

KINGSTON.

AVENUE OF HONOR.

Seldom, if ever, has such a crowd of people assembled as on Saturday last, when the planting of the Avenue of Honor for those who had enlisted in the Creswick Shire took place. There was a most representative gathering from near and far. After the singing of the National Anthem, the secretary (Mr H. Thomas) read several apologies. The president of the Shire (Captain Tom Parkin) then introduced Sir Alex. Peacock, who gave a stirring address. He said he would like all those assembled to picture the landscape that they had in front of them, and compare in their minds countries on "the other side." He mentioned that one lad, Harry Richardson, whose tree was to be planted that day, was reported as missing on the ill-fated hospital ship 'Warilda'. He hoped that all the trees would live, so that future generations would be reminded of the brave lads who went out to save Australia and the British Empire. Booklets had been printed, with the names and numbers of the 218 lads and seven Sisters to be honored, the latter having Australian flags fastened to their tree-guards. The secretary then gave out the planting instructions, the arrangements being well organised and most complete. The trees planted were Canadian elms. Twenty gardeners had been chosen to supervise the planting, whilst eight carpenters followed, and nailed up the guards. At a signal given, the planting started, which, in some cases, was most sad, Sir Alex. Peacock planting one for an old friend, Carl Rasmussen. The Avenue starts from the Victoria corner, Kingston, and continues south for about two miles along that beautiful three-chain road that winds between Forrest and Spring Hill, the site chosen being most perfect, and the spot can be seen for miles distant. The tree-guards, which consisted of four sides 7 feet high, were erected by working bees. White plates with black lettering, plain and distinct, showed the name, rank, and battalion, and also the reinforcements where necessary. A Maltese cross indicated those who had fallen. After the planting had been completed, Sir Alex. Peacock declared the Avenue duly opened, when several more speeches were given by representatives of different bodies. A large marquée was erected, in which refreshments were supplied at the cost of 1/. The ladies of the district provided excellent food.

supplied at the cost of 1/. The ladies of the district provided excellent food. The proceeds, which realised over £32, will go to the Kingston branch of the Red Cross Society, as the ladies of that branch had entertained the workers on seven previous Saturdays. Mr Windsor kindly auctioned some of the surplus goods. A vote of thanks was accorded the hon. secretary (Mr W. H. Thomas), who had put in some splendid work. In expressing his hearty thanks he stated that it had been a pleasure to work for the boys on the other side with such a fine committee and helpers as he had assisting him.