

Unveiling Ceremony

AT GRAHAMSTOWN.

Sunday last was a big day at Grahamstown, the occasion being the unveiling of the soldiers' memorial in the public school ground. The ceremony was timed for 3 o'clock, but for hours before that time people were coming from all directions, and at the appointed hour there were hundreds present from all points of the compass. Adelong people were there in huge numbers, while Tumut, Gundagai and all small centres around were represented. The ground was plentifully hung with flags and various decorations. Speakers were there in plenty, and during the afternoon a good choir sang three hymns from No. 1 school building, immediately behind the monument. The hono: of unveiling the memorial fell to Mr. W. D. P. O'Brien, who had three of his sons' names on the stone — two of them made the supreme sacrifice.

Mr O'Brien spoke very feelingly, and he was ably supported by Rev. J. M. Thomas (Anglican), Rev. J. H. Macgoun (Presbyterian), Rev. C. Wheeler (Methodist), Cr. R. W. Prowse, Messrs J. Barnes and G. Dale (chairman). The stone was draped with two Union Jacks, and at the signal from Mr. O'Brien the flags were drawn to their mastheads, and at once swung out on the breeze. The choir was assisted by Mrs Barnes (organ), Miss R. Ritzau, Mr F. Davis, and Mr H. Homan (violins.)

As we have previously mentioned, the monument was built by Mr F. Rusconi, Gundagai and is a very imposing structure. It contains the names of 71 soldiers. Grahamstown folk are to be congratulated on having the

be congratulated on having the monument (it cost £145) free of debt.

Much credit is due Mr Schoolmaster Barnes and Mr Geo. Dale for their management of affairs.

Mr Dale spoke about having the statue of a soldier on top of the monument, and his sentiments found hearty support, as, subsequently the matter was fully discussed. It was decided that the marble statue of a soldier standing with reversed arms was the most appropriate of the designs submitted by Mr. Rusconi. Then the question of ways and means cropped up. Big-hearted Bill O'Brien, of Tumut, stepped forward, and said, "Go on with the work, boys, I'll see you through with it." Then an order was immediately given to Mr F. Rusconi to erect the monument, which will be of Carrara marble, and will cost about £130. Mr Rusconi hopes to have it ready for erection by February next. And when it is placed in position Grahamstown folk will be able to say, "We have the most beautiful soldiers' monument in the State."