

Palmwoods.

MEMORIAL HALL OPENED.

Friday last was a gala day in Palmwoods, people coming in from far and wide to attend the Opening of the Soldiers' Memorial Hall. A Bazaar and Sports were side-lines in the day's programme, with a Concert and Dance in the evening.

The weather was tip-top throughout, and the arrangements from start to finish proceeded without any noticeable hitch. The opening ceremony was timed for 3 p.m., and at that hour the hall was well filled with people, who were admiring the proscenium and drop-scene when the latter rolled up, disclosing on the stage Mr. G. H. Mackay, M.H.R., Mr. F. Young, the chairman and others of the hall committee seated on the stage, with the new scenery.

Mr. Young opened the business with a few introductory remarks. He was sure they realised that it was a red-letter day in the history of Palmwoods. Before asking Mr. Mackay to declare it open he wanted to say that the first meeting to discuss the proposal was held on May 17th, 1921, so that in practically 12 months from the inauguration they had established the building. All credit was due to the people of the district for their help. They had subscribed £500; the building had cost £840, and the furnishings £200 odd. The whole represented some £1050. They had chiefly to thank Mr. H. C. Livingstone for collecting such a fine sum, and for devoting so much time in going all over the district to collect it. The building work had been entrusted to Messrs. Mowat and Batti, with whom they were well satisfied; the work was well done, and could not have been in better hands. He asked Mr. Mackay to address those present.

Mr. Mackay regarded it as a very great pleasure indeed to have the opportunity of seeing so many present under such pleasing circumstances. It was greatly to the credit of the community, that they had taken such a keen interest in such a movement. He did not intend to say much, as they had something to sell, and some sports to run off. As the shy bridegroom said, this thing had been thrust upon him. He very much regretted that Sir Matthew Nathan had been unable to be present, for he had a high opinion of him, and he felt himself to be a poor substitute. He yielded nothing to him however, in admiring the bravery, physique, and endurance of those who enlisted, and he agreed with him in recognising that what was esteemed most by those

who had returned was the approval of those they lived with. The Government had repeatedly promised to care for the widows and orphans, to maintain the cripples, and to supply soldiers with homes by means of housing schemes and land settlement. These promises the people expected to be carried out, and on the whole they had been carried out fairly well. Up to June

30 last year 274,000 applications for assistance had been dealt with, and the total expenditure had been £112,000,000, a huge amount of money. It must be admitted that genuine endeavours had been made to carry out these promises. There had been spent on maintenance of various kinds £11,000,000, on war pensions £28,000,000, on land settlements £16,000,000, handed to State Governments, on War Service Homes (15,000 number) £17,000,000, on war gratuities £7,000,000, and on vocational training and general assistance £3,200,000. They were very large figures, and in spending such they must expect occasional mistakes. He had never had any trouble in getting any injustice rectified, as he expected no trouble in the future. He offered his congratulations to Palmwoods on raising money for the hall; it spoke volumes to have done so well. Besides that, they must be a most accommodating bank (laughter). To this might fairly be objected by the population made for intellectual improvement, but while the district was certainly wealthy, there were many calls on young towns that there was difficulty in finding ready money. He had great pleasure in declaring the hall open. It was a building intended to commemorate the brave deeds of courageous men, both living and dead. It was to remind them of the sympathy they owed to those who had lost dear ones, and of the obligations to those who came back maimed and broken in health. The district had set a worthy example, and he hoped the building would be found of great benefit to present and future generations. The spirit that prompted it would be kept alive in honour of those who answered the call to the flag.

Applause greeted the conclusion of these remarks, and all present stood and sang the National Anthem.

Mr. Young then announced that there was to follow outside the ceremony of unfurling a flag presented by the local returned soldiers, but he first wished to present a golden key to Mr. Mackay as a souvenir of the occasion.

Mr. Mackay said this complete surprise left him with but words adequate to express his feelings. In the course of his parliamentary experience he had carried out all sorts of functions, but that was the first time he had received such a handsome present. He was genuinely surprised, because he had not had the slightest idea it was coming, but he felt certain the hall was going to be put to good use and remain a lasting memorial of the World War.

All were then asked to assemble round the flagpole outside, and before Mr. Waller presented a fine ensign as a gift from the Returned Soldiers. All of them were much pleased with the support accorded, and the District felt that as they had all been treated so very well, they should on this great occasion do something. He asked Mr.

occasion do something. He asked Mr. Mackay to unfurl the flag they had presented; he hoped it would fly many a long day, and hailed it over with best wishes and kind thoughts.

