

## SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL

FOUNDATION STONE LAID.

CELEBRATIONS AT RAILTON.

Monday was indeed a "red letter day" in Railton, as the holiday was taken as a fitting occasion for the laying of the foundation stone in the ornamental concrete fence erected along the whole frontage of the Methodist Church grounds. Elaborate preparations had been made to fittingly celebrate the event, and a large marquee had been erected in which meals were to be served and cooking houses fitted up for the preparation of the food. Visitors were present from many other centres, including John Hope, M.L.C., Mr A. C. Dean, formerly Warden of the Kentish municipality, Mr N. Campbell, and other prominent persons. Rev. Parnaby, minister of the circuit, was also in attendance.

After the arrival of the 10.30 train the ceremony of laying the stone commenced. Mr John Hope, M.L.C., performing the ceremony, after which several speakers addressed the gathering. Following the ceremony an up-to-date, four-course hot dinner was served in the marquee, the spread going to show to what height the ladies of Railton have attained in this direction, both in the preparation of the food and in tasteful arrangement in serving.

During the afternoon games in untold numbers were indulged in, in which young and old joined in. In the evening a beautiful spread was again laid out, when visitors had choice of another hot tea or a cold repast. During the day a stall was carried on by Mrs A. Ling, where fruits, salads, cordials, etc., were dispensed, and good business was done on behalf of the funds. At night a concert and supper was held in the church building, Mr R. C. Jones occupying the chair, a full programme of musical and vocal items being rendered and fully appreciated by the large audience.

Regarding the fence, which provided the basis of the day's celebrations, the work of erection was carried out on the initiative of Mr James Blinkhorn, who also performed the work of erection, with the voluntary assistance of a number of residents, men, women and children, who worked with a will in rendering assistance. The structure is of good design, extending the whole frontage, and is finished off at either end by ornamental entrance pillars where artistic iron gates are to be hung. In the centre of the wall a large free-stone block is placed bearing an inscription to the memory of the fallen soldiers of the Railton district, to whose memory the fence has been erected, the stone being neatly sculptured and engraved, this, too, being the work of Mr Blinkhorn. On one of the pillars a tablet is inset at the request of almost the whole of the citi-

zens, on which is lettered an expression of the high esteem and regard for Mr Blinkhorn for his consistent work on behalf of the church and the people. The structure, when fully completed, will be an ornament to the place which will stand for all time. In reference to the celebrations, where so many worked so hard and well, it would be out of place to particularise. One feature might be mentioned, namely, that the whole of the concrete has been made with local lime and the designing and carving by local talent.