

SANDFORD MEMORIAL CHURCH.

Archdeacon Whittington Lays Foundation Stone.

Impressive Ceremony.

At the conclusion of an impressive ceremony at Sandford on Saturday afternoon Archdeacon Whittington declared the foundation stone of the Church of England Soldiers' Memorial Church which is in course of construction to be "well and truly laid." The weather was ideal for the function, and in consequence a large number of people were present from Bellerive, South Arm and Rokeby, and also a sprinkling of visitors from Hobart. The clergy present were Archdeacon Whittington, Canon Finnis, Revs. H. C. Brammall, T. Quigley, J. H. Willis, E. H. Thompson, A. Gamble, A. W. Setchell, and W. A. B. Best.

A little over two years ago a representative public meeting was held at Sandford to discuss the operation of the erection of a suitable memorial to the men of the district who served in the war, and after a prolonged discussion, it was unanimously agreed that a memorial church would fill a more useful purpose than any of the other forms of memorial which at that time were being erected in different parts of the States. Plans were prepared and tenders invited, and that submitted by Messrs. Norman Wright and Sen, contractors, was accepted. It provided for a brick building on concrete foundations, with seating accommodation for 150 people. The ceiling is to be of Tasmanian oak, and the beams and brackets of Oregon pine. Substantial buttresses are to be provided, and an abundance of light will come from windows on the northern and southern sides.

Since the acceptance of Mr. Wright's tender, the working committee which was appointed for the purpose has been raising funds towards the cost. No less than £300 was realised from straight-out subscriptions, and a queen carnival conducted some time ago brought in another £676. This money will enable the building to be opened within two months free of debt. The committee concerned comprised the rector (Rev. H. C. Brammall), Messrs. Ian Morrisby (secretary), and O. Calvert, C. H. Wood, A. Clavert, S. Haines, H. E. Alomes, and J. R. Lazenby.

The order of service was that provided for the laying of foundation and corner stones of churches, and comprised the hymns "One Body and one Spirit," "One Lord and one Faith," "Blessed City, Heavenly Salem," "O Lord of Hosts," and "Onward Christian Soldiers," and Psalm 84, prayers for the success of the undertaking and a blessing on the work which the building was being erected to assist.

The inscription on the foundation stone, which was laid in position by Archdeacon Whittington after he had read a short prayer, is as follows:—

To the greater Glory of God and in grateful memory of those who

To the greater Glory of God and in grateful memory of those who fought in the Great War, 1914-1918. This stone was laid by Archdeacon Whittington, May 3, 1924.

In a brief address to those assembled, Archdeacon Whittington apologised for the absence of the Bishop (Right Rev. Dr. Hay), who, he said, was unable to be present owing to very pressing business, and expressed the appreciation he felt personally in being asked by the committee in charge to act as the Bishop's deputy. During the Great War, he had the honour of acting as Senior Chaplain of the English Church to the troops, and also had the duty of doing whatever the military authorities required of him. By this means he got to know the men as they really were, and he could say without hesitation that they were very fine specimens of manhood. He was sometimes troubled when attending war memorial services at which hymns were sung which suggested a high type of sainthood in those who were being commemorated, as he felt convinced that those who made the great sacrifice simply wished to be remembered as "men in a world of men." It was a source of great satisfaction to him that the church was being erected in memory of those who served in the war and not simply of those who did not return. All were worthy of remembrance, and there, in that beautiful spot as yet undefiled by the hand of man, they could erect a structure to the Glory of God, and as a tribute to those who had proved themselves. The Diocese was under an obligation to Messrs. Robert and Henry Calvert, of South Arm, who had given them more than an acre of land on which to build the memorial church, and he desired personally to thank those gentlemen for their generosity. When the time came for dedicating the church, he thought it should be to one of the soldier saints and none would be more suitable than St. Martin. That matter, however, could be discussed later. In conclusion, he congratulated the people of the district on their generosity in subscribing towards the project, and the success which had attended their efforts to pay for the building by the time it was completed.

Canon Finnis, who at one time was rector of the parish in which Sandford is situated, also spoke briefly, his remarks for the most part being of a reminiscent character.

A collection which was taken towards the building fund realised £13 7s. 6d.

The New Town Church of England choir led the singing, and Mr. R. R. Henry presided at the organ.

The rainfall for April at Queenstown was 12.84in. on 25 wet days, and for the previous three months 2,510 points on 59 wet days. The rainfall since January 1 was 3,794 points, which fell on 84 wet days.