

NIRRANDA HONOR ROLL.

CONTAINS 100 NAMES.

UNVEILING CEREMONY.

An important event in the history of the Nirranda District took place on Friday evening last, when the Honor Roll, containing the names of the young men who have gone from that locality to play their part in the great war, was unveiled. That the people of the neighborhood recognised it as an occasion of more than passing moment was shown by the unanimity with which they turned out to honor the event. The gathering was undoubtedly a record one and fully representative of the whole district, many of those present travelling long distances to participate in the important and interesting ceremony. The Mechanics' Hall, though a very spacious building, was not nearly large enough to contain the gathering and many had to be content to congregate round the doors and listen to the proceedings from outside. It was, however, only natural that the gathering should be a record one, seeing that the district has put up a record in the number of men who have joined the forces from that neighborhood. The response to the call of Empire was prompt and spontaneous. Living in the solitude of the bush, facing the daily hardships and difficulties of a pioneering life and unhampered by the distractions and luxuries of the larger centres of population, the young men of Nirranda district were apparently able to appreciate at their full value the grave issues involved in the great struggle, and so when the call came they left their peaceful avocations and the fight against the primal forces of Nature and took up arms in the sterner battle against the forces of despotism and military aggression on the battlefields of Europe. Their friends and neighbors, as a token that they appreciate and fully realise the sacrifice these heroes have made, provided an Honor Board worthy of the district and the men, and made the unveiling ceremony an event that will be long remembered by those who took part in it.

Mr. W. Abraham, who has lost two sons at the Front, occupied the chair and explained that the date of the unveiling had been delayed in the hope that Mr. J. C. Manifold, M.H.R., might have been able to attend, but he had been called away to England. Mr. Deany, M.L.A., their State member was present, however, and he asked him to perform the ceremony.

Mr. Deany, in the first place offered his sincere thanks for the honor they had done him in returning him as their State member and promised at all times to do his best for them and for the interests of country districts. He thought he could say without fear of contradiction that that was a red-letter day in the history of Nirranda, and he did appreciate the honor they had done him in asking him to take part in it. He had attended a great many unveiling

in asking him to take part in it. He had attended a great many unveiling ceremonies, but Nirranda held the record easily. (Applause.) He felt quite proud when he saw their Honor Roll in Warrnambool that he was representing such a people. For a district like that to provide a hundred soldiers, with a record of 14 killed and 36 wounded, was something to be proud of. Although it was a terrific loss for the district and the parents, still they must feel proud that the district had done such a lot to help the grand old Mother Country. (Applause.) When the war broke out no living soul dreamed that it would last for over three years. It had taught them many terrible lessons, and it had also convinced the world that the Australian soldier was the

best fighter the world had ever produced. (Applause.) When he said that he said a lot. The Aussie boys could stand up shoulder to shoulder with the greatest fighters in the world and prove themselves their equals. They all knew what the Nirranda boys did in the Boer war, but that was nothing to the present struggle. They were a long way from winning the war and for that they had to thank Russia. Had she continued to fight as she started the war would have been over by now. In the great offensive that was going to take place it was only a "tom-up" what was going to happen. If Germany broke through then it was God help Australia and the British Empire. If it had not been for America coming in, Australia would have been under German rule long ago. The event they were celebrating that evening was one they would not like to forget, and the parents of the boys whose names appeared on the Honor Roll should be the proudest people in the world. No matter how wealthy or influential one might be he could not buy his name on the Honor Roll—he must go and fight and risk his life for King and country. To the parents of the boys who had made the supreme sacrifice he offered sincere sympathy, but he felt sure they possessed the grand old spirit of the British Empire, and felt proud that their boys had gone, even to their death, for the Empire. He was sure those parents would rather see their boys die for their country than stay at home and shirk their duty. (Applause.) If every part of Australia had been as loyal and patriotic in supplying the necessary troops there would have been none of the bitter feeling and trouble of a few months ago, and there would have been no talk of conscription. They hoped the rest of the boys would come back safely. When they did they should get the best the country could give them. Our greatest obligation was in placing these brave young men in a position where they could make a living. As far as he was concerned they should be given the best land in the country and not placed on way-back Crown lands. (Applause.) They must be given a good start, otherwise they would fail. It would be a great asset to the State to have more people on the land to develop the country. They looked forward to the time, and prayed that it would not

be far distant, when the boys would return victorious, and when that great day came the people of Nirranda would not be behind in according them a fitting welcome. In the meantime they must not relax their efforts, but support the boys at the front by investing in the war loans and in every way possible proving themselves worthy of the honors. (Applause.)

