

Holy Trinity Church.

OPENING OF THE PARISH HALL.

On Wednesday last the above hall was dedicated and opened by Bishop Long, the former ceremony taking place in the afternoon, and the opening at night, the attendance being very large on each occasion. We have already given a full description of the hall, which is a compact, comfortable, and well designed edifice, well built, and nicely finished, being an undoubted asset to the town.

In the afternoon the Dedication Service was held, at which the Bishop was the preacher; Ven. Archdeacon Howell, and Rev. H. H. Prichard were also present, and there was a large congregation, many being unable to obtain admission.

His Lordship in a brief address referred specially to the many objects for which the hall could be used — particularly mentioning the Sunday school and Kindred Societies connected with Holy Trinity Church; he also spoke of one of the objects for which the hall was built, namely as a memorial to the Grenfell lads who enlisted from the district.

At the official opening in the evening many were also unable to find seating room. The Mayor (Ald. Jno. Taylor) presided, and on the platform were also Bishop Long, Archdeacon Howell, Revs. H. H. Prichard, Merriington and Oliver (Forbes).

The Mayor, in congratulating the parishioners on the possession of such a fine hall, said

the parishioners on the possession of such a fine hall, said when the matter was first mooted he was somewhat opposed to the scheme, as they were at their wits end for money in connection with patriotic work, and the Seventh War Loan was before them—this loan not being altogether too successful; at the same time it was not thought that such a hall was not needed, and he congratulated the church people on the completion of same, and hoped that any debt owing would soon be cleared off, and the hall showing an increasing revenue. Referring to the hall as a memorial for the soldiers the Mayor stated that nothing they could do would be sufficient to honor the men who had fallen, and again spoke of the horrors of German militarism that these men had saved them from; and the debt was not paid when the memorial was erected, or when those men who returned had been helped from Repatriation Funds; they should not only extend to the men all possible sympathy, but do something practical to see these men were put into the best possible positions, and they should keep forever green the memory of the men who had died for their country.

Mr. Bishop made the following statement of the cost of the hall: Total cost to date £2120; donations received £898; donations promised £359; debentures sold, £780; debentures sold but not yet paid for £125; total £2162. Leaving a surplus (when all funds are in) towards furnishing and redemption of bonds of £42.

Before calling upon Bishop Long, the chairman extended to

Long, the chairman extended to that dignitary a welcome to Grenfell, and congratulated him on his safe return, and stated that although Dr. Long had been to Grenfell before since coming back from Europe he, through illness, had not been able to meet him on that occasion. The Mayor also referred to the splendid work carried out by the Bishop in England, France, and Belgium in connection with the educational scheme entrusted to him, which would have a lasting effect on the men; they should be proud to have at the head of their diocese a man who was able to leave such a mark in England and in Europe.

Bishop Long thanked the chairman for the welcome, and kind remarks; he had visited Grenfell before—as soon as possible after he returned; on that occasion he laid the foundation stone of the hall, and now they were present at the opening ceremony. In going on service he was prepared to serve the men in every way possible, and he was glad to know that his work had proved fruitful; the job was the heaviest he had undertaken, the preliminaries to such being overwhelming; however, much work was done, and information gained in France, Belgium, the United Kingdom and America, and the knowledge gained will be of value to Australia. He rejoiced with them in the opening of their new hall, which that afternoon was dedicated to the honor of God and for the welfare of the people, and he trusted the building would be used in the widest possible way by everyone—for the training of the young, the house for various clubs—

—for the training of the young, the house for various clubs—a regular young People's and old People's Club House; he congratulated the vestry, the architect and builder, thinking the building as a whole most excellent, and everyone connected with the building of such was to be highly complimented. It had done them good to have carried out the work in face of adversity, and against honest objection to such in view of patriotic calls being made at the time;—but he liked to see things taken up in such a spirit; he was never afraid of opposition but dreaded sleeping sickness or paralysis, and would like to hang the man who invented the saying "The time is not yet"; the wise and solemn men who, when some progressive scheme was mooted, could only say "The time is not yet" were an annoyance; there was a little bit too much sleeping sickness in the Western Parishes but he was glad Grenfell had none of it. Bishop Long then read again the statement of debt upon the building, and said in regard to the sum of £407/1/2 he would give the 1/2 making round numbers of the amount; other promises, and amounts would reduce this sum to £250; £890 was taken up as debentures, and if they could only raise the £250 they would only be owing the sum mentioned to the debenture holders, who received interest at the rate of 5 per cent—a very good investment, seeing they were helping the work of the Lord and receiving 5 per cent for so doing, having as security the faith of the Parishioners of Holy Trinity backed up by the Girls' Friendly Society. The

the Girls' Friendly Society. The Bishop then appealed for funds, and said that he would not altogether like the £250 to be subscribed in one amount, as some who looked forward to giving might not get a chance to subscribe, but if some one gave, say, £100—

Mr. P. V. Carter : One anonymous subscriber of £100.

His Lordship : May his tribe increase.

The amount was subscribed in a little over an hour, there being anonymous amounts of £50, £25, £20, £10, and so on, the announcement that the full amount had been subscribed being received with much applause, at the conclusion of which the Bishop thanking the donors.

The chairman announced that after the Bishop's "touching" appeal the choir would render a chorus.

£327 was handed in during the day—£267 in straight out sums, and new subscribers to the debentures for the sum of £60.

Rev. H. H. Prichard also spoke stating that he was exceptionally pleased to be present, and regretted very much that he could not be present at the laying of the foundation stone. It had not been easy to make up their minds to begin, and there certainly was opposition, and the matter mentioned by the Mayor had been given very thoughtful consideration. However, in launching the scheme, he did not feel that he was being disloyal to the boys at the front, nor showing any bad spirit in

connection with the War Loan, and he felt sure that those who were opposed at first were, like

and he felt sure that those who were opposed at first were, like himself, pleased they did begin the scheme. He was sorry the Honor Roll was not up, and looked forward to being present when such was unveiled.

Archdeacon Howell read apologies from Rev. Edward and Mrs Walker, Revs. Champion, Robinson, and Canon Wilton, and said the Honor Roll had been ordered and he hoped the congregation would forward names to go on, such in case some might be missed. Referring to the hall Archdeacon Howell said a great deal of thanks was due to Rev. Prichard for the way he persevered with preliminaries in connection with the building, the whole success being due to the energy displayed by Mr. Prichard ; another person to whom they should be very thankful was Mr. Williams (secretary), who did really superhuman work in connection with the funds ; special thanks were due to the Bishop of Bathurst for raising the amount of £250 that night, and to those and all who helped be moved a hearty vote of thanks.

Mr. P. V. Carter seconded, and he also "took off his hat" to Mr. Williams for the work accomplished by that gentleman.

A vote of thanks was also accorded the chairman on the motion of Mr. Bishop, Mr. Taylor responding.

During the evening the choir rendered choruses, and vocal items were also given by Miss Procter, (a most pleasing singer) Mrs and the Misses Ackerman, and Rev. Oliver. Mr. Bulmer accompanied.

Refreshments were served, and dancing till midnight con-

and dancing till midnight concluded the evening, those playing being Misses G. Filby, J. McCarthy and Messrs. Bulmer and H. S. Howarth.
