

PETERBOROUGH

Soldiers Memorial Hospital

Laying of Foundation Stone.

[From "The Petersburg Times."]

Yesterday was a red letter day in the annals of Peterborough. For thirty years spasmodic efforts were made to establish a hospital here, and just prior to the war a determined effort was made to finalise matters, but the patriotic movements, etc., during the war held matters in abeyance. As soon as peace was signed, however, no time was lost in renewing the promotion of a hospital with the result that in a very short time there was sufficient in hand to warrant the committee accepting the responsibility of letting a contract to Mr. F. W. Haese, of Jamestown, for the erection of a hospital for £12000 and a start was made on the building early in June and strong working bees put the grounds in order and commenced the erection of a new fence, which is now nearing completion. Good progress has been made with the building despite the inclement weather experienced this year, the nurses quarters, kitchen block, isolation hospital, and other outbuildings are well on towards completion. The foundations of the main hospital are all down and yesterday the people of the district rejoiced in seeing the foundation stone of the main building laid by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Archibald Weigall, K.C.M.G.

The Governor and Lady Weigall and little Miss Priscilla Weigall, accompanied by Capt. Houstoun Boswall, Mr. C. J. Williams and Mr. Maitland Hume

arrived by special train from Terowie at 10 a.m. and were met at the station by the President of the Hospital (Dr. A. Goote), the Mayor and Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Jones), the President of the R.S.A. (Dr. C. Lowther Clarke) and members of the Hospital Committee and Town Council. Mr. J. G. Jenkins, member for Burra Burra, Dr. Morris, Inspector General of Hospital, and Mr. and Mrs. Rutt were also among the visitors. A cordial welcome having been briefly extended to the visitors they were conveyed per motor car through the principal parts of the town, viewing the Soldiers Club, the Bishop's House and Catholic Church, the sale yards (in which was a large yarding for yesterday's market), the Loco Shops (where the visitors were kindly shown over the whole of the works by the D.L.S., Mr. W. H. Hill, who explained everything to their excellencies and greatly interested them in the huge works); the electric lighting power station was next inspected and the Chief Engineer (Mr. M. Groves) conducted the party over the works. They then wended their way to the Hospital site, where mounted on a platform round the stone, the vice-regal party were accommodated with chairs, attended by the visitors and Hospital committee. The Mayor extended a formal welcome to their excellencies, remarking that the people of the district had looked forward to again meeting their excellencies, as they had made a great impression upon them when passing through from West Australia and they deeply appreciated his fulfillment of his promise made on that occasion to come to Peterborough to lay the Foundation

Stone of the Hospital

Stone of the Hospital. They especially welcomed His Excellency to Peterborough as it was a farming community and as they had seen by the daily press the good work he had been doing in agricultural matters they looked to him for advice and encouragement in the great staple industry of South Australia. They were well aware that His Excellency did not wish to be only a resident of Adelaide but wished to get out back and see what was doing in the country, while he was also anxious to help where possible with his experience. He had been down to Owen, over to Crystal Brook and other parts and now they had him at Peterborough and they were pleased to meet him on such an auspicious occasion and they wished to extend to His Excellency, Lady Weigall, and Miss Priscilla the very heartiest welcome, and trusted they would have a very happy visit and that their sojourn in South Australia would be a very pleasant one. Dr. A. Goode said it was a great day for them as it marked a great progress in the milestones of the hospital and they feel deeply grateful to have His Excellency and Lady Weigall present on such an important occasion. When they considered what sacrifices the men had made in the great war, it was up to the people not to stop at any sacrifice to carry to a successful issue the lasting memorial that was being erected to our soldiers. Without reviewing the history of the hospital he wished to particularise the ladies for what they had done; they had never been found wanting and had come forward again and again and ungrudgingly gave their services, money and time in promoting the interests of the hospital. Also he wished to

lay special stress on the noble work of those who had come Saturday after Saturday and succeeded in erecting the line of new fence they could see on the north side; these men were principally wage earners and gave their time and labor freely without murmur and in his opinion their donation to the hospital was second to none. In conclusion he said that what they had dreamed of, hoped for, and longed to see had come to pass and they were about to lay the foundation stone, and he asked His Excellency to accept from the committee a slight memento—very small in comparison to the importance of the day to the committee—in the shape of a silver trowel, suitably inscribed, and to lay the foundation stone of the Peterborough Soldiers' Memorial Hospital. (Cheers).

His Excellency then laid the foundation stone and in an appropriate speech thanked the committee and people for their welcome and gift.

A hearty vote of thanks to the visitors was enthusiastically carried and the party was afterwards entertained at luncheon by the committee and their wives at the Railway Hotel.

The party left by the East-West Express amid hearty cheers for Hallett, whence they will proceed to Canowie Estate for a two-days' inspection, reaching the city on Saturday evening.

Last evening a ball was held in the town hall, the building being overcrowded.

Altogether about £370 was laid on the stone.

(A fuller report will appear in our next issue).

Abyssinia is the original home of the coffee plant.
