

MEMORIAL GARDENS AT PROSPECT

Opening Ceremony By Governor

In declaring open the Prospect Memorial Gardens yesterday afternoon, His Excellency the Governor (Sir Winston Dugan) said that if the men in whose honor the gardens had been built were asked the form they desired, he was sure that they would choose just such a memorial.

The Governor, who was accompanied by Lady Dugan, was received by the Mayor of Prospect (Mr. E. G. Whittie). He then inspected a guard of honor composed of returned soldiers. It was estimated that nearly 5,000 people were present.

A service was held at the southern end in the Gardens. On the platform were the Attorney-General (Mr. Jeffries) and Mrs. Jeffries, Mr. Newland, M.P., the Mayor and Mayoress of Prospect, the president of the Prospect sub-branch of the R.S.L. (Mr. D. Menzies) and Mrs. Menzies, the Town Clerk of Prospect (Mr. C. Cane) and Cr. C. B. Hardy.

The Mayor of Prospect, in welcoming the Governor and Lady Dugan, said that their presence gave further evidence of their great comradeship with the returned soldiers and sailors. He said that 40 years ago the 15 acres from which the Gardens had been created had been bought by the District Council of Prospect. It was then a paddock surrounded by paddocks. While they were honoring those soldiers who fell in the Great War, the gathering should not be unmindful of the foresight of the pioneers of the district. Since 1897 when the land had been acquired, the population of Prospect had increased from 4,000 to more than 20,500. The creation of the Memorial Gardens by the Council had been largely due to the persistency of Cr. C. B. Hardy during the past five years.

The Governor said that he was greatly interested in the history of the Gardens. It was a happy and fitting thought that the citizens of Prospect should have dedicated a garden of memory to those who lost their lives in the war. He had been greatly touched by the fact that the guard of honor was composed of men who had fought alongside him. He was proud to have shaken each man by the hand.

"If we could consult with those who have departed, I think they would agree," said Sir Winston, "that no better place could be found than these gardens where their fathers and mothers and other relations and friends could rest for a little in contentment, away from the worries of the day."

Cr. Hardy thanked His Excellency for performing the opening ceremony.

The Rev. H. C. Thrush read the dedication and prayer for the opening.

The Salvation Army Band led the singing of the three hymns.