

GOVERNOR VISITS WAGGA; CEREMONY HELD AT METHODIST YOUTH CENTRE

LARGE GATHERING SEES FOUNDATION-STONE LAID

A special guard mounted by officers and men of the 7/21-st. Australian Horse yesterday presented arms with true military precision outside the Methodist War Memorial Youth Centre, Wagga, when the Governor of N.S.W. (Sir John Northcott) arrived to set the foundation-stone of the building.



The State Governor, Lieut.-Gen.
Sir John Northcott

A LARGE crowd was present, both in the precincts of the building and in Johnston Street, to watch the arrival of the Governor and to participate in the ceremonies which followed.

Led by the Wagga City Band, members of the 7/21 Australian Horse, with the colors in front, marched into Johnston Street shortly before 3.30 yesterday afternoon.

A little after 3.30 Sir John Northcott arrived, and took the salute. He was accompanied by his aide, Captain J. P. Martin.

He then inspected the guard

and the band.

Every credit is due to both these groups for their excellent turnout and the precision of their movements. They performed the tasks allotted to them faultlessly.

The Governor was then met by the minister of the Wagga Methodist Church (Rev. N. W. Lickiss), who introduced him in turn to the Mayor of Wagga (Alderman H. E. Gissing).

A platform was set in front of the foundation-stone, with seats arranged around it for the large audience which was present.

The afternoon's ceremonies began with a hymn, "Guide Thou Australia", sung by the assembled company. The Rev. A. A. Parson, Riverina District Young People's Secretary, then recited a short prayer.

Welcome Extended

In extending a welcome to those who were present, Mr. Lickiss prefaced his remarks with a list of apologies received from guests who were unable to attend. Among these were the President of the N.S.W. Methodist Conference (Rev. C. L. Connor), the Director of the Methodist Young People's Department of N.S.W. (Dr. G. A. Wheen), the Rev. C. J. Wells, a former Methodist minister of Wagga, the Ven. Archdeacon S. J. West, the Reverends Baird, Pope and Helbig of Wagga, Major Parsons (Salvation Army), and the Reverends E. A. Bennett (Leeton), H. Robinson (Deniliquin), W. Dundas (Coolamon),

(Leeton), H. Robinson (Deniliquin), W. Dundas (Coolamon), C. N. Collard (Cootamundra), the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. E. H. Graham) and the Member for Farrer (Mr. D. Fairbairn).

Mr. Lickiss formally welcomed the Governor and official guests, after which he introduced the Mayor of Wagga.

Alderman Gissing's Address

Alderman Gissing, in a brief address, paid tribute to the spirit which activated the formation of youth centres and work done on behalf of youth.

"I think we will all agree that there is ample scope for worthwhile results in youth activities, but it is too often dismissed with 'ip-service,'" Alderman Gissing said.

"Then again, it is often dismissed with what I would term pocket-book service. That is not quite so bad, but nevertheless individual work and interest are required.

"Youth must be given the opportunity to accept citizenship with the fullest understanding, and this is not an easy task. It is one of the most difficult tasks of life to be a worthy citizen, yet too often we expect it to be an automatic accomplishment of our children.

"Wagga is to be congratulated that the Methodist community is making such a grand effort, and as one charged with some responsibility in these matters, I heartily congratulate the members of this Church," Alderman Gissing concluded.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. E. H. Graham) was programmed to speak after the Mayor, but as he was unable to attend the ceremony, Mr. Lickiss read a letter he had received from Mr. Graham.

"I want to take this opportunity of conveying to you and to all present my sincere good wishes on this great occasion for your Church in Wagga, and to say that I realise the great amount of good that must stem from your activities", the letter stated.

Sturt's Journey

"Our Governor today, Sir John Northcott, follows a long line of illustrious names who have occupied the post before him. In particular, I would mention Governor Darling, who occupied the post in 1820, when Sturt made his amazing journey down the Murrumbidgee only a few hundred yards from your church.

"Governor Darling would not have visualised the great city that Wagga is today, and it is most fitting that one of his successors should be present with you at this function today, which is a milestone in the youth welfare work of Wagga."

Mr. Graham concluded his letter with apologies for his absence to His Excellency and all those present.

Mr. Lickiss then introduced the Governor (Sir John Northcott), who gave a brief address before setting the foundation-stone of

who gave a brief address before setting the foundation-stone of the War Memorial Youth Centre.

The Governor told his audience that yesterday's function had really been postponed from last year.

"This is one of the most practical forms of War Memorial," he said. "In commemorating the men who gave their lives for us, we are commemorating a service which saved us from the horrors of war—war in this country," he went on.

Sir John then told his listeners that he had seen the horrors of war on his recent visit to Japan, and he described the appalling damage done by the atom bomb in Hiroshima.

Training of Youth

"It is no good our standing up once a year and saying reverently: 'We will remember them.' We must do more than that. We must remember, and help, those whom they left behind. We must remember the many thousands who are still suffering from the effects of the war."

Sir John told his audience that Australia had a great part to play in the world's future history, and that the training of youth was one of the surest ways to meet the challenge which this would present to Australia.

Sir John Northcott then set the foundation-stone of the Wagga Methodist War Memorial Youth Centre, after which he unveiled a memorial plaque in the vestibule, dedicated to those who served in the Second World War.

"I see that the name of Referring to the Honor Rolls of those who served in the First World War, also located in the vestibule, the Governor said:

"I see that the name of Lieut. Colonel Blamey tops the list. Tomorrow Field-Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey will be presented with the field-marshal's baton which has been sent out to him from His Majesty the King."

He expressed regret that he would not be able to attend this ceremony, at Heidelberg Hospital, where Field-Marshal Sir Thomas Blamey is at present a patient.

Memento Presented

On behalf of the trustees of the Wagga Methodist Church, Mr. Lickiss presented Sir John Northcott with a memento of the day's ceremony, in the form of a table barometer.

Mr. Lickiss then announced the unexpected news of the sudden death of one of the senior trustees of the church, and an

den death of one of the senior trustees of the church, and an honored citizen of Wagga—Mr. Hugh Oates.

The assemblage stood in silence as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Oates.

Acknowledgement to all those who had made the afternoon's ceremonies possible were then made publicly by the secretary of the Wagga Wagga Circuit (Mr. H. L. Condon), after which the "Doxology" was sung, and Benediction announced.

The official party then adjourned to the hall for afternoon tea.

Among those present were the Mayor and Mayoress of Wagga (Alderman and Mrs. H. E. Gissing), Mrs. E. H. Graham, Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. D. A. Cormack, Group Captain and Mrs. Blac, Mrs. N. W. Lickiss and Superintendent and Mrs. G. E. Leary.