

## ~ PETERBOROUGH SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ~

OPENED ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 1922. A TRIBUTE TO THE BRAVE.

### PETERBOROUGH SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL.



Peterborough and district, in keeping with the customs of all cities and towns in our great Empire, have at last succeeded in paying a tribute to our fallen heroes. This token of respect is a lasting one, and quite worthy of the object for which it is intended. The form of the memorial is a 28-bed hospital, and the building itself is one of which the town and district might justly feel proud. It is one that in years to come the future generations will be reminded of the gallant heroes who took part in the greatest of all wars, and forsake life and pleasure in the common cause of justice. Their great sacrifices will ever be remembered, and the children of the future will read, with significance, the old Biblical quotation: "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend."

The building of this Memorial entailed a great number of hardships, & to those energetic and untiring gentlemen who have so zealously worked for its ultimate success, the thanks of the whole community are due. That saying, and every person who has been afforded the opportunity of inspecting the interior of the hospital, has been their efforts have been crowned with success is no mere loud in his praise for the committee's work.

The total cost of this modern and masterly piece of architecture was £18,000. To be in a position to-day to state this amount has been raised is indeed proud, and the people of our town and district might justly declare they have revered the memory of our fallen heroes and at the same time have done humanity no small service in the erecting of this institution, where God's own work of charity is being administered daily, nay, hourly, by that valiant band of nurses who, to a certain extent, forego the pleasures of this life to minister to the needs of others.

We can hardly, with justice, speak in eulogistic terms of our soldiers' part in the great war without saying a word for our womenfolk. That every lady in the Empire made great sacrifices during the Great War is fully com-

made great sacrifices during the Great War is fully comprehensible. What more sacrifice could be asked than that of the mother giving her only son, who oftentimes happened to be the breadwinner of the family! And what, indeed, is more patriotic and noble than the sacrifice performed by the thousands of ladies who, knowing full well the horror of war, left home and country to seek foreign fields to carry on with their great profession of nursing! Theirs is indeed a great sacrifice, and truly lifts womankind to that plane in man's mind where God originally intended her to be—man's comforter. Were not her sufferings just as keen as those of our brave heroes? And was she not subjected to many unheard of outrages during the war? Her noble work was the cause of many lives being saved, and not too much honour can ever be done our nursing fraternity.

At the opening ceremony on Wednesday of last week the different speakers were loud in their praise for the assistance rendered by the Government of the State. Only for the subsidy of 30/- in the £, no such modern hospital could have been built. Out of £18,000, the Government subsidy amounted to about £10,000, whilst in our town and district the goodly sum of over £8,000 has been raised. This speaks volumes for the magnitude of the people's generosity, and the many kind donors might justly feel proud of their efforts.

When about six weeks ago the opening appeal was commenced £2,500 was required to open the institution free of debt. Of this amount our district was expected to subscribe £1,000, whilst the balance of £1,500 represented the subsidy. On opening day £400 of this amount had been raised, and it was thought the extra £600 would be forthcoming at the opening. However, the powers that be waged war against us, and the day was dismal, and in consequence many persons, who intended to be, were not in attendance. The combined efforts of all the residents proved fruitful, and in consequence £450 was subscribed. This amount included a few promises which had previously been made, so naturally the above sum was curtailed a little when previous promises had been subtracted. Since then donations close on £100 have been received, and the nett proceeds of the evening's continental were about £70. At the time of writing only another £50 remain on the debit side, and we feel sure this small amount will have been subscribed ere we publish this edition.

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On the occasion of the ceremony in connection with the laying of the foundation stone, 1,000 invitations were sent out to our residents. Accompanying each invitation was an envelope wherein one might insert his subscription, and out of 1,000 envelopes sent out 820 were returned whilst on this occasion 1,000 envelopes were again sent out, but only 400 were returned, and the committee feel confident a goodly number will be returned shortly. If this be the case the committee will not only start the hospital free of debt, but in addition will begin with a banking balance—a dream very rarely fulfilled by any hospital committee.

Now that the hospital is an accomplished fact, let us remember the words of His Excellency on September 9, 1920, when, in laying the foundation stone, he urged all present to foster their hospital and work for it, and see it carrying on its good work.