

MEMORIAL TO A FINE CITIZEN

Unveiling at Port Melbourne

FRIENDS OF LATE CR. WALTER ASSEMBLE

On Sunday afternoon, in perfect weather, there was a large gathering at the junction of Bay and Crockford Streets, Port Melbourne, at the unveiling of the memorial to the late Cr. George Samuel Walter.

The Rev. Kessell Taylor, a past vicar of Holy Trinity, presided; and those present included: The Mayor and Mayoress (Cr. and Mrs. W. Howe), Miss Eve Howe, Cr. and Mrs. Crichton, Cr. and Mrs. Edwards, Cr. T. Griffin, Cr. and Mrs. Bertie, Cr. and Mrs. Fennell, Cr. and Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Rogers, senr.; Cr. Southward, Mrs. Woodruff, Miss Dando, Mr. S. S. Anderson (Town Clerk) and Mrs. Anderson; Mr. F. C. Cook (Engineer).

Cr. and Mrs. H. A. Layfield (South Melbourne), Mr. E. J. Holloway, M.H.R.; Hon. J. H. and Mrs. Disney, Mr. J. L. Murphy, M.L.A.; the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress (Cr. and Mrs. Campbell); Commissioner Jessop (Board of Works); Mr. T. Corrigan and Mrs. Jennie Barnes (Port Melbourne A.L.P.); Messrs. J. J. and J. C. Loughrey (Cr. Walter's old employees); and representatives of the local charitable, social and sporting organisations.

The Port Melbourne Boys' Band accompanied the hymns, and rendered selections.

The Rev. Taylor said he was delighted to be present on such a glorious day to preside over such a large and representative assemblage to do honour to a great man.

When the hymn, "Lead, Kindly Light," had been sung, the Mayor delivered his panegyric.

He said that they had met to honour the memory of George Samuel Walter by unveiling a monument in the centre of the city he loved so dearly and where he had won universal respect and esteem by a life dedicated to gratuitous public service.

Born but a short distance from the spot where the monument stood, he was educated at the Nott Street School, became honorary librarian of Holy Trinity Sunday School, and spent his life between service and building up a sound education, including the mastery of law and modern and ancient history and literature. From 1897

to 1937 he sat on the Council, and was Mayor in 1901-02, and 1934-35 when he welcomed the Duke of Gloucester to Victoria with marked dignity. Cr. Walter was appointed to the Board of Works in 1907, and served on that body to the end.

The Mayor said he had sat alongside Cr. Walter on the Council from 1900, and knew of his devoted service and his kindness, wisdom and foresight in guiding the the destiny of the city. The Mayor also referred to the fine work done by the late Cr. Walter in having the Fishermen's Bend developed.

Cr. Crichton spoke of his life-long friendship, when the late Cr. Walter and he began their activities in the old Sandridge School of Arts; and, later, as colleagues for 33 years, on the Council. His service on the Board of Works had been worth £50,000 to Port Melbourne. The memorial would remain for all time.

The Lord Mayor said he regretted the occasion for it, but felt privileged to take part in the dedication of this memorial to a great man, whom he had learnt to respect and admire whilst associated with him for fifteen years on the Board of Works, where he was regarded as a wise counsellor. The monument would serve to keep green the memory of a man who had nobly served his day and generation.

Mr. Murphy said the monument was a testimony by those who knew the worth of the lifelong service of this great citizen. From his vast store of knowledge he willingly gave gratuitous advice.

The memorial would live in the hearts of those who knew him; but this monument would serve to make him known to generations yet unborn. His greatest attributes were unswerving loyalty and honesty in the cause of right.

Mr. Holloway said that he was glad to take part in doing honour to George Samuel Walter, whom he had known for many years, and of whom he knew nothing but good. This great man passed, unscathed, all the tests of greatness; but, withal, was simple in nature and hated that his good deeds should be published; so, he had to die before they could be made known. While there might be a tinge of sadness in the thought that such ceremonies were necessary, it was good to feel that we could do even this posthumous honour to a great man. Their old friend had wondered why, in a land crammed with wealth, there should be so much poverty and distress at the very gateway of the metropolis. And he had spent his life in an effort to solve this problem by the practical solution of providing new homes on the Bend.

Commissioner Jessop said that olden histories told of military and other heroic exploits; but to-day the record was of such men as George Walter, who spent

toric exploits; but to-day the record was of such men as George Walter, who spent their lives in advancing the welfare of their fellows.

Rev. Taylor said that, when he and Father Clery were burdened with the care of the poor of Port Melbourne during the depression, their greatest supporter was Cr. Walter. He loved children, and provided for the care of over 300 for months. He had gone to his reward.

The Mayor unveiled the monument—a striking bronze bust, the work of Mr. Wallace Anderson. The pedestal of granite was designed by Messrs. Stapley and Hall.