

SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL.

UNVEILED AT PATERSON.

(From our Correspondent).

The unveiling of this beautiful monument took place on Sunday afternoon last, and is a ceremony that will never be forgotten by those who were present. The weather was all that could be desired, which enabled visitors from the surrounding districts to be present, the attendance being fully 500 people.

The monument is erected on part of the eastern portion of the Paterson Park, with a frontage to Main-street, this being on top of the hill quite close to the main entrance to the railway station. The site is an ideal one for a memorial such as this, as with its massive appearance and height of about 15 feet it commands a view of the township and valley, giving one the impression that those who fought and died in the defence of their country are still watching over the place from which they enlisted. Draped with the Union Jack it is hardly necessary to say that, while being unveiled in silence, the thoughts of many present wandered to distant lands to the graves of their loved ones, who will never return. Sad it is, but there is comfort in knowing that with these men the greatest honour lies.

Mr. Henry Corner, president of the Soldiers' Memorial Committee, presided, the ceremony opening by singing the National Anthem, with music supplied by the Maitland Federal Band, followed by the hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," after which Mr. William Kepple, sen., was called upon to remove the veil, all standing in silence. The Dead March in "Saul" was then rendered by the band, after which the "Last Post" was sounded. Mr. W. Kepple, sen., is father of Private Arthur E. Kepple, who was the first local lad to enlist. He was also the first local soldier to be killed in action, this being on 26th April, 1915, the day after the landing at Gallipoli. During the ceremony addresses were given by Rev. Canon West, Hon. Walter Bennett, M.L.A., Rev. J. Davies, Mr. W. F. O'Hearn, M.L.A., Archdeacon Luscombe, the Mayor of West Maitland (Mr. H. W. Fry), Mr. A. McGregor (president Bolwarra Shire Council), and Councillor Ferry. The various speakers endeavoured to convey their deepest sympathy with the relatives of deceased soldiers to which were added expressions of comfort and

deceased soldiers to which were added expressions of comfort and appreciation for the very great sacrifices that had been made. Full stress was also given loyalty to the Union Jack and patriotism examples of which could be taken from those who enlisted voluntarily. The name of Sister Cain on the honour roll reminded those present of the heroic work done on the battlefields, in the hospitals, and almost all over the world while the war lasted.

The speeches were interspersed with sacred music, such as "Hymns of the Old Church Choir," and the hymn "God Of Our Fathers."

The president thanked all for the donations that had been received in the special appeal during the ceremony, amounting to £75/2/6, leaving a credit balance of about £15 to still further improve the surroundings of the monument. He specially thanked those living outside the district who had so willingly and generously subscribed.

After a vote of thanks had been accorded Mr. Corner, not only for presiding at this ceremony, but also for the active part he has taken in all patriotic matters from the time the war started, the ceremony closed by all singing the National Anthem.

The monument was erected by Messrs. J. J. Edstein and Sons, and the work is a credit to them, as well as the Paterson district. Not that it is too good for the object in view, that being a memorial to fallen soldiers, and an honour roll for returned men, as we all admit that nothing could be too good for that purpose. The principal part is of polished trachyte, erected on three steps, with a nine foot base. It is enclosed by a very neat fence, just over three feet high, with arctic rail painted white. The cost of this fence and the removal of the old street boundary fence was paid by the Bolwarra Shire Council from local rates. On the eastern face are the names of deceased soldiers, showing rank, date of death, and place of death. These are as follows:—Private A. E. Kepple, k. in a., Gallipoli, 26/4/15; Private S. J. Kidd, k. in a., Lone Pine, 7/8/15; Cnr. E. Taylor, k. in a., Armentieres, 12/10/16; L.-Cpl. B. Doyle, k. in a., Pozieres, 26/7/16; A.Pte. C. W. Brooker, k. in a., Zonnebeke, 1/10/17; Cpl. D. E. Etches, d. of w. (place unknown), 20/11/17; L.-Cpl. A. Kimber, d. of illness, Turkey, 20/11/17; Pte. H. E. Auckett, k. in a., Polygon Wood, 2/3/18. On the top of the dial over the names is the motto, "For God, King, and Empire, 1914-1918," and at the bottom, immediately under a military emblem is the dedication tablet as follows:—"Erected in honour of those from this district who served in the great

erected in honour of those from this district, who served in the great war, 1914-1918. The honour roll is placed on the northern and southern faces, this being headed with the name of Sister Cann, followed by the returned men in alphabetical order as follows—A. Brown, E. Brown, S. V. Butler, B. B. Danks, P. Doyle, R. Duggan, V. Geary, P. Hartup, A. Hartup, C. Hartup, R. Hicks, R. Kidd, A. Kidd, V. Martin, G. R. Reynolds, A. Reynolds, A. Yates.

The monument, as it now stands, including the new fence, will cost about £820, and Paterson is now in the position of being able to say that it was clear of debt before the unveiling ceremony closed, and better still the whole of the money was raised by direct giving, not one entertainment of any kind being held to raise funds for this purpose.

