

MEMORIAL GATES

DEDICATION CEREMONY

AT ALSTONVILLE SHOW GROUND

ALSTONVILLE, Sunday.

A large and representative gathering of the citizens of the Tintenbar Shire and surrounding districts assembled on the Agricultural Showground to-day to witness the unveiling ceremony of the Memorial Gates and the dedication of the Memorial Sports Ring. This event was the culmination of a gigantic effort initiated by the Alstonville Patriotic League some time after hostilities had ended. The original intention was to build a Memorial Wing in connection with the Alstonville School of Arts—however, wiser counsel prevailed and the project took a broader aspect when it was decided to erect the present memorial. A large sum of money was required to carry out the work and by the untiring energy and perseverance of the president of the Alstonville Agricultural Society (Mr. J. T. Whipps) the financial position was compassed beyond all expectations in the culmination of the queen competition organised last year. Great credit is due to the president, who had unfailing confidence in the sympathy of the public with the project, in having achieved the objective, which otherwise may have remained for years without result and to-day there stands in the Alstonville Showground a monument to stand for generations to come in the centre of the Shire of Tintenbar.

The proceedings were commenced by the Tintenbar Shire Band playing the National Anthem. A dais was erected near the entrance to the gates, on which were the president of the Tintenbar Shire Council (Cr. D. A. Robins), the president of the Alstonville Agricultural Society (Mr. J. T. Whipps) with the treasurer (Mr. George Cooke) his Worship the Mayor of Lismore (Ald. Dr. Kellas) representatives of the clergy, and Dr. C. Bluett, president of the Returned Soldiers' League (Alstonville).

The president of the Tintenbar Shire Council (Cr. Robins) said that he was delighted

The president of the Tintenbar Shire Council (Cr. Robins) said that he was delighted to see such a splendid gathering to participate in the solemn ceremony, which was significant of the fact that the memory of those who had made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War still lived. He was pleased also to see so many visitors present of the neighbouring district and he welcomed them on this solemn occasion. At first he thought it was not fitting to hold the ceremony on Sunday but after consideration it appeared to him to be a most appropriate occasion to associate the function with the sanctity of the day. His words, he said, were inadequate to express his sentiments, but he felt that there was a degree of sadness. The vacant places in the homes of the bereaved relatives cannot be filled although it may be true that time is a great healer. Yet such an occasion brings back those reminiscences of the past and the sympathy of all is expressed for them to-day. This was without doubt a patriotic district, as everything that was possible to be done was organised for the boys at the front. He traced the history of the movement to erect the memorial and he was gratified to know that so much enthusiasm prevailed throughout the Shire of Tintenbar in erecting this monument and the returned soldiers' themselves evinced great interest in the movement. He trusted that the names of those beloved soldiers inscribed on the pillar of stone will be also inscribed in the book of life.

Rev. H. J. Buttum (Anglican) said the splendid assemblage of citizens was a token of the great sacrifice made by their brothers who were laid to rest on the battlefields of France. He personally was privileged to see some of the work done in the year 1915 and he paid a great tribute to the wonderful fortitude and cheerfulness displayed by the troops under such appalling conditions. It was a terrible sacrifice comparable to the sacrifice of the Cross. Those present were here to-day because they died for us and it is befitting for all to carry out the example set on the battlefields and thus make our Empire a better place. Men and women answered the call of the King and many were obliged to answer the call of the King of Kings. This monument shows something of our love for the fallen heroes.

Rev. J. Allan (Presbyterian) spoke of the great heroism of the soldiers and the names of the Anzacs have been immortalised in the pages of history and had it not been for

the pages of history and had it not been for those brave men the band that was dispensing the music to-day would have been composed of Germans. The Empire was made great by the heroism of its people and the memorial was a lasting tribute to the characteristics of the nation.

Rev. Chapman (Methodist) said that the occasion should be surrounded with a religious atmosphere with a spiritual significance. In the Great War there was to be reckoned the sacrifice of human life to bring the successful issue, which was achieved. In these days science is exerting its utmost to find means for the preservation of human life and when nations are at war the very same science is exerting its utmost to destroy that life. Disease devastates the weaklings of the race whereas war works havoc on the physically fit. The flower of manhood had been cut down in a premature death and the sacrifice that was made by those brave men, who laid down their lives in this noble cause is signified in the emblem erected here. There is a sacred duty for all to carry out the great work done by those men to make Australia and the Empire a better land. And as this monument is dedicated to those fallen heroes our memory is awakened by the sacrifices made by those men. He hoped that the ceremony would bring home the message to all to do something to make this great land the city of God.

Mrs. D. A. Robins (wife of the president of the Shire) performed the unveiling ceremony and Dr. C. Bluett, president of the Alstonville branch of returned soldiers said that for five years he was associated with the troops in France and he was proud of that comradeship, which would never be obliterated from his memory. He deemed it a great honour to be entrusted with the ceremony of dedication.

The Tintenbar Shire Band dispensed a programme of sacred music during the afternoon.