

**METHODIST KINDERGARTEN.****LAYING THE STONE.**

About three years ago a meeting of the teachers connected with the Methodist Sunday School was called by the Superintendent (Mr. J. Pope) for the purpose of discussing a proposal to build a new Kindergarten Hall for the kiddies attending that section of the Sunday School, the existing building being too small to accommodate the increasing number of scholars attending. The meeting, after much discussion, decided to put the matter before the trustees of the church, and at the same time guaranteed that the Sunday School would raise £500 towards the cost of the new building. The trustees were agreeable and tenders were called. The prices submitted were considered too high, and the matter was dropped for the time. Later on, however, Mr. Pope resurrected the matter, with the result that a tender was accepted. In the meantime the school had raised the promised £500, and this amount, together with £160 resulting from the sale of the gymnasium, was sufficient to make a start. The contract price for the new building is somewhere in the vicinity of £1,000, and the hall, when completed, will measure 42ft. x 20ft. A fair is to be held some time in November for the purpose of furnishing the building, and when completed, it will be one of, if not the most complete kindergarten schools in the State.

On Saturday afternoon last, in perfect weather, the ceremony of laying the foundation stone took place in the presence of a fair number of scholars, parents, and friends, Mrs. John Dunn, sen., officiating. A number of kindergarten children formed a guard of honour for Mrs. Dunn as she walked through to her allotted place, and after a hymn and prayer had been sung and offered, the Rev. C. Doley welcomed the President of the Methodist Conference (Rev. W. A. Langsford) and asked that gentleman to address the assembly.

Mr. Langsford, who many years ago was in charge of the Mount Barker circuit, said he was very pleased to be present. The Mount Barker Sunday School was the oldest in the southern part of the State, having been established 79 years ago. Sixty years ago the late Mr. John Dunn decided to give a monster picnic to the scholars attending the Sunday schools within a radius of 10 miles of Mount Barker. There were, however, schools situated outside the area whose scholars wished to be present. The invitation then became general. It was a great day.

to be present. The invitation then became general. It was a great day. Children came from all parts of the district in large numbers and by every means of transport. The picnic was held in what is now known as Dunn's Laddock. A procession was formed and the picnickers marched up Gawler Street singing, and it was estimated that the procession was three-quarters of a mile in length. Chief Justice Hanson and Mr. John Dunn both delivered addresses on that memorable occasion, and in compliance with the requests of the people, these addresses were printed and sent to each of the scholars present on that day. Some of the children who attended that picnic were present at the ceremony they were about to perform, and one of them had a great deal to do with the building of the hall. He hoped that the children would derive great benefit from the new school. He concluded by saying that he was most pleased to see Mrs. Dunn present.

At the conclusion of the address Miss Jean Wilson-Smith pinned a button-hole on the speaker's coat, after which Mr. J. Pope asked the youngest boy and girl attending the kindergarten (Doris Elliott and Geoffrey Pope) to hand to Mrs. Dunn the silver trowel and the mallet with which to lay the stone. An interesting fact in connection with this trowel and mallet is that they were the "tools" used in the laying of the memorial stone in the church tower some 40 years ago. The trowel bears the inscription, "Presented to Mrs. John Dunn, sen., by the congregation of the Wesleyan Church on the occasion of her laying the memorial stone of the Dunn Memorial Church, 4th March, 1884." Mr. Pope said that an inscription as follows was to be put on the reverse side of the trowel, but that Mrs. Dunn would not have it put on before the ceremony "in case I cannot be present," she said when the arrangements were being made. "This trowel was used by Mrs. John Dunn, sen., when laying the foundation stone of the Mount Barker Methodist Memorial Kindergarten on the 21st day of June, 1924."

Mrs. Dunn rose from her seat amidst loud applause and laid the stone, saying, "I declare this stone well and truly laid in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost." The stone bears the inscription "For Christ and the Children. This stone was laid by Mrs. John Dunn, sen., July 21, 1924. Miss Myra Pope, on behalf of the children of the kindergarten, presented Mrs. Dunn with a bouquet. Mrs. P. J. Davis, one of the teachers of the kindergarten at its inception, was also present and she handed a

of the kindergarten at its inception, was also present and she handed a bouquet to the youngest child attending the school at that time—Miss Marjory Pope.

Mr. J. Pope then spoke of the work in connection with the raising of the money with which to build the new hall, and paid special tribute to the work of Miss Ireleen Thompson, who was an untiring worker in the interests of the Sunday School. He also acknowledged the presentation of a memorial window by Miss Thomas, and stated that there was room for two more if any cared to donate them. The speaker then placed a tin behind the stone, containing a copy of the "Advertiser," "Register," "Mount Barker Courier," and the "Australian Christian Commonwealth" of the Methodist Church, coins of the realm, and a document to the following effect:

"Dunn Memorial Church Methodist Kindergarten Hall, Mount Barker, June 21, 1924.—On the occasion of laying the foundation stone of the above hall, this is to certify that it was placed by the Hon. Mrs. John Dunn, sen., to the Glory of God in the year of '24, 21st day of June, of our Blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, in the reign of His Majesty King George V., in the province of South Australia, under the Commonwealth Government. Govenor-General, Lord Forster; State Governor, Sir Alfred Tom Bridges; Federal Premier, Hon. A. Bruce; State Premier, Hon. John Gunn; President of

the Conference, Rev. W. A. Langford; Pastor of the Church, Rev. C. Doley; Superintendent of the Sunday School, Mr. J. Pope; Secretary of Sunday School, Miss Ireleen Thompson; Assistant Secretary, Mr. S. Thompson; Treasurer, Miss Ireleen Thompson; Asst. Treasurer, Mr. Alfred Fry." (A list of the Sunday school teachers was also included in the writings on the document.

When the tin had been placed the children marched past the stone depositing their collection on a tray while the adults sang the kindergarten collection hymn, "Hear the pennies dropping." The result of the collection at the service was that £28 2/3 was added to the building fund.

Tea was provided in the lecture hall and community singing was indulged in in the church. At 6 o'clock a service was held in the church, when the Rev. R. E. Stanley, secretary of the Sunday School Department, delivered a fine address on "The Young Australian." This service concluded an historic and interesting series.