

# War Memorial At Urenui Unveiled Before Crowd

The war memorial at Urenui, which has been renovated and remodelled to include plaques commemorating men of the Urenui, Onaero and Okoke districts who were killed in the Second World War, was unveiled before a large crowd at a service yesterday.

The speakers were introduced by Mr. S. Managh. Archdeacon G. H. Gavin conducted the service, and the Taranaki Regimental-New Plymouth Municipal Band played hymn tunes and provided cornet players to sound the Last Post and Reveille. The unveiling was performed by Mrs. S. Managh, and an appropriate touch was given by Mesdames Rowe and Ruanui, who rendered the traditional Maori mourning chant.

Quoting Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg address, Archdeacon Gavin said the basis of democracy for which men died in the American Civil War was the value of the individual; the right of each to live his own life. A former Prime Minister of Britain, the Rt. Hon. Stanley Baldwin, had said this was a gift from Christianity to mankind, for it was the value of the individual in the sight of God that gave him value in the sight of his fellows.

Democracy rested on a spiritual basis, Archdeacon Gavin added, and if this were abandoned a police state would take its place. If democracy was to be retained the emphasis must be shifted from bettering wages and conditions—where it had rested quite rightly in the past—to quality of service to the community. The only way to do that was to touch people's consciences and, since these were developed by Christianity, Christianity was the ally of democracy.

Speaking for the Maori people the Rev. P. Moki pointed out that Maori and pakeha had served together against the common foe and should now work together in the interests of their country. If they did not, the work and sacrifice of the men whom the memorial honoured would be wasted.

The men who fell in the two world wars and whose names were engraved on the memorial were the very fibre of the life of the district, said the president of the New Plymouth Returned Services Association, Dr. G. H. Thomson. These men were struck down in their youth, but had they lived they would never again have risen to the pinnacle they reached when they faced the prospect of imminent death.

"I feel that if we do not accept their challenge we should deface the names from this monument and let it become grown over, for it would become an insult to the dead," he concluded.