

Toowong Park.

OFFICIAL OPENING.

Quite a large crowd congregated at Toowong Park on Saturday afternoon, when the formal opening ceremony was performed by the Hon. E. H. Macartney, M.L.A. The opportunity was taken by relatives to plant some 350 palms or trees to perpetuate the memory of those who have enlisted from the district. These figures do not represent the total enlistments, and as further notifications reach the Toowong Town Council, commemorative trees will be planted accordingly.

The Toowong park has its frontage on Sylvan road, and comprises 22 odd acres. The park was purchased about three years ago for, roughly, £8,000. The main avenue now is planted with Norfolk Island pines, and also there is an avenue of palms. The park is encircled with such beautiful trees as weeping figs, jacaranda, Poinciana, Moreton Bay chestnuts, and also with palms. The council has taken the whole financial burden involved on its shoulders, although liberal subscriptions have been received.

On Saturday a patriotically draped platform was erected outside the entrance gates. On this were seated the Mayor of Toowong (Ald. A. H. Richer), Mr. and Mrs. Macartney, Mrs. T. J. Ryan, Ald. C. Patterson, and the town clerk, also hon. secretary of the park movement (Mr. A. T. Fraser). During the afternoon refreshments were dispensed by ladies forming the Toowong branch of the Red Cross Society. The No. 1 District Military Band contributed selections.

Ald. Richer, in a brief address, said that the occasion was a red-letter day in the history of Toowong. The area which that day they were opening as a park, for many years had been dormant. While it was with a degree of pleasure they had gathered together that afternoon, it, of course, was to be regretted that the occasion should arise that they should be planting trees to the memory of the boys who had gone to fight for our liberty and freedom. (Applause.) The trees would stand as a monument to the great number who had enlisted from Toowong. The time would come, he hoped, when visitors to Brisbane would not have completed their sight-seeing without paying a visit to the Toowong park.

The Hon. E. H. Macartney, who was received with much enthusiasm, said that he deeply appreciated the honour which the Town Council had put on him in asking him to declare open the park. He would like to congratulate the Mayor and aldermen on the idea of conserving the park, which was ideally situated, to the honour of the men who had gone from Toowong to join in the battles of the Empire. (Applause.) He hoped that it would not be many years before the park was a thing of beauty, and a popular resort for strangers, as suggested by the Mayor. Mr. Macartney touched on the war situation, and referred to the fact

Mayor. Mr. Macartney touched on the war situation, and referred to the fact that the tide had turned in favour of the Allies. Who was to say, he asked, that what was taking place on the western front to-day, might not be the means of bringing the war to a speedy end. (Applause.)

Senator M. Reid, in a short speech, remarked that the iron gates at the entrance to the park were presented by Ald. Patterson, and originally were the gates to the lodge attached to the late Sir Thomas M'Diwralth's property at Auchenflower. "Although," said Senator Reid, "the late Sir Thomas M'Diwralth was a political opponent of mine, I now see that in some things he was right and I was wrong." (Applause.)

Mr. Macartney then performed the opening ceremony, after which the trees and palms were systematically planted.