

PORT PIRIE CELEBRATIONS.

MEMORIAL TABLETS UNVEILED.

The special feature of the Anzac Day celebrations at Port Pirie was the unveiling of memorial tablets at the entrance to the soldiers' memorial grandstand. This structure, in course of construction on the Memorial Oval, will cost £3,500 apart from furnishings. It marks the second phase of the scheme to fittingly commemorate the deeds of the men of Anzac and to keep green the memory of the 250 men enlisted from here, who found graves in foreign soil. The first phase was the provision two years ago, of handsome entrance gates to the Memorial Oval, with honour rolls. The gates cost £1,553. In addition, there are in the central park lands, two handsome tributes, erected as a result of the efforts of the women of the town and the members of the Foresters' Lodge respectively. The new grandstand, of reinforced concrete, will seat 600 people, and will include a luncheon hall, committee room, refreshment room, kitchen, and public bar. At 2 p.m. to-day, a procession was formed in Ellen street, and moved off for the Memorial Oval, preceded by the Salvation Army Band, conducted by Mr. E. E. Cooper. Then came the returned soldiers, marshalled by Mr. H. Hill (President of the Port Pirie branch of the

R.S.A.), and Mr. A. Sjöström (honorary secretary), the members of the Port Pirie Fathers' Association, with Lieut.-Col. Pearce, V.D. (Patron), Mr. A. H. Gooding (President), and Mr. W. E. Scanlan (honorary secretary); the Port Pirie Boy Scouts, under Scoutmaster R. Blois Turner; the Mayor (Mr. J. C. Fitzgerald, M.P.), and members of the town council. Bringing up the rear were scholars from the Pirie West and Solomontown Schools, with their bands, under head masters Mitchell and Naudebaum. The school drum and life bands were led by F. Mutton (Pirie West), and C. MacKay (Solomontown).

At the oval a large crowd was present. Mr. H. Hill (President of the local branch of the Returned Soldiers' Association) took the chair, and after the singing of "Australia," accompanied by the band, he addressed the gathering.

Mr. Hill said that they were there to do honour to the brave men who in the dark days of 1914 to 1918 came forward to defend the honour of the people of Australia, and the British Empire, and save their country from a relentless foe. They were there to unveil the two tablets to the memory of those who fell in the Great War. He was afraid that as the years went on, and the war period receded, many might forget the gallant work of these men. That grandstand, however,

many might forget the gallant work of these men. That grandstand, however, would form a fitting memorial to, and permanent reminder of those who had fought nobly for their country, and would be a consolation to the parents and relatives who had made such great sacrifices in the war.

The Unveiling.

Lieut.-Col. A. A. Pearce, V.D., the father of three sons who gave their lives for the Empire, unveiled the first tablet; and the Mayor (Mr. Fitzgerald) unveiled the second, the former acting for the returned soldiers, and the latter for the citizens.

How the Money Was Obtained.

Mr. Garrett (secretary of the memorial committee) remarked that in the eight and a half years since the war there had been raised in Port Pirie (not including the present Anzac celebrations result), £4,501 toward the Soldiers' Memorial Fund. The initial effort had been made by the Returned Soldiers' Association, backed by the public, and had realized £1,050. Other amounts had comprised:—Anzac Hospitality Committee, £200; Red Cross Society, £9 10/; Peace Celebration Committee, £16 13/; Rejected Volunteers' Association, £10; Rifle Club, £25; R.S.A. Easter carnival (1920), £282; donations by citizens, £432; Associated Picnic Committee, £177; Football Association, £33; Trotting Club, £77 18/; Male Voice Choir, £44 16/; Racing Club, £57 12/; picture entertainments, £29 18/; Anzac services, £133 19/; and Port Pirie Jubilee Committee, profit on "Back to Pirie Week," £1,316; earned in interest, £500. The amount in hand toward the grandstand was £2,900. The contract price and extras would bring the cost to £3,500, in addition to which there would be the cost of furnishing.

The Mayor then made an appeal for funds, and said he hoped that the £600 needed to pay for the building would be raised before its opening in a few weeks.

Some Fine Workers.

Mr. J. S. Geddes (Chairman of trustees) moved a vote of thanks to all who had helped in the memorial movement. Mr. Fitzgerald, he said, had done good work at all times, and had been Mayor at the time of the Port Pirie jubilee, when the \$1,316 raised was a fine tribute to all who helped. He was glad that Col. Pearce had been asked to unveil one of the tablets, for both he and his wife had won a warm place in the hearts of the local people. After thanking the various associations and donors, the speaker made special reference to the good work done by the hospitality committee formed to welcome the soldiers home. It had been started when Mr. A. B. Forgan was Mayor, and he, and Messrs. C. Morgan and the late Mr. S. E. Fraser had greatly

helped the movement. Special thanks were due to Mr. J. Firmin Jenkins, who had given his services as architect free for the work in connection with the entrance gates, which made a most artistic as well as useful memorial. He was pleased to see the consummation of the scheme started in Dr. M. E. Goode's term as Mayor, and continued so successfully by the generous help of the citizens, being completed by a combination of the returned soldiers and citizens' committees, which came about during his (the speaker) term in the Mayoral chair.

Mr. R. G. Symonds (treasurer) responded.

Mr. A. Pillar was marshal of the procession, assisted by Mr. E. J. Wills.