

BATHURST CARILLON.

"Bells of Memory."

UNVEILING CEREMONY.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE.)

BATHURST, Saturday.

The Bathurst war memorial carillon was officially unveiled and opened to-day, in delightful weather, by the Mayor (Alderman M. J. Griffin), in the presence of one of the largest and most representative assemblages in the life of the district.

The ceremony carried with it an exalted note of spiritual beauty and of simple dignity that befitted worthily both the occasion and the gallant manhood of Bathurst and the district, to whose unfading memory the imposing memorial has been erected.

It is proposed, with the consent of those who sent floral tributes, to collect and burn all the cards and ribbons which were attached to the wreaths placed on the Bathurst war memorial and then send the ashes to Villers Bretonneux, where they will be scattered by aeroplane, probably on next Anzac Day, over the site of the proposed national memorial to Australian soldiers.

In describing itself now as "the Carillon City," Bathurst can justifiably claim this designation, for its imposing campanile, reflecting in towering, clear-cut lines the ideals of those who fought, is claimed to be the only one, apart from that in New Zealand, that has been specially built for a carillon in the Southern Hemisphere.

The erection of the memorial tower and the installation of these bells of memory, ringing out across the plains their joyous message of proud remembrance and their psalms of praise and of consolation and hope, mark the consummation of many years of untiring effort to pay a fitting tribute to those who fought and died. An expenditure of £9000 was involved in its creation.

Harmonising with everything about it, the 100-foot tower, with the bells surmounting it, occupies the centre of the redesigned King's-parade, in the heart of the city. It is surrounded by massive flower beds, and is flanked at one end by the imposing South Africa memorial, and at the other end by a handsome group of bronze statuary.

Built of Bathurst red brick, the memorial, finding expression both in its transcendent music and architecturally as a dignified work of art, dominates the landscape for miles.

Of the 35 bells, the largest, weighing 31cwt, bears the inscription, "Thus, Bathurst and Her Surrounding Villages Honour Their Men of 1914-18. Lest We Forget." The second largest bell is the returned men's tribute in honour of their fallen comrades. The third biggest bell has cast upon it the emblem of the Red Cross, and is in honour of the nurses. The remaining bells have each been allotted to the various local centres in honour of their returned men.

TWO MINUTES' SILENCE.

Impressive scenes marked the observance of the two minutes' silence at the memorial. From the top of the carillon tower fluttered the Union Jack and the Commonwealth flag. At the foot of the flagpole stood a trumpeter, who, at the close of the ceremony, sounded the solemn notes of the "Last Post."

With soldiers standing with reversed arms and bowed heads at the entrances to the tower, the two minutes' silence was signalled by the solemn tolling of the big bell and

lower, the two minutes' silence was signalled by the solemn tolling of the big bell, and was followed by the plaintive notes of the "Dead March," played by local bandmen. Local returned men and members of the E Company, 20th-54th Battalion, formed guards of honour on either side of the memorial. Amid a tense and impressive hush immediately following the great silence, men, women, and children walked to the base of the memorial and placed hundreds of beautiful wreaths and other floral tributes, the procession being headed by the Mayor. The great mass of fragrant flowers made a striking picture at the foot of the tower. At the close of the ceremony the bells rang out in delicate gradations of tone and joyous notes, expressive of peace after war.

OFFICIAL UNVEILING.

The official unveiling of the memorial, in the presence of an assemblage estimated at between 8000 and 10,000, was preceded in the afternoon by one of the longest processions in the history of Bathurst. With flags and banners fluttering, and to the lively marching airs of three bands, the procession played a memorable part in the day's brilliant pageantry.

Following the militia came several hundred ex-service men, who were enthusiastically cheered along the route. Behind them came boy scouts and girl guides, with diminutive drummers and buglers, the Junior Red Cross, and more than 1000 schoolchildren, making a sturdy picture of young Australia.

Colonel A. W. Hyman, representing the New South Wales branch of the Returned Soldiers' League, took the salute. Those in the procession marched to the memorial, where they were assembled in picturesque formation for the unveiling and opening ceremony.

The president of the Bathurst sub-branch of the league (Mr. B. Gregg), who presided, praised the work of, among others, the committee associated with the memorial movement, the architect (Mr. John D. Moore), and those associated with Mr. Moore, namely, the late Mr. K. Webb and Mr. Trevor Jones, and to the honorary secretary (Mr. R. W. Peacock).

Professor E. R. Holme, of the University of Sydney, said he hoped that there would develop throughout Australia from the Bathurst carillon the art of creating towers for bells, and that it would encourage the development of carillon music.

Following the singing of "Ring Out Wild Bells" by the Railway Institute Choir, and the sounding of the "Reveille" by a trumpeter stationed at the top of the tower, the Mayor, with a golden souvenir key, presented to him by the local returned men, officially opened and unveiled the memorial.

"I have much pleasure," he said, amid ringing cheers, "in unveiling and opening this symbol of love and praise to the splendid men and women who gave their all for their country's sake."

The remainder of the afternoon and the early part of the night were devoted to a carillon recital by Mr. A. B. B. Ranclaud, honorary carillonneur of the University of Sydney. The programme later, in aid of the Carillon Fund, comprised an open-air carnival.

Among the functions in the evening was a largely attended dinner, at which prominent visitors were the guests of the local Rotary Club at the Chelsea Cafe.

The Mayor, in a speech, said he hoped that the memorial would serve to register within all their hearts the lofty vow always to do their utmost to prevent war.

"The mother country," he added, amid applause, "is to-day doing everything she can for world peace and to emphasise the tragic futility of war. For that above all else, we must love and admire her."

DEDICATION SERVICE.

BATHURST, Sunday.

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The feature of to-day's programme was the impressive dedication of the war memorial by the Rev. James Green, senior military chaplain. In the presence of a big assemblage, including returned soldiers. The parade of a company of the district militia and a procession to the memorial from All Saints' Cathedral provided colourful notes in the simple but deeply stirring ceremony.

Mr. Green dedicated the bells to the ever-lasting memory of those who had served and who had made the supreme sacrifice.

Thanksgiving services were held in all churches this morning. The congregation at the Methodist Church was very large, and included many returned soldiers who had participated in a church parade held by the Bathurst branch of the Returned Soldiers' League. "
