

HINDMARSH VALLEY'S BIG DAY DR. FORBES, M.H.R., OPENS NEW HALL

Friday afternoon last at Hindmarsh Valley saw the culmination of many months of hard, voluntary work by local residents brought to fruition when Dr. Jim Forbes, M.H.R., officially opened the new memorial hall in the presence of a large attendance of people from all parts of the district.

Dr. Forbes was introduced to the gathering by the president of the Hindmarsh Valley Progress Association (Mr. Alan Gray), who said he hoped the hall would meet with the approval of all present.

Mr. Gray said that the land, materials and furniture cost the committee approximately £5,000. He thanked all who had assisted financially and those who had so willingly given of their time and labour in the building of the hall. He particularly thanked Messrs. F. Rowlands, W. Virgin, R. Gursanke, W. Henderson and the women of the district. Mr. Gray also paid a tribute to the work of the honorary secretary (Mr. Rex Isaacson) who, during the two years he had been in office, had travelled many hundreds of miles at his own expense.

This fine building is a credit to all concerned. It is of very modern and attractive design both inside and out, and should meet the requirements of the community for many years to come. The stage furnishings are particularly beautiful and were presented to the committee by the members of the Hindmarsh Valley Branch of the Country Women's Association of a cost of almost £200. This organisation also presented the Association with a cheque for £50 on Friday.

Dr. Forbes said that he felt honoured and privileged in being asked to officially open the hall that day. This project, he said,

that day. This project, he said, had been under consideration for many years, but had been interrupted with the outbreak of World War II. He paid a tribute to the work of past presidents of the Progress Association—the late Mr. H. B. Welch, the late Mr. A. F. Parsons, Mr. O. B. Hutchinson and Mr. E. Gregory. Thanks were due to these officers for their fine efforts in the past. He congratulated the committee on building a structure that was easily worth £10,000 for about half that sum. The enormous amount of voluntary work that had been put into the construction of the hall had represented a large sum of money.

Dr. Forbes said that the hall would be a lasting monument to those who gave their lives so that we might live and prosper, and he congratulated all concerned if for no other reason than that. Without the sacrifice of these men in war it would not have been possible for that day's ceremony.

The speaker congratulated the president, committee and residents of Hindmarsh Valley on their achievement. They had more than fulfilled their responsibility to the district in the work that they had done in the erection of their fine hall.

The Mayor of Victor Harbour (Mr. W. W. Jenkins, M.P.), who was the guest speaker at the laying of the foundation stone of the hall in June last by Mr. W. Virgin, referred to the fine architectural design of the hall. The three stone columns in front of the hall, representing the three services, was particularly eye-catching, and the building generally was a fine landmark. He hoped that the building would provide enjoyment for all—it was a reward for community effort and community spirit, a spirit which he hoped would prevail in the future. He wished all many happy days and nights of enjoyment in their new building.

Councillor H. E. Mayfield said the district council which he re-

the district council which he represented was not unmindful of the work the Progress Association had done for the district. During the past eighteen months the association had bought the land and demolished the old building which was erected on it, and in its place they had erected a very beautiful hall which future generations would come to appreciate. He said that all owed a great debt of gratitude to the old pioneers of the district and he was glad that that spirit still exists to-day.

In proposing a vote of thanks to the speakers, Mr. W. Virgin said he was pleased to see so many old residents of the district present that day. In view of the fact that the building committee had been formed only 18 months ago, he thought they had done a wonderful job in the time at their disposal.

After Dr. Forbes had declared the hall open, Mr. Gray presented him with a small token of the occasion, for which the recipient expressed grateful thanks; he would always value the memento.

Afternoon tea was served by the ladies of the Valley in the old schoolhouse opposite the new hall.

The opening ball at night attracted a record attendance, the takings amounting to £100. Mr. Walter Davis, of Victor Harbour, acted as master of ceremonies.

On Sunday afternoon, despite the severity of the weather, a large number of people attended the hall when Brig. T. C. Eastick unveiled a roll of honour. Archdeacon J. L. Bond conducted the dedication service.