

LAURA SCHOOL HONOUR ROLL.

AN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY.

It was a very happy thought on the part of those who first gave expression to it that steps should be taken to perpetuate, for all time, the names of scholars of the Laura Public School, who in response to the call of King and Empire volunteered for service abroad in the Great War, now happily brought to a victorious ending. As a result of the proposal, steps were taken last year to provide the necessary funds for an Honour Roll, and as the outcome of a Fair and Flower Show held last November in the Laura Town Hall, the committee was in a position to place an order for an Honour Roll, which would be a credit to town and district. After a number of designs had been considered, it was resolved that the work should be entrusted to Mr. C. E. Owen Smyth, Superintendent of Public Buildings, and the Roll, which is now hanging on the walls of the large classroom, is probably one of the finest which has been unveiled outside of the metropolitan area. Friday August 1 was fixed for the date on which the ceremony of unveiling the Honour Roll should be performed, and in the presence of a very large and representative assembly, this ceremony was performed by the Hon. the Attorney General, (Hon. H. N. Barwell). The large classroom was filled, and the assemblage overflowed into the adjoining rooms. The classroom was gaily decorated with flags and bunting and violets. The mothers of the boys who had enlisted were specially provided for, and a goodly number of old scholars of the school, who had returned from active service abroad, were also in attendance. Prior to the commencement of the ceremony each scholar was handed a photographic reproduction of the Honour Roll by mothers of soldiers who had enlisted, and a souvenir of the ceremony, which contained photographic reproductions of the Honour Roll and the School and the programme were sold. At 2.30 p.m. Mr. G. Bunday, Chairman of School Committee, commenced the proceedings by asking the audience to join in singing the National Anthem. He then briefly introduced the Attorney General (Hon. H. N. Barwell), who with Mr. R. D. Nicholls, M.P., senior member for Stanley, had motored from Clare to take part in the ceremony, and asked the Attorney Gen-

eral to unveil the Roll, which was draped with the Union Jack. Mr. Barwell performed this ceremony, after which he delivered the following address:—

—Hon. H. N. Barwell.—

The Attorney-General said he was pleased at having been given the opportunity of being present there that afternoon for the purpose of unveiling their roll of honour. He was always pleased to take part in any ceremony intended to do honour to those men who, with such self-sacrificing devotion, went forward at the call of duty to do battle for King and Country. They were heroes, every one of them. What they had done they had done willingly. There was no compulsion, no conscription. They could have stayed at home had they so desired, but no; they were men who being able to go, went. And why? Why, because they could not stay at home; because there was something in their nature which made it impossible for them to shirk a plain duty. They went because their whole being was fired with that patriotism which was the safeguard of our Empire, and without which the nation could never have stood. They did their duty well and nobly. From the very first day that as raw and untried troops they leapt into the arena of war on the shores of Gallipoli, scaled those almost inaccessible heights, and there did deeds of heroism which astonished the world, right down to the last day of the war, their deeds were characterized by the same courage, devotion, endurance, tenacity of purpose—the same unquenchable spirit which had caused the Australian soldier to be recognized as one of the greatest fighting men the world had ever known. The roll would be seen to contain the names of some 15 men, well known no doubt to many of them before they left, but men whom they would never see again—the unreturning brave who in the sacred cause for which they fought gave the last full measure of devotion—life itself. One could not feel sorry for those men. They had passed into the realms of everlasting glory. But their thoughts did go out in heartfelt sympathy to the relatives, particularly to the fathers and mothers in their sad bereavement. It was a common thought with regard to such men that their career was ended, that all they might have been

to such men that their career was ended, that all they might have been and done in the world was lost. But they (his listeners) were Christians, and their faith would serve to teach them that in such a sense as that there was no death.

"There is no death, what seems so is transition,

This life of mortal breath
Is but the suburb of the life Elysian,
Whose portal we call death."

Thus he would say to any who mourned the loss of friend or relative, "The brave young life you loved is not ended, but only moved on to develop elsewhere in other and in nobler ways," but yet their sympathy did go out to the bereaved. It must be some solace to realize that their men had died the noblest death that man can die. Their bodies lay, it may be, in unnamed graves upon a foreign shore, but of each of them it might be truly said:

"His name liveth for evermore,
And he there sepulchred in such pomp
doth lie,
That kings for such a tomb might
wish to die.

It was for them to see that they proved themselves worthy of the great sacrifice made on their behalf by the heroic dead and by the brave soldiers whom they were now welcoming home. They all rejoiced that the war was over, that victory had been won and peace consummated. On looking back they saw that it was no ordinary war. It was a war of great principles—a war of might against right, of low ideals against high ideals, a war almost of paganism against Christianity. If Germany had won civilization would have been set back indefinitely, but thank God,

Germany had not won, and thank God the nation to which it was their proud privilege to belong stood after the war as she did before the war—the greatest nation the world had ever known. They said this in no boastful spirit. They were not a perfect nation by any means. They did not claim that. But they did believe that in the great war they had been fighting for the right, and that victory had been vouchsafed to them because deep down in the heart of the nation was a great national ideal—the keen sense of justice, righteousness, and truth.

