

## BATLOW.

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Light rain set in on Monday afternoon of last week, and showers continued throughout the night and next day, but fortunately the rain held off until the completion of the Anzac Day service. Further heavy rain fell on Tuesday night and Wednesday, a total fall of 275 points occurring.

The outside of the Literary Institute has recently received a much-needed coat of paint, of a light stone color, the windows being picked out in a darker shade. It is to be hoped the committee will also see its way to keeping the inside of the building as clean as the outside now looks. Lately people have not cared about taking friends into the dirty, dusty library, but hope in future this will not be so.

### ANZAC DAY.

Anzac Day was celebrated in Batlow in rather dampening circumstances, owing to a change in the weather having taken place the previous day. The returned soldiers, under Lieut. H. V. Smith, fell in outside the Literary Institute, and, headed by the Batlow Band, marched to the Batlow Memorial Park, followed by the schoolchildren, a few Boy Scouts (who sprang from nowhere) and the residents, forming a hollow square round the flagpole erected therein. Rev. C. T. Debenham (Church of England), Tumut, conducted the service which was held at 3.30 p.m., opening with the singing of the National Anthem. This was followed by prayers, and the hymn "Oh God, Our Help in Ages Past." Rev. Debenham then delivered his address on the significance of Anzac Day. He said that "Anzac" stood for three things: First, Remembrance (in memory of the fallen brave). Second, Sacrifice (being the story of the sacrifice of a nation). He believed that the nation which can produce the largest number of men and women who can sacrifice their own individuality is the nation which will rule the world. Third, Death (in order that we may never be led to regard war

world. Third, Death (in order that we may never be led to regard war as glorious). War is only something to be resorted to when all else fails in the course of righteousness. We won the war because we can outlive, outfight and outdie our enemies. And the fourth was Light.

Prayers were read for the fallen, after which all observed one minute's silence, the bugler sounded the Last Post (the flag being lowered to half-mast) and the Reveille.

War medals were presented to the following soldiers:—Lieut. O. W. Quarby, Sgt. Barherie, Privates H. J. Harrison, C. G. Smith, T. A. Harrison, R. Smith and Geo. Smith.

Cr. A. E. Herring, Patron of the R.S. and S.I. League, Batlow Branch, and President of the Batlow Memorial Park Committee, dedicated the Park to the memory of the lads who had enlisted from Batlow. He said the Park will also be used for a sports and recreation ground, and while watching many keen contests among the lads the thoughts of many will often be turned to those who served in the war. No man or woman in this country should be permitted to forget, or to allow their children to forget, that they owe their lives to those soldiers. He believed that the men of the A.I.F. who sacrificed their lives and their health should be remembered. While the basic wage at present was £4/5/- a week, the maimed and disabled men received a pension of 4/6 a day and £2/2/- a week. He thought that the country which treats its disabled men like that does not deserve a future. He hoped that Anzac Day would be Australia's national day—a day dedicated as a memorial of duty and sacrifice during the war, and which should also help to remind us not only of our obligations to the returned men, but to those who preach disunion. Australia achieved her nationhood, and the only nationhood we want, on 15th April, 1915. To that day, and to the names and to the memory of those who served there, this park is now dedicated.

Mr. C. Smith had much pleasure in dedicating this work to the memory of those soldiers who went forth to

of those soldiers who went forth to do their duty to their country. Some of the men of Batlow were amongst the first to enlist for duty across the seas, and Batlow never ceased to send reinforcements. Taking the population of Batlow into consideration, we sent a big proportion of men to do their duty. We have here a piece of ground that we can make something of, and of which we will be proud in time to come. Its possibilities are probably beyond our comprehension. We have a beautiful spot, and very good soil with which we can make a pretty little park. Generally, buildings are erected as memorials, which are usually only used for a limited time, but here we have a park which can be used for all time by young and old alike. He considered it was a fitting thing to set aside a piece of land to the memory of these men.

Proceedings terminated by singing the Recessional Hymn, "God of Our Fathers, Known of Old," followed by the National Anthem.

Mr. N. H. Case made an appeal for annual subscriptions for the upkeep of the Park, and to enable the committee to carry out certain further improvements. The amount which was subscribed some time since had now nearly all been spent in enlarging the ring, sowing it, etc. But as the committee has to re-sow the grass, and also desire to erect swings etc. for the children and erect a tablet to the memory of those who en-

listed from this district, they require further funds to enable those improvements to be carried out. Contributions may be paid (no sum will be too small or too large) to Messrs A. E. Herring, J. D. Hourigan or C. Smith, or to any others of the committee.