

UNVEILING HONOR BOARD.

On Friday afternoon, 13th instant, the school building at Woodford Leigh was taxed to its utmost to accommodate the residents and visitors who attended to be present at the unveiling of an honor board containing the names of ex-pupils and district soldiers who have responded to the country's call.

Councillor D. L. Archer presided.

An apology was received from Mr. and Mrs. T. Barry and their son, Private J. Barry, who has just returned from France.

Proceedings were opened with the singing of the National Anthem, after which Mr. McLean, teacher of the school, explained that the honor board was a district board and not only for ex-pupils. Had it been confined to the latter, then several deserving names would have found no place on it. He particularly mentioned several immigrants who had enlisted, and whose homes in Australia were at Woodford Leigh, and whom he hoped would return and take up residence there. Included in the names were those of several State boys, who had served a four years' apprenticeship in the district and on the termination of their time had enlisted. These names also were honored by a place on the board, as well as those of any young men who had been supplied with comforts from the local Red Cross organisation.

Cr. J. Parsons said it afforded him very great pleasure to be there that afternoon, as they were honoring those to whom honor was due. This was one of those occasions when he was unable to find adequate words to express his feelings. In the city of Sydney we had quite a number of men who had the title of "Honorable" prefixed to their names because they were serving their country with their brains. But every name which would be unveiled to their view was justly entitled to that prefix as well, as they were not only serving their country but the whole of the civilised world, by fighting for peace and justice. He reminded the boys and girls that they were that day making history. In years to come the thought of that afternoon would come to their minds. He would like to remind them that no wealth could purchase a place for a name there, nor yet obliterate

them that no wealth could purchase a place for a name there, nor yet obliterate one already placed there. Those whose names would appear before them had given something infinitely more than mere pounds, shillings and pence—they had given their all.

Continuing, he said that during the progress of the war we have had several politicians visiting the homeland, but these men were not out for fight. They had had remarkable receptions in England, but theirs was a reflected glory. They were merely basking in the glory made by the brave Australians who had fallen at Gallipoli, at Sinai or in France. It was not possible to obliterate the memory of those brave Australians. He concluded by making a touching reference to John Grant, a young man of sterling worth, who had fallen at Pozieres and whose name was amongst those on the board.

Mr. D. McLachlan, Cowper, was pleased to be present to honor the boys from the district who were serving their country abroad. He reminded the boys and girls that it was their duty to assist those who were working so ably in the Soldiers' Leagues and that in honoring the boys who were gone we were also honoring their sorrowing parents, who had given their sons to fight for freedom and justice throughout the British Empire.

Mr. W. T. Fraser, Inspector of Schools, said he esteemed it a great honor to assist at this function to-day and to unroll to their view the names of those who had left this happy spot to journey so far to be units in that army whose deeds are unmatched in history. There are those who attribute the behaviour of our men, whether in the army or the navy, to sheer miracle, instead of the noble possibilities latent in the British nature when it is aroused to defend liberty, justice and right. It is at such times that the spirit of emulation, a trait probably the strongest in the Anglo-Saxon racial characteristics, becomes a mighty force. He had been told that since the war the story of Sir Philip Sidney would have to be expunged from history, as that deed had been eclipsed hundreds of times by Australian soldiers. It was necessary to endure a whole day's thirst or the thirst of a fever to know the spirit of self-sacrifice which prompted Sidney to his deed. If it were great in a man of Sidney's training then it was indeed greater in our men without that training. Developed by

