

## WOODBURN NEWS.

Saturday last, 7th June, was a red letter day in the history of the Woodburn Presbyterian Church, the unveiling of an honor roll to the noble sons of the church fraternity who answered their country's call. A worthy tribute this roll of recognition and appreciation, a reminder that will occupy an honored place in this sacred edifice for decades, to recall the dark days of strife and foreboding which attended our repulses, and the wild, exultant celebrations when it became known that peace was in view and hostilities had ceased. A fit and proper memorial, prompting as you peruse it a thrill of pride for the boys who made Australia famous, provoking a sigh for the gallant lads behind whose names the ominous letter K denotes that they had paid the supreme sacrifice, and fill a soldiers grave. A large congregation came from all parts of the district, and included a number of returned soldiers in uniform who were specially invited. The Rev. S. G. Pacey was the officiating clergyman, and prior to unveiling the honor roll conducted an impressive service, after which Mr. W. Gollan, senior session clerk, unveiled the roll, and the congregation sang the Doxology. Mr. Pacey said when he came to Woodburn he had looked around the town in all public places, and in schools, churches, etc., but was considerably disappointed that they had not any roll on their walls. He had discovered, however, that there was one in the town at the Empire Hotel. He had discussed the matter with the elders, and the unveiling ceremony that day was the outcome. On the honor board before them they beheld the names of 58 noble Presbyterian lads who responded to the call in their country's hour of need. Some slumbered in heroes graves beyond the sea and 13 had returned with honorable wounds and scars. Out of a family of five two had consummated the supreme sacrifice, and of a further family of three one had

and of a further family of three one had fallen. The cost of the memorial was very small, but he thought that all of the congregation would like to have a small share in its erection and the cost would be defrayed by public subscription, which need only be very small individually. He wished to remind all that there would be a commemoration service in connection with the honor board on Sunday at 11 a.m. Mr. Pacey offered a fervent prayer for the protection of his Majesty the King, the Royal family, and all the advisers and councillors of the British Empire, that its integrity be maintained. He took as his text for a short address the 4th verse 15th chapter of the Book of Revelations. They had met that afternoon to honor their noble boys, to thank the Almighty Master for His mercy in the past; to invoke the showering of His magnificent blessings upon their behalf. They had much to be thankful for. Right had triumphed and the Allied arms were victorious. He was acquainted with various phases of the war, reminding them it would only be going over familiar themes. He would draw their attention to the anxious, doubtful time when the Hunnish hordes had our army completely hemmed in, and with all the armaments of hell and satanic ingenuity they threatened to crush the British. When the crushing blow descended in July, 1918, anxious hearts wondered what was going to happen. The King and his council realised that it was not the number of men nor the extent of their armaments. They were like the men at Balaclava: at all cost prepared to do their duty, and in that hour of peril and necessity they thought of their Maker. Word was despatched to the far Antipodes, to the utmost limits of the British Empire, that a day of common prayer had been nominated. The nation joined in the invocation for help. United prayers poured from thousands of throats, and the offering was accepted at the throne of the Almighty. From that day forward the enemy was driven

From that day forward the enemy was driven back, and to-day the victory was ours. They did not realise nor appreciate the power of prayer. While strength and health remain with them they thought not of their Maker sufficiently. "But," he said, "in the hour of trial and tribulation we fly to His benevolent patronage. We must not forget the boys who suffered so for us; we must not forget, not only them, but their kindred. Many are the graves beyond the sea filled by our gallant boys. Some returned unscathed, for God had willed it so. Some bear scars and wounds of battle, and are partially incapacitated. Others shall never again follow the previous paths of their lives;—rendered incapable in the striking of a blow for their country's honor and defence. Upon these must we look benignly; every assistance and kindly encouragement sow in their midst, for it is as God willed." There was, the speaker continued, everywhere a feeling of intense expectancy for the good news that the council now sitting in Europe had satisfactorily concluded its guarantee of lasting world-wide peace. Preparations were being made for that great day when the stirring fife and drum bear down upon the wind and our lads return to the fair isle of their birth. Thousands will cheer, thousands will exult and grasp a long-lost hand. But amongst all the merry-making, the cheering and wild exultation sadness and sorrow will fill the hearts of many who scan in vain the long line for a son, brother, or sweetheart. There were 13 mothers whose sons names graced the roll who would feel sad. He trusted they would not forget the mourners, and with sweet comfort and sympathy make them realise that theirs and their sons' sacrifice was for their King and country, and find solace in the fact that it was God's will. They had earned a crown of righteousness here on earth, and he felt sure that the noble self-sacrifice would earn for them a crown at the throne of God. He remembered reading in history when King Henry and his forces drew up in battle

