

BUNBURY SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL

Unveiling Ceremony

The Bunbury War Memorial was unveiled on Tuesday, in the presence of a large gathering of citizens, and although the work is not complete, it was felt that no more fitting day for the ceremony could be found, than Armistice Day. All business establishments were closed, and the scholars from the various schools were in attendance. After the two minutes silence, the ceremony of unveiling the tablet bearing the names of the fallen was performed by Col N. M. Brazier, introductory speeches having been made on behalf of the town, and the R.S.L.

The Mayor (Mr. Geo. E. Clarke), said that they had taken the opportunity of Armistice Day to unveil the memorial, the tablet on which bore the names of those who had paid the supreme sacrifice in the great war. That the structure was in an unfinished state was not the fault of those controlling affairs. The grounds also were not complete, but he hoped they would see a vast improvement in the course of a few weeks. The Government had placed in the hands of the citizens of Bunbury the land in front of the Hospital, which would be devoted to a park. They had further made a gift of the small portion of land, on which the memorial stood and at a later date it would be handed over to the Municipality as a trust. He wished to express the gratitude of the citizens to those who had at last enabled Bunbury to possess a memorial to her fallen soldiers.

Mr. F. D. Slee (President of the R.S.L.) said that while a consider-

able amount had yet to be done to complete the structure, they felt that they should take advantage of Armistice Day. On the completion of the work, it was proposed to hand

it to the Council, in trust for the people of Bunbury. As they had heard, the ground was to be laid out as a park, and he trusted that it might be known as Anzac Park. It was six years since the signing of the Armistice, and though there had been a delay in erecting a memorial, that delay was due to the consideration of the schemes of the various parties interested in the movement. The citizens and the R.S.L. at first did not quite know the best means of expending the funds so generously subscribed, but eventually a cenotaph was decided upon, as that was a memorial which would last for ever. On the tablet which would shortly be unveiled were the names of the glorious dead, and the friends and relatives of those who did not return would know as they passed that memorial that those names were perpetrated for all time. Nothing was more appropriate than the lines of the poet—

Tell England, you that pass this
monument,
We died for her, and here we
rest content.

Col. N. M. Brazier then addressed the gathering before the unveiling. They had come there, he said, on the anniversary of the cessation of hostilities between almost all the nations of the earth, to acknowledge their personal recognition of the

their personal recognition of the follies of the nations of the world in the past, to hope and pray for the future peace of the world, and to pay respect to the memory of those who died and suffered for what they were all conscientiously certain was the cause of righteousness, truth and honour and help for the weaker nations. "We are also here," proceeded the Colonel, "to unveil this memorial, this shrine, which has been

erected by your will as origin, in and through your love as means, to the end that it may be emblematical of an everlasting message to be handed down from and by you to future generations.

It would be unfitting to let the occasion pass without considering the origin, means and end involved in this imposing structure. There is a cause for all things. The original cause for the erection of this memorial was war. There are only three prime causes of war, viz, religion, government, and economics. The war we have passed through undoubtedly had its origin in commerce, and was fanned into flame by the competition for the control of the markets of the world, aided and abetted by the ambitions of kings and rulers to dominate, and be masters of the world. The nation that was least prepared for war, the nation that desired war only as a last resource to stop the domineering, blood and iron compulsion of Germany, was England. Truth and justice and standing by the weaker nations and keeping the honourable word led England into the war. Then we learned that blood was thicker than water when the British Empire arose as one unit from the uttermost parts of the earth, to stand or fall by those highest traditions which have come to us in messages

which have come to us in messages from the past.

The cause then being war, the origin of this memorial lay in your will to leave some record, some message from the past for future generations. The means whereby this shrine was erected was in and through your love for those who took part in the war, you worked to fulfil your original idea, and to erect some tangible, some everlasting record, not only of the heroic deeds of those who died and suffered through the war, but as a means to some end.

It is this end that was in view that is now our consideration. Will this memorial, when it is unveiled, be the end of the original project? Will all your thoughts and deeds

now cease after having erected the structure? Will you just say: Now we have done our bit, there is the memorial?" Is this memorial necessary to remind us of those of our friends and relations who gave their lives for a good cause? Certainly not. They are already to us spiritual monuments of a great heroic past. Is this memorial necessary to remind those who were wounded and still suffer from wounds, that they played their part in the war? Certainly not. Every minute of the day some soldier in our midst has a lasting memorial of his own to remind him of the tragic event.

What then is the end? Why was this memorial built? To leave an unending message for the young people whose minds see not with the minds of the mature. It is to remind these young people to pass on that messages when they reach that mature age when they can express the thoughts that come not in their youth. How many of us who have been left some message in our youth by our parents or teachers, some message that perhaps then seemed

message that perhaps then seemed insignificant, cannot truthfully say that in some hour of trial, that message had come before us and helped us over our difficulty. Have we not the lesson of messages handed down, and perhaps too little heeded, for 2,000 years?

To those who are afflicted—and we cannot help feeling afflicted—by the loss of relations and friends, this structure is not necessary to remind them of their loss. That loss is always there—a silent, unveiled monument cherished in the depth of loving hearts.

Why then was this memorial erected? It was erected to deliver a message, an everlasting message, to be handed down and down through the unending stream of life full of faith and love as the message of Christ and Paul have thundered through the ages, down to us with all the magnificence and truth transcended.

But we cannot deliver a message without thought. We must have learned something. The message may have a positive or a negative application. But whatever it be mere thought is useless without action. Knowing what is right only becomes true religion when we act upon our knowledge. So we are under an obligation to hand on the message we have to deliver; to instil the message into the minds of the young, asking them to pass it on when they thoroughly understand it as they will some day. Good things always bring forth good fruit.

Now we have learned that war is an unnecessary waste of life, time and material. Hence the advent of the League of Nations.

We have learned that so long as the devil and all his works patrol the earth—and they seem part of

the earth—and they seem part of the creation—and individuals and nations cannot, or will not, cast them out, we will have war. Hence the advent of Christ.

We also realise that if all the men and money and time spent on the war had been put to good use in developing the productivity of the earth—God's gift to man—and the rulers of nations had met together to see how to accomplish that end in the best interest of all mankind—not necessary for all the breeds of man to huddle together—then we would have known that religion and government and economics would in their truest sense have fulfilled their functions as integral parts of human existence, inseparable from each other, in the great work of man in developing himself as well as the earth for the benefit of all men in all climes. Then would they return to the Creator in Whose image they were made having earned their reward, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

The cord retaining the Australian flag in position, was then released and the tablet and front of the monument displayed to view.

Bugler Wallis having sounded the Last Post, the Bunbury Band played

the National Anthem at the conclusion of which Col Brazier addressed himself more particularly to the scholars, and pointed the message of the monument. They learned by the past and lesson they would pass on to the younger generation was: "Learn to defend your country, your honour and your homes, against the aggression of the unrighteous; but let war be the last act to accomplish that end. Do not give, but be ready to receive, the first blow; and then only, 'fight the good fight with all thy might.' Seek not to grasp more than your fair share of the necessities of life."

than your fair share of the necessities of life ; but be ready to help the weak when opposed. The lives of the men who fought together, irrespective of class or creed, and whose names are on this memorial, were given in the above cause. You alone are responsible to the Creator for your own thoughts and deeds. Look to yourself. Do not judge the other man, but help him to avoid evil if possible.

Finally let the better thoughts of your better natures constantly command the rebellious frailties of your physical members, and so control them that your actions and expressions may soothe, rather than ruffle, the feelings and affections of your fellow men. Then will this message of the memorial not be in vain."