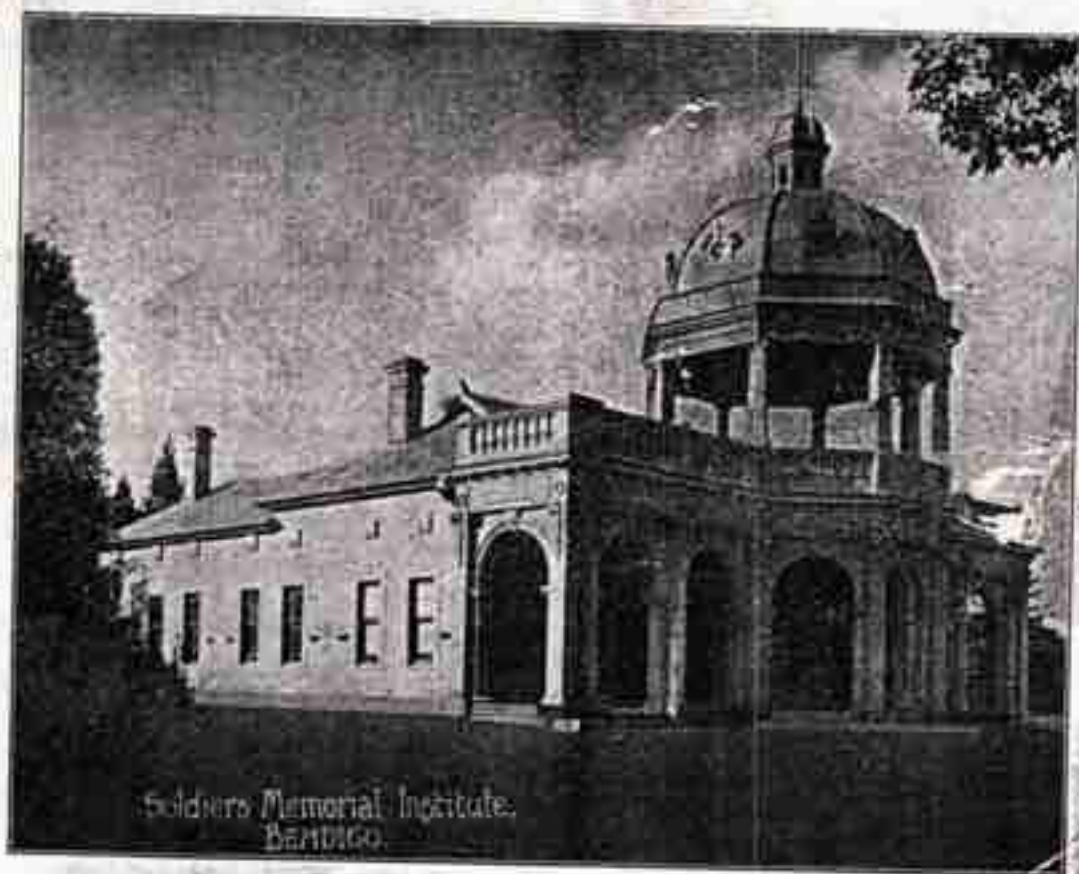


**Bendigo
Soldiers' Memorial
Institute,**
opened Tuesday,
November 15th,
1921.



RSL Bendigo
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.. The Day We Celebrate ..

TO-DAY, Tuesday, November 15th, 1921, the Bendigo Soldiers' Memorial Hall, erected by the Citizens of Bendigo, to commemorate the deeds of the Bendigo Soldiers in the Great War, will be opened.

Thousands of Bendigo boys enlisted; a large number making the supreme sacrifice, and to their sacred memory, as a constant reminder to those who have returned of the gratitude of the citizens, this Hall has been dedicated.

The Soldiers' Memorial Hall stands for something more than a meeting place for ex-soldiers, and architectural asset to the City. It stands as a monument to the everlasting glory of the Bendigo boys who sacrificed everything to "do and die" to preserve that sense of justice, to enjoy that freedom which is the right of every Britisher, a monument expressing the gratitude and homage of their fellow citizens. Every Digger must feel that his efforts, no matter how small, are appreciated by his kinsmen, who have erected something which will stand as a reminder to the present and future generations of the great deeds accomplished, the sacrifices made thousands of miles away to make the world safe from tyranny and oppression. The Hall, situated right in the heart of the City, ranks with the best of its kind in Victoria, indeed it would be difficult to find its superior in any part of Australia, and was erected at a cost of over £5000, the money being raised by public subscription.

A pleasing feature is the way in which the various rooms were furnished, the different patriotic societies supplying practically the whole of the furniture. The interior contains an Office, furnished by the Australian Miners' Comforts Fund; Committee Rooms, furnished by the 2nd Brigade Comforts Fund; Reading and Writing Rooms, furnished by the Pioneers' Comforts Fund, Sunday Supper League, A.W.N.L., Golden Square No. 3 Branch, Red Cross Society, All Saints' Comforts Fund, and the 6th Brigade Comforts Fund;

Lounge, furnished by the Bendigo Branch Municipal Comforts Fund ; Billiard Room by the Returned Soldiers' Association, assisted by large amounts donated by various bodies ; the Main Hall, which has a seating capacity of approximately 500, by public subscription.