Mr. Deany then unveiled the Honor Roll while the audience stood and sang the National Anthem and "God Bless Our Splendid Men."

Mr. R. Burnie read a list of the names of the fallen men, after which the Last Post was sounded by Mr. Stainby.

A solo by Miss Steel, "God Send You Back Again," was much enjoyed, and Miss McCallum was heartily cheered for her spirited recital of "Our Lads," and she gave "Doreen."

Sergt. Nelson said he saw names of comrades of his on the Honor Board, and he felt proud of the fact. He represented one of the first Divisions that left Australia, and some of those boys went at the same time. They would notice in their travels that there were a lot of people who had objection to living under the Union Jack. These people said to him, when he was on his own, that they would be just as well off under the German flag. He wished they could see something of what he had seen and they would change their opinions. He was not going to make a recruiting speech, but if any of the lads present wanted to get their names on the Honor Roll he would be glad to see them outside. (Laughter and applause.)

Mr. Davies sang effectively "There's a Land," and as an encore "Songs of Araby."

Cr. W. Beveridge, Shire President, said he had had the privilege of attending many similar functions round the district, but he thought Nirranda stood right out on top. (Applause.) He felt it his duty to attend such functions and show his respect to the heroes; they deserved it all. He felt we were the most fortunate people on the face of the earth, living in a country untouched by the shock of shot and shell and having the British Government behind us to finance us all the time. (Applause.)

He congratulated the people of Nirranda on the number of volunteers who had gone to the front, and he noticed in some instances four or five names from the same families. As one who had a boy who had fallen at the front he sympathised with the parents whose boys had fallen. He knew what it meant. He asked the people of Nirranda to help the fund for the presentation of certificates to returning men, and hoped the time would soon come when all the boys would return carrying the grand old flag over their shoulders, and they would have peace. (Applause.)

Mr. Cecil Burleigh sang "Mate of Mine" with good effect; Miss Lock recited "The Honor Roll," and Miss Chislett scored a success with "My Little Dream Girl."

Cr. W. O'Brien congratulated the people of Nirranda on the splendid

Cr. W. O'Brien congratulated the people of Nirranda on the splendid Honor Roll. Some of the speakers had expressed surprise at the number of names on the Roll, but he was not surprised, for he had been associated with Nirranda all his life. The first time he took the stump was at Delany's corner, when they were agitating to get a school—(applause)—and he had not got out of touch with the people since. The young men of Nirranda had never been beaten in the football or cricket field in their lives and why should they be beaten when it came to sterner battles. (Cheers). The young ladies of Nirranda had also carried all before them in the cricket field. (Applause). He offered his sympathy to the parents of the fallen soldiers, and concluded by urging the people of the district to support the Repatriation Scheme so as to assist in the settlement of the men when they returned.

Mr. M. McCallum was encored for his singing of "It's Just Like Being at Home." Miss Kavanagh gave "A Perfect Day." Mr. J. O'Brien con-

tributed two amusing recitations, and Mr. Chislett pleased the audience with "Till the Sands of the Desert Grow Cold."

Cr. J. Rowan joined in congratulating the people on the excellent Honor Roll, and Cr. Rolfe also added his tribute of congratulation in appropriate terms.

Songs were given by Mr. W. Egan and Mr. Davies, and the formal proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the performers and speakers, proposed by Mr. P. R. Le Conteur, seconded by Mr. J. Burleigh.

