

MEMORY PARK

Penrith's Tribute to its Soldiers

State Governor Unveils Honor Roll and Opens the Park

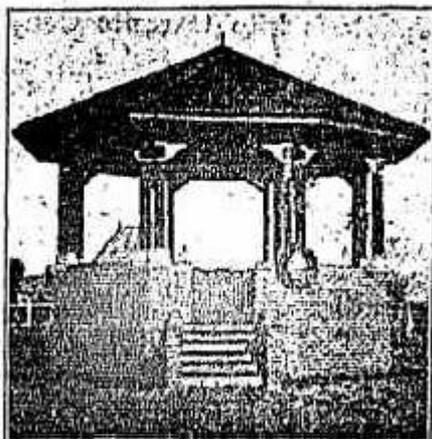
Charges a Sacred Duty to Council and Citizens

"The Dearest Monument in Australia to People of Penrith"

An Appeal for Funds

Trophy Guns Unveiled

toric event.



The ROTUNDA in MEMORY PARK

In February, 1891, Lord Jersey officially opened the Penrith waterworks; in November, 1908, Sir Harry Rawson opened Holy Trinity Church, Jamisontown; and in March, 1916, Sir Gerald Strickland opened the Nepean Show.

These were all important occasions, worthy of the visits of State Governors. But last Saturday's ceremony of unveiling Penrith's Honor Roll and of opening the well-named Memory Park—the community's tribute to its men who served in the Great War—was supremely worthy of such an honor. For that reason the visit of Sir Walter Davidson was a matter of pronounced satisfaction to the people of Penrith.

A great gathering witnessed an historic event.

After a few years of drudgery and contention with more or less adverse conditions—sometimes battling against indifference and no doubt at times feeling considerable disappointment—the Penrith Soldiers' Memorial Committee has now practically reached the consummation of its great purpose. Though there is yet some work to be done, and more money to be raised, the fact remains that Penrith now actually possesses a soldiers' memorial, and that which remains to be done is of a supplementary nature. Further, if it be true that nothing succeeds like success, the committee, with the moral strength acquired from the great success commemorated by last Saturday's event, should have no difficulty in accounting for the rest.

Weather conditions favored the big function of last Saturday, when the unveiling of the honor roll and opening of the rotunda were performed by his Excellency the State Governor, Sir Walter Davidson. During the preceding three or four days the outlook was at times not very encouraging, but fortunately rain held off long enough to allow of an exemption from a condition of muddy roadway and general bad weather inconveniences.

His Excellency arrived by the 2.22 p.m. train, accompanied by Mr. H. O. Budge, secretary to Government House, but—to the disappointment of many folk—unaccompanied by Dame Margaret Davidson, to whom had been assigned the honor of naming and opening the park. We learn that Dame Margaret was very disappointed at being unable to attend, having to officiate at

unable to attend, having to officiate at another function in place of Lady Forster.

On the station his Excellency was met by the Mayor (Ald. J. Adams) and Aldermen and the secretary of the Memorial Committee (Mr. O. W. Fletcher). A large number of townspeople had gathered to witness his arrival.

In the square outside the station there was a large concourse, including C Squadron Light Horse, with Warrant Officer Lock in charge, two mounted police (Constables Ormsby and McGeek), and many representative citizens.

Civic Welcome.

As the vice-regal party appeared the band played the National Anthem.

The Mayor said: Your Excellency, I have to extend to you a citizens' welcome on this the occasion of your first visit to our historic town of Penrith for the purpose of unveiling an honour roll to the memory of our brave boys who nobly answered the call in the hour of need, including those boys who laid down their lives that we might live and that the old flag might still float over us. (Applause).

