

Empire Day at Bedforddale.

UNVEILING HONOUR ROLL

Empire day was celebrated at the Bedforddale Hall on the 24th May, when the children attending the Narrogin Brook School were entertained by the committee of the Bedforddale Agricultural and Horticultural Society, as was the Society's usual custom. A good programme of sports had been arranged for the children, but unfortunately owing to the heavy rain which fell during the afternoon, the sports had to be curtailed some, much to the chagrin of the committee, who were working so hard to ensure the children's pleasure. During the afternoon opportunity was taken of the occasion to unveil a Roll of Honour Board, which had been generously donated to the Society to be hung in the hall by Mr Smith of that centre. For the purpose of unveiling the Roll of Honour which is to commemorate the brave lads who have joined the A.I.F. from Bedforddale, the committee extended an invitation to the acting-Premier (Mr Collier) to perform the ceremony and also to the member for the district (Mr Nairn) to be present. The very inclement weather, however, may have deterred them from being present. However, the committee secured the services of Mr J. Ottway, a very old and respected resident of Bedforddale to perform the ceremony.

In asking Mr Ottway to unveil the Roll of Honour, the president of the Society, Mr A. V. Cross, said he regretted the absence of Mr Collier and Mr Nairn, which was probably accounted for by the very bad state of the weather. He thought, however, it would be a pity to postpone the ceremony, and so the committee had decided to ask Mr Ottway to perform the ceremony. He was proud of what Bedforddale had done in the matter of answering the call for volunteers for the defence of the Empire. They owed a debt of gratitude to the patriotism of Mr Smith in donating the handsome

Smith in donating the handsome Roll of Honour board. Mr Smith also had a son at the Front. The ceremony that day would be but an epoch in the history of what Bedforddale had done in sending her young men to fight the Empire's battles.

The Rev. Mr Beukers in a brief speech said he thought it only fitting that one of their own should perform the ceremony of unveiling the Roll of Honour, and he was glad indeed to know the committee had asked Mr Ottway to perform the ceremony.

Mr Cross then called on Mr Ottway to unveil the Roll of Honour. In acceding to the request, Mr Ottway said he felt highly honoured by being asked to perform the ceremony of unveiling the tablet placed there to commemorate the action of those brave men who volunteered for duty in the defence of the Empire. It was not the first time he had addressed them on Empire Day. The Hall where they stood that day goes back some years, but they had in Bedforddale a building far older than that, in fact one of the oldest in the State—the Narrogin Brook School, and he thought there was not one whose name was on that Honour board who had not received there schooling there. They all knew they commenced to celebrate Empire Day about 12 years ago in England and about 14 years ago in Canada. It was a fine thing. It was a day on which the children should be made to understand and appreciate what the Empire really is. The young men of Bedforddale had responded well to the Empire's call in its hour of need, and they were proud of them. It was fitting that their names should be inscribed on a honor roll to commemorate their patriotism. He was proud of the honour done him and had much in unveiling the Roll of Honour.

Immediately the veil was lifted a squad of soldiers, some of whom had been to the Front, and others on leave from the camp, stood to the salute around the board, while the assemblage to the accompaniment of Miss Champion, sang "God Save the King," which was followed by the

the King,' which was followed by the school children singing "God Save our Splendid Men." Cheers were then given for the King, Empire and our Soldiers.

Mr J. H. Champion then in few words said it would ill become them if they let the occasion pass without thanking Mr Smith for the handsome Roll of Honor board which he had donated to the committee. It was a most generous and patriotic donation and one that would be highly appreciated not only by the committee, but also by the residents of Bedfordale.

A vote of thanks was enthusiastically recorded, to which Mr Smith briefly responded.

During the afternoon the committee, with their president, Mr A. V. Cross, and secretary, Mr J. P. Stokes, worked like trojans to ensure the pleasure of their patrons, while Messrs B. V. Cross, J. P. Stokes and J. H. Champion kept the children well occupied with their sports and games. Too much praise cannot be given to the ladies of the district who had supplied such dainty and ample refreshments, and an excellent tea was set and partaken of by all, and after justice had been done to the good things provided, the hall was cleared for the concert.

The following is a list of the names on the Honor Roll :—R. Salter, E. L. Livermore, J. Winning, D. Winning, J. H. R. Smith, S. Champion, W. Butcher, T. Dowell, A. E. Egan, F. Ryniker, F. E. Water, R. Champion, T. Mack, V. N. Chandler, A. Simons, W. D. Stevens, H. Winning, J. Dowell, H. Trotter, J. M. Livingstone, C. H. Robinson, N. L. Skewes, J. Trotter, T. Cuthberton, A. Nock.