

Unveiling Honor Board.

MORWELL STATE SCHOOL

Notwithstanding the unfavorable weather that prevailed last week, there was a large gathering at the Morwell Mechanics' Hall, on Friday, to witness the unveiling of Morwell State School Honour Board, which contains 93 names of old school boys who left Australia to fight for their King and country, and for truth, justice, liberty and practically all else we hold dear; and also to fight against the introduction of the principle that "might is right."

In the absence of the Chairman of School Board Committee (Mr J. B. Hoyle), who was ill, Mr Chas. Davey (vice-chairman) presided and filled the office admirably. On the platform were Mr Fussell (Chief Inspector of Schools), who had been invited to perform the unveiling ceremony, Mr G. P. Evans (School Correspondent), President of Shire (Cr. W. Ritchie), Cr. D. Dunbar, Rev. J. Garmon-Owen, and a number of returned soldiers.

The Chairman in fitting terms announced the object of the gathering, and also mentioned that a few more names were to be added to the board, and said the committee would be glad to be notified of further names, if any, that had been omitted. He apologised for the absence of Hon. G. H. Wise (Assistant Minister for Defence), Hon. T. Livingston, M.L.A., Revs. Adeney, Louisa, Pryor, Mr J. B. Hoyle and others, who were unavoidably prevented from being present.

The children having sung "Hurrah for England," Mr Fussell was called upon to perform the unveiling ceremony.

Mr Fussell said he was pleased to be present at a gathering to do honor to brave men who had gone to fight for our Empire, and for liberty, truth and right. Twenty-eight years ago he had travelled over miles of bad roads and through mud in various parts of Goppsland inspecting schools. At that time many of the men who were now taking part in the greatest war the world has ever seen, were unborn and others were only in knickerbockers. The splendid manner in which the boys had acquitted themselves was something to be proud of. It caused the blood to run free through one's veins and made one walk with their head higher. Our boys met the cream of the enemy's soldiers and had combated them in a glorious way. Some of those who had gone to the front simply gave as their reason for doing so, that they were "going to do their

bit"; others said they were "going to give Fritz one in the neck," whilst others said "their coppers were sore and they were going over to give them a hand," but deep down in their hearts could be found the real reason for their going, and that was

loyalty. They realised that the "frontier" of Australia was really in France, and should the enemy break through there and gain his desires, it would be God help Australia and all we hold dear. Great Britain had given us as a free gift this great and glorious land of Australia and had kept it for us under the wings of her mighty fleet. The boys who had gone to the front to fight for their country had offered their lives to the Empire and many had already made the supreme sacrifice. Greater love could no man show than that of giving his life for friends and empire. It was a privilege to be able to take part in any movement to express appreciation of the deeds and sacrifices made by such brave and noble men. They could not honour them, they could only try to live up to them. If the boys were consulted they would no doubt say that one of the best ways to honour them was by striving to keep up an adequate stream of men to re-enforce them. The spirit of the men was expressed in the following very fine lines composed by a brave soldier, who now lies with comrades, in Flanders, with a cross above his grave:—

In Flanders' Fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and, in the sky,
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amidst the guns below.
We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe,
To you, from falling hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high;
If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.

Continuing, Mr Fussell said they had met that day to offer some tribute to the men who had gone from Morwell, and it gave him great pleasure to unveil the Honor Board bearing the names of so many worthy old school boys. A large flag (Union Jack) which covered the Honour Board was then removed by Mr Fussell, and exposed to view a beautiful oak board about 7ft in height and 4ft in width, designed with great taste and bearing the following words and list of names:—

GREAT EUROPEAN WAR.

1914 Roll of Honour 19

Scholars of Morwell State School, No. 2136, who left on Active Service Abroad

Alford A. Munnings G.
*Angus L. Maxwell G.

