

CHAPTER XXXII.

War Years Continued—New Drill Hall—Council Favours Conscription—Fairyland Carnival—The Barnets—The St. Kilda Patriotic and Red Cross League—The Armistice—Peace Celebrations—Post-War Activities and Returning Anzacs—Lieut.-General Sir John Monash's Welcome—St. Kilda's Soldiers' Memorial Hall—War Certificates Presented by Governor-General—The St. Kilda War Memorial—Lieut. J. M. Bennett's Memorial—Captain "Harry" Hawker—Inception of Friendly Societies in St. Kilda—The St. Kilda and Balaclava Free Kindergarten.

ON February 26, 1916, the Mayor, Councillor J. J. Love, in co-operation with the St. Kilda Councillors, and the St. Kilda Patriotic Committee, opened a new drill hall in Argyle Street, erected at the expense of the Government for the purpose of training St. Kilda's quota of young citizens to take their part in the defence of the Commonwealth of Australia. At the opening of the hall, a concert was held to obtain funds to purchase band instruments, to raise funds for gymnastic equipment, and to establish a regimental football and cricket club. The regiment was to be known as the St. Kilda Battalion. The executive of the opening ceremony stated, in a circular letter, "While the Committee are fully seized of the fact that very heavy inroads have already been made upon the generosity of the residents of the city, in connection with the existing war, they realise the grave necessity for encouraging our young soldiers, to fully prepare themselves for the discharge of their national duties." The "young soldiers" referred to were the youths, who under the then defence scheme, when they attained the age of eighteen, were compelled to undergo, for a number of years, in succession, a course of military training.

In March, 1916, the St. Kilda Council passed a resolution in favour of conscription. In May, the Council waited as a deputation on the Minister of Defence to urge upon him the necessity for bringing in an Act legalising conscription for military service. At a meeting held in the City Hall, under the

authority of the St. Kilda Council, on October 3, of the same year, the Mayor, Councillor Barnet, presiding, the Lieut.- Governor, Sir William Irvine, after placing the issue of war conscription before those present, moved and the resolution was carried :-

"That the citizens of St. Kilda in this meeting assembled pledge themselves to work whole-heartedly to secure an overwhelming majority in favour of the Government proposals in regard to conscription for military service."

St. Kilda was classed, for the purpose of taking the Conscription Referendum, on October 30, as being in the Balaclava Division. The first return was incomplete, but it indicated sufficiently that St. Kilda was in favour of conscription. The number of the electors on the roll of the Balaclava Division was 42,712. The voting showed "Yes," 19,721; "No," 10,640 ; "Yes" majority, 9,081. In the subdivision returns, St. Kilda East— "Yes," 2,495 ; "No," 1,518. St. Kilda West—"Yes," 3,559 ; "No," 1,743. Balaclava—"Yes," 3,571; "No," 2,576. A comparison was made of that result with the voting at the general election of 1914, when the Balaclava Division polled 17,607 National votes, and 12,526 Labor votes.

A Fairyland Carnival was held in the City Hall and grounds, in aid of the Repatriation and Red Cross Funds, on October 13, 14. At the request of the Mayor, Councillor H. F. Barnet, the fete was opened by Mrs. Hughes, the wife of the Prime Minister, the Hon. William Hughes. The Acting Mayoress, Mrs. Nahum Barnet, was the President of the Fairyland Carnival, the Mayor being unmarried. The Barnets are an honoured family in St. Kilda, Isaac Barnet, J.P., the father of H. F. and Nahum Barnet, served St. Kilda as a justice on the Police Court Bench for many years. For twenty years, he was on the committee of the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum, and at one time was a Councillor for Collingwood. He left three sons, when he died, at the age of 85 years, in February, 1909. Nahum Barnet, the architect, was one of those sons. Councillor Barnet was elected Mayor of St. Kilda on August 28, 1916. The Fairyland Carnival realised £1,500, which result must have been very gratifying to the many volunteer workers.

The St. Kilda Local Repatriation Committee was formed on July 27, 1918, and the following gentlemen were appointed members by the Hon. the Minister for Repatriation :—Cr. H. F.

Barnet (Chairman), Cr. J. H. Hewison, Cr. J. J. Love, Cr. A. Sculthorpe, Arthur Apps, J. W. Watt, and F. W. Chamberlin (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer). The Committee dealt with many hundreds of applications for furniture, business equipment, tools of trade, etc. Later, when claims by ex-soldiers for financial assistance were made, the Committee acted in an advisory capacity to the State War Council. The Committee is still in being.

