

Unveiling of Soldiers' Memorial.

AT YINNAR.

AN IMPOSING CEREMONY.

Wednesday last, 1st December 1920, was a red letter day in the history of Yinnar and district, the occasion being the unveiling of memorial erected by the residents of Yinnar in honor of her fallen soldiers. It was fitting that the weather was all that could be desired, and as a result there was a very large gathering of both old and young present to witness the imposing ceremony. Among those present were Brigadier General Brand, Mr G. H. White, M.H.R., Hon. T. Livingston, M.L.A., Revs. Smith, Owen, Day, Father Hayes, Cxs. J. F. Daly (President of Shire), Quigley, Kitchie, Dunbar, White, also many others from Morwell, Beaufort and all the surrounding districts.

Mr Walter Finnan presided, and having announced that they had met for the purpose of unveiling the monument erected to the memory of Yinnar's fallen soldiers, called upon the children to sing a hymn. The young folk, under the direction of Mr Bedley, H. T. Yinnar School, responded by singing "O God our Help in Ages Past." Mr Finnan afterwards said that residents of Yinnar were anxious to do honor to the brave boys who had gone to the front to serve the Empire. Those who had returned had been welcomed home and presented with medals, and it was resolved to do something to perpetuate the memory of those who had fallen and would never return. There were two proposals—one to erect a building and another to erect a monument. It was finally resolved to erect monument. The proposal received hearty support and they had now gathered together to witness the unveiling ceremony. The cost of monument was £227, and with fencing and other items, the total cost was approximately £250. The committee had enough money in hand to pay for everything and he felt sure that if more were required it would be soon forthcoming. (Applause). In conclusion he said that if any names had been omitted from monument the committee would be pleased to know of same.

The Hon. T. Livingston said he was pleased to join with others in paying tribute to the men who had fallen in the great war. The death roll was part of the penalty for liberty they now enjoyed. In the progress of civilization it was necessary that some must suffer and it had fallen to the lot of those brave men whose memory they desired to perpetuate to make the supreme sacrifice. It was to them and their comrades that old and young gathered around owed the liberty and freedom they now enjoyed.

In the course of a very stirring address made by Mr Wise M.H.R. he said that unless the people recognised for what purpose the men who had fallen had sacrificed their lives, they could not do honour to them. It had been stated that it was a trade war, but that was false. It was not a trade war either by us or our enemies. It was a matter of fighting over irreconcilable ideals—might against right. Our boys went out to fight so that right might

ideals—might against right. Our boys went out to fight so that right might triumph over might. He went on to say that in three months time after war was declared Australia had trained, equipped, obtained transports and despatched 30,000 men. They, and the men who followed afterwards went forth in unity and by their actions at the front ably upheld the credit of the race from whence they sprung. He also referred to the noble part played by the women in the war, and how bravely they had bore up when transports were leaving. In referring to what the Australians had done he said it was due to their bravery and determination that the German line had been broken through. At Gallipoli, in France and Flanders as well as other places our boys had acquitted themselves in a manner worthy of the race from whence they sprung. Their noble deeds and self-sacrifice had been woven into the stuff of other men's lives and he trusted such a spirit would long predominate among both old and young. In conclusion Mr Wise urged all to work together in unity and to be united in peace as they had been in war.

Rev. A. J. Smith said he regarded it a privilege to speak on such an auspicious occasion. They had met to pay a tribute to the brave men who had fallen in fighting for the liberties and freedom they all enjoyed. He made reference to the sad task he had at times been called on to perform, in breaking the news to parents, that a son had fallen at the front, and he admired the fortitude with which bereaved ones had received the sad news. After referring in high terms of praise of the men who had given their lives for the benefit of their country, Mr Smith said he hoped that as citizens, all would by example and deeds prove worthy of the lives laid down for them. "Greater love hath no man, than that a man lay down his life for his friends."

The Rev. Father Hayes said he had a very high idea of the standard of the Yinnar people, but he thought, their efforts in the direction of paying tribute to the brave boys who had fallen in the great war had exceeded anything they had ever done, and he heartily congratulated them upon what had been done to show their respect for, and perpetuate the memory of the fallen men. He trusted that the spirit of unity and self-sacrifice exhibited by the men who had laid down their lives would prevail among the people in the future.

