

NORTHCOTE HONOR ROLL.

UNVEILED BY GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

A NOTABLE EVENT.

A noteworthy event in the history of the city was the unveiling by the Governor-General on Saturday afternoon last of the Honor Roll—already containing nearly a thousand names—of the gallant men of Northcote who have gone forth to fight in the world's battle for Freedom.

There was a very large assemblage of the citizens, the greatest interest having been aroused in the ceremony. Prominent in the gathering were a number of Anzacs and other returned soldiers.

The words "Honor Roll" suggest to the mind only a common-place ordinary piece of furniture, but the Northcote Honor Roll is a thing of imposing dimensions and of striking beauty—an altogether worthy vehicle through which to keep green for ever the memory of the brave men of the city. It takes the form of handsome panelled work, on each side of the main hall entrance, with specially selected grained black-wood. The panels are fiddleback Australian oak. The bold relief-carved panel over the door represents the Australian coat of arms, set in a wreath of laurel leaves in which is embodied the words "Roll of Honor." On one side is the Union Jack, with artillery in the distance, embellished with sprays of wattle. Below is a pair of swing doors, with panels of bevelled glass, embossed with the Northcote coat of arms, and an inscription "In Honor of the Brave." Each side wing of the honor board contains twelve panels, large enough to take about 600 or 700 names. The canopy is supported by eight massive columns, with carved Ionic capitals, standing on substantial pedestal bases. The cost is estimated at £350. The work, which is an admirable piece of craftsmanship, has been carried out by F. K. Cox and Co., Propy. Ltd., of Lonsdale-street.

Though the present list temporarily upon the board contains nearly a 1000 names it is known to be far from complete. Provision has only been made for 1200 names, so that should the war continue much longer it is probable that the panelling will have to be extended.

On arrival of the Governor-General the Military Band from Langwarrin Camp struck up the National Anthem and the Guard of Honor from Broadmeadows Camp stood at salute.

His Excellency was received by the

Mayor of the City (Cr. W. J. Gray) who read the following address—

"We, the mayor, councillors and citizens of the city of Northcote heartily welcome you on your first visit to the municipality, and respectfully express to you our fervent loyalty to the throne and person of His Most Gracious Majesty the King. Your visit here to-day is to perform the ceremony of unveiling the Honor Roll erected by the citizens to mark an epoch in the history of the Empire, when her Dominions proudly gave their sons to fight, even unto death, in the great cause of liberty and justice; and to record the names of our brave kinsmen who have so nobly joined in upholding the traditions of our forefathers on the battlefields of Gallipoli, Egypt, Mesopotamia, France, and on the High Seas, the very thought of whom revives memories of the greatest feats of bravery, valor and chivalry, and leads us to the just conclusion that in this righteous war the Allied Nations must in the interests of humanity achieve a glorious victory, and so restore peace and liberty throughout the world for all time. We trust that your sojourn in Australia may be a source of pleasant memories, and that under your able guidance the Commonwealth may prosper and prove worthy of being a part of our beloved British Empire."

His Excellency, in reply, said:—I have the honor to acknowledge your expression of loyalty to His Majesty the King. I greatly appreciate the welcome extended to me, and am glad that the occasion of my visit is to unveil the Roll of Honor on which will stand a record of the names of the gallant men of Northcote who in this war have served their King and country. I trust that the city of Northcote will long flourish, and that every succeeding generation of citizens will be as prominent in loyalty and devotion to duty as those we are honoring to-day. (Cheers.)

In performing the ceremony the Governor-General said it gave him great pleasure on this, the fourth anniversary of his taking up his office here, to be received so kindly by the citizens of Northcote; but, above all, he was glad to be here on the occasion of the unveiling of this memorial. This Honor Roll will be the chief glory of Northcote. The number of names upon it constituted a fine record of public duty. (Cheers.) And the record itself is worthy of the men in the beauty of its timbers and in the simplicity and dignity of its design. The citizens of Northcote as they entered the portals of their town hall would be reminded of the beauty of self-sacrifice and patriotism

beauty of self-sacrifice and patriotism those supreme qualities which have been displayed by the men whose names were enrolled there for ever. (Applause) This memento reminded them that the war was not yet over. In war it was only men and equipment that counted for victory. It was the greatest master of war who said that Providence was on the side of the biggest battalions. The gallant men from Northcote and from other parts of Australia need every man available to reinforce and give them relief. Freedom was a great thing, but it was a thing that a people had to be ready to fight for in order to maintain. War was a terrible thing, but there is a still more terrible thing than war—subjugation, and the incapacity to achieve victory without which none of their institutions was safe. The performance of our soldiers had freed us from a foreign yoke, and the example recorded on the walls of this portal would ever be an inspiration to the people of Northcote to preserve those liberties which their forefathers had won, and which, please God, will be maintained. (Applause.)

Cr. Jas. Sutch, in moving a vote of thanks to His Excellency for attending, remarked that the citizens of Northcote were proud of the Honor Roll, which was one of the best in the State, and prouder of the twelve or fifteen hundred boys whose names would be written there—the boys who had gone out to fight for their protection. (Applause.) Many of those he was addressing had husbands, sons and brothers there, and some perhaps, like himself, had lost an only son. He did not wish him back, as he felt he had only done his duty. They were fighting for the protection of the women and children of this country, as well as of any other country. (Cheers.)

Cr. W. Williams, who seconded the motion, said the citizens of Northcote felt deeply honored by this vice-regal visit, and he was sure that the fathers, mothers, and friends of the soldiers would feel that an added value had been given to the memorial from the fact

mover, Cr. Sutch, who, like others, had lost his dearest without a murmur, so be it that right has won.

The Mayor afterwards entertained His Excellency in the Mayor's room.

In responding to the toast of his health, proposed by Cr. Dennis, the Governor General said there was such a magnificent future before Australia that unity must be the keynote. One of the lessons of the war was that in their pursuance of a national policy it was just as well, in order to develop into a great nation and keep the peace of the southern seas, to see that the people were prepared to resist aggression with power and organisation. (Applause.)

The toasts of "The King," and "Our Boys at the Front" (proposed by Cr. Sutch) were also honored.

that the unveiling ceremony had been performed by the direct representative of His Majesty the King. (Applause) Unfortunately the war had raged practically during the whole time His Excellency had been in Australia, but the way that he and Lady Ferguson had acted during the time of trial had endeared them to the hearts of the people as no other occupants of their high office had been.

His Excellency in acknowledging the vote of thanks made reference to the mover, Cr. Sutch, who, like others, had