

LEST WE FORGET!

HAWTHORN MEMORIAL UNVEILED.

Governor's Stirring Speech.

In a speech at the unveiling by him of the Hawthorn war memorial on the summit of the West Hawthorn Gardens yesterday afternoon, the Governor (Lord Somers) gave an interesting interpretation of the spirit underlying the erection of dignified memorials.

Nearly 4000 people attended the ceremony, and following the singing of *Lest We Forget* and the sounding of *The Last Post*, wreaths including one from the Fathers' Association and from the Hawthorn council, were placed on the cenotaph.

Various chaplains assisted in the service, to which ceremonial of military significance was lent by a guard of honor from the 30th Battalion and a band from the same regiment. The Premier (Sir W. McPherson), the Federal Attorney-General (Mr. Latham) and Senator Major-General Elliott were present.

In welcoming the Governor, the mayor (Cr. E. Ward) expressed his appreciation of his Excellency's interest in returned men and the welfare of youth, as shown by his association with the boy scouts and girl guides. At the outbreak of war, he said, Hawthorn had a population of 28,500, out of which number 2248 men enlisted and 246 were killed. Something like £6000 per annum was also raised on behalf of the Red Cross, and the monument to be unveiled that day was a tribute to both the soldiers and workers who participated in war service.

Major-General Elliott (who took the place of Sir John Monash) said it would be strange indeed if a feeling of gratitude did not animate everybody at a time like this. And in raising a memorial to the dead, he added, let them not forget the needs of the living.

The Governor (Lord Somers), before unveiling the cenotaph, said that these memorials, some small, some large, some simple, some grandiose, were scattered far and wide throughout the homelands of our great Empire. Some people looked upon their memorial as serving to bring back the recollection of a painful period, and to remind them personally of one of their acquaintance or their kin who fell during the war. Others—more rightly, he thought—had a wider outlook. Their memorial meant something more than that. It means that they were to look forward to something better, something more in keeping with what they desired as a result of the sacrifice of those men.

This beautifully simple memorial will stand here for many years, and gradually, possibly, the full significance of it—which was so apparent to them now—would be lost, and it would become just one other memorial. Passing it by, some of the older ones would remember and the younger ones might forget. It might gradually become just one piece of architectural furniture belonging to the citizens of Hawthorn. Could he start some

of those who might think that way on another line of thought to-day? There was one significant word written large on the memorial. That word was "Peace."

Interpreting the memorial as an inspiration to help and serve one's fellow men, Lord Somers concluded by saying those who were left had to take the place of the men that fell. They had a job to do, and it was possibly hard, because they had not those strong right arms of the men who sacrificed themselves at Gallipoli and in Flanders at their side. But they must carry on their work and bring it to a successful conclusion. Peace was what they wanted; peace was what they had obtained now; peace was what they desired for those left behind. It rests with them to complete the work that they by their self-sacrifice began. They must bring love and laughter into the world and do away with strife and bickering.

The memorial, which stands very high above the Yarra, amid symmetrical groves of trees and colorful flower beds, is a simple and dignified column of freestone, with a base of granite. The words, Duty, Valor and Peace, appear on three sides of the cenotaph, each above a sculptured torch of living remembrance. The mayor announced that no names had been placed on the memorial, but that the council was now preparing a parchment roll, containing the names of all men who went from Hawthorn, which would be placed in the foyer of the Hawthorn town hall.