were placed for the accom-

modation of those taking part in the proceedings. The chair was taken by Mr H. L. Lazarus (chairman of the School Committee). Others on the platform were the mayor (Cr J. F. Phillips, J.P.), Sir Alex. Peacock, M.L.A., Mr E. Jewett, M.P., Mr F. Tate (Director of Education), Mr J. McRae (vice principal training college), Mr Hurley (district inspector).

The head teacher (Mr W. Richards) expressed appreciation of the large gathering. The school had long desired a record of old scholars who had enlisted, and it was now a great source of gratification to teachers and pupils that an honor board had been obtained. He also expressed appreciation of the presence of the distinguished visitors—men who represented the political and educational life of the State. (Applause).

The chairman then made a few introductory remarks. He said that, no matter how long he lived, no greater honor could be conferred upon him than the honor he had that day—that of presiding over a gathering assembled to honor those who had fought and were fighting for their country. (Applause).

The Mayor (Cr Phillips) said it was a great honor for anyone to be present at such a function, and as mayor of the town he felt it a high honor indeed. The men fighting for them in France today were amongst the finest who were fighting under the British flag—(applause)—and those who had gone from the school were a credit to their parents and country. (Applause).

Sir Alex. Peacock said the day was a red letter day in the history of the town. They were not present out of any spirit of idle curiosity. They were all animated by one motive—to express gratitude and to do honor to the young men of the town who had answered the call of duty, many of them at the inception of the war. They could never forget the men who had made such sacrifices for them. Casting aside the strong home ties, the bright, future prospects of life, those young men had gone forth to fight for them, and to lay down their lives. Could they imagine greater sacrifices than that! In their town and other towns throughout the Commonwealth they had witnessed one of the most inspiring and unique spectacles that could possibly be seen. Men of all classes and creeds had come out and shown the enemy that we intended to stand side by side with

we intended to stand side by side with the people of the land from which our parents came—had shown that we were still of the same free British blood. (Applause). We entered this war because it was a just war. It got on his nerves when he heard people talking of the little things and forgetting the higher and important things of the war. With regard to this war we stood to our plighted word, yet there were men and women in the Commonwealth who talked of peace by negotiation! Negotiation with whom? With the enemy? Had their enemy not been tried and found wanting? Had not Germany broken the treaty it entered into in 1859, which was renewed in 1870, to protect little Belgium? Three years before the war broke out Germany had made certain promises at the Hague conference, but she had not carried them out. Germany had made peace terms

with the Russian Bolsheviks, but had immediately afterwards torn up the treaty. When people broke the law was it usual to negotiate with them? Why should they negotiate with murderers, assassins, who had cruelly ill-treated the young and aged, and outraged women? The German doctrine was *Might is Right*, and nothing else was considered. We said that the smaller nations had a right to live and work out their own destiny. The greatest justification for the stand taken by the British nation in this war was that, apart from the nations which were tied up by treaties with Germany, every free nation in the world, no matter what their color or creed, were on the side of Britain and her Allies. What more could anyone want. (Applause). The question was, Which side are you on when your country is at war? The Allies had recently obtained striking and gratifying successes on the West front, but they must remember that Germany had her foot on 500 million square miles of what was once Russian territory. Russia as the maps had it did not now exist. But the Americans were now flocking into the field in France. Germany had never understood the psychology of the British race. The outlook was black until the freedom loving people of America decided to throw in their weight with the Allies, because they did not want to see Germany dominate the whole world. There were different sentiments in America regarding the war to what was heard in some parts of

ments in America regarding the war to what was heard in some parts of Australia today. Sir Alexander quoted from a statement made by Mr Gompers, head of the great Labor Federation in America, to show the view that the Federation took regarding the justice of the Allied cause and the great necessity for winning the war. The speaker paid a glowing tribute to the work done by the British navy, and the warships of the Allies assisting. They should ever remember that if it had not been for the navy the whole story of the war would have been different. They could never realise the bravery, hardships and sacrifices involved in the work of the navy, which had enabled the war to be carried on. Over 12,000,000 men had been carried across the English channel to France, and, comparatively speaking, not a life had been lost. One and a half million Americans had been carried across the Atlantic, and despite Germany's boast of what her submarines would do, not a thousand men had been lost. While they honored their men for what they had done in this war, they must not forget what their women, their nurses, had done. Would they ever forget those New Zealand nurses, who, when they were called on the deck of the torpedoed ship by the Captain in order that they might enter the boats first, cried, No, the fighting men are wanted most, let them go first. And fourteen of those brave nurses went down. He had been talking to a soldier who had been present when the Germans bombed a hospital—of which they had read—and which the Germans well knew was a hospital. The nurses on that occasion had shown great bravery in tending their patients and cheering them. The nurses had placed the wounded men under the beds and risked their own lives. Our nation had entered the fight with clean hands, and they were carrying on the war according to the laws of international warfare. The real fight for Australia was taking place on the different battle fronts. He felt sure that the parents in the midst of their sufferings at this terrible time, were proud of their boys who were doing their duty to their country, and helping to save their young children, who, when they grew up, and got a true perspective of the principles for which the war was being fought, would gladly and proudly recognise what had been done for them and their country and for civilisation. He asked the lads, whenever they saw a soldier's mother

for civilisation. I'm asked the boys, whenever they saw a soldier's mother or relatives, to take their hats off to them. We could never do enough for those who were fighting and giving their lives in order that we might live here in safety and comfort. The story of what the brave boys of the Commonwealth had done, of their noble and unselfish sacrifices, would be told by the poets and writers for generations to come; and amongst them were the brave lads from Clunes, who had considered their country and honor before their lives. (Applause).