Mr. E. W. Orth (town clerk) then read the text of a scroll address in Morocco case, as follows:—

His Excellency Sir Walter Davidson, Governor of the State of N.S.W.—May I please your Excellency: We, the Mayor and Aldermen, on behalf of the citizens in the Municipality of Penrith, desire to extend to your Excellency and Dame Margaret Davidson a most hearty welcome on this your first visit to our town. We especially appreciate your visit as it will be made the occasion of your opening the Soldiers' Memorial Reserve (Memory Park)—a memorial by a grateful people to the memory of those who served in the Great War of 1914-18. We highly appreciate the honor to our town by your Excellency's visit in your representative capacity; and desire to assure you of our loyalty and devotion to the throne and person of his Majesty King George V. We sincerely trust that your Excellencies' visit will prove one of pleasure and interest. For and on behalf of the citizens of Penrith. (Signed) J. Adams, Mayor. E. W. Orth, town clerk. -8-7-'22.

His Excellency was greeted with much cheering, particularly from a number of children, to whom Sir Walter took kindly from the start.

"Boys who can shout like that deserve a holiday," he said in happy vein, raising the merriment of the crowd. Of the holiday he had more to say at a later stage.

In responding to the address, his

say at a later stage.

In responding to the address, his Excellency said: Mr. Mayor and colleagues: I don't like the stress you put upon the fact that this is my first visit to Penrith. I am sorry it should be so. There are very few places that we have not had an opportunity to visit while in this State, but it is usually the places that are comparatively near that become neglected. However, I am very happy to be able to visit such an historic place; and—as Australia goes—a place of great antiquity. I enjoy reading the story of your forebears who helped to make the country and who raised crops in the early days. They lived very hard lives, and they left descendants who, I think, are of the right kind. I have come especially because I want to do honor to those happy-hearted fearless lads who went forth fighting. I always like to pay

homage to those through whose heroism the nation of Australia has been made. (Hear, hear). I have especially come to join with you in appreciation of the young men of this generation who have proved themselves to be as good as their hardy forebears, and I think those little boys (alluding to the school children in the gathering) will be as good in their turn.

"I think you should get a holiday for them," said his Excellency, turning to the Mayor and alluding to the children. "Shall it be Monday? (The Mayor: Yes). How shall we communicate it? Will you be my ambassador? (Again the Mayor assented). It shall be for all schools within reach of Penrith. (To the children)—You will get a holiday on Monday, because I have the King's commission. His Majesty told me before he sent me out that he wished me to represent him as he would like to be represented. So in everything I do I try to bring happiness home to as many as I can, for the King is a kind-hearted man. You will remember that this is the King's holiday, because the King had me act according to his pleasure (Great cheering).

Then the Governor inspected the local troops, after which a procession was formed, headed by several motor cars with aldermen and citizens, followed by Dr. Higgins' car, conveying the Governor, and then by the Light Horse and other vehicles. Chariot T.

the Governor, and then by the Light Horse, and other vehicles. Chaplain L. G. Hatfield Hall acted as master of ceremonies. The procession proceeded along Station Street and High Street to the Memorial reserve, where a large gathering awaited its arrival. By the time proceedings started there about a thousand people had gathered.

At Memory Park.

On alighting from the car the Governor walked between two files of local returned soldiers to the Memorial reserve gates, conversing freely and affably with various citizens to whom he was introduced. At the gates he was met by the president of the Memorial Committee (Mr. A. Judges) and Mr. W. R. Fitzsimons, M.L.A. The guard of honor within the reserve consisted of the Juniors and Auxiliary Red Cross, with Mrs Danks Brown in charge. In conversation with the youthful members of this body his Excellency expressed regret that Dame Margaret Davidson was not present. Sir Walter appeared particularly interested in the Junior Red Cross and in some of Penrith's veterans to whom he was introduced.

When the vice-regal party, officials, and other participants had adjourned to the rotunda the band struck up the National Anthem, after which the service drafted by the Memorial Committee was proceeded with.

