

UNVEILING HONOR ROLL.

AT YINNAR STATE SCHOOL.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES, MR S. BARNES, M.L.A., PRESIDENT OF SHIRE, CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVE MEN ATTEND.

Notwithstanding the very unfavorable weather that prevailed on Friday last, a large and representative gathering attended the unveiling of Honor Roll, placed in school room in honor of ex-pupils of school, who have gone to the front to serve the Empire, and in doing so some have already sacrificed their lives.

Among the visitors present were The Hon. T. Livingston (Minister for Mines), Mr S. Barnes, M.L.A., Cr. Dunbar (President of Shire) and Mr Fussell (Chief Inspector of Schools). The visitors were first entertained at Meehan's Hall, where a most sumptuous repast was set out by the ladies, the excellent menu demonstrating the fact that those who had the matter in hand were certainly experts in the culinary art, and set before the visitors and others delicacies of a most tempting nature. The hall was tastefully decorated with flags, ferns, etc., and the visitors must have been highly gratified at the hospitable manner in which they were treated. Mr G. Bond (Chairman of School Committee) presided and extended a hearty welcome to all.

Ample justice having been done to the good things provided for the inner man, the toast of "The King" was duly honored, after which the President of the Shire proposed "State Parliament," coupled with the names of Messrs Livingston and Barnes. In doing so he said he considered their present representatives—Messrs Livingston and Barnes—the best they ever had. More had been done for Gippsland during the last few years than had ever been done before, and they were hopeful of still more being done for this so long neglected part of the State.—The toast was drunk with musical honors.

In responding, Mr Livingston said it was fifteen years since he first visited Yinnar as a candidate for Parliament, and he had the honor of being returned. Since then the electors had paid him a very high compliment for he only had to contest two elections, and was successful on each occasion. At the present time there was tremendous confusion in nearly all parliaments throughout the world. In the Old Country, in Russia and other countries great changes had been made. The Peacock Government, of which he had the honor to be a member had, so far, come out all right. He, however, did not intend to deal with politics but would give them some information regarding a matter in which, he felt sure, they were all deeply interested, namely, brown coal. The immense deposits of brown coal within the district were only rivalled in the Western States of America. In order to give some idea of the vast quantity of coal in the district, Mr Livingston said that in one small lease of 4000 acres, it was estimated that there were one hundred million tons of coal. If the coal were made use

ted that there were one hundred million tons of coal. If the coal were made use of, as he hoped, it would generate sufficient power to supply all the industrial wants of the whole of Victoria. He then referred to the experiments conducted at Fitzroy, when gas had been produced and tar extracted from the coal. Those test had been highly successful, and experiments were now about to be made with regard to use of brown coal for generating electricity. Two tons of brown coal were equal to one ton of black coal, and at the present time two tons of brown coal could be delivered in Melbourne cheaper than one ton of black coal. It was only a matter of a few years when the Victorian deposits of black coal would become exhausted and the only solution to Victorian industries coming to a dead end was the brown coal. He had made arrangements with the Melbourne City Council, to alter their boilers at city electrical works, at a cost of £1000, in order to carry out experiments with brown coal. The experiments would be conducted by Mr Harper, under Mr Herman's supervision, and the result would be awaited with considerable interest and anxiety. If the proposed experiments were successful it would mean that huge sums of money would be spent in the near future at Morwell. A power house would have to be built, and the cost of erecting the transmitting cables would be about £300,000. Other works and plant would cost between £60,000 and £70,000, and in less than five years time ten million pounds would be expended. The money thus spent would, however, be reproductive, and power could be supplied at 4d per horse power. In addition to power that would be used by Railway Dept., and City Council, there was sure to be increased private enterprise, the power for which could be all supplied from the same source. It, however, was a matter into which the Government could not rush madly, and experiments would have to be carefully carried out before huge sums of money could be expended. He intended to push the matter all he possibly could, and do his best to have the immense brown coal deposits in the district developed, which would benefit not only the State, but the whole Commonwealth. (Applause.) In conclusion, Mr Livingston said he desired to return thanks for the very hospitable manner in which they had been treated that day by the Yinnar folk.

