

SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL**WAGGUNYAH.****UNVEILING CEREMONY.**

PERFORMED BY HON. JOHN BOWSER, M.L.A.

With characteristic promptness and thorough methods, the Waggunyah people have completed the monument erected to the memory of their glorious boys who fell during the great war, and the ceremony of unveiling was brought to a successful issue on Wednesday afternoon last, in the presence of a large concourse of residents and visitors from the surrounding districts on both sides of the river. The function had been hurriedly arranged, but as usual the whole-hearted co-operation of every body in the township was extended to the prime mover—the Waggunyah Progress Association—with the result that a ceremony of great historic importance was carried out in a fitting manner.

The site of the monument, the Bluff Gardens, at the approach to the bridge, is a very imposing one, and the monument itself, which overlooks the river and environs of the town, is a very appropriate structure, and a great acquisition to the little beauty spot. The townspeople are justly proud of this little enclosure.

Letters of apology for non-attendance were received from the following:—The Hon. A. G. Sackin, M.L.C., Mr. R. Cook, M.H.R. for Indi, the President of the Corowa Shire (Cr. Knight), and Crs. Willis, Hart, Lonsdale, Dunnam, and Baker, Mr. Parker J. Moloney, M.H.R. for the Hamc, and Rev. R. Corone, Rutherglen.

The ceremony opened with a selection by the Border Brass Band, under the conductorship of Mr. R. J. Deaman, after which the State school children and a number of returned soldiers formed a square in front of the gardens and saluted the flag. The National Anthem was then played while all stood with bared heads.

Mr. D. Macfarlane, in addressing the assemblage, explained the subject of their presence. They had met on a day which would stand out as a day of days in the history of Waggunyah, viz., to do honor to the men who fell that they could leave everything behind to fight for their King and country. In Waggunyah there were 25 who enlisted; who were not afraid to die or die. They had all done their duty, and the function that day was to pay tribute to their memory. Out of the 25 who enlisted no less than ten of them had paid the supreme sacrifice, or 40 per cent, had given their lives in the most glorious service that could be named, and for the highest service of citizenship. The people of the district felt that they should perpetuate the memory of those noble lads for all time, and while their ashes were lying at the front, the residents regarded the spot where the monument was erected as consecrated ground. They had chosen as a symbol to their memory the granite monument which would defy all the ravages of time, and stand for gratitude for those men who died that others may live. The stone was not only imperishable, but it was founded on solid rock. Not only did the people of Waggunyah give their whole-hearted support to the movement to erect the monument, but he wished to thank the various bodies in Corowa, who also assisted, and particularly the Helping Hand Society.

The Hon. John Bowser, who was called upon to perform the unveiling ceremony, said it was natural and fitting that the people of Waggunyah should erect this monument to the fallen brave. The town and district had been distinguished, to his knowledge, for a quarter of a century for the fidelity and the best traditions of the British race. In the home would be found the virtues of gentle mother-

the British race. In the home would be found the virtues of gentle motherhood, and there was the same spirit shown when the call for help came from the Motherland. The north-eastern districts of Victoria had responded splendidly and sent men in greater numbers than most districts of the State; and by this act of filial expression of gratitude to Great Britain, they had cemented the tie between Australia and the Mother Country. They had shown to the world what is best in them, and they knew the value of the heritage that had come down to them, and took pride in the great gift of Australia. But what was more, our young men—for they were mostly men really just out of boyhood—had shown that great-hearted spirit which was the dominant factor of the race. These boys had fought for this principle, and well did they maintain their glorious name. They not only showed courage, but when in foreign countries they had the courtesy to treat those nations as they ought to be treated, and did not follow the example of the enemy. Our troops were shown as shock troops; they were not only good in defence, but in attack. They were chosen for one of the supreme moments in the war, and they fought against the regiments of our enemy, men who had been trained from childhood for war. Our boys drove them from their trenches, and routed them, such was the spirit of their endurance—these boys, who had never learned or even dreamed of war. And on an occasion like this, they ought not to forget the magnificent work done by the Mother Country in the war. They must all admit that had it not been for the British navy, we could never have won. England, that little Mother of Nations, had raised 8,430,000 troops, or 7,500,000 including the Dominions and India. Think of the magnitude of that work, if we had not had the British navy. Then her financial help must also be considered, and the work done by the Mercantile Marine. They could not take much money of men away without upsetting trade, but that would only be overcome in time, and because of this shortage and the great demand for commodities, prices were soaring ahead and must be controlled and the people protected. The trusts and combines at present were exploiting the world to day. However, that was a side issue of the war. The deeds of the men on Gallipoli and France would remain as deeds of imperishable glory.

Mr. Bowser went on to speak of the great wave of sorrow that had spread over the world, and the gratitude after the war had ended. Turning to the principal object of the day, the monument, he congratulated the people of Waggunyah on the beautiful structure, and their choice of site. It would be difficult to find a better spot, he said, founded on rock, and facing the wildest river in Australia, which separated the two States which always showed a neighborly spirit. That bit of ground, he hoped, would always be regarded as sacred. Future generations would look on the monument and remember the great war. They would read the names on the memorial and think of the men who showed their principles and died that others may live. Surely the sight of this monument, concluded Mr. Bowser, would strengthen the resolution in future generations that no enemy should set foot on Australian soil.

The flag was then removed from the memorial, and the band played the selection, "In Memoriam," arranged by Mr. Kincaid, a leading English bandman.

The monument is a handsome structure, standing 10 feet high from a base of stone. The design is a very attractive one, being a double column of polished granite standing on a massive

granite base, surmounted by a bronze cannon. It bears the following inscription:—

King and Country.
Erected
to
the memory of
The glorious sons of Waggunyah
Who died in the great war,
1914-1918.

W. Barrow V. Barrow
B. Cato A. Dunn
G. Grimmond J. Grantham
J. McMillan H. Glover
F. Tighe.

Cr. J. Hiskins (Rutherglen Shire) then presented framed certificates to the following at their seat of honor:—

P. Blandon J. Gerard
H. F. Bayliss J. Gayfer
Geoff. Bayliss J. McMillan
Jas. Bolton A. Scott
V. Barrow R. Patterson
W. Barrow B. Thomson
A. Dunn J. Whitaker
J. Fisher T. Liddicott
Wm. Fisher A. Palethorp
Glen. Grimmond B. Cato

Short addresses were delivered by Messrs. J. Hiskins, J. Chivell (Mayor of Corowa), and the Rev. R. J. Howie (Presbyterian Minister of Corowa), which concluded the function.