

The Governop at Ryde.

RECORD REIGN CELEBRATIONS.

UNVEILING A FOUNTAIN.

The Record Reign of her Majesty the Queen was commemorated at Ryde on Saturday by the unveiling of a memorial fountain, erected at a cost of £112, subscribed by the residents of the district. His Excellency Viscount Hampden, who was accompanied by the Hon. Dorothy Brand and Captain Feilden, A.D.C., and Mr. Frank Farnell, M.L.A., and Mrs. Farnell, arrived at Ryde Wharf at 2.30 p.m. Prior to proceeding to the village to perform the unveiling ceremony, he was presented with an address of welcome by the Mayor.

His Excellency having briefly acknowledged the compliment, a guard of honor, formed by the Parramatta and Ryde Lancer Cadets under command of Lieutenant Lunn, escorted the party to the village. On arrival at the fountain, which is erected opposite to the Bank of New South Wales, and at the intersection of Church and Glebe streets, the Ryde Brass Band played "God Save the Queen," which was also sung by a number of children representing all the schools in the Ryde Municipality. Dr. W. Gordon Smith, addressing Lord Hampden, said: The fountain was situated in the centre of one of the oldest populated districts in the colony, the residents of which considered that the celebration of her Majesty's record reign might appropriately be commemorated by the erection of a permanent memorial in honor of the occasion. Unlike most of the suburbs lying nearer the city and its surroundings, said the speaker, Ryde retained its characteristic features, and with them the associations which connected it with the early history of the colony and its capital. More than 100 years ago settlement took place in the district, both for residential purposes and for the cultivation of the soil, which was found eminently suitable for fruit growing. In the earlier years of the Queen's reign most of the residential houses were built by those attracted by the picturesqueness of the scenery. Mr. Gregory Blaxland, the mountain explorer, occupied at one time the mansion known as "Brush Farm," and homesteads were built at Eastwood and Meadow Bank, from which portions of the district and their railway stations now take their names. In 1826-23 the Anglican Church was built, and its position on the summit of the hill forms a feature which at once catches the eye. In 1843 the Rev. Mr. Turner was appointed to the living, and it is to Mrs. Turner that the district owes its present name. This lady, whose father was rector of Newchurch, in the Isle of Wight, was struck by the resemblance of the church on the hill to that of Ryde in that island, and gave the township its present designation. Under this name in 1872 the district was proclaimed a municipality. At a public meeting held on July 3 it was proposed by Mr. Arthur Collingridge, vice-president of the Art Society of New South Wales, and a resident of the township, that a drinking fountain should be erected to mark the record

Wales, and a resident of the township, that a drinking fountain should be erected to mark the record reign of her Majesty. He tendered the design; which was accepted by the committee appointed for the purpose of carrying out the necessary arrangements. Loveridge and Hudson, of Sydney, were the contractors. The base and pedestal, on which is moulded the profile of her Majesty in inverted alto-relievo, are of solid Bowral trap, and the font-entablature is of Gabo Island granite, the basement being of freestone quarried in the district. The inscription is as follows: "Erected by the people of Ryde to commemorate the record reign of her Majesty Queen Victoria, 1837-1897." The monogram "V.R." is inscribed on the opposite side.

The speaker, on behalf of the committee, thanked his Excellency for consenting to perform the ceremony.

In performing the unveiling ceremony his Excellency said: It is obvious, I think, from what I have seen to-day, that the feelings of attachment to the person of her Majesty, which were so freely expressed in London during the recent celebrations, are shared in by the people of Ryde, and by those who subscribed towards this fountain. (Cheers.) I think their loyalty goes without question. (Hear, hear.) It is based, in the first instance, upon sentiment, upon kindred ties, blood, and language. We are not only of the same race, which I think is the beginning and end of it, but that sentiment is fostered by mutual interests, commercial intercourse, and that protection which is given by the strong to the weak. (Cheers.) The watchwords of the Australian people are liberty, independence, and self-government—(hear, hear)—and I think that these are entirely consistent with union for the purposes of defence. (Cheers.)

After the ceremony the ladies of the vice-regal party visited the residence of Miss Pye, and his Excellency and the other visitors were entertained; the Mayor presided.

His Excellency, in responding to the toast of his health, said: I thank you for the kind wishes you expressed for myself and family. I have found that the Australian people are very hospitable—(cheers)—and I have perceived amongst their other characteristics that they want Australia for the Australians. (Cheers.) By that I mean they want a white Australia. Well, I say that I sympathise very strongly with your sentiment in that way. (Applause.) But when the Aliens Bill was going through I was perfectly well aware there would be great obstacles in the way of it because it would place her Majesty the Queen in a difficult position with regard to many of her subjects. Australians are also very fond of cricket, and I am glad that we shall have an opportunity of seeing Prince Ranjit Singh play in Australia. It is just possible, though, that had a certain bill passed the Prince would have been excluded from playing here.

Alderman Hibble proposed "Parliament, coupled with the name of Mr. Farnell."

Mr. Farnell, in reply, referred to Mr. Lyne's motion of censure.

It was suggested by one of the audience that it would be as well to avoid the question of party politics.

Mr. Farnell said he had no desire to follow the topic further. The matter dropped and the proceedings terminated.