Mr Barnes also responded in fitting terms

In responding to the toast of "Education Department," proposed by the Chairman, Mr Fussell said it was impossible to over estimate the advantages of education. The Education Dept. turned out a body of men who were recruits for other departments. The hand to mouth style had gone by and men required to be trained in a manner that gave them a wider outlook and enabled

required to be trained in a manner that gave them a wider outlook and enabled them to approach matters in a more intelligent way. He only heard of one case, that of a lady, whose lack of education had proved a benefit to her. She wrote for a ticket in Tattersal's and said she wanted No. 27. She was asked if some other number would do, but she said no, she must have 27, and sure enough No. 27 won. She was asked why she had insisted on getting No. 27 and replied that three nights running she dreamt that No. 8 had won and as three eights made 27 she calculated that 27 would win. (Laughter.) Continuing, Mr Fussell said the Education Dept. was called a non-producing department but if it was a means of producing good citizens it was something to be proud of. The present Ministry was to be commended for refusing to take any educational facilities from people in the country who were entitled to the same opportunities as those in the cities. The teachers in the country were just as capable as those in town, and children of poor parents, who had ability, could by scholarships secure a University training. In fact the professors liked to get boys from State School because, as they said, "they were all battlers." Like our boys at the front they were perseve-

ring and would not acknowledge defeat. He congratulated the Yinnar school upon having such a capable Head Teacher and energetic committee. School committee's had expended no less than £50,000 on equipment, etc. for schools. He said he was very pleased to see that in most places keen interest was taken in election of School Committee and mentioned that recently the Department was asked if a parent who never had any children and never would have any children was eligible for election on School Committee. (Laughter.) Mr Fussell also said it was essential that children be sent to school regularly, and remarked that some strange excuses for keeping children at home were often made. He mentioned that one lady had written asking that her Tommy be excused one morning and afternoon and adding that he had a headache in the a.m. and a pain in the p.m. (Laughter.)

The toast of "The Men at the Front" was proposed by Capt. W. Summerfield in appropriate terms, and suitably responded to by Rev. Adeney and Chairman.

An adjournment was afterwards made to the State School, which was crowded, where there was singing by the children, addresses delivered and unveiling ceremony performed.

The Hon. T. Livingston (Minister for Mines) said he was very pleased to be present on such an important occasion as the unveiling of an Honor Roll of men, who in their boyhood, had attended the school, and are now serving in the defence of the Empire and all we held dear. Some had paid the extreme sacrifice in giving their lives, and it was with feelings of reverence, pride and gratitude that he spoke of them. They all had the deepest respect and admiration for those who had gone to fight for the great institutions that their forefathers fought for. They were imbued with the spirit that animated the British race in days gone by and made the Empire what it is to-day. It was said by some that the British nation was decaying, that its own had set, but its history was a history of the past and that we are living on what our forefathers

history was a history of the past and that we are living on what our forefathers had done. The actions of our men in responding as they had done to their Empire's call, and their brave and heroic deeds at the front exemplified the fact that they possessed the same spirit as their forefathers, and that they were prepared to offer up their lives in order to maintain those privileges that their forefathers fought for and gained in days gone by. The hundred thousand men had gone from Australia to serve the Empire and give their lives, if needs be. What a contrast they were to those unpatriotic mortals who boasted that they would not spill a drop of blood for the Empire and spit on the flag that stood for progress, truth and liberty, but where would those men be when the history of the present gigantic struggle came to be written, they would be relegated to oblivion, whilst the names of the men who recognised their duty and did it would be emblazoned on rolls of honor, and their names would be for ever revered. He was pleased to have the honor of being present at the unveiling of an honor roll connected with the Yinnar school, but was also sorry that the occasion demanded it. In conclusion he urged the boys present to follow in the footsteps of their elder brothers should the Empire need them, and told the girls to follow the example set them by their mothers. He reminded them all that the men at the front were fighting to allow them to remain at home and enjoy all the privileges they now enjoyed. (Applause).

Mr S. Barnes, M.L.A., said it was needless for him to state he was pleased to be present to join in honoring the brave lads of the Yinnar district and ex-pupils of the school, whose names were inscribed on the Honor Roll. He did not have the privilege of knowing one of them, but that did not diminish in any way his admiration of their conduct, nor did it lessen his sense of personal indebtedness to them what they had done for him individually, for Australia and for the Empire as a whole. They had made those who, for many reasons, had not been able to participate in the great world struggle, their everlasting debtors, and not merely them, but all future generations as well. Their action in voluntarily enlisting and placing their services at the disposal of their country proved indisputably that the fires of patriotism and heroism burn as strongly in the hearts of young Australians to-day as they did in our heroes of old. They have proved themselves worthy descendants of the great race from which they sprung. (Applause). That race which has carried the banner of freedom and liberty wherever they have gone, and have girded the earth with an Empire the very name of which stands to-day as the synonym of all that is highest and best in human civilization. It would be impossible to analyse psychologically the motives which attracted those 300,000 young Australians who, at the call of Empire, cast aside their peaceful avocations, left home, relatives and possessions, prepared if needs be to sacrifice their lives in the great struggle being waged by our Empire and her Allies against the most arrogant and militant despotism that has ever appeared in modern history. The most dominant factor in their personal decision was, he was inclined to think, a strong sense of national duty, so strong in fact as to be regarded little short of moral

