

STURT CENTENNARY.

MEMORIAL UNVEILED AT COBRAM.

On Friday afternoon all roads led to Cobram, residents from the surrounding districts assembling to witness the unveiling ceremony of the Sturt Memorial cairn by the State Governor, Lord Somers, and also to hear speeches by various members of the Historical Society.

The party arrived at Cobram at 3.30 p.m. from Yarrowonga and comprised His Excellency, the State Governor, Lord Somers, Sir James Barrett, and Messrs G. Barrett, A. S. Kenyon, C. R. Long, C. Daly, and H. Hansford, members of the Historical Society.

Cr. Jones, president of the Tungamah Shire Council, in inviting His Excellency to unveil the cairn, said they were present to pay tribute to one of Australia's greatest explorers and also to His Excellency. When they looked at the cairn, they should think that they owed a lot to Sturt, for in 1838 he passed near by, blazing a track, so that our parents could follow and make out a livelihood. As various members of the party were going to speak he would not occupy their time for long, and he had very much pleasure in introducing Lord Somers.

His Excellency said that he was very pleased to be present to unveil the cairn to one of Australia's greatest explorers, and also to be present in the district, which he had never before had the pleasure of visiting. He had come on the trip at the invitation of Sir James Barrett. He had unveiled cairns in Glippsland to other explorers, and everywhere they met with enthusiasm by the people in regard to the movement, who realised it was better to know who pioneered and ex-

movement, who realised it was better to know who pioneered and explored their country than about others. The cairn was in itself not only a monument to Sturt, but to the early pioneers (hear, hear) who prepared the way for us. They were commemorated in these cairns. Mr Long, at the ceremony at Yarrowonga that day, had described Sturt as the Prince of Explorers. He was a great leader. With his six men he had worked in perfect accord, and the story of the arduous trip could be read by all. By doing so, it would remind them of what the early pioneers went through. He hoped that those who read the inscription would feel inclined to take off their hats to Sturt. He wished to pay a tribute to Sir James Barrett and his colleagues for their work in connection with this Sturt monument. He trusted that the children in reading the work of the pioneers would be awakened to the desire to carry on the work of the pioneers. They wanted the country populated with good English stock.—Applause.

Mr Daly, secretary of the Historical Society, stated that it was exactly 100 years ago yesterday (last Thursday) since Sturt launched his boat on the Murrumbidgee. His was one of the most noted voyages of all the men who had served the State. No one had given greater service than Sturt as a soldier or an explorer, despite great difficulties. They could take no better example for the present generation than Sturt for his administration in S.A., and his principles which were courage and good conduct. It was only in the year of his death was he to have been honored, for by his death he missed the honor of a knighthood. These cairns were some recognition, and they were erected in various States. He (the speaker) hoped that the memory of Sturt would be

that the memory of Sturt would be more vivid in the future than it had been in the past.

Sir James Barrett said that the ground had been fully covered by the previous speakers, but he would like to draw attention to some features. Eight explorers had mapped out Australia — one a Pole, six British — and they were naval or British officers. The exploring of the Murray and part of the Murrumbidgee they owed to Sturt. The Cairn was erected to commemorate his work. He hoped that exploration maps would be placed in the schools, so that the children could learn the routes in which the explorers travelled. Not anywhere had they met with better arrangements than at Cobram, and he wished to congratulate the local committee for their work.

The cairn was then unveiled by His Excellency. The monument, which bears the inscription:— "Captain Charles Sturt passed near here in May, 1838," stands at the junction of the Tocumwal-Cobram and Yarrawonga roads.

The Shire President then called for three hearty cheers, which were duly given, followed by the singing of the National Anthem.

This closed the unveiling ceremony.

(FROM THE "SYDNEY BULLDOZER.")

Stretch out a hand to him across the years,

That gallant figure of a bygone day,
Type of the restless, dauntless pioneers,
The men who threw the light where
darkness lay.

Where was a way to find they found a
way
Through deserts white with sand or
steppes with snow.

Perils might spur but could not stem
or stay
Such as was Sturt a hundred years ago.

Through sprawling shallows now his
boat he steers;

Anon she glides through narrowing
banks of clay;

Anon she glides through narrowing
banks of clay;
Crawls through the sluggish marsh, or
rocks and veers
Down rapids thick with snags and
shot with spray,
Death in the fringing thickets—who
could say?—
Death ever lurking in the depths below,
And sweeping land and stream with
keen survey,
Sturt in the stern—a hundred years ago!

Into the dim unknown, unguessed, he
peers;
No dangers daunt him and no doubts
dismay;
Onward another Argos goes, and clears
The guarded secrets of the wild away,
Beneath a brazen sky, through plains
of grey,
A path from shore to shore 'twas his to
show.
O for a pen to fittingly portray
That voyage of a hundred years ago!
N.S.W. T. THE R.