

Williams District Roll of Honor.

UNVEILING CEREMONY.

The unveiling of the honor board to perpetuate the memory of those who had enlisted from the Williams Road Board District was formally unveiled on Wednesday afternoon last. The attendance greatly exceeded the expectations of all with the result that the Agricultural Hall, where the ceremony was held, proved totally inadequate to accommodate the assemblage present. The chair was occupied by the chairman of the Road Board (Mr W. T. Rabbish), and the proceedings were opened with the rendering of Kipling's Recessional "O, God, our help in ages past."

After an appropriate prayer by the Rev. Elsey,

Mr Rabbish said that the greatest honor was due to the men who had left the district to fight for democracy, liberty and justice. Australians lived under the very best constitution in the world, and it was no wonder that they had responded to the call for men to fight those who were responsible for the war and the killing of innocent women and children. Germany had no such freedom as we enjoyed and woe to this country if the war was not brought to a successful issue. Some of our men had been at the Front all the time and they were calling to their fellow-men to help them. Both Mr Cook and Mr Fisher had referred to the seriousness of the position and the call for men, the former stating that those who

former stating that those who would not fight for their country had better quit it, whilst the latter had said that voluntaryism was on its last trial. There were mothers in the audience who had as many as four sons at the Front viz. Mesdames Lucas, Macleod, and Warburton. The honor board at present comprised 87 names (of whom 10 had fallen), whilst six more were to be added.

Mr J. A. Greig M.L.C. said that it was pleasing to see so large an attendance to do honor to whom it was due. It was an honor to be elected to any position, but no matter how high, all paled into insignificance in comparison with the names on that roll of honor. They were not elected to give a portion of their time, but they volunteered to give their all—their lives—for King and Country. He regretted that the best of our young men had been called away and that some would not return. He was proud of the parents, and the district honor board was indeed something to be proud of, as it represented 15 per cent. of their total population of 600. If all Australia had done as well they would have twice as many men at the Front. We must realise that this was our war, and also the fact as proved by history that the nation that would not fight for right was vanquished. It remained with us at home to look after our soldiers on their return, and be prepared to pay extra taxation in this respect.

After the singing of the hymn "God of our Fathers" by those present,

The Mayor of Narrogin (Dr. Mackie) stated that he was present on behalf of their Member,

sent on behalf of their members,

Mr E. B. Johnston, who had been called to Perth to attend one of the most important meetings ever held in W.A.—the meeting of the National Party to determine the leader of Parliament for the period of the war, and perhaps for some time afterwards. Although Mr Johnston had wished to be with them that afternoon he was simply doing his duty elsewhere. Three years ago we little dreamt what was before us and that the lads [at the plough] would be the heroes of the country. Those bereaved could be comforted by that there was something more glorious than life itself and no one could die better than for his country. The Williams district could well be proud of their enlistments. The average in Australia was 1 in 16, in this State 1 in 13, but Narrogin had the high percentage of 1 in 7. We are proud of them but have no reason to be proud of ourselves. We also have our duty and can all do something for the cause for which our lads have died. Britain was fighting for the freedom of mankind, not for the extension of her boundaries, and that is why America came in—it was a fight for the freedom of the whole human race, and we had got to win. Those bereaved had something to be proud of, their sons were fighting for an heritage, and if we did not do our bit we had no right to associate with them. Each one should should ask himself if he was doing his very best, remembering that every man who enlisted backed his opinion of his country with his life. The speaker concluded with

life. The speaker concluded with a quotation from Tennyson.

The drapings of National flags were then reverently removed from the face of the honor board by Mesdames Macleod and Lucas, displaying each of the undermentioned names on a neat tablet:

E Aldum, S Bumstead T Brittain, J Baylis, A E Bingham, A H Bingham, W Bingham, J Blyth, E Carr, R Collias, J H Duckham, S Forsyth, A E Foulis, G Fisher, M P Folland, F Gubbins, E C Hughes, A Hughes, L Harvey, A E Howie, A G C Hicks, L Hayman, E H Hewitt, J Hegarty, T Hegarty, S Hedley, H Haynes, H Hamon, H H Harper (chaplain), T Kerrigan, L Lucas, S Lucas F. Lucas M Lucas, F Lilly, D Lund, A McIntyre, A McCormick, L McCormick, A Macleod, J Macleod, F Macleod, T J McCracken, P Major, W H Nelmes, J E Nicholson, F Noblett, S Pitchers, W Powell, H Pike, R Petchell, G Petchell, W Petchell, J Preston, L Phillis, W Palmer, W Richards, E Richards, B Robinson, R Rabbish, W Sylvester, F Sylvester, R Shreeve, W Stockton, H Sherry, E Smith, S Smith, J E Schofield, T F Schofield, E Sewell, W Street, G Tyler, M Tron (chaplain), R Tough, T Thompson, R Webster, R E Warburton, C E Warburton, P Warburton, W Warburton, Joe Warren, J Warren, E A White (chaplain), E Withers, H Waldoch, H Weatheral, R Whilford, L Whitford, F Woolams.

After a few remarks by the chairman regarding the work of the ladies committee the proceedings were brought to close with the National Anthem.