

## Woosang Patriotic League

### Unveiling of Honor Roll. An Impressive Ceremony.

The unveiling of the honor roll in the Woosang hall on Friday last was carried out before a very large and representative gathering, and the Woosang patriotic league are to be complimented on obtaining such a fine lot of distinguished gentlemen to give addresses. This league is about the first in this district to establish such a roll to show appreciation of the work done by their boys in the great cause. The roll itself is a fine piece of work, and takes the form of a mural tablet. It is of oak and is beautifully carved, a pair of crossed rifles occupying a prominent position at the top.

The following names are artistically inscribed on the board:—G. Olive, John Ross, Dougald O'Brien, W. Olive, H. G. Smith, W. M. Constable, S. Barnasochi, G. Bourke, Ronald Ross, Thomas Ross, P. L. McGowan, Donald Ross, M. H. Collins, K. Mangan, J. Bourke, Daniel C. Ross, Angus Ross, G. H. Gleeson, T. McGurk, W. A. Round, David Ross, G. S. Constable, M. Bourke, T. W. M'Hugh, A. E. Mangan, A. White, J. A. Hall, S. V. Hemleron, W. F. Turnbull, W. Winter, W. M. O'Brien, R. Paterson, G. Hando, T. Bourke, M. Donaldson, J. M. Gould, J. J. Hannigan, T. Stewart, Wallace Turnbull, S. L. Olive, C. Murdoch, J. W. Stewart, George Lang, O. Bourke.

On the platform were:—Rev. Coles, Messrs. Donaldson (president of the league), A. Gray, M.L.A., A. D. White (president of Korong Shire Council), M'Ivor (president of Charlton Shire Council), Leech, J.P., E. H. Hunt, W. Stuart, and Bourke.

Mr. Donaldson said that since the present struggle began Australia had sent 300,000 men, and he was glad to say that Woosang had nobly done its part in making up this number. The fact that 30 men had enlisted from this district made him proud. If all districts had done as well there would not have been so much need for the present recruiting campaign. It had been decided by the Woosang Patriotic League that a token of appreciation, such as the honor roll should be made to the young men of the district, and also when presently they came back it was our duty to do as much as we possibly can for them. The roll contained 47 names, out of that number a good many were still in the best of health, some had been wounded, whilst some had made that

the price of death, some had been wounded, whilst some had made that great sacrifice. We all hope and trust that no more of them will fall. He was in thorough sympathy with many parents in the hall that night whose boys had so nobly died. When the boys come home they will see by the honor roll in the hall that the patriotic league has appreciated the noble work they have done. Applause.

A patriotic song, "Marching to the Front," was sung, this stage excellently rendered by J. J. Gould.

The Rev. Coles said it was a pleasure to him to be present. A letter was read a half year ago this war began. It was thought by many that it would be a short one, but we had only to look back upon those two years and a half to recognise the awfulness of German barbarity. Men and women had every reason to be proud of the number of men who had volunteered from this district. They gave up house and land and jeopardized their lives, and the best we can do could not repay them. This memorial tablet is erected to you, to your children, and will be to their children, and so on. It will be looked upon by future generations with pride, and would awaken memories of valor and endurance far greater than any story could. In ages to come the honor roll will testify to the honor and fame of Woosang, and the undying fame of the name Anzac. Some in this hall are grieving for sons who have died. We mourn with them, we sorrow with them, and we join in their grief. Words are too feeble at times. Deeds were wanted—one deed was worth a thousand words. Many were here to-night to do honor to those brave fathers and traver mothers. The speaker said we should thank God that we have been spared the misery and the ravages of war as compared with some countries. He joined with Mr. Donaldson in wishing the war would soon be over, and the boys come back again.