Cr. W. Burleigh (Warrnambool) then presented framed memorial certificates to the parents of the fallen soldiers on behalf of the Returned Soldiers' Reception Committee.

Supper was dispensed to the large audience by a band of willing assistants, and afterwards the hall was cleared for dancing, which was indulged in to music provided by Stainby's Band.

All the arrangements were admirably carried out by the committee, of which Mr. R. M. Burnie acted as secretary, and their thanks are extended to all who assisted in the function, particularly to Mr. Jas. Anderson for conveying the Honor Roll out from Warrnambool free.

THE HONOR ROLL.

The Honor Roll is of imposing design, with canopy top supported by four columns, and decorated with appropriate flags and carved figures. It was designed and manufactured by Messrs. E. B. Phillips and Co. The following are the names:—

A. S. ABRAHAM (D.).
W. S. ABRAHAM (K.).
R. P. ABRAHAM.
J. E. J. ADAMS.
J. ALLENDER.
L. G. ANDERTON (W.).
H. BARTON (W.).
J. P. BEATTIE (W.).
I. J. BEATTIE.
M. BEATTIE.

L. J. BEATTIE.
M. BEATTIE.
C. A. BECKETT (W.).
G. BELL.
P. BELL.
P. E. A. BRUMBY.
W. BERGIN.
E. W. W. BORTHWICK.
H. R. BORTHWICK (W.).
A. BOYLE.
G. BOYLE.
R. BOYLE.
V. BOYLE.
W. BOYLE.
H. R. BRITTAIN (D.).
R. J. BRITTAIN (W.).
J. T. BROOKS (W.).
J. A. BROWN.
I. BRUMBY.
H. BURLEIGH (W.).
B. K. BURNIE (W.).
R. CARMODY (W.).
E. J. CARTER.
C. M. CARTWRIGHT.
D. L. CLARK.
A. COLLETT.
C. R. COLLETT.
F. W. COLLETT (W.).
J. T. DELANEY (W.).
R. DELANEY.
E. W. DUKES (W.).
W. H. FLANNAGAN.
T. FROST (W.*).
D. GALL.
M. W. D. GILLIN.
J. E. G. GOLDSTRAW.
S. A. GOLDSTRAW.
T. W. R. GRIFFIN.
C. HARDIMENT (W.).
H. J. HENRY (K.).
A. HILL.
H. HILL (K.).
R. M. HOUSE (K.).
R. JAMES.
G. E. KEYS.
J. W. LAIDLAW (W.).
P. LAIDLAW (K.).
W. J. LAWLOR.
E. LESLIE (K.).
G. F. F. M-DOWALL (K.).
H. McPHERSON (K.).
C. H. MEMBRY.
S. R. MERRITT (K.).
M. MURPHY (W.).
I. PELLING.
P. PHILLIPS (P.).
I. REID.
J. REID.
E. R. RUNDLE (K.).
J. A. RUNDLE.
T. W. RUNDLE.
P. J. RYAN.
G. H. SELL (*).
A. E. SNELL (W.).
D. H. SODERHOLM.
ADAM STEEL.
ALBERT STEEL.
J. STEEL.
W. E. STEEL (W.).
G. STENZILE (K.).
A. TAGGERTH.
D. TAGGERTH.
A. A. THOMAS.
H. I. THOMPSON.
D. A. WALLACE.
T. A. WHITEHEAD.
C. C. WILLIAMS.
C. J. WILLIAMS.
D. WILLIAMS.
I. WILLIAMS.
S. WILLIAMS.
G. I. T. WORMALD (W.).
A. MANSBRIDGE.
J. BRADLEY.
A. M-DOWALL (K.).
F. SMITH.
W. J. ALIWOOD (K.).
E. G. BARTON.

F. SMITH.
W. J. ALIWOOD (K.).
A. F. G. BARTON.
T. PIKE.
A. PHILLIPS.
P. H. PALMER (K.).
H. FROST.
K. denotes killed; W., wounded;
* distinguished; D. died of sickness;
! prisoner.