

ABERMAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

There was a large attendance of parents and children in the schoolroom at Abermain on Saturday afternoon to witness the unveiling of a roll of honour. Mr. D. Fairfull, president of the Parents and Citizens' Association, presided, and with him were Inspector J. A. Finney, B.A., Mr. M. Charlton, M.H.R., Rev. W. A. M. Reay Campbell, Mr. S. J. Endes, headmaster of North Public School, Mr. Morrow, acting-headmaster of Abermain Public School.

The roll of honour contains the names of 55 ex-pupils of the school, and is of solid oak, polished, designed and executed by Messrs. Fry Bros., of West Maitland. The style is old Roman overall 7ft. by 4ft., and supported by massive columns with ornate Corinthian caps. Three panels are provided for the names, there being space for 300. Under the words "Abermain Public School," surmounting the panels, are the crossed ensigns, the Union Jack, and the Australian flag, artistically painted in colours.

The following names appear on the roll:—
L. Andrews, J. Barker, J. Britton, F. Beatty, W. Beatty, H. Beavis, A. Bower, R. Batey, S. Bourke, A. Colgate, J. Colgate, H. Cusick, R. Crook, W. Harding, R. Humphries, M. Hepple, D. Hincheliffe, R. Hughes, R. Hunter, J. Hubbard, J. James, T. Kinnard, F. Lott, A. Mason, A. Miller, H. Miller, H. McIntosh, W. McKersey, W. McDroy, T. Mansfield, H. McGrath, Jno. Neilson, J. O'Connell, D. Price, R. Peel, J. Purcell, G. Paul, D. Parker, J. Parker, C. Patterson, M. Pomeroy, A. Purcell, B. Roekenburg, E. R. Ridley, W. Ryan, A. Scott, T. Scott, W. Turner, W. Webb, C. Whitefield, M. Wilson, O. Mullaly, Anthony Mason, Albion Mason.

The ceremony opened with the singing of the National Anthem.

The Chairman expressed pleasure to see such a large gathering to take part in that very important function, and extended a hearty welcome to the visitors. The institution of the roll of honour was only taken in hand eight weeks ago, but with the assistance of his co-workers, the roll to be unveiled was brought to its present pleasing appearance. He had much pleasure in handing that roll over to the Abermain Public School, and called upon Mrs. J. Andrews to perform the unveiling ceremony.

Mrs. Andrews then drew aside the Union Jack which screened the roll of honour, amidst general applause, and the children, conducted by Mr. Morrow, sang "God Save Our Men."

Rev. W. A. M. Reay Campbell then offered up a prayer.

Inspector J. Finney said that they were at the present time engaged in the greatest war the world had ever known, and were fighting for liberty, freedom, and all that was good and noble. To win the war they must put every eligible man into the field, and he urged all of the young able-bodied men to go forth and render all the

able-bodied men to go forth and render all the assistance they could give to help to keep the barbarous Huns from their homes, and to keep the good name which Britain had won. When they saw the names on the roll of honour they ought to be proud of them. They owed a great debt to old England, and now, when the opportunity had come, all the young lads of Australia should show their appreciation and gratitude to the Old Country, which had shielded them for over 100 years. He assured every heart-broken mother who had lost sons in the great battle for freedom that their sons had died for something good and noble when they died while fighting for the good old Union Jack, and the lands it stood for.

Mr. M. Charlton said he was present to do honour to heroes whose names appeared upon the roll. He remembered Abermain in its infancy, which was but a short time gone by, and when we considered that 55 ex-pupils had enlisted and that Abermain had furnished 200 men as its quota in the gigantic struggle now in progress he felt that Abermain had gallantly responded to the call. The boys coming back from the front deserved a hearty welcome home, and he was one that would always welcome a returned soldier who had done his duty. He knew the horror of the poor mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters. Their thoughts were always of their loved ones, who were far away, but they would rather let their dear ones go and fight than let the Germans win the war, but the Allies would win it no matter what it cost, and were prepared to continue until victory was assured. Two whose names appeared on the roll of honour had made the supreme sacrifice, and they had fought for freedom. The children in the coming generation would have history lessons some day in the school, and the war would come under their notice, and the roll of honour that stood before that assembly would be a grim reminder of the great European war in which some of their relations had fought.

Rev. Reay Campbell said Abermain had done well in the great struggle in which they were engaged at the present time. He was pleased to see that such a large number of men had gone forth from Abermain. He who would not fight for the Union Jack was a rotter, and he wished he was not a person for about five minutes, so that he would tell the shirkers what he thought of them.

Mr. S. J. Endes congratulated the association upon the handsome roll of honour just unveiled. He had three sons at the front, and understood the feelings of those whose dear ones were fighting for freedom and liberty. He extended his deepest sympathy to the relations of those who had fallen in a righteous cause. In years to come children would be sitting in the same seats, and some would probably point out their fathers' names inscribed on the roll, and ask their companions: "Where were your fathers then?" He appealed to the assembly not to allow the ranks of boys at the front to want for reinforcements.

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Votes of thanks was recorded Mr. Fairfull, president, Mr. A. Duncan, who brought the Cessnock Boy Scouts to assist, Miss Stephens, accompanist, Inspector Finney, Messrs. Charlton and Eades, the secretary, Mr. McDonald, and the ladies. Mr. Charlton responded, and congratulated the head master, Mr. Morrow, on the success of the function.

In reply to a vote of thanks, Mr. Morrow paid a tribute to the loyalty of his staff, and urged the parents to join the Parents and Citizens' Association. The National Anthem was then sung, and the guests were entertained at a luncheon. The following toasts were proposed:—"The King," by Mr. Finney; "Abermain Parents and Citizens' Committee," by Mr. Finney, Mr. Fairfull responding; "The Ladies," proposed by Mr. Charlton, Mr. Setchell responding; "The Chair," by Mr. Morrow, supported by Mr. Fairfull.

The following contributed to a musical programme:—Abermain pupils, "Land of Our Fathers," "Will Ye No Come Back Again?" "As a Nation We Implore." Miss Jean Bynley sang "Till the Boys Come Home"; Misses Crawley and Brown, "Our Flag Shall Never Come Down"; Miss Elsie McDonald, "Carry On"; and Miss Millie Outram recited "The Charge of the Light Brigade."

The committee comprised Mr. D. Fairfull, president; Messrs. J. Andrews and J. Tucker, vice-presidents; Mr. D. James, treasurer; Mr. T. McDonald, secretary; committee, Mesdames H. Colgate, Mitchell, and Parker Neill, Messrs. F. Teece, W. Milne G. Morrow J. Webb, Mesdames J. Andrews, F. Teece, D. Harkin, Kenting, P. Bower, D. James, J. McDonald, Sampla, Misses Olsen, Murrish, and M. Bower.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes) has approved of a scheme on general lines to establish in Bondi an experimental sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculosis, in accordance with the recommendations of the Special Committee.