In addressing the children the At-

and truth.

In addressing the children the Attorney-General said he was glad to see them taking part in the ceremony. He hoped they understood they were there for the purpose of doing honour to brave men—men who had fought for them, and some of them had died that they might live. He hoped the children would strive to make the best of their lives. He had not the slightest doubt but that amongst them were some who would in the future, when they grew up, be of great service to their country, and would help to increase the prosperity of the nation. They could best help at present by doing their utmost at school, so that when they grew up they would be men and women of great brain power. They would find there was a place in the world for each one of them, where they could find, if they would, something to build up their country. It was a wonderful country, and if only each man and woman or child would do his or her best, there was no reason why, even in the lifetime of some of those children, Australia should not become one of the greatest countries in the whole world. God grant it might be so.

THE HONOUR ROLL.

The following is the wording on the roll, which is surmounted with the Royal coat-of-arms, with the letter G.R. on either side. Across the top are the words, "Laura Public School." In the top centre panel the inscription reads: Names of old scholars who have enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces, and on either side of this inscription are the Union Jack and the Australian flag. In the middle centre panel are the lines:—

"He died the noblest death a man can die,

Fighting for God, for Truth, and
Loyalty,

And such a death is immortal."

"Dulce et decorum, est pro patria
mori."

Then follows the following names of old scholars who made the supreme sacrifice:—E. A. W. Acott, A. P. Bills, W. Clarke, A. Davey, A. M. Lawrie, F. H. Oldham, I. Roper, R. Sabine, P. T. Smith, W. J. Tobin, R. D. Venables, A. Wade, R. H. Wade, F. H. Weston, G. Wheaton.

On either side of the centre panels appear the following 119 names of old scholars who enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces:—

Acott, A. W.

Lehmann, H. R.

Imperial Forces.

Acott, A. W.	Lehmann, H. R.
Acott, W. T.	Lines, D. F.
Andrews, C. G.	Lowe, C. C.
Andrews, G. W.	Lowe, F.
Baohm, L. F. C.	Lowe, H.
Bills, A. P. (Lieut.)	Lowe, W.
Bills, I. M.	Martin, W. H.
Bills, R. L.	MacDowall, D.
Bishop, C.	MacDowall, V. R.
Bishop, R.	McKenzie, M.
Blesing, H.	Millington, R.
Bowker, T.	Mills, J. T. P.
Bowker, W.	Mills, R. N.
Braund, A.	Mitchell, J. R.
Beav, H. A.	Mitchell, P. C.
Brown, W. J.	Mitchell, R.
Buckley, P.	Moore, C. S.
Buckley, T.	Nancarrow, J.
Burgess, F.	Oehlmann, A. A.
Burgess, F.	Oldham, F. H.
Campbell, A. M.	Oldham, W.
Campbell, J. A.	Quigley, T. F.
Clarke, G.	Reed, L. A. J.
Clarke, H.	Reed, M. F.
Clarke, W.	Roennfeldt, F. B.
Close, W. J., Major	Roper, I.
Close, C. B.	Sabine, R.
Cole, M.	Sellick, C. H.
Corney, P.	Sellick, W.
Crossman, E. E.	Shepherd, K. F.
Davey, A.	Shepherd, W.
Dennis, C.	Sibly, J.
Duncan, K.	Slater, A. S.
Farrell, R.	Slater, K. S.
Fitzimmons, J.	Smith, A. A.
Fuller, G. H.	Smith, G. W.
Fulton, H.	Smith, P. T.
Fulton, W.	Stevens, R. L.
Gallasch, E.	Stonman, R. C.
Gallasch, V. A., Capt	Simons, S.
Havelberg, B.	Simons, E.
Hicks, R.	Templar, V. A.
Hicks, W. L.	Tobin, W. J.
Hillard, I.	Thiele, O.
Hollis, E. G.	Venables, R. D.
Hollis, H. A.	Wade, A.
Hollis, F. H.	Wade, R. H.
Huxley, H. W.	Wallace, G. S.
Ives, G.	Walter, A. J.
Jenkins, A. M.	Walter, F. B.
Jenkins, P. L.	Walter, S. O.
Johnson, A. H.	Weste, M. O.
Johnson, H. D.	Weston, F. H.
Kentish, S.	Wetherill, J.
Lawrie, A. M.	Wheaton, G.
Lawry, H.	White, E. P.
Lawry, J.	Wild, A.
Lehmann, C. O.	Wilson, J. G.
Lehmann, A. L.	Woldridge, S. J. C.
Lehmann G. H.	Zanker, O. V.

"Died on the Field of Honour."

A most impressive ceremony then followed. Mr. W. H. Campbell read over, amid a solemn silence that could almost be felt, the names of old scholars who had made the supreme sacrifice, and as each name was read, the scholars responded "Died on the field of Honour." Mr. G. W. Fuller, late A.I.F., (an old scholar) then sounded the Last Post, and the assemblage sang "Nearer my God to Thee."