Although it has taken just over two years to complete this movement it must be very gratifying for the committee to hear so many expressions of appreciation both with regard to the selection of site and also the design of monument. The committee have worked hard in order to attain the success that a movement like this should have, and they deserve very great credit for the time and energy given the movement. Very valuable assistance was given by the ladies who undertook the collecting, and it is worthy of mention that these ladies have shown what consistent workers they are as some of them were out with the first list eight years ago for the old patriotic fund, and we found them just as willing to

assist with the last as they were with the first.

A memorial service was held in St. Paul's C. of E. at night, the church being just full, which will give some idea as to the large number that were present. Such an attendance must be a further source of comfort to the relatives of deceased soldiers. The sermon was preached by the Ven. Arch-deacon Luscombe, who was assisted during the service by the Rev. Canon Hirst, who recently retired from the charge of this parish. The text was taken from the 9th verse, 14th chapter of St. Mark—"Verily I say unto you whosoever this Gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world this shall also be spoken of her as a memorial for her." In the memory of those present it is doubtful as to whether a more beautiful sermon has been heard in the church, it being one to be long remembered. The arch-deacon was successful in striking right home to the hearts of the people, and

home to the hearts of the people, and although a newcomer to the parish this sermon has been the means of gaining many friends for him.

The following is the list of subscribers to the fund, and includes the special appeal made at the unveiling: Messrs E. Auckott £1/1/, F. Auckott £7/7/, A. B. Artis 10/6, Les. Arnold 10/, J. Anderson £1/1/, B. B. Butler £1, Mrs. J. S. Brown £7/7/, Dr. E. Bowker £1/1/, J. E. Blunt 10/6, Hon. Walter Bennett £1, C. L. Bridger £1/1/, Mrs. C. L. Bridger £1/1/, J. Brooker £1, H. Brown, jun., 10/6, H. Corner £7/7/, G. F. Cann £5/5/, K. Corner £1/1/, C. Couper 10/6, Miss F. Cann £1/1/, Miss A. Cann £1/1/, H. Cann £1/1/6, W. Couper £1/1/, C. Cant 10/6, E. J. Cann £3, J. Cant 10/6, W. Carter £1/1/, C. Clements 10/6, F. Clements 10/, Jas. Clements 10/, C.

Crawford £1/1/, but collections at unveiling £1/8/6, £6/15/8, £3/0/4, W. J. Craun £1/1/, J. and F. W. Cann £2/2/, J. S. Dunning 10/, G. Duggan £1/1/, C. J. Dugg 10/, A. M. Doyle £7/7/, John Dalglish £5/5/, J. G. Duggan 10/6, A. J. Dransfield 10/, J. W. Easy £2/2/, J. R. Flory £1/10/, G. Francis 10/, H. A. Fry £7/7/, Fry Bros. £5/5/, D. Ferry 10/6, J. Gibbs 10/6, E. L. Goodwin £1/1/, J. Gray £1/1/, L. Graham £1/1/6, Canon Hirst £1/5/, E. Hirst 10/, Mrs. H. Hartup £1, Mrs. L. Holden £2, Mrs. F. Harding 10/, W. Hicks £1/1/, Thos. Jordan £1/0/6, E. Jackson 11/, W. Jackson 10/6, Jas. Jordan 15/, John Kepple £1/1/, Les. Kepple 10/6, V. Kidd 10/, Jas. Kelly 12/, Walter Kepple £1/1/, W. Kepple, son, £1, M. C. Loggett £1/1/, McGill and Sons £2/2/, Mrs. W. J. McGill £1/1/, J. McGon 2/1/7, U. Middleton £1, Geo. Martin 10/6, G. Morton 10/, A. A. Nilvson £10/10/, A. J. Ninness 10/6, A. McGregor 10/, W. F. O'Hearn 10/6, J. Pring 10/, Dr. Parkins £3/3/, M. Patfield £1/1/1/, H. Patfield £1/1/, E. Patfield £1/1/, C. Powell £1/1/, R. Part-ridge 10/, Mrs. S. Patfield 10/6, F. Reynolds £5/5/, S. Reynolds £10/5/, Mrs. D. F. Reynolds £1, D. F. Reynolds £2/2/, Mrs. F. Reynolds £1, Mrs. A. G. Reynolds £1, A. G. Reynolds £1, Arthur Reynolds £2, J. A. Smith £7/7/, Mrs. H. Soumonicht £1/1/, C. G. Smith £1/1/, M. Smith £5, Miss Swan 10/, Chas. Stout 10/6, J. D. Tucker £6, Mrs. W. Tucker £5, Albert Taylor £6/0/, J. J. Vivian £2/2/, Wilson and Kepple £7/7/, G. Williamson 10/, C. A. Whybin £1/1/, J. Whybin.

Reppie £7/1/, G. Williamson 10/
C. A. Whybin £1/1/, J. Whybin,

sen., £1/1/, J. Whybin, jun., £1/
1/, transfer from Patriotic Fund
£69/16/, Girls' League £29/0/1,
donations under 10/ £8/5/1; total
£320/8/7.