

SOLDIERS' AVENUE FOR COWRA.

A Large and Enthusiastic Meeting of Citizens

Decides to Perpetuate the Memory of Those Who have done 'Their Bit.'

The spacious meeting room at the Municipal Council Chambers was crowded on Saturday afternoon in response to the Mayor's invitation by advertisement to consider ways and means in connection with the proposed Soldiers' Avenue.

The Mayor having briefly outlined the object of the meeting, expressed great gratification at seeing so large a gathering.

Mr. Shields having been elected secretary, an apology was tendered for the absence of Mr. Rothwell.

The Mayor stated that the Municipal Council was quite in accord with the proposal and once the trees were planted they would attend to the care of them. He proposed "That a start be made at the traffic bridge and plant trees out along the Grenfell rd."

Seconded by Mr. Shields.

Ald. Poignand thought in a town of the size and importance of Cowra it was disgraceful they hadn't a park worthy of the name. He would like to see the Brougham-st. Park so improved that their maimed soldiers would have somewhere to spend their leisure hours. They could then change the name to Anzac or Soldiers' Park. He made this suggestion as an addition and not in opposition to the Mayor's proposal.

Mr. Shields thought the question of the Avenue should be decided first, as if they got mixed up there would be no finality.

Mr. Brier proposed as an amendment "That a Soldiers' Park be commenced." A Park would be in existence for generations and visitors would be able to see at a glance these who had done their part in the

would be able to see at a glance these who had done their part in the great struggle.

Mr. Shields rose to a point of order.

Mr. A. Lane : We can turn the Avenue proposal down if we don't want it.

Mr. Shields : Well we should do so before discussing any alternative scheme.

Miss Fitzgerald, as the originator of the proposal, said she had been requested by the National Council of Women to suggest the Avenue. They already had three parks (certainly only in name). An avenue such as proposed would stand for all time and in a great country such as theirs would be a lasting mark of the gratitude they felt towards their brave boys.

Mr. Wordsworth said the object of the meeting was undoubtedly to decide on the planting of a Soldiers' Avenue in honor of every soldier who left Cowra and district and not merely the empty show of putting in a stated number of trees. As each soldier enlisted an additional tree could be planted.

Ald. Todhunter, while perfectly in accord with doing all possible in honor of their soldiers, was totally opposed to expending any money on what was actually a luxury, when thousands of people in Allied countries were starving. He hoped that if they decided to go on with the project they would not incur any expense.

Mr. Shields : That is not much encouragement to recruiting ! How can you expect men to enlist if you don't recognise their services ?

Ald. Todhunter : Planting a tree is not much incentive.

Mr. E. S. Twigg thought it was the funds of the Council Ald. Todhunter was desirous of safeguarding. He could assure him it would not cost that body one penny. He was very much in favor of the Avenue and very much against the Park.

Ald. Poignand felt certain that the relatives of any soldier who could not do the work of planting a tree would willingly pay the necessary amount, viz, £1.

Mr. H. J. Brien : Any number of

Mr. H. J. Brien : Any number of young fellows who left this district have no relatives.

The Mayor : They will be looked after.

The amendment was then put and defeated.

Mr. Christoe proposed as a further amendment "That trees be planted half-a-mile on all roads wherever spaces are available."

Seconded by Mr. Rankin.

The Mayor said that the only road at present properly planted was the Canowindra-rd.

Mr. Francis did not consider half-a-mile an avenue at all.

Mr. Wordsworth did not think the tree-planting on the Canowindra road constituted an avenue. At Bathurst there was a beautiful avenue of willows, each of them almost touching.

The Mayor was informed by Mr. E. Henderson that the trees could be grown 15 yards apart. That would mean about 234 to the mile.

This amendment was also defeated.

A further amendment was proposed by Ald. Poignand "That trees be planted from the railway bridge to the traffic bridge and from that point along the Grenfell-road." It would be necessary to have portion of Connolly Park resumed in order to

make a graceful curve from the Morongla to the Grenfell road. However he did not anticipate much difficulty in regard to that.

Seconded by Mr. Toovey.

On the suggestion of Mr. Wordsworth it was agreed to include in the amendment "that there be not less than one hundred trees planted on each side of the two roads."

The amendment was then put and carried by 25 to 18.

