

BRIDGEWATER NORTH.

UNVEILING OF HONOR ROLL.

An enjoyable and successful function took place at the Bridgewater North State School on Saturday afternoon, being the unveiling of an Honor Roll presented to the school by Mr and Mrs S. Collins, son-in-law and daughter of the late Mr S. Collins, old residents who have been for many years connected with the fortunes of the district and, although now living in retirement in Bendigo, enjoying a well earned rest, have a very lively regard for its welfare. There was a large attendance from all portions of the district. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Dr Long (Bendigo), Cr W. Dissett, and Mr J. J. Johns.

Mr W. Wright officiated as chairman, and after the singing of the National Anthem all present sat down to a splendid luncheon provided by the ladies in the school. After this had been enjoyed the chairman called upon Cr Dunstan, of Bendigo, to perform the unveiling ceremony.

In the course of an interesting address Cr Dunstan expressed the feeling of gratitude all entertained towards the men who were absent fighting their battles, and doing for them what they could not do for themselves. From what had transpired they knew that other nations had an eye on Australia; but, through the men who had gone, they said "Hands off Australia." (Applause.) To the relatives of those who had fallen their hearts went out in sympathy. The erection of honor rolls in the schools would teach the children of future generations what the older scholars of the school had done, and he was sure the district soldiers would appreciate the action of Mr and Mrs Collins in giving the one they were about to unveil. They were brave men, born of brave parents, and true loyalists. (Applause.) They had not gone to a picnic. They knew what hard-hips were, but were true to the glorious country to which they belonged. (Applause.) The speaker urged that all possible should be done by those at home to help the men abroad, and after a further tribute to the generosity of Mr and Mrs Collins, unveiled the roll, all present standing and singing, "God bless our splendid men."

The roll contained the following names: H. H. Smith (killed), E. G. Rice, E. W. S. Whiteman, T. T. Johns, C. L. Wright, H. Wright, R. Perks, A. McQuie (killed), C. Leach, J. Pepper. It was handsomely constructed of oak, with gold lettering, being headed with "For God and country, 1914-1917, Bridgewater North Roll of Honor." At the bottom were the names of the donors. Fixed to the wall of the school, it made a handsome ornament. Side by side with it appeared a photo of Private H. H. Smith, who gave up his life in the Gallipoli landing.

The remarks of Cr Dunstan were cordially endorsed by Cr Cocks, who on behalf of the Marong Shire accorded a hearty welcome to Private G. Wylie; and Mr Jas Bailey, Dr A. N. Wilkinson, Messrs T. L. Webster, E. J. Vanston, C. Burge, A. R.

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A hearty vote of thanks to Mr and Mrs Collins was proposed by Cr Dunstan, who expressed his regret all felt at the absence of Mrs Collins, and referred to the early pioneering done by Mr Collins, who had been in the district since 1865. Mr Bailey seconded. He had come to the district but five years after Mr Collins, and knew what he had done. He was glad to see him hale and hearty, and enjoying well deserved comfort.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

Mr Robt. Collins responded and, in an interesting reference to his father's connection with the district, stated he had, with others, built the first school of bark. His parents had known the honor roll would be appreciated, and had felt it an honor to erect it. They were thankful to all for attending, and for the evidence of esteem given by the attendance. (Applause.)

Mr W. Wright, as a member of the school committee, thanked Mr and Mrs Collins for the gift.

At the suggestion of Mr S. Gibbon, all present showed their respect for the fallen soldiers by rising and standing for a brief period.

A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, followed by similar votes to the ladies and Cr Dunstan, cheers for the soldiers, and the National Anthem, terminated proceedings.