

CITIZENS' MEMORIAL UNVEILED

Ceremony at Footscray Park

Thousands of residents assembled at the main entrance to the Footscray Park last Sunday afternoon to witness the unveiling of the Citizens' Memorial by His Excellency the Governor-General. The day was very warm, but the assemblage waited patiently until His Excellency, who was accompanied by Lady Forster and attended by Captain Pitt-Rivers, arrived. The vice-regal party was met at the Moore-street gates by the mayor and councillors, and as the distinguished visitors reached the dais near the memorial the band played the National Anthem. Then followed the singing of the hymn, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," and a prayer by Rev. Chaplain W. Smith.

His Excellency was then called upon to unveil the memorial. In doing so he said Lady Forster and he had been very pleased to take part in the unveiling ceremony. Six miles from his home in Kent, and included in the constituency of West Kent, which he represented in the House of Commons for 30 years, was the ancient village of Footscray. When they got the invitation to go to Footscray it was like a message from home. He felt he was amongst friends and neighbours. He was also glad to make acquaintance with the beautiful park which he had seen from the other side of the river. But he was most glad to come because he deemed it a proud honour to do anything that would help to commemorate what the Australians had done in the great war. He was pleased to unveil the splendid memorial to the men who went away. To him local memorials always made a strong appeal personally. There were memorials on all fronts to Australian soldiers—the national graveyards. There were national memorials commemorating the deeds of the nation's servants; but he liked to think that in 100 years the people of Footscray would have something to remind them of the part played by the present generation in the world's greatest war.

It was a fine thing to have a statue of victory, but they must not forget what the victory stood for. It was not erected in exultation over a beaten foe. That had never been the British character, and he hoped it never would be. It was a tribute to the splendid service the men had given in the war. What they wanted to commemorate was the spirit that prompted these men to go. They did not ask what they could get out of it, but rather what could they do to help. It was in our turn in the daily struggle asked what we could do to help the world would be a better place to live in.

The day before he paid a tribute of solemn silence in memory of the be-

lieved dead. It was a tribute more eloquent than the noblest speech. It was inspiring to think that in every quarter of the Empire the same solemn tribute was being paid to all those who laid down their lives. They should keep the example ever before their minds and endeavour to follow in their train.

The Mayor, who spoke next, said it would not be out of place to mention that out of a population of 30,000, as it then was, over 3000 men had answered the country's call in her darkest hours, prepared to sacrifice all. He was pleased to say the citizens had provided a Memorial Hall, and also this statue and a splendid honour board. He hoped the statue would remind them all of what they owed to the soldiers.

On behalf of the Footscray and Yarraville branch of the R.S.S.I.L.A., Mr. Redpath expressed thanks and appreciation of such a fine statue. He was proud of the patriotism and loyalty of the soldiers and their devotion to the cause for which they fought. He thanked the citizens for erecting the statue.

All present then joined in singing "Onward, Christian Soldiers," and Mr. A. R. P. Crow, president of the district Fathers' Association, delivered an address. He recalled the days, eight years ago, when they saw their boys away. Amongst those before him there were very few who did not have one or more going. Their hearts beat over the ups and downs, the successes and failures, and they gloried in the boys who were doing for them what they could not do themselves. Then peace came, and the boys returned. Only the grey heads, perhaps, realised what that coming back meant. The war was one of selfishness and jealousy, and if it were not for that there would have been no war.

He would like, before sitting down, to pay a tribute to the man who formed the monument. If he had been a shirker he could never have done such work. It was a glorious piece of work, and had been done by local men, Messrs. Taylor and Sons. He had acted as clerk of works for the job, and it was the easiest thing he ever did. He would be failing in his duty if he did not express appreciation of such fine work.

The Rev. Scurr was to have spoken, but was unable to attend through illness. Rev. J. H. Goble filled the breach. In calling upon this popular pastor the Mayor said it was fitting that Mr. Goble should take part in the ceremony, as he had never faltered in his duty throughout the war.

Mr. Goble said he had been struck by the fact that throughout the service there had been a clear recognition that there could have been no real victory without the blessing of God. It was not a time for jubilation, but for pride of race. The cause had been a righteous one, and behind every effort of their arms they had

behind every effort of their arms they had beheld the blessing of God. He did not believe in death. He was sure the boys who had not returned were living, loving, and working still, and looking to them to make Australia worthy of their sacrifice. By God's grace they would make Australia so.

The doxology was sung, the benediction pronounced, the last post sounded by Sergeant O. Bowden, and the impressive ceremony came to an end.

On Wednesday evening last Mr. George Sweetland, of the "Age" office, gave his popular lecture, "How a Great Newspaper is Produced," in the concert hall of the Footscray Technical School. Mr. Hoadley (president of the Old Boys' Association), in introducing the lecturer, outlined the activities of the club. The hall was full, about 200 people being present. Before giving the lecture Mr. Sweetland distributed samples of linotype amongst the audience. The lecture was illustrated by over 100 lantern slides, all of which were very interesting, some very fine views of machinery being included. The lecture lasted nearly 2½ hours, at the end of which the speaker was loudly applauded. Light refreshments were served at the close.

The committee of the Braybrook and district picnic held a successful meeting in the schoolroom, Braybrook, on Tuesday last. Cr. Pridham presided. Judging by the reports received there is every indication that the picnic, which is to be held on the Braybrook Recreation Reserve on A.N.A. Day, will be a success. All residents who have the welfare of the children at heart are earnestly invited to endeavour to make the next picnic worthy of the cause.