

RETURNED SOLDIERS.

A SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL.

OPENING CEREMONY AT ARTHURTON.

Arthurton, October 31.

The Soldiers' Memorial Chambers were opened to-day by the Commissioner of Public Works (Hon. M. McIntosh). Steadily falling rain, which was generally welcome throughout the district, did not prevent a large number of people from attending. After the doors had been opened and the hall formally declared open, the ceremony was continued inside.

Mr. J. H. Colliver presided, and gave a history of the movement to erect the hall. He said many people had preferred a monument at the Ardrossan-Maitland cross roads as a war memorial, but it was pointed out that the Clinton District Council had been in existence for 40 years without a council chamber, and the erection of one was suggested as a memorial. In a short time £800 was subscribed. The total cost of the building was £1,160, and the district council had agreed to meet the balance. The hall was thus opened free of debt.

Mr. McIntosh apologised for the absence of the Premier (Hon. R. L. Butler), and congratulated the people on having such a handsome war memorial. He noticed that there were two honor rolls in the hall, which recalled the fact that to some people the occasion was a sad one. He asked them to be of good cheer, as the last day of those they mourned was a great day. It was a happy idea to erect a memorial in the form of a council chamber. The British system of government at its inception was little local communities, leading eventually to a national Parliament. In deciding that the memorial should be a hall for the council, they had got right back to the fundamentals of what the Australians had fought for.

Mr. E. H. Giles, M.P., congratulated the

district on having the hall. No one could pass by without being struck by its chaste beauty.

The Mayor of Maitland (Mr. A. T. Harris) said it was creditable for such a small community to have collected such a large sum of money for the memorial.

The chairman of the Kulpara District Council (Mr. J. P. H. Wallis) said it was pleasing to find that so long after the war the desire was still in the hearts of the people to commemorate the sacrifices made by the men of the district.

The chairman of the Clinton District Council (Mr. A. W. Wearing) said the council had been long without a council chamber, and would no doubt occupy the new building for many years, although it was not the centre of the district.

A vote of thanks to the Minister and to the contractor (Mr. G. H. Altus) was moved by Mr. Tossell, M.P.

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An honor roll was unveiled by Mr. John Sharrad, who lost a son in the war. The school children sang the "Song of Australia," and led the singing of the "National Anthem." After the ceremonies a public tea was followed by a promenade concert and dance.