

## SALVATION ARMY, SOUTH YARRA.

### Unveiling of a Memorial Stone

#### An Interesting Ceremony.

Thirty-seven years ago the South Yarra branch of the Salvation Army commenced operations in a small building in Alexander street. The work of the Army in the district prospered so well that the branch some years ago was able to erect a fine citadel of a modern kind in Grosvenor street. To mark the spot where the Army first commenced operations in South Yarra a marble tablet (or block) has been placed in the footpath outside the old and original building, and on Saturday afternoon an interesting ceremony took place, when Cr. W. G. Minchinton, acting on behalf of the Mayor of Prahran (Cr. Fred Harvey) unveiled the tablet. The tablet was a present from the council, which also placed it in position. At the ceremony were many leading officers and representatives of the Army, also two or three of the foundation members of the South Yarra branch, including Mrs. Brigadier McClure, of Adelaide, who, as Lieutenant Shields, was the first officer to open the branch. Mrs. McClure is the wife of Divisional Commander McClure, of Adelaide. Assisting at the unveiling ceremony was the South Richmond Army Band, under Bandmaster Russell, which marched to the scene to the lively strains of "The Liberator." Captain Jones, officer in charge of the South Yarra branch of the Army, is to be congratulated on the completeness of the ceremonial arrangements.

Brigadier Burhop, who was in charge of the proceedings, introduced to the assembled gathering Mrs. Brigadier McClure and said how pleased they were to have her with them on that auspicious occasion. Mrs. McClure was received with hearty cheering, and led the people in prayer.

Brigadier Burhop next introduced Cr. Minchinton, who was to do the unveiling. The Brigadier thanked the council for its present of the memorial tablet, and also for allowing it to be placed on the footpath. The Mayor and councillors (said the Brigadier) were doing themselves credit in recognising the work the Army was doing.

Cr. Minchinton, who was received with applause, apologised for the absence of the Mayor. He (Cr. Minchinton) took it as an honor to stand amongst them that afternoon. When

amongst them that afternoon. When Captain Jones some time ago applied to the council for permission to lay the memorial stone on the footpath the request was unanimously agreed to. Looking retrospectively at the work of the Army, Cr. Minchinton said the Army was first looked upon as faddists, or that it was a flash in the pan, and that it would fizzle out, but the Army's strong position in the world to-day proved how wrong these prophecies were. A prominent Presbyterian divine had been asked whom he thought were the greatest men since Christ, and his reply was John Wesley and General Booth. Archbishop Mannix had also stated that the Army did wonderful work for the poor. Cr. Minchinton wished continued prosperity to the Army, and in handing the memorial tablet into the keeping of the Army, he hoped that it would prove an inspiration to all who would gaze upon it. Cr. Minchinton then withdrew an Army flag from the tablet amidst cheers.

The inscription on the tablet is as follows:—

"The Salvation Army commenced operations in South Yarra on this spot in February, 1891. Block presented by Mayor and Councillors, and laid on 28th July, 1928. Hugh G. Whatmore, Commissioner."

Field Secretary Colonel Gist, representing Commissioner Whatmore, who was absent abroad, said he accepted the tablet on behalf of the commissioner and the South Yarra branch of the Army in the hope that it would prove an inspiration to the people and those who came after them. It was a wonderful token of the Prahran Council's appreciation of the Army. He understood that it was the fourth stone of the kind that had been laid in commemoration of the work of the Army in different countries. There was one in New York, one in Adelaide, and another in London, where General Booth founded the Army in 1865. The speaker then quoted a number of figures showing the progress of the Army in South Yarra, Australia, and throughout the world. The countries and colonies occupied by the Army (according to latest returns) numbered 83, languages in which salvation is preached, 59; day schools, 1028; corps and outposts, 14,719; officers, cadets and employees (including social), 31,054; local officers (unpaid), 97,598; bandmen (unpaid), including young people, 43,471; songsters, 54,323; corps, cadets, 30,356; periodicals, number 108; languages 28.

corps, cadets, 30,356; periodicals, number 108; languages, 28; total copies per issue, 1,881,327; social work, total number institutions and agencies, 1512. In conclusion, Colonel Gist said the Army was deeply grateful to Cr. Minchinton for unveiling the tablet, and to the Prahran City Council for its gift of the block of marble and placing it in position. (Applause.)

Staff Captain Adams, in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the Mayor and council, said it was evident that the councillors were on the side of the Army, and had practical sympathy with its work. (Applause.)

The motion was seconded by Colonel Sharp, and carried amidst applause, and Cr. Minchinton briefly responded.

Two of the ten original soldiers of

the South Yarra Army, Mrs. Dowling and Mr. T. Jennings, were present, and the latter, by invitation, spoke a few words.

The interesting ceremony was brought to a close with the benediction.