

CR HITCHCOCK TRIBUTE

MR LAWSON SETS FOUNDATION STONE

JOHNSTONE PARK BEAUTIFICATION

An enthusiastic manifestation of appreciation of the services of Hon. Howard Hitchcock, M.L.C., was made yesterday afternoon when, in the presence of several hundred citizens, the Hon. H. S. W. Lawson, Premier of Victoria from 1918 to 1924, set the foundation stone of the Hitchcock tribute at the northern entrance to Johnstone Park. The ceremony was an outcome of a public meeting in February, 1923, at which it was unanimously decided to initiate a movement to place on record in some practical manner the public appreciation of the civic worth and qualities of the ex-Mayor (Alderman Howard Hitchcock). The tribute is now nearing completion, and early next month it should be in a finished state. The form of the design is a pylonic grouping of piers and columns of the Ionic order, the tribute comprising a handsome addition to Geelong's civic structures.

Prior to the setting of the engraved block of Sydney freestone, a statement relative to the history of the tribute, and a copy of the "Advertiser" were put into a casket which was placed underneath the stone. The statement was as follows:—"Howard Hitchcock Tribute. At a meeting of the citizens of Geelong, convened by the then Mayor, Ald. J. C. King, and held at the City Hall on the 5th February, 1923, it was unanimously decided to initiate a movement for placing on record in some practical manner the public's appreciation of the civic worth

and qualities of the ex-Mayor, Alderman Howard Hitchcock. Enthusiastic references were made to the exceptional activities exercised by Mr. Hitchcock during his record period of five years' Mayoralty.

A committee was appointed to give effect to the determination arrived at at the meeting, and in due course a competition was inaugurated for designs for a suitable tribute to be erected in Johnstone Park (civic centre). It had previously been ascertained that Mr. Hitchcock's own predilection was in favor of an adornment in the civic centre rather than a personal expression. As the result of the competition, which was adjudicated by the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects, the design of Mr. Keith Mackay, associated with Messrs. Laird and Buchan, F.R.V.I.A., was accepted, the form being a Pylonic grouping of piers and columns of the Ionic order, forming an official portal to the civic centre.

"Tenders were invited, that of Messrs. J. C. Taylor and Sons being accepted, and on Thursday, 10th September, 1925, the memorial stone was duly set by the Hon. H. S. W. Law-

son, M.L.A., who occupied the position of Premier of the State of Victoria for six years, five of which were during the currency of Mr. Hitchcock's Mayoralty.

"The committee desires to place on record the fact that since this movement was determined upon, an additional honor has been conferred on Mr. Hitchcock by his election as Member of the Legislative Council for the South-Western Province. His services to the community had been previously recognised by His Majesty the King by his creation as Commander of St. Michael and St. George (C.M.G.) and Officer of the British Empire (O.B.E.)

"Of him it may be truly said that his time and talents have been abundantly devoted to the service of the community.

"F. G. H. Ritchie, Mayor of Geelong; A. L. Walter, Town Clerk; H. S. W. Lawson, ex-Premier of Victoria; Edward Morley, Secretary; J. H. McPhillimy, Geo. R. King, Members of Executive; Laird and Buchan, F.R.V.I.A., E. Keith Mackay, Architects; J. C. Taylor and Sons, Contractors."

The ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone was conducted in brilliant sunshine, the picturesque surroundings of Johnstone Park and the civic centre looking at their best. The uncompleted tribute was gaily bedecked with flags and banners, the atmosphere of the whole proceeding lending itself to visualization of the tribute completed and a civic centre more beautiful than before. The interest of citizens was evident in the large and enthusiastic attendance.

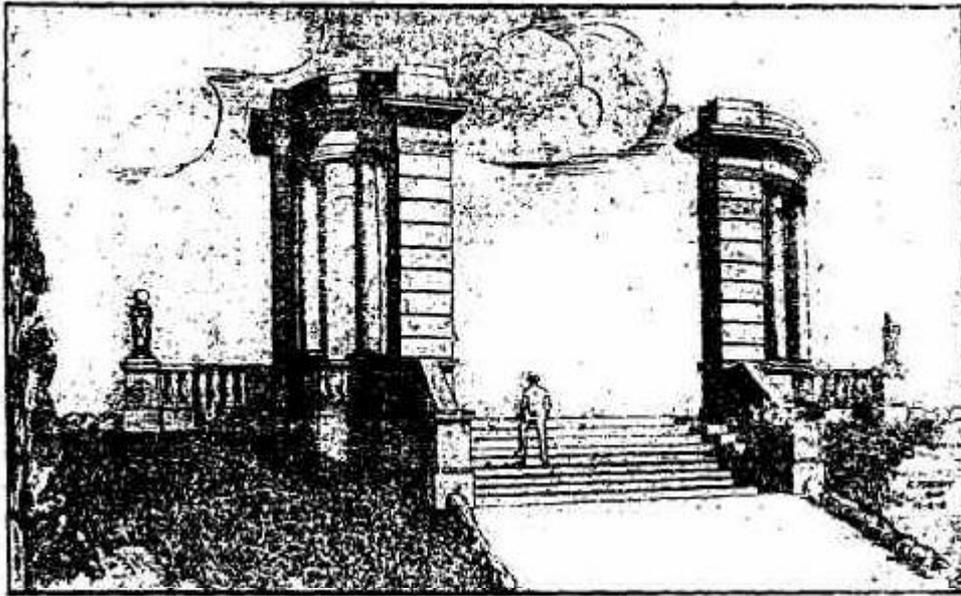
Members of the Tribute Committee and others occupied seats upon the platform in the centre of the entrance.

