

## HONORING MILLICENT SOLDIERS.

### A NOTABLE GATHERING.

### ROLL OF HONOR UNVEILED.

Millicent men who have "answered the call" in the present war occupied the first and only thoughts of a large number of Millicent residents on Friday night, when a roll of honor, bearing the names of about 200 of the men who have volunteered from this district, was unveiled in the institute hall. It was one of the most interesting ceremonies connected with local patriotic efforts since the war commenced. Thoughtful provision was made for the comfort of all relatives of the boys at the front, seats being reserved for them. The roll of honor consists of antique metal mounted on cedar, and the inscription and the names of the soldiers are on detachable brass plates. It is a worthy tribute to the men whose names it will perpetuate. It was supplied by an Adelaide firm to the order of the Millicent district council, and that body entrusted it to the keeping of the committee of the Millicent institute. The unveiling ceremony was performed by the chairman of the district council, Cr A. A. P. Cassels. The president of the institute committee (D. M. Slater) presided over a large gathering of residents, and on the platform with him were members of the committee, together with Colonel Howland and Capt. J. B. O'Connor, of Mount Gambier.

The proceedings opened with the singing of the National Anthem, and a song by Mr R. Hastings, Mrs Piggott acting as accompanist. Cr Cassels then formally unveiled the roll of honor, and the National Anthem was again sung. Cr Cassels remarked that to many present that night it would be a very sorrowful occasion, but he trusted that the loss of their dear ones would be only a passing shadow, and that time would prove a healer of the wounds. In entrusting the roll of honor to the care of the institute committee, he expressed a hope that it would receive the care the boys at the front merited.

The gathering then sang "God save our splendid men," and cheers were given for the soldiers. Misses Tot Slater and Harvey contributed a duet.

Mr Slater gratefully accepted the gift, in behalf of the institute. He said it was a fine thing to be a citizen of a town that had done so splendidly since the war began as Millicent had. No one could look down the list of 200 names on the roll and say that this was England's war, and no concern of Australia's. (Applause.) Their sympathy went out to the relatives of the men opposite whose name a star has been placed, to

whose name a star has been placed, to indicate that they had made the supreme sacrifice. He congratulated the Millicent council on having chosen such a handsome roll, which was second to no other roll of honor in the South-East.

Mr D. I. Steele rendered a solo.

Colonel Howland, of Mount Gambier, referred to Millicent's splendid war record. There were still some families who were not represented at the war or on the roll of honor. What would future generations say of those families that had not played their part in the war? He believed the Allies would win the war, but God helped those who helped themselves. Their energies to the task the war would drag on for very many years. The colonel concluded with a strong appeal for assistance for the movement to erect a returned soldiers' club in Adelaide, stating that later on funds would be raised for the purpose of erecting soldiers' clubs in each country centre. The roll of honor, he added, was one of the finest he had seen. At Mount Gambier photographs of the soldiers were being obtained and these were being mounted in groups of 250 each. There were about 850 Mount Gambier volunteers. He understood that Millicent was represented at the war by approximately 400 soldiers.

A song was rendered by Mr L. T. Williams.

Captain J. B. O'Connor, who was warmly received, said he would never cease to be proud of the fact that he was a Millicent boy, and he was particularly proud to see his own name on that splendid roll of honor. In the course of an eloquent speech, Captain O'Connor urged the eligible men who had remained at home to enlist before it was too late. How were they going to meet the Anzacs when they came home? There were over a hundred young men at Millicent whose names should be on the roll. After speaking at some length on conscription and the war, he urged the people of Millicent to support the returned soldiers' club movement.

Miss Valda Harvey contributed a solo.

Mr Slater announced that at the last meeting of the institute committee it was decided that every returned soldier should be made a life member of the institute. (Applause.)

Mr Jas. McLaughlin congratulated the Millicent council upon their choice of a roll of honor, and as a member of the committee he thanked Cr Cassels for the assistance he had rendered in obtaining the roll. It would be preserved for generations, and would always be an interesting memento of the great war.

Mr T. F. Stuckey also thanked the council, and stated that that was one of the worthiest actions they had ever performed.

A vote of thanks to the district council was carried by acclamation. Cr Cassels replied in behalf of the council.

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Mr F. G. Galbraith spoke of the men and women who were doing their bit to win the war behind the firing line. There was no roll of honor for those people, but they were fighters none the less. Their work was mute but magnificent. The parents of the soldiers were also playing a heroic part. The speaker said he would be leaving Millicent shortly, and he took that opportunity of drawing attention to the splendid work that the Rev. D. Chapman was doing for the boys. (Loud applause.)

Mr Slater read out the list of about 200 names on the roll, including those of 28 soldiers who have died on active service, and several who have won distinction. He explained that many names had been omitted. If the relatives would communicate with the council, drawing attention to any errors or omissions, these would be rectified.

The Rev D. Chapman congratulated the council upon their choice of a roll, and upon the whole business. He thought the "South-Eastern Times" was also entitled to some credit, for the paper had made it possible to secure all the names, and the idea of the roll originated in the office of the paper.

The proceedings terminated with the National Anthem and cheers for the soldiers. Afterwards the roll of honor was placed in the vestibule of the institute.

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