

IN MEMORY.

UNVEILING OF MONUMENT AT NAMBUCCA HEADS.

The dedication of the monument in memory of Nambucca Heads men who served in the great war took place last Sunday afternoon. Beautiful weather prevailed, and the congregation numbered about three hundred.

The monument is situated at the vortex of the triangular reserve in front of the Victoria Hotel, and is therefore in full view of all the travelling public. The memorial consists of a reinforced concrete foundation six inches thick by eight feet six inches square, on which has been erected three steps, each twelve inches wide with terrazzo steps and risers, these leading up to a solid terrazzo block two feet six inches square by nine inches thick, on which is placed a solid base of Uralla granite two feet square by one foot nine inches high; this again is crowned by a die of the same material one foot six inches square and two feet high, from which rises a spire four feet six inches high and twelve inches square at the bottom. The whole of the granite work is highly polished and on the several faces of the die names of thirty-three men who enlisted from the Heads has been inscribed. Nine of the names of those who fell are on the front face and are surmounted with the inscription "1914—1918—Nambucca Heads War Memorial." (The name of H. Strickland, who was also killed, appears on another portion of the monument.) The inscription of design and names has been carried out in V sinkings and gilded. In the sunlight the memorial presents a very fine appearance, and as it has been placed in a high and open position it adds to the attractiveness of the scene. The monument cost approxi-

it adds to the attractiveness of the scene. The monument cost approximately £120, and was erected by Mr. W. D. Hodge, of Macksville.

The names on the monument are as follow:—

Killed—A. Buchanan, A. Christensen, A. Delamarta, H. Denny, J. E. O'Donnell, W. Reibel, J. Rainey, A. Steele, H. Smith, H. Strickland.

Returned—P. Roach, R. Stewart, A. Tutt, L. Tutt, E. Watts, P. J. Wheeler, H. N. Williams, C. Davis, F. Davis, S. Davis, J. Dennerley, N. Denham, S. Marshall, J. O'Donnell, W. Ralph, F. Beer, C. Bird, C. J. Buchanan, E. G. Buchanan, H. B. Buchanan, H. Buckman, F. Cassidy, F. Cumming.

The ceremony, which was arranged by a committee of leading Nambucca Heads residents, with Mr. C. Pickett as secretary, was well carried out and solemnly conducted.

A procession took place from the School of Arts, and on arrival at the scene about sixty returned soldiers, under Lieut. Hugh Waugh, lined up on the eastern side of the monument, while about twenty members of the Junior Red Cross, attired in proper costume, took up a position on the western side, the draped lorry for the speakers and the public occupying the territory on the southern side.

In addition to those whose speeches are recorded below, Mr. A. H. Boyd, J.P., Chairman of the Macksville Branch R.S.S.I.L., occupied a seat on the platform.

Apologies were read from Messrs. J. T. Henderson (Concord), Richard Page (Newcastle), and Amos Bridge.

Cr. Henderson said the day was unique in the history of Nambucca Heads, because the people were dedicating a memorial to the men whom they knew personally and who had done their bit defending their country against the oppressor. They were deeply conscious of the great sacrifice on their behalf. At the same time they were not unmindful of the gallant women who did much to alleviate suffering in war time. God bless the women! It was hoped

bless the women! It was hoped there would be no more wars, a hope that could only be realised by the universal expression of good feeling. To-day the people assembled to mourn for those who had given their lives, and the Nambucca Heads people were deserving of praise for erecting such a fine memorial.

Lieut. Clark (Headmaster of Macksville Public School) said he had been asked by the Chairman of Macksville Sub-branch of the R.S. League (Mr. A. H. Boyd) to speak on their behalf. Therefore as a soldier, and as one who had been personally associated with this district for a number of years, he congratulated those who had built the memorial. Its erection was somewhat belated perhaps, but yet it had taken place at an opportune time. In some places the erection of memorials had been effected long ago, whilst in other instances money had been gathered and never spent. He thought it would be wise for the latter to follow the example of Nambucca Heads and spend the money now, no matter how simple the monuments might be. The monument acted as an inspiration to this and future generations; the spirit of Anzac should be inculcated in the youth of to-day so that they might rise and stamp out the objectionable growth coming into this country. One outstanding lesson of the war was unity of command, the result of which was emphasised by the disunity which existed in the early stages of the war, and the ultimate success achieved after the allied armies were unified under the one man—General Foch. That lesson should be learnt in this country now! With regard to the Australians, including those whose names appeared on the monument, they had no lack of confidence, they were never in any position where they did not think they could beat their opponents. They were determined to defend their country, and they offered their all if need be as a sacrifice for honor and country.

