

THE DAY AT NIMBIN.

Empire Day was celebrated at Nimbin with more than usual enthusiasm and interest owing to the unveiling of the monument erected here to record the services of the men who went to defend the Empire. The day was anything but promising, and threatened to rain several times in the forenoon, but luckily kept off till about 2 or 3 o'clock when the main proceedings of the day had been completed, though it interfered with the children's sports to some extent. However, despite the threatening aspect of the weather the people turned out well to attend the function. The surrounding localities, such as Wadeville, Blue Knob and Coffee Camp, were represented. A number of parents, children and teachers from the two lastnamed centres were present and joined in with Nimbin. A few visitors from Lismore also were present, as was Mr. Perdriau, M.L.A. Cr. W. P. Stanger represented Terania Shire Council. Punctually at 10 a.m. the children were in their lines at the public school. Mr. F. J. Morris, president of the Parents and Citizens, occupied the chair. The flag was hoisted by two boys, Ray Nardi and Claude Stewart, both of whom had a brother at the front. The flag was saluted and the National Anthem sung. The chairman then addressed the children, explaining to them what the Empire was and stood for—the freedom enjoyed under the Union Jack, and the justice meted out to men of all races who lived within the Empire. Even in the case of savage races who came under British rule they were treated with not only justice and humanity, but their customs were respected as far as possible by their British rulers. In this respect our rule differed widely from that of Germany's, who in colonising efforts did not in any way study the feelings or customs of the natives under their sway. So it was easy to see why British rule was popular even with uncivilised people. He referred to the wonderful growth of the British Empire in area and population during the last 100 years, and reminded the young people present of the great responsibilities as citizens that awaited them in a few years when they grew up to be men and women. It was to those who are boys and girls now that we must look to as the citizens of the future who would have to carry on the work which the men and women of today are doing. It believed them then to be good

work which the men and women of to-day are doing. It behooved them then to be good citizens and prove themselves worthy of the great trust and heritage handed down to them by their fathers and the great Empire builders of the past. The children next recited the Empire pledge, and sang "Advance Australia Fair" and "Hearts of Oak." The teacher awarded Mrs. Morton's guinea prize to William Mullan for best attendance and duty to the school. For three years this pupil attended not a fine, not missing a day. Such a record of attendance would be hard to beat.

At 11 a.m. the proposed time for unveiling the monument which was draped with Union Jacks and Commonwealth flags, the people had assembled in the vicinity of the war memorial in large numbers. All the pupils of the school were marched up and arranged in lines, awaiting the ceremony. A temporary platform had been

erected close to the monument and facing the street, and was draped with flags. The chair was occupied by Mr. F. G. Cullen, and on the platform with him was Mr. Perdriau, who had kindly agreed to unveil the monument, and had gone out of his way to do so. Printed programmes were handed round containing verses of certain hymns which were to be sung. The flag, the Union Jack, was hoisted by Mrs. Ailsopp, three of whose sons were at the front, and one of whom made the supreme sacrifice. As the flag was raised the band played the National Anthem and the Empire's emblem floated in the breeze at the top of a 40 feet flagpole. The first three verses of "The Old Hundredth" were sung. The Rev. H. T. McGowan next gave Scripture readings from Isaiah, chap. 2, verses 2 to 4, and chap. 11, verses 1 to 6, and 1. Timothy, chap. 2, verses 1 to 8. Prayer was offered up by Rev. H. J. Marshall, after which was sung "O, God, Our Help in Ages Past," the band joining in. The next item was the chairman's remarks. He said it gave him much pleasure to introduce Mr. Perdriau, who had consented to unveil the monument and who had served his country at the front. Nimbin had sent for a small place a good number of soldiers, and to mark the people's appreciation of their services they had decided to erect the monument which they were now about to unveil. The

had decided to erect the monument which they were now about to unveil. The greater portion of the money necessary was raised by voluntary giving, practically no canvassing had been made of the district yet; the money seemed to flow in willingly. About £50 more was necessary to defray all expenses. If there were any persons present who had not been asked they could before leaving the ground place their donation on the flag spread for that purpose. He desired to explain that the names on the monument were those on active service, those who had left Australian shores to fight. Had they included rejects the list would have been a much larger one, but they had to draw the line somewhere, so they would observe the letters O.A.S., on active service, over the names of the men. Several had paid the supreme sacrifice, as would be seen by the cross opposite their names. He (the chairman) wished to say that the monument was the work of men in the district, Edwards, of Lismore, and was a decided credit to them both in workmanship and design, and he desired to congratulate Mr. Edwards and his assistants on the good work displayed. He also desired to compliment the local band on its playing. This was the Nimbin Band's first appearance in public; they had only got the instruments three weeks ago. He regarded the band as a decided acquisition to the town. He then called on Mr. Perdrian, who said he deemed it a great honor to unveil the war memorial raised to record the services of the soldiers of the district. As a returned man he knew the sufferings and privations the men went through on the battlefields of France, and the severity of the winters in that country was one of the greatest enemies the Australian soldier had to fight. But great as were the sufferings and loss and destruction in connection with the war, great as were the wounds inflicted on our race and Allies in the struggle, still he thought that much good would come out of it in certain directions. By the association of men of different nationalities, fighting side by side, a broad spirit of internationalism had sprung up which was sure to do good. It was seen that there was much in common between the various nations represented there. They were all aiming at the same thing, the right to live according to their own ideals. Men from Canada, Australia, South Africa, India, England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, all met and mingled in various regiments. It was not uncommon to find his own name and other

