

THE LATE SERGEANT VAUGHAN UNVEILING THE MONUMENT.

AN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY.

LEARMONTH, Friday.

(From Our Correspondent.)

The ceremony of unveiling the monument erected at Learmonth to perpetuate the memory of the late Sergeant Vaughan was performed on Saturday, in the presence of a large number of people, the oration being delivered by the Hon. A. J. Peacock, State Premier, while Mrs Peacock unveiled the monument.

There were present Mr Spiers, M.L.A., and Mrs Spiers.

The late Sergeant Vaughan was born at the Laurels, Learmonth, in March, 1868, and was therefore within one month of 33 years of age at the time of his death. His primary education was received at the Ballarat College, and he was subsequently a student at the Melbourne University. He was afterwards engaged in pastoral pursuits at Gordon, but for a year or so prior to his leaving for the war, he and his two brothers carried on farming and dairying operations at the Laurels, Learmonth, the residence of his father and mother. Wherever Charlie Vaughan was located he made a staunch circle of friends, who recognised his sterling worth and true manliness. It was due to such friends in Learmonth that the initiative was taken in the movement to perpetuate his memory.

The ceremony of unveiling the monument was performed in an impressive manner. The Ballarat Militia Band was present in charge of Bandmaster Bulch, and the presence of the following military officers in uniform further added to the soldierly aspect of the gathering:—Lieutenant-Colonel Williams, Major Garbutt, Captain Chaplain Howard, Lieutenants T. C. Anderson and A. Murray. The returned South African soldiers present were Lance-Corporal Kerr (who fought with Vaughan), Private Lancaster (who was wounded in action), Lance-Corporal Starkey, Private Rockcliffe, and Trooper Baird, who joined the same regiment as Vaughan.

At 4 o'clock, the Hon. A. J. Peacock, arrived, and after being introduced by Cr Ryan, the Premier made a stirring and affecting address, remarking that when he received the invitation to perform the ceremony he had very readily complied with the request, because the people were recognising the noble action of one who had fought for his country. It was to such men as Sergeant Vaughan, who did so much for their country and civilisation, that the people owed a great deal. South Africa had proved the dumping ground for Australia's sons, who were now known throughout the world for the splendid work they had performed. It was thought by many that there was no need to send men from Australia to fight in South Africa, but those who had watched events must acknowledge that there was great need. When that petition was sent calling upon Great Britain to settle the grievances of the Outlanders, it was the duty of Great Britain to respond to the

duty of Great Britain to respond to the call. The British nation must protect her subjects wherever they might be. When those in responsible power in these States called on eligible men to come forward their action was adversely criticised, but it was necessary that we should show the mother country and the world at large that we would recognise our responsibilities as British subjects. The trouble had arisen in South Africa, and trouble might arise in this fair Australia, and whilst we had such young men as the late Sergeant Vaughan there was not much to fear. The younger generation had been told that they were not so good as the old stock, but it would be seen from events in South Africa that they were not degenerating. Little did the people think some years ago that some of our young men would die on the battle field on the South African veldt as their forefathers had died at Waterloo. For the first time Australian blood had been shed with the Imperial regiments. When the Australians went to the rescue of the Willie, who were in a tight place, at Pink Hill, their action caused a thrill through Great Britain. Young Vaughan had gone forward bravely, prepared to give his life for his country, and when, in years to come, this stone was looked upon he would be remembered. He had heard from Vaughan's superior officer of his gallantry. Sergeant Vaughan was dead, but what he did would live in history above the works of politicians and after they were gone and those present were no more. This monument would tell to those who passed by of Vaughan and his good works. In one respect this event was painful, in another a glorious one. We could never estimate the good work the Australians had done in South Africa.

Mrs Peacock, by request, then unveiled the monument. The Ballarat Militia Band played the Dead March in "Saul," and the buglers sounded "The Last Post."

The monument, which is of red polished granite, with bluestone base, standing 14 feet high, and surrounded with four corner bluestone posts, connected by chains, was the work of Messrs McDonald and Sons, Ballarat. The inscription on the stone is as follows:—"Erected by the residents of the district to the memory of Charles Vaughan, sergeant Australian Imperial Regiment, killed in action at Hariebestfontein, South Africa, February 18, 1901. 'Till the Master of all good workmen shall put him to work anew."

About 70 of those present adjourned to the Shire Hall, where an excellent banquet, prepared by several ladies, who carried out the whole of the catering, was sat down to, the 3rd Battalion Band meanwhile enlivening the proceedings with selections.

