

MEMORIAL TO FALLEN SOLDIES

Unveiled at, Warrenbayne.

The unveiling of the memorial to Warrenbayne fallen soldiers took place on Friday, 4th June. The unveiling ceremony was fixed to take place at 2 o'clock on the afternoon named, but the commencement was delayed for half-an hour, by which time there was a large assemblage of people from the surrounding district, and including visitors from Benalla and Violet Town. The site chosen for the monument (which is a handsome granite pillar with a base of the same material, and standing about 16 feet high, enclosed by granite pillars and a chain guard), is at the corner of the schoolground and immediately opposite the post office. It was erected by Messrs Talochino and Son, Benalla, upon whose workmanship it reflects great credit.

Immediately prior to the ceremony being commenced, the children were grouped on the right hand side while immediately opposite were the following district returned soldiers:—Messrs Ben. Sessions, Thompson, T. Ramage, A. Baldwin, A. Gibbons, A. Heywood, and D. McPherson. Mr A. J. Wilson (chairman of the committee), occupied the chair, and sitting with him were the Revs. A. C. M'Connan and W. S. Dau, Cr G. Walker (president of the Benalla shire), and Cr Hoach (president of the Violet Town shire). Cr Dunlop was also present, and apologies were received from Crs. T. Cowan, Heaney, and Gordon (Violet Town shire).

The chairman said it gave him great pleasure to see so many present to join with them in the ceremony of unveiling the monument which had been erected. They in Warrenbayne were only a little corner, but they felt they would be lacking in appreciation and loyalty if they did not raise something to the memory of the noble men who fought for our freedom and liberty. At first it was thought there should be photos of the fallen men placed in the public hall, but the committee felt that would not be sufficient, and so they had carried out the larger scheme. He then called upon the Rev. A. C. M'Connan to say the Dedication prayer and unveil the monument.

The Rev. A. C. M'Connan read the inscriptions on the monument, which were as follows:—

WEST SIDE.

They feared not death
When duty summoned them to Britain's

aid.
Now they sleep in shrouds of glory
Every debt of honor paid,

Killed in action:
C. H. Langtree, 9/8/16.
Arthur J. Copeman, 11/4/17.
D. R. Briggs, 9/9/17.
Albert J. Copeman, 29/4/18.
J. H. Bowen, 29/9/18.

NORTH SIDE.

"Returned to enjoy the freedom won."

L. Hyland	B. Sessions
C. B. Hopkins	A. Heywood
W. Backland	A. Gibbons
J. Hopkins	

"They loved honor more than they feared death."

SOUTH SIDE.

"Erected by the residents of Warrenbayne in memory of the fallen soldiers and in honor of their comrades who also served in the Great War, 1914—1919."

EAST SIDE.

"Ours is to guard this heritage they gave us,
And make our nation worthy of our dead."

Mr M'Connan then gave the prayer of dedication, after which he recited—
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we now unveil this monument and dedicate it to the Glory of God, and as a token of our undying affection for those whose names are hereon inscribed, and gave their lives in defence of right and freedom."

In the course of his address, Mr M'Connan said they had met, as the chairman had told them, under very strange circumstances, and they might so feel very thankful that they were able to come together as they had done that afternoon. If ten years ago anybody residing there had said that at the present time there would have been a monument erected to these men in Warrenbayne nobody would have believed him. We had, indeed, lived through times such as our fathers never knew, and times which we hope our children would never know. These men now slept far from the homes of their childhood, and the monument was in memory of the great men who had fallen. So far as the Benalla shire was concerned, Warrenbayne had the honor of being the first place which had so honored those who had fallen in this great fight. We felt that we had to cherish the memory of those who had served their country and their God, and who went out to fight, and, as they now knew, to die for those that were left behind. We who had been spared through the efforts of men like these revered their memory. We talked of self-denial, but did any of us make such a sacrifice as these men—for they gave their all