The Mayor (Mr. G. F. H. Ritchie), the first speaker, said that citizens were gathered to do honor to one of

the finest Mayors Geelong had ever had. They were all aware of what Mr. Hitchcock had done, but he did not propose to occupy time in referring to Mr. Hitchcock in view of the presence of other speakers. The committee had deemed it most fitting that Mr. Lawson should set the foundation stone, because he and ex-Mayor Hitchcock were very closely associated during their terms as Premier of Victoria and Mayor of Geelong respectively. Mr. Lawson was for six years Premier of Victoria, and Mr. Hitchcock was for five years Mayor of Geelong. The tribute was steadily nearing completion, and it would be finished before Mr. and Mrs. Hitchcock arrived home

and it would be finished before Mr. and Mrs. Hitchcock arrived home towards the latter end of October.

Mr. E. Morley, M.L.A., secretary to the committee, apologised for the absence of Senator J. F. Guthrie, Mr. H. P. Richardson, M.L.C. (Minister for Forests), Mr. J. G. Lister, M.H.R., Mr. W. Brownbill, M.L.A., Mr. F. Tait, Director of Education, and Mr. J. C. King. Mr. Morley added that since he had been in Geelong he had always thought that the greatest man he had ever had the pleasure of meeting was Mr. Howard Hitchcock. He was glad that the people had decided to erect some small tribute to Mr. Hitchcock's services. The people had also honored him by recently electing him to the Legislative Council. The tribute was such that in years to come it would remind children of Mr. Hitchcock and of his great work. Mr. Mor-



The Foundation Stone of the Hitchcock Tribute was laid by the ex-Premier, Mr. H. W. S. Lawson Yesterday.

ley referred to the fact that Mr. J. H. McPhelimy and he, in two mornings, had secured promises of assistance totalling £583 10s., and had not met with a refusal. It was only necessary to obtain £400 to complete the whole of the beautiful scheme.

The Mayor thereupon introduced Mr. Lawson, remarking that he had been to Geelong on many occasions, and had been a good friend to Geelong. He had had the pleasure of showing him round places of interest in the city, and he thought a certain amount of benefit would be derived as a result of the tour. Personally, he was sorry to see that Mr. Lawson was not at the head of the Government today. They did not want to see him taking a back part, for there was more work for him to do. The remarks were greeted with applause.

Mr. Lawson, in opening his remarks, made appreciative reference to the action of the authorities in associating him with the ceremony. It was good of them to give an old "has been" an opportunity of "resurrecting" in some degree, and to join with them in paying a tribute to him who deserved every honor and praise they could bestow upon him. While Mr. Hitchcock was Mayor of Geelong, he (Mr. Lawson) was Premier of the State, and the work of the two positions had brought them into contact a great deal. He had very early learnt to respect and admire Mr. Hitchcock. He was attracted to him by his personal good qualities, by his exemplary life and character, and as he came to know him better he realised the spirit that animated his service. He recognised in him a man, who, being gifted with a fair measure of this world's good things, was not selfishly enjoying ease and luxury, thinking only of his own comfort and happiness. He had found in him a man who wanted to make the community better for his presence in it.

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When Mr. Hitchcock had come into the Geelong City Council it was a time of agitation and strife, but soon differences which had arisen were forgotten, and all were united to push forward the city of Geelong. He (Mr. Lawson) had never been one who had doubted the future of the city. There was no doubt in his mind, and never had been, as to what its natural destiny was. Mr. Hitchcock was animated by the same loyalty and patriotism, and had unbounded faith in Geelong and Geelong's people. He had raised the standard of citizenship by his own example, not only by his munificence and the beneficence of his gifts, but also by his personal and unselfish service. He had never invited anyone to join in any movement that he was not prepared to further with his own substance and his personal efforts. He not only took the Geelong view, and believed in this community and wished to see it and its institutions prosper, but he had a wide vision for Victoria and the Commonwealth of Australia. He well remembered during one of Mr. Hitchcock's Mayoral terms that a trip to the Mother Country was in view. Mr. Hitchcock prof-

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fered his services, so as to make this country better known on the other side. He remembered he had also offered his services in connection with the migration movement and the Wembley exhibition.

