

## HONOR ROLL UNVEILED

QUEEN STREET STATE SCHOOL.

ADDRESS BY WARRANT OFFICER  
M'GRATH.

There was a very large gathering in the grounds of the Queen street State school on Saturday afternoon, when an honor roll, containing the names of 149 former scholars who had gone to the war, was unveiled by the Mayor of Ballarat East (Cr H. B. George). Amongst those present were Warrant Officer D. C. M'Grath, M.H.R., the Hon. R. M'Gregor, M.L.A., Crs A. J. Pittard, A. Mackenzie, W. Elsworth, and W. Richards (Ballarat East), Cr G. Keirl (Sebastopol), the Revs. L. Tait and A. J. Whitbourne, Adjutant Hepper (Salvation Army), and Inspector Hurley. Apologies were received from Major Baird, M.L.A., Mr F. Tate, Director of Education; Mr Fussell, Chief Inspector of Schools; and Cr W. J. Hoare.

Mr C. Ludbrook, chairman of the school committee, presided, and said it was fitting that they should have assembled in such large numbers to do honor to their boys who had gone away. Mr A. Fisher, when Prime Minister, had said Australia would give the last man and the last shilling, and it was to honor this pledge that so many of their boys had gone. They had by their deeds on the battle field shown to the world what sort of a nation Australia was. What their soldiers had done would live for all time. The honor board, which contained 149 names, had been subscribed for voluntarily and spontaneously. It would be an incentive to the boys who now went to the school, when they looked on the board, to do their duty when the occasion arose.

The Rev. L. Tait offered prayer, and the children sang "Lord God of hosts."

The Hon. R. M'Gregor, M.L.A., said he was gratified to be there to do honor to the boys who had gone not only from the Queen street school, but from the whole of Australia. In every encounter in which the Australians had taken part they had earned a wonderful name from the generals and other officers. What had been done at Gallipoli had been repeated in France and in Flanders, and their men had shown that they were the bravest thing that God had ever made. He hoped that the great deeds of their men would never be forgotten. The men now at

the great deeds of their men would never be forgotten. The men now at the front should have reinforcements sent to them, and they should also be supplied with all the comforts that they required. He was gratified to find that so many had gone from the Queen street school, and he trusted that with God's help they would come back safely home again.

Warrant Officer M'Grath, M.H.R., who was received with three cheers, said that as one who had seen a little of the war his heart went out to the boys who were at the front. His advice to them was not to be too rough on the returned soldier if he did not do his work as well as he did before he went to the front. It was almost impossible to expect the returned soldier to be as normal as he was when he went away. He would doubtless neglect something, but he would never neglect the returned boys. (Applause.) The speaker paid a glowing tribute to the work of the Red Cross abroad, and said that if the people could assist in making socks or other goods they should not neglect it. He also said, "God bless the Salvation Army," for this institution was also doing admirable work. The Y.M.C.A. also helped the soldiers in a remarkable manner, and these good institutions must be assisted in every way. Marvellous work had been done by the Postal Department, which had handled millions of letters and hundreds of thousands of parcels and papers. There was a doubt about papers with wrappers around them ever reaching the soldiers, and he advised those who wished soldiers to see something which appeared in a newspaper to cut the slip out and pass it in an envelope. They

were that day honoring the boys who had gone out from that school, and there were no braver soldiers in the world. They could take his word for it. He had seen them take positions from which the Germans thought they could never be driven. When the history of the present German offensive came to be written it would be found that the Australian boys had played a most noble part, for they did not know the meaning of the word retreat. He was rather afraid that they hung on too long at times, and suffered thereby. Never was it more necessary, more urgent for a country to be united

more urgent for a country to be united than it was at the present time. He did not think there was a living soul in Australia who wished to see the Germans victorious. Life would not be worth living if they were. The German people had had 40 years of military rule, and it had not made them a better people. They were permeated with the military spirit, and they did not need that kind of thing in Australia. He was there speaking to them against doctors' orders. All the week nearly he had been in hospital, and he had been ordered by the doctor to refrain from public speaking, and to take a month or two months' rest to prevent a nervous breakdown. He was delighted to be there to do honor to those boys who had gone from that school.

Mayor George, who unveiled the honor roll, remarked that some of the boys whose names appeared on the board had gained high military distinctions. He had just been handed a letter announcing that Sergeant G. Taylor, whose name was on the roll, had been awarded the D.S.O. He could not say too much in favor of the boys who had gone from that school, and it was pleasing to know that their names were being commemorated on the honor roll. The mayor then removed the Union Jack which covered the honor roll, and hearty applause followed.

The assemblage sang "God bless our splendid men."

Inspector Hurley expressed doubt whether they were all doing their utmost to contribute to the comforts of the men at the front. He hoped they would not relax in their efforts until the last shot was fired.

Ons A. J. Pittard, A. Meckenzie, W. Elsworth, W. Richards, and G. Keirl, and the Rev. A. J. Whitbourne also spoke.

Mr A. Horan, head teacher of the school, thanked the visitors for their presence, and the speakers for their kind remarks.

The proceedings concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.