A comprehensive review of the work of the St. Kilda Patriotic and Red Cross League was given by the honorary treasurer, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin, the Town Clerk of St. Kilda, on the night of September 4, 1918. The occasion was the annual meeting of the League, and the place was the supper room of the City Hall. The chair was occupied by Councillor O'Donnell, in the absence of the presidentess of the League, Mrs. Edward O'Donnell. Though the night was a very stormy one, the inhospitable weather did not deter a large number of war workers from attending the meeting.

Mr. Chamberlin said it was the fourth annual report he had made upon the work of the League. The gross cash receipts, during the period of those reports, amounted to £41,481/5/11. For the year, the gross receipts were £14,155/8/6; expenditure, £2,362/16/3; net, £11,792/12/3. While, said Mr. Chamberlin, so much publicity had been given to the major efforts, it was only due to those ladies, who had worked so consistently and patiently for years, to mention the results of their work. The gross receipts from the Luna Park Carnival were £8,322/5/10, while £5,833/2/8 was raised by the smaller efforts of the ladies—a magnificent result at an expenditure of £172/9/10. A faithful few of those ladies had carried on the house to house canvass, from the inception of the movement. It was, with great surprise on looking into the figures, that he found that Mrs. R. G. McCutcheon had paid in £508/5/9, collected in that way. The principal items of expenditure were as follow :—Purchase of material, £688 ; Victorian Division of Red Cross, £2,667; French Red Cross, £253; Repatriation Fund, £1,151; Australian Comforts' Fund, £3,726; St. Kilda Soldiers' Lounge, £1,775; Button Days, other than days included in special appeals, 1903 ; Blind Soldiers, £41; Balance carried forward to next year, £782.

Obviously, from these figures the work of the League was extensive. Various moneys, collected by its several branch

activities, involved careful and accurate book-keeping. The figures, presented to the meeting, were handled by the honorary treasurer, with a completeness that is indicated in the extracts that we published. The chairman moved the adoption of the report. It was highly satisfactory that the League had raised the sum of almost £12,000 that year. Councillor Barnet, in seconding the motion, said St. Kilda owed her record to the fine women, who worked so hard, and who had succeeded so well. Compared to the women's work in St. Kilda, the men had done but little. Above all was the guidance of the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk referred to his loyal staff, and to the Chief Clerk, the late J. F. Jeans; whose assistance had been invaluable.

At the same meeting, Miss Bessie Swan, honorary secretary to the local branches both of the Victorian Division of the Red Cross, and of the Australian Comforts' Fund, reported that 5,211 articles had been despatched to the Lady Mayoress Patriotic League from the St. Kilda workroom. To the Victorian Division Red Cross, Federal Government House, articles to the number of 5,510 ; and so the tally runs on. There was the industrious Branchall Sewing Circle that made 795 articles, and the Men's Working Party that made articles worth £87/11/-, while the total expenditure of the Men's Working Party for the year was £1/10/4. The articles made were 103 deck chairs, 82 camp stools, 14 bed foot rests, 5 folding tables, 5 folding chairs. The Waste Paper Scheme was another effort to raise money.

Mrs. Hallenstein reported to the annual meeting of the League as directress of the Soldiers' Lounge. She said that they had given meals to 23,386 men so far as was recorded, but so many came, and went, that the girls did not keep accurate records. There had been absolutely no expense, all necessary moneys to carry on had been collected. Since August 18, the number of men who had visited the Lounge was 133,489, or an average of 960 per week.

Repatriation work, at the League annual meeting, was dealt with by Councillor Barnet. The Repatriation, and the State War Council, referred 317 applications to the local committee, for inquiry and recommendation. These applications were from widows, returned soldiers, and also from dependents of those still fighting.

At the meeting of the Council, held on November 18, 1918, following the Armistice, at the instance of Councillor O'Donnell, in the absence of the Mayor, the Council humbly and reverently expressed its thankfulness to the Almighty for the glorious victory ; and it affirmed its unswerving loyalty to the Throne and the Empire, and rejoiced in the magnificent successes of the allied arms, compelling the enemy to accept an Armistice, on conditions, which assure an early and abiding peace. The Council then sang the National Anthem. Further, the Council passed a resolution stating "That in the opinion of this Council it is essential that the terms of peace shall ensure the removal of the menace that has existed for many years past owing to the setting up of German bases in the Southern Pacific, and in view of the importance of this matter to the Commonwealth respectfully suggests to municipal councils and public bodies that they express their views thereon and give every support to the Commonwealth Government." The Council voted £50 to the funds of the Melbourne Hospital as a donation to the special Thanksgiving Appeal. Following the Council meeting a great local peace celebration took place in the City Hall, which was decorated with red, white and blue electric lights, and also streamers of bunting, repeating the colour scheme. The *flags* of the Allies were displayed in the hall, decorated with golden coloured laurel leaves. Crepe was in evidence, as a mark of respect to those who had fallen. Surmounting the stage was a combination of allied flags, with a white flag with the word "Peace" inscribed upon it. Among those who spoke to the large audience were the Mayor, Councillor Sculthorpe, and Councillors Barnet, Clarke, Hewison, ex-Councillor Love, the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Alderman Cabena; Sir Arthur Robinson, M.L.C. ; the Minister of Public Works, Agar Wynne, M.L.A.; and Mr. C. F. Crosby, the President of the Young Men's Christian Association and others.

