

## ALFORD INSTITUTE HALL.

The weather conditions being favorable for the occasion, there was a large assemblage of persons present at Alford on Wednesday afternoon to witness the opening ceremony of the Alford Institute Hall, which was performed by the President of the Institute, and Chairman of Trustees, Mr R. Chappell. On Tuesday August 11, 1909, the residents of Alford were honored by a visit from His Excellency Sir George Le Hunte, K.C.M.G., who after visiting the Public School, performed the ceremony of declaring the foundation stone of the Alford Institute Hall well and truly laid. Owing to unavoidable circumstances delays took place in connection with the building of the Hall, but the Committee not daunted by difficulties, persevered with their task and are to be congratulated upon the success which has attended their efforts, to provide a large assembly hall with rooms suitable for a reading room and library for the residents of Alford and district. The need of a building of this character had long been felt, as the only building in Alford which was available for public meetings was the Methodist Church which is a small structure. The building, which was opened on Wednesday afternoon, is one which is a credit to the township and district, and will compare very favorably with similar buildings which have been erected in towns which boast of a far larger population than Alford. It is a well and substantially built stone structure admirably suited for the purpose for which it has been erected. The main hall, which is entered from a roomy porch, on each side of which are rooms 12ft by 14ft, is 30ft by 60ft, and has a roomy stage which will prove useful for dramatic performances, entertainments, and concerts. The work which has been carried out to the entire satisfaction of the Committee by the following contractors:—Messrs Bennett (mason work), W. Milliken (carpentry), and G. Dingle (painting). The Committee who are also the trustees of the property, are Messrs R. Chappell (President), J. Sharples (Vice-president), F. Philby, D. McMahon, J. Penney, Hewett, and C. C. George (Secretary).

About 3 o'clock on Wednesday, Mr D. McMahon, who officiated as chairman of the afternoon's proceedings, in a brief speech introduced the Chairman of Trustees, Mr R. Chappell, and asked him to perform the ceremony which Mr Chappell did after making a brief speech. Upon entering the hall, it was seen that the building was gaily decorated with flags and bunting, and on the stalls there was a large and varied assortment of plain and fancy goods, produce, flowers and sweets, which all found a ready sale. The following is a list of stallholders and their assistants, to whom the Committee are

assistants, to whom the Committee are much indebted for the success which followed the opening ceremony:—Fancy goods, Misses M. Chappell, J. Paynter, A. Sharples; Plain Sewing—Miss Correll, convener. Mrs Johns, Miss E. Philbey, Mrs C. Pridham; Fruit and lollies, Miss G. Hutchings, Miss M. Sharples; Produce stall; Mesdames D. McMahon and A. Roberts; Flowers, Misses C. Sharples, L. Bennetta, N. Penney; Christmas Tree, Misses Burfitts (2); Post office, Messrs Baker and Chappell.

After entering the Hall, Messrs McMahon, Chappell, and the Mayor of Wallaroo (Mr J. Brenton), ascended the platform. Mr R. Chappell in thanking the Committee for the honor conferred upon him in being asked to perform the ceremony, said, that he was pleased to be able to say that the funds of the Institute Hall were in a very satisfactory condition. They had that day opened a building the value of which had been fixed by an authority at £700. Of this amount in materials, labor and carting, and subscriptions, £400 had been donated. Their present liability was £300 which had been borrowed from the Savings Bank of South Australia at 4 per cent. They had £8 to the credit of the funds of the Institute, and the profits of the Bazaar which was being held that afternoon and evening, would be devoted to the cost of furnishing the Hall with seating accommodation, the purchase of a piano, and the establishment of a library. He was hopeful that the building opened that afternoon would be put to the use for which it was intended, namely for educational purposes and for social gatherings.

The Mayor of Wallaroo (Mr Brenton), in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr Chappell for opening the Hall, said that it afforded him much pleasure in being present at Alford that afternoon, and desired to heartily congratulate the people of Alford on the possession of such a fine building. It was a credit to the Committee, the town and the district. It would afford the young men of the town and district a splendid opportunity of improving their minds, and he hoped that they would avail themselves of those opportunities which the establishment of a reading room and library would provide. In conferring upon Mr Chappell the honor of opening the Hall, the Committee in a practical manner revealed their appreciation of the valuable services he had rendered to the Institute. The motion of Mr Brenton was carried with acclamation.

The Committee entertained a number of guests at a banquet during the afternoon. After justice had been done to the sumptuous spread provided by the ladies, a toast list was carried out.

The toast of the "King" was honored in response to the call of the Chairman, Mr D. McMahon.

The Rev. J. Watson, in proposing the toast of "The Town and Trade of

The Rev. J. WATSON, in proposing the toast of "The Town and Trade of Alford," said that he appreciated the honor of receiving an invitation to be present on the occasion of the opening of the Hall, which was a step which demonstrated the advance of the town and its trade. One of the special features of the country towns of South Australia, which appealed to him was the splendid young men who were to be met with, growing up in the homes of their parents, and settling on the land. Throughout the whole of the district, there were marked evidences of prosperity, and even if there came a series of bad seasons it was not likely that the disasters would be so great as those of past years owing to the improved method of farming. He had a great admiration for the splendid heroism which was manifested by the early settlers of the district, who against great odds established homes for themselves and their families. He was pleased to have the opportunity of proposing the toast allotted to him, and expressed the hope that full advantage would be taken by the young people of the educational advantages that the erection of the Hall and the establishment of an Institute would provide. He was pleased that the honor of opening the Hall had been conferred upon the President (Mr Chappell), and trusted that success would continue to follow the establishment of an Institute at Alford.

Mr Jno. SHARPLES, in responding to the toast said, that he had been a resident of the town of Alford for the past 28 years, and was pleased with the evidences of advancement of trade of the district. At the start they had a run of bad years, but at present things were in a prosperous condition and he believed that prosperity would continue.

Mr J. BARNES (Mayor of Wallaroo), proposed the toast of the "Alford Institute," which was responded to by Mr R. Chappell, who said steps were being taken to have the Institute affiliated with the parent institution in Adelaide. They also intended to make an application for a grant in aid of the building fund as up to the present no assistance had been received from the Government, and in view of what had been done locally he was of the opinion that some assistance should be granted.

The toasts of the "Chairman," the "Press," and the "Ladies" were also honored. The proceeds of the opening ceremony and the bazaar, which was followed by a social and a dance in the evening amounted to over £50.