

# PERCY STEWART MEMORIAL

## 2,000 at Unveiling

### RED CLIFFS CEREMONY

**MILDURA, Thursday.** — Two thousand persons gathered on the Calder Highway at Red Cliffs to-day and watched the Minister for Health and Repatriation (Mr. Hughes) unveil a memorial to Mr. Percy Gerald Stewart.

The memorial is of brick with a relief of Mr. Stewart's face on the face. It also bears a plaque with the following inscription:—

"Erected by friends and admirers in honour of a great Australian who devoted his life to the service of his fellow-producers and to furthering the ideals of Australian nationhood. The Hon. Percy Gerald Stewart, State Member for Swan Hill, 1917-1919; Federal Member for Wimmera, 1919 to time of death, and Minister for Commonwealth Works and Railways, 1923-1925. Fearless in public service and in sincerity unexcelled. Born 1865, died 1931."

Before the unveiling Councillor J. P. Power apologised for the absence of Mr. Stewart's widow, of Brigadier Rankin, chief president of the United Country party, and of the Mayor of Mildura (Councillor E. T. Henderson).

Those present included Mr. Stewart's sisters, Mrs. Baxter and Mrs. Gallagher; Mrs. Stewart's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, of Woomelang; and an aunt, Mrs. Stewart. Also present were Mr. McClelland, M.H.R., Mr. Alinutt, M.L.A., Councillor Henderson, of Walpeup Shire Council, representing the Victorian Grain Elevators Board; Councillor R. R. Skeat, past chief president of the United Country party; Mr. Alex. Wilson, State president of the Victorian Wheatgrowers' Association; and Mr. H. M. Dowd, chief organiser of the United Country party.

### Enduring Reputation

Standing on the bricked base of the memorial, where the bronze plaque was shrouded with the Union Jack, Mr. Hughes said:—"This memorial has been erected to the honour of a man whose name is a household word throughout the Wimmera, and who won for himself an enduring reputation in the public life of the State and Commonwealth. Mr. Stewart was a man of high ideals, indomitable courage, and great tenacity of purpose, and it was not his own success, but a readiness to help others, that earned him a lasting place in the hearts of the people. Nothing daunted him—the greater the odds the more he pressed forward."

"Mr. Stewart was a forthright man, and was a hater of sham, double-dealing, and intrigues. In debate he was logical and incisive, and on occasions his words could cut like the flick of a lash on a wound," Mr. Hughes said. "He was steadfast, straightforward, and honourable in his dealings, and devoted his life to the service of his fellow-men. He died as he lived—at a post of duty."

Councillor Skeat, on behalf of the citizens, asked the shire president (Councillor Power) to accept the memorial.

COUNCILLOR SKEAT, ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS, asked the shire president (Councillor Power) to accept the memorial.

After the ceremony Mr. Hughes and Dame Mary Hughes left for Hay on their return journey to Canberra and Sydney.