

To The Brave

TAMWORTH SCHOOL HONOR BOARD.

Minister Unveils.

Probably no more impressive function has taken place in connection with the Tamworth District School than last night's—the occasion of the unveiling by the Minister for Education of the school Honor Board.

Mr. James, accompanied by Mrs. James, was received by a guard of honor composed of the school cadets. The children were packed upon forms in the school grounds, while the visitors occupied seats on the veranda. The chair was occupied by the Mayor (Aid. Thibault), and there were also present Mr. G. Nesbitt, M.L.A. members of the Parents and Citizens' Association Miss Thibault (acting Mayor-ess), and members of the teaching staff.

The Model Band rendered selections the programme opening with "Advance Australia" by the band. This was followed by the pupils singing "As a Nation," and "Awake Australia," under the conductorship of Mr. Arnold, headmaster, and accompanied on the piano by Miss Williams.

The Mayor in opening the proceedings said the honor roll spoke for itself and would continue to act as a guide to the children in times of great crises. He hoped the example would be taken up by the people so that an honor board containing the names of all the men of the district who had answered the call would be inscribed upon it.

Before unveiling the honor board, Mr. James congratulated the children and teachers on the excellence of the singing. The Australian Anthem, he said, was such as to stir their hearts. He was pleased to have to perform the ceremony for more than one reason, one being that Tamworth was the home of one of their members who had answered the call.

There was one quality which was respected by all and through all times—bravery. There was the pure physical courage, and the martial bravery which men had to possess to enable them to carry out their duty even in the ordinary walks of life. Therefore, when Australian boys showed that quality it made us proud of our nation. We have had instances of young Australians holding their own in the field of sports. In mental pursuits we had produced from our schools and universities men and women capable of holding their own against others of the Empire. That also applied to science. These things showed that the nation had been able to hold its own in most things, but it remained for this cruel war to show that Australia could produce soldiers second to none. In the field the Australian showed not only courage, but adapta-

showed not only courage, but adaptability to conditions.

When the call of the good old Motherland came that we should assist her with lives, our boys recognised that we were fighting for the Empire. They did not say that they could best assist the Empire by staying in Australia.

The help that Australia had given had been of the greatest value to the British authorities. It was up to us to do our duty and see that reinforcements were not wanting. We knew what those boys had done and how they had died in Egypt, Greece, Gallipoli, Mesopotamia and France. They had written their names large in all those countries. They had introduced a word into our language that would never perish so long as Australia endured—the word "Anzac". (Applause).

History would indeed record the deeds of Australian soldiers who were as good hearted and kind as they were brave. The Minister gave examples of how Australians had entered into the dairy avocation of the French people, among whom they were quartered.

Somewhere about 90 per cent. of the boys who had gone from New South Wales had at one time received their education in the public schools continued the Minister. Take Fort-street, for instance. Just about 2000 names were recorded on the honor board there. At Cleveland-street there were 1200 names. It did appear that the teaching of our public schools must be good. It taught them to be men. Those boys did not think of themselves as heroes, but in the words of some one else, "They had to bally-well do it." They were like the bull ant—they had to fight.

The Minister directed attention to the work the children had done for those at the front. They had also collected £120,000 for patriotic purposes.

Some of the schools had made themselves recruiting agents and had particular recruits under their particular care. There was nothing like training a child to the best ideas of good citizenship—caring for others. This war, bad as it was, might have the good effect of raising a splendid race of men and women.

Mr. James could not see how the war could end shortly. He asked his hearers to brace themselves to the task and help their brothers at the front. One of the best ways of honoring those boys who had gone was to stand by them in the fighting line. In making that appeal he could not forget that Tamworth and district had so far done nobly. Many would never return. Although they had gone we did not mourn for them, for they were lost; they were ever present. Those boys who had gone had realised their duty, and while that spirit animated the whole nation we would win the war. So long as that dogged endurance characterised the nation there was no cause for despair. The cause must be persisted in. He trusted that there

persisted in. He trusted that there would be no "stand as you were" peace and that we would keep on to the end and defeat that enemy or be for ever defeated.

Throughout the whole of New South Wales there is a desire to erect rolls of honor, a fact that filled him with pleasure. The highest thing a man could do was his duty.

The Minister then performed the unveiling ceremony amidst applause. In doing so he said it is comparable with any of the many he had seen and reflected credit on all who had gone to the front.

After Miss N. Chad had recited "The Australian," Mr. Arnold, head master, called attention to the work of the Parents and Citizens' Association. A marvellous amount of work had, he said, been carried out by similar associations in the country. The Tamworth body was an infant organisation, but had fully justified itself. The association had laid before the Minister the needs of the school so far as accommodation was concerned, and the Minister had promised to take immediate steps in that direction. It had also arranged for the Honor Board to be brought into existence. The board had been expensive and he asked anyone who desired to contribute to do so.

As a result of the appeal £43/17 was collected and promised.

Mr. Theo. England (president of the Parents and Citizens' Association) moved a vote of thanks to Mr. James, Mrs. James and Mr. Nesbitt, the Mayor and Acting Mayoress, and appealed for the aid and assistance of parents. The association wanted their moral rather than their financial assistance. They wanted a high school at Tamworth and he had to from the Minister that they would have to bestir themselves if they wished to beat Armidale in the race. The lack of a high school had been the means of sending the best of Tamworth boys and girls elsewhere. The present building was antiquated and they had just been able to persuade the Minister to provide sufficient accommodation for the present number of pupils.

Mr. F. S. Brown (secretary of the association) seconded the vote of thanks. He specially mentioned the sympathetic interest which Mr. and Mrs. James had taken in the children during their inspection of the school. He is sure that Tamworth would greatly benefit from the visit.

The Minister, in responding, praised Mr. Arnold for the splendid spirit that prevailed at the school. Tamworth was a live school and he congratulated them on having such a headmaster as Mr. Arnold. Tamworth was also a live town, and it looked very much, after what he had seen, as if Tamworth was going to get the high school. The New South Wales public schools were equal to any in the State and he was proud of them. He asked them to join the Parents and Citizens' Association and push the whole

Citizens' Association and push the whole educational system along. He announced, amidst much enthusiasm from the pupils, that the school would break up on Thursday night, and not on Friday.

Mr. Nesbitt also responded, and the function, after further singing by the pupils, ended with the National Anthem and cheers.

The Honor Board is a fine specimen of beaten copper on oak with the names inscribed on brass tablets. It cost about £80, of which £59 had been paid off.