Sir Alex. Peacock then removed the flag covering the Honor Board, amidst cheers. He remarked that he had unveiled many honor boards, but none was so large or valuable as the board before them. The board also had a wonderful list of names. He had no doubt the Honor Board would be protected and cared for by the boys and girls. (Applause).

Mr Richards (head teacher) then read the 286 names on the board, and stated that 34 of the 286 had died on service. There was room for a few more names on the board, and if necessary a wing could be added to it.

Captain Ornstein (recruiting officer for the Grampians) delivered a rigorous address, in which he appealed strongly for help and sympathetic consideration for the returned soldiers.

Mr F. Tate (Director of Education) congratulated the large number of people present on being there to pay homage to men who had answered the Empire's call, and had done so much for us. The honor board brought home to them the question whether they had proved themselves worthy of their citizenship, by their willingness to serve the country to which they belonged. It was true that in time of peace a man could serve his country by growing food or working at his trade, but in time of war—ever since 1914—a searchlight played on every

one of them, revealing them by what they were doing or what they were not doing. They could not fool themselves—their own consciences—and it was the duty of everyone to ask himself or herself if they were doing all they should. The board would always remain as a roll of honor to those whose names it contained, but it could be a roll of dishonor to others if they did not do their duty. It would be a roll of honor to those who would go out and finish the job which the men whose names were on the board had helped to start. (Ap-

plause). The great sacrifices which had already been made must not be made in vain, and there was still a lot to do. Many were doing their duty by keeping the home fires burning. Farmers who, though they might have retired, went on with the work of the farm so that sons could go to the front, were doing their duty. The thousands of women who provided clothes and comforts for the soldiers were doing their part. The children associated with the State schools had raised £335,000 for patriotic funds, and in addition had provided £70,000 worth of comforts. The board was a roll of honor for them. Then they must remember their debt to the returned soldier and redeem it. They must give the returned soldier a fair return for what he had done for them. (Applause).

Mr J. McRae (vice-principal of the Training College) expressed the honor he felt at being present. The honor board, with its 286 names, would give a glory to the town that would never fade. Mr McRae specially referred to one name on the board—Bruce Liston (killed)—who had been a very successful and promising student at the college, and was very highly esteemed by his fellow students and all who knew him. (Applause).

Mr Jowett, M.P., in a brief address, said he esteemed it a great honor and privilege to be present at such a function. (Applause)

Mr Hurley (inspector of schools for the district), after referring in terms of appreciation and congratulation to the Honor Board, said the Clunes school had also a good record as regards its patriotic efforts. The school had collected £366 for patriotic funds, its War Savings' group had 118 members, and nearly £200 stood to their credit. There were 127 workers in the school aspiring for the young workers certificate, and they had to date earned £54. That week the children had brought over 70 head of poultry as a gift to the Caulfield Military Hospital. (Applause).

During the proceedings the children, under the able conductorship of Mr J. Robins, sang the following numbers very creditably;—National Anthem; hymn, "O God, our help in ages past;" hymn, "Help them, we beseech thee;" hymn, "Thou, who hast all thy people;" "The Bugles of England;" National Anthem. Miss I. Box efficiently played the piano accompaniments.

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"The Last Post," played by Mr Percy Northcott on the cornet, concluded the ceremony.

During the afternoon the Clunes Brass Band, under Mr P. Northcott, rendered selections in a highly creditable manner, and greatly enlivened the proceedings.

Choice refreshments, which had been plentifully provided by the parents and tastefully laid out in the science room, were partaken of by all present, including the children.

Preparations for securing the Honor Board, also efforts in the direction of securing names of old scholars who had enlisted, have been proceeding for some time past. In this connection the school committee and head teacher (Mr Richards) have heartily and successfully co-operated. A word of special praise is due to Miss Blackband, secretary of the school committee, whose enthusiasm since the inception of the war in all that appertains to the welfare of the soldier, is well known. Miss Blackband displayed the same enthusiastic spirit in connection with the Honor Board, and very materially assisted in bringing the effort to a successful issue. At the lecture delivered in the town hall on Thursday evening by Mr Tate, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Miss Blackband.

A programme, together with a brief account of the unveiling of the honor board, are available for despatch to any old scholars on active service on application to the head teacher of the local schools.