

DUBBO DOINGS

THE G.W. BELL MEMORIAL GATES

OFFICIAL OPENING

DUBBO, Bathurst

The Bell Memorial gates were officially opened to-day, but unfortunately heavy rain marred the service at the entrance to the gates. The opening was adjourned to the Protestant Hall and a record crowd packed the hall. Every preparation was made for the opening of the gates at the Oval. Flags were draped around the gates and hung from the trees nearby, but the storm which worked across from the north-eastern quarter prevented any ceremony at the gates.

Among the large gathering at the Hall was another friend of the late Mr. Bell, he was Inspector Christian of Orange, and late of Dubbo.

On opening the service the Rev. Charles Yullie who presided called on those present to sing one of Mr Bell's favorite hymns "Lead Kindly Light." The Citizens Band accompanied the gathering.

Rev. Yullie said it was the greatest pleasure he could expect to take part in this Memorial service as he knew Mr. Bell was a man respected and loved by all in Dubbo. Although he had only been associated with him for a short period prior to his death he knew from the work this citizen left behind him that Dubbo had lost one of its best townsmen. Since in Dubbo, he had learned much of the great work which the late Mr Bell had done in the direction of supporting his town and he thought the sporting bodies were to be congratulated on the effort they had made to keep this gentleman's memory dear.

After Rev. Yullie had handed the Mayor the keys to the gates and expressed the hope that the weather might sufficiently abate for the opening and unveiling of the tablet, Ald. Fitzhull said the late Mr George Bell had been an intimate friend of his for years past and when he entered Council as a junior alderman he garnered much under the guidance of Ald Bell, who the people recognized as a great townsman by electing him top of the poll in two successive elections. It was a great pleasure for him to perform the opening ceremony on Council's behalf, as the improvements to Council's Oval which took place several years ago were sponsored by the late Mr. Bell, who was always extending an open financial hand to all sporting bodies.

"The Park gardens were most dear to Mr. Bell," said His Worship, "and I might say some years ago when I commenced spending the ratepayers' money on these gardens and beautifications there was a protest and I consulted him and asked his opinion of the matter and he advised me to continue erecting these gardens, which Council did and to-day there is not one who is not proud of them."

All Aldermen, he said, regretted the day when Mr. Bell retired from civic life, but at the time he did not

know that the day when Mr. Bell retired from civic life, but at the time he did not altogether retire from public life for the hospital was in need of a man with Mr. Bell's capabilities and when the position was put to him he volunteered his services and the Hospital progressed finely as a result of his tireless efforts and in that institution one could see many things which had benefited as a result of his financial assistance.

Mr. H. G. Hurrey on behalf of the Sports Grounds improvement committee, sincerely thanked all those who had so ably assisted to make the erection of the gates possible and expressed the wish that this kind of assistance would continue for the committee realised they had a ground accord to none in the country districts and it was their intention to make further improvements so that some day Dubbo folk would be able to look at the grounds with pride.

After the service the Mayor returned to the Oval and unveiled the tablet and officially opened them in the rain.