as to be regarded little short of moral conscription—an irresistible and compelling impulse which left them no alternative but that of ready acquiescence to their country's call. The question of Conscription by law; the question of its adoption or rejection did not effect their final determination. It was sufficient for them to know that the integrity of the Empire and the safety of Australia was involved. That all we hold dear in our system of Government, all our cherished institutions, even our national existence were at stake in this gigantic struggle with the military autocracy of Germany. Fortunately for us and for Australia that so many recognised that fact, although it is to be regretted that apparently there are still a great many who fail to enclose the truth of this. A moment's reflection, however, must convince everyone that the existence of our great Australian democracy—our power to hold this vast continent, the northern shores of which are only a comparatively short distance from lands where millions of yellow men jostle each other for elbow room, is due entirely to the might and majesty of the British Navy, and to the fact that we are part of the British Empire. Had we been separate from England, portions of Australia would have, undoubtedly, long since passed into the hands of Germany. Had it not been for the ever vigilant watch which our naval heroes are keeping in the North Sea, it is more than

probable that German shells would long ago have fallen in our capital cities. It was only because of the protection of this mighty fleet that Australia enjoyed the security she does to-day. We honor, therefore, those men who recognising this fact and the moral obligation which it imposes upon us as Australians, have left these shores in order to fight side by side with our noble allies in the cause of liberty and humanity, feeling assured that they were inseparably bound up with the maintenance of the existence of the Empire and its final triumph over those forces designed to destroy it. In all this our young Australians have earned everlasting renown. Though dead their names and deeds will live. Long after we have passed to our final account rolls of honor, hanging on the walls of many a school scattered throughout this land, will tell their story of their sacrifice and heroism and all generations henceforth shall call them heroes. Concerning those who are still fighting we can only express the hope that they will return to their native land and receive the admiration and homage due to them for their heroic deeds. More than this, they must be compensated as far as it is possible for us to do, for all they have suffered and lost on our behalf. For those who have made the supreme sacrifice by laying down their lives for their country, we can only say, "Peace be to their Souls." Over the departed we may appropriately repeat the lines written by an American poet at the time of the civil war, and recited at the burial of a tried general:—

The strenuous day is past;
The march, the night,
The bugle calls at last
"Lights out!" "Good Night!"
The sky is bright with stars;
The tents gleam white;
Tired soldiers from the wars;
Sleep through the night.
Sleep till the shadows take
Their endless flight;

swamp till the shadows take
Their endless flight;
Until the morning break;
"Good night!" "Good night!"
This, said Mr Barnes, is my brief tribute to our heroes, living and dead (Applause).

Mr Fussell, Chief Inspector, said Mr Livingston and Mr Barnes, in their addresses had struck the right note and he hoped they would carry away with them what had been said. He appealed to all to do something to uphold the men at the front and urged those who were knitting to knit on, knit on. He said he recently got a letter from one of his boys at the front who said some of the men had been in the trenches for ten days without socks and they were terribly in need of such comforts. He also mentioned that the men were overjoyed when they received their Christmas bilbies, and hardened fellows who seemed as if they couldn't cry, were moved to tears when they opened their bilbies, saw their contents and read note inside. To show how notes attached to garments are appreciated, Mr Fussell read part of letter written by an Australian officer from a desert oasis, two hundred miles west of Luxor (which appeared in "How we raised the First Hundred Thousand," published by Education Dept.), which was as follows:—"Honestly, I think the little notes pinned to the garments are the best part of the lot. It may not strike you perhaps as forcibly, but, after living for so long among dirty mud huts, flies, mungrels, and stinking natives, to get something that reminds us of the clean, smiling homes of Australia, where people we have never seen are working to send something away for 'the boys,' makes the whole business seem worth while after all. Some of our men have not seen a home or the inside of a decent house since November, 1914, or even earlier, and the impression these gifts have on them is always rather pathetic. One sees some villainous-looking ruffian, burnt almost black (the sun in these parts is no slouch), with a shirt in one hand and a note pinned to the garment, writing in the other, murmuring to himself, 'Well, God spare me days,' and I think that is almost a prayer." Continuing, Mr Fussell mentioned that the State Schools, through the Education Dept. had sent 400,000 articles for wearing, to the front and had raised £165,000. He told the boys and girls that by doing all they could for the men at the front they were putting on khaki, and in conclusion reminded them that each one that contributed £1 would receive a handsome certificate signed by the Minister for Education (Mr Lawson) and Director of Education (Mr Tate). He said he was very pleased to be present to do honor to the old school boys who had gone to serve their country, some of whom, in doing so had so nobly fallen. (Applause).