In reply to Mr. McLeod Mr. H. J. Brien said flood waters would not affect the trees once they were well started.

Mr. Francis then proposed a further amendment "That the avenue be only along the Grenfell-road." He considered that road the main en-

be only along the Grenfell-road. He considered that road the main entrance to the town and it would look more imposing.

Seconded by Mr. A. Lane.

Mr. Twigg in supporting the amendment said the Broula, Back Creek and other residents in the vicinity had undertaken to deliver posts from the reserve by kind permission of Mr. Doyle and the Forestry Dept., and he understood the Shire Council would deliver them where required. He would supply all the 16ft battens required at 12s per 100—the bare cost of labour. The Grenfell-rd carried as much traffic as all the other roads put together and was beautifully level (Voices: Oh!) He considered that the names of the soldiers should be put on the trees or guards.

Mr. H. J. Brien said he would give half the posts required for the Morongla-rd. and deliver them on the ground.

Mr. Christoe said he would deliver one hundred posts on the same road.

Mr. Chapman agreed to give his services free of charge for a week.

Ald. Poignand pointed out that if Mr. Francis' amendment was carried the trees would extend so far out that they would be beyond the Municipal boundary and thus would not be cared for.

Mr. Toovey suggested the naming of different portions of the Avenue Anzac, Pozieres, etc.

The amendment having been defeated, Ald. Poignand's amendment became the motion, and was put and carried upon the mover agreeing to delate the words "one mile."

The Mayor stated Mr. Thoms had offered to supply a number of trees free of charge.

Miss Fitzgerald at this juncture stated she had seen the Curator of the Botanical Gardens regarding the necessary trees and that gentleman suggested silky oak and blue gum as the most suitable, and any number of them could be procured on application.

On the motion of Messrs. Wordsworth and B. Brien, the Mayor, Ald. Poignand and Mr. Shields

Ald. Poignand and Mr. Shields were appointed a sub-committee to deal with the matter.

On the suggestion of Mr. Toovey it was decided that if practicable Aug. 4th (the anniversary of the declaration of war) be the day appointed for planting the avenue.

On the suggestion of Mr. Wordsworth the following committees were appointed :

Ladies committee — Mesdames Campbell, Turner, Durrell and Miss Fitzgerald, with power to add.

Executive — The Mayor, Messrs. Wordsworth, Campbell and Twigg.

Works—The Mayor, Messrs. H. J. Brien, Twigg, Christoe and Cr. Bryant.

In addition to those already mentioned above the following agreed to supply and erect the number of guards and plant the following number of trees :—Messrs. Twigg 8, B. Brien 8, P. Maher 6, Mrs. Campbell 6, Messrs. Christoe 4, Wordsworth 3, E. Henderson 2 and erect 10, Flint 3, E. Hammond 2, Reynolds 2, Todhunter 2, Roffe 1 and his services for the remainder of the day, T. Peters, senr. and — Howard services in erecting 20 each, Mesdames Gwilliam 1, Mackie 1.

Ald. Poignand stated he had offered to defray the expenses of planting four trees for the Commerford brothers, but Mr. and Mrs. Commerford naturally wished to do that much for their soldier sons themselves (applause). He had therefore decided to erect one each for their two sons-in-law, who were also in khaki.

Mr. Shields was then elected hon. sec. and Mr. Campbell hon. treas.

Mr. Shields said he was astonished to find that out of all the pupils attending the public school there were only about three who had not relatives at the war.

After some minor details had been discussed a most enthusiastic meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Mayor.

Mr. Tubman, of Mudgee, has succeeded Mr. Macalister as assistant at the Cowra Superior Public School.

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Mr. R. Farrar's many friends will be pleased to learn he is rapidly recovering from his recent illness.

Congratulations to Pte Wainwright, an old Experiment Farm student, who has been awarded the Military Medal.

Mr. P. F. Loughlin M.L.A., spent Sunday in Cowra.

Bullocky Bill had a cold so bad
That though his language was very sad,
His team stood placidly chewing the cud
While the wheels sank deeper in the mud.
Woods Peppermint Cure his voice brought
back,

When of classical speech there was no lack
His cattle took to their work with a will
Neath the lurid appeals of Bullocky Bill.