

Unveiling the Tungamah Shire Honor Board.

LARGE ATTENDANCE AND BRILLIANT CEREMONY.

Tungamah was en fete on Sunday when the official unveiling of the new Honor Board of the Shire took place in the presence of a large and representative gathering from all four Ridings, as well as from other shires; the ceremony being performed by Lieut.-Colonel Chaplain Wray, C.M.G., supported by Lieut.-Colonel Martin, and other speakers. When the time for the ceremony arrived the Shire Hall was literally packed with people who overflowed into passages and doorways, while the open windows of the building also had groups standing outside, and as many more spread out into the street. Arrangements had been made for the ceremony by the shire secretary, Mr W. H. Tricks, by taking out the big tables, railings, etc. and replacing them with forms and chairs, while a piano occupied one corner. The Honor Board, which occupies the whole of the eastern wall and measures about 20ft. x 17ft, was veiled with a large white screen, relieved with a big Union Jack, and this screen was adjusted so as to be lowered when the time came.

The President of the Shire, Cr. D. Ryan, occupied the chair, while on his right was Lieut.-Col. Wray and on his left Lieut.-Col. Martin, while in seats adjacent were councillors from Tungamah Shire and adjoining shires, together with a number of dignitaries. In opening proceedings the President remarked that all present were aware of what they had met for, and being Armistice Day he would ask them to join in singing the initial hymn selected for that day, "All people that on earth do dwell." After this had

earth do dwell." After this had been sung the President announced a lot of apologies from members of Parliament and military officers who were unable to be present owing to the disturbed state of things in the City. He welcomed Lieut.-Colonel Wray, Lieut.-Colonel Martin, and other gentlemen to the Shire, and said that in connection with the unveiling of the Honor Board it may have seemed a long time for it to be ready, but the Council had gone to a lot of trouble to have it complete, and it had been a difficult task to ascertain those whose names were entitled to be on the board; even as it was with 508 names it was not complete. He then formally introduced the Chaplain.

Lieut.-Colonel Wray said he was very pleased to see such a large attendance, who all knew that it was difficult to get returned men to speak about the war or its incidents. Soldiers remembered the hardships, the trials, the sacrifices, and the horrors they endured, and wanted to forget them. But they remembered the noble way in which the women of Australia had worked for the soldiers, and cheered them up by gifts, letters, and comforts, or ministered to them in hospital. Australia had made a great response to the call to war, and no less than 12½ per cent. of Tungamah's population had enlisted, 78 of whom out of 508 had paid the Great Sacrifice. They honored them to-day, and gave thanks to them for their brave and noble spirit. On this fifth anniversary of Armistice Day they honored the brave men who went to the war and stood in the front and said "Thou shalt not pass." He was sensitive of the great honor conferred on him in asking him to unveil the Honor Board, and in the name of the Shire of Tungamah he offered tribute to the brave men who went forth to fight overseas.

Lt.-Col. Wray then unveiled the

Lt.-Col. Wray then unveiled the Roll at this stage, and disclosed the end of the hall to be constructed of blackwood nicely pillared, panelled, moulded, and varnished, with the names in gold in the centre of all who died during the war, while on each side are those who returned. The whole board is a beautiful piece of workmanship, costing over £200, and it reflects great credit on its designer and constructor, Mr W. Nelson. After a period of time to gaze on the board the Chaplain went on at length to detail some of the work in 1918 of the Australians in France, and paid a fine tribute to their courage and initiative, also to the leadership of General Monash. He (Lt.-Colonel Wray) was heartily applauded at the conclusion of his address, during which he evoked frequent applause.

Lieut.-Colonel Martin also gave an interesting address, in which he touched on the proper fulfilment of promises made to returned soldiers, and to alleviate their lot as much as possible. Tungamah Shire, by its beautiful Honor Board, had set an example to other shires, for he believed there were only three or four others like it. It was an enduring memorial, though not as lasting as the monument of stone at the corner of Barr-street, and would serve to tell the children of future years of the gallant men who went forth from Tungamah Shire to the call. These monuments were erected for generations yet unborn, and with the years would gather in richness and lustre the glorious deeds of their splendid men who had made history for the world.

The President then called on the gathering to observe two minutes' silence, after which 'The Last Post' was played on the bugle.

Cr. H. Thompson (Yarrowonga shire) also addressed the gathering, as also did Cr. W. White, while Cr. A. R. Wadson moved a vote of

A. R. Wadson moved a vote of thanks to Lt.-Col. Wray for performing the ceremony, the latter duly responding. At intervals in the proceedings the "Recessional," "Lead kindly Light," and "Nearer my God to Thee" were sung, and the National Anthem at the close.