

LOYAL BURRANGONG LODGE.

Honor Roll Unveiled.

GRANDMASTER'S VISIT.

In the Oddfellows' Hall last night Wor. Bro. Perkins, Grand Master of the M. U. I. O. O. F., addressed a meeting on the benefits derived from membership in the Lodge which he represented. The speaker was introduced by Bro. Bolton, G. M. of the Young Branch, who was glad to see so many ladies present. He was agreeably surprised at the attendance and extended a welcome to all including the representatives of other friendly societies.

On rising, Wor. Bro. Perkins said the aim of their Order was to get new members. He would like to see all people members of some friendly society. Young was a growing town in a progressing centre, but the Manchester Unity was not making progress in accordance with the population; in fact the district had gone slightly backward within the last six months. It was the boast of the Manchester Unity that their society was the strongest, financially and in members, not only in this State, but in the whole of the British Empire. Young had 250 of over half a million members in the State—but he found that only a few of those 250 were regular attenders at their fortnightly meetings. Continuing the speaker, roiled back the centuries to the year 59 A. D. when the first known lodge existed. They were known as an "Queerfellows" by reason of their loyalty to the Emperor Nero. In year 79 A. D. the name became Oddfellows, and from that date right through history they gathered together in small bands up to the reign of George II. They were bound together, paid regular instalments, and assisted any distressed members, but each lodge worked separately and independently of the other. In 1809, Robert Nairn of Manchester got them to hold together adopting the motto "Unity is strength," and since then that great Society has been known as the Manchester Unity, the Order he advocated that night. But in those days they had to sign a declaration of loyalty, as everyone meeting behind closed doors was regarded with suspicion. The N. S. W. branch was formed in 1840 when 9 members of the ancient English Lodges met together in the old Lighthouse Inn in Sussex street, Sydney. £1 was the amount collected that night, the capital of the N. S. W. branch is now nearly a million.

SOLDIERS BENEFITED.

Of their men 5260 equal to 16 1/2 per cent of their total membership answered the call to arms; 375 made the supreme sacrifice at an average age of 23 years—those names were to be honored that night. The Manchester Unity was doing all it could to assist their soldier members and and soldiers' dependents. Sick pay granted to soldier members worked out at £17 10/ each. Members of the lodge had taxed themselves to the extent of £27,900. The war had reduced their funds by £125,000. In addition to the great number of claims at the time, they as a brotherhood raised £8,000 per annum totalling £40,000 throughout the war—by each civilian member giving 1d per week to assist the soldiers and their dependents. The Lodge loaned them money, in genuine cases, repayable in ten years, free of interest. In on case a motor car was procured for repatriating to civil life a returned soldier, amongst others, horses and carts were purchased and handed over. In assisting war widows, the lodge had paid off mortgages and bought and erected cottages. He was

ed over. In assisting war widows, the lodge had paid off mortgages and bought and erected cottages. He was visiting Newcastle at an early date for the purpose of handing over the key of a cottage just erected by the lodge to a war widow. A member at Murrumburrah in need of assistance had been granted £100; £200 of the lodge's funds had recently set a local man up in business; the same amount had settled a member on a farm on the Yanco Irrigation Area. Typewriters etc. had been supplied. Cases had only been turned down when fullest investigation showed their statements were not genuine. Free medical attendance was available when required for any member, and medicine free. If the member were a bread winner of a family he drew one guinea per week sick pay, and another allowance was for funeral expenses up to £50. "Besides all this" the speaker continued "the lodge is wonderfully social. You would find as a member, the worth of the brotherhood if you were out of employment or in other distressed circumstances in a strange town. But whether your position was fortunate or otherwise you would find yourself made at home anywhere by looking up the secretary of that branch. The funds which total nearly £1,000,000 are there for anyone in need. Last year's sick pay amounted to £1999 per week. They were introducing a new insurance scheme and were now awaiting the considerations of Sir George Fuller to their recent proposals. The Manchester Unity was for all creeds, as long as each member recognized a Deity. In conclusion the speaker referred to the enthusiasm shown by many old members and instanced one case when railways were few, where one man walked from Goulburn to Sydney and back to attend their conference.

In performing the ceremony of unveiling the Honor Roll of the Burrangong District Lodge No. 26, Bro. Perkins asked all to stand in silence for awhile in reverence to the fallen brave. Afterwards, three hearty cheers were given for the King and the A.I.F.

Following are the 21 names appearing on the honor roll:—A. E. Penrose, C. R. Cooper (x) N. Duncan (x), A. McLaughlan, H. Dawes, J. E. Prothero, A. Robertson, R. J. Spencer, H. W. Starling, C. Carr, W. G. Poplin (x), W. J. Trudgett, H. J. Trudgett (x), E. Hinton (x), W. Spencer, W. M. Bray, F. M. Cook, H. Armstrong, F. Beckwith (x), C. O. Hutchinson, A. E. Moxon, W. C. R. Hammond, M. Deveraux, L. McVeigh, F. Taylor, A. P. Taylor, Jas. Tvalor (x), A. Randall, G. Taylor, H. Taylor, R. W. Metzler.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the speaker moved by Messrs. Ehrlich and Breden.

The members then adjourned to Peterson's cafe where refreshments were served.