Mr. A. Judges, as president of the Memorial Committee, presided, and among others in the rotunda were:—The Mayor and Aldermen of Penrith, the clergy and their wives, Mr. W. R. Fitzsimons, M.L.A., and Mrs. Fitzsimons, Mr. V. Molesworth, M.L.A., Hon Sydney Smith, Mr. John Hawthorne, ex-M.L.A., Mr. Robinson (Mayor of Grafton), Ald. T. W. Brooker (Mayor of St Marys), Mr. O. W. Fletcher (hon. secretary of the Memorial Committee) and Mrs. Fletcher.

Rev. L. G. Hatfield Hall (St. Stephen's C. of E.) read the 46th Psalm. The school children sang "Advanced Australia Fair," Mr. T. L. Sullivan conducting. Rev. J. N. McGee read a prayer of thanksgiving for peace.

Mr. A. Judges, as president of the Memorial Committee, extended a welcome to his Excellency, in which he said: We have met this afternoon for a very important event in the history of Penrith. It is important because, firstly, we have with us a representative of the King in the person of Sir Walter Davidson, Governor of the State. At the railway station a civic reception was extended to him, and now, on behalf of this gathering, I extend a very hearty welcome to his Excellency. We are very pleased to see him. We know that he is experienced

him. We know that he is experienced in functions of this kind, and we know that he will always say the right thing in the right place. In the second place, this is an important event because we have consummated what I may say is the wish of all of us—that there should be something to commemorate the valor of Penrith soldiers in the Great War. We have erected a memorial which we think will stand for a long time, at all events, to commemorate the deeds of those boys. Not everyone is aware that—although we are not a big community—we sent no less than 250 young men to the war, and out of that number about one in every six—viz., 45—made the supreme sacrifice. It is a record, I think, that we might be proud of—one, I hope, that we will always determine never to forget. We have another record in connection with Penrith: We sent everyone of the nursing staff of our local hospital.

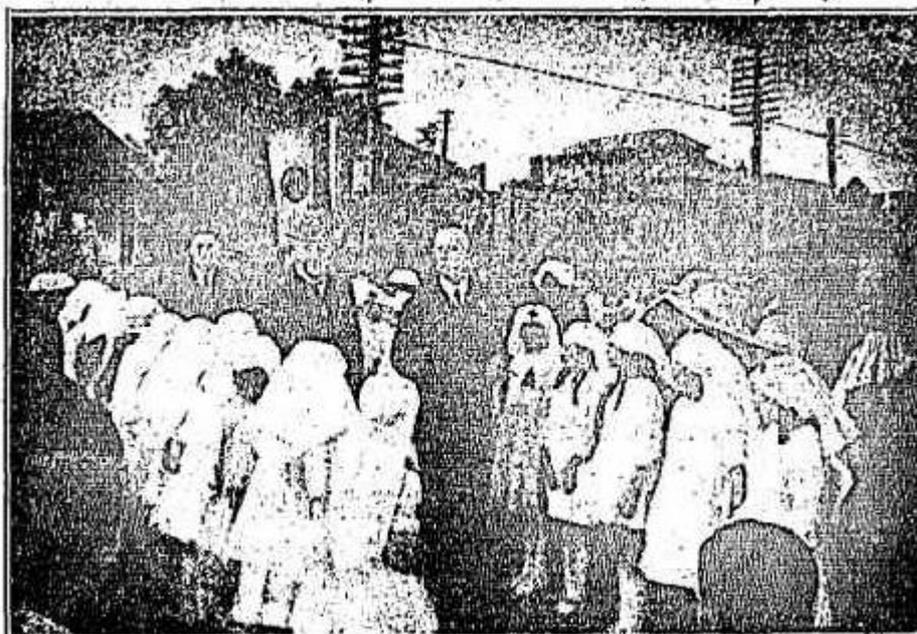
Sir Walter Davidson: Hear, hear.

Mr. Judges: The matron and all the staff volunteered, and went—and one

of our medical men. We want you never to forget these things. We are in need of funds for the memorial, and we hope you are going to make this little ground a thing of beauty and a joy for ever, and an everlasting reminder of the work our boys did. I do hope you will never forget those brave boys who have gone from our midst. I have to ask his Excellency to perform the duty, which I know will be very acceptable to him, of unveiling the tablets and declaring the rotunda open. (Applause).

