

## District News.

### UNVEILING OF THE EDGEROI ROLL OF HONOR.

Saturday last, the 16th Inst. will be a day long remembered with pride by the residents of Edgeroi. It was the occasion of the unveiling of the roll of honor at the railway station. This honor roll was purchased by the residents of Edgeroi, and made by Mr. M. W. Hardy, of Narrabri; it is a work of which the maker must feel proud, but not prouder than those who had it erected in memory of the brave lads who offered their services willingly, and unselfishly for their King and country. Of the 26, whose names are on the roll, nine have been wounded and one has paid the supreme sacrifice. Long before the hour appointed for the unveiling ceremony, a goodly crowd had assembled, and at 4 p.m. (the hour appointed), the chairman, (Mr. Shibley), called on the audience to sing "God Save the King," as a mark of loyalty. He said that some few months ago the committee of the Edgeroi Wounded Soldiers' Fund met and decided that the time had arrived when they should erect an honor roll to the memory of the lads who had enlisted from the locality, and, thanks to the energetic secretary (Mr. E. Keate), they were met together to unveil one of the finest boards in the State. He had very much pleasure in calling upon the Rev. Canon Villiers-Held to perform the unveiling ceremony.

The Rev. Canon Held said he felt deeply the honor bestowed upon him. Speaking of the war it was worth while to look back at the beginning. This was the 25th day of the 4th year of the war, and still there was no end in sight. Some people said it was a sordid trade war, but he disagreed, because, before the war, Germany did trade with the whole of the world, whilst England was always a free-trade country, and encouraged other nations (big and small) to do likewise. Whose war is it then? It was a war of the democracy of the world, a war of right against might. Would the democracy of to-day any peace. Yes, peace with honor, but peace on Germany's terms meant defeat to the Allies. The cause of the war was that Germany—not the Kaiser, nor the War Lords, but the German nation—sought to be the Lords of all Europe, and the Kaiser the Admiral of the world. A cabinet meeting was called at night by the British Parliament, and at 10.50 a.m. next morning, Sir Edward Grey said he wished to make a statement to the House that England had declared war on Germany. Mr. Bonar Law (the leader of the Opposition), Mr. Redmond (the Nationalist leader), and Sir Edward Carson (the Unionist) all agreed that England had done the right thing, because they were fighting for the right of smaller nations, and he trusted the war would not end until Belgium and the other small nations received the justice that was due to them. From the start of this war (before Mr. Hughes went to England, and before conscription was spoken of) he had advocated national service, believing that everyone between 18 and 60 should do something to win the war, and if Mr. Hughes or anyone else advocated national service, he would support it from any platform (audacious). Some people said that to put Australia first did not make the Empire any the less, but it meant that they would kill the Empire if they only got the chance. He had read of the whole-hearted way the residents of Edgeroi worked in any national cause. People said they did well, but these (pointing to the names on the roll of honor) were the men that did well—the men who fought for us. Our lives and their lives were in higher hands than those of any of the leaders and to Him we should look for help. He then spoke of the British Navy and said how one was filled with pride when the British Navy was mentioned. He had such faith in the fleet that he was sure if the German fleet came out of its corner to fight, and if Healty could get at it at 3.30 a.m., it would be no more at 2 p.m. (applause). He had

his corner to fight, and if Healty could get at it at 3.30 a.m., it would be no more at 2 p.m. (applause). He had much pleasure in unveiling this tablet and hoped it would last long to the glory of the names thereon. These men had done their bit, and the memory of their deeds would live, and be passed on to our children and our children's children. Some had been wounded, one had laid down his life. He then declared the monument unveiled.

The Rev. Canon Villiers-Held then presented the parents of the late Pte. W. Trumbo with a gold medal on behalf of the residents of Edgeroi. This, he said, was in memory of their brave son, who paid the supreme sacrifice for King and country. There was, he continued, a medal for Pte. Roy McCumstie, now in the Randwick Hospital; he trusted that the parents would soon have their brave boy in their own care again. A medal was also presented to Pte. W. Wyatt, whose name was the first on the roll of honor.

Mrs. Trumbo and Mr. McCumstie returned thanks.

Ernest McLeod returned thanks on behalf of Mr. W. Wyatt.

Warrant Officer Glenn also spoke a few words and said we must not forget there was a great war in progress, and we must do our best for the boys whilst they are at the front, and again when they return. He also referred to the unnecessary talk in Parliament and quoted one politician as saying that he would not spill a drop of blood or hurt his little finger for the Empire. He was sorry to say, a great number of people followed the example of this class of men, and did not give the help necessary to the boys at the front.

The chairman, on behalf of all present, thanked the Rev. Canon Held for unveiling the roll of honor, and for the speech he had made.

The Rev. Canon Villiers-Held returned thanks, and moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was carried by acclamation.

In declaring the ceremony closed, the chairman called for three hearty cheers for the boys at the front, which were given with all the ardour of sincere people. The assembly then

partook of afternoon tea, which was very kindly provided by the ladies of Edgeroi, and this brought to a close a memorable day in the history of Edgeroi.