

Booborowie Memorial Hall.

Laying of the Foundation Stone.

(From our own correspondent.)

The first ceremony in connection with the various tributes to our fallen soldiers, which are to be erected in the districts surrounding Burra, took place on Tuesday last week, when Cr I. J. Warnes, J.P., Chairman of the Mt. Bryan District Council, laid the foundation stone of the very handsome hall to be erected in Booborowie (approximately 80ft x 40ft) in memory of those volunteers from that centre who laid down their lives in the Great War. It was a great day for Booborowie and a large crowd was present.

Mr W. J. Ashton (chairman) said his duty was light but pleasing, viz., to ask Mr Warnes to lay the foundation stone. At a meeting held to decide who was to lay the stone, only one name was mentioned, that of Mr Warnes, and the suggestion met with unanimous approval, a fact which proved the respect all held for that gentleman, who was one of the leaders in the district in all work for the good of the soldiers. A good many, since the declaration of peace, had closed their cheque books, but not so Mr Warnes, who had proved, by his willingness to help at all times, that he had not forgotten. This hall would be a memorial to remind coming generations of the great sacrifices made by our noble men. He would first have much pleasure in calling upon Mrs A. J. Cousins to present Mr Warnes with the trowel and to ask Mr Warnes to lay the stone.

Mrs A. J. Cousins, in presenting a beautiful silver trowel, suitably inscribed, said it gave her a great deal of pleasure to do so. She appreciated the honor very greatly, and thanked the Committee for the privilege.

Mr Warnes, in thanking Mrs Cousins for the trowel, said he had much pleasure in accepting it, and would prize it very highly. He did not pretend to be a mason, but (jocularly) remarked that he had built a kitchen once.

Mr Warnes then proceeded to work and on completion, amid great cheering, declared the stone well and truly laid. Continuing, Mr Warnes wished to say he was very pleased, but rather surprised to hear the Chairman speak so kindly of him, for he had been told by some people that he had only been asked because it was expected he would place a good cheque on the stone. However, whether he had been asked to lay the stone or not, he intended to place a substantial amount on it, and would not mind if some one came and beat it with

mind if some one came and beat it with a bigger cheque. He was pleased that Dr Steele was present on the platform, and casually remarked that the Doctor and the Photographer (Mr Dix) were the only ones present from Burra, though when there was anything at the Burra Booborowie was always well represented. A lady had told him that she enjoyed to hear him abusing the Burra, but he really did not wish to abuse anyone, he was merely of opinion, which he made public, that he did not believe that the only memorial in this district should be at Burra. Booborowie needed a hall, and if they placed an honour roll and photos of the fallen inside the building it would be a lasting memorial—not a memorial for a day, but for all time. Whilst in Rome he saw, in the Vatican, pictures of the Saints which had hung there for centuries and were still as good as ever. What more did Booborowie want than a hall, unless perhaps a railway, and with that and their wonderful flat thousands should be settled there instead of the few at present. There was always the cry that too many people were flocking to the cities, but if there were no halls and no other means of making life more tolerable in the country, then that must be expected. The people of the country districts must have places where they could have some social life. We should think of the true meaning of a memorial and to thoroughly realise that, one needed to go to the places where the soldiers themselves had been. When he visited the battlefields and saw the condition of things, destruction everywhere, where there had been villages nothing but desolation, he began to get a glimpse of what they had been through. One of the first things that brought it home to him was on seeing a cemetery (the guide told them it was called the Adelaide Cemetery) and he thought of the thousands that lay sleeping there. In one place there were 11,000 graves, but so perfect were the arrangements that in five minutes they were at the grave they wished to see. A cemetery at Ostend had 18,000 graves and another smaller one, where a French lady was in charge, and she spoke in most feeling terms of the regard in which the Australians were held. A white column had been erected by the French near the spot where over 800 Australians perished in less than one hour. No less than 18,000 men employed in finding the bodies men and scores of motor lorries used in conveying them to the cemeteries. He had been much abused by many people for his attitude towards Burra, but he had said that he was prepared to give to all, and

that he was prepared to give to all, and if the other wealthy men of the district did the same, perhaps that would be better than abusing him. He thanked the Committee for the honor they had conferred on him by asking him to lay the foundation stone.

Dr Steele said he noticed the other speakers had taken their hats off. They would excuse him if he left his on—perhaps they would guess why. (Smiles). He was pleased to be present, but did not expect that he would have to speak. He came to represent the Returned Soldiers' Association, and was glad Mr Warnes had not spoken of him as a Burra intruder. He was interested in all parts, and as President, wished to say that the Burra Branch of the R.S.A. included all in the district. Mr Warnes had spoken of the quarrels that had been going on over the memorials whilst he (the speaker) had been away. He had always looked for The Record and was sorry when the quarrels were over for they used to afford him much amusement, he generally noticed that Mr Warnes came out on top. He was glad to see Booborowie was erecting a memorial. In France almost every village had its memorial to the men who gave their lives in the Franco-Prussian war. It was imperative that generations to come should have a memorial to remind them of the issues that were involved and the sacrifices made. This hall was the tribute of gratitude to all who fell and to its cost all should give freely.

Mr Fuller (architect) said his remarks would be short. He thanked the committee for the invitation to be present and must congratulate them on the work done. Although, perhaps, there was not too much yet to look on, it would not be long before the building wore a very different aspect and when completed would be something the residents would be proud of. He felt very strongly about these memorials for he had a son that lay sleeping in France.

Mr R. C. Winfield moved a vote of thanks to Mr Warnes, seconded by Mr J. F. Hogan, the latter remarking that it was a pity some of the other wealthy men had not followed Mr Warnes' example.

Mr R. Morris moved a vote of thanks to Dr Steele, seconded by Mr W. J. Cousins and carried.

The ladies provided an excellent afternoon tea, which was much appreciated. The trowel, a very beautiful piece of work, was obtained from Mr F. Spencer, manufacturing jeweller, Koorunga.

The amount given during the day was about £200. The financial position as announced by Mr Warnes was as follows:—Hall, to cost approximately £2200; cash collected, £800; mortgage from State Bank, £750; debentures promised by local residents, £300; leaving £350 required to be raised.

The following is the list of donors:—

- £100—I. J. Warnes
- £10—J Phillips & Sons
- £5 5s—S Jeffery, J Q Hogan, P P Carey, M L Fennessey
- £5—Dr Steele, T Tohl, W Tohl, P V Constable
- £3 3s—J W Aldridge, T H Harvey, Mrs A J Cousins
- £2 2s—H E Fuller, M Cousins, D I Kelly, W Kelly
- £1 1s—Mrs W J Ashton, Mrs J F Hogan, Mrs W J Cousins, Mrs R C Winfield, L Gill, F W Finley, H Earle, R E Gill, W C Catt, G A Heinrich, Mrs R Morris
- £1—G A Lampe, Mrs I J Warnes, I J Goodridge, S Fairchild, L Fairchild, P Fairchild, Mrs S A Reynolds, P Leo, A G Dowd
- 10s—Beth Jettner, J Merser, W Byles, H Pryde, W Willmott
- 5s—W Moxam, Mrs Gill, L Laver, C Winfield, Geo Winfield, Mrs H Phillips, Mrs Frahm, Mrs Affolter
- 3s—Miss H Phillips
- 2s 6d—Clare Ashton
- 2s—J Ashton, Molly Ashton, L Jeffery, Willmott, Audrey Carey, Mervin Willmott, Melvin Willmott.

The amount given during the day was