remembered reading in history when King Henry and his forces drawn up in battle array before the impending battle of Agincourt, at a word King and men dismounted, and he read a passage from the Bible invoking the guidance and protection of the Almighty, that their arms might prevail. The men took up and repeated Amen until the very earth quivered with its rolling cadences. They were victorious; Agincourt was won. It was with expectation they could look beyond to the final and most glorious victory—that of the downfall of sin. In conclusion let them hope that they had heard the final blast of the trumpet of war. Australia had taken a grand and noble part in the present war, Australia had become a power ranking among the nations of the world, and would also take a grand and noble part in years to come.

If chains of freedom must be forged  
If England's throne must fall,  
If any part of our fair isle  
The foes must hold in thrall,

If we must bear his heavy yoke,  
And sorrow dim the eye  
Our brave Australian boys and girls  
Will know the reason why.

The honor board, veritably a work of art, is the handiwork of the Rev. Mr. Pacey. On the crest of the board, which is of finely polished silky oak, two carved miniature columns support an arch, on which is written: "The Great War, 1914-18." The board is surmounted by the Presbyterian emblem—the burning bush and St. Andrew's Cross, crested by the Union Jack and Australian and Scottish ensigns. The board contains 58 names, all of whom were of the Presbyterian Church. It is truly a worthy response for the size of our village.

Arrangements had been made for a basket picnic, but untimely showers happened along to mar the pleasure of the afternoon.

along to mar the pleasure of the afternoon, and all present adjourned to the manse, where the ladies had prepared an excellent luncheon. The space being somewhat limited, a re-adjournment to the church was made, and the people of the congregation presented Mr. Pacey with a handsome pair of rugs.

The Rev. J. Lundie, M.A., (Coraki), occupied the chair. He said he did not wish to detain them. They had a pleasing, yet sorrowful, object in the gathering. He was there as the Moderator to make a few remarks on such an auspicious occasion. He had to apologise for not being present at the unveiling, but circumstances prevented his presence. He had to congratulate the congregation upon their splendid honor roll, and in doing so he must include the workman, Mr. Pacey, whose work was very well executed. Mr. Pacey was about to depart from their midst. He was a workman in a double sense of the word. He was a worker and was leaving a conspicuous mark upon Woodburn; upon the church associations and the church. He had banished the "white church" of the town, having with his own hand transferred it to another color in a manner which could not gainsay the fact that it was performed by a skilful painter of considerable ability. It was not often one met a minister of the church who preached from the pulpit the Word of God and then set out to re-decorate His house. The Rev. Ferries would probably commence it the beginning of the month, and arrangements would be made by the Presbytery to have an induction performed, if the obstacles could be met with as regards the Edict reading. He was indeed glad to know that the people of the congregation were not allowing their preacher to leave without some recognition of his magnificent work and appreciation of his splendid efforts on behalf of the church; glad to say that they were presenting Rev. Pacey with a tangible token of goodwill. He trusted that God



oken of goodwill. He trusted that God would ever be the inspiration of their departing friend; that God would ever attend him in guiding others on the path of righteousness, and that as he had painted their church so might he change the color of men's hearts to that milky whiteness of grace.

