

OBERON MEMORIAL HALL**Opening Ceremony****Representative Gathering**

OBERON Saturday.

The opening of the Oberon Soldiers' Memorial Hall and Council Chambers took place on Wednesday in the presence of a representative attendance, notwithstanding the bleak weather. Among those present were Senator General Cox, Mr. A. G. Manning, M. H. R., and Mrs. Manning, Mr. C. E. Richards, (president of the Memorial Committee), Mr. H. V. Stevenson, (president of Oberon Shire Council) presided and declared the hall open. Apologies were received from Mr. C. A. Kelly, M. L. A., and Mr. R. Northy (Lithgow).

Mrs. E. J. Harvey unveiled the tablet, in a few appropriate words. She was proud to say that four of her brothers took part in the Great War. Three of them had paid the supreme sacrifice. She thought that all owed a debt of gratitude to the soldiers for the freedom we now possessed.

The tablets containing the names of 20 soldiers from the Oberon Shire. Mr. G. W. Richards, president of the Returned Soldiers and Sailors Club, placed a wreath on the tablet in memory of the fallen.

Senator Cox said the Memorial Hall was a credit to the district. He referred to the landing at Gallipoli as a great example of bravery and spoke of the wonderful tactics of the evacuation. He congratulated the committee on the fine building they had erected, but he would like to see the names of all the returned soldiers from the Oberon Shire put on the outside of the building.

Councillor C. E. Richards, said he had been asked to present the book of remembrance to a returned soldier he asked Dr. Mulvey on behalf of the returned soldiers to accept this book and place it in a case provided, and to lock it up.

Dr. Mulvey received this book on behalf of the returned men, and said the Returned Soldiers League had asked him to represent them and to thank the people for the beautiful building, fine memorial tablet and book of remembrance. He trusted the returned soldiers in the Oberon Shire would link up with the club.

Mr. A. G. Manning, M. H. R., congratulated the people and the shire of Oberon on the beautiful building they had erected, also the tablet and book of remembrance.

A high-tea provided by the ladies of the town and district was held in the evening. All returned soldiers, Shire Councillors and memorial committee were invited. The tea was a wonderful "spread" and reflected the greatest credit on the ladies concerned.

Cr. C. E. Richards, president of the Soldiers' Memorial Committee presided and gave the loyal toast.

Mr. G. W. Richards, president of the Returned Soldiers' Club, then

Mr. G. W. Richards, president of the Returned Soldiers' Club, then asked all present to stand in silence for a few minutes in memory of the fallen comrades.

Rev. M. G. Opper, proposed the toast of the returned soldiers, sailors and nurses. He said the men and women fought for us in the Great War, and were still fighting for their livelihood and it was up to all to see that they did not want. The navy and nurses had won our admiration.

Dr. Mulvey, in reply, said it was intended to have a reunion each year on Anzac Day. He appreciated the fine provision and was pleased to see present Mr. James Burns, who had done good work as treasurer for the Memorial Committee. He also mentioned the president and secretary and on behalf of the returned men, he thanked all those responsible for the splendid memorial.

Mr. Les. Austiss, (also a returned soldier) expressed pleasure at being present and to take part in the day's function.

Senator Cox, congratulated the committee on the beautiful building and asked that the names of those who had left the district, be placed on the outside of the hall. He added that in the war nurses were often under fire.

Rev. D. F. Almond, proposed the toast of Federal and State Parliament coupled with the names of Senator Cox and Mr. Manning.

Senator Cox and Mr. Manning suitably responded.

Mr. R. H. Mackle proposed The "Memorial Committee and Shire Council and thanked them on behalf of the returned soldiers.

Mr. J. Burns, in reply, particularly thanked the ladies who had done a large share of the work.

Cr. C. E. Richards said the whole of the district were at the back of the committee.

Cr. Stevenson spoke feelingly of the death of Mr. A. G. Thompson of Bathurst, who was well and favorably known in the district. He also replied on behalf of the Shire Council, which he said had paid £500 into the building. They had sold the old Shire Council hall for £400, so that the new building only cost the ratepayers £100. It was through generosity of the Memorial committee that they had that fine building.

The toast of "The Ladies" was entrusted to Mr. R. Doust, who said he had never seen ladies in any town work as the ladies in Oberon had for any movement for the town and district.

Mr. J. Doust and C. S. Chudleigh, in reply, stressed the fact that the ladies had backed the committee up in the erection of the fine building.

The toast of "The Press" was proposed by Mr. English.

The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and the "National Anthem" brought a memorable ceremony to a close.