

## CHRIST CHURCH, MOUNT BARKER.

### WAR MEMORIAL HALL.

#### FOUNDATION STONE LAYING.

(Communicated.)

This much-looked-forward-to event took place on Sunday, April 10. The day was beautiful in the extreme. Mr. E. Trigg, Mr. Tyrie, Mr. W. Hart, and other willing workers spent many hours in preparing the locale of the ceremony. The flag of the Empire and the flag of Australia floated on twin scaffolding poles. There was significance in this. The foundation stone was a beautiful marble inset into a Tea Tree Gully stone block, surmounted by a marble cross similarly inset. These were the gift of Mr. J. O'Halloran Giles. The inscription includes the words, "In faithful remembrance of the valour and sacrifice of Australian men and women in the great war."

The order of service, compiled by the Rector (Rev. A. H. Reynolds, M.A.) was beautifully printed by the "Courier." It included well-tryed and much-beloved hymns, like "Through the night of doubt and sorrow," "Onward, Christian Soldiers," and for the dead that great hymn, "Let saints on earth," which is the traditional hymn always used in the St. George's Chapel, Windsor, at gathering of the Knights of the Garter. There was also a special prayer in commemoration of the dead. The lesson chosen contained the sublime words of Jesus recorded in St. John's Gospel: "I am the Good Shepherd . . . the good shepherd layeth down his life for the sheep." The formula used for the laying were words consecrated by the use of centuries: "In the faith of Jesus Christ, we place this foundation stone in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost." The epitaph on the stone is identical with that on the Cenotaph in London: "Their name liveth for evermore." It is a text from the Apochrypha.

As regards the actual ceremony, the choir of Christ Church had the gracious and much appreciated help of the Baptist, Presbyterian, and Methodist choirs. The procession was from the church (led by the choir) through the vestry door and round the foundations and thence into the interior of the growing walls of the hall. The Sunday-school children were seated there also with their superintendent (Mr. P. Gibbs). The procession included the speakers, the Archdeacon, the Rector, and lay readers (Mr. C. Poore and Mr. B. Blades) brought up the rear.

All being placed, the National Anthem was sung, and the order of service was straightway begun by the Rector; Mr. C. Poore read the lesson. The stone was well and truly laid by the Architect (Mr. H. E. Fuller), the contractor (Mr. E. Trigg), assisted by the venerable Archdeacon A. W. Clampett, M.A. The handsome trowel used by the Archdeacon was the gift of the architect. Three addresses were given. Each was short, but each had a pregnant message. The Rector prefaced these by welcoming the Archdeacon and stating apologies received from many friends, including the Bishop of the Diocese, former Rector of the Church, the Hon. G. Ritchie (Minister of Education), Mr. and Mrs. T. O'Halloran Giles, and local citizens. He also thanked his fellow citizens for their splendid attendance and sympathy and expressed great pleasure that the other choirs had so readily helped. He specially thanked the Hon. G. R. Laffer (Minister of Repatriation) and Captain H. S. Hudd, M.C., M.P., for coming up on the morrow of a general election and at the end of a strenuous campaign.

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The Archdeacon spoke first and very impressively. He alluded to the world's appreciation of the part Australia had played in the war. It was the commencement of a new life for Australia and the making of most glorious traditions. The Memorial Hall would be the sacrament of two great emotions and principles, viz., reverence for the heroic past and for the gallant dead, and also loyalty to the Empire. Loyalty was a deep, true instinct; loyalty to the Empire was fundamental. Flag-waving that truly expressed this was not to be chided. Unfortunately there was flag-waving of another sort in Australia, flag-waving by a section who openly professed no loyalty to that Empire under whose flag—the union jack—both our and also their liberties were secure. The hall would promote also two great factors in life. It would be a home of true education for the young, based upon the fear and love of God. It would be a centre of social fellowship, and serviceable not only to the Church of England, but in some degree to the life of the town.

Mr. Laffer stated that he considered his presence that day as the most important, or at any rate one of the most important duties, he had been called upon to perform in South Australia, and he was glad indeed to be associated with the ceremony. He held the conviction that Almighty God was the God of nations as well as of individuals, and it was by design of providence that the British race had eventually occupied Australia and that the Empire's flag, which stood for so much in the life of the world, should be flying here. The soldiers and others had not given their lives in vain. It was right to commemorate them in this splendid way to-day, and he conscientiously felt that the Government which he had the honour to represent had made every effort to give the returned men a fair deal. Local efforts to perpetuate the memory of their great deeds were another very real sign of appreciation, and it was a great and refreshing pleasure to him to join in Mount Barker's present effort so far as Christ Church was concerned.

Captain Hudd spoke last. He, as a returned man, had noticed with gratification throughout South Australia a great willingness on the part of the people to do honour to the Australian heroes and heroines. There were various ways and in various places, and he particularly liked the way adopted by Christ Church—building a memorial hall. Its usefulness to the future generations was incalculable and it would stand for ever as an active and visible sign of the great and glorious past. He was touched to learn and pleased to state that the great town of Amiens—whose destruction was averted mainly by Australian troops had placed a memorial in their cathedral to witness to their reverence and gratitude. Thus, not only here, but on the actual fields of fight, the spirit was keen to testify to the valour of Australian men and women. He, too valued the ideas of education and fellowship to be realised in the hall, and with sincerest pleasure had come to testify his interest in Mount Barker's progress and welfare.

The collection was received by the wardens A. C. Law and H. O. Hopkins, and being handed through the Rector to the Archdeacon, was placed by him on the stone. It amounted to £28 14/9. Among the audience were representative men and women from the various branches of our civic and church life. The people of Christ Church keenly appreciated the compliment of their attendance and interest. Mesdames Laffer, Hudd, and Fuller made the trip up with their respective husbands. Mr. Poore took photos which was

made the trip up with their respective husbands. Mr. Poore took photos, which we hope will come out well. The service, which was pronounced by many to be a beautiful and dignified one, concluded with the Recessional Hymn, "Onward, Christian Soldiers," and the choir returned to the church, whence prayer being said and thanks made by the Rector to the visitors, they departed. The choir singing was accompanied by the organist

of Christ Church (Mr. H. Williams.) Mr. C. A. Coppen would willingly have brought the band, but many of its members were unavoidably absent. Thus ended a great day in the annals of Christ Church, made all happier and more important by the kind co-operation and practical assistance of the other churches and other fellow citizens. Laus Deo.