

HONORING BRAVE MEN.

Memorials in Church.

The Unveiling Ceremony.

"Great controversy has taken place in some parts of the world, as to the righteousness of the church identifying itself with war. It may be necessary for us to clarify the atmosphere by pointing out that whether it be a clash between individuals or families, or sections, or organisations, or nations, the part the church always takes is to identify itself with all that is comprehended in that wonderful word—righteousness." : : : :

The attitude of the church was thus defined by the Minister for Education (Mr. A. Bruntnell) at the Leigh Memorial Church, Parramatta, on Sunday, when the unveiling of three Memorial Windows and an Honor Board formed the principal ceremony of an impressive service.

Returned soldiers formed a guard of honor. The assemblage was a representative one.

Mr. Bruntnell presided. In the pulpit with him were Rev. H. E. Andrews, Rev. S. M. Johnstone, Major-General Sir Charles Rosenthal, K.C.G., C.M.G., D.S.O., Major-General C. F. Cox, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., and Senior Chaplain Rev. James Green, C.M.G., V.D.

Proceedings opened with a hymn—"God bless our native land." A prayer by Rev. Andrews was followed by scripture reading by Rev. Johnstone, after which the Recessional Hymn was sung.

Mr. Bruntnell explained that the Hon. E. K. Bowden (Minister for Defence) was unable to attend, owing to an important Cabinet meeting on Monday morning. Mr. Bowden sent an apology, and also a message, which read:—

"My heart is with you to-day, and I trust the service will be a comfort and inspiration to all. We honor ourselves in honoring those who died for us, and we dishonor ourselves if the lapse of time, or the pressure of other interests, causes us to forget or make light of the debt we owe to them. May the fathers, mothers, brothers, wives, and children find solace and peace with Him who said 'Blessed be they that mourn, for they shall be comforted!'"

Mr. Bruntnell commenced his address with the words quoted above.

"The church," he continued, "does not identify itself with cruelty, but with courage; not with ravage, but with reverence; not with lust, but with love; not with might but always with right; not with gold, but always with God.

"These windows will memorialize, in our time, and in the years that shall follow when we are gone, the heroic service and sacrifice of brave men. We are reminded also that the struggle was not so much a struggle between two nations or two different types of people; not so much a struggle between different methods or systems of government, as it was really a struggle between two great forces, which may be called the Visible and the Invisible.

"I am sure every heart beats in sympathy with relatives and friends of the deceased soldiers. While our sympathy is strong and deep for that human sense of loss, there is no grander, no more beautiful way of leaving this sphere of action, and entering another, than in that act of sacrifice, for the good of others that marked the life and death of those brave boys, whose names are inscribed upon that window. May the God of all

comfort the hearts of those who are bereaved, and may the windows and the tablet be the means of inspiration to others who may pass through this old church."

The windows and honor board were then unveiled by Major-General Rosenthal, Major-General Cox, and Chaplain Green, each of whom made fitting reference to the "service and sacrifice of brave men." They then returned to the pulpit to address the congregation.

The Last Post was sounded by Bugler J. W. Wille.

The unveiling of these memorials, Major-General Rosenthal said, brought back to them, not only recognition of the work the men accomplished, but also the sacrifices that were made. The month of August had been definitely associated with wonderful actions on the part of the Australian troops. In August, 1915, the battle of Lone Pine had been fought—probably the most strenuous and most difficult battle in which the Australians engaged throughout the whole course of the war. It had also been the privilege of the Australians to be largely instrumental in stopping the German advance in 1918. And Dominion troops—Australians and Canadians—had been prominent in the big offensive which eventually resulted in the overthrow of the German armies.

It was regrettable, he said, that while so many were living in luxury, and were prepared to spend untold sums of money in personal pleasure, there were other men, who, through no fault of their own, were without food and shelter. It was our duty to look after those who had fought and suffered for us.

Major-General Cox referred to various phases of the war, in which Australian troops had played a prominent part. He spoke also of the hardships the men had suffered, and he hoped the people would never forget what the soldiers had done for them.

Chaplain Green said he regarded the unveiling of the Honor Board as a very sacred honor. The first two names on that board were those of men who were members of his own battalion. He had also been associated with others whose names appeared on the Honor Board.

Of men who died on the battlefield, he had often heard it said that their lives had been cut short. That was not really so. These men had lived fully—they had lived intensely—they had lived long lives. For time was measured by the quality of our lives and deeds.

After the hymn "Our Heroic Dead," the service terminated with the National Anthem, and the Benediction.

During the afternoon, the choir rendered two anthems—"Crossing the Bar," and "Daughter of Zion."

The three windows are from the studio of Messrs. P. Ashwin and Co., a Sydney firm, and are representative of "Courage"

and "Victory." The central window bears the inscription:—

"These three windows are in memory of James A. Tansett, Stephen J. Booth, Clive Wooster, and Morris Hunt, members of this congregation, who, 'nobly striving, nobly fell' in the Great War, 1914—1918. 'Their bodies rest in peace, but their names liveth for ever more'."

The Honor Board contains the names of 166 men of the (old) Parramatta circuit, who offered for service.

The total cost is over £150.

The ceremonies were concluded in the evening by a patriotic service conducted by Chaplain Green.