

AVON PLAINS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

STATE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL UNVEILED.

"Aot, for in actions are wisdom and glory,
Fame, immortality, these are its crown ;
Wouldn't thou illumine the tablets of story,
Then build on achievements thy dome of
renown."

The social function in connection with the above was duly celebrated on Friday, 30th ult., in the presence of a large and representative gathering, and will long be remembered as a red letter day, unique in the history of Avon Plains. The honor roll, bearing the names of twenty-six who volunteered for active service, amply vouched for the loyalty and patriotism of the scholars at one time members of the school. The local residents rose to the occasion, and in their labor of love and admiration discharged with great credit their sacred duty of doing honor to, and perpetuating the names and memory of our brave boys. To that end they secured the services and presence of one of the prominent men in the Education Department, in the person of Mr. Fussell, Chief Inspector of Schools ; also our representative in the State Parliament, Mr. J. W. Pennington. Both gentlemen received a hearty welcome, their kindly interest in the proceedings being greatly appreciated. The mode of procedure for the day was as follows:—The school children, holding the corners of the flag, sang the song, "The Union Jack," after which three local mothers, whose sons have seen active service, in the persons of Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Coasens |

persons of Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Cassens and Mrs. Holland, together pulled the rope which hoisted the flag. Mr. Kemmis, who presided over the gathering, called for the National Anthem, after the singing of which he delivered in good style an address patriotic and appropriate. He mentioned that the new Union Jack, just flown, had been presented to the school by Mr. F. Guthrie, of Geelong. He stressed the point, which was applauded, and subsequently endorsed by other speakers, namely, that only the Union Jack should be flown anywhere in the British Empire, and that the red flag or any other emblem should not be tolerated for one moment. Mr. Kemmis concluded his remarks with a kindly reference to the soldier boys on the Honor Roll. He then called on Mr. Fassell to perform the ceremony of unveiling the Honor Roll.

Mr. Fassell's opening remarks were along departmental lines. On receipt of the invitation to be present at one of his opponents, his first thought was that it was something of a "voice calling from a wilderness." Having a son at the war, he knew what this social function meant to local residents, and decided to be present. He was very pleased with the manner in which the school had again been called into existence, and was delighted with the enthusiasm and harmony which existed between the parents, teacher, and scholars, which augured well for the future of the school. (The audience was asked to stand for a moment during which Mr. Fassell withdrew the Union Jack which covered the Roll of Honor.) He said it was meet, very meet indeed, that they should thus honor on this scroll of fame the brave

soldier boys who flocked around the good old standard, who stood between us and a pitiless foe, 40,000 of whom had given their lives that we might enjoy our priceless heritage of freedom and liberty; that Australia, our heritage, the land of our birth, which we had not gained by conquest, nor held by our own might, for which we never paid so much as a peppercorn, might remain ours. We owed it all to the fact that the Union Jack flew over us, and that Britain's great navy ruled the seas. Mr. Fassell concluded a fine address with the rendition of the following beautiful poem, entitled "In Flanders' Fields":—

In Flanders' Fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and, in the sky,
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amidst the guns below.
We are the dead; short day ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe,
To you, from falling hands, we throw
The torch; be your's to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.

Mr. Pennington, M L A, who had kindly donated the Honor Roll, spoke in eulogistic terms of the men whose names appeared on the Roll, describing them as the flower of our manhood. He dwelt on the characteristics of the colonial—as a fighter he had few equals, and no superiors. Mr. Pennington, in the course of his remarks, appealed to the sporting instincts of those eligibles present, and asked them to submit their names for the ballot to fill up the ranks of the brave boys. As a parliamentary representative, or as a private citizen, he would do his very

private citizen, he would do his very best for the interests of the soldiers.

Councillor Barratt, the president of the shire, delivered an appropriate address. Speaking in laudatory terms of the men whose names appeared on the Roll, he said they did not require any ballot or moral exhortation to arouse in them their sense of duty, but went forward spontaneously, if necessary to make the great sacrifice. He made kindly reference to those left behind, especially the gentler sex, who made the great sacrifice of temporarily, perhaps for ever, of parting with their loved ones. He mentioned that certificates were available from the Shire Council to returned soldiers within the shire. He would be pleased to distribute them among those who returned.

Mr. A. P. Bath delivered a brief address on the flag and Honor Roll, the text of which was "Let We Forget." The Honor Roll would serve to perpetuate the names and memories of our brave lads, the records of whose lives and memory would be handed down to posterity as men who had illumined the tablets of story, who had built on achievement their dome of renown.

Mr. R. Reaigh spoke on behalf of the old members of the State school, and said the soldier boys were worthy

of the best their native land could give them.

Private T. P. Holland, being the only returned soldier so far on the Honor Roll, had the great privilege and honor of replying on behalf of his soldier comrades. He expressed their great appreciation and their heartfelt thanks to those at home who kept the home fires burning, not only in their

home fires burning, not only in their hearths, but in their hearts. He said it was this home love which inspired a soldier, which enabled him to cross No Man's Land. He appealed to the eligibles at home to remember the duty they owed to their hard pressed comrades, and go to their assistance. Personally, he would ever remember with pride the unveiling of the Honor Roll.

True to the traditions of the Britisher, he must "eat when he makes merry." The local ladies provided afternoon tea well-worthy not only of the private, but of the King himself. The tables were set in the school, which was tastefully decorated with National emblems, and all things known and common in the art of culinary.

The visitors were also the guests of Mrs. Aust and Mrs. J. Campbell. Last, but by no means least, special mention should be made of our teacher, Mr. G. Walker, with whom we are well pleased and proud, and whom we regard as a live wire. The neighboring schools having been granted a half-holiday in honor of the event and the visit of Mr. Fessell, seven in all were represented by their teachers. Appended is the list of names on the Honor Roll:—

Nurse Millicent Miller, *A. Leslie Hancock, *Arthur J. B. Hancock, T. Percival Holland, *Albert Hancock, E. Lachlan Campbell, Robert Cassens, Hector M'Lennan, Neil M'Lennan, *Arthur Holland, Ernest J. Schlitz (teacher), Herbert Gorrie, Roy William Miller, Thomas Hoare, Albert Woodburn, Josiah Trower, E. H. G. Kemmie, Charles Bickerton, Lee Brown, *Horace

Charles Bickerton, Lee Brown, George
Pickford, *George Walker, Reginald
Hodgson, Albert Letcher, Samuel
Bishop, Robert Brett, P. L. Stratford.
Those marked with an asterisk have
made the supreme sacrifice, and fallen
on service abroad.