Rev. J. Garnon-Owen said they all felt a deep obligation to the noble men who had made the supreme sacrifice. From what he had learned, it was the Australians who had saved the situation at the front. They had gone forth to fight for God, home and country and he trusted that the spirit of unselfishness and self-sacrifice exhibited by the brave boys who had fallen would live for ever in the heart of the nation. That the boys would make their homes in the minds of the people, and the inspiration that governed their actions be made manifest to the people, so that the spirit of discord and discord heard in some quarters might be smothered.

The Rev. A. G. Day after referring in eulogistic terms to the fallen men and their comrades, and the sacrifices made, asked those present to think what would have been the result had the men not gone to fight. Australia would now be in the hands of the enemy, and our liberties and freedom gone. Might would have triumphed over right.

and our liberties and freedom gone. Might would have triumphed over right. He trusted that the tenacity to duty, the comradeship, the loyalty and devotion displayed by the men in whose honor the monument before them had been erected, would be emulated by present and future generations in maintaining their ideals.

The President of the shire (Cr Daly), Cxs. Hitchie and White also spoke.

Prior to unveiling the monument Brigadier General Brand said he was very pleased to have the honor of performing such a task. He felt sure the occasion would impress itself upon the minds of the boys and girls. Of late he had on an average unveiled two soldiers' memorials a week. Ordinarily such a

thing would become monotonous, but in this case it had been an increasing pleasure because it was honoring brave men who had fallen in the service of their country. He went on to say that many claimed to have won the war. He did not claim that the Australians had won the war because they only held a 12 mile front out of 140 miles, but he could say that wherever the hardest blows were being exchanged, the Australians were always there. (Applause). The Australians many have had equals but they had no superiors. The A.I.F. stood for Australian Imperial Forces. It also stood for "Admired in France," and "Always in Front." The word "Digger" however, covered the lot. Religion, politics, financial position and such things did not come between the men in their comradeship and duty. He offered his deepest sympathy to the relatives of the fallen men. He knew how bravely they had fought and how nobly they had died. He also knew how they had suffered for he had been hit twice himself. In conclusion Brigadier General Brand removed a large Union Jack and drappings that covered the monument, and read list of the men whose names appeared thereon. He added that the monument was the best of its kind he had seen in the State and he congratulated the people of Yinnar upon their efforts in honor of the fallen men.

The last post was then sounded by Mr W. Budge.

The proceedings concluded with the singing of National Anthem. After which visitors were kindly regaled with afternoon tea in Mechanics' Hall by a band of hospitable ladies.

The monument which was erected by the well known firm of Huxley, Parker and Co. is an imposing structure and is admitted to be the best of its kind in the State. It is certainly a credit to both the firm who erected it and the people of Yinnar. The base is of fine grey granite and is surmounted by a striking white marble figure 16ft. in height representing an Australian soldier sounding the last post.

The position of monument is in centre of main street opposite Mechanics' Hall and is enclosed by handsome cyclone wire fence, with red posts, erected by Coleman Bros. The enclosure is to be beautified by lawn, etc., and applications for space are to be invited from persons who desire to have a small plot in the garden.

A word of praise is due the memorial committee and especially the energetic Secretary (Mr E. Robinson) for the

committee and especially the energetic Secretary (Mr E. Robotham) for the excellent manner in which the whole proceedings were carried through from start to finish.

On the front panel of monument, facing east, is the following inscription:—

For God, King and Country.

Erected by the residents of Yinnar and district as a tribute to the memory of their brave soldiers who gave their lives for the honor of Australia and the cause of liberty in the great European war 1914 to 1919.

Let us forget

On the right hand panel, facing north are the names of the fallen —

TINNAR AND DISTRICT,

Sgt. T. Jones

Lance-Cpl. A. J. Bond

Private W. W. Currie

Private R. A. Crerar

Signaller A. Firmin

Private G. Firmin

Private F. W. Greenwood

Private J. J. Koenig

Private A. Lowe

Private A. G. Middleton

Private W. Pennycook

Private G. Peck

Private A. Quigley

Private R. B. Thomas

Private J. Walsh

On the back panel facing west —

TINNAR AND DISTRICT,

J. Blair W. Currie

M. Cahill A. J. Bond

J. Condliffe A. Quigley

J. O'Donnell W. Pennycook

A. McDonald

Both War Fallen 1900-1902

G. Bolding T. Rose

J. McDonald F. Walker

On the left hand panel facing south —

Yinnar and District

Tribute to her fallen soldiers

Their names liveth for ever more.

Duty nobly done.