given in various regiments. It was not uncommon to find his own name and other Australians associated with those of famous British regiments which had fought on famous battlefields of Waterloo, Crimean war, etc. Soldiers belonging to Irish regiments often mingled with those of English and Scotch regiments. Touching on the question of loyalty in Australia, he thought that over 99 per cent. of the people were loyal to the Empire. The Union Jack did not represent any one particular country. It stood for the whole Empire. It contained the Cross of St. George, as well as that of St. Patrick and St. Andrew. These countries were all represented by the flag. Mr. Perdrian then unveiled the monument by pulling the cord which let the covering flags fall. Several wreaths were placed on it. The following motion of loyalty was then moved by Mr. T. Hutchinson:—

MOTION OF LOYALTY.

Mr. J. T. Hutchinson said: Mr. Chairman, my young friends and fellow citizens, —I beg to move the following motion: "We, the citizens of Nimbin, assembled on Empire Day, 1921, affirm our loyalty and allegiance to George V. of Great Britain and Ireland, and head of the British Empire, and further assert our loyalty and attachment to the unity and solidarity of the Empire to which we are proud to belong, believing as we do that it stands for the liberty, justice and progress of mankind, and that Australia's safety and advancement can best be promoted in alliance with the Motherland." Speaking to the motion he said: "Friends, this motion speaks for itself. We came here to-day to see this monument unveiled to the memory of the sacred dead, and in honor of those who fought and in the mercy of God were spared to return. Those with the cross after their names form part of the 60,000 who paid the supreme sacrifice. We miss their faces, but in our hearts they perish not! We are loyal to these men and also to the returned men, many of whose faces we are pleased to see with us to-day. Once again we greet you and trust that you will be as successful in your civil occupations as you were victorious in war. If perchance strangers pass this spot and shall say "What mean ye by these stones?" they will be invited to come inside this railing and read on this monument the names of those whose deeds are worthy of being held in everlasting remembrance and cherished in the urn of a nation's greatness. I say it

the urn of a nation's greatness. I say it reverently that those men who died have done for us in a secular sense what the Divine Redeemer did in a spiritual sense. They died that we might live! Having beaten the foe on a foreign shore let us not forget that we have enemies within to conquer. You know them, drink, gambling, and disloyalty. I can only speak on the latter to-day. We hear disloyal rumblings from the Domain and elsewhere and know that a certain class of papers and people are trying to disintegrate and break up the Empire. Are you going to stand by and see the grand old flag hauled down and the red flag of revolution hoisted up? (Cries of "No.") Are we going to allow the sacrifices of our kith and kin to be in vain? (Cries of "No.") It is because of what these men did that we can now go about our farms, our businesses, our trade or profession, none daring to make us afraid—as if there had not been any war. Let us be loyal to the great things for which we strove—liberty, justice, right against might. Stand by that grand old Empire whose ships plough every sea, whose flag floats to every breeze, and wherever it is seen it is the emblem of liberty! Be loyal and true to yourselves, to Empire and to God and you will find that you have picked a winner—thus you will help to build up under these southern skies a sturdy young nation whose future shall be great, glorious and free! (Applause). Mr. W. J. Allsopp seconded the motion and referred to the liberties enjoyed under the Union Jack, and what flag would they substitute for that flag? If the red flag they were not asking for liberty but for license; that would mean revolution. He also paid a tribute to the Australian mothers, who were known to be loyal to the Empire.

Luncheon was partaken at the school, and the rest of the evening was spent in rags for the children for prizes. The light rain rendered it rather inconvenient, but did not prevent the full programme of sports being completed. Beautiful wreaths which were laid on the monument were from the Returned Soldiers' and Sailors' League, Mr. and Mrs. Allsopp and family, Nimbin Red Cross Society, Mr. and Mrs. H. Rann and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Stewart, Parents and Citizens' Association, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Sheather, Miss Marjorie McDonald, and others.