Mr. Gray, in opening his remarks, said he was pleased that he had had the opportunity to be present. One could not face such a fine gathering without certain feelings of pathos, due, no doubt, to the fact that in scanning the honor roll he found that the mothers and fathers of most of the men were intimate friends of his. However, they were faced with the proposition of proving themselves worthy of the stock from which they came. Think of what has transpired just lately. Two years ago England declared war against Germany. The news was flashed over the whole British Empire, and even to this little district, that England had declared war. For what? To uphold right. True to tradition. Men rushed in flocks to fight in the cause of righteous-

ness to tradition. Men rushed in flocks to fight in the cause of righteousness. He remembered a send-off in the Wedderburn hall to the first four volunteers from there; but alas, two had made that great sacrifice, one was ill, while another was still fighting crowned with honor and glory, and had gained the coveted V.O. and some other distinction. (Cheers). What I may say will soon be forgotten, but the world will never forget what was done on that far off peninsula. We had been led to believe that our boys could never make the soldiers the older countries did, but to-day Australians were held up as an example to others. They made the name of Anzac—the significance of that one word. Australians had made a name that would last for all time. Many cablegrams had been received compli-

mentary to our men, one had been received from the French Premier by our Prime Minister, which stated that the Australians had proved themselves gallant soldiers and made a name that would stand for all time. It makes us shudder when we read reports of the horrible atrocities which are being perpetrated in this war, and we can realize that our 300,000 men who have gone to the front are fighting for our liberty. We can never repay them. This honor roll will be a mark of appreciation to be looked upon by men, women and children after the declaration of peace. In looking down upon this audience he recognized one upon whom the unveiling of this memorial roll should fall—a mother who has unflinchingly given 5 sons, one of whom has made that great sacrifice, but another son was ready to spring forward and take his place. That was not all, the father who was sitting upon his right had on three occasions to his (the speaker's) own knowledge offered his services to the Empire in any capacity the authorities might suggest. It was that splendid spirit that built up the great British Empire; it is that spirit and that alone that will save it in this terrible and awful crisis. I refer to Mr. John Bourke's family (applause), and I will now invite Mrs. Bourke, the mother of those splendid men to do the actual unveiling.—Applause.

Mrs. Bourke then stepped on to the stage and amid continued applause unveiled the tablet.

Or A. D. White, in a brief address, complimented the Woosang Patriotic League on installing such a beautiful roll of honor, remarking that those who died that Australia might live would be memorised by the tablet in ages to come. There are duties devolving upon us. Soon our men would be returning, and we will have to commemorate them as far as possible for

be returning, and we will have to commiserate them as far as possible for the sacrifices they have made for us.

Mr M'Vor said the Woosang people had conferred a great honor upon him in inviting him to be present on that night. The speaker said that when Napoleon had been defeated and was exiled to St Helena, people felt a certain wave of pity for him, but he did not think the Kaiser would get much sympathy, nor did he deserve it after the atrocities he had committed. We are all looking forward to the time when we will be welcoming our victorious soldiers home.

Mr Haut said that, according to the secretary, he was present to make a patriotic speech because proper speakers were not available. He admired Australian soldiers. They had done well, better than had been expected of them. The speaker here recited a patriotic verse "The bagles of England were blowing o'er the sea." He hoped that the conditions prevailing at present would soon be over and the presence of a glorious peace felt.

Mr G. F. Leach said he did not intend to prolong his remarks, but he felt that he would like to express his sympathy to mothers and fathers who had given their sons. Most of the boys whose names appeared on the roll were well known to him, and he was sure they were most honorable and upright and making a name for this district. One family in Woosang had contributed five sons, four out of another family were fighting, while there were several families who had sent three members. He hoped that the hall would soon be engaged for the welcome-home of their men.

Mr John Bourke, father of five volunteers, speaking as one whose sons occupied space on the honor roll, said the Patriotic League had done a graceful act in placing the board in the hall. Many people had asked what had induced so many of our lads to leave Australia. It was to fight for us and the freedom of our country. We were proud of those men who were lying in their graves. When the struggle was past and we saw the three emblems, the rose, the thistle and the shamrock entwined, would we not be proud to know that in the garland would be a spray of Australian wattle? Those who had been deceived should be consoled in the knowledge that their boys died in that sacred cause—liberty. (Applause.)

Mr M'Gurk moved a hearty vote of thanks to the gentlemen who gave such fine patriotic speeches, remarking that they were the finest addresses ever delivered in the hall.

The Rev Coles responded on behalf of the speakers.

Mr Gisy moved hearty votes of thanks to both the chairman and the

secretary.

Mr Donaldson and Mr Stuart suitably responded.

At the conclusion of the unveiling ceremony, the ladies were kept very busy in the supper room attending the wants of the inner man, and those responsible for the catering are worthy of the greatest praise.

The unqualified success of the whole evening was, in a great measure, due to the indefatigable efforts of the League's energetic secretary, Mr W. J. Stuart.