

WINSLOW HONOR ROLL.**THE UNVEILING CEREMONY.****SPEECH BY MR. RODGERS, M.P.****PLEA FOR EMPIRE UNITY.**

The people of Winslow are very thorough in all their undertakings. When the call came for men to join the colors and fight for the Empire, the young men of the Winslow district responded with a readiness and completeness that left little to be desired, and the residents of the locality gave them a send-off, the enthusiasm of which must have lingered long in their memories and brought cheer and comfort to them in the hard experiences through which they have since passed. Patriotic efforts have also had the loyal and generous support of the residents of the little township who have on several occasions been represented in the street fetes and fairs held in Warrnambool, and on Monday evening an Honor Roll was unveiled as a further expression of the love and respect they entertain towards the boys who have laid aside the implements of peaceful employment to take up arms in the cause of liberty and the defence of the Empire, some of whom, alas, have already been called upon to make the supreme sacrifice.

The function on Monday night attracted a large and representative gathering of district residents, who were desirous of honoring their soldier lads and the utmost enthusiasm prevailed. Cr. O'Keefe presided and there were also present on the platform Mr. A. S. Rodgers, M.P. for Wannon; Cr. W. Beveridge, President of the Shire, and Crs. W. O'Brien, W. Lindsay and A. J. Rollo.

The Chairman at the outset explained that the unveiling of the Honor Roll had been postponed from a former occasion owing to their representative, Mr. Rodgers having sustained a sad bereavement. They felt that there was no man more fitted to unveil the Honor Roll of the gallant boys who had gone from their midst than Mr. Rodgers. (Applause). That was the reason why they postponed the ceremony. He was glad to see so many present from long distances to take part in the ceremony, particularly his colleagues in the Council.

The National Anthem was then sung, after which Miss Bene Parkinson delighted the audience with her rendering of "Swallows," and Mr. Malcolm McCallum, of Allansford, amused the company with a couple of humorous songs.

The Chairman, in calling upon Mr. Rodgers to perform the unveiling ceremony, congratulated him upon his return to Parliament, and said unhesitatingly that no one in the House had taken better care of the interests of the primary producers of the country than Mr. Rodgers. (Applause).

Mr. Rodgers, who was greeted with hearty applause, said it was always a pleasure to him to meet the residents of Winslow. He was proud and

pleasure to him to meet the residents of Winslow. He was proud and grateful that they had chosen him to do honor to the brave men whose memory would always remain green in their hearts. They had come there united in the one desire to pay honor and respect to whom honor and respect were due. He joined with them in what was an historical night, where they met with the fathers, mothers and relatives of the men whose names were inscribed on the roll of honor, to send Winslow's message to Winslow's boys telling them that while they were fighting there the people who were behind were not unmindful of them and of what they had gone through. It would be idle for him to trace what the men had done from the time they landed on the bleak slopes of Gallipoli until today they found them standing on the Italian front helping to stem the Austro-German invasion of Italian territory—their own brave men who had made good in the eyes of the whole wide world. (Applause). They had taken their place among the great men and women of the world. They had from soldiers become warriors, and had faced the greatest and most fearsome war instruments, and had won a glorious place in the ranks of fighting men. (Applause.) It had been said that there were no better fighters than the Australian boys and that was true (applause); but there were their equals. The famous British Regiments were their equals, but no better. This was one of the dark hours of the Empire. It was useless for him to try to tell them that the present position was not fraught with the gravest issues. The Allies were at grips with the great Central Empires, who had the advantage of position and half a century's preparation. The Allies were drawn from all parts of the wide world and were widely divided, and there were now divisions within the Empire. When the war broke out there was no dissension. All parts of the Empire rose as one man to espouse the cause of liberty and freedom. God grant that the time would come when the sons and daughters of the nation would put before everything else the unity, success and safety of the Empire. (Applause). The ripples of discord that had appeared on the surface of the Empire should never have come. He appealed to every branch of the race within the Empire to get back to the spirit of unity that existed before the war. In this time there should be no divisions. Every section of the Empire should stand shoulder to shoulder, for if the Mother Country went down in this war where would Australia be? He came to them with no feeling of division. His heart was with them in honoring their brave soldier boys, and in sympathy with the parents and relatives of those who would never return. It was a great thing that men had gone from their native land—boys had left their parents and men had left their wives and little children—to travel 15,000 miles to fight for the cause of liberty and justice, yet his appeal was that while there was a glamour on the man who went forth to fight,

they must never abandon the man who had done his bit and come back.