Mr. Mackay had great pleasure in unfurling the flag, cheers, and told the tale of the Union Jack presented by the committee of a Wayback School, and concerning which the teacher told the pupils to hang it, and if anybody insulted it, to "hug it." That was the spirit of Australia, proud of the flag, and the Constitution that it represented. There were some extremists in the Commonwealth, but the good sense of the majority would always prevail. (Applause).

The Bazaar next got full attention from those present, and good business was done till dusk. The stallholders were: Jumbie, Mrs. A. S. Lloyd, and Misses Hooper, Watt, and Squibb; drapery, Mrs. Bidulph, Mrs. Henley, & Misses Dickson, Temple and Briggs; soft drinks and small (downstairs at entrance) Misses Tapper, A. Lingard, G. Renouf, L. Farrington, and G. Hooper; refreshments, Mesdames Young, Lawrie, Gibson, Remington, Lingard, Brown, Eggleton, and Misses Atkinson Smith, Renouf, and Dickson.

The sports proceeded again during the rest of the afternoon, a long programme being carried through. The way Mr. Mackay added to his reputation as an authority on tropical fruit by scoring a "possible" at the coconut shy, was one of the incidents of the day.

In the evening the concert was a great success, the hall being filled to overflowing and the audience highly appreciative. The programme was as follows: Overture, "Perishing's Crusader's" Woombye Orchestral Society; song, "The Sailor's Grave," Mr. J. F. Williams; song, "Friend," Mrs. Agnes Kerr-Shaw; humorous recitation, Mr. L. F. Gordon; song, "The Swallow," Miss A. Duffield; song, Mr. J. Slade; song, "My Hero," Mrs. M. Ferguson; recitation "The Six Star Flag of Anzac," Mrs. H. Miller; song, "Joy Bells are Ringing," Mr. S. G. Hooper; song, "The Little Grey Bonnet," Mrs. D. Hoskins; comic songs, recalls, etc., Mr. Jock Anderson. Part II. Overture "On the Beaches," Woombye Orchestral Society; song, Mr. J. Slade; song, "Sing Sweet Bird," Miss A. Duffield; song, "The Trumpter," Mr. J. F. Williams; song "Good-Bye," Mrs. M. Ferguson; recitation, "Joe Selig," Mrs. H. Miller; song, "Break O' Day," Mrs. Agnes Kerr-Shaw; comic "Burcourton Bertie from Bow," Mr. S. G. Hooper; comics etc., Mr. Jock Anderson; and song, "There's a Long, Long Trail," Mrs. D. Hoskins. The dance was carried on till well in the small hours, King's Jazz Band from Nambour supplying the music till midnight, and local players afterwards.

The Officials who carried out the great day's work were Messrs. F. D. Young (president), B. Williams (hon. sec.), R. J. Hobson (hon. treasurer),

sec.), R. J. Hobson (hon. treasurer), and Messrs. T. Ashton, V. Bail, E. Briggs, F. W. Bidulph, F. Challards, J. Cranny, T. Dawson, H. Fletcher, H. J. Hooper, H. S. Livingston, H. Lingard, T. Lingard, D. Mowat, J. Page, E. Robinson, C. Remington, W. S. Smith, W. Tapper, C. N. Williams, P. Ward, E. Walker, W. Hooper, and Geo. Spenn.

The building thus "christened" is a very fine one, quite a landmark in Palmwoods, situated on a triangular reserve surrounded by streets and thus kept apart from the rest of the township. To use nautical phraseology, it has an 85 ft. length over all, and a 35 ft. beam. The walls are 14 ft. high and from the yellow-wood floor to top of pine-lined ceiling is 18 ft. There is an 18 ft. stage, 4 ft. higher than the floor, the same height as the sill of the 12 6 by 2' 6" windows, 6 on each wall, divided into sets of three by several side escape doors. The walls are of weatherboard, not yet lined, and roof of g.c. iron with 2ft. overhangs. The wall studs are 15" c to c, and floor joists 18" c to c. An 11' x 9'

gabled porch and boarded in on three sides, is flanked by steps and landings, and will form a handy cloak room and ticket office. At back of stage on either side is a 10 x 7 dressing room, leaving sufficient stage wings. Underneath the stage is a dining room, with water laid on, and lit, with the whole hall, on the Wizard system. Foot lights are acetylene. The stage was supplied with excellent scenery specially purchased, and the proscenium drop scene was splendidly painted by Mr. Dowd of Nambour, the advertisements on the curtain more than paying the costs. Seats had been secured for 350, but the hall will be able to seat about 500. A nice Belling piano about completed the well thought-out equipment of a most creditably planned building that ranks as one of the best found on the line.

JANE COMING.

Readers will be pleased to learn that the first amateur play in the new hall will be "Jane," on Monday night. It was such a screaming success in the Nambour Dramatic Club's home town, that a champion evening's entertainment can be guaranteed.