Mr. W. D. Hodge said one of the

greatest military achievements (which had been celebrated a week previously) was won by a band of untrained, inexperienced Australians. They met an organised horde in the dawn of the morning and succeeded in landing at Gallipoli. There was no nation but had stood aghast at that action, which had prevented a huge trained enemy army from going to the western fronts. The men gave everything they possessed willingly, even their lives, in the cause of freedom. The monument contained names of men who did not return, and here Mr. Hodge recounted some of the touching experiences he had whilst Repatriation Officer in this district. The monument would prompt remembrance of the great heroism of the Australian soldiers, and would also remind of the bit-

ter partings from the mothers and fathers, whose lives were made heavy as they inquired "What news of my boy?" It would also tell us of those who came back, to the great joy of their parents. The monument would also speak to passers-by and tell them that the Nambucca Heads people had erected something to memorialise the men who had offered their all in the defence of liberty.

These things shall be—a nobler race
Than e'er the world hath known shall
rise

With flame of freedom in the souls
And light of knowledge in their eyes!
They shall be gentle, brave and
strong;

To spill no drop of blood, but dare
All that may make man's lordship
firm

O'er earth, and fire, and sea, and air.

Mr. R. S. Vincent, M.L.A., said he regarded it a privilege and honor to take part in the consummation of the desire of the small community at Nambucca Heads to memorialise those who had gone from their midst to the great war. Measured

midst to the great war. Measured by the span of life it was a short span since the war-drums beat the call to arms. There were, of course, many of the rising generation who were too young to remember the call or experience the passing shadows of that time, but to those whose senses were matured neither time nor circumstance would erase the memories of that sad and stirring period. Just now, however, they were gathered to celebrate a great event in the war—only one of many gallant deeds—which marked Australians' baptism to shot and shell. The day—Anzac Day—was fast slipping into the past, but the memory of it was still green, and the deeds of Australians on that day would for ever stand as an imperishable record of our race. It proved that Australia had a soul big enough to respond to the call for help to stricken humanity and to preserve our own country and homes inviolate. Australia recognised it as a national duty to defend civilisation and suffering humanity; and this memorial was erected to perpetuate the memory of some of those men who assisted in the great deeds of sacrifice on Anzac Day. The stone monument would in the natural course of events perish, but the deeds it sought to memorialise would never die. "Greater love hath no man than this, that he gave his life for his friends," and that applied to those who offered their all as well as to those who unfortunately gave their all. And it was proper that the whole of Australia should be dedicated and consecrated as one vast memorial to those who had defended it in those dark days. Four hundred thousand Australians offered themselves, and 60,000 of them had paid the supreme sacrifice—what for?—to defend this rich and extensive country, and it was our duty to preserve it for ever as a sanctuary for the British race. No Australian need ever be ashamed to salute the British flag—the flag of the great and grand old country that gave the soldiers their fathers and mothers, if their characters were perpetuated

soldiers their fathers and mothers, if their characters were perpetuated there need be no fear for the future of Australia.

They should also remember the British stock who converted a wilderness, even on the Nambucca, into a goodly land and pioneered it in the interests of future generations.

Mr. Vincent then removed the flags which had enshrouded the monument, and dedicated it to the immortal memory of those who had died for the world, and asked those who had been bereaved to accept the erection of the monument as a token of the people's deepest sympathy.

The "Last Post" was then played by Buglers Pring (Bellinger) and Lieut. G. E. Barr, D.C.M. (son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Barr, King's Point, Macksville).

The Nambucca Heads branch of the Junior Red Cross then sang "Advance Australia Fair." under the conductorship of Mr. E. J. Fuller, and the singing of one verse of the National Anthem brought this portion of the proceedings to a close.

Amongst the wreaths placed on the monument were one from the J.R.C. and one from the Nambucca Heads Church of England.

The annual Anzac memorial service, which was postponed owing to wet weather on Anzac Day, was then proceeded with.

The well-known hymns—"O God, our help in ages past," and "Lest We Forget"—were sung, Mrs. Barrie presiding at the organ. Prayers were offered and a portion of scripture read by Rev. G. S. Watts.