Saturday, July 19, 1919, was Peace Day, and on Saturday morning the war souvenir medals were distributed, and in the afternoon the children assembled at Luna Park, and the day was made a gala one of feasting and entertainment for them, lasting three hours. The scenic railway and the various sideshows of the Park were open to the children. Mr. Phillips allowed the use of Luna Park free of charge, and, in addition,

he entertained the children at pictures in the Palais de Danse. The Mayor (Cr. Sculthorpe), Councillors Barnet, Hewison, Allen and Pittard and the Town Clerk were the Executive Committee in arranging the details of the celebrations. They had the assistance of a large band of workers from the Patriotic League, and also the St. Kilda Brass Band, to speed the day merrily with music.

On June, 1919, it was decided to present certificates to those who were residents of St. Kilda at the time they enlisted and embarked for active service at the war. On July 8, Miss Doward gave an entertainment in aid of the funds for soldiers in the St. Kilda and Sailors' Lounge. In the same month the Esplanade Life Saving Club gave a life saving demonstration in aid of the local Repatriation Funds. A ball was held under the auspices of the 46th Infantry Brigade in the City Hall in aid of the St. Kilda Memorial Funds. A carnival for the same purpose was held at Luna Park, Mrs. Couchman being a prominent worker for the cause. An Anzac Remembrance and Memorial Service was held at the St. Kilda Town Hall in co-operation with the St. Kilda Sub-Branch of the R.S. and S.I.L. in April, 1920. Later in May, 1921, the Council received a letter from the subbranch of the Sailors' & Soldiers' Fathers' Association asking the Council to use its influence to have Anzac Day celebration held only on Sunday, nearest to April 31. The branch expressed its feeling that, in the observance of a week day, there was a tendency to regard the day as a holiday, rather than a solemn anniversary. The Council decided that its members were entirely in accord with the branch's views, and agreed to make its opinion known to the proper authorities.

On Wednesday evening, December 4, 1918, seventy Anzacs of St. Kilda who had returned were welcomed by the St. Kilda Patriotic Committee at the City Hall. The hall was decorated with an immense bouquet of red, white and blue flowers, depending from the centre of the ceiling, with floral and electric festoons leading therefrom. Anzacs shields in laurel wreaths and flags were displayed along the balcony of the hall. Over the stage the word "Anzacs," outlined by electric lights, was surmounted with the words "Patriotic Committee of St. Kilda heartily Welcomes You." As the returned soldiers marched into

the hall, they were received with cheers, and an electric button being touched, the word "Welcome" flashed in light caught their eyes.

The Mayor presented the 1914 soldiers with gold enamelled medals, bearing the arms of St. Kilda. The recipients were Lieut.-Colonel F. W. Le Maistre, D.S.O., Major W. J. M. Locke, Major Charles Morley, Captain A. H. Dow, M.C., Captain H. S. Hawker, M.C., Captain W. R. Hodgson, Croix de Guerre, Lieut. C. E. Apps, Lieut. A. W. Keown, Lieut. G. Martin, Lieut. R. E. Rerden, W. Officer, N. B. Spence, St. Sergt.-Major R. R. McKissock, M.M., St. Sergt. C. W. Cohen, St. Sergt. M. G. Pietriche, Q.M. Sergt. H. M. Bloustein, Q.M. Sergt. J. A. McGettigan, Q.M. Sergt. P. J. Smith, Q.M. Sergt. A. G. Wall, Sergt. A. T. Morrison, D.C.M., Sergt. A. J. E. Wallish, D.C.M., Sergt. D. T. Bateman, Sergt. W. E. Birch, Sergt. A. F. Caldwell, Sergt. J. W. Coleman, Sergt. F. Gibbs, Sergt. W. K. Gillespie, Sergt. P. H. Kellaway, Sergt. J. H. Manning, Sergt. J. B. McBean, Sergt. A. Pearce, Sergt. P. J. Rice, Sergt. J. J. Shannahan, Sergeants W. McQ. S. Siddeley, L. O. Smith, V. A. Syme, A. E. Symons, E. H. Vernali, A. L. Waldron, L. A. Walker, G. C. Whitworth, L. F. Wilkinson, L. W. Wilson, Bombardier G. A. Herschell, Corporals C. S. McQuade, M.M., H. Horley, Croix de Guerre, C. J. Reeves, C. E. Sheldrake, C. H. Sumner, Lance-Corporals L. T. Hoult, A. J. Longley, E. V. Moore, Drivers J. A. Beach, E. C. Crooke, R. Hartshorn, A. A. Howes, L. L. Jones, B. A. Joseph, F. V. Kildea, A. C. E. Mills, T. Oakley, F. R. Stewart, G. Walker, B. L. Welsh, C. White, H. R. Wiltshire.