Mr. W. Gollan said it was with regret that they had to bid adieu to Rev. Mr. Pacey. Their time had been somewhat short to arrange a farewell function, and thinking that afternoon would be an excellent opportunity, their arrangements had been somewhat hurried in consequence. He was sorry the rain should have marred their little evening, but the large attendance was very gratifying. When Mr. Pacey made his debut in Woodburn the committee recognised in him an energetic worker, and when he came to them with certain suggestions he had them somewhat nonplussed. However, obstacles were overcome, and the projected work carried out. The honor roll there that day was the work of his execution, and was a credit to him. He had painted the church and made an excellent job of it, and he could assure their reverend guest that the people were very grateful not only for his services in this respect, but for the manner in which he had conducted the church and its affairs during his sojourn here.

Mr. W. A. Thompson (elder) thought he could not emulate the previous speakers. A committee meeting had decided to recognise the Rev. Mr. Pacey's invaluable services whilst in their midst. It was not the function they could desire, but he trusted that their reverend guest would accept the small presentation in the spirit in which it was given. He was sure the people of Woodburn were grateful for all that Mr. Pacey had done whilst in their midst. An able man within the pulpit, his hand was none the less cunning in the art of painting. He had painted the church in a manner not to be outdone by any tradesman in the district. The honor board was a further testimony

The honor board was a further testimony of his ability. He trusted that success would attend Mr. Pacey in the future, and could only assure him of the appreciation of his work.

Mr. L. Carmichael and Capt. Stringer also made complimentary and eulogistic reference to Mr. Pacey and his work in Woodburn, after which Mr. Gollan made the presentation.

The Rev. Mr. Pacey, in response, said there were some things he did like and this was one. He was grateful indeed for the manner in which he had been treated, but liked not the limelight. He had no motive in doing what he had done other than the fact of trying to beautify the House of God and propagate His work. but such things had a disconcerting result. They came back like a boomerang. Nevertheless, their appreciation was gratifying to him. He had had some very nice compliments regarding the church. One friend told him he was a better painter than preacher, hastily reassuring him, however, that this did not imply he was a bad preacher. One rough edge, however, was when he was told he was lowering the dignity of his church to paint it. He failed to see the point. Christ Himself performed the most menial act in washing the feet of His disciples, and if the Master considered not that He was lowering His dignity, surely by following as much as possible His way would do most good. Just as the Divine Master exclaimed, "Suffer the little children," so he (the speaker) said. He loved the little ones and cared not for the older people, for he knew that through the hearts of the children he could reach their parents' hearts also. His main support had always been from the ladies: why, he could not say. Perhaps his good looks, perhaps his bad temper. And so, as his further journey and the weather necessitated rugs, warm in their handsome present they would serve to remind him, and would be a loving remembrance of the days spent in

ing remembrance of the days spent in Woodburn.

Mr. W. Gollan was pleased to have present their Moderator, the Rev. Mr. Lundie.

He had attended at some inconvenience and he was sorry to state, was delayed for the unveiling. He proposed a vote of thanks which was carried by acclamation and suitably acknowledged by Mr. Lundie.

The death occurred on Saturday last of Mrs. Harriet Lee, aged 84, at the 11 mile, Clarence road. Deceased, who had indifferent health for some years, was residing with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. E. Lockhart, from whence the funeral, which took place on Saturday, started. Five girls and a boy comprise the family living, six children having predeceased her. The son, Mr. J. Lee, is on the postal staff at Cessnock. Deceased was one of the "old school," a relic of one who blazed the trail, and faced the hardships and difficulties of the "early days."

A hard fought battle between the Woodburn "All-Blacks" and Broadwater "Royal Blues" on Saturday last at Broadwater resulted in a victory for the latter by three to nil. Much interest was centred in the match, and the fact of both starters being "off the grass" left no large odds available. Broadwater and Woodburn alike were equally sure of victory, and when the referee, Mr. J. Williams, awarded the former the fateful try things were quite interesting, and the game increased to "some" pace. The match was furious from start to finish, and the scores are a good indication of how the teams were matched. At the conclusion of the match the Broadwater team entertained the visitors at tea, and with characteristic good-fellowship discussed a toast list, the visitors implying that on the return match their guests would be "well stitched."