Mr. Lawson added that he personally knew that during his sojourn abroad Mr. Hitchcock had lost no opportunity to tell of the opportunities that awaited those who came to this fair country. The fact that he had been away from Geelong had not meant that absence had made him unmindful of the interests of the people of Geelong. Communications received

mindful of the interests of the people of Geelong. Communications received from him from the Old Land and other parts he had visited had undoubtedly proved that absence made the heart grow fonder, and, if possible, his interest in Geelong had been intensified. Mr. Lawson caused some amusement by remarking that he would not, of course, refer to Geelong as "The deserted village," but Oliver Goldsmith had written lines in "The Traveller," appropriate to Mr. Hitchcock. They were: "Where'er I roam, whatever realms to see, My heart, untravell'd, fondly turns to thee."

He thought they might say of this distinguished citizen of theirs that his heart was fondly and constantly turning to Geelong, and Geelong residents and citizens and the interests which he had helped to build up. Geelong had done Mr. Hitchcock a signal honor in electing him to the Municipal Council, and in allowing him the privilege and honor of the Mayoral position for five consecutive years. This was a record in the history of this city, and each year of Mr. Hitchcock's mayoralty had been distinguished by some great effort for the public good. Time would fail him, he added, to tell them of Mr. Hitchcock's deeds, but he would pause to refer to the fine social and philanthropic work of Mrs. Hitchcock. He ventured to say a man in public life could be helped or hindered by his wife. Mrs. Hitchcock's had been an uplifting influence, and a help to Mr. Hitchcock in all his endeavors. By her graciousness, and by the admirable way in which she had filled the position of Mayoress of this city, because of all the philanthropic and public movements which she had led and supported, she had endeared herself to the people of Geelong, and they offered a tribute of regard and appreciation. They paid tribute to Mrs. Hitchcock on that occasion as well as to the service of Geelong's former Mayor.

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Mr. Lawson congratulated the City of Geelong upon its fine civic and community spirit. We all had differences of opinion, but in a desire to serve the community we should be united. There had been a great unity of aim and effort in the services which the people of this district had ascribed to tender to Geelong. There were evidences of this public spirit. The Kitchener Memorial Hospital was one; the Hitchcock Art Gallery was another; the conversion of the old and unsightly Johnstone Park into the thing of beauty we saw in it to-day was another phase of the people's civic pride. They had a

gift would serve as a reminder, not only of Mr. Hitchcock's service, but of his (Mr. Lawson's) close friendship with him. There was, however, no need of anything to remind him of these things.

The visitor thereupon declared "this scene set in the most careful and fitting manner." The ceremony concluded with cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Hitchcock, Mr. Lawson, and Mr. Morley, and the playing of the National Anthem by the band.

tribute to Mr. Hitchcock's father in the Art Gallery—a tribute to his service and citizenship. In the bandstand they had a tribute to Mr. Hitchcock's mother, and at the entrance to the park they had the beautifully designed structure. The competition for the design had been open to all, and had been won by one of Geelong's young artists. It was a tribute to what Mr. Hitchcock had done, to stand for all time. It was not empty praise that they were bestowing upon him; it was an expression of the stand and high opinion of the people of Geelong of a man who had rendered great service, and had made municipal records—a man who had initiated many movements, a man who had possibly not always been successful in all he had undertaken, a man who possibly had not brought into actuality the full vision which had animated him, but a man inspired by the highest motives and the greatest ideals. It was a tribute to the people's appreciation of the services which he had rendered in their lifetime. There was a very high opinion that a man could not win his tribute when he was dead. When we saw such things as good work, we wanted to tell them that we wanted to help them, not to sit on the sidelines and merely admire them.

Mr. Hitchcock and his family should be proud of the fact that they had rendered service to the city. They knew his services were not by words and high talk. He had tried to do whatever he could for the well-being of the city, and for that reason afterwards a great reputation. Mr. Lawson told him that the citizens had given him the greatest tribute in the city—their love and affection and a great respect—men who are not for sentimental words, and who would not give a highly costly gift for the sake of a name.

Then he turned to the scene, the display, and congratulated the people upon the presentation of Mr. Hitchcock's gift.

Mr. Lawson, in his speech, declared that the gift presented by Mr. Lawson to the city was a gift of silver, and that it was the gift of a patriot. The gift was described as "Presented by H. W. Lawson, M.L.A., Member of Victoria 1918-24, on the occasion of having the foundation stone laid for a tribute to the Hon. Howard H. Hitchcock, C.M.G., O.B.E., M.L.C., 10th of September, 1925."

A great ovation greeted Mr. Lawson as he stepped forward upon the occasion of the tribute. In accepting the presentation he said the gift would serve as a reminder, not only of Mr. Hitchcock's services, but