His Excellency said: Mr. chairman, ladies, and gentlemen—I am very sorry that my wife is not here. I had to leave her to do another man's job, because I considered that the job I gave to her was a very important one and would have its bearing upon the future of Australia to its benefit, and I was desperately anxious that the cause would be pleaded well this afternoon, for most people do not grasp it yet. But I want Australia to be brought before the world so much in 1924 at the British Empire exhibition that the produce of Australia may always find a ready market in London. "The Hub of the Universe," and through London, in every part of the world. It is my wife's business to see

through London, in every part of the world. It is my wife's business to see to it this afternoon. So that she does not stay away from any caprice or fancy, but because we held it to be her principal duty to be in another place this afternoon. (Hear, hear). Among



THE STATE GOVERNOR ARRIVES AT MEMORY PARK
(Inspection of Junior Red Cross). (Photo by A. C. Tipping).

my own people, out of six families there is only one man left of military age—in the next generation of our house. That will give you some impression that I am in deep sympathy with those who are mourning the loss of their lads. All of us expected our young men to go. None of us bade them go. Their mothers made it easy for them to go, but the young men went of their own notion. (Hear, hear). They went because their stock of a thousand years would allow them to give no other answer than that it was their business to go—that the Empire's business was their business. And whatever any others might do in other parts of the world, the people of Australia, with a thousand years of valorous fortitude behind them, would play their part as well as any other section of the race. Not perhaps better, for from every corner of the world men of British stock came out, and, although they are not a military race, and hate the pomp and panoply of war, yet they went, sacrificing their careers in order that they might stand together. And why in the world should they stand together? It was because they had been brought up to believe that their own people ruled themselves—that they were their own

people ruled themselves—that they were their own masters, and would act according to their own lights and in their own way. Hundreds of years back our people insisted that if any infringement of the rights of the people were attempted they would hold their own against anyone. So it has become part of the spir-

THE HONOR ROLL OF PATRIOTS
 PRO DIO, PATRIA ET PATRIE LIBERTATE

BROTT, F. A.	HARPER, E.	PERRAUD, B.
AUSUBURN, R. H.	HAYES, C. W.	PURDON, I. T.
BAINISTER, R. T. A.	HUGHES, I.	POWELL, H.
BLAYDES, A.	KERRY, J.	POWELL, P. E.
BLAYLAND, C.	LANCE, J. K.	ROOK, C.
BURKE, A. O.	LEITCH, S.	SKIFFIN, A.
BURROYS, H. J.	LESCHE, W.	SIMPSON, G.
BYRIS, W. P. L.	MESSER, F.	SMITH, I. R.
COLLESS, S.	WILLER, G.	STANLEY, W. H. J.
COLLUM, J. C.	MILES, M.	WATSON, G. A.
CONNELL, E.	MITCHEN, J.	WATSON, W. H.
CORRIE, J.	MULLIS, M.	WELLS, C. J.
CUMMINGS, H.	MC CONNOR, P. E.	WYME, J.
DUNN, E.	NICHOL, J.	WOODRUFF, T. B.
EVANS, J.	PLYM, J. D.	WYLLIE, R. H.

ONE OF THE SEVEN HONOR ROLL TABLETS.
 (It records the names of the men who made the supreme sacrifice).