Later.



Later.

A meeting of the Woodburn branch of the R.S.S.I.L. was held on Monday, Mr. S. McCormack presiding. A moderate number attended, the chairman stating that the atrocious condition of the roads was responsible for the absence of members from Coraki. Correspondence included a letter from district secretary, Lismore, stating that he had forwarded an additional eight badges. From district secretary, reminding the branch that the next district conference would be held at Byron Bay on 18th inst., desiring the name of delegate, or proxy, and requesting that any matter for discussion thereat would be forwarded him to place upon the agenda sheet. From same, explaining a practical manner of effecting transfers from one branch to another. From same, relative to sending discharge to Sydney in connection with repatriation, and stating that the matter was referred to the executive. From Brisbane executive, desiring that the secretary collect particulars of any cases where returned soldiers were refused positions held prior to the war. It was only right that the members should be given fair play, and hundreds of men had been unable to regain their old position. The executive was going to move in the matter, and in the cases of employees having paid the supreme sacrifice would endeavor to have another returned soldier given the position. Under separate cover an extensive manifesto and record of the league's programme and achievements was received. An enclosed letter stated that a week or so would witness the outcome of several requests and demands, and it was decided on the motion of Messrs. Parker and McDonald that the matter be held over for discussion at next meeting. A pamphlet was received from the Brisbane Discharge Frame Company illustrating their artistic frames for soldiers' discharges. As the company was entirely managed and the work effected by returned soldiers the meeting

effected by returned soldiers the meeting decided that apart from being a good scheme for preservation of discharge, it was a movement worthy of patronage. From Brisbane branch secretary, stating that the advance agent of the Vice-Royal Entertainers, a touring musical company, under the auspices of and for the benefit of the league, would visit the river shortly, and requesting that the secretary afford him every assistance and all information. The secretary reported have had to postpone the military ball on account of the inclement weather, the influenza, and the atrociously bad roads. His action was unanimously endorsed. The secretary also explained that the committee of ladies was going to put on a poultry supper, and a lady had undertaken to decorate the hall with the several battalion colors of the local returned boys. Ball tickets had been donated by Mr. P. S. Malone, and programmes by Messrs. O. A. Schulstad, and Mr. V. Nolan and Mr. W. Benzod had also donated advertising in connection with the function in the "R.R. Herald." Arrangements for music were discussed and the matter of engaging the "Berry Orchestra," Lismore, or other suitable music was left to the secretary's discretion. It was decided to hold the ball on the 9th July. The meeting the closed.

The recent flood has had a disastrous effect upon the dairying and farming districts at large. Many dairymen contend that it will be better to "dry off" their herds, anticipating some return in spring, than to continue now during the winter and draw no remuneration from either period. All along the river bank from Woodburn up a sandy deposit has been left by the receding waters, and some farms out in the back country have been greatly enriched at the cost of their neighbor's holding. The effect of the deluge on the town streets and country roads is deplorable. The streets and footpaths of Woodburn, forbidding night

and country roads is deplorable. The streets and footpaths of Woodburn forbid night excursions. Great holes have been scored in the main street, and the footpaths are a positive disgrace. The constant rain has left the red mud deposit used as a substitute for gravel in a similar condition to when first applied some years ago. From the police station to the Evan's Head road pedestrians hold on to a fence and walk on a beaten path about three inches wide. Some of the back streets, owing to heavy traffic in pouring rain, present a sorry appearance. Emaciated bovines wander at will, and stray, and town horses help to keep the deplorable conditions existing. A cattle camp would inadequately describe it. Back lanes have ceased to be back lanes, and have been transformed into veritable quagmires. The country roads are proving no exception to the rule. The Clarence road at certain parts defies description, and seems to emphasise the necessity of the shire imposing a "wheel tax" on motor cars. The traffic on this road is indeed great, and the whirlwind passage of motor cars does not tend to the preservation of a smooth surface. The condition of the Coraki-Woodburn road at Bungawalbyn is also described as deplorable. On the north side of the river (which is in the

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Gundurimba Shire) the roads are and have been pure and simple bog holes. Undoubtedly the moving of large mobs of cattle is partly responsible; also the lack of metal, the free application of which would withstand to a great degree the heaviest traffic.