without that training. Developed by training and spurred on by emulation, our armies and navies have become invincible, and we who remain at home should emulate our soldiers in submitting to a national training and sacrifice that will make the people invincible in the arts of life in the days of coming peace. In common with other rolls the names on that honor board ever before the eyes should be to us as a stimulus to emulate the noblest of our heroes in all that pertains to the good, the beautiful and the true. This tablet should be an ever-present scroll to teach us that as we are brothers in blood with the Anzacs, so should we emulate their unstinted self-sacrifice and become brothers to them in deeds. All can, and should, do something in this world contest. Those who are free and powerful to strike the foe should fight, those upon whom fortune has bestowed her favors should lend their wealth freely and liberally to the State, those whose hands are skilful should knit and sew, those who are feeble and young can hold their hands to Heaven and pray: "Lead us not into the temptation of indifference, deliver us from the evil of this awful world calamity." While the war is dragging on and straining to the utmost the resources of our widespread Empire, the producers of Australia should feel that it is in their province to provide the raw materials at their command for the present deeds of the Motherland and to be prepared for their part in the great subsequent commercial supremacy of our mighty race. The boys and girls must emulate each other in studying to become strong and intellectual individuals, as they are the greatest asset any nation or any empire can have. It is but fitting that the home, the school and the church should gather at these functions, for these three should work hand in hand to lead our youth aright. Guidance of will towards good to an end more indispensable to education, whether the sake of the individual or of the society than the cultivation of strength. With all our shortcomings as individuals, or as a nation, the British nation may justly claim that the good has been the greatest goal in our intellectual striving, whereas Germany, pretending to fear Russia, goaded by hatred towards France, by malicious envy towards the British people, deliberately subordinated all her intellec-

tual prowess to the acquirement of sheer strength, which having been achieved has been used in the most brutal, bestial and tyrannical way. In her feast and orgy of power, her rulers saw, like Belshazzar of old, the finger of destiny writing on the walls of time: "Thou art weighed in the balance, thou art found wanting, thy kingdom is divided." Intoxicated with her might and with her vision dimmed by false ideals, based upon the pomp and pride of war, to Germany this sentence appeared to foretell the downfall of our Empire, whereas the words were the written doom of her own tyrannical feudalism the fulfilment of history's great lesson—the nation that lives by the sword shall perish by the sword. These were the two great thoughts he placed before them that day: Emulate all that is best and noblest in the various spheres of our national life, remembering the worker in the forest, the field or the mine is as much an empire-sustainer as the mariner; and, secondly, let the goal of your intellectual advancement be towards the good, the beautiful and the true. Then there will be no fear that in this sunny land wealth and power will be used for the destruction of peace or good order of society.

"And I now unveil your tribute to those who have testified by their voluntary enlistment and heroic deeds that there are greater things than life, things without which life would lose value—the steady devotion to duty, the sense of right and justice, the honor of the soul."

On being unveiled, the following names were brought to view:—A. C. Amos, H. F. Castle, R. C. Clare, W. Cooper, W. E. Davis, J. Fairhall, W. Gasson, P. Gillespie, D. J. Grant, H. M. C. Grant, H. M. Grant, R. C. Grant, R. G. Grant, J. M. Grant, W. Hunt, P. Johnson, D. McAulay, J. R. McAulay, J. S. McAulay, R. McAulay, K. McKay, H. McKay, A. McKinnon, W. E. McLeod, J. O'Neill, J. Pennington, W. Ramm, H. Sawtell, W. Snell, J. Shaw, H. Tidy, J. Woodleigh, G. Young, E. Blume.

The gathering then sang "God Save our Splendid Men."

Cr. Archer here presented Inspector Fraser with a small Union Jack as a memento of the occasion, and in his response Mr. Fraser stated that this was the second flag that he had had presented to him, the first being the British flag that was hoisted on the Solomon Islands when

him, the first being the British flag that was hoisted on the Solomon Islands when that place was taken by the Germans. That flag was now placed in the school at West Wallsend; this one will adorn the wall of his office.

During the proceedings several items were rendered by pupils from Lawrence Public School, under the capable guidance of Mr. A. J. Waine, headmaster.

Votes of thanks to the speakers, to all those who assisted and to the chairman, together with the singing of the National Anthem, brought the function to a close.

The ribbon which had held the flag in position prior to the unveiling was disposed of in small pieces and realised the sum of 25/ for France's Day.