

SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL HALL

OPENED AT MIGA LAKE.

Many efforts have been made in the last eight years to raise money to build a hall and school at Miga Lake. They have had many concerts and dances. Mrs. Hadden, of Charam, donated £8; Mrs. J. Potter a bridle that brought in £3; Mrs. Reg Hobbs silver dish that brought £11 15/; Mr. Geo. Edwards donated 10/6; Mrs. G. Waycott and Mrs. Reg Hobbs had an entertainment and raised £25; then they had an ugly man competition, Mr. J. McNamara being one ugly man, Mr. Neil Campbell and Mr. Reg Hobbs, and £75 was made by that, Mr. Hobbs being the winner; they also got assistance from the Returned Soldiers' League. Therefore when the opening day came everybody was pleased with their years of work and to show the public their money was put to good use and that the little children would benefit by education and also by religious training, which is just as necessary as educational training.

On Thursday, July 10, at 3 p.m. the official opening of the Miga Lake Soldiers' Memorial Hall was performed by Mr. Wm. Slater, M.L.A. Mr. L. T. Ryan, the chairman, spoke a few words from the front of the hall and then called upon Mr. Slater to turn the key in the door, and he declared the hall open amidst cheers from a large number of people who had travelled long distances to show their interest in the soldiers who had fought for them. As heavy rain fell everybody went into the hall, which was prettily decorated in red, white and blue streamers and bunting and red paper poppies. The decorations were carried out by Messrs Scudamore and Mortan McDonald and Mr. and Mrs. Hobbs. The hall was soon well filled so as to enjoy the speeches, which were made by Messrs Leo Ryan Wm. Slater and H. G. Carstairs, all three of whom had served in the great war during 1914-18.

Mr. Slater said he felt it a great privilege to have the honor of declaring the hall open, because of the link between the soldier settlers and himself—a link of comradeship. No less than

—a link of comradeship. No less than 16 years had lapsed since the war began, and a new generation was springing up who had had no experience of war. To the older generation the war had been very real. True, the tragedy of war had been mellowed by the passing of years, and it was fortunate that this was so. It was characteristic of the returned men that they said very little about the horrors they had to face. To him the greatest virtue of the war was sacrifice, combined with the spirit of comradeship which it had engendered. Sacrifice had not been made merely by the men who had fought. Real sacrifice had been made by parents and loved ones, the biggest by the great motherhood of the world. World peace would be the greatest possible achievement that could follow the war. It was fitting that the memorial to the district men should take the form of a hall and school. It would serve as a real link in the social life of the community and as a school in which the children of soldiers could be taught. Another important purpose was that of religious instruction.

Mr. H. G. Carstairs who served in two wars, said he regretted that General Smythe was unable to be present. He was proud to be associated with the chairman and Mr. Slater in this opening ceremony. Though it had taken eight years for the people of Miga Lake to collect sufficient money with which to set up the memorial they had kept the objective in mind. Statues were all right in cities, but in a place like Miga Lake a marble statue would not be as useful as a hall. He congratulated the people of Miga Lake on the fine result of their labors. He thanked them for the invitation to be present, and could assure them he was delighted to join with them in celebrating the opening of the hall.

The Horsham Pipe Band played many selections in the afternoon and the five Scottish children dancers were greatly appreciated by a large number in the hall. They also enjoyed the Scotch songs and jokes rendered by two Horsham artists kindly brought out by Mr. Rowlands to assist in making the opening of the hall a success. The soldiers' wives prepared a delicious afternoon tea for all those who had to hurry back to Horsham and Natimuk on account of the heavy rain. Between the showers many enjoyable

Between the showers many enjoyable events took place such as potato race in cars, S. Worthy 1, P. Scott 2; kicking football, A. Campbell; nail driving for ladies, Miss May Jones 1, Mrs. A. Campbell 2; stepping the distance, Cr. Elliott 1 D. Worthy 2. The ladies provided a very enjoyable poultry tea, and it was a great credit to them and everybody said it was was a lanquet.

For the evening Mrs. Reg Hobbs had arranged a concert and it was greatly appreciated by a good audience and every item was encored. The following contributed the items:—Songs by Mrs. Grey (Harrow), Mrs. G. T. Graham and Mrs. Woolmer (Natinuk), Miss Wiggins (Horsham), Messrs. Ballard, Goodall, Fraser (Harrow), Mr. Gordon and Dr. Stephenson (Natinuk), Mr. Waldron (Douglas) monologue, Master Ballard (Harrow) recitation Masters Neil Fletcher and Haylock (Harrow) comic duet, Miss Fraser (Harrow) overture, Horsham Pipe Band and many dances by the children (Misses Cochrane, Shearwood and Master McEwan), Mrs. Graham (Natinuk) songs; Mrs. Fraser (Harrow) acted as accompanist. The Horsham children danced Irish Jigs, Highland Fling and Sailors' Hornpipe. Every item was greatly enjoyed and encored.

The chairman specially thanked the performers for their great assistance and their kindness in coming so far to make the concert the success it was. He also thanked Mrs. Reg Hobbs for the capable manner in which she carried the concert through, as she was kind enough to lend her piano so as to make the opening of the hall a financial success.

