

KYOGLE HONOR ROLL.

UNVEILED BY HON. C. A. LEE, M L A.

The beautiful honor roll, designed by the Kyogle Shire Clerk, Mr. W. Pearson, and erected by the Council in the Shire Hall, was unveiled by Hon. C. A. Lee, M.L.A., last Thursday, War Chest Day, in the presence of a large attendance. The president (M. E. Akora) briefly introduced Mr. Lee, remarking that as so many men have gone from the whole of the district centres, it was fitting that at the headquarters of the Shire, and, therefore, of the district, that their names and patriotism should be recorded.

Mr. Lee said his presence there that day carried with it no political significance—he was there as a citizen and in one sense almost a resident to join in paying tribute to the gallant band of men whose names were recorded in that honor roll. The presence of so many people at the ceremony and the pleasing aspect of the country as a result of the bounteous rains added to his pleasure. This was but a newly settled part of the State—barely 14 years old—and the fact that from this infant district nearly 400 men had gone to the front was something to be justly proud of. The war had only just been declared when scores of men volunteered, and their very eagerness brought them into the Dardanelles campaign, one of the hardest of the war, and here as at Pozieres and other places they had proved their valor and won the admiration of the world. And ever since up till the present time the young men of the district had been coming forward freely. And it added to their fine patriotism that they were not in fear of being conscripted, no pressure from any Government—Australians and British had done so for the most part. Then when we remember that throughout the whole of the 3 years' campaign not one word of complaint had been heard against their conduct, it indicated that the young generation of Kyogle youths were of the highest character. The official figures show that one in every twelve of the population of the police district of Kyogle had enlisted, and he could not help saying that if every other part of the State had done its duty equally as well, very much more help would have been given the mother country in her hour of trial. He could not help believing in his own mind that the help rendered by Aus-

own mind that the help rendered by Australia had probably prevented the position in Europe from being worse than it was to-day. It was quite bad enough to-day and more help was required. They were trusting to the voluntary system for this help, and may be that even in Kyogle there were some who could still go. If so he hoped they would do so. He had always been against conscription, and had hated the very name of the word, but as extreme circumstances cause us all to change our views, so the failure of the voluntary system and the urgent need for more men had caused him to change his views on this question, and he now believed we would yet have to have conscription to get the necessary men. Even if the end of the war is drawing near the fighting will be heavier and the casualties greater and hence the need for more reinforcements at once. We have already (that is the Allies) wiped out Germany's 40 years' preparation for war, and ever since the Marne battle we have had her on the defensive, and now she is fighting for very existence, and more men will be required before she is finally overcome. "Before I unveil the roll of honor I would like you to join with me in conveying to the friends and relatives of the soldiers who have fallen and those who have returned maimed and wounded our sympathy, and our sense of gratitude for what these gallant fellows have done for us. It is hard, while expressing feelings of pride in the deeds of our brave lads, to suppress "nature's feelings," mothers especially find it hard to suppress their sorrow and fears at thoughts of brave lads who will never return again. The only softening thought comes from a knowledge of the purpose for which these brave sons have died. I would also like to publicly acknowledge the wonderful work of our Australian women in the campaign. I read in the letters I received from my two sons at the battle front, expressions of gratitude for the marvellous help rendered by them. God bless our Australian women, there are none nobler in the world. But let us not forget that we have one of our greatest duties still to perform. Our lads are coming back to us broken in health and not well fitted some of them for life's future battles. Let us all take it upon us as a solemn duty to do what we can to alleviate their lot in life. Some of them in the work of rehabilitation will need all our sympathy and help. I am sure you will readily grant this.

help. I am sure you will readily grant this. The work of repatriating and rehabilitating our returned men will have claims on both the Government and private individuals, and will have to be done whole heartedly. Nothing we can do for them will or can repay what we owe them. Even the German press eulogises the bravery of our men, and every other nation paid glowing tributes to them, and the battle now being fought and in which they were bearing a strenuous and honourable part are doing to further enhance their reputation. Apart from their reputation as fighters Australia in the days following peace is not going to lose through having her boys at present in Europe. They are advertising our country, and he prophesied that a big stream of immigration and closer commercial intercourse with European nations will be the result. It was hard to realise that, notwithstanding Germany's immense population and resources, that she had less territory than our own State. We have too much unpopulated territory in Australia. It is a danger to us and an invitation to our enemies to come and conquer us. We will probably have yet to fight to maintain our territory, and our only remedy is get more population. I now unveil this beautiful honour roll—Mr. Lee here drew back the flags, the Union Jack and the Australian flag, and exposed to view the names on the roll—and as I do so I would say none of you can do better than these brave men have done, and we cannot be inspired with a nobler motive than inspired them in what they have done." (Applause.)

On the motion of the chairman a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Lee.

(This report, the original of which was posted to us on the day of the ceremony, miscarried in postal transit, and has had to be re-written by our correspondent, and hence the delay in its appearance.)