The Rev. A. E. Adeney said that a chord at the bottom of their hearts had surely been struck that day. When the men at the front were so pleased and gratified with the small gifts we sent them, how great should be our gratitude to them for giving up so much and offering to lay down their lives for us. How could they ever repay them? Some thoughtless people said "Oh, they are well paid, they get six bob a day and their tucker." But people who spoke like that knew absolutely nothing of what they were talking about. He trusted that the Roll of Honor about to be unveiled would not be to their simple

trusted that the Roll of Honor about to be unveiled would not be to them simply a list of names, but something that stood for duty and patriotism. That the roll bearing the names of noble men would be as a shining shield holding up an example to follow in the path of duty and love of country that doesn't count the cost even if it means life itself. (Applause.)

Cr. D. Dunbar (President of the Shire) who was called upon to unveil the Honor Roll which contained over thirty names, said he could not say the task he was asked to perform was a pleasure to him, but he regarded it as a great honor. It was very creditable to a small community like Yinnar that so many men from the district had recognised their duty and volunteered to serve the Empire in the time of need. It was also highly creditable of the Yinnar school that so many of the old scholars had shown their loyalty and patriotism some of whom had already laid down their lives. He had been born too soon to go to the front himself, and had no sons to go. He, however, had a number of relations there, and some near and dear ones had already given their lives for Empire and all it stood for, so that he spoke with feeling on the matter. Before the war people in the old land seemed to have a very hazy idea about Australians, but now they knew them to be the finest men and best soldiers in the world. (Applause.) It was our duty to maintain the men who had gone and support them with reinforcements. It was a great thing for Australia that the war was taking place in foreign lands and our country thereby saved from devastation and ruin. In conclusion, he said the men who had gone to the front were worthy of having their names perpetuated and he trusted the Honor Roll that he would now unveil would be handed down from one generation to another and always be highly prized as it should be. (Applause.) Cr. Dunbar then pulled a cord which removed veil and exposed to view large handsome oak "roll" bearing the subjoined names, which were read out by Mr Forth (school master). As the re-

Rupert McCrory
James McDonald
Thomas McDonald

The Chairman endorsed all that the speakers had said and thanked the visitors and others for their presence. He announced that refreshments were to be had at Mechanics' Hall, and also that an auction sale of gifts would be held forthwith outside the building.

Those who repaired to the Hall fared sumptuously at the hands of a band of energetic ladies, whilst Mr Bond, who proved himself a very capable auctioneer, disposed of a fine collection of farm produce and other goods, also sheep and pigs, in a businesslike manner, over £30 being realised, which must be regarded as highly satisfactory.

The whole proceedings were admirably arranged and splendidly carried out, great credit being due to the School Committee—Messrs G. Bond (Chairman), E. Robertson (Correspondent), W. Firmin, C. O'Hara, W. Irwin, W. Summerfield and J. Hopkins who had the management of affairs. They, however, were ably backed up by Mr Forth (Head Teacher) and a number of ladies, who are also deserving of much praise for the important part they played.

pective names of those who have been killed were announced. "The Last Post" was sounded by Mr Smithers, on cornet.

Arthur Bond
Albert J. Bond
George Birnie
Percy Currie
Wratley W. Currie (killed)
John Cahill
Michael Cahill
Peter Cahill
William Cahill
George V. Deppeler
Ernest W. Jeffries
John A. Blair
William J. Blair
Albert G. Blair
Arlie McDonald (killed)
James Considine
John O'Donnell
Thomas O'Donnell (killed)
William B. Pennycook (killed)
Andrew Quigley
Hamilton H. Richards
Harold Richards
Alex. Stone
John Toogood
George Toogood
David Williams
Seymour Williams
Alfred W. Ronald
Rupert McCrory
Thomas McDonald