Cr Ryan occupied the chair, having on his right the State Premier (Hon. A. J. Peacock), Mrs Ryan, and the officers of the militia, and on his left Mrs Peacock and Mr William Vaughan (brother of the late Sergeant Vaughan). After the loyal toast had been honored, Cr John Baird proposed the toast of "The Visitors." He knew that the toast would be heartily honored, because residents of this district would feel deeply grateful to the visitors who had come to honor the memory of one

would feel doubly grateful to the visitors who had come to honor the memory of one who was so highly respected as Sergeant Vaughan. The war in South Africa had formed an epoch in the history of this State. Australia's sons had stood shoulder to shoulder with the Imperial troops, and amongst those killed was their dear comrade Charles Vaughan. But the bright young lives such as his were not sacrificed in vain. The sacrifice would do more in the interests of the State than many Acts of Parliament. It was such events, whilst calling forth our deepest sympathy, that caused them to feel a thrill of pride when we knew that young Vaughan lost his life in such a noble cause. It was very gratifying to him to see so many comrades present to show their sympathy. It was particularly pleasing to meet the Premier. This was the first public opportunity that they had been afforded of congratulating the Premier on his elevation to his high position in Parliament, and also of welcoming Mrs Peacock. It was thought by many that Mr Peacock's multitudinous duties would preclude the possibility of marriage, but he was glad to say that that was not so. He, Cr Baird, was also pleased to welcome Colonel Williams, who had rendered such good service to the memorial committee in bringing the band to Learmonth. The other officers and visitors were heartily welcome. The toast was enthusiastically honored.

The Premier, in responding, said he had often been at Learmonth in connection with various organisations, but little did he think then he would be there to take part in honoring the memory of one of Learmonth's soldiers. He was glad to know that there was a soldier present who had fought side by side with young Vaughan in the battle in which the latter lost his life. How sad it must be to those who heard the muster roll called to know that there were some who could not answer to that call. He was delighted to think that the people in this district recognised their responsibilities. What had been done had been done quietly and handsomely. He felt glad to be present in one way, but sorry in another, and he hoped the next time they met the time would be a more joyous one. He had many friends in the district, and he knew that, although some might differ with him in politics, they would acknowledge that what he did was done with honesty of purpose. He had tried to do his duty fairly and fearlessly, and he thought all who knew him would do him the credit of acknowledging that. He thanked Cr Baird for his kind references to him and to his wife. Out of the seven days, he had only two at home, and Mrs Peacock very highly appreciated the arrangement that, although he was taken away from his home on one of those days, she was permitted to accompany him, and he was grateful to the committee for fixing the ceremony to suit him so nicely.

The Rev. H. Howard (chaplain) and Major Garbutt also responded to the toast, as did Lance-Corporal Kerr and Mr Geo. Baird, two returned soldiers. The former remarked that he was a member of the bodyguard with the late Sergeant

the bodyguard with the late Sergeant Vaughan. As the Premier remarked, it was a sad company who assembled to hear the roll-call when the late Sergeant Vaughan, who was so highly esteemed by

his comrades, was numbered with the slain. They buried him at 9 o'clock at night, and he (Kerr) was present when all that remained of Sergeant Vaughan was laid to rest on the veldt.

Colonel Williams proposed the toast of "The Memorial Committee," coupled with the name of the hon. secretary, Mr C. Hamilton, whom he highly eulogised for the work he had performed in connection with the ceremony, which he said was a credit to him and his committee. All soldiers must appreciate the sentiment displayed by those who were instrumental in erecting the monument to the memory of the late Sergeant Vaughan. What he had done was a pleasure. It was sad to see good men go down, but a strong patriotic feeling was necessary.

Mr Hamilton, in responding, thanked those present for the toast, and said that he very highly appreciated the kindly references to him made by Lieut.-Colonel Williams. He thanked the subscribers for their generous response, the State Premier, and also Colonel Williams, who had done so much in assisting to carry out the ceremony so successfully. The stone stood in the street not only to perpetuate the memory of the late Sergeant Vaughan, but it would no doubt be the means of fostering a martial spirit. Vaughan's work was done here, but the work he had done would live hereafter.

Cr Ryan also responded.

Ex-Cr Butler proposed the toast of "The Ladies," who he highly eulogised for the excellent way they had carried out the catering for the banquet.

Dr Courtney responded, and after paying a high tribute to the memory of the late Sergeant Vaughan, thanked those present for the toast. The toast of "The Chairman" (Cr Ryan), who was complimented for the manner in which he had conducted the proceedings, brought the gathering to a close.