

# Robert Thompson Memorial

PLAYGROUND OPENED BY  
MAYOR (MR L. B. ADAMS)

As a memorial to the late Mr. Robt. Thompson, a general meeting of citizens about twelve months ago decided to construct a children's playground. The Mayor (Mr L. B. Adams) was appointed chairman and Mr E. N. Twopeny hon. secretary of a committee to carry out the people's wishes. A piece of land along side the power house was secured from the Commonwealth Railways at a peppercorn rental, and has been well and strongly fenced with 6 ft pig netting. Serviceable and neat iron gates form the entrance, above which an ornamental arch which reminds people that it is the "Thompson Memorial Playground." The gates are supported by embellished concrete pillars. Inside the ground two sets of four swings have been erected, a joy wheel (donated by the local branch of the Junior Red Cross Society), a giant swing (donated by Mr B. J. Hughes), a "slippery Dick," and seesaws. A concrete sandpit has also been built and provision made for lawns and garden plots. It is a compact piece of work and the design laid out on modern lines. At present it is a thing of beauty and an added attraction to Railway Terrace, which is now practically filled with playing grounds and garden plots.

The playground was officially declared open on Saturday by the Mayor (Mr L. B. Adams). The weather was delightful and hundreds of people filled the streets as the school band marched from the primary school to the playground. The proceedings were opened with the

proceedings were opened with the "Song of Australia," sung by the children under the direction of the head teacher (Mr Townsend).

The Mayor then invited Mr J. E. Schnell (chairman of the High School Council) to say a few words.

Mr Schnell said it was with mixed feelings he spoke, in sorrow at the loss of such a fine townsman, and with pleasure that the town had erected such a fitting memorial as the playground to the memory of the late Mr Thompson. If by any chance Mr Thompson could see the proceedings that day, he was sure he would approve of the idea. Mr Thompson loved children, and children loved him, and he was sure the children would find much happiness in the playground. He congratulated the committee on their fine effort.

Mr J. McColive spoke on behalf of the Convent School. He reiterated the sentiments so well expressed by Mr Schnell. For over half a century Mr Thompson had taken an active interest in the children of the district and he was pleased to see such a fine memorial erected to his memory.

Mr O. McHugh (chairman of the Primary School Committee) said it was fitting that so many people should be present on such an occasion. Mr Thompson was a man any town could be proud of, and the erection of such a memorial was commendable. He hoped the children would look after the playground and not deface it in any way.

Mr F. Hannan (chairman of the District Council of Kanyaka) said Mr Thompson's first thought was of the children of Quorn, and he thought no more fitting and lasting memorial than the playground could be erected to the memory of such a grand old man.

Mr H. T. Thompson (on behalf of the family) thanked the people of Quorn for erecting such a fine and appropriate memorial to the mem-

appropriate memorial to the memory of "Dad." It was evidence of the high respect in which he was held, and of which they were very proud. He was pleased to see so many old residents and their sons and daughters present. He sincerely thanked the committee for such a fine and fitting tribute as the memorial to his father.

The Mayor (Mr L. B. Adams) before declaring the playground open, apologised for the absence of Mr Bill Thompson, Inspector Johnson, and Mr A. B. Wright. In his place, he was pleased to welcome Mrs W. R. Thompson, the wife of Mr Bill Thompson. He thanked the speakers for their kindly reference to the memorial. It was a sign of improvement, and he thought bigger things could be done, and that it would not be the last improvement to the town. He thanked all subscribers to the fund, the Commissioner of Railways for ground, Mr B. I. Hughes for giant swing, the Junior Red Cross for joy wheel, the Corporation of Quorn for gates, and many others for much appreciated service. The committee had drawn up rules for the government of the playground, the principal ones being that the gates would be closed at 7.30 p.m. and guardians must accompany children. Males over 14 years would not be admitted. The cost of the equipment was over £110

and the committee had a few pounds in hand. The playground was a fitting memorial to the late Mr Robt. Thompson, and was appreciated both by the citizens and family, and he had much pleasure in declaring the playground open. (Cheers)

Mrs M. Nettle, on behalf of the Junior Red Cross, in a few appropriate words then presented the joy wheel, which bore an inscription, to the committee.

Afternoon tea, under the supervision of Mrs O. Hastwell, was

vision of Mrs O. Hastwell, was served by members of the C.W.A., and by this means £5 was raised for the funds.