

Wolseley Soldiers' Park

Grand Opening Ceremony

On Monday, June 23rd, there was a good attendance at the Wolseley Soldiers' Park for the opening ceremony which was performed by Cr A. A. Fisher, J. P. (chairman of the Tatiara District Council). Mr W. Butler, chairman of the Soldiers' Park Committee, commenced the proceedings about 2 p.m. and had with him, on the temporary platform, the Hon. John Livingston, M.H.R., Cr A. A. Fisher, and Mr A. Wilson. The function was opened with the National Anthem and the first verse of the song of Australia. The chairman expressed pleasure at the good attendance and took it as an indication that much interest would be evinced in the Soldiers' Park to be opened and in which would be planted a tree to every soldier who had left the Wolseley district. Mr D. Makin had kindly donated the ground and the committee were deeply indebted to him as they were also to Mr A. Wilson who had designed the park and assisted in the selection of trees.

Cr Fisher formally declared the Park open and expressed pleasure at the fact that he had been honored with an invitation to perform that function, and delighted to be with them on such an occasion. He thought the idea of a Soldiers' Park a good one, though it would not be necessary for the present generation as a reminder of the deeds of the soldiers, still for future generations it would serve to keep the memory green of those who had fought that Australia might be free—and did to such good purpose. It was gratifying to know that a site had been selected on the fields of Amiens, where according to General Foch the world had been saved, for the erection of a

beautiful memorial to the fallen of Australia. It would be a fitting tribute in a fitting position and would forever commemorate the great deeds performed by the Australian armies on those fields. He had just heard that half of the men who had gone from Wolseley had returned and he was thankful to know this and congratulated the district upon the fact. He only wished that all the men could return, but hoped those who were to return would be with their people very shortly. Of those who would never return he could say little, for their sacrifice and heroism was beyond description by the words of man. They had given their all and though the nation could never repay, still they were grateful for the sacrifice and would try to be worthy of it. He complimented the Wolseley people on the happy thought which had resulted in the creation of this park and upon the splendid manner in which it was laid-out.

The Hon. J. Livingston congratulated the district upon the fine park which they were starting and wished them every success in bringing it to a successful issue. He was glad to be present to take part in such an important function. He spoke feelingly and eulogistically with regard to the deeds of the men, whom this park would commemorate and was glad to see such a movement on foot and carried through so well. They could not do too much for the men who had gone away, but he would be sorry to see the creation of a military caste in the Commonwealth. There was some danger of this resulting and he warned the people that such would not be in the best interests of the nation. It was his firm belief that Australia would keep her promises to the men and the Federal Government were doing their best to go ahead with the work. The results at present may be small but he asked them to have patience and he felt sure that every

patience and he felt sure that every thing would work out well in the end and Australia redeem her promises made to the men.

Mr A. Wilson expressed pleasure at the fact that the Wolseley Soldiers Park had now come into being and said he was pleased to have been able to render assistance to such a worthy work. Since he had been in the Tatiara he had devoted much effort towards the beautification of his home and when ever able, to the district. The planting of a garden round the home gave quite a different aspect to the place and considerably enhanced its value as a home. The same effect was produced in a district by systematic efforts to beautify. The planting of trees was one of the first and easiest ways and was particularly commendable when it achieved the dual purpose of commemorating the memory of the brave men who had fought for their land, and at the same time enhance the appearance of the place. He wished them every success with the park and felt sure that in the years to come it would justify the effort expended upon it.

A vote of thanks was accorded the speakers on the motion of the chairman and carried with acclamation after which the National Anthem was sung.

Tree planting then became the order of the day. Cr Fisher reading off by planting one for "The King" the Hon. J. Livingston one for the "Governor General" and Mr Wilson one for the "Local Governing Body." From then on planting

was done by relatives and friends of boys in whose honour the trees were placed, and a large number were in this way installed. The ladies of the district very kindly provided refreshments and the function was a great success, accomplishing what was felt to be a long desired want.