

## Hancock Memorial Tablet

### Unveiling Ceremony.

There was a representative attendance at the above ceremony, which took place in the Commercial Bank on Saturday afternoon of last week.

Mr. McLeod briefly explained the object of their assemblage. He read apologies from Messrs Allan Hancock (on behalf of his parents), W. O'Halloran, J. Bouffler, M. J. Condon (in Sydney), Mr. Reynolds and the Ven. Archdeacon Neild (away on parish duty). He then called on Father Dunne to unveil the memorial

Rev. Father Dunne, after unveiling the tablet, said that he was thankful for the honor thus given him, for he had been a great admirer of the hero to whose memory this fitting tribute of respect was now being paid. He had died the death of an honored soldier. Australians had heard the nations call and had nobly answered. And, of all parts in Australia, none had answered it better than Condobolin, for it held the proud record of sending comparatively more men than any other part of this great Commonwealth. "England expects every man this day to do his duty." Charles Hancock did his duty, and we do honor to his memory for it. He referred to some of the military blunders at Gallipoli and notably at Suvla Bay. But, said he, the deeds of our brave heroes there will keep ever green their honored memory. He went on to refer to the fine sporting and manly qualities of the late Charley Hancock, and concluded

late Charley Hancock, and concluded an admirable address by saying he had lived a noble life as a citizen and ended it bravely as a soldier and a man in every sense of the word.

Mr. P. S. Bowman, manager of the local branch of the Commercial Bank, said: Mr. Chairman, Rev. Father Dunne and Gentlemen,—As you are probably aware, Mr. Hancock was with me in this office for about two years, and I can conscientiously say that he showed marked ability, and stood well in the opinion of his superior officers. Had he followed up his civil calling, he would, in all probability, have carved out a name for himself in the Commercial world. This little gathering here to-day brings vividly before me the night before Mr. Hancock left, when we all assembled to bid him farewell, and all went merry as a marriage bell. He left the following morning, full of the highest aspirations and ideals, to do great deeds. Well, gentlemen, he did them, when he (and his mates) left an imperishable name on the heights of Gallipoli and the sands of Suvla Bay. My heart goes out in sympathy to his parents. We who have children of our own would realise what a wrench it would be

to lose one of them, but they have the consolation of knowing that he died a glorious death, fighting for the honor and freedom of his country—and died as he lived; true to his type; a good Australian Patriot and a gallant gentleman. Gentlemen, I salute the memory of a brave man, coupled with the flag which

man, coupled with the flag which he so valiantly fought for.

Mr. T. J. Brady, Shire President, said he was glad to have the chance to say a few words on this somewhat sad occasion. He knew Mr. Hancock to be a man of sterling character. He referred to the way he used to gather the boys and take them swimming with him, and every one knew how safe they would be in his hands. Before Private Hancock left for the front, he (speaker) promised to send him a souvenir. He did so, sending a fountain pen; but it never reached him, eventually finding its way back here. He would now keep that souvenir for all time in memory of the one who was one of the best of mankind. He was sure the parents of Trooper Hancock would appreciate what we were now doing for the memory of their son. He concluded by saying: We who would o'er his relics weep  
Must search the heights of Gabe's steep

And trace along the rugged line  
That leads the way to Lonely Pine.

Messrs P. J. Mooney, P. J. Dunphy and H. C. Moulder also spoke, all in the highest terms of praise of the silent hero whose memory was now being perpetuated.

Mr. McLeod read a letter received from Mr. A. G. Hancock, Sydney, who had also wired an apology for unavoidable absence. After explaining his inability just then to get away from his pressing bank duties, he goes on to say: "I would have given anything to have been able to get away, as I feel that we ought to be represented by some member of the family, and I am the only one anywhere handy. But I

only one anywhere handy. But I hope you will explain, and apologise for my unavoidable non-attendance. At the same time, please convey to all good people interested, on behalf of my parents and other members of the family, our deep appreciation of the tribute you are paying to my late brother's memory. Also, very many thanks for your kind offer to let us have copies of photographs, etc. Since writing you last two other brothers have left these shores for the front, I am now the only eligible one left, but I am inclined to think we have done our share. Four boys in one family is a pretty good average. Again thanking you for your kind invitation, I am, yours very Sincerely, A. G. Hancock."

The memorial tablet, which has been placed in a conspicuous part of the bank room, is nicely designed and executed on white marble. Inset therein is a fine photo of the late Charles Hancock and around which is carved a laurel wreath and immediately underneath are two crossed rifles. The inscription on the tablet reads: "This tablet was placed here in memory of Private Charles Evan Hancock, who was killed in action at Suvla Bay on 7th. August, 1915."

The Lachlander can endorse all the good things said of the late Private Hancock, for he was one of the finest specimens of young manhood it has ever been our lot to know. And, whilst deeply regretting the loss of one whose life was so full of promise, we can genuinely share in the true consolation of his having met his honored fate so nobly as to leave his memory so

having met his honored late so nobly as to leave his memory so revered and to have this memorial tablet placed in the premises where for two years he efficiently carried out his clerical duties and where his fine physique, pleasant face and winning manner gained an ever increasing number of genuine friends.

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Re the wool sales held in Sydney on Monday, Winchcome, Carson wired us to the effect that the market showed a rise of 10 to 15 per cent. compared with the March auction prices. Faulty crossbreds were five per cent dearer. The telegram gives a list of sales effected, at prices ranging 19½d to 15d

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Best brand of flower, vegetable barley and lucerne seeds at Leifermann's.

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