Gunners H. Wilson, M.M., R. Marsden, J. J. B. Stephens, J. Thompson, J. P. Walsh, Sappers S. Hemingway and C. M. Holloway, Privates E. F. Allen, F. E. Austin, L. Bagley, P. V. Bermingham, E. Booth, J. F. Brenton, A. D. Brooke, E. W. Chatfield, H. F. Franz, W. R. Gills, H. J. Goodwin, W. F. Hawkins, W. W. Hendrick, F. Logan, G. A. Lonie, V. Moorehouse, A. G. McPherson, J. W. Perkins, E. J. Reed, D. R. Williams, J. L. Wilson, T. Y. Wilson, E. H. Wood.

A second ceremony of presentation, and a civic welcome, to a further group of returned soldiers of St. Kilda, was arranged to take place in the City Hall, but it had to be postponed owing to restrictions having been placed upon the holding

of public meetings, during the continuance of the influenza epidemic. The postponed meeting was held on May 14, 1919.

The subscription from St. Kilda to the seventh War Loan was £224,178. At the time the loan was launched (October, 1918) the Town Clerk said that if the quota of St. Kilda was fixed on a population basis, every man, woman and child in St. Kilda would have had to subscribe the sum of £13/14/4, a subscription that was impossible to obtain.

St. Kilda was on fête on Friday, December 26, 1919, for the home-coming of Lieut.-General Sir John Monash, K.C.M.G., K.C.B., V.D. A special welcome was prepared for the Commander of the A.I.F. and Lady Monash and Miss Monash, who accompanied him. Sir John made a landing at the St. Kilda pier, and the surroundings, including the Esplanade, were gay with bunting. The military officers, in high command, and the returned soldiers, were present in large numbers to do honour to their military chief. The Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor T. G. Allen, the Councillors, and the Town Clerk were on the foreshore, with an address of welcome. In the address it was stated: "Our citizens, since the date of their Presentation of Colours to the 14th Battalion, a unit under your command, when leaving these shores, have followed your career, with pleasure and pride, and recognise that, among the many who left the quiet pursuit of their civil occupation, at the call of the Empire, you have won the most signal success."

Sir John, in his reply, referred to his last visit to St. Kilda, when the colours of the 14th Battalion were consecrated. The 14th Battalion was a part of the 4th Brigade. Sir John was cheered, and cheered again. Soldiers rushed forward, and insisted on shaking hands with him, and then they stood at salute. Five years had passed since Sir John left Victoria. He looked on his return "less robust in appearance, with the lines of war care on his face," at least a writer of the day said so, though to all appearances Sir John was well and fit. He must have been touched with the warmth of his welcome. "Home, Sweet Home" was played by the St. Kilda City Band. The St. Kilda Council honoured the returning general in a way that did honour to itself.

About the year 1920, as a result of local efforts in St. Kilda, funds were raised for the erection of a St. Kilda Soldiers'

Memorial Hall. Owing to unforeseen circumstances, it was decided to place the money on deposit, until such time, as mature consideration could be given to the formation of a plan for a Memorial Hall that would be worthy of St. Kilda. From observation of other halls, and their management, it was impressed upon the committee, the necessity of building a Memorial Hall and Club Rooms that would have a guaranteed source of revenue, from the day of its completion. With this object in view, a suitable block of land was purchased, having a frontage of 70 feet to Acland Street, by a depth of 195 feet along Albert Street. A competition for plans was then begun among returned soldiers who were architects. The competition was under the control of the Victorian Institute of Architects. Thirteen drawings were submitted, and the winning firm of competitors was Messrs. Hudson & Wardrop. The building designed was estimated to cost £25,000. The plans showed a building of four stories in height. The ground floor contained four shop fronts, general meeting rooms, and large hall, with a seating capacity for approximately 1000 people, also the necessary anterooms, stage, etc.

