

ST. PETER'S HONOR ROLL.

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St. Peter's, the handsome and spacious Presbyterian Church, Cowra, was crowded to its utmost on Sunday afternoon, 20th ult.—many not gaining admittance—on the occasion of the unveiling of the Roll of Honor in connection with the Cowra charge. A special order of service was arranged, and the singing—led by a joint choir of about thirty voices, assisted by Mr. J. McLeish's orchestra, with Mr. W. S. Jackson as organist—was most hearty. The pulpit was shrouded with the Union Jack, while at certain points the walls of the sacred edifice were bedecked with small flags representing the Allies of the British Empire, the Australian flag having a place of prominence. Reserved seating accommodation was provided for relatives of the young soldiers whose names appear on the Roll of Honor, also for returned soldiers and brethren of the Masonic craft, all of which were extensively availed of.

Prior to the service, a programme of sacred music was played by the Cadet Band outside the Church.

The service opened with all joining in singing the first verse of the National Anthem, which was followed by prayer by the pastor (Rev. James Barr). The hymn, "Great King of Nations," having been sung, the pastor read a portion of St. Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews, xi. The choir then rendered as an anthem, Jackson's "To them." This was followed by another prayer, and the hymn, "Onward, Christian Soldiers."

REV. JAS. BARR.

As a prelude to his address, the Rev. Barr said he felt that he should have liked, if possible, to have gone through this service with feeling the spirit of the day without mere human words. But it was expected that at least some explanation should be given of the circumstances by which they were gathered together. They could understand it was a difficult matter to deal with, because he had no desire to harrow the feelings or open up in the minds of many present of the horrors which this terrible war has and is perpetrating. In his pastoral duties he was too closely associated with those who have suffered from the havoc of the war, and therefore he had no wish to re-open the wounds; also, should he do so, he feared his own feelings would be overcome. It was only fitting that some words should be said of the young men who have gone forth together to fight for them, and for those present to acknowledge the service rendered by them and blessings maintained for them.





"To the Glory of God, to the honor of the men whose names are inscribed thereon, and as a token of gratitude from the congregation."

The Rev. gentleman then found of his address on the words, "Of whom the world was not worthy,"—Heb. xi., 38. Let them look back as far as they could in history, and try to remember one man who was associated with his days who received the plaudits of the people to whom He sacrificed His life. Could they remember one? Every man who endeavoured to do something for the well-being of humanity, his motives were always questioned, misconstrued, or criticised. It takes time for the world to know whom its benefactors were or are.

The men who did great deeds were those of whom the world was not worthy. He thought that day such words would assist the friends of these young men who have gone forth voluntarily to risk their lives on behalf of the Empire. If there was one thing he was sure of, and never had from the first meeting held in Cowra been in doubt of, although he was by calling a minister of peace, it was that, as he believed in God, to ad

was by causing a minister to preach it was that, as he believed in God, to advocate the righteousness of the cause which the British Empire had taken up in entering this war. It had taken them, as a congregation, nearly three years to do what they had done for the men who had gone forth. He might add, that on two different occasions and at two different places, he had endeavoured to get a roll of honour to impress the minds of the whole district, but as it appeared to be impossible to do so, he was determined the boys from his own parish would not go away dishonoured. After close on three years the Presbyterian community came together to do honour to the lads who made the great sacrifice of leaving home to go forth to maintain all the rights and privileges of a great nation and of a free country. Many of them will bring back the scars of battle, some will return in broken health, some will return no more, and many, it was hoped, will return with all the vim of life. On the day of their return may they find us a thankful people. On that occasion the choir should sing a song of praise for their safe return. Let them think, Were they worthy of the sacrifice these men had made and were making? Men of whom the world was not worthy, when the call was made, were ready to go—and went. Thank God there were so many found in this district who were prepared to face dangers and death. There was no question in his mind as to the righteousness of the net of the men! There was no question as to the reward that God would bestow on these brave fellows for what they have done, are doing, and still will do. Those of them who may have been under the gaze of some officer after performing some courageous act, or those who have paid the great price, there was one thing he was certain of, if God was God, then being a God of Love, He would reward those men for what they have done. It was the comfort of his own heart, if it was the will of the Eternal God that one or both of his sons should fall, that a time awaits him at the Great Meeting Place to rejoice with them for what they had done and were enabled to do. Many were to go and fight, but those that have gone, let them say that day, "Thank you, brave fellows!"—men of whom the world was not worthy. The roll of honour which he was about shortly to unveil, will cost, when finished, more than £70, on which space remains for further names to be added.

At the request of the minister, as an offertory hymn, the choir sang, "Eter-

nal Father, strong to save," which was followed by Kipling's hymn, "God of our fathers, known of old."

The Rev. gentleman then unveiled the roll of honour, the congregation standing, which contained close on 80 names, inscribed on a marble tablet handsomely embellished, and of which our illustration is a fine reproduction.

Rev. Barr announced that the names inscribed were spread over the Cowra parish and represented many homes—one of three sons, and many by two sons. It was only just and right that such a roll should be placed where it was, as it was for God's cause they went to fight. The names placed thereon were as a token of gratitude from this congregation, to

which all the valiant young heroes belonged.

The choir having rendered as an anthem "Comrades in Arms," the Rev. gentleman said that though they honoured the brave boys whose names appeared on the tablet, they none the less honoured those brave lads who went forth from other congregations, and he asked the congregation to bow their heads in silent prayer for them, and which was concluded with a short prayer by the pastor.

The concluding hymn, "Nearer, my God, to Thee," having been sung, the Rev. Barr pronounced the Benediction, and Mr. J. McLeish from the vestry, sounded "The Last Post" on the cornet.