

Gerang's Heroes.

HONOR-BOARD UNVEILED.

There was a large gathering in Gerang public hall on Friday night, when an honor-board to commemorate the manly and patriotic conduct of about fifty of the boys of the district in going to fight in defence of their king and country, was unveiled by the shire president (Cr. E. J. M'Cube). Cr. Klinge presided, and he was supported by the Federal member for the district (Mr A. S. Rodgers, M.H.R.), who had motored out with Messrs. Martindale and Wall (of the Dimboola Recruiting Committee) after speaking in the Masonic-hall; the president of Lowan Shire (Cr. E. C. Davis), Cr. Bond, and Messrs Durant and Kossatz, of Nhill.

Before unveiling the honor-board, President M'Cube spoke of the pleasure which such a privilege afforded him, and then explained that it had been presented by the public of Gerang and district to the Hall Committee to perpetuate the memory of the brave boys from this district who had gone to do their part in the great conflict. He thought that all would agree that it was a beautiful ornament for the hall, and something of which the committee might justifiably be proud, inscribed as it was with the names of those who had helped to make the name of the Australian Army as renowned as it was to-day. Some of those present had watched those boys grow up, and sometimes might have wondered whether they would make men; but they had made men. (A voice: Heroes!—Applause.) They were proud of them. (Renewed applause.) To some of them they had said good-bye for ever; some of them had returned; and they hoped sincerely that yet many more of them would come back to their friends and their loved ones. He thought that in regard to repatriating them more would need to be done than had been done already, and he expected to hear something about that in the future. He thought that too much could not be done for those splendid men who had gone and fought for us, that we might be spared from knowing war in all its awful reality. Some of the names on that honor-board were of those who had died fighting for their king and country, and he was sure that those present would join with him in an expression of the deepest sympathy with the parents and loved ones of those who had given their all in so noble a cause. Their memories would always be cherished, and they

in so noble a cause. Their memories would always be cherished, and they would be regarded as the saviors of their country. (Applause.) He had always felt it an honor to have anything to do with their soldiers; and even the enemy had shown respect for them, for they had picked out their Prussian Guards to meet them.

The President then withdrew the Union Jack which had veiled the honor-board, and, the gathering standing meanwhile, read the names inscribed thereon, as follow:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| S. J. Haines | H. Hoopert |
| E. G. TAYTOR* | B. Clark |
| W. Bartlett | F. Smith |
| H. Gooding* | P. Parker |
| W. Gooding* | R. Smith |
| R. Telfer | E. Rauert |
| H. Spicer | T. Clark |
| P. Smith | A. Collins |
| T. Scott | S. Mills |
| R. Poynter | F. Argall* |
| A. J. C. Taylor | F. M'Donald |
| J. R. Telfer* | A. Pleass |
| H. F. Harmer | A. Shalders |
| E. Harmer | L. Parkes |
| A. Harmer | S. Rauert† |
| N. G. Pilmore | E. Pleass |
| P. Smith | C. Collins* |
| J. Perry | D. Landers |
| A. Argall | W. Keam |
| W. Meek | F. Hayter |
| R. Dahlenburg | W. Smith |
| L. D. Girard | A. Clark |
| V. Bolt | P. Rauert |

To be added to the list:

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| A. Parker | W. Gosling |
| J. M'Intosh | R. Gosling |
| V. M'Kensie | O. Dart |
| L. Boneham | |

*Killed. †Died in camp.

The honor-board is a very handsome one of polished blackwood, and stands out prominently in its position on the centre of the wall at the back of the stage. Above the roll of names, which are in gold, are two crossed rifles and a bunch of wattle-leaves, and beneath these the inscription "Great European War. Residents of Gerang and District who Enlisted for Service Abroad."

The chairman of the Hall Committee (Mr C. Bodey) then, on behalf of that committee, formally thanked the subscribers for presenting the honor-board, which the committee regarded as an honor to receive and erect in the hall.

In response to an invitation from the chairman, Mr Rodgers spoke a few words. He said he was very pleased to be there to join in doing honor and giving credit where honor and credit were due. Some of those gallant defenders would never return, but that honor-board would help to keep their memory green for ever, as it deserved to be, for that board would

keep their memory green for ever, as it deserved to be, for that board would be treasured as a sacred thing, and, he hoped, would be something which would have an influence in composing any differences which might divide them socially or politically. He honored the boys whose names were emblazoned on it, and also the parents who gave them birth. For those whose sons were still fighting the grim battle with unabated tenacity, he hoped that the time would come soon when victory would crown their fight for freedom and liberty.

Appropriate addresses were given also by the other gentlemen on the platform, whose names are men-

tioned above, after which the chairman heartily thanked the speakers for coming and helping to make the occasion such a memorable one; and also the residents of Gerang and district for contributing so liberally towards the cost of the honor-board, so that one of the best could be erected.

A vote of thanks to Cr. Klinge for acting as the central figure in a historic occasion was moved by Mr Rodgers and carried by acclamation, and the ceremony closed with the singing of the national anthem and "God Save Our Splendid Men," and cheers for "the boys" and their parents.

Before leaving, the gathering partook of supper, which had been provided by the ladies.

Prior to the unveiling ceremony, a musical programme was rendered. The items, which were much appreciated were as follows: Overture, Miss N. Warrick; song, "God Bless Our Soldiers," Sunday-school children; song, "Annie Laurie," Miss F. Warrick; recitation, "Breaking the Rock," Miss L. Warrick; pianoforte solo, Miss Stanway; song, "The Veteran," Mr W. E. Passmore (encore, "Mother Machree"); song, "Somewhere a Voice is calling," Mr Mat O'Connor (encore, "Coming Home").