

BULLAROOK.

UNVEILING OF HONOR ROLL.

There was a large gathering in the Bullarook Hall on Tuesday evening, when the honor roll of the Mutual Improvement Association was unveiled. The hall was tastefully decorated by the ladies with flags representing Britain and her Allies. The flags and furnishings were kindly lent for the occasion by Messrs Harry Davies and Co., drapers, of Ballarat, and Mr A. E. White, tailor and mercer, Ballarat. A liberal supply of bunting was also lent by the Returned Soldiers' Association and Mrs J. Crump, the local post-mistress. After the singing of the National Anthem, the president of the M.I.A., Mr J. Monteith, as chairman, spoke briefly of the events which led up to the historic meeting of that evening. The following programme was then delivered:—Overture, Miss Oakman; action song, "Australia will be there," Misses May M'Kee and Winnie Maher; song, selected, Mr R. Huggins; song, selected, Mr B. Richards, encore "Mother Macree." At this stage the unveiling took place. The first speaker was Cr Prendergast, of Clark's Hill, followed by Mr R. Huggins. Both these gentlemen spoke of the excellent qualities of those whose names appeared in the roll, which undoubtedly led up to them offering for the defence of the Empire and their own homes and relatives. Prior to unveiling the roll Major Lazarus gave a very thoughtful address. He was proud of the honor conferred on him by the members of the M.I.A. in asking him to unveil the honor roll. Australia was now receiving her baptism of blood. Ancient history showed us that all nations if they were to retain their place in the rank of nations must be prepared to take the field of battle against those who would crush them. Take the early Jews. They were a strong stalwart race, who gained their position through having to fight for their existence. What was life from beginning to end but one long fight for existence, a fight against disease, against plagues and enemies, and for daily bread. The men they were honoring that night heard the call to fight an enemy that disputed with them the right to live. Whoever heard of an honor roll being erected to a set of cowards. These men would be the honored men for all time. He had

cowards. These men would be the honored men for all time. He had no time for the pacifists who cried "peace at any price." Biblical teaching taught us that it was necessary to fight sometimes for existence and against the oppressor. Christ Himself used force when he drove the money-changers out of the temple for profaning that sacred edifice. He (Major Lazarus) urged upon his hearers the fact that the unveiling of the honor roll was not merely the removing of a flag and revealing a picture, but it was an act that would make history. Years hence these men would still have this honored position; this roll would have pride of place in that hall. These were the names on the roll he had just unveiled:—Wm. H. Wilmot, Percy Wilmot, J. Murray Fleming, Stewart M. Fleming, Albert Biggs, Harold Biggs, Walter Monteith, William Campbell, Frederick Calway, Albert J. Richmond, Arnold Buckle, George Keith, John O'Connor, and Albert A. M'Kee. He understood he was in the unique position of unveiling

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a roll of honor as to which it could be said that the whole of the men whose names were inscribed thereon were still on active service. He trusted they would remain so till the end of the war, and that none would be called upon to make the supreme sacrifice. One, however, had lately been reported missing, but he trusted that reassuring news might yet come to hand. After an interval the programme was proceeded with as follows:—Song, "Up from Somerset," Mr B. Richards; humorous item, Major Lazarus; song, "Just before the battle," Mr R. Huggins. At the conclusion of the programme a vote of thanks to the performers and all others who helped in the arrangements was moved by Messrs W. Wilmot and T. Ralston. During the evening a collection was taken up for the Y.M.C.A. national appeal, which amounted to nearly £3 10/. After supper had been provided by the ladies the proceedings terminated with the singing of the National Anthem.