it and faith of our people—that they should always look after themselves and maintain their own rights and liberties, which they had had entrusted to them. That is the true secret of why our people went voluntarily and the people of other nations had to be sent. Not only our own people under our own flag went, but hundreds of thousands of them who were in the United States also went. There was no claim on them but the tradition of our race. They went pretending neither this, that, nor the other, but knowing that what was forcing men on was the tie of blood—the old tie of kinship. One hundred thousand American citizens filtered through Canada to England in order that they might fight for us before their nation came in. This is the best testimony to the customs of our race. As long as we keep those customs and maintain our liberties and fortitude so long shall we inherit this portion of the earth and many other beautiful lands. It is because we are a straight-forward, peace-loving, simple people—God fearing, as becomes our stock—that we are able to control a great deal of the world without force. There may be a nation under our leadership and a corporal guard is sufficient to maintain it. I have been amongst a tumult among other races—religious and racial—and have gone into the middle of those riots and have only carried a switch in my hand, because I reckoned that our only right to supremacy was our tradition and the influence which goes with character. I have gone into a riot and arrested the leading man, and taken him out from among his own armed followers.

Is not that the best proof of the way we rule? Those people believed that that man would get protection and justice at my hands. That is the secret of success of our race. When those honest, fearless, happy lads went, and so many failed to return, they all went with the same spirit as guided me in that riot or as would guide any of you under any emergency—always to do justice. They went for many reasons, but they were steadfast in the resolve to put an end to militarism—any organised power directed to spoliation and looting of other nations. And we are safe now in my opinion, and I am an old man and wise to these things. In my opinion, our rights will not be challenged in the lifetime even of these little children. The lesson has been thoroughly well learnt, as it has been proved that the British people will hold together as they did in the past when the Yeoman joined the honest King and fought the same fights at Agincourt and Crecy, and as they did later at Waterloo, and again when our boys won at Pozieres and Bullecourt. These men will be followed in the next generation by men and women who will be as whole-hearted and brave as this generation and past generations for

be as whole-hearted and brave as this generation and past generations for thousands of years. There is no danger, in my mind. It is well to be always armed and well prepared. In the Middle Ages they taught the boys archery, and the boys to-day ought to be taught how to use a gun. But the les-

son that has been learnt now will not be forgotten by foreign statesmen or by those who are anxious to build up a great nation on the ruins of our own. Other nations have risen, become great, and have perished. There is a great monument in the Libyan desert with the inscription, "My name is Ozyhandias, King of Kings. Look on my works, ye mighty and despair." Nothing remains—just a fragment and an inscription. Princes rise and perish if the people are not with them. But it is because it is otherwise with us that we have stood together so long, and, please God, we shall stand together for all time. (Applause).

His Excellency then released the flags veiling the memorial tablets. Addressing the gathering, he said:

"I do hope you will hold this monument to be the dearest in all Australia to the citizens of Penrith. (Applause). I charge you, Mr. Mayor, and your colleagues, and those who come after you, that never shall any of you fail in your duty to hold in the highest respect the memories of those who proved their manhood for the people of Penrith. (Applause).

"I do hope that you, Mr. Judges, and the ladies and gentlemen associated with you, shall see that this is only the beginning of the movement that shall be a graceful monument in the most prominent place in your town, and that it shall be improved and beautified from time to time as long as you shall live. (Hear, hear). I hope that

all of you will do your best as good citizens to improve it so that it shall be the temple of your race—to be held in the respect in which you hold your church—to be the centre in which your people will be enabled to remember the stock from which they came. It shall be your honor and your glory, and if you continue to praise God in the week-days here as you do in your churches on Sunday the Lord of Hosts will be with you, and he will ever be your refuge and your guard. (Applause).

Mr. W. Johnson sounded the "Last Post," a most impressive ceremony, with the great gathering standing in silence.

Little Miss Edith M. Fletcher, representing the Memorial Committee, presented to his Excellency, for conveyan-

cing the Memorial Committee, presented to his Excellency, for conveyance to Dame Margaret Davidson, a beautiful bouquet which it was originally intended to present to Dame Margaret personally. It included red carnations, symbolical of sacrifice. Other floral presentations were made by other junior girls, viz., one by Hilda Fulton, on behalf of the Junior Red Cross; one by Valerie Clarke, on behalf of the Girls' Comforts Club; and a fourth (a buttonhole) by Joyce Brown.

His Excellency gratefully thanked the girls, evincing great delight at the gifts.

