

CONGREGATIONAL CENTENARY

Unveiling of Charles Price Memorial By Governor

THE GOVERNOR (Sir Ernest Clark) at Launceston last night unveiled and dedicated a memorial to the Rev. Charles Price, founder of the original Congregational Church in Launceston, and a minister for 55 years at the Christ Church Congregational, Launceston.

The memorial, which is on the wall of the church, is in the form of a model taken from a photograph. It is cast in reinforced plaster and bronze. The inscription on the tablet in Gothic reads: "To the glory of God and in memory of Rev. Charles Price, first Congregationalist minister in Australia, minister of Tamar St., Launceston, 1836-1891. Died August 4, 1891. Tablet erected October 26, 1936."

His Excellency the Governor and Lady Clark were met and welcomed by the Rev. H. Watts Grimmett, in the absence of Mr. H. S. Baker, M.H.A. The Rev. Harold J. Ralph, Chairman of the Congregational Union of Tasmania, presided, and introduced His Excellency.

"As a city, as well as individually, we have to be thankful for what has been done in this State over the past 100 years," said His Excellency. "May I suggest that one of the best methods of showing our thankfulness is to endeavour to emulate those who preceded us, and to do as well as they did and advance as rapidly as our forefathers did in their time with all the handicaps they had to encounter. That we shall progress materially I have no doubt, because this is an age of invention and of very much increased material facilities. But let me remind you that progress in material things, if unaccompanied by bodily hygiene and spiritual and intellectual hygiene, may not be an advantage, but may be a handicap and actually harmful. Though the methods of the church may vary, its object and products are the same from age to age."

GOVERNOR'S PRAISE.

"I am unveiling a memorial to one who laboured for Congregationalists in

this city for 55 years. I am not the first Governor to voice appreciation of the Rev. Charles Price. He won praise from two of the greatest Governors of this State, Col. Sir George Arthur and Admiral Sir John Franklin. But the Rev. Charles Price did not need the praise of Governors in order that he may live in your hearts. I have looked into his history, and it is one that may well be an example to the young men of today. He must have been a man of courage. His life was a life of usefulness and inspiration as well as an example. He left an indelible mark in Launceston, and lived to see and help to bring about unbelievable changes for the better of the State. Although his record must fade in time, the effect of

the better of the State. Although his record must fade in time, the effect of his work and force of his example will remain. In order that his record may be preserved for a little longer and that this and coming generations may be reminded of the work of a good man in this city, I am now about to unveil a memorial that has been erected to perpetuate the memory of the Rev. Charles Price's services to the Congregational body of Launceston."

The Rev. Harold J. Ralph conveyed the greetings of the Congregational Union of Tasmania. He said that in the eight years he had lived in Tasmania it was the fourth centenary celebration in which he had taken part. It was a great thing to celebrate 100 years of work and to pay tribute to men and women who had laboured in other days, but celebrations such as those were of no value unless they were laying the foundations on which would be built a superstructure in which their children 100 years hence would rejoice as they had rejoiced in the work of the pioneers.

"Why we must have a Church" was the subject of an address by the Rev. L. C. Parkin, Chairman of the Congregational Union of Australia and New Zealand. He said that every 100 years of English history had been marked by something in the way of progress which was directly dependent on Christianity. The story of Britain was the story of how Christ, through His Church, had endeavoured to influence national development. Never had a nation been able to get far away from feeling it ought to be like Christ. In Australia national life was haunted by the presence of Christ. If the vision of Christ departed the nation would cease.

"I challenge you that, though you think you may get more health for your body from being in the open air in your motor-cars on Sunday, what about your mind and soul? Is this vision of Christ to be allowed to slip through our fingers?" He added that all the security in all the banks was no real security. The only security man had was in the God of Love, and if there be no God of Love then they had no security.

CENTENARY TEA.

There were about 300 present at the Centenary tea, which was held in Milton Hall, Launceston, last night, prior to the public meeting. Greetings were received from relatives of the late Rev. Charles Price, and from other churches and kindred institutions. Greetings also were conveyed by the Mayor of Launceston (Mr. E. E. van Riebeeck) on behalf

were conveyed by the Mayor of Launceston (Mr. E. E. von Bibra), on behalf of the citizens, the Rev. R. E. Hooper on behalf of the Ministers' Fraternal Association of Launceston, and the Rev. M. McQueen, of the Launceston Council of Churches. The centenary cake was cut by Mrs. P. F. C. Mattingley, on behalf of her mother, Mrs. S. J. Sutton, who is one of the oldest members of the original Tamar St. Church.

At the public meeting anthems and hymns were sung by an augmented choir under the leadership of the Christ Church organist and choirmaster, Mr. Hedley Stephenson. Mr. L. Sutton, who was at the organ, was organist at the Tamar St. Church.