

## ST. LEONARDS CLUB

### Memorial to Fallen

### The Opening Ceremony

At 6 p.m. on November 11, 1918, Mr. S. A. Peck, of St. Leonards, received word that one of his sons had died of wounds in France. Three hours later came the news that the Armistice had been signed. Two sons of Mr. and Mrs. Peck were killed, and partly for this reason it was thought fitting that Mr. Peck should unveil the stone at the opening of the St. Leonards Soldiers' Memorial Clubhouse on Saturday.

Mr. Peck, as president, in conjunction with Mr. R. Summers, was a prime mover in the building of the club on land purchased for memorial purposes shortly after the end of the Great War. Several years ago it was suggested that a clubhouse for the men of St. Leonards should be erected as a memorial, and a committee comprising Messrs. S. A. Peck, C. Dullin, C. Hardman, J. Duncan, G. Peck, R. C. Summers (secretary), and Rev. L. N. Haslope took the work in hand. A ladies' committee raised £110, numerous donations were received, and the handsome clubhouse which was opened on Saturday was built. The construction was carried out almost entirely by voluntary labour and, being properly equipped for the recreation of the men of the district, will prove a fitting memorial, and an asset to the township.

#### TO THE GLORY OF THE FALLEN

"The erection of this building to keep the memories of the fallen men fresh for all time is the least we can do for them," said Mr. Peck in unveiling the stone. "We will not forget them, but future generations might do so. This hall is erected to the memory of those who were willing to give up everything in our interests, and to their honour and glory I unveil this stone."

The proceedings were opened with the Doxology and a prayer by Rev. Julien, and Sergeant Lee sounded the Last Post as the stone was unveiled.

In declaring the hall open, Mr. H. M. D. Thomson, M.H.A., said that the spirit which prompted the people to erect the clubhouse would receive its reward in the pleasure it gave to the young men of the township. It would also serve to weld them in a friendship which might be compared with that of the men who fought for them. He paid a tribute to the work of Mr. Peck and the secretary (Mr. Summers), and to the ladies. As a returned soldier he thanked the people for the memorial which had been built to the memory of those who had fallen. Of 400 men who had enlisted from St. Leonards, 60 had given their lives, and the hall would commemorate their sacrifice.

#### R.S.S.I.L.A. WILL HELP

Mr. Thomson also referred to the work of the R.S.S.I.L.A. which, he said, was ever ready to help the returned men or the dependents of soldiers. The League was always prepared to fight in their interests, and any needy

The League was always prepared to fight in their interests, and any needy case would receive help if they would only apply to the returned soldiers' organisation.

His remarks were supported by Mr. J. W. Cheek, M.L.C., who said that they could not do too much to perpetuate the memory of those who had fallen, and the splendid services rendered to the country by their men. Those who had lost near relations would never forget, but the future generations might do so and the hall would serve as a reminder to them.

Mr. V. J. Shaw, M.H.A., congratulated the people on their fine spirit in erecting such a club house voluntarily. With other speakers, he commended the work of Messrs. Peck and Summers and the ladies' committee, and observed that the hall would not only prove a memorial, but would also serve a good purpose in the life of the community.

Councillor J. R. Stevenson congratulated the people on behalf of the St. Leonards Council.