

Katanning Public School

UNVEILING HONOR BOARD.

A very interesting function was held at the Katanning Public School on Monday, the occasion being the Unveiling of the Honor Board to the boys of the Katanning School who took part in the recent great war. Mr. Charlesworth, the head-teacher, having marshalled the children, numbering over 400, in the main corridors of the school building, in a few words told them why they had been assembled. He said they were about to honor the old boys of the school who had taken part in the Great War. These boys, only a few years ago, were just as they were to-day, youngsters receiving their education at the hands of school teachers. They had enlisted to fight for their country, and had made good, just as the boys of to-day and to-morrow would do if called upon. He then asked Mr. W. Pemble, the Chairman of the Katanning School Board, to unveil the Board.

Mr. W. Pemble said he felt deeply moved at the duty that was entrusted to him. First he would like to say that the Board was being unveiled free of debt, due to the interest taken in the matter by the children of the school and their parents, assisted at the last moment, to finalise payment, by certain townspeople in the name of the Katanning School and in Memory of those who had given their all for King and Country, he unveiled the Honor Board.

As the flag was drawn to one side, Mr. A. H. Morell sounded the "Last Post," everyone standing to attention.

Mr. Pemble, continuing, said: "Boys and girls, that you may realise what the war meant to the people of Australia, and particularly to

ple of Australia, and particularly to the people of Western Australia, I will give you a few figures. Out of a total population of 320,000, 32,244 enlisted, or one in every ten. Of that number 6,007 paid the supreme sacrifice, either on the field of battle, or afterwards in some hospital, as a result of wounds or sickness. This school contributed 116 as her quota, of whom 19 were not fated to return to their homes and people. They helped—these old boys of the Katanning School—to stem the tide of war, and to turn defeat into victory. By their aid and the Grace of God, to-day Australia is a free country instead of being a subject one. We are free to come and go and to play our part in the world unmolested, as subjects of the British Crown. The deeds of all Australians, but particularly of the boys whose names appear on this Roll of Honor, stand as an emulation and inspiration to you boys and girls here to-day and to the boys and girls of every generation to come. They fought and some of their number fell, for a just and lasting peace, which we hope will be consummated. The Board stands here to-day for a twofold purpose—in perpetual memory of those who fell, and an inspiration for those whose feet will sound in these corridors in the years to come—to serve their King and Country and to be true to themselves.

Mr. A. Thomson, M.L.A., said he was proud to be permitted to share in the honor being done that day to the old boys of the Katanning School. They had answered the call of duty and had gone to serve their King and Country. The King was head of the British Empire, and Australia, as part of that Empire, was one of the large family which owned the King as head. The Prince of Wales, who had made a brief stay in Katanning during his visit to the Commonwealth, was the King's representative. The people of Katanning, though far removed

of Katanning, though far removed from the actual scenes of war, had had their representatives there, amongst whom were the boys from the school. He was glad so many had been spared to return, but they had to sympathise with those parents whose boys had not come back, some of whom were present. He considered the Honor Board did great credit to the teachers and the boys and girls of the school, and particularly to Mr. E. A. Rogers,

for the fine piece of work he had executed.

Mr. Geo. McLeod, Chairman of the Road Board, said he could remember not so many years ago taking part in a function at the school, at which were present many of the boys whose names appeared on the Roll of Honor. Although a short time as years counted, it seemed a very long time ago since that gathering, as so much had happened since. Not only had the boys responded to the call, but the teachers also, who had lead the boys in peaceful tasks at the school had put aside their duties and had lead the boys in sterner manner on the battlefields. Three had gone, and one had paid the supreme sacrifice, to rest amongst the boys whose feet he had directed along the paths of knowledge. The boys that had gone were just like the boys at school this day, and he was sure that should the call come, they would acquit themselves equally as well.

Inspector Gladman then addressed the children. He said that the war had been caused by a nation that was a bully amongst other nations. This nation had claimed that "Might was Right." Britain and her Allies had said "Right was Might," and had proved it although her people had to suffer untold horrors to do so. The Board contained 116 names, of which those that had fallen were in the centre,

that had fallen were in the centre, flanked on either side by those who had returned. He trusted the children would bear in mind the message that Board conveyed—To hold them selves in readiness when Call of Duty came.

At the close of each speech which was listened attentively to by everyone present, the children applauded warmly, the function concluding with the singing of the National Anthem, sung by the children under the leadership of Mr. Bell.

The Honor Board consists of polished jarrah on which bronze name plates bearing the names are attached, overlaid with banksia covering to represent a withdrawn curtain the whole thing being a most artistic piece of work reflecting great credit on the workmanship of Mr. E. A. Rogers. Under the centre piece of "For King and Country" appear the names of the fallen as follow:—Adam, R. W. W., Chipper, H. Clayton, T., Cornish, C. H., Cummings, A., Cummings, M. H., Farnier, A. (M.M.), Farmer, L., Hassell, G. L., McLeod, A., Moore, S., Orr, J. A., Pemble, W. H. C., Priest, H., Seymour, W. J., Turnbull, C., Tuck, J. W., Warren, C. H., Wood, H. J. =

To two of the speakers, at least, (Messrs. Geo. McLeod and W. Pemble), the ceremony had a poignant interest, as the names of their sons appeared on the Board. At the termination of the function, the people present inspected the Roll of Honor, and many appreciative remarks were passed on its excellent workmanship and on the impressiveness of the ceremony.