At this stage he was introduced to Nurses Greentree and Basett, formerly of the local Hospital staff, and who served with the A.I.F., and to members of the district teaching staffs, viz., Messrs. J. N. Peck (headmaster of Penrith Public School), T. L. Sullivan, J. J. Emery, and A. J. Owens. This

brought to Sir Walter's mind again the question of the holiday for the children, and, after a few words with Mr. Peck about the matter, his Excellency aroused great cheering from the youngsters and laughter from the adults by remarking, "It's alright about that holiday. I have spoken to the headmaster, and he says that it is alright. It is to be on Monday, and it is to be a King's holiday." (More cheering).

The chairman, on behalf of the Memorial Committee, presented his Excellency with a beautiful suede-covered album (inscribed) containing some splendid Nepean district views. He hoped that when his Excellency returned to his ancestral home in the Old Country he would look upon these views as a reminder of that day's events.

Sir Walter Davidson, in returning thanks, said: I suppose you would like to know—and the ladies more so than the men—how I guard and cherish such gifts as this. If you ever come to Government House—the finest house in Australia—as I hope you will, for it is always open, you will find in a place near the Greek central hall, below the portraits of the Kings and Queens, and on a level with the eye—which means in view of everyday life—the addresses and collections of pictures which we have received from our

the addresses and collections of pictures which we have received from every part of the country. We cherish them very gratefully, and we take great pride in them.

Girls' Comforts Club's Gift.

The chairman informed the gathering that the honor roll around the rotunda was wholly the gift of the Girls' Comforts Club. "We know the admirable work they did throughout the war," he said. "I believe they sent 1000 parcels to our boys at the front." (Applause).

Mr. W. R. Fitzsimons, M.L.A., in moving a vote of thanks to the Governor, said that his words failed to express the appreciation of the people of Penrith that day of his Excellency's visit. He knew that the Governor came there that day feeling, perhaps, not as well as usual. They knew what he was capable of when he was well. Yet they had heard an excellent speech that was given in very difficult circumstances. He believed that the time was approaching for his Excellency to leave this State, and it was to be hoped that the Government of this country would take steps to retain his services for N.S.W. (Applause). He (Mr. Fitzsimons) said advisedly that he had had many good governors here since the foundation of the State, but he did not think that any governor ever carried out his duties in this country with so much satisfaction to every section of the community as Sir Walter Davidson had. (Applause). His Excellency had unveiled a beautiful monument that was a memorial to those gallant men who went forward to fight for the Empire, and was also a tribute to the women of this country—the mothers and wives and sisters of the boys who went out. They helped to win the battles of the Empire just the same as the boys at the front. They gave up their best for the Empire. This memorial would also remain a lesson to the younger generation and to the children yet unborn who would look around and read the names inscribed on these walls, and would know that they were those of men who had helped to save Australia and the Empire.

An Appeal for Funds.

"We don't often have such a large gathering in Penrith as we have this afternoon," said Mr. Fitzsimons. "As Mr. Judges has pointed out, we have still a debt of about £200 to meet. We want to see that wiped out this afternoon. We have an area of ground alongside this reserve that we would like to resume. His Excellency has given you very good advice as to how you should treat this matter. This is an opportunity for you to show how you appreciate the services rendered to this

opportunity for you to show how you appreciate the services rendered to this country and the Empire by the boys."

The response to the appeal for funds was started by the Governor and continued by others. Altogether there was a splendid response. (Particulars of the afternoon's takings are referred to below).

Mr. V. Molesworth, M.L.A., in seconding the vote of thanks, said that His Excellency had shown very keen interest in N.S.W. ever since he had been among us. He (Mr. Molesworth) re-echoed Mr. Fitzsimons' words and trusted that N.S.W. would see his Excellency for many years more. He also re-echoed the sentiments expressed by the Governor with regard to this function. Penrith always did well in these matters, and, he believed, would continue to do so. The ground was too small. If the people gave well they would be able to acquire the adjoining ground, and then they would have, as his Excellency said, a good monument for all time. He hoped they would surpass everything Penrith had done in regard to its various funds. He hoped the secretary and treasurer would be over-worked in receiving donations.

