

LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE OF CUMMINS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Ceremony Performed By Mrs. H. J. Blacker

A crowd estimated at 600 gathered at Cummins to witness the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Cummins and District Memorial Hospital on April 1st. The chairman, Mr. K. W. Ford, welcomed the official guests and other visitors and introduced Mrs. H. J. Blacker, who laid the foundation stone. The Rev. D. A. Richards-Pugh, representing the B.C.A., performed the dedication ceremony and Mr. G. G. Pearson, president of the Cummins-Yeelanna sub-branch of the R.S.S. and A.I.L.A., conducted the Service of Remembrance for fallen soldiers.

At the conclusion of a most impressive ceremony, Dr. M. G. Gratton, the local medical officer, gave an expression of thanks on behalf of the committee to those who took part in the afternoon's proceedings. To assist her in the laying of the stone, Mr. D. W. Berry, the architect, handed Mrs. Blacker a silver trowel, the gift of the contractor, Mr. R. J. Buddie.

Beneath the stone was placed a sealed container in which were the coins of the Realm, a set of current postage stamps, the printed leaflet setting out the order of service, and including the names of the fallen and those of the present committee, and a copy of the "Port Lincoln Times."

The proceedings terminated with a short address by Mr. R. W. Pearson, M.P., who apologised for the absence of the Hon. the Chief Secretary, Mr. A. L. McEwin. Mr. Pearson expressed the hope that the building would be speedily constructed, and that both he and Mr. McEwin would be present on the opening day. As the result of an appeal for funds by the president over £2,000 was placed on the foundation stone. With catering for afternoon tea and a ball at night, the day's takings amounted to £2,100.

In the course of his speech Mr. Ford outlined the history of the project. He mentioned how, in the beginning, Mrs. Blacker's energy and enthusiasm had fostered the work

enthusiasm had fostered the work and inspired others. The present plan was the tenth drawn by Mr. Berry, the original having been greatly curtailed to obtain governmental approval for the building. It was hoped that the contractor, Mr. R. J. Buddie, would be able to complete the hospital within the year specified and the work already completed by Mr. M. Roger and his men supported this view.

The Committee's thanks were expressed for the donation of the land by the late Mr. John Durdin and for the foundation stone by Mr. R. S. Hancock of Port Lincoln. The work of the Cottage Hospital committee was mentioned and the great amount of help given by Mr. H. F. Jericho in a number of ways was referred to. The various C.W.A. branches had helped in raising funds and money was in hand to furnish a ward. The Great Flinders Football Association had raised a large sum on several carnival days. The sterling help of the Kapinnie and Yeelanna districts was stressed and mention was made of the co-operation of the firms of Chas. Geddes and Co., and J. Hallett and Sons.

The proprietor of the Port Lincoln Times, Mr. M. H. Hill, and his staff

were sincerely thanked for the co-operation which made it possible for every person present to have a copy of the Order of Service. Special thanks were tendered to those people who had given generously in the past when money was urgently needed to set the project on a firm footing, and to those who had given a great amount of time and energy. The response of the individual members of the community who had over the years, by their support of functions, gradually swelled the funds until the sum of £10,000 in cash and £3,000 in other assets had been raised, had influenced the committee in the decision to issue individual invitations.

If any person had been inadvertently missed, the committee would

ently missed, the committee would like them to know it was unintentional.

In the next issue a complete list will be made of all donors who placed contributions on the foundation stone.