

IN MEMORY.

CENOTAPH UNVEILED TO-DAY.

BY GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

RAIN MARKS SOLEMN OCCASION.

The patter of rain drops on roofs; the drip, drip, drip from over-full guttering! A day of raincoats and umbrellas! Sounds seemed hushed by the heavy moisture-laden atmosphere on this day when all New Plymouth was again in mourning for its brave dead, whose memory is green although nearly six years have elapsed since there ceased the world-wide clash of arms which called for their sacrifice. In all solemnity the people of the town gathered this afternoon around a monument, which is the symbol of their love and admiration for departed brothers, fathers, sons and friends, while a man who was a distinguished comrade in arms of these dead and all the men of the Empire who fought on sea or land, took the leading part in its dedication.

The ceremony connected with the unveiling of the cenotaph this afternoon by Admiral of the Fleet Viscount Jellicoe of Scapa, could not be carried out entirely as planned owing to the unfavourable state of the weather, rain falling practically all the morning and continuing during the early part of the afternoon, but the impressiveness of the occasion was not lost on that account. Had the weather been fine, a choir, with orchestral accompaniment, was to have sung the "Hallelujah Chorus," after the dedicatory prayer.

At 3 o'clock the stirring strains of military music were heard as the band of the 1st Battalion Taranaki Regiment marched through Devon Street at the head of the procession. The shops and business places had just closed and the footpaths were lined by people who waited in the shelter of the verandahs until it was necessary to wend their way to the foot of Queen Street.

As the procession proceeded down Queen Street the flow of people to the vicinity of the cenotaph set in, and soon the lofty monument was the centre of a black expanse of umbrellas. Looking down from the post office the sight was one that will remain impressed upon the memory—the tall, grey pile of the cenotaph softly outlined against the background of a tossing, foam-flecked sea, slate-coloured in sympathy with the weeping heavens; the veiling flags whipped by the wind; and the people waiting in their hundreds, oblivious of the rain, to take their part in honouring the dead.

Rain was still falling when the Governor-General and party arrived and the swelling strains of the National Anthem marked the opening of the ceremony.

[The Governor-General's speech and a complete description of the unveiling ceremony will be published to-morrow.]

A MEMORIAL WORTHY OF BRAVE MEN.

The cenotaph is altogether a worthy and fitting memorial to the men of this district, who gave their lives in the Great War. It is in a commanding position, and bears striking, if silent, testimony to the heroism of those men, who counted life itself not too much to give that liberty might be saved.

It was an appropriate decision of the War Memorial Committee to follow the lead given by the Empire in selecting this particular design for the New Plymouth memorial. The cenotaph is similar to that one, known throughout the Empire, which stands in Whitehall, London, but it does not conform in all details. The design of the New Plymouth memorial was based on descriptions and photographs of the original cenotaph.

An interesting fact connected with the London cenotaph was mentioned in an article which appeared recently in the Manchester Guardian. "Everyone knows about the design of the cenotaph was mentioned in an article which appeared recently in the Manchester Guardian. "Everyone knows about the design of the cenotaph, and how Sir Edwin Lutyens made it tall that it might be seen in the distance, and narrow because the site in the middle of traffic demanded it," it was stated. "It is not so generally known that it is designed on the principle of curves, and no line in it is exactly straight, so that it is centred to a sphere and symbolic of infinity." To have adopted a similar principle in designing the New Plymouth cenotaph would have added very considerably to the cost, by making the shaping of the blocks much more of a task than it would be for a design embodying straight lines and right-angles.

Recalling that within sight of the cenotaph is the Nelson Column in Trafalgar Square, commemorating the day when the British fleet drove the French from the seas, the writer in the Manchester Guardian said: "France is now our ally, and in process of time the cenotaph itself will take its place with the Nelson Monument as a forgetting as well as a remembrance. It is the hope of the world that these monuments stand over dead and buried, international hates."