Alford A.
*Angus L.
Brinsmead F.
Brenton C.
Brenton A.
Butters H.
Butters C.
Butters E.
Billingsley A.
Boardman K.
*Boardman L.
*Brown J.
Campbell C.
Cooper H.
Collins W.
Collins J.
*Currie R.
Currie F.
Davey C.
Davey W.
Davey E.
Derham F.
Donaldson R.
Dusting C.
*Dusting H.
Fraser D.
Gladwin G.
Hall S.
Hall J.
Hare Bert
Hodson G.
Holmes G.
Holmes T.
Hury B.
Hury D.
Hulse R.
Jones F.
Johnstone Eric
*Junier A.
Kleine F.
Lamb R.
Law M.
Law P.
Lyons W.
Lyons C.
Maher A.
Maher L.
Munnings G.
Maxwell G.
*Maxwell L.
McConnell J.
McDonagh F.
*McIntosh A.
McKaskill
*Nor J.
Parlus A.
*Porter Jas.
Rintault W.
Robotham T. E.
*Rodwell J.
Robertson H.
Ronald A.
Rowell B.
Rowell K.
Simmons A.
Simmons K.
Simmons N.
Smith C.
Smith F.
Smith A.
Smith K.
Snell W.
Snell R.
Symons I.
Symons H.
Symons W.
*Thomas R.
Thomas S.
*Thomson R. H.
*Tulloch J. D.
Urquhart H.
Vary A.
Vanstan R.
Wilkins H. F.
Wilkins F.
Wilkinson R.
Wilkinson A.
Wilkinson W.
Williams C.
Willis W.
Wilson A.
Young G.
Young A.
(* Killed.)

Mr Fussell suggested that a handsome book bound in brown leather with leaves of parchment like paper be procured and attached to Honour Board. The book to give a brief biography of all the men whose names appeared in the board, including date of enlistment, time served at Front, and any distinction gained; whether they returned, were wounded, killed, taken prisoner, or met with other misfortune. A short history of each man contained in such a book and attached to the Honour Board would make the memorial complete and much more valuable. He added that the Education Department would pay cost of such a book. Mr Fussell afterwards appealed to those fit, to fill some of the gaps that had been made in the ranks of the boys who had gone, and urged all to help by subscribing money. He pointed out that arms, munitions, and a host of other things had to be paid for in pounds, shillings and pence, and it was said that the side that could find the greatest number of "silver bullets" would win. General Fish, himself, had said "after all, money is the chief sinews of war." He urged people not to spend money unnecessarily, but to divert all they possibly could to national needs. England was carrying a titanic burden, and Australia was richer per

den, and Australia was richer per unit of population than any other country.

Our children give themselves that we may live

Unhurt behind the thunder of the guns :
Is it so great a thing that we should give
A little from our store to serve our sons?

Mr Fussell then referred to the War Savings Certificates issued by the Commonwealth Government. A certificate worth £1 in three years could be obtained for 17/6. If a person did not have 17/6, they could put a little aside each week till they had the amount. The local State School had become a centre and he was pleased to know that a number of the children had opened "War Savings Certificate Accounts" at the school. In addition to helping the nation, it was a sound investment, and he strongly recommended it to both old and young. He mentioned that the State School children had already contributed £275000 towards

the British nation. They are specimens of the type of mankind upon which depends the future of Australia. Men that will not shrink from any sacrifice in the hour of their nation's danger. Yea, some of them have paid the high price of nationhood in the red coinage of their blood. Gallipoli, France and Egypt have witnessed the payment of this price. Their very names in this roll will always inspire us; their spirits will encourage our pilgrimage; their sacrificial service will stimulate our flagging energies. The memory of their devotion to duty in the cause of freedom and right will be ennobling to the rising generation. In conclusion, Mr Owen said it is men of this calibre that would the Empire, and ensure its pre-eminence, influence, and safety. It is left for us to follow them in the same noble path of duty, in their dauntless valour, and their devotion to the national ideal. (Applause.)

