

Mapleton.

PRESENTATION OF WAR MEDALS.

His Excellency the Governor (Sir Matthew Nathan), accompanied by Mrs. Pitt-Rivers, Miss Harbord, Capt. Hammond, A.D.C., Captain Harbord and Mr. A. Feez, arrived at Nambour by the train on Tuesday morning, en route to Mapleton to present General Service and Victory Medals to returned soldiers. They were met at the station by Mr. A. H. Brookes (Shire Clerk) on behalf of the Maroochy Shire Council and taken to morning tea at the Royal Hotel. Messrs Wm. Whalley and O. Collins placed their cars at the disposal of the party, and drove them out to Mapleton.

Arriving at Highworth, the head teacher (Miss Roberts) had her small number of scholars on the roadway to meet the party. His Excellency spoke to each child, and asked them would they like a holiday. He then granted them a holiday for Friday. The children gave three cheers for his Excellency.

A stay was also made to visit Kureelpa school, where his Excellency addressed the children, and also granted a holiday.

On arrival at Mapleton the town was decorated with flags and bunting. The party was met by Captain Tennant, Lieut. G. Still, M.C., Cr. Pope, a number of returned men, and several citizens. His Excellency spoke to each of the men, and then addressed the gathering. An adjournment was made to the Mapleton Hotel. After lunch, Capt. Tennant proposed His Excellency's health, and said it was a pleasure on behalf of the returned men to afford a welcome to the representative of his Majesty. They appreciated the honour of having his Excellency to present the medals. Thirty-three young men of Mapleton had enlisted, of whom four had paid the penalty of fighting to defend their Empire. He was sorry that the time was so short, but perhaps on a future occasion they may have the opportunity of entertaining his Excellency.

His Excellency in reply, thanked them for proposing his health, and for the cordial reception. It was to him always a pleasure to be amongst returned men. He looked upon Mapleton as one of the show places of the State, and he hoped at some future time to see the Governor-General visiting and viewing the beauties of the

Blackall Range. Mapleton was a fruit-growing centre, and he believed that in time the district would become one of the finest and best known places. Dairy farming was also a feature of its work, but had not as yet been able to equal the average production of the State. He realised that the district was a small one, and realised that hard work was entailed on everyone. He was certain that with pluck and perseverance they would make the district second to none.

An adjournment was then made to the Mapleton Hall. On arrival the vice-regal party was met by a large number of residents. The school children (under Mr. Watt head teacher) sang the National Anthem. The hall was decorated for the occasion.

Lieut. G. A. Still, M.C., in asking his Excellency to present the medals, said there were many in the Mapleton district who recollected the names of various representatives of his Majesty,

among whom stood out prominently the names of Sir Henry Norman and Sir William MacGregor, and to those two worthy men they had to add the name of the present Governor. If they as a people followed his advice it would materially assist them in their advancement. Many people had been impressed by the instructive and brilliant address which had been given, manifesting that Sir Matthew Nathan was a man of experience, learning, and knowledge. Another factor was his interest in the welfare of all citizens of the State, especially the children, and days like that would be a milestone in their lives. He extended his thanks on behalf of the returned soldiers of the district.

His Excellency said: "It is only 21 months since I was at Mapleton, and it is unusual for me to be able to repeat a visit at so short an interval. But the opportunity of doing honour to men of the war generally tempts me from my office, while the fresh recollection of your kindness to me on the last occasion added to the attractiveness of your invitation to come here to-day. The privilege of presenting medals appertains by right to the Governor-General as Commander in Chief

medals appertains by right to the Governor-General as Commander in Chief of the Forces of Australia, but in view of the impossibility of his exercising this privilege in many cases, His Excellency has been pleased to delegate me the honourable task of making the presentations. I have recently been doing this in Brisbane, and I will explain here, as I did there, that it is a matter of keen pleasure to me to take the opportunity of these functions to shake hands with the men who fought, and to express to them both in words and by the gift to them of the King's effigy, an Empire's gratitude. I cannot but think you will be proud to possess these medals, in common with the men of Great Britain and Ireland, of Canada, South Africa, and of all the other parts of the Empire, in memory of the work you all did together to save the Empire when it was dire pressed. While I feel deeply the terrible losses due to death, injury and disease in that war, I do believe that those men who have returned with health unimpaired or restored, have come back the better men for what they have gone through—better men to help on in peace the nation and the Empire they served so well in war.

His Excellency then presented medals to the following: Sister Provan, Captain J. T. Tennent, Lieut. G. A. Still M.C., Lt. J. A. Albrey, Lt. A. R. McDonald, Sergt. Proven, Sgt. B. M. Nash, Cpl. F. W. Potts, Cpl. A. W. C. Hetherington, Gar. C. W. Williams, Gar. R. C. Morris, Dvr. F. G. Morris, Dvr. C. M. Duff, Pte. F. E. Pope M.M., W. S. Johnson, F. G. McCurley, J. W. Rea, E. Fisher, W. D. Eggleton, W. H. Rosser, J. A. Pope, C. Miller, C. Melver, W. Bratten, D. Dougherty, J. W. Best, G. R. Clark, and L/Cpl. W. J. Richards.

His Excellency then unveiled tablets around the tree guards to the four Mapleton soldiers who had made the great sacrifice, namely Sgt. J. J. Hogan, Pte. R. Logan, Pte. T. Waller and Pte. J. McKinnon.

His Excellency then spent half an hour conversing with returned men and citizens and was introduced to many of the early residents of the district, and men who had served in the Imperial Army.

On leaving the party were given three cheers. On the way down His Excellency called on a widow who is maintaining the farm as she did during the war that deprived her of her breadwinner. On arrival at Nambour

it was ascertained that the train was half an hour late, so the party was taken for a drive along the Bl Bl road, and back before the train arrived.

A sports programme was held in the afternoon, followed by a lecture at night by Lt. G. Still M.C. on "The A. I.F. Abroad."