

Fathers' Association

HONOR ROLL UNVEILED.

Last night a large and enthusiastic audience was present at the Institute at the unveiling of the honor roll containing the names of soldier sons of the members of the Port Pirie and district Fathers of Sailors and Soldiers' Association.

Mr. Degenhardt, as president of the association, was in the chair, and the following ladies and gentlemen were on the platform: The Mayor and Mrs. Forgan, Sister Short, Q.A.I.M.N.S., Sister Ashworth, A.A.N.S., Sister Wurm, A.A.N.S., Rev. T. D. Webb, Messrs J. A. Brusnahan, H. A. Chester, G. Charlesworth, the Hon. H. Jackson, Lieut. Colonel Pearce, V.D., Mr. Kay, secretary of the Sailors and Soldiers' Association of South Australia, and Mr Guthrie, M.C., organiser of the Returned Soldiers' Association.

After the National Anthem was sung, Mr. Degenhardt apologised for the absence of Mr D. J. Gordon, M.L.C., Captain Blackburn, V.C., M.P., the Revs. Shipway, Shepley, and Gordon Rowe.

Mr. Degenhardt said he was present at the meeting when the association was formed. There were present at that meeting 17 fathers eligible for membership, and they all joined. One thing he wanted to make clear was that the honor roll that they had met to see unveiled was not a general one—it was one that had been prepared by the Fathers' Association for the names of their sons that had been on active service. The main object of the association was to see that the men had preference on their return over those who had not been game enough to go (Applause).

Enemy Still Dangerous.

Mr. H. Jackson expressed regret that the name of every man that left Port Pirie was not on the roll. Port Pirie had, he said, done more than well both in the number of men it sent and the munitions that were manufactured here. He sounded a warning note at the increased trucency of the German nation. "It is well to remember," said Mr. Jackson, "that Germany is still in the position to put two or three millions of trained soldiers in the field." He hoped that

soldiers in the field." He hoped that the war would be the last and that the League of Nations would enable countries to settle their differences by arbitration, a principle that was applied to industrial disputes, and one which the old Labor party had fought hard for. Applause. Mr. Jackson eulogised Mr. Hughes, whose influence, he said, the Peace Congress could not fail to feel. He regretted the absence of that feeling of brotherhood that should be conspicuous in the present German government. Anyhow, he was sure that if war should break out again Australia would be there. He congratulated the Fathers on their progress and aims, but he would sooner see the association one of "Dads" and "Mums," because, in his opinion, it was the womenfolk that had borne the brunt of the past four years. The 180 members of the association had been represented at the front by 264 sons. Some would not return, but the "Dads" were going to see fair play for those that did.

A message from Base Records, Melbourne, was read. It announced the award of a D.C.M. to Corporal Burt, for conspicuous bravery in action.

State Memorial Appeal.

Mr. Guthrie, M.C., organiser to the Returned Soldiers' Association, reminded the audience that the month of April had been set aside for a State appeal for funds for the purpose of building a suitable soldiers' memorial. It would take the form of a hall and towards the cost the R.S.A. had already £24,000. They wanted another £50,000, and 75 per cent. of the money collected in the country would be kept by the district sub-branches to provide memorials in country centres.

The Mayor said that during his term of office he had been called on to take part in many important events. Perhaps the greatest of these were the announcement of the armistice and the reception of General Pau. But, parochially, he felt this was even a more important occasion. As Mr Degenhardt had pointed out, the roll about to be unveiled did not contain the names of all the men that had left Pirie. A meeting would be held shortly to discuss the erection of other rolls that would complete the present one. This roll was, however, the first in the town. A link that bound him to the Fathers' Association was the fact that he presided at their inau-

fact that he presided at their inaugural meeting. The roll of honor was a work of art that any town could be proud of, and he could not refrain from expressing his appreciation of Mr Gold, a member of the association, who, at his own expense, was responsible for its preparation. There were names on that roll of dear friends of his, and opposite some of the names was the ominous star that meant they had made the supreme sacrifice. He congratulated the association on not mentioning the rank of the men on the roll. Some were naturally placed in authority while on service, but now the war was over he liked to think of them all as men who had done their duty irrespective of the grade they held. (Cheers.) The ex-president, Mr Edwards, had had six sons representing him abroad, one of whom would never return. And three sons of Lieut.-Col. Pearce had given their all* to help secure victory.

The audience stood while the Mayor unveiled the roll.

The Rev. Hew Severn made a stirring speech, in which he referred to the broadening effect of travel on the men who had been away. Soldiers were generally modest chaps and if their modesty prevented them pushing their claims the "Dads" could do it for them. There must not be a repetition of the aftermath of the South African war.

Women's Part.

Mr Kay, secretary of the Sailors and Soldiers' Association of South Aus-

tralia, acknowledged the wonderful work done by the nurses. Men's duty it was to fight, but no praise was sufficient for those women who in sleet and mud, under heavy fire, did their duty day by day in the C.C.S.'s, just behind the trenches. The nursing sisters of all the Allies were good, but it took an Australian sister to understand the Aussies. He hoped to soon see 5000 members of the Dads' Association in South Australia.

Artistic singing by Mrs and Miss Morgan, Mr Appelby and Mrs Close was warmly appreciated.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Mayor announced that photos of all men that enlisted for the front were required for the Public Library, Adelaide. He requested any returned

were required for the Public Library, Adelaide. He requested any returned soldier whose photo had not already been forwarded to communicate with either Mr Craigie or Mr Seanlan.

The Mayor added that a public meeting was to be held next week to discuss the drawing up of a complete roll of honor for Port Pirie and district.