

Wolumla Soldiers' Memorial.

On Saturday last a large gathering attended the unveiling of the Memorial Gates at Wolumla, which have just been completed at a cost of £160. The design of the memorial is plain, but dignified and impressive, comprising solid concrete pillars on each side, into each of which is set a marble tablet on which is inscribed the names of soldiers of the district who served in the great war, 42 in all. Massive wooden gates are hung, and the general construction has been very creditably done by Mr P. Toms.

The gathering was a very representative one. Bega and Candelo and all the surrounding district being present in great force. The unveiling ceremony was well arranged and very impressive. The Bega band was in attendance, and led a procession of school children, Oddfellows, returned men, and the general populace from the town to the sports ground, at the entrance to which the memorial is erected.

Mr John Walsh, President of the local Memorial movement, presided at the function. Mr E. F. Wrightson, Secretary, read apologies for absence from Sir Austin Chapman, J. A. Perkins and T. F. Rutledge M's. L. A., Revs. E. J. Holmes, Walton and Mills, and Messrs Bush and Blomfield (President and Secretary of the Bega Memorial Committee.)

The Chairman welcomed all present, and was especially pleased to see a number of returned men and the mothers of soldiers there. These gates were erected in honor of those gallant men who went away and fought for the freedom of generations to come. The memorial movement had been started back in 1921, and some £50 was subscribed at the inaugural meeting. There had been various proposals as to the form the memorial should take, but the gates were the ultimate choice of the majority, and he thought they were most appropriate. They

would be an inspiration to the young men of the future who passed through them. He took the opportunity of thanking the public for the support given to the movement, the Bega band for giving its services for expenses only, and Mr Brown (Mayor of Bega) for organising a party of returned soldiers to come out from Bega.

Mr J. F. Allen, President of Inlay Shire, was pleased to be present to do honor to the men who had fought their battles for them. The list of names on the tablets showed that Wolumla had given its quota in the war. Their heartfelt sympathy went out to the mothers and kindred of the brave men who had made the supreme sacrifice. He thought Wolumla had adopted a very appropriate form of memorial. Generations to come would be able to look to these gates for a great lesson in patriotic service.

Mr Brown, Mayor of Bega, said it was difficult for a returned soldier to speak at such a function in the capacity of an ordinary citizen, but he felt it an honor to be present, and he thanked the committee for the invitation. As Mayor of Bega he was proud to do honor to the men whose names were inscribed on the memorial. He congratulated the Wolumla district on the memorial erected, and upon the splendid part they had played in the war.

Mr W. A. Smith, who spoke as a pressman and as a member of Bega memorial committee, expressed his thanks for the privilege of taking part in the proceedings. He congratulated the community on their memorial. They did well and did right in so honoring the men who had served their country so nobly and helped to place Australia on the map. Through their achievements they made it known to any hostile power of the future that Australia had the right calibre of men, and if they interfered with us they would get a pretty lively time. They would know, henceforth, that when the occasion arose Australians were made of the right stuff. The memorial

made of the right stuff. The memorial they had erected was very appropriate and substantial and he congratulated all concerned. The site selected was in keeping with the old saying that the battles of the Empire were won on their playgrounds. He felt it quite a treat to come to Wolumla to take part in such a function.

Mr R. E. Johnson appreciated the honor and privilege of taking some little part in the unveiling of their memorial, which was a very effective and impressive tribute of a patriotic community to those whose memory and achievements they all desired to honor and perpetuate. He also thanked them for the general invitation extended to the Candelo Memorial Committee, of which he was Secretary. There was a diversity of view about soldier's memorials in most places. He had heard some very estimable people say: "The war was a frightful thing—blot it out—let us forget it." But there were thousands of homes where it could never be forgotten, memorial or no memorial, and the least that could be done was to give them the consolation of public remembrance and appreciation. He was not sure, either, that this country could yet afford to let the inspiration of its national heroes die. Though it was a pleasant thing to contemplate eternal peace the disposition of the world's affairs to-day made him feel that every patriotic impulse they establish and foster every inspiration they could throw in to the future, every thread they could weave into the fabric

of our national sentiment to make it strong, would one day be needed here. And so he believed that the throwing open of these gates would throw an inspiration into the future of this community that would count in our national welfare.