The Committee realised that continuity of membership was essential. The Committee drafted and adopted a constitution, which entitled to membership other than returned soldiers as follow:—

(a) All those eligible for membership of the Sailors & Soldiers Fathers' Associations.

(b) Members of His Majesty's Naval, Military and Air Forces under the Defence Act of the Commonwealth of Australia, provided that such members were under the age of 18 years at the time of the Armistice on November 11, 1918.

In this way, it was hoped that the continuity of membership would be assured, since provision was made for those from whom Australia's fighting forces must ultimately be drawn. It was hoped, too, that the close association, between the returned soldiers, and the trainees, would work for patriotism. The desire of the committee, when the expenses of the building were paid, was to devote the revenue, calculated at £2,500, derived from the rents of shops, and flats, etc., to charitably benefiting returned soldiers, and their dependents.

The beach carnival, in aid of funds for the erection of the memorial, which took place in Luna Park, was wonderfully successful. The carnival was declared open by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Hon. William Watt, member for the Federal Division Balaclava. He was introduced to the great assemblage by the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Burnett Gray. The takings for the day exceeded £900. There were more than 400 voluntary workers. On Easter Monday night Mr. A. J. Curran, the organiser of the carnival, assisted by Messrs. C. A. Kendall, and W. S. Abraham, stated there were 10,000 present at the carnival on Easter Monday night, and that the approximate takings were between £1,000 and £1,500.

The moving force in the movement to establish the St. Kilda Sailors' & Soldiers' War Memorial Hall was Councillor Thomas Unsworth, a returned soldier. He occupied the Mayoral chair in the civic year 1928-29. It was he who sought to give the Memorial Hall purpose even greater than that of social relaxation. He desired, nay insisted that the hall's incorporation should carry with it the power to secure revenues, and that those revenues, profits, should be devoted each year to the relief of distressed soldiers and their dependents.

We recall attending a meeting of a faithful few, in the deserted St. Kilda Soldiers' Lounge, at which Councillor Unsworth presided, at the inception of the movement to obtain the Memorial Hall. We were more impressed with the exhilarating optimism, and driving force of Councillor Unsworth, than by any evidences of the coming materialism of the proposed hall. The lounge was ill-lighted, there were not more than six or seven persons present, and we left with a depressed feeling that a "big push" would have to be made before the hall that Councillor Unsworth sketched would be built in St. Kilda.

The big push was commenced with the greatest effort that was made, which was the 1919 Luna Park Carnival. Subsequently, by special appeals, pageants, carnivals and other attractions, the sum of £17,282, up to and including an allocation from the 1931 Charity Carnival, was raised for the Memorial Hall. In addition, the St. Kilda Council made a special grant from the Municipal Funds to this money of £3,000. Appropriately, the committee of the St. Kilda Army and Navy Club chose Armistice Day (November 11, 1923), for the laying of two

foundation stones of the Memorial Hall and the Club Rooms. The foundation stones were laid respectively by His Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Forster, and by the Hon. W. A. Watt, Speaker of the House of Representatives. His Excellency the Governor-General was accompanied by Lady Forster.

At the ceremony, the President of the Club, Councillor Thomas Unsworth, said that about 3,000 men from St. Kilda had served in the Great War. Towards the cost of the building, patriotic workers had raised £9,000, and this sum had made the building possible. At a special meeting of the Club, Lord Forster had been elected a life member, and he had pleasure in presenting him with the gold badge of membership.

Lord Forster stated that he greatly appreciated the compliment of membership bestowed upon him as an evidence of the friendship of the returned men.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives (the Hon. W. A. Watt) said that he hoped that there would be a continuance of the spirit of the A.I.F.

The stones have upon them the following inscriptions:—

ST. KILDA MEMORIAL HALL.

Erected by the Citizens of St. Kilda as a Memorial to those from this City who served in the Great War, 1914-1919.

LEST WE FORGET.

This Foundation Stone was laid by His Excellency The Right Honorable Lord Forster, P.C., G.C.M.G., Governor-General of Australia-11th November, 1923.

Councillor T. G. Allen,
Mayor of City of St. Kilda.

ST. KILDA ARMY AND NAVY CLUB.

This Foundation Stone was laid by the Right Honorable W. A. Watt, P.C. M.P.

President: Councillor T. Unsworth.

Vice-Presidents: Councillor Burnett Gray, W. Gillespie, C. A. Kendall.

