

St. Kilda Soldiers' Memorial

THE UNVEILING CEREMONY.

The memorial which has been erected in Alfred Square, St. Kilda, in memory of the local citizen soldiers who took part in the South African war, was unveiled on Sunday afternoon last by His Excellency the State Governor Sir Reginald Talbot. The day was an ideal one for an event of the kind, and a large concourse of people displayed much interest in the proceedings.

The movement for the erection of the memorial was initiated at a public meeting of citizens in September, 1902, convened by the then Mayor, Cr O'Donnell, and funds have been raised by public subscription and from the proceeds of entertainments, supplemented by a grant from the council. Local architects were invited to submit designs, and that of Mr Arthur Peck selected. Mr Peck has acted in an honorary capacity throughout the erection of the memorial. It is constructed in brick, covered with Faience work, and was manufactured by the Australian Tesselated Tile Co., Mitcham. The supporting angles are formed to represent the trunks of gum trees branching out into leaves and cones under the main cornice, and the roots are shown on a bold projection above the base. Above the main cornice is a cross formed in tiling of a deep golden color, which stands out clearly from the green tone of the general mass. A panel on one side shows the names of the seven soldiers from St Kilda who died, and on two other panels are given the names of 58 other soldiers who fought the Empire's battles in South Africa. On the fourth panel is the figure of a soldier facing seaward, dressed in khaki, well executed from a clay model by Mr C. Douglas Richardson. Above the column stands a wrought iron pillar surmounted with foliations, and supported by brackets enriched with shields and wreaths. The design and the material in which the memorial is executed are unique, and the fact may be emphasised that the whole of the work has been done in the State. On the termination of the Mayoralty of Cr O'Donnell in

the State. On the termination of the Mayoralty of Cr O'Donnell in August, 1903, the movement was fostered and brought to a successful issue by the present Mayor, Cr J. H. Pittard. The whole of the memorial is of colonial production. It is not a copy of any other, and there is no other like it in the British Empire. It cost a great deal more than was expected, and the memorial committee asked the St. Kilda Tradesmen's Club to come to their assistance. The club entered into the undertaking with praiseworthy zeal, and got up a carnival, which resulted in the memorial committee being handed over a sum of £90 5s as the club's donation to the fund, thus enabling the work to be brought to a successful termination.

It is proposed to have four ornamental posts erected on the corners of the memorial at a later date.

The memorial committee was composed of the following—The Mayor, Cr J. H. Pittard; Mr R. G. McCutcheon, M.L.A.; Crs O'Donnell and Barnet; Messrs A. Peck, W. A. H. Robertson, A. W. Clapham, J. C. Whelan, A. E. Fowler, H. M. Knox, S. Wilson, G. W. Orr, T. H. Evans, C. Stewart; Mrs McDermott and Mrs Stewart; secretary, Mr Jno. N. Browne; assistant secretary, Mr Charles Truelove.

The names of the soldiers inscribed on the memorial are as follows—

THE FALLEN.

Corporal E. P. N. Robertson
Troopers Laurence Goudy, Edwin Knox,
M. A. Langley, W. A. Rollis, Leslie Stewart,
John Whelan

THOSE WHO RETURNED.

Lieutenant-Colonel Clark
Major M'Inerney
Captain Hows
Lieutenants Allen, Appleby, Campbell,
Embling, O'Loughlin, Power, Pritchett
Sergeant-Major Boyes
Sergeants Dora, Krouse, Newell, Paired,
shaw, Waugh
Corporals Hutchinson, Jesse
Lance-Corporals Stewart, Bradley, Holt.
Troopers Allan, D. Anderson, W. Anderson,
Ashley, Bridgeland, Barke, Burns,
Cowden, Deegan, Delaney, Edington, Gardner,
Hadden, Henderson, Hutchinson,
Leishman, Mays, Morris, J. L. Mullen, C.
A. Mullen, J. Mullen, Newell, Parrott,
Pammeroy, Patt, Raleigh, Ross, Sinclair,
G. Smith, S. Smith, Stewart, Thomas,
Tomsitt, Wells, Wells, Willan.

For the purpose of the unveiling ceremony a space had been partitioned off and a platform erected. On each of the four corners of the enclosure a Union Jack waved, whilst

closure a Union Jack waved, whilst the panel portions of the memorial, on which the names of St. Kilda's soldiers appeared, were also hidden with bunting for the time being.

Amongst the military representatives at the function were the Minister of Defence, Lieut.-Colonel M'Cay; the State Commandant, Colonel Ricardo; the Secretary for Defence, Captain Collins; Colonel Hoad, D.A.G.; Surgeon-Colonel Ryan, and others. Also on the military side was a corps of the Sixth Regiment, which mustered 280 strong, and a squad of the St. Kilda Boys' Naval Brigade. Amongst the civilians were Mayor Pittard, Crs Hughes, Barnet, O'Donnell, Billson, Gibbs, Jacoby, and Stedeford; Mr M'Cutcheon, M.L.A.; Cr Luxton, M.L.C.; Mr Browne, Town Clerk; Mr Woolley, city surveyor, and members of the memorial committee. Another visitor present was Cr A. Nathan, of Prahran, who is uncle to young Trooper Langley, who was killed in action.

On arriving at the monument His Excellency the Governor, who was accompanied by Captain Buchanan, A.D.C., and escorted by a detachment of the Melbourne Cavalry, was received by the municipal party, military representatives and executive committee of the memorial fund. His Excellency made an inspection of the Guard of Honor of the Sixth Regiment (under the command of Major Fahne) and the St. Kilda Boys' Naval Brigade (under Captain Le Plastrier.)

The united choir, under the direc-

tion of the city organist, Mr H. J. Inge, sang the Old Hundredth, and the Mayor gave a resumé of the history of the memorial. In doing so His Worship referred to adverse circumstances that had prevented the memorial being erected at an earlier date, and congratulated the committee on its ultimate completion.

Sir Reginald Talbot, in performing the unveiling ceremony, said as an old soldier he was glad to have the honor and privilege of participating in such an interesting event. He felt sure that if ever the Empire was in danger, that those who were present and those who would come after them would be ready to follow the

and those who would come after them would be ready to follow the example of the men who had laid down their lives for their country. They would, he felt sure, rally round the flag that represented liberty, prosperity and progress, and be prepared to do their utmost for the great Anglo Saxon race, which had done so much for the world, and which constituted the greatest Empire ever seen. (Applause.)

"The Last Post" was sounded by the buglers of the Sixth Regiment, and the united choirs sang the National Anthem.

His Excellency enquired for the architect of the memorial, and Mr Peck was introduced to the Governor by the Mayor.

And now followed another part of the afternoon's ceremony. The Mayor having presented the Mayoress (Mrs Pittard) and Mrs Jno. N. Browne to His Excellency, the Mayoress turned the water on to the drinking fountains attached to the memorial with a nickel key especially made for the purpose, which was handed to the Mayoress as a souvenir of the occasion.

We must not also forget to mention the important fact that the Mayoress had the honor of partaking of the first drink from the fountain.

On the motion of Mr M'Cutcheon, M.L.A., seconded by Lieutenant-Colonel M'Cay, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Sir Reginald Talbot for performing the unveiling ceremony.

In addition to the band of the Sixth Regiment, the St. Kilda City Band also played an important part in the proceedings. The local band marched from the band room, near the Balaclava station, down Carlisle street to the Esplanade rotunda, and rendered some appropriate selections. The band is becoming a credit to the city.

From start to finish of the unveiling ceremony the proceedings were carried out without the slightest hitch, a fact that created the greatest credit on the executive committee.