

STAFFORDSHIRE REEF.**HONOR BOARD UNVEILED.**

On Friday evening an interesting juvenile entertainment, and the unveiling of an honor board containing the photographs and names of the soldier boys of Staffordshire Reef, took place. Cr J. C. Blakely (president of Grenville Shire) occupied the chair. He observed that the honor board, which was to remain in the State school building, was brought about by Mrs Stoneman and Mrs Ward. They felt that it was only due to the soldier boys who had been past scholars at the school that something of the kind should be done. It would serve to perpetuate the memory of the gallant young men of the Reef who had gone to fight for their home and country. One of the number, Trooper Harry Wright, had fallen. From information to hand he had proved himself a hero, and they would all honor his memory. The people of Staffordshire Reef were sincerely patriotic, and they had done much in helping the soldiers at the Front. He congratulated the head teacher of the school (Mr L. J. Cole) upon the magnificent way he had trained the children for the evening's performance. Mrs Stoneman then unveiled the honor roll, containing the photographs of the following:—Sergt Coll Haig, Gnr F. W. Hoyle, Troops H. P. Wright and H. J. Hoyle, Ptes C. Rosewarne, L. A. Shelton, J. H. Fraser, R. Wakeling, W. Scott, O. C. A. Laidler, W. P. Laidler, S. J. Stoneman, W. A. Boyd, J. Boyd, L. Robertson, Ernest Causon, C. J. Guy, F. G. Robinson, J. Hawitt. Mr A. Harmer congratulated Staffordshire Reef upon having such a neat inviting honor roll. He hoped that every one of the boys would come home with medals on their breasts. (Applause.) He took a pride in the Australian soldiers, and the more he thought of their self-sacrifice the more he honored them and their parents. The Australians answered the call to go and fight at the Front. They were not fighting for wealth or plunder, but for right and freedom, also that other nations would enjoy the freedom they themselves enjoyed. The Belgians called for help when their country was being overrun and devastated, and Australians, including those at Staffordshire Reef, were amongst the first to respond. What a grand Empire was the British, and upon which the sun never set. All were proud of their Empire. And if the people were true to themselves they would not allow any nation to take it from them. He could not understand any person attempting to take a base advantage of us. They must be true to one another. They were anxious for peace, but they could not trust a nation that violated agreements and gloried in devastation. It was a good thing for them that their battles were being fought on the plains of Europe, and with their magnificent Navy like a dog watching a rabbit, in which position the German navy was. England was gentle in manner, firm in action. At times they had their moments of depression, but they were sure of victory. For England to win would prove all the better for the Germans, for they would then have more liberty. He hoped the Staffordshire Reef heroes would soon be back, bringing with them an everlasting peace. Mr J. Boyce thanked Mr Cole for the invitation to be present, as it might be the last time he would have the privilege. Regarding the

present, as it might be the last time he would have the privilege. Regarding the photos in the frame he could not but say that they were men. Those men had gone to stand between the little children of Staffordshire Reef and an unscrupulous foe that would glory in a repetition of Belgian atrocities. Were the people of Australia going to let them fight and not go to their help? They were not working four hours a day, but twenty-four. He (the speaker) was going to see it through with the boys. Germany could not beat them, but if the people did not keep their boys well supplied with all necessities disease would. Their young soldiers were undoubtedly brave, but not nearly so much as their mothers, whose sufferings of heart and mind no one but themselves ever knew or would know. One of their number (Trooper Harry Wright) had paid the great sacrifice. God had given him his reward. They must keep the pressure on the enemy, then would follow peace with honor, and they themselves and their children would enjoy peace and prosperity.

Mr L. J. Cole (head teacher of the Staffordshire Reef State school, said that the children attending the school had decided to obtain papers containing the report of that evening's function, and forward them to the boys at the Front. He was also going to have a photograph taken of the interior of the school-room, and which would show up the honor roll. It was felt that it would be a good thing to let the boys know what was going on at the old school. It would temporarily take their minds off the battle, and would turn their attention for a few moments to the old home and the school they had attended in their youth. With these thoughts of home and school the boys would then go on with renewed vigor, and would not turn back till they had accomplished that which they were fighting for.

The early part of the evening was taken up by a programme of interesting and amusing items by the school children, and much credit is due Mr Cole for the splendid manner every item was presented. The programme was as follows:—Chorus, "A Mighty Captain," children; recitation, "The Dollies," infant girls; song, "Our Tommy," Eileen Duncan, dialogue, "Tradesmen" (in character), senior boys, comprising Allan Stoneman as boot-maker, Fred Ward tailor, Alfred Duncan butcher, Fred Mead carpenter, Maurice Scott organ grinder, Willie Mead miller, Robert Boyd grocer, Reginald Duncan grocer's assistant; recitation, "Santa Claus," Joseph Robinson; chorus, "Three Grey Geese," children (encored); recitation, "The Ten Servants," infants; song, "The Land I Know Where," Lily Wright, Eileen Duncan, Winnie Scott; chorus, "See How the Men Row," children (encored); song, "Our Bob is Fond of Shooting," Robert Boyd and children (encored); chorus, "God Bless Our Soldiers," children; chorus, "A Soldier's Life," children; dialogue, "The Cooks," Phyllis Mead, Eileen Duncan, Frances Stoneman, Mary Rosewarne, Winnie Scott, Lily Wright, Lily Scott; song (character), "The Farmyard," senior girls and boys; song, "The Tired Girl," Mary Rosewarne; flag song, company. On the motion of Messrs T. Robinson and H. D. Ward, a vote of thanks was passed the speakers and others who took part in the evening's proceedings, special mention being made of the indefatigable manner Mr Cole had worked on the children for the entertain-

ings, special mention being made of the indefatigable manner Mr Cole had worked up the children for the entertainment. The singing of the National Anthem brought a successful function to a close. The speakers and other visitors were served with refreshments; Messdames Stoneman, Wright, Ward, and Cole being in attendance. During the afternoon a picnic was held in the school grounds, where a delightful time was spent by the children indulging in various forms of amusement.

SCHOOL DECORATION.

Since Mr L. J. Cole took charge of the local State school the interior of the building has shown unmistakable signs of embellishment, and its attractiveness was remarked upon by the large gathering that assembled on Friday evening at the unveiling of the honor board. Mr A. Harmer, head teacher of the Berringa school, paid a special compliment to Mr Cole. It was, he said, a great pleasure to see signs of loyalty in the school, as well as the adoption of neatly-arranged, up-to-date methods in connection with the curriculum. The whole reflected the greatest credit upon Mr Cole, the children, the parents, and the members of the school committee.