Committee: W. S. Abrahams, H. I. Bugg, A. V. King, B. J. Betts, B. J. Harlem, H. J. Kerr, O. Behrend, A. T. P. Irvine, A. C. Newton, A. C. Bill, H. E. Williams.

F. Chamberlin, Hon. Treasurer,
Patriotic Fund. L. B. Cade11,
Hon. Treasurer. A. J. McLellan,
Secretary.

The Memorial Hall was opened before a large attendance of ex-soldiers and others on Armistice Day, November 11, 1924, by His Excellency the Governor, The Earl of Stradbroke. There were present the President of the Club, Cr. Unsworth, who pre-

sided; and the Hon. W. A. Watt; the Mayor of St. Kilda (Cr. Levi) and the Councillors and members of the Club Committee. An opening ball was held in the hall in the evening.

The architects of the hall were Messrs. Hudson & Wardrop, and the builder, Mr. R. L. Phillips. The hall, which has four stories, contains twelve flats and four shops. The main dancing hall accommodates 500 persons, and there is seating accommodation in the hall for 1,000 people. The cost of the Memorial Hall, land and buildings, was £39,492. Councillor Unsworth, the late Councillor T. G. Allen, and Mr. W. Gillespie were appointed the trustees of the building.

On Sunday, May 15, 1921, the St. Kilda Council, through His Excellency the Governor-General (Lord Forster) presented certificates to about 1,500 nurses, soldiers, and sailors, and next of kin of fallen men, all of whom were residents of St. Kilda. A parade was held on the Lower Esplanade. Many hundreds of people were admitted by ticket to the enclosed lawn, and most of them were provided with chairs in front of the high dais from which the Governor-General distributed the certificates. The presentations took place in ideal weather, with a great show of fluttering bunting. An outstanding feature was the perfect organisation of the ceremony by the Town Clerk of St. Kilda. The continuing line of those to whom the certificates were due, passed without the slightest mistake, before His Excellency, and received the certificate personal to themselves.

Large crowds watched the ceremony from the Esplanade. In his address, Lord Forster said, "You are the men who served, and who accomplished victory. Those who do things are just those who do not like their deeds talked about. But I say, as the representative here of the British people, that the sacrifices, which the men, and women of Australia made, during the war, the glorious deeds which they performed, the everlasting fame which they won, shall never be forgotten."

The first recipients to mount the dais were 250 relatives of the fallen. The war nurses, twenty of them, received an ovation. Lord Forster was in full dress military uniform. More than half of the returned soldiers were in civilian clothes. Lord Forster saluted all soldiers in uniform, and he shook hands with everyone receiving a certificate. Among those who received certificates were Brigadier-General Stewart, Colonel Duigan,

Councillor Gray, and Lieutenant Bennett, he who flew to Australia with Sir Ross Smith. At the conclusion of the presentations cheers were given for Lord Forster.

At the Council meeting, held on May 16, 1921, the Council placed on record its appreciation of the organisation by the Town Clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin, and the work of the staff generally in connection with the presentation. The Town Clerk said that, under the guidance of the Presentations Committee, Councillors Hewison (chairman), Barnet, Gray and Renfrey, the staff regarded it as a privilege to assist in making the function worthy of those it was designed to honour. The Town Clerk also referred to the valuable help, by the members of the St. Kilda Branch of the R.S.S.I.L.A. who acted as marshalls and ushers. At the Council meeting a letter was read from Lord Digby, A.D.C. to His Excellency the Governor-General, stating His Excellency was "exceedingly pleased with the presentation of the war certificates, and was much struck by the admirable organisation." A letter was received also from the President of the St. Kilda Branch of the R.S.S.I.L.A., Mr. G. A. Bridgeland, and Mr. W. T. Marshall, in appreciation of the function, and also in admiration of the artistic design of the certificate.

On August 8, 1921, on the recommendation of the Public Works Committee, the Council decided to invite designs for a War Memorial to be erected in St. Kilda, to cost approximately £3,000. The War Memorial Committee of the Council, reported to the Council, at its meeting, held on October 15, 1923, that, in accordance with the assessors' report, and award, on the competitive designs, the winner of the first prize, £75, was G. H. Alsop, and the winner of the second prize, £25, was J. C. Aisbett. The site chosen for the memorial was on the foreshore at the west end of Fitzroy Street. In the presence of a large number of spectators the Governor-General (Lord Forster) unveiled the memorial.

The Hon. W. A. Watt, Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives, thanked Lord Forster, and thought it particularly appropriate that Anzac Day should have been selected for the representative of the King to unveil the War Memorial of the most patriotic of all Australian cities. The Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor J. B. Levi, placed a laurel wreath at the foot

of the memorial, "In Anzac Remembrance. In Memory of the Fallen." Councillor Thomas Unsworth, President of the St. Kilda Army & Navy Club, also placed a wreath from the sailors and soldiers.

