

TARA HONOR BOARD.

THE UNVEILING.

A MEMORABLE CEREMONY.

TARA, Monday.

The unveiling of the Tara Honor Board, before a large gathering, took place on Friday last. The ceremony was unique, and the solemnity of the service was very impressive to all present—so impressive that there were times when emotion was very hard to suppress.

Tara, though it is a small township yet, can boast a far-reaching outlying district and her sparse population gave unstintingly during the dark years of war of her sturdy manhood, who, it can well be said, could ill be spared from the work they were engaged upon.

The opening of the ceremony took the form of a procession of returned soldiers in uniform, under the command of Captain Bilson, D.S.O. This body of men were marched to the front of the "kiosk," which covers the much thought of Honor Board. It may not be out of place to mention here that the Honor Board has been very elaborately set up, and no expense has been spared to preserve so fitting a monument, cast of memory of the brave living and dead.

When the order, "Stand at Ease," had gone forth from their captain, the men stood, as did also the remainder of the assembly facing the tablet, in front of which stood Councillor A. W. Adams (chairman of the Shire) and Councillor W. Kentish, to whom had fallen the high honor of performing the ceremony.

Councillor Kentish, in his opening remarks, said,—Returned Soldiers,—Ladies and Gentlemen: It affords me the very greatest pleasure to be called upon to take part in so important a task as the one set me this afternoon. It spoke well for the community that they could show so many names on the Honor Board (which contained 245) which showed that the people of

the district were so patriotic and loyal. When it was remembered that that number represented one in every four of the population of the district, it could not be said that the district had not given unsparingly of her manhood. It spoke volumes for the people and the Shire Council had seen fit to spare no expense to have a lasting monument set up, whereby we could see the number of heroes who had gone forth out of this shire. And it was not to remind us only, but our children and grandchildren, that they may revere the names of those men who, in a lot of cases, had fought and died for the liberty of the subject and the world. He was sorry that there were not even more present. He would not take up further time, but would call upon Councillor A. W. Adams (chairman of the council and president of the shire) to unveil the Honor

president of the shire) to unveil the Honor Board. (Applause.)

Councillor Adams said,—Returned Soldiers, Ladies and Gentlemen: I cannot say how great an honor I feel it to be called upon to perform so notable a ceremony as the unveiling of Tara's Honor Board. In fact, I feel that it should be performed by some one more fitted, and I would like to make it plain here, that every endeavor was made to procure the services of one of our distinguished representatives, Hon. James Page, M.P., was written to and asked to perform the ceremony, but on account of pressing business had to decline. Then we endeavored to obtain the promise of Mr. G. Morgan, M.L.A., to be present, but had that afternoon received a wire to the effect that he could not come. He (Mr. Adams) thought the ceremony should have been performed by some prominent returned soldier, and accordingly he had instructed that Major-General Glasgow be invited to perform the unveiling. General Glasgow replied that he would very much have liked to accede to the request, but had to decline. "So that, ladies and gentlemen, I am not here of my own choice, and I will always look upon the performance as a great honor." It could be said that the Tara Honor Board was a credit to the district. He felt for those present who saw the names on the board over the red star, which was an indication that that soldier had made the supreme sacrifice. It would re-open the old wound, but it was a glorious truth that to posterity would be handed down in this Honor Board the names of the men. The flower of our manhood who gave up everything for their country and went forth even unto death! The council had (Mr. Adams continued) set itself to build something fitting, something lasting, "that not only us, but our children and theirs—the unborn—could look upon in years far ahead, and see there the names of heroes, who kept the land for them." The council had therefore set aside an amount of the rate-payers' money to erect a suitable monument, and they had it there that day before them—a monument to those men who had laid down their lives, in many cases, for those present that day. A few pounds was a trifle spent to the memory of such men, and he could say, without fear of contradiction, that the whole design from start to finish showed sound and lasting workmanship. (Applause.)

Mr. Adams then unveiled the tablet, and the Last Post was sounded by Mr. Dave Smith.

It was a touching scene, as every head was bowed and many an eye wet with bitter, sad tears, in memory of those who in the flush of manhood had gone never to return. So far as it concerned those whose names appear on the Tara and every Honor Board, "The path of duty was the way to glory, and those that walked it, only thirsting for the right, who learned to deaden love of self have found the stubborn thistle bursting into glossy purple, which outtraden all voluptuous garden roses!"

ples, which outredden all voluptuous garden roses!"

When a verse of the National Anthem had been sung the assemblage quietly and reverently dispersed.

To-day there stands in Tara a monument to the Brave—the Brave that are no more! And a monument, be it said, to the sitting councillors who gauged the public temperament so well, and a monument to the craftsmen who designed the tablet. Last, but not least, a monument of durability and strength and faithful workmanship of Mr. Roy Tucker, who spared no pains in erecting a canopy for the tablet inset, that with care will last for generations to come.

Following the Honor Board unveiling a bazaar was held in the hall, which was well set up and nicely decorated for the occasion. Ladies in charge of the various stalls were:—Refreshment Stall: Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Ryan. Fancy Stall: Mrs. R. Kennedy, Mrs. Bilson, Mrs. D. T. Kennedy. Produce Stall: Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Yapp. There were other assistants, and all helped to make the effort a success, nearly £80 being realised. Mrs. Roache present a pair of curtains, which were won by Mr. Murphy. Mr. Milne's gift (a horse) was won by Master T. Wood. Other winners were: Miss Brown, hand-painted collar; Mr. McLeish, cot spread; Mrs. Milne, pipe; Mrs. Cox, pair of roosters; Mrs. Roach, painting; Mr. Roach, £20; and there were other prizes. Miss Meacle guessed the correct name of the doll and won it.