The sermon was preached by the Rev. G. Stuart Watts, who said that a beautiful and symbolic act had been performed that day. They had set up a Stone of Remembrance which would continue to proclaim their gratitude for heroic sacrifice long after they themselves had passed into the silence. From time immemorial man had set up stones to commemorate the epic deeds of the heroes of his race. Their memorial monument was one of a noble succession which stretched far beyond the dawn of history and would last

the dawn of history and would last on until time itself was no more. It witnessed to the deep-seated instinct of the human heart to remember its dead, and to preserve their memory in a world which soon forgot. It was also a prayer in stone that the love which never lets go might keep their dear ones through the long ages of Eternity. In days to come their children would ask, as did the Hebrew children in the long ago. "What mean ye by this stone?" And the answer would come, "This monument commemorates the men who . . . laid the world away; poured out the red sweet wine of youth; gave up the years to be." The memorial had been hallowed that day; and yet in a sense it was not in their power to do so. It had been hallowed already by the brave men, living and dead, who sacrificed all in order that hearth and home might be preserved in peace. The blood which stained to a deeper purple the heather on wind-swept hills; the sacrifice which imparted a symbolic glory to the scarlet poppies growing amid the golden wheat and the green grass; the haunting, eerie melody of the "Last Post" sounding over the desolate fields of war or over the vast and wandering grave within the tortured bosom of the mighty deep; the intensely loyal spirit which impelled a young soldier-poet to write shortly before he was killed in action,

"If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field

That is for ever England"—
these were the things which had hallowed their war memorial, and would hallow it for all time, far beyond their poor power either to add or to detract. **The preacher urged his**

hearers never to forget the men who gave up all because love of country, home and dear ones impelled them to do so. Someone had said that patriotism was the last refuge of a

patriotism was the last refuge of a scoundrel. No doubt it was the last refuge of some scoundrels; everything that was good, beautiful and true had been abused. But he could never understand why some people were so cynical and would-be superior in their attitude to patriotism. Every true man loved and would defend his mother; equally, every true man loved and would defend his Motherland, while sorrowfully admitting her faults. Loyalty to King and country was one of the foundation principles of the Christian Church, and everyone should be proud and glad to sing the National Anthem and to salute the flag. But there was not only the duty of loyalty to one's own country; there was the wider loyalty to the whole human race. They should be citizens of the universe, not merely of one particular country. The preacher pleaded for the interest and support of all Christian people in connection with the League of Nations. To-day there was a dread race between catastrophe and Christian education; the only hope for the future was the Church and the League. Mussolini had said truly that "Europe babbles of peace at Geneva, and prepares for war everywhere." Christian opinion alone could make the work of the League really effective. The Prince of Wales had asked the opponents of the League to reflect on two things: first, that the way to prevent war was not by some sudden and violent action at the eleventh hour, but by the gradual and steady formation of habits of international co-operation and mutual trust; and second, the fact that no alternative to the League had been brought forward. At about the same time that the Prince of Wales made that pronouncement, the Prime Minister of Japan said that the solemn agreements under the League must be honored, or the whole world must rally against the aggressor. Movements such as the League were to be encouraged and supported; because a whole series of wars had been averted by peaceful conference. E.g., according to one authority, between

ording to one authority, between 1904 and 1910 no fewer than 17 grave disputes, each one of which represented a "casus belli," were settled peacefully in conferences. If these considerations did not move them, then the age-long cry of the women and children, on whom the heaviest burden of war always fell, should constrain them to vow, as they stood around the stone of remembrance, undying allegiance to the Prince of Peace. The preacher ended on the note of the Immortal Hope, "Their name liveth for evermore." Yes, but more than that, they themselves, the heroic dead, lived for evermore. The body was reclaimed by Nature, but the deathless personality went marching on. Socrates, face to face with death, had expressed indifference to the fate of the worn-out shell, the body, because he knew that death could not hurt the soul, the real self. "Bury me as you please, provided you can lay hold on me!" This calmness in the presence of "the last enemy" was exemplified by the young soldier who said, as he went over the top, "This will mean Blighty—or the Resurrection!" It proved to be the Resurrection for him. The Christian view of death was that death is not defeat, but victory; not the end, but the beginning; not dismissal, but promotion.

"O valiant hearts, who to your glory came,
Through dust of conflict and through battle-flame,
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.
Splendid you passed, the great surrender made,
Into the light which nevermore shall fade.
Deep your contentment in that blest abode,
Who wait the last clear trumpet-call of God."

The proceedings ended with the singing of "Onward Christian Soldiers" and the pronouncement of the Benediction.

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The collection in aid of the building fund amounted to about £13.