

YORKETOWN-MELVILLE SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL PARK.

A Short Sketch of its History.

On the 2nd. of March, 1918, a meeting of the Councils of Yorketown and Melville was held in the Yorketown Town Hall, when Cr. Anderson moved that the previous resolution, "That a monument be placed in the centre of the town," be rescinded. This was carried and Cr Nation then moved, "That the combined Councils accept Cr. Anderson's offer, namely, the selling to above mentioned body a piece of land (10 acres) adjacent to the Town of Yorketown for the sum of £125, £80 to be paid in the shape of War Bonds and the balance to remain on mortgage at 5 per cent. per annum. The above mentioned land to be a Soldiers' Memorial Park and to take the place of the previously suggested monument to be placed in the centre of the town." Carried unanimously. This land was vested in three trustees—Dr. Russell, Mr. R. Newbold and Cr. Jas. Anderson. Cr. Nation moved "That the appreciation of this committee of the combined Councils be extended to Cr. Anderson for his very fine offer of the land for the good of the returning soldiers." Carried. Resolved that the names of all boys on the on the Yorketown-Melville Roll of Honor be made life-long honorary members with the right of free admission on all occasions. (The fund from which the £80 of War bonds was drawn was collected on the occasion of the Governor's visit to unveil the Roll of Honor.)

At a meeting held on July 27, 1918 it was resolved (a) that the Park cannot be resold within 50 years from date of purchase; (b) that balance of purchase money be

that balance of purchase money be paid within 12 months of the signing of Declaration of Peace; (c) that there be no Sunday sport permitted on the Park; (d) that the appointment of Trustees be left in the hands of the combined Councils. The first ground committee appointed to act with trustees comprised Crs. McKenzie, Ferguson, Heaney, and Messrs. Plummer, Morgan, Fowles, Young, and Rev. Father Murphy.

On July 29, 1918, Mr. James Anderson was elected Chairman of Park Committee, and Mr. J. R. Plummer secretary. The work of fencing was next proceeded with, towards the cost of which £30 was contributed by three members of the committee and the bulk of the labor given free. Trees were planted around the Park, one each to name of every soldier on the Roll as well as to soldiers who had relatives in the district.

At a meeting held on Nov. 3, 1918, Mr. James Fergusson was appointed Secretary. On Feb. 18, 1919, it was resolved to order a children's playground equipment. On May 23 the use of the Park was granted free to the Yorketown Football Club for the first season.

NEW PAVILION.

On July 1 it was resolved to have a day set apart to raise funds to provide material to absorb the £160 granted by the town council to provide soldier labor. The 25th of July was the date selected. The building operations were started about the beginning of September by two returned soldiers from the city, and on October 6 the tender of Lion Timber Mills for material amounting to £490 was accepted. Altogether materials cost about £800 and wages £768. In all about £1750 has been expended on this memorial. At to-day's figures for building material and labor this sum would not be sufficient. The

sum would not be sufficient. The comparatively small amount owing (£790) need not worry those responsible. It should be borne in mind that a memorial such as this should not be given by a few generous givers, but should be subscribed to by every resident in the district. Those responsible for getting the work accomplished had no personal gain in view, none of them had any financial benefit, none of them have any personal use for the Park: all efforts were put forth to provide a suitable recreation Park for the younger generation. The full benefit of such a Park may not be realised for years to come. It is a memorial worthy of the object and superior to any monument that could have been erected. That any debt should exist on such a memorial is a misfortune, but no doubt the powers that be will endeavour to wipe out the liability. The pavilion was opened on June 28 by Captain Denny. Dr. Russell acted as Chairman of Committee during 1920 and until May, 1921, when Mr R. Kinnane was elected chairman. Mr. R. Morgan was elected Secretary in succession to Mr. Jas. Ferguson the same evening. The committee is composed of the following:—Dr. Russell, Rev. Father Murphy, Messrs. J. Fowles, J. Ferguson, L. Chase, R. Newbold, G. Domaschenz, R. McKenzie, R. Newbold, E. H. Giles, C. V. Rice

North, B. Lloyd, Algie, M. Griffin, A. Koth, W. Croser, W. Sherriff, J. Johnson, W. Brown, S. Solly, M. F. Rohrig, H. E. Aldenhoven. The composition of the committee is such that the districts of Yorketown, Melville, portion of Dalrymple, and all football and cricket clubs should be represented.