

SHERWOOD'S DAY.

Peace Celebrations.

SOLDIERS WELCOMED.

HONOR ROLL UNVEILED.

A day's gathering with a triple purpose took place at Sherwood on Wednesday last, the objects being to celebrate peace, to welcome four returned soldiers, and to unveil the honor roll in the Sherwood Public School. The arrangements were made by a local Committee, headed by Mr. G. H. Hodgson, whose name will be inseparable from anything connected with the advancement of Sherwood till the rising generation and their sons and daughters have passed away. The residents assembled from near and far, travelling many miles to be present, and the gathering was thoroughly representative of Sherwood and district. The pretty grounds of the school and those of the adjoining hall were made gay with flags.

In the morning there were games and sports of various kinds, and the children spent a happy time. Between noon and one o'clock the crowd adjourned to the hall, kindly lent by Mr. J. Davis free of charge for the occasion. Here the ladies had provide an ample spread, but the number present over-taxed the accommodation so that a second sitting was necessary before all were supplied. The banquet was for the purpose of welcoming the following soldiers: Dvr. Frank Secomb, Ptes. Robert and William Dyson, and Fredk. Turnbull. Dvr. Secomb is the son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Secomb, of Dondingalong; Soldier Robert Dyson, M.M., is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dyson; soldier William Dyson, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Dyson; and Soldier Fredk. Turnbull, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Turnbull, of Austral Eden, formerly of Yarravel. It may be mentioned that Mr. and Mrs. James Dyson had three sons at the front. Two were killed, and soldier Wm. Dyson was the third. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dyson had two sons at the front and one suffered the loss of a leg.

Archdeacon Curtis presided and proposed "The King."

The Chairman then expressed his pleasure at presiding at such a gathering, and called on Mr. Hodgson to explain the object of the gathering.

Mr. G. H. Hodgson said the function was to celebrate peace, to welcome home four of his old schoolboys, and to unveil an honor roll presented to the

four of his old schoolboys, and to unveil an honor roll presented to the School by the Sherwood Knitting Class, which kept the boys well up in good things whilst they were away. He expressed appreciation at the gathering that day and the spread provided, remarking that he did not think Sherwood was behind in patriotism, loyalty and love for the country.

An apology for his unavoidable absence was received from the Rev. M. L. Bembrick.

Cr. Hill in proposing the toast of the guests, said he had a feeling of gratitude to these boys for what they had done. By their efforts and bravery they saved Australia from knowing what war really meant. So far as the boys who came back with their health as good as when they went were concerned, his feeling towards them was one of envy for their experience. He did not want to be misunderstood. He did not think they had had a good time, as they all knew they had a bad time, but they had lived more in those few years than most of us did in a lifetime. We had reason to greatly admire the Australians. He congratulated them on their safe return.

Cr. O'Meara, in supporting, expressed his pleasure in welcoming the guests and meeting his old friends again. Re-

ferring to the remarks he had made in previous speeches with regard to finding vacancies for returned soldiers in Shire and Municipal offices, Cr. O'Meara said he got into a little trouble over it, but it had blown over. However, he saw where one Federal member of Parliament went further and said Australia belonged to these boys and we had no right to it at all. He agreed that if it was not for these boys we would have very little in Australia to-day, but we must not forget that if it had not been for the old pioneers these boys would not have been able to go to the war at all. He was sure the boys did not want all Australia, but only a fair share of it, and it was our place to try and help them when they returned.

Pte. Turnbull, replying to the toast, said he realised, as he looked down at the tables, that, at least, the women folk had not slipped back, and he expressed his appreciation of the work of the ladies of Sherwood. Those who had not been away could not realise how pleased they were to be back amongst them and feel the home touch again. He would like to thank the Sherwood Knitting Class for the work they had done. They were constantly receiving parcels from them and appreciated and enjoyed them, as well as the parcels sent by private individuals. It was the things done for them by those at

sent by private individuals. It was the things done for them by those at home that bucked them up and helped them to carry on the job as well as they did.

Pte. Wm. Dyson thanked the people and especially the Sherwood Knitting Class for parcels received.

Driver Frank Secomb endorsed the remarks already made as to the Sherwood Knitting Class. He could not say too much in praise of them and others who helped them. It would have been impossible to carry on without their help. No matter where they went there were always ladies to do something for them.

Pte. Robert Dyson thanked them for the welcome and said he was pleased to be back.

At this stage Mr. G. H. Hodgson presented Robert Dyson, Fredk. Turnbull and Wm. Dyson with £14/17/2 each from the residents of Sherwood and Dondingalong.

Mr. E. P. Noonan, on behalf of the Sherwood Knitting Class, presented each of the four guests with a sum of £6 and handed a similar amount to a relative for Pte. Reuben Battle, who was not present. Mr. Noonan complimented the Sherwood Knitting Class on their work, remarking that they were, of all knitting classes on the river, about the greatest set of battlers he knew. The Sherwood people as a whole responded well to all appeals for funds. Pte. Turnbull had been nearly four years at the war, and the Dysons were families with a record to be envied. He concluded by proposing the health of the Sherwood Knitting Class, of which Miss Hodgson and Miss Bannerman had been two very energetic secretaries.

Miss Hodgson thanked the company for the toast.

The Rev. D. Smith, in proposing "The Parents," congratulated Mr. Hodgson, their educational father, on the return of the guests and upon this happy day in his life, which he had no doubt would be historical for him. It was a great thing to have taught so long in the district, but, with Mr. Hodgson, it had not been merely teaching the elements of learning, but the young people had also had the teaching of the right, and had had a good example set them. He congratulated the parents on the return of their boys. These lads were not in any sense conscripted, but simply went by the compulsion of conscience and patriotism and the desire to see right done. It was pleasing to think that in each of these cases both parents were living, and were present that day.

Mr. T. Secomb replied and said he was very pleased to think their boys had been away and done their bit. He expressed his sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. James Dyson that two of their

Mrs. James Dyson that two of their three boys paid the supreme sacrifice.

The presentation of a book each to the children as a memento of the day was then made, Miss Purcell making the presentation. Mr. Hodgson is to be complimented on his thoughtfulness in choosing such a means of commemorating the day.

Mr. Hodgson thanked Mr. J. Davis for lending the hall free of charge and for his work in connection with the tables and other matters, and asked the company to drink his health, to which Mr. Davis replied by saying that he had only done what he should do, and was pleased to see so many present, showing that they recognised what we should do for the boys. There were some who said that because a boy was not wounded or had not lost a limb he did not deserve anything, but they all deserved something. There were plenty who came back with a lost limb who were as good as those who had not lost a limb and a lot better. (Applause.)

The gathering then adjourned to the school for the unveiling of the honor roll.