

**I.O.O.F. HONOR ROLL.****UNVEILED BY GRAND MASTER.**

Members of the I.O.O.F. Rodney Lodge and representatives of other friendly societies gathered in the lodge room at the Temperance Hall last evening, for the purpose of welcoming home returned soldier members, and also unveiling an honor roll. Bro. S. Moreland, a member of over 32 years standing, presided, and seated on either side of him were the Grand Master of the order in Victoria, Bro. R. H. Hammett, and the Grand Secretary, Bro. C. E. Wilson.

The loyal toast was proposed by the chairman, after which was proposed "Our Fallen Brethren."

The chairman said that just after the war started it had been decided to erect an honor roll. Few at that time had thought that the war would last five years. It had not been lost sight of, but owing to the "war with the doctors" the matter had had to be handed over to a ways and means committee, who had approached members for contributions, and in no case were they refused.

Bro. R. H. Hammett, the Grand Master, counted it a great honor and privilege to have been asked to perform such a ceremony. He would, perhaps, be known as the Grand Master who had unveiled honor rolls. In every instance he found difficulty in finding adequate words for such an undertaking. When England had sent out the call to every one of her children, great and small, the Empire was not left long in doubt as to the nature of the response. The manhood of Australia answered that call, and left the shores actuated by a desire born of the necessity and the realization of the fact that they, their country, and their Empire were in danger. The I.O.O.F. order had not played an insignificant part. From a membership of 3000 no fewer than 1300 had enlisted. Out of the nine names on the honor roll were those of three who had made the supreme sacrifice. Their mortal remains lay beneath the soil of battlefields, but their spirits, he trusted, were at peace with the great and just God of battles. Heartfelt sympathy was felt for the bereaved relatives. To the men who had returned the promises made them before they left must be kept. The returned men had still a duty to themselves and their country, the duty of good citizenship. Cheerfulness was essential for the sake of enticing those who had returned disheartened. They must be good Oddfellows and help to lift the order to a higher plane. On behalf of the Grand Lodge of Victoria and the Rodney Lodge he welcomed home the men and extended sympathy to bereaved relatives. He then unveiled the honor roll, on which were inscribed the following names ("k" signifying killed in action):

--A. H. Alder, enlisted August, 1914; J. H. Collins, enlisted August, 1914; D. Findlay (k), enlisted October, 1914; P. C. Felgenhauer (k), enlisted July, 1915; N. V. Jeffrey, enlisted January, 1916; T. H. Freeman, enlisted March, 1916; G. W. O. Stauf (k), enlisted March, 1916; Alex. Anderson, enlisted September, 1916;

G. W. O. Stauf (k), enlisted March, 1916; Alex. Anderson, enlisted September, 1916; C. B. Schmidt, enlisted October, 1916.

The Grand Master then proposed "Our Returned Soldiers," which was enthusiastically honored.

Bro. Schmidt responded. Speech-making, he said, was not in his line. He would say he had no regret at having gone. His only regret was that comrades had been left behind. As returned men they appreciated the sentiments expressed.

Bro. Pattinson supported the response. He, too, felt it difficult to speak on such an occasion. The call from the men who had laid down their lives was to be cheerful. In dealing with returned soldiers 10 per cent should be allowed off efficiency. Too often there was used "all things being equal." It was not fair. The soldier had been through great privations and great nerve strain. Every allowance should be made for this. The single man would have to be allowed time to settle. With a little encouragement and kindly consideration he would become the best citizen. He thanked them.

Bro. J. J. Collins proposed the toast of "Kindred Societies." He did so most heartily. He warmly welcomed representatives. Elevation of human character, he contended, was the chief aim of friendly societies. Each society had its ideals. The Rechabites, for instance, had their temperance ideals. There was no doubt that a great flood of thought had of recent years been directed into temperance channels. Speaking of the doctors and lodges dispute, he said it was up to the Victorian Government, if it were earnest, to do something to settle the matter. The Government had not kept its promises to soldiers; the friendly societies had kept soldier members good upon the books. The doctors did not make any reduction for soldiers. The societies had to pay just the same. The wealth of a nation was the health of the people. He had no doubt but that the large percentage of rejects had been due to the social conditions prevailing in the old country.

Bro. H. E. Donham (Manchester Unity), in replying, said the societies should stick together well in the matter of the medical dispute.

Bro. W. H. Philp (I.O.R.) thought that something should be done in the medical dispute. It was simply a "strike," and they were allowed to go free. It was militating against new membership.

Bro. J. F. Brady (H.A.O.B.S.), proposed the toast of the "I.O.O.F." He congratulated the order on the fine percentage of enlistments. Good fellowship existed between the I.O.O.F. and the Hibernians.

The Grand Secretary, Bro. C. E. Wilson, responded. A good deal of misapprehension, he said, existed regarding the aims and objects of friendly societies. Friendly societies had evolved from social clubs. This year the I.O.O.F. was celebrating the centenary of the order. One of the things that had been done some years ago was that a member at the age of 65 could be placed in the position similar to life assurance societies in respect of surrender values. Leakages of funds had to be guarded against. The

spoon of surrender value. Advantage of funds had to be guarded against. The chief cause was members falling into arrears and ceasing to be members. Friendly society insurance was the only one where premiums (contributions) were not payable in advance. The New South Wales Manchester Unity had decided that contributions must be paid in advance, and that no benefits would be payable if a member owed one penny. If this were done the word "levy," which stuck so in the mind of members, would disappear. Another matter was that a member entering another State had his contributions increased, but of recent years a clearance value system was adopted, and was working satisfactorily. Why was it necessary for societies to pile up funds? It was done in order to consolidate them and secure the best investment. Regarding the medical question, he would say plainly that the doctors were not paid enough by the societies for the services they were called upon to perform. The doctors had not "struck." For five years they had asked for more money. The doctors were justified in the action that they took. He did not say, however, that they were justified in what they had done since. The societies lacked cohesion. Institutes had been formed, but they were entirely in the hands of the institute doctors, and on the whole the position was not altogether satisfactory. The only remedy

for the present deadlock was the creation of a pool.

Bro. Shugg proposed "Visiting Brother." He extended a welcome to him. Bro. Hallerly (Hawthorn) briefly responded. Bro. Wilson proposed the toast of the "Rodney Lodge," and this was responded to by Bro. Cobb, N.G.

The chairman proposed the toast of the "Press," coupled with the name of the "Riverine Herald." He paid most eulogistic references to the fact that the news of the world—especially at the time of the war—was circulated by Echuca through these columns several hours ahead of the metropolitan dailies. A representative of this journal responded.

The Grand Master proposed the toast of the "Chairman," which was enthusiastically honored. He referred to Bro. Moreland's long association with the order, and also to his sterling qualities of citizenship. Bro. Moreland suitably responded, and the proceedings terminated with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."