The Cenotaph is a rectangular shaft buttressed on four sides by raised panels and bearing on the Esplanade frontage a small altar supporting a bronze wreath. The shaft is 35 feet high, and is crowned with a series of mouldings supporting a bronze scroll. The shaft and mouldings are of Pyrmont freestone, and the steps and base of the Cenotaph are of granite. The memorial bears the inscriptions :-

"Erected by the citizens of St. Kilda in honour of all from this city who served, and in grateful remembrance of those who gave their lives for King and Empire."
And on a plate beneath the altar—
"The path of duty be the way to glory."

Lieut. J. M. Bennett, A.F.M., was one of the mechanics on Sir Ross and Keith Smith pioneer flight from England to Australia. So highly did Sir Ross Smith think of this St. Kilda boy's ability, that he engaged him to take part in a round the world flight that Sir Ross Smith contemplated. Lieut. Bennett, of the Royal Australian Air Force, was tendered by the St. Kilda Branch of the R.S.S.I.L.A., an au revoir concert, at the Sailors' and Soldiers' Lounge, on the Lower Esplanade, on the night of January 26, 1922. After arriving in England Lieut. Bennett made a trial flight in the new aeroplane with Sir Ross Smith. Something untoward happened to the machine. It went into whirl, came down, and crashed, killing the two unfortunate men. A funeral memorial service, in their memory, was held in the Queen's Hall, Federal Parliament House, on June 17, 1922.

On the morning of Anzac Day, 1927, the Hon. William A. Watt, M.H.R., in the presence of a large gathering, unveiled St. Kilda city's memorial, in the form of an obelisk, to the memory of one of its brave sons, Lieut. J. M. Bennett. Among those present, at the memorial obelisk, erected on the Lower Esplanade, were Mr. J. T. Bennett, and the Misses Bennett, father and sisters of the airman; Group Captain Williams, Chief of the Air Staff ; Wing Commander Brown, second member of the Air Board ; Major P. E. Coleman, Secretary of the Air Board ; the Hon. T. W. Trumble, Secretary for Defence ; Lieut.

Colonel Brinsmead, Controller of Civil Aviation; Lieut. Colonel T. W. White, President of the Victorian Section of the Aero Clubs ; Lieut. Colonel General Sir James Mc Cay ; the Attorney General, the Hon. F. W. Eggleston ; His Worship the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Burnett Gray; the Councillors of St. Kilda, and the Town Clerk, the presidents, secretaries, and committees of the St. Kilda Branches of the Army and Navy Club and Fathers' Association; the master and officers of the Hawksburn Masonic Lodge. The cost of the memorial was subscribed by the people of Victoria, supplemented by a donation from the St. Kilda Council. Six years had almost expired when the memorial was unveiled, since the time when Lieut. Bennett returned to England to participate in the flight that fate decreed should never be flown. After the unveiling of the obelisk, the Mayor of St. Kilda, on behalf of the City of St. Kilda Council and citizens, placed a wreath at its foundation, as did also the Misses Bennett.

Another distinguished airman and war pilot, whose birthplace was St. Kilda, and who spent his boyhood and young manhood in the seaside city, was Captain H. George Hawker, known to St. Kilda's youth and school boys as "Harry" Hawker. Captain Hawker, after winning races, and a name in England, as an intrepid airman, returned to Australia. He was the first man to fly an aeroplane in Victoria. He gave a display of flying at Caulfield, from where he flew and landed in Elsternwick Park. He made a somewhat bad landing, at the south-east end of the park, close to St. Kilda Street, thereby making it an historical spot, so far as being the first landing of the first aeroplane seen in St. Kilda and Brighton. Hawker returned to England, and made a spectacular bid for the prize of £10,000 offered, in the year 1919, by the "Daily Mail" newspaper, for a flight across the Atlantic. He left Newfoundland, on the afternoon of May 18, for his night to Great Britain. He was not heard of for days, and few had any doubt but that he, and his companion, Commander Mackenzie Grieve, R.N., had been drowned. Hawker's wife refused to believe that her husband had perished. Then, news came that the two airmen had been picked up by the captain of a tramp ship. The machine Hawker was flying, he explained, developed trouble through the blocking of a feed pipe, and he had to come down, and did so, by the side of the tramp ship. Hawker was given a great reception on his arrival in

London. The crowd's demonstrations were led by Australians. He, and his companion, received from His Majesty the King the Air Force Cross. Hawker was killed in July, 1921, while flying near Hendon. His physical condition was so poor, that he had been warned by his medical adviser, to cease flying, but such was his enthusiasm, that he continued to do so. What happened up aloft is not known, but his machine burst into flames, took a nose dive, and crashed. Hawker jumped from the machine before it reached the ground, only to be instantly killed. On the occasion of the attempted Atlantic flight, the St. Kilda Council recorded in its minutes its admiration for his "unparalleled, and intrepid act of bravery, in attempting to fly across the Atlantic ocean."