but did any of us make such a sacrifice as these men—for they gave their all. We have it on the Highest authority that no greater love hath any man than he who lays down his life for a friend. There were others who went out from that district whose names had also been recorded. They had been spared to return. They had not been called upon to make the supreme sacrifice, but, like their comrades, they went forward prepared to make it. To them we were extremely thankful and we could not think too much of them and what they had done. The memorial had taken the form of a beautiful standing monument, and it would stand as a silent witness of what those people had done, and for generations to come of the appreciation the people of Warrenbayne had shown for what was right. It stood as an unlighted torch, but as a torch it would act for years to come. It would stand as one of those things that told of the imperishable part taken by the Empire, also of that particular portion in the greatest struggle ever known and it told of love, patriotism and honor. It was fitting it should stand under the shadow of the old school, which to his knowledge had been going for forty years, and where some of these men spent their boyhood and played in the school grounds. Other children would play around it, and they will be reminded what these men did. Our feelings were such that we could not express them—for the dead, for the living soldiers who came back, and also for the bereaved. We all felt for the relatives of those men who fell, and there would be none whose sympathy would be stronger for them than those who have had sons or

meant to us. By winning that liberty we were seized with the fact that Great Britain still rules the waves. That meant protection to all those we loved in this great Commonwealth of ours. It would mean liberty to many of the smaller Eastern nations which before the war we did not know much about. He made reference to the Turkish atrocities in Armenia, which had been going on for a number of years, and he said they would now have to stop. It meant that these small Eastern nations would now become law-abiding. Surely that was a great thing to say. We had always been afraid of these small nations in the East being the cause of war and great loss of life, but the peace that had been secured would be the means of bringing these Eastern nations under control. It was a happy idea to have the monument in the school grounds. Children should be taught loyalty, and what could be more instructive in that respect than a monument like that which they had erected. Loyalty was one of the greatest assets a nation could have. To those who have lost sons or other relatives near and dear to them they extended their deepest sympathy. The great sacrifices these people had made were known, and he trusted these sacrifices would not weigh too heavy on them. If we had not been successful we might now have been under foreign rule, and when that fact was borne in mind it would soften the blow caused by the losses sustained. They would all join with him in hoping that Almighty God would take these men to that eternal Home where all is peace.

Mr Roach, president of the Violet Town shire, thanked the committee for the kind invitation to be present that afternoon as representative of the Violet Town shire. He attended that gathering out of regard for the brave men who fell doing their duty; in going out from this district to fight for their country and in defence of the Empire. As all present knew these men left good homes and assured prospects, and they knew the risk they took when they offered their all to secure the liberty we now enjoy. The people of Warrenbayne had erected that beautiful monument on which were engraved the names of those near to them, knowing those brave men did their duty.

Miss Little then recited The Dandy Fifth, her effort being very impressive and much appreciated.

The Rev W. S. Dau said it was with mingled feelings that he rose to speak that afternoon. First of all he appreciated the honor of being asked to speak. Although he did not belong to their district, he had remembrances of a little spot which he called home which had also sent away soldiers. He extended a hearty welcome to the returned boys and wished them all health and prosperity in Australia, which they richly de-

They died in a noble cause, and they were deathless dead.

Miss Little recited very feelingly "The Landing at Gallipoli."

Mr Walker said he had to thank the committee for so kindly asking him to be present with them that afternoon. He was glad to see so many present to show a kindly appreciation of the great task these men took on when they fought for their King and country. They made the supreme sacrifice, and they were there that day to thank the others who had returned. The fight for liberty was carried on successfully, and this was due to the brave men who fell, and the others who had returned. We now begin to realise what that great word liberty meant to us. By winning that liberty

ed boys and wished them all health and prosperity in Australia, which they richly deserved. They were gathered there to pay tribute to those who had fallen. There were some to whom we owed a greater debt—those who have to bear the sacrifice—the mothers, sisters, sweethearts and wives of soldiers who went forth to die. They went about their duties in apparently a cheerful manner so as not to discourage others, but they lived always under the shadow of the cross. He was glad to represent their church. Every church had been called upon to lose men in this war, because from every church men had gone forth to fight and bear their part. Thus they were there to pay honor to those who could not return to us. Mr Lloyd George in one of his speeches said the nations were in the melting-pot, and that seemed to him to be the position to-day. What would be the outcome of the chaos that prevailed he could not say, but if ever there was a time when the people were called upon to be true and steadfast it was now. If we were going to pay our debt of gratitude this was the time. They paid their tribute to those whose names were on that stone and would not return, also to those of other places who had fallen. We were proud of those who had gone at the call of duty, and we were confident that in that land where the tears of earth are dry, they were treated by a juster judge than here. As they went away that evening let them do so more determined to keep hold of those things for which these men had fought and died, and strive for the attainment of the ideal of a purgatorial life. To quote the words of Kipling—

Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget, lest we forget.

The proceedings were then closed by Rev W. S. Dau pronouncing the Benediction, and the gathering singing the National Anthem