After the opening, which takes place at 3 p.m., the Ceremony being performed by His Excellency, Colonel, the Right Honorable the Earl of Stradbroke, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., C.B.E., A.D.C., Governor of Victoria, the Bendigo Sub-Branch of the Returned Sailors' & Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia takes possession and will be henceforth responsible for the maintenance and safe-keeping of the building and all connected therewith, a task which can safely be left to men who proved themselves quite capable of doing the job in honor of which this beautiful Memorial Hall has been erected.

Citizens, its your tribute to the deeds of your own local boys ; its your duty to see that the purpose for which this fine building was erected is kept evergreen in the minds of the present and future generations ; let it serve to remind you, when the years roll by and you are apt to forget, the men who stood by you in the awful years of 1914-1918.



PROGRAMME OF OPENING CEREMONY

Governor arrives at Memorial Hall, at 3 p.m.

Inspects Guard of Honor.

Children sing the National Anthem.

The Mayor hands over keys to Federal President of the League, who, in turn, hands same over to Governor.

Governor declares Hall open, and hands keys over to the President of the Bendigo Branch of the League.

Items by Children's Choir.

Speeches by His Worship the Mayor (Cr. J. E. Holland), Mr Ransom, President Fathers' Association, and Rev. S. E. Dorman, President Returned Soldiers' Association.

Official Inspection of Hall by the Governor.

Presentation of Representatives of various Patriotic Bodies, which furnished the Hall, (some to occupy seats in the Dome).

After the Opening Ceremony, the Ballarat Diggers' Band will play Selections.

Afternoon Tea, conducted by the V.W.C.A., can be obtained at the Marquee, in the Grounds.

R. S. A.

Officials



C. W. Simpson, Vice-President



Rev. S. E. DORMAN, President



Dr. Catford, Vice-President

. . Returned Soldiers' Association . .

THE RETURNED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION came into being towards the end of the year 1915. Its foundation members were men who had returned from Gallipoli as a result of wounds received at the memorable landing of April 25th, 1915, or at the early battles following this epoch making event in the history of Australia. The first Secretary was Mr. Franklin Murray, who quickly organised the nucleus of what is now a powerful and influential League. The Association had its first office in Arlington Chambers, Collins Street, Melbourne. Soon, however, it was found necessary to find more commodious premises to accommodate the members who were joining up in large numbers. By means of various appeals sufficient money was raised to erect a very fine Memorial Building in Collins Street, which was named Anzac House; but until this building was ready for occupation temporary club rooms were opened in Swanston Street. For a time the Association utilised its machinery for the purpose of providing recreation for the soldier, and in assisting the various patriotic bodies. Gradually, however, when things became more organised and pension troubles arose, the Association entered into a more useful phase of its activities. The movement having spread right throughout Australia, a new organisation came into being called the "Returned Sailors' & Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia." From then onwards until the present time the principle objectives of the League have been safe-guarding the rights of the widows and dependants of deceased soldiers, and assisting in fighting the battles of the incapacitated soldier. The League was instrumental in having a more generous pension scheme brought into existence, and now a blind soldier is entitled to a pension of £4 per week. The Repatriation Bill brought into existence in the early stages was disapproved of by the League, and after a long fight it was successful in having a more business-like system introduced. The Soldier Settlers have received remarkable results through the instrumentality of the League, and it is pleasing to record that the Victorian Land Settlement Act gives the soldier settler very fine concessions. Hundreds of cases of alleged injustice brought forward by soldiers or their dependants have

fought by the League in Bendigo alone, and in the majority of cases success has followed the appeals made. Branches of the League are now established in nearly every town in Victoria.

The Federal President of the League, Capt. G. J. C. Dyett, is a member of the Bendigo Branch, so also is Brig. Gen. Jess, D.S.O., C.M.G., etc.

The present office-bearers are as follows:

President—Rev. S. E. Dorman

Vice-Presidents—Dr. H. R. Catford, C. W. Simpson

Secretary—R. A. Lee, A.F.I.A.

Treasurer—P. T. Roberts, A.F.I.A.

Committee—A. J. Thomas, P. G. Read, A. J. Hocking, W. Eadie, W. H. Field, W. Hyde, C. H. Kentish, W. Beach, W. Buchanan, W. Cork, W. T. Manser, W. T. Carter, W. Bone, L. J. Beckerleg, and S. R. Pollard.

Wives, mothers, and other dependents of soldiers can always receive advice and assistance free at the office of the Branch, and it is pleasing to state that a large number have appreciated this assistance.

Connected with the Branch is a Labor Bureau, and every endeavour is made to place men in suitable positions. The results up to the present have been very encouraging.

The social and intellectual wants of the members are being well catered for, and with the facilities available at the Memorial Institute the officials should have an easy task in keeping the members together.

