

FREMANTLE TRADES HALL.

MEMORIAL TABLETS UNVEILED.

The ceremony of unveiling two memorial tablets on the outside of the new Trades Hall at Fremantle was performed last Saturday afternoon by Mr. W. H. Carpenter, M.H.R. There was a large attendance of trades unionists and sympathisers with the Labour Party, and much enthusiasm was associated with the proceedings. The building, which occupies a commanding position at the Esplanade end of Collic-street, is not quite completed, but arrangements have been made to formally open the hall, with ceremony, on Foundation Day.

Mr. E. Gilleland, vice-president of the Trades Hall Association, in calling upon Mr. Carpenter to unveil the two stones, explained that the first tablet was laid some time ago by Sir John Forrest, to whom the Association was very thankful for what he had done, and for the assistance that they had received from him. The second stone had been provided to commemorate the great victory that the labour cause had achieved at the recent Federal elections, which success, they thought, should be memorised for all time. (Cheers.) For a long time the Labour Party had battled for a Government grant of land for their hall, and at last they obtained the present site. It was only a few months ago, however, that they received the title deeds, and then they lost no time in starting building operations. Nobody could complain of the manner in which their money had been spent. The hall, which would cost the Association about £3,000, had been built entirely by day labour, and only unionists had been employed upon it. (Cheers.)

Mr. Carpenter, who was received with musical honours and enthusiastic cheers, said that the workers and electors had showered upon him so many honours lately that he was in danger of thinking that he was somebody. He wanted to avoid that sort of feeling because the position of a Labour member should not shut him off from his fellow-men. (Hear, hear.) His duty that afternoon was to unveil two stones—one on either side of the building. The tablet on the left was laid by Sir John Forrest in 1901, and that on the right was a memorial to the great national party in whose interests they met together that day. Just now in the flush of victory they might be tempted to do a little boasting, but they should be warned against resting on their oars. They would have to keep their powder dry for their next battle. It would not

they would have to keep their powder dry for their next battle. It would not do for them to sit down and be content because they had gained one victory. In a few months time they would be engaged in another fight, and they hoped to do as well (proportionately) for labour as they did at the recent Federal elections. (Cheers.) He was sure that the people would be ready to support the Labour Party again, if the latter gave them a reasonable platform and suitable men. When the selection ballot had been taken it would be found that they could put forward men equal to those at present in Parliament. Some of their critics had suggested that they should widen the basis of their Party, but he pointed out that nobody was excluded from the organisation. They had a pledge that they required to be signed, and he could not understand why any man should be ashamed to sign his name to the promises that he made to the electors. In the interest of the solidarity of the Party, it was necessary to provide against men who got into power slipping away from their promises.

Amidst cheers Mr. Carpenter then unveiled the second tablet, which bore the following inscription:—"This stone was laid by W. H. Carpenter, M.H.R., first Labour representative for the Fremantle division in the Federal Parliament, January 23, 1904."

An adjournment was afterwards made to the inside of the building, and light refreshments were partaken of. Congratulatory speeches were made, and a fairly long toast list was honoured. Advantage was taken of the occasion by the employees in the locomotive branch of the Railway Department (in which Mr. Carpenter was formerly engaged) to present the new Federal member for Fremantle with an address.