After the flood a local dairyman's cream can was rescued some miles down river. It's origin is uncertain, but a down river trip from the creamery at Lismore is the most plausible theory. Many valuable corn and potato crops were destroyed, and several farmers had recourse to boats pulling corn, in most cases for pig-feed. Many

corn, in most cases for pig-feed. Many dairymen are still actively operating in the bush, whence thousands of head of stock were shifted, and as a natural consequence, paddocks on agistment are equally in demand.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing half-year at a recent meeting of the Woodburn-Coraki branch of the R.S.S.I. League held at Coraki:—President, sergt.-Major S. Dickson; vice-presidents, Sergts. T. McCormack and S. Clark; treasurer, Pte. J. Mulroue; secretary, Pte. A. Davis; committee, Corporal N. Parker, Tpr. J. Fairhall, and Ptes. R. Chambers, R. Lulham and L. McDonald.

During the recent flood several herds of milkers were shifted to New Italy, and the milking carried on at Mr. Wicks' property adjacent to the wine shop and hall and with several other houses in close proximity; notwithstanding these facts several poddies became victims of the audacious dingoes. Two were killed outright, another was deprived of a tail, subsequently expiring, and a fourth bereft of an ear. For impudence on the part of the marauders this is hard to beat, and younger stock in the mobs now in the bush country will be despatched in numbers. Yet the P.P. Board affirm their inability to meet the situation.

An eye-witness describes the "voyage" of the first car (a Northern Motor Service car) to travel from the Clarence to Woodburn after the flood. Crossing the flooded road at "Oakey Flat" (the day before we saw a sulky cross the Oakey and the Blinkin water was over the wheels), the man managed to get through, but there was no margin. When we heard the car approaching curiosity attracted all of us and we felt sure the driver would not tackle such a formidable obstacle. On he came, however, letting his clutch in at the waters' edge, changed into low gear. Within a few minutes the "bus" was half submerged and every minute we expected to

submerged and every minute we expected to see her jib. Of course the water had subsided considerably since the previous day, but still presented a risky job. The driver was a Briton, and stuck to his guns, incidentally his accelerator. The powerful car snorted in contempt as she gathered speed, and with a wall of water at least a foot high in front of the radiator and a draught of about 18 inches, like a leviathan monster, surged through the flood, and emerged unscathed on the other side. We cheered the plucky if somewhat venturesome 'skipper,' and as the car flashed past, caught a glimpse of two gentlemen passengers. It may be that he has keener eyesight, but one of the boys asserts that they both looked somewhat pale.

During the past month quite a number of local boys have returned to Woodburn, and on Wednesday next some 12 of the lads will be accorded a public welcome under the auspices of the repatriation sub-committee, who have assumed this office since the dissolution of the Woodburn Empire League some weeks ago. Among the boys to be welcomed are A. Elliott, W. Horn, F. Petersen, C. Grissel, H. Boyter, J. Browning, S. Grant, W. Barnes, and A. Bale. This is the largest number yet welcomed, and as the boys are very well known and have been away for some years a hearty and enthusiastic function is anticipated.

The "flu" has practically exhausted its evil influence locally, and the residents are and have every reason to be thankful to the medicals, and particularly Dr. J. W. Tarleton, who so capably and successfully guided the community over the troubled time.

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Families swear by Dr. Tarleton, and the fact that notwithstanding many cases with acute pneumonical complications, he had no fatal cases, shows plainly that he has earned the



cases, shows plainly that he has earned the gratitude of the Woodburn people generally.

Mr. P. Butler, of Swan Bay, who had a serious attack of pneumonia, is at present improving and is considered out of danger.

Mr. J. Antoinelli has recovered and is once more on deck after a hard fight with pneumonia.