Mr. Slater expressed his pleasure at being present. It had been a great day in the history of the soldier settlement at Miga Lake and he was proud to be associated with it not only as a member for Dundas, but as a member of the A.I.F. He went into the army as a private and came out of it as a

private. On that account he especially appreciated the honor of being asked last afternoon to open that fine building as a Memorial Hall. It was 14 years ago since he and the chairman (Mr. Leo Ryan) had met on an Australian troopship on their way to the

Australian troopship on their way to the great adventure. The building as a Memorial Hall typified sacrifice—the sacrifice of those fine fellows whose lives the great war claimed. It had been made possible through the sacrifice of time, money and effort of the Miga Lake people. The performers who had given such a splendid concert exemplified their willingness to make a sacrifice of rest and comfort to travel long distances over bad roads in order to assist in a worthy cause. The building would provide too for the social needs of the place; it could be used for religious services and was to be used for educational purposes. The people of Miga Lake were to be congratulated. He wished the settlers every success. (Applause.)

Mr. G. T. Graham, head teacher of the Natinuk School having been asked to speak on behalf of the Education department, said that he wished to thank the committee for their kind invitation to Mrs. Graham and himself to be present. That day in Miga Lake had been looked forward to. It had been a big effort for a small community of soldier settlers to raise the money required to finance their nail scheme, and it spoke volumes for their determination and their effective organising powers that the hall had been opened, carrying only a small amount of debt. It was some time ago since he had gone out to Wombelano to crown the winner of an ugly man competition. This was considered a fairly big effort, but it was only one of the many run from time to time to augment the hall funds. No opportunity was allowed to pass. The spirit of the A.I.F. was still very strong at Miga Lake. To the visitors present that day it was very evident that the men of Miga Lake district did not do all the work. Their efforts were ably seconded by their womenfolk, who had made a wonderful effort that day in so liberally provisioning the tables with such a variety of good things. The multitude had been fed, and the ladies' efforts deserved the highest praise. Mr. Graham said he was pleased to know that Miga Lake was to have its school—trusting that the day would come when the hall would be found too small for school purposes. He hoped their children would be happy in their school. The school would be at present, a small one, yet just as important to Miga Lake as the hall.

ent, a small one, yet just as important to Miga Lake as the school to any larger community. He was sure that the teacher would have a good type of child to deal with. The pupils would be imbued with the spirit of their fathers and would be all triers. He hoped that the school committee and parents generally would stand behind their teacher and work together for the welfare of their own school. No one could foresee what successes might come out of the Miga Lake school. He wished the school and the settlement every success.

Other speakers were Messrs J. H. Ross (Douglas), Fraser (Harrow), H. Scholfield (Pigeon Ponds) and added congratulations to the soldiers and their wives, who had completed the building of the hall (which was built for a school) after eight years' never-tiring efforts. It was announced that Mr. Reg Hobbs had received a donation from Mr. Alex Phillips, the former owner of Miga Lake. A very enjoyable supper was provided by the ladies, who worked hard to make everybody enjoy themselves. There was a great crowd at the hall and a small committee, viz., Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Burns, Mr. and Mrs. Reg Hobbs, arranged the novelty dances and made a great success of the paper cap dance and spot dance, prizes being donated by Mrs. Geo. Burns (Miga Lake) and Mr. Rowlands (Horsham). The Edenhope Orchestra rendered their services free, which were much appreciated, and the music was most enjoyable.

Great credit is due to all the soldiers of Miga Lake for the way in which they worked not only for one day but many days before to prepare the attached supper room, especially the ladies for all the years they have worked and the president, Mr. L. T. Ryan; hon. secretary, Mr. Geo. Burns; ladies' hon. secretary, Mr. Reg Hobbs; and hon. sec. of the builders committee, Mr. Reg Hobbs, and a special mention to Mr. George T. Lear, the contractor who built the hall to suit the small amount of money the settlers had on hand. It is well built and made with a fireplace in it for the benefit of the children at school, and in time the settlers hope to raise enough money to line the hall.

The donations received by Mrs. Reg Hobbs are greatly appreciated and were given from the following:—

were given from the following:— Messrs. Langlands, Crofts, Rowlands, Sack and Young Bros., Horsham; Mr. J. Ross and Mr. J. McIntyre Douglas; and Mr. R. Rankin, Miga Lake. The following donations were received for the opening day:—Rocking deck chair, presented by Mr. G. T. Lear and raffled by Mrs. Potter and won by Mr. G. Fitzgerald; bag of barley, Mr. George Waycott; bag of oats, Mr. Percy Scott; bag of oats, Reg Hobbs; bag of wheat, Mr. Geo. Burns; cyclone gate, Mrs. Reg Hobbs; fat sheep, Mr. Ryan; pair d'oyleys, Mrs. Geo. Burns; turkeys, Mrs. N. Campbell and Mrs. G. Waycott; Mr. J. McNamara 5/ toys for children; Percy Scott, 3/ toys for children. As it turned out so wet that day the Miga Lake settlers and wives gave the children a day of their own to declare the school open, which took place on Thursday 17th inst., and it proved a great success and very enjoyable to all.