

DISTRICT NEWS.

(From our Correspondents)

HEXHAM.

The unveiling of a roll of honour, erected in the Hexham Public School by the parents and citizens' association, assisted by the general public, took place on Saturday. Mr. R. Brooks, president of the association, extended a welcome to Lieut-colonel Nicholson, M.P., who has recently returned from the front. The pupils, under the direction of the principal, Mr. H. T. Jones, then sang "Advance Australia Fair," very creditably. This was followed by a solo from Miss Clarke, of Tarro, after which the chairman called on Lieutenant-colonel Nicholson to perform the ceremony of unveiling.

Lieutenant-colonel Nicholson, who, on rising, received a cordial welcome, said that he was pleased to be back among his people, and thanked them very much for the confidence they had reposed in him by putting him back in his old place in Parliament. He was pleased to be present to perform the ceremony, as he considered it his duty, as a soldier and a man, to do all that he could, to in any way, assist them in their good work. He then made feeling remarks in reference to the heroism and self sacrifice of those who had gone to the front, and particularly mentioned those mothers who had given their sons to fight for their country, and hoped God would sustain them in their anxiety and care. He then drew the Union Jack aside, and unveiled the roll, after which Mr. J. Carroll sang a patriotic song.

Mr. H. T. Jones said he was proud to be there as representative of the Education Department, into whose care the roll had been given, and he could assure them that the utmost care would be taken of the same. He had looked forward with pleasure to the placing of this roll in the school because he wanted to instruct the boys and girls in true patriotism, and how better could it be done than by pointing to the men whose names were there inscribed, three of whom had been pupils of his.

Mr. C. White then sang the "Marseillaise", in mother tongue. The roll of honor was made by Mr. W. Fraser, of Hamilton, and is a handsome piece of work being polished Queensland maple with

oak carvings, and is enclosed in a glass fronted case of the same material, and bears the following inscription:—"Hexham Public School Roll of Honour, 1914-17," and contains the following names:—C. A. Bennett, J. M. Curtis, W. E. Churchill, R. C. White, S. G. Burns, A. Mekenass, R. L. Bennett, S. G. A. Penfold, H. Morris, H. Fairhall, A. Tillitski, J. T. Tillitzki, Maher, S. R. Bennett, T. G. Fraser, J. H. McAskill, L. Ripley. Before leaving Lieutenant-colonel Nicholson promised to provide prizes for the children at the end of the term.

At the close refreshments were served by a committee of ladies.