—The Happy Fate of the Stricken Young.—

Mr. J. C. Richardson (head teacher) recited the following address, delivered by Mr. Balfour when Foreign Sec-

retary, at the dedication of a war shrine to the memory of Service men, in the churchyard of St. John the Baptist, at Hillingdon, near Uxbridge (Middlesex, Eng.):—

"The thought must have occurred to you, as it has occurred to everybody, how great the tragedy is of the young life cut short before what appears to be its promise can be fulfilled, in the very springtime of existence. When the young are taken in their early prime from amongst us it is inevitable that we should ask ourselves whether the loss is not one which it is almost too great to bear; whether it is not a loss outside the course of nature and of Providence—a loss which nothing can recompense. These thoughts are natural. They have in them an element of truth; but, believe me, they are very incomplete. These men whose names you have just heard read out—theirs was no incomplete life. They did not die having contributed nothing in their generation to the country which they loved, and the cause in which they believed. On the contrary, it has been their happy fate—their happy fate, I say deliberately—

to contribute as much as it is given to man to contribute values. They have not had to look back on years of mixed effort, some success here, failure there, with all the lights and shadows that fall upon even the most prosperous career as it goes on in years. It has been their fortune to die in the prime of life, carrying out the greatest duty which can fall to any man—carrying it out successfully and gloriously; and I say that they are to be envied. These men died for a great cause, and they know that they died for a great cause, and every month which has passed since that fateful August in 1914 has brought home to me at least with ever-increasing force the conviction—if possible, a growing conviction—that upon the issues of this contest depend for generations to come the whole fate, not of this or that country, but the whole fate of the highest civilisations and the highest morality. In this great cause, for King, for country, and for duty, these men died. They have given freely and valiantly everything they had to give. It is for us to see that the gift has not been in vain."

Annie Ryan and Winnie Mitchell respectively, recited "The Brave that are

pectively, recited "The Brave that are no More," and "The Winners."

History of Honour Roll.

Mr. G. Bunday, Chairman of School Committee, gave an address, in the course of which he outlined the steps which had been taken to secure the Honour Roll for the school, which had been unveiled that afternoon.

—Mr. R. D. Nicholls.—

Mr. R. D. Nicholls, M.P., said that no words of praise of his could add lustre to the glorious feelings which animated the hearts and minds of those present on that occasion. Within their breasts proud memories were awakened, and in their minds pictures of the growth and development of many a young heart, through infancy, childhood, schooldays, adolescence, and manhood. They had gathered to witness the unveiling of an Honour Roll embellished by the names of Australian heroes, and their record of bravery, chivalry, duty, and manliness would remain for ever a monument for emulation to succeeding generations, while aspiring to the purple peaks of duty, honour, and Imperialism. It is only a short time back, in the dark, uncertain days of the war, that many of the boys were leaving Australia; to-day they are returning, covered with triumph. The glory is theirs, for they have won it. We thank them and Australia honours them, and the children bless them. It is fitting and proper to immortalize the names of these heroes, and their names should ever serve to remind us of the important duties and obligations of life. These Honour Rolls should keep green in our memories the fact that the Constitution, which makes life full and free under the British Flag, has been sustained by an enormous effort and expenditure of life, money and material. Let us see to it that our efforts are for the maintenance and preservation of those standards and ideals in their fullest splendour. We are called upon to prove ourselves worthy of the standards that have, at all times, tried nations and found them wanting. Israel, Assyria, Persia, Greece, Rome, Spain, and France, by its history, records a pageant of nations, great in war, but failing, one and all, under moral standards, in the ability, as a people, to make for good government and citizenship in times of Peace. The stern hand of fate has scourged us to an elevation where we can see clearly the things that count to us, a nation. Let us. During the conflict the earth has

things that count to us, a nation. Let us. During the conflict the earth has sepulchered many a gallant heart, full of hope and possibilities. They have gone to their last, long sleep, but though they sleep, yet roused from their foreign graves, wearing their wounds like stars, they will rise again. Let the memory of our Heroic Dead cause us forever to waft to Him above prayers of thanksgiving and praise, and cause us to strive after those things which are for our Empire, our Country and our God. (Hear, hear.)

Votes of Thanks.

On a motion proposed by Mr. H. M. Newman and seconded by Mr. S. K. Close, members of the School Committee, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Attorney General, Mr. R. D. Nicholls, M.P., and others who had assisted. The singing of Kopling's "Recessionary" and the National Anthem brought the proceedings to a conclusion.

Miss Connie Hollis, as organist, and Mr. C. S. Walter, as cornetist, rendered valuable help. The head teacher (Mr. J. C. Richardson) and the teaching staff are to be congratulated upon the excellent arrangements made by them for the ceremony. Afternoon tea was provided in one of the classrooms by a number of ladies.

Souvenir.

There are still a limited number of Souvenirs left, the profits on the sales of which are being devoted to School Patriotic funds, and may be obtained on application to the Head Teacher or at the Laura Standard and Crystal Brook Courier Office. The price is 3d. or posted to any address, 4d.