

YORK HONOUR BOARD.

UNVEILING CEREMONY.

Advantage was taken of the visit to York of the Hon. Vernon Hamersley, M.L.C., on Show Day, for him to unveil the Honour Board erected in the vestibule of York Town Hall to the everlasting glory of the men who have gone to the front from this district. The Honour Board is a handsome piece of craftsmanship and is the design and work of Mr. Arthur Burgess of York, and erected under the special care and guidance of Councillor Dovey, chairman of the Town Hall Committee. With both Mr. Dovey and Mr. Burgess the Honour Board has been a work of love, for both gentlemen have sons whose names are emblazoned on the glorious scroll.

The Board measures 10½ ft. x 8½ ft. and is of polished jarrah divided into four panels, and provides room for names. The name of each man is cut in brass, and also records what medals or decorations he has won in the war. At present there are 144 names placed in position under the respective years in which they joined the forces, and there are some names yet to be affixed, as soon as the correct particulars as to name and date of enlistment are obtained.

On Wednesday evening the vestibule and approaches to the Town Hall were crowded with residents and visitors when the Mayor, Mr. J. T. Parker, J.P. called upon Mr. Hamersley to perform the unveiling ceremony.

Mr. Hamersley complimented the town of York in possessing such a handsome tablet on which to record the undying fame of her sons who

the undying fame of her sons who had heard and responded to the call. Their names would go down to posterity as amongst the chiefest of her sons. Many had done noble deeds the records of which would last longer than the Honour Board itself, and demonstrated the fact that the sons of Australia were of the same good metal as their ancestors in the Motherland. Men were still wanted at the front, and he only wished the standard of age had been raised so that he could go and join his son. All men should take this matter into serious consideration, for it was not fair to the boys at the front, and the more recruits they sent the sooner would the war be over. When the war did come to an end the authorities would be faced with a serious problem in the repatriation of the men who returned. He thought a fine field was open to many of them as teachers in our schools which at present was understaffed, and surely no man was better equipped for the teaching of loyalty and patriotism than a returned soldier. (Cheers.)

Mr. Hamersley then unveiled the Board by pulling down the Union Jack with which it had been draped, and at the same time he called for three cheers for the King, and this was followed by the singing of the National Anthem.

The Mayor brought the proceedings to a close by proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Hamersley, and also to Councillor Dovey.

TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,—I crave a little of your space that I may protest emphatically against the sacrilege recently perpetrated in connection with the York Honour Board. I refer to the grossly indecent haste with which it was un-

indecent haste with which it was unveiled on an utterly unsuitable occasion. Proper notice of the event was not given, I myself did not become aware of it till, according to the clock, it was over ; and I am sure other relatives and friends of soldiers were similarly kept in the dark.

Many of the brave boys on the honour roll have given their lives for us—died that we may live. We of York are not so desperately busy nor so abominably mean that we cannot afford a special day to do honour to their memory. It was wickedly wrong to reduce so great an occasion to the level of a Show-day side show. I take it that the official responsible for the outrage is in for a pretty bad time when next the Council meets. In any case, I am not prepared to stand by and see our brave boys so slighted without expressing my longest and sternest disapproval.

Yours faithfully,
OSWALD H. SARGENT.