Never let this country forget all it owed to the man who had come back. He had always thought that some great organisation should have been formed to make provision for the men when they returned. These men had thrown down their tools and went abroad during a most prosperous period, and it was the duty of the people to make room for them as they came back. He thought there had been too much delay, still they must credit the Government with endeavoring to do the work. An organisation had now been made and it was hoped it would be successful. He was not satisfied that the matter had been handled perfectly, but Australia was groping in the dark because nothing like it had ever been faced before. It showed the desire of public men to see that the returned men were not neglected. He was one of those who believed that at the beginning of the war a great convention should have been held to deal with the whole question of repatriation. After all life was simply a question of service. They were apt sometimes to look upon the accumulation of worldly goods as the evidence of a life worthily lived, but the supreme test of life was what service they had rendered to their fellow men. No men had served their fellows and their country better than the men who had laid down their lives on the battlefield. (Applause).

Mr. Rodgers then removed the Union Jack that veiled the Honor Board, and read the names of the Winslow soldiers inscribed thereon, the audience standing with bowed heads as a mark of respect to the memory of Ptes. A. McLean, G. Douglas, J. Murphy and C. Bennett, who had paid the supreme sacrifice.

Three ringing cheers were then given as "Winslow's message to Winslow's boys in the trenches."

Mr. Harvey, of Woolthorpe, sang an original composition extolling the Winslow heroes.

Cr. W. Beveridge said that sad though he was that night there was no reason why he should be. When his son was game enough to go and die for his King and Country, surely he was game enough to go on fighting for the benefit of those who were left. He had been for some time building castles in the air, looking forward to the time when his boy and their boys would come back victorious, but his connecting link had been broken and his castles in the air had disappeared, but he could join with greater sympathy in their sorrows and bright anticipations. In this, the fourth year of the war, they had still many obligations to face, and shortly the great question was to be put to them which meant were they going to allow the boys to be slaughtered in the trenches for the want of help.

Miss McCallum effectively recited "Our Lads."

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Lieut. Maxwell was present and made an appeal for recruits, but none came forward.

Cr. O'Brien expressed his pleasure at being present to do honor to the young men from Warrnambool, who had gone to fight for King and Country. Any man must be proud to be an Australian after the way the young men had gone to the front and fought for the glory of the Empire and for Australia. They had proved themselves to be clean, honorable fighters, who never took advantage of an enemy but always gave him a chance to fight. (Applause). With regard to the provision to be made for returned soldiers, no one had done more in that respect than Mr. Rodgers, and through his efforts they had funds in hand by which the committee in Warrnambool had been able to help returned men. He was pleased to show his respect and esteem for the men who had gone to fight and he hoped they would come back safely. (Applause).

Mrs. Scullian gave an acceptable rendering of "Two Grey Eyes"; Mr. Harvey and Miss Davidson gave an amusing duet, "Love and Pride," and in response to an encore gave "Money Matters." Miss McCallum recited "The Australian," and Mr. McCallum gave two humorous items.

The Chairman, on behalf of the committee thanked the performers and the visitors for their presence and assistance in making the gathering a success.

Mr. Rodgers, in responding and moving a vote of thanks to the Chairman, mentioned that he had arranged with Cr. O'Keefe to form a sub-branch of the Repatriation Scheme to act in conjunction with the Warrnambool branch as an advisory committee. After long negotiations arrangements had been at last completed by which the whole fund raised in Warrnambool and Corangamite would be vested in trustees who would have complete control of the fund without interference from the Government or anyone else. A special section had been put in the Act, protecting the money raised under his scheme, and it was also provided that each donor of £5 would get exemption from taxation. It would be the duty of local committees to get into touch with each man who returned, and then advise as to the best course to adopt in rendering him assistance. They could appoint a committee and give to the scheme knowing that the money would be wisely used for the benefit of the men as they came back.

The formal part of the proceedings closed with "God Bless Our Splendid Men," after which visitors and others were entertained at supper, and the hall was cleared for dancing, which was indulged in by the young people present, and an enjoyable time was spent.

The arrangements for the function were admirably carried out by the committee, with Mr. J. J. Rogers as secretary, and Mr. W. Williams, treasurer. Miss O'Keefe provided most of the musical accompaniments.

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The Honor Roll, which is to be erected in the Mechanics' Hall is of neat design and made of Australian blackwood. It is made with canopy top, supported on two columns, with sprays of wattle blossom and crossed rifles carved on the top of the canopy, and a lion's head surrounded by flags in the panel above the names. The board was made by The Warrnambool Furnishing Company, and the names were written by Messrs. Hammond and Sons. The roll contains the following names:—

L. ROSS.
*A. McLEAN.
A. ROSS.
*G. DOUGLAS.
R. STEPHENS.
ANG. McLEAN.
W. PEPPER.
L. GILMOUR.
T. GILMOUR.
S. GILMOUR.
W. COLE.
L. DIXON.
A. DIXON.
R. DIXON.
C. WILLIAMS.
R. WILLIAMS.
F. WILLIAMS.
*J. MURPHY.
*C. BENNETT.
C. WATSON.
L. CONN.
P. J. WHITE.
M. O'KEEFE.
C. BALLANTYNE.
F. HENNESSY.
L. JOHNSTONE.
P. McNAMARA.
J. MAHER.
J. J. RUSSELL.

*Indicates those who have made the supreme sacrifice.