

## MEMORIAL SCHOOL OF ARTS.

### Officially Opened.

On Friday last fully 200 persons put in an attendance at the new building in Menangle Street to see the Memorial School of Arts officially opened. The Mayor (Ald. Nicolson), also President of the Committee, in a brief address, said the movement for a memorial building was started at a public meeting held on November 21, 1921, at the instance of the Returned Soldiers' League, and action was subsequently confirmed at a larger meeting held in the Town Hall. He said the new building had been passed by their architects, and after the Mayoress had performed the official opening, he would invite all present to come in and inspect the building, fittings, etc.

Mrs. Nicolson was then handed a key, and officially declared the building open for business. Being a native of Picton, she felt proud to see its completion, and hoped the soldiers and sailors would spend many pleasant evenings there.

### Description.

The main building is of brick throughout, with an attractive front design, and porch leading to the main entrance. In the porch are two marble tablets containing the names of all men who enlisted for service from Picton and district, those killed in action being marked with an asterisk. The men who paid the supreme sacrifice were:—R. Macdougall, one time C.P.S. at Picton; W. L. Rowe, a former Cathoist of the C. of England; J. Eather, of Balmoral; A. Taylor, R. Ingleton, C. H. Clark, H. Hackney, T. McTregor, C. Kelso, all worthy sons of well-known residents of Picton. One of the front rooms is reserved for use of returned men and will be solely furnished by the Red Cross Society, Picton branch. The remaining three rooms will be used for reading, library and committee purposes. They are roomy, well-fitted and splendidly lighted, each with four electric globes, throwing a soft diffused light over the interior. At the back is an

the interior. At the back is an attached room for billiards and games enthusiasts. It is 48 feet long and 22 feet wide. There is one billiard table already there, and provision for another table has been made. For a social evening, fully 100 people could be comfortably accommodated in this room.

The whole structure is a credit to those who worked so consistently for its completion, as well as a valuable addition to Picton's public buildings. The architects were Messrs. McCredie and Anderson, of Sydney, and Mr. Wearne, of Liverpool, was the builder responsible for the erection. A statement of accounts read by Mr. Wilson, Secretary, during the evening, showed the total receipts as being £818/16/7, which comprised:—Donations, £169/14/2; entertainments, £418/13/4; Red Cross advances, £164/11/4; interest, £65/17/9; School of Arts building fund, £283/8/11; mortgage Commercial Bank, £500. The expenditure included the following items: Building, £1,500; extension billiard room, £48; honor roll tablets and extra billiard room, £14/8/3; names on honor roll, £10; foundation stone and lettering, £20/15/-. It will be seen from these figures that the building was actually completed at less than the original tender, which approximated £1,533.

During the evening the Committee entertained those present with light refreshments. The toast list was short. After honouring the toast of "The King," the Chairman (Mr. Nicolson) called upon Mr. R. H. Antill to propose the health of "The Architects and Builders." Mr. Antill said it was a pleasure to do so, although none of the architects were present. The reason was due to the fact that the senior member—Mr. McCredie—had passed away only ten days ago. The speaker added that when he learnt this firm would be their architects a great deal of responsibility was lifted from his mind. He knew of their standing and integrity, and the building would be in right hands. It was a credit to them and would stand comparison with any structure in the town. Their plans had to be altered slightly, but they found improvements as the work progressed, and

suggest, but they found improvements as the work progressed, and he trusted in the near future the Committee would have two billiard tables in use.

Ald. Gilmore, who was Mayor when the initial meeting was held in 1921, was then called upon to say a few words. He expressed his delight that so many of the public were present and to see their enthusiasm for a work which was started during his regime as Mayor. The building reflected credit on the town, and would serve a twofold purpose. It would commemorate the valour and deeds of those who

served in the Great War, as well as a useful purpose as a School of Arts. He trusted that future associations in its administration would be as one happy family, showing good fellowship and confidence in each other. He trusted any ill-feeling exhibited in the past between sectional committees would be dropped and appealed to them all to stick together and get the building free of debt. He sincerely thanked those who helped and gave him their support and assistance in the past and congratulated all on seeing the achievement of their work brought to fruition that day.