Mr Evans mentioned that Mr Hoyle, who was Chairman of School Board Committee, was the prime mover in the matter of securing the Honour Board, and to him great credit was due for his efforts in connection with same. Mr Hoyle also sent following letter to the reader:—

"I regret that circumstances will not permit my being present this afternoon at the most important ceremony that has ever taken place in connection with the school, and to my mind will be the greatest historic one of all time. I enclose account from Messrs F. K. Cox & Co. showing the price of the Board £15 2s 9d with freight cartage and erection to be added on this will bring the cost in round figures to £16. As you are aware it was at first the intention of the committee to secure a size smaller board and the price would have been reduced by £1 12s 6d. The Business was financed as follows, the committee considered it advisable to erect a board at the school and met the teachers, at that time Mr Boyce and Miss Cook, and they promised their active assistance in being arranged that the whole of the details re the concert and sale of tickets be left in their hands. The children were afterwards addressed by me and the position explained to them and they also took up the work of placing the tickets very enthusiastically. The public completed the job by acting generously; result a successful gathering. In order to make the result of the school children's efforts as big as possible a few of the leading residents of the town clubbed together and paid for the hire of the hall. So that the relations and friends of the soldiers whose name appear on the board and also have them posted to the boys still at the front, we have had 800 post cards issued. The board was photographed by Mr A. A. Green and the cards turned out by one of the leading printing firms of the state. We are selling these cards at 6d each and with the profit we propose to pay off the balance short on the board and provide for funds to put the balance of the names on at the end of the war. 93 names are now on the board and we expect to have to put on about 20 more, some names which we are not sure of will be sent to the Base Record Office for

some names which we are not sure of will be sent to the Base Record Office for endorsement. It is also the intention of the committee to make the board of great historic value. We propose to print catalogues giving the history of each name on the Board, as regards parentage, the war and the school. In catalogues we will also have reprinted the report of the ceremony as given by the local press, if considered advisable the report in the Melbourne dailies. As I do not desire to take up any more time I conclude with the hope that the school children will in their future lives take the brave soldier boys as their example. The latter played the game, let them at all times do likewise, and it will be the highest compliment they can pay some of Australia's most worthy sons. Trusting ceremony will pass off very satisfactorily.

Yours faithfully
J. B. HOYLE, Chairman.

Mr Hart (Head Teacher) congratulated the Morwell School upon its fine record, and said the Honour Board was the finest he had seen. He referred to the boys and girls who, as Mr Fussell had mentioned, had put on khaki, and he wondered if all the adults were fully dressed in khaki, or only half dressed. He hoped everyone would do all they possibly could, and not forget those left behind who were suffering and in need.

Cr. Dunbar, who arrived late, said he had just returned from a Conference of Gippsland Shire Councillors and desired to take advantage of the opportunity to state that at the Conference it was resolved to present the British Government with a battle-plane. (Applause.) The cost—about £2,700 would be spread over 26 Gippsland Shires. If the people re-

sponded as he felt sure they would, he thought there should be no difficulty in raising the money required. He congratulated the School Committee upon the very fine Honour Board unveiled, and said it was the best he had seen.

In responding to a vote of thanks moved by the Chairman, Mr Fussell said it was a pleasure to be in the atmosphere of such a gathering of loyal folk. He also made an appeal on behalf of British Red Cross and mentioned some of the splendid work carried on by the Society among soldiers and prisoners of war.

The proceedings terminated with the singing of National Anthem.

patriotic funds, and provided Caulfield Hospital and nine other hospitals with all provisions needed. When boys and girls denied themselves many things in order to help others, it was putting something good into their character. It was putting fibre and unselfishness into it, and without sermonising he wished to say that the only way to be truly happy was by serving others. The children who had been helping the soldiers had really put on khaki, and they had reason to feel proud of what they had done, and should be thankful they had been brought under the influence of loyal teachers who had directed their thoughts into such channels. In conclusion, Mr Fussell said all honor was due to our soldier boys and to their parents. He sympathised with those who had lost loved ones, and especially with the mothers. He trusted that those now at the Front would be spared to return after the great campaign had been successfully accomplished and victory won. (Applause.)

Mr Evans read list of names of the school boys who had been killed since going to the front, after which the "Last Post" was sounded by Pte. Richardson (a returned soldier.)

The National Anthem and "God Bless our Soldier Men" was afterwards sung.

The Rev. J. Gannon-Owen congratulated the school committee on having secured such a magnificent board for the roll. It compared, he said, with the best he had ever seen. The names inscribed on it are worthy of the very best that can be done for them. They had the names of 93 gallant boys who were one-time scholars in the Morwell State School. They are names which today remind us of the heroic tradition that enriches the history of the British nation. They are specimens of the type of mankind upon which