

# GENERAL NEWS

## SOUTH MELBOURNE JUBILEE.

### UNVEILING THE MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN.

#### SPEECHES BY STATE GOVERNOR AND FEDERAL MINISTERS.

South Melbourne was proclaimed a municipality on 26th May, 1855, and when the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of that event was decided on by the local council, it was felt that the advent of Empire day on 24th inst. would be a fitting opportunity to celebrate both occasions together, and arrangements were made accordingly. On Wednesday the city witnessed a series of entertainments, in which both were combined, the central function being the unveiling by the State Governor of the jubilee memorial fountain, erected on the square in front of the town hall at a cost of £400.

The day's proceedings opened at half-past 1 o'clock with a special jubilee meeting of the council, at which the invited guests were present, and were accommodated with seats round the chamber. Amongst them were Mr. Allan M'Lean (Minister of Customs), Mr. M'Cay (Minister of Defence), the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Colonel Hoad, Mr. G. Elmslie, M.L.A., Mr. T. Luxton and Mr. R. B. Rees, M's.L.C., ex-mayors and ex-councillors of the district, the local magistrates, and other prominent citizens. The business transacted by the council was of a brief and formal character, only lasting a few minutes. The notice papers of the meeting were printed in gilt, and they were distributed as mementoes of the occasion.

Sir Reginald Talbot, who was accompanied by Captains Buchanan and Buxton, arrived at 2 o'clock, and was received at the foot of the town hall steps by the mayor (Cr. Baragwanath), the town clerk (Mr. F. G. Miles) and councillors. He was saluted by the local cadets, drawn up as a guard of honor, and during the unveiling ceremony, patriotic airs were rendered by a massed choir of school children, assisted by the St. Vincent de Paul's Boys' Orphanage Brass Band. After an official reception in the mayoral chamber, his Excellency was escorted to a raised dais in front of the fountain, where the unveiling ceremony was performed. There were about 5000 spectators present, including over 100 old pioneers, who

ed. There were about 5000 spectators present, including over 100 old pioneers, who had lived in the district for 50 years and upwards. They were accommodated with seats on a temporary stand erected for their convenience.

After introductory and patriotic speeches by the mayor and the Minister of Defence, his Excellency, who addressed his remarks to the pioneers, performed the unveiling ceremony. He said they were that day commemorating in South Melbourne three events—they were celebrating the jubilee of their municipality; the anniversary of the greatest and best Queen that the British Empire had even seen, and performing the melancholy ceremony of unveiling a memorial to those who had lost their lives in the service of their Queen and country. Those gallant men were typical of others who were to be found all over the Empire, prepared to fight for their country, and, if necessary, sacrifice their lives for it. (Cheers.)

The fountain was then uncovered, and the Governor, prior to his departure, filled one of the cups attached to it, and drank Health, Wealth and Prosperity to South Melbourne amidst loud cheers. The mayor, on behalf of the council, presented Sir Reginald Talbot with an illuminated scroll, bearing the dates of the foundation and proclamation of the municipality, and names of the present councillors. His Excellency then left for the State Parliament House.

The fountain, which was inspected by those present, stands 22 feet high, with a base 12 feet. It is executed in grey Victorian granite, with columns of red Scotch granite. The panels bearing the inscriptions are of bronze, and the dates, 1855-1905, are cut into the stone. It was designed and erected by Mr. G. Dawe, monumental sculptor, of Carlton. One inscription reads:—

This memorial is erected by the mayor, councillors and citizens of South Melbourne to commemorate the jubilee of the city and the departure of the several Victorian contingents who fought in battles of the Queen and the Empire in South Africa.

The other is:—

Of the 140 residents of this city who left by the several contingents, the following lost their lives:—Major G. A. Eddy, Sergeant T. P. Mohan, Lance-Corporal J. A. Smith, Lance-Corporal R. Topham, Privates C. Glenn, C. Moore, J. B. M'Caun, J. E. White.

A circular space round the base of the fountain has been reserved and edged with granite borders for flower beds.