Hawker was a pupil of the Brighton Road State School, and a tablet to his memory in the school records that fact.

To the Honoured Memory of
HARRY GEORGE HAWKER,
a former pupil of this School who, skilful and
courageous, was foremost among the Empire's
pioneers in Aerial Flight.
Born 22nd January, 1889.
Died 13th July, 1921.

On the social providential side the residents of St. Kilda have had, from early days, their share of friendly societies, which have been an inestimable boon to many families, the heads of which could not have commanded from their own earnings, and resources, the many professional advantages, in the way of medical attention, and dispensing, yet under the co-operative system such benefits have been theirs. In the early days, many public houses had attached to them lodge rooms, for the use of friendly societies. Licensees were keen to have their hotels frequented by members of friendly societies. Here is a characteristic advertisement of the intention to start a lodge, and an assuring addendum, to those who might question the stability of the proposed lodge. Friendly societies in those days had

not accumulated the reserve funds which they happily, for all, have by them to-day. The notice reads :—"U.A.O.D. opened at Rees' Pembroke Hotel, High Street, in November, 1873. A lodge of the above Order will be opened the first week in November, up to which time candidates enrolled at reduced initiation- 18 to 35, 10/6; 35 to 40, £1/10/-. Names received by Host Rees at any time. Meetings of committee, on each Saturday, at 8 o'clock. Benefits as in other societies. Good security offered for fulfilling the liberal terms made by the Order."

The Prince of Wales Lodge M.U.I.O.O.F., St. Kilda, was opened in 1862, and its members also met in the Pembroke Hotel. Its secretary was Andrew Robertson, and G. A. Williams the N.G. The St. Kilda Branch of the A.N.A. met at the George Hotel. It held its first smoke night in the Duke of Devonshire Hotel, when George Turner was present, and the president of the A.N.A., Dr. McInerney, a resident of St. Kilda. A well-known solicitor of the day, Field Barrett, was the first president of the St. Kilda Branch of the A.N.A. At the smoke night there were 60 present. In the year 1901 the branch had between 80 and 90 members. The president was V. Kelly ; vice, J. Ben- netts; treasurer, J. Leggo ; secretary and assistant secretary, D. G. King, and P. Conroy. The committee consisted of S. Palmer, A. E. Fowler, J. James, G. Orr, and J. M. A. Spottiswoode. The St. Kilda Branch of the A.N.A. subsequently bought the Baptist Church in Blanch Street, which is now the St. Kilda A.N.A. hall and place of meeting of a very active and influential branch of the A.N.A.

One very well-known man, in friendly societies' circles, in St. Kilda, belonging to the Druids, was Richard James Ralph, who was born on September 10, 1836, in the Parish of St. Pancras, London. Early in the year 1876, a charter was granted by the head of the Druids' Lodge to Brother Simpson to form a lodge in St. Kilda. To do so, it was necessary to have 25 candidates. On July 18, 1876, the Charnwood Lodge was opened in the Corner Hotel. Ralph became its secretary, and remained in that position until he died in June 21, 1901.

A branch of the Friendly Societies' District Dispensary was established in Brighton Road, almost opposite the St. Kilda City Hall.

In St. Kilda there is an institution that does its work quietly, but nevertheless it accomplishes a vast amount of good. We refer to the St. Kilda and Balaclava Free Kindergarten, the building of which is in Nelson Street, St. Kilda. This place is a training kindergarten for students attending the Free Kindergarten Training College, and Miss Harcourt is the principal. The kindergarten has a hundred children's names on its school roll, with an average daily attendance of 80 children. Some of the office-bearers of the kindergarten are :— President, Mrs. W. G. L. Spowers; vice-presidents, Mesdames Davenport, Joseph Levi, F. Grey-Smith, and T. a'B. Weigall ; honorary treasurer, Miss R. Watson; honorary secretary, Mrs. A. G. Youngman; committee, Mesdames G. Weigall, Sloman, D. J. Swanson, A. Oldham, G. A. Stephen, Neville Wight, Mirams, and Henriques, and the Misses E. Godfrey and M. Bull.