

INVERMAY STATE SCHOOL.

OPENING OF NEW WING.

HOW THE ATTENDANCE HAS GROWN.

LAUNCESTON, May 18.

The Premier and Minister of Education (Sir Walter Lee) officially opened a new wing at the Invermay State-school this afternoon. Those present included the Director of Education (Mr. G. V. Brooks), Mr. J. A. Lyons, Mr. M. O'Keefe, the Acting Mayor of Launceston (Alderman Geo. Shields), the head masters of various State-schools and State High Schools, and Mr. D. Storrer.

Mr. W. Wright, headmaster of Invermay State-school, in introducing the Premier, said that ten years ago the school was quite a small affair. In 1912 an infant school was added, in 1915 two more rooms were erected, and now in 1922 it was found that four additional rooms were necessary, and these had been added. They needed to be grateful to many people for the interest they had shown in the school and its progress, and prominent efforts made to obtain the piece of ground which they now used for playing purposes had earned for him their gratitude. The Government, at whose head stood the Premier, were ever willing to do their duty by the children, and he asked them to give Sir Walter Lee a rousing reception for attending.

The Premier, who was received with applause, said he wished to congratulate the parents and children on the growth of the district, which had necessitated so many additions to their original building. The previous speaker had been good enough to say that he (Sir Walter) had been largely responsible for the favourable consideration that had been given the requirements of the school, but he alone was not responsible. He was glad to say that during the six years he had occupied the position of head of the Government there was not one instance, to the best of his recollection, in which he had appealed in vain to the House of Assembly for money for educational purposes. The growth of the district had been remarkable, and the increase in the school averages was really a reflection of this. In 1901 the school attendance was 200 daily, in 1912 it had advanced to 450, and in 1922 it was 750. The confidence of the parents of scholars in the ability of the teachers was undoubted, and he could assure them it was not misplaced. The addition of a kindergarten to the Invermay school made the third in Launceston, whereas there were only two in Hobart. He quite expected to receive a deputation on his return to the South with a view to equalising matters. He appealed to parents to co-operate with teachers in their efforts, and thus make the work of the latter easier. He had much pleasure in declaring the new wing of the school open. (Applause.)

At the conclusion of the Premier's address the Director of Education spoke briefly on the structural alterations which had taken place in schools of a generation ago compared with the present day.

The opportunity was taken during the afternoon of unveiling an honour roll to old scholars of the school who went to the war. The roll, which is made

to old scholars of the school who went to the war. The roll, which is made of blackwood with gold lettering, is a very fine piece of work, and contains 157 names. Senior Inspector Heritage, an old headmaster of the school, performed the unveiling ceremony, at the conclusion of which Bugler-Sergeant A. E. Lee sounded the "Last Post." An inspection of the new parts of the building was made by parents and friends.