Mr E. S. Hady also had pleasure in participating in the function, and congratulated the people of Wolumla on the memorial.

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Mr Lawson, of Bega, was pleased to see such a fine gathering for the occasion. He regretted the absence of Mr Bush (President) and Mr Blomfield (the retiring Secretary) of the Bega Memorial Committee. This was a memorial to glorious services rendered. These noble men had stood shoulder to shoulder in the cause of king and country, and "abandon strife all ye that enter here" was the first thought these fine memorial gates conveyed to his mind.

Mr J. A. Hanscombe, President of the Bega Returned Soldiers' League, also spoke briefly, and returned thanks on behalf of his league for the invitation extended to them to be present.

Mr J. Scarvell was given the next place of honor to the mothers in being called upon to ask them to unveil the memorial. He accepted that honor with very great pride. The memorial design, he said, appealed to him as being most dignified and appropriate, and he congratulated Wolumla on its effort. Wolumla had stood to its guns right through the war, and when the battle was done they devoted themselves whole-heartedly to the work of perpetuating the memory of those who had fought for honor and justice. As President of the Candelo Memorial Committee, he thanked the Wolumla Committee for the invitation to be present and for the honor of calling upon the mothers present to unveil the memorial. Among all who fought in the war, he had always felt that the mothers of the men had fought the greatest fight.

The mothers then unveiled the memorial, which was veiled with the Union Jack and Australian flags, while the band played "Lead Kindly Light." Mr Toms, the contractor, then formally opened the gates, and the returned soldiers marched through.

Mr John Atkins returned thanks on behalf of the soldiers in whose memory the memorial was erected.

Mr Arnold Weber, of Bombala, who

Mr Arnold Weber, of Bombala, who was prominent in the memorial movement at Wolumla since its inception, related the history of the movement and expressed his pleasure in being present to see the consummation of their work. He congratulated the contractor on the manner in which he had executed his contract. He understood that of the total cost of £160, the committee has £150 odd in hand. He hoped the boys and girls would never forget what the memorial stands for, and expressed his admiration for the mothers whose boys were honored thereby.

Mr T. J. Preston, on behalf of the people of Wolumla, said it was a great pleasure to see so many visitors present, and to hear them speak in commendation of the memorial. They were especially pleased to see so many returned men there. It was difficult to express one's feelings on such an occasion, but at least they could thank their soldiers for the fact that they were to-day able to unveil memorial gates at the entrance of their own sports ground under the free rule of the British flag.

Mr J. W. Webb said Wolumla had sent eleven per cent. of its population to the front, a fact of which the community must be proud. He congratulated the committee on the memorial, and hoped the boys of the future would strive to emulate the standard of patriotic citizenship set by those whose names were inscribed on the tablets.

Mr E. F. Wrightson, secretary of the memorial committee, said that though it was heartbreaking to think of fine young men whom they had known from their infancy "gone west" in the great struggle, they were pleased and proud to see such a gathering to honor their memory in a practical way. He expressed sympathy for the mothers who had made such noble sacrifices. He thanked the visitors who had come to assist, the returned men, and the band. The committee had devoted much time to the building of the

much time to the building of the memorial, and he hoped the community would be disposed to give them some credit.

After the ceremony the gathering was invited to the School of Arts, where dainty refreshments were provided by the ladies of Wolumla, for which they were accorded a hearty vote of thanks. Votes of thanks were passed to the visitors, the band and the press. The proceedings generally were most pleasant and impressive.

One of the grievances of country pressmen brought before last conference was that of bad debts contracted by politicians during election time. There is a law protecting the politician for the printer's debt during an election campaign. The matter was left in the hands of the executive, and it was dealt with at its last meeting. It was decided to recommend all country papers to refuse in the coming election to insert any advertisements or do any printing for candidates or political organisations unless the amounts are paid in advance.