

GUNNING

Soldiers' Memorial Sunday-school Hall

Officially Opened on Saturday

The opening of the Soldiers' Memorial Sunday-school Hall at Gunning took place on Saturday afternoon in the presence of a large gathering of people from all parts of the Gunning district. The weather was ideal for an outdoor assemblage such as this. An improvised platform had been erected near the entrance porch, on which were seated the Rev. T. F. Potts (president Methodist Conference), R. H. Campbell (chairman Goulburn District), A. Morris Yates (Bowral), — Drummond (Yass), and A. Collins (Gunning). The Rev. S. North (Anglican) was also present.

The Rev. A. Collins reviewed the history of the Sunday-school from its inception, some twenty years ago, and stated that all the trustees had in hand to commence the building with was £25. The cost of the building was £295, which left a debt of £270 to be liquidated. The speaker welcomed the president and other visiting clergymen, and called upon the Rev. Mr. Potts to place a memorial tablet in position in the front of the porch.

The Rev. Mr. Potts, who was a resident minister in the district 31 years ago, was received with applause. He thanked the trustees for their invitation to take part in this ceremony. It afforded him great pleasure to visit Gunning again, and to meet many old friends. The three years he had spent here were among the happiest of his ministry. He then placed in position a tablet bearing the following inscription — "Gunning Methodist Soldiers' Memorial Sunday-school Hall."

A dedicatory hymn, "This Stone to Thee in Faith We Lay," was sung by the assemblage, and donations were solicited, the sum of £50 being received.

The Rev. A. Morris Yates (also a former minister at Gunning) then performed the official opening of the hall. In his usual eloquent and impressive language, and touched with pathos, the speaker was reminiscent of the days when a stir was made for the building of a new parsonage in Gunning, and spoke warmly of the interest manifested by Mr. E. Crowther, of Collector, whose persistency and generosity helped to the consummation of that desired object. He was pleased to see that they had this memorial hall erected to the memory of their soldiers, and had no doubt that the existing debt would soon be a thing of the past.

The Rev. R. H. Campbell, the next speaker, spoke in high terms of the work done in connection with the erection of the hall. He congratulated the minister of the church on having so fine a property in Gunning. He referred in humorous vein to the claim of Goulburn being the parent of the Gunning circuit, and spoke of the Gunning church-people as being "the children," making special reference to the fine parsonage here, and drew comparisons between the present mode of travelling in pastoral work to that of the "good old days." There were

of travelling in pastoral work to that of the "good old days." There were only two places in his district where the ministers did not have a motor car.

The hall now being declared opened, a general inspection by those present took place. The building, which is an imposing brick structure, measures 37 x 30 feet. The interior walls are plastered. The ceiling is of panelled fibrolite, and is dome-shaped. Attached to the main building is a small room, 12 x 8 feet, fitted with the necessary conveniences for preparing refreshments. The whole structure is a credit to the builder, Mr. C. Veness. The hall will be utilised as a Sunday-school, for social gatherings, and as a vestry.

The opening function was followed by a public tea-meeting, served in the new building by the members of the Ladies' Church Aid. This was largely attended, and must have materially augmented the funds. An adjournment was then made to the Church to enable the visitors to renew acquaintance with old friends.

As a memento of their participation in the above function the Rev. T. F. Potts and A. Morris Yates were presented with silver pencils, suitably inscribed. In lieu of the traditional trowel and key.

The Queanbeyan Waratahs met Gunning on the local ground on Saturday in the Miller Challenge Cup competition, and were defeated by the home team by 17 to nil. Keith Lees was successful in kicking four goals from difficult angles, this feat being vociferously applauded.

A very old resident in the person of Mr. George Lanham, a pioneer of Bellmount Forest, died at the age of 83 last Wednesday. He had lived in this district all his life. The funeral took place on Friday afternoon, the remains being interred in the Methodist portion of the Gunning cemetery.