

OPENING OF NEW HALL AT PETERSVILLE.

The Petersville Hall was formally opened on Thursday, when visitors were present from all parts of the district. The hall has been built to supply a long-felt want in the district. The necessary land was donated by Mr H. N. Pritcher, and settlers and friends generously responded to the call for funds. The committee invited the Hon D. J. Gordon, M.L.C., to perform the opening ceremony, because of his long association with the district, his parents having been among the first settlers. On behalf of the committee, Mr Hans Petersen presented Mr Gordon with a miniature gold key as a memento of the occasion. After the secretary (Mr F. M. Watson) had read his report, Mr Gordon declared the hall open, and in the course of his address sympathetically touched upon the struggles of the early settlers, and expressed the hope that the hall would be the scene of many enjoyable social engagements. A successful bazaar was conducted during the afternoon and evening, and the debt on the building was by this means appreciably reduced. At the special request of the committee, Mr Gordon gave an address before a crowded attendance in the evening. After reviewing the splendid colonising achievements of the pioneers and their descendants, he referred to the drift of population to Australian cities and the need of expanding the importance of rural expansion. By the solution of the problems associated with the locking of the rivers and the development by railways and water conservation of the Northern Territory, Australia would be able to multiply production and

be able to multiply production and carry a larger population. The address was much appreciated. The following settlers are the trustees of the new hall:—Messrs H. Petersen, H. W. Pitcher, J. N. A. Smith, E. Wall, F. T. Vandeppeer, H. Vandeppeer, and F. M. Watson.

The death occurred on Saturday, at Boulder City, W.A., of Mr Joseph Fregear, aged 75 years, who was at one time a well-known resident of his district. Another old identity of Moonta passed away at the Adelaide Hospital on Monday in the person of Mr John Henwood, of North Croydon, in his 81st year.