One of the many benefits obtained by the League is the issue of Defence Tweed to ex-soldiers, the cloth supplied being of a high-class quality and the price exceedingly low: the most expensive line being 8/6 per yard. The Bendigo Sub-Branch alone has a turnover averaging £90 per month, and a large number of ex-soldiers have saved pounds through taking advantage of the facilities offered, a saving at least equal to 9 years' subscription on one length alone. For a long time only one yearly issue per man was allowed, but now, thanks to the continued efforts of the League, Diggers can obtain as many suit lengths as they require.

One of the most successful battles fought by the League was the obtaining of the Gratuity, and ex-soldiers should not lose sight of the fact that, despite assertions to the contrary, the Returned Soldiers' Association alone is responsible for the granting of a War Gratuity, which has proved a veritable god-send to thousands of returned men in their gigantic struggle to establish themselves as citizens of the glorious country for which they fought—Australia.

The League, being in its essence non-sectarian and non-political, should have an irresistible appeal to all returned soldiers. It stands for loyalty to the Empire, for a greater Australia, for a brotherhood of men who fought side by side for a glorious cause, and for the honoring of the pledges of the public made at recruiting periods. Its up to every soldier in Bendigo to sink petty quarrels, religious and political differences, and join their comrades in the League, and by so doing foster that bond of kinship which the close companionship in tent and field "over yonder" engendered. The League requires all returned soldiers to stand behind it if its worthy objectives are to be consummated.

R. A. LEE, A.F.I.A.



Secretary

MEMORIAL HALL NIGHT CONCERT

The Ballarat Diggers' Band will render Selections from the Dome, from 7 to 8 p.m.

Pianoforte Duett	Misses M. & W. Boldt	Band Selections	Ballarat Diggers' Band
Song	Mr. W. Knuckey	Song	Mr. L. Sigel
Song	Miss Ferguson	Duett	Misses. Lansell & Ferguson
Song	Mr. W. Allen	Novelty Dance	Messrs. Matchett & Casson
Violin Solo	Miss McNair	Song	Miss W. Mayberry
Song	Mr. Frank Monaghan	Song	Mr. Batterham
Song	Miss W. Mayberry	Humorous Song	Mr. Alex. Hamilton
Novelty Sketch	"Ooo La La Wee Wee"		
Messrs. R. Matchett, W. Knuckey, F. Casson, P. Roberts, & A. Connell		This Programme is subject to alteration.	

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Dr. W. Harrison, Vice-President



W. J. Thomas, Esq., President



P. T. Roberts, Esq., A.F.I.A., Treasurer

. . Diggers' Business Association . .

ALTHOUGH this Association has only been in existence twelve months it has proved itself a most virile body, its charitable activities being second to none.

Recognising that the Digger business man had a tremendous uphill fight, with his limited capital against firms which became firmly established during the war, it was absolutely necessary that some steps should be taken to enable the Digger to obtain a footing on the commercial ladder, and it was considered imperative that an association should be formed, so that united action could be taken to obtain that which is the Diggers' due, namely "Preference to Returned Soldiers," a right which they have certainly more than earned.

The Association is registered under the Companies Act of 1915, and although formed primarily with the object of increasing public patronage and fostering the spirit of inter-trade between returned men, it was felt by the members that if they expected to receive preference they should, apart from war service, give something in return, and believing as they do that every Association and Society, apart from their individual interests, should take an active interest in the affairs of the City, they started out in earnest to assist the charities of Bendigo, their first effort being a display entitled "A Street in Cairo," portraying different Egyptian Characters, in the 1921 Easter Fair Procession: a display which entailed an enormous amount of work, and incurring an expenditure of over £50. At the same time they organised a series of Sacred Concerts realising about £40. Several members also took an active part on the Easter General Committee. During the recent Hospital Appeal the Association organised and staged several concerts in the surrounding country districts, going as far north as Kerang, raising considerably over £200, the money being credited to the local committees. Apart from the foregoing activities the members have been assisting deserving cases, working quietly, not receiving or desiring publicity.

During the winter the Association made it a regular practice to visit the Diggers' Rest Home, at White Hills, and many enjoyable evenings were spent entertaining the Digger inmates.

Although the Association has only been in existence for twelve months the members have every reason to be proud of their record more especially when one takes into consideration the fact that the membership is limited; only bona-fide Digger Business-men are eligible to become active members, and they have certainly shown the lead to various bodies who are anything but energetic in City affairs.

The Association is very fortunate in having live and energetic Office-bearers, with Mr. W. J. Thomas as President, Dr. Harrison Vice-President, Mr. P. Roberts, A.F.I.A., Treasurer, Mr. A. Hocking, Assistant Secretary, and Mr. Ken. Knowlton, Hon. Secretary.

The members certainly deserve success, and it is up to the public to support such an enthusiastic and energetic body who are only too eager to help those who cannot help themselves.



K. Knowlton, Esq., Hon. Secretary



A. J. Hocking, Esq., Assistant Secretary

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