

UNVEILING THE CULLEN MEMORIAL STONE.

The ceremony of unveiling the memorial stone to the memory of G. J. Cullen, who succumbed to enteric fever at Pretoria, South Africa, took place at Alexandra Park on Wednesday afternoon. The members of the local forces assembled at the drill room in Wellington street and after parading the town marched to the park. The Kerang Town Band headed the procession, after which came the H Company of the Victorian Rangers, under command of Lieutenant Collins. The Kerang troops of Australian Light Horse followed, headed by Regimental Sergeant Major Algie. On arrival at the park the troops were formed up around the memorial stone and Adjutant-Captain Rogers Davidson proceeded with the unveiling ceremony. The captain stated that before proceeding, he would like to state that he was called upon at the last moment, as the officer who was to perform the ceremony, *adjutant Collins*, was unavoidably unable to attend. He had to express that officer's deep regret that he could not be present. He had also to thank the Kerang Town Band for their assistance at the ceremony. They could not look upon the present proceedings altogether with regret, but rather with pride at being able to do honor to a noble comrade, who fell in South Africa. The monument was there to perpetuate his memory and would be an incentive to those who saw the memorial as they went to and fro in the park to lay down their life for their King and country, when called upon to do so, as their comrade had done. It would also be a lesson for the rising generation, who can now see these memorials erected to fallen soldiers throughout the length and breadth of the Australian Commonwealth, to be ready to defend the old country, as well as their own land, in times of need. The South African war was the first opportunity that Australians had had to show what they were made of and they had shown that they were built of the same stuff as their forefathers. He hoped that it would be many years before they would be called upon to do battle and that peace would reign, but they must have peace with honor and would be prepared to defend their honor to the last.

The men were then brought to the "salute" and the Union Jack covering the memorial stone was removed by the captain. The band playing the

the memorial stone was removed by the captain. The band playing the National Anthem. "The last post" was then given on the bugle by Lance-Cpl. Bugler Whitelaw, which concluded the unveiling ceremony.

Captain Davidson then asked Mr Donald McDonald to step forward and on behalf of the local forces, presented the memorial to the trustees of Alexandra Park. He was sure it would be carefully guarded and honored by them for all time.

Mr McDonald, in responding on behalf of the trustees, was pleased to accept the guardianship of the memorial, although the pleasure was tinged with regret that it commemorated the loss of a fellow citizen, who was a loss to the district.

The monument is built of rough-hewn granite from the Harcourt quarries. It stands on the left hand side of the entrance gates into the cemetery. The inscription is as follows:—"The tribute of the officers of the Victorian Mounted Rifles, non-commissioned officers and men, to the memory of Lance Corporal G. J. Cullen, Kerang, who died at Pretoria, South Africa, 3rd Sept., 1900."

At the conclusion of the unveiling ceremony a sham fight took place in the Cemetery swamp. The rangers, under Lieut. Collins, represented the rear of a force retreating on Kerang from the north and the light horse, under Sergt. Major Algie, the attacking force. The retreating force was extended over Fellow's weir and the main Murrabit road. They found splendid cover in the thick lignum and a running fight was kept up till the junction of the roads at the cemetery was reached, when the cease-fire was sounded and the troops mustered and returned to their orderly rooms.