The vote of thanks was carried by acclamation.

His Excellency briefly returned thanks, and this for the time being concluded the proceedings on the rotunda.

Unveiling the Guns.

To the Governor was also assigned the duty of unveiling the German howitzer trophy gun, which the council had installed on a concrete emplacement to the western side of the reserve. Both the howitzer and the trench mortar (which had been similarly favored on the eastern side) were painted up for the occasion.

Sir Walter Davidson made his unveiling speech interesting by telling the gathering something about the gun. "It is a 4.5 howitzer," he said, "of the latest model. This sort of gun did more harm than any other used by the enemy. It was turned out by Krupp's factory in 1918—the year in which it was taken. It was taken by the 3rd Battalion in the big advance that started on 8th August and never stopped till the Germans went home howling. Instead of only going the three or four miles, as was expected of them, our men went 15 miles, and captured all the German guns in that area. There is one gun in Sydney now which was taken the next day. It didn't matter which battalion took the guns, for the way it was done was that one division would capture the first line, and then the second division would come and play leap-frog over them and take the second, and then the third division would play leap-frog over the second.

second, and then the third division would play leap-frog over the second, and so on. So that all had their share in the advance, and it was a chance as to which body took the guns. The great thing was that on the second day the Germans hadn't a gun left, and

Luddendorf said, 'This is Black Monday.' That was the advance of the Australians, and the Canadians—and the English too (though they never talk of it). (Laughter). The Australians got the furthest, and the result was the smashing of the other side."

'Naming of "Memory Park."'

Dame Margaret Davidson was to name the reserve and to declare it open, but in her absence the chairman asked his Excellency to perform that function.

The latter said: Here is a beautiful park—not as beautiful as you will make it hereafter. It is a park that will hold in memory for you the men whose names are inscribed on the rotunda. It should be called by some name which will give a sense of memory, and you could not do better than call it "Memory Park." On behalf of my wife I will undertake to say that she will come next time I come to Penrith. I declare this place called Memory Park and open to the use of the public. If everything is favorable we will come back in a short time and see what you are doing to it. (Applause).

Mrs. A. Judges broke the Union Jack (presented by her) on the flagpole that was the gift of Mr. Fred Andrews. At Mr. Fitzsimons' invitation three cheers were given for the flag. Mrs. Judges was presented with a beautiful bouquet by Joyce Brown, on behalf of the Girls' Comforts Club.

It was only fitting that the Girls' Comforts Club, which had played such an honorable part in the war and in the erection of the memorial, should be assigned some official duty in the afternoon's proceedings. For that reason the Memorial Committee had delegated to the club the unveiling of a trench mortar trophy, and the club selected Miss K. Fitch for the duty.

Mr. Fitzsimons in addressing the folk assembled around the gun, said that Penrith had been most lucky in the matter of war trophies. He did

not know whose influence was able to get them such big guns, but over his way the folk had been given a gun only big enough to put on one's mantelpiece. (Laughter).

After the unveiling three cheers for the Girls' Comforts Club.

Resuming the proceedings on the rotunda, Rev. S. C. Roberts (Methodist) read a prayer for the British Empire, and then the gathering sang Kipling's "Recessional."

The singing of the National Anthem brought the big ceremony to a close.

The Governor was entertained at afternoon tea in a big marquee, which had been provided by the Military authorities, and which was erected in the reserve to the rear of the rotunda.

His Excellency, who was loudly cheered when leaving the ground by car, returned to Sydney by the 4.33 train.

Apologies.

In addition to a couple of telegrams from Dame Margaret Davidson expressing regret at her inability to attend, the secretary received one from Mr. R. B. Walker, M.L.A., who was unavoidably detained, but who wired wishing the function every success. There were also several apologies from local people.