"Almost at the gate of Pennsylvania Castle, in the Isle of Portland, there is what looks like an excavation for new buildings. It is a small quarry and from it was taken the stone of which the cenotaph was built. It was chosen with great care and after inspection of several quarries, and in view of the experts it will bleach very

OIL TANK ABLAZE.

STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

BIG FIRE SPREADING.

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SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 15.

Two soldiers lost their lives, a dozen homes were destroyed, and a large part of the plant of the Associated Oil Company was wiped out by a fire, started by lightning striking a huge tank of crude oil. The flames spread to a tank of 100,000 barrels of gasoline. The loss is already £300,000, and the fire is spreading. It now threatens the residential section, and also the property of the Standard Oil Company.

LYTTELTON TUNNEL.

DEMAND FOR DUPLICATION.

Per Press Association.

CHRISTCHURCH, Sept. 15.

A public meeting to-night, attended by about 100 representatives of the town and country interests, adopted a resolution urging upon the Government the imperative necessity for the immediate duplication of the Lyttelton tunnel and the electrification of the port railway line, and that effect should be given without delay to the repeated recommendations in this connection of the general managers of railways during the last decade. The Mayor of Christchurch presided and supporting speeches were made by representatives of the Progress League, Chamber of Commerce, and other civic and provincial organisations and local bodies.

TOLOGA BAY.

TENDER FOR JETTY.

Per Press Association

TOLAGO BAY, Sept. 16.

The Harbour Board has accepted the tender of Goodman, of Gisborne, for the erection of a reinforced jetty at Tolago Bay. The structure will be 1600 feet long.

silvery in the London weather. The stone was rubbed and dressed with stone grit and pasted with 'slurry,' a mixture of stone dust and lime, so that the pieces as they were built in would not weather differently. The slurry was washed off and the final dressing given the day before the unveiling, when the beautiful gleaming stone shone out so wonderfully.

A big quarry development by the Bath and Portland Stone Company is soon to begin on the uplands behind the wears where Sir Christopher Wren quarried his stone. Debris still lies scattered all over the shore land of the great workings for Wren's rebuilding of London, and among it some stones with Wren's personal mark of the Y or wine-glass (people differ as to the meaning of the symbol). Through these flocks of grey stone run green lanes, where Wren's rough carts moved up and down from the quarries to the little pier. And in its rough state Portland stone now, as then, comes to London by much the same sort of sailing ketch as brought this gleaming freight in Sir Christopher's time. It is loaded now from the quay in the great harbour where the warships lie at the end of the famous Chesil Beach, which connects Portland with the mainland.

For the last Armistice Day ceremony at the London cenotaph Mr. Rudyard Kipling wrote the following poem, which it is not inappropriate to reproduce:—

"LONDON STONE."

When you come to London town,
Grieving! Grieving!
Bring your flowers and lay them down,
At the place of grieving.

When you come to London stone,
Grieving! Grieving!
Bow your head and mourn your own
With the others grieving.

For those minutes let it wake—
Grieving! Grieving!
All the empty heart and ache
That isn't cured by grieving.

For those minutes, tell no lie:—
Grieving! Grieving!
"Grave, this is thy victory;
And the sting of death is grieving."

Where's our help from earth or heaven,
Grieving! Grieving!
To comfort us for what we're given,
And only gained the grieving.

Heaven's too far and earth too near,
Grieving! Grieving!
But our neighbour's standing here,
Grieving as we're grieving.

What's his burden every day?
Grieving! Grieving!
Nothing man can count or weigh,
But loss and love's own grieving.

What's the tie betwixt us two,
Grieving! Grieving!
That must last our whole life through?
"As I suffer, so do you."
That may ease the grieving.
Rudyard Kipling.

The New Plymouth cenotaph has been constructed of grey stone obtained at Mangorei, near the borough hydro works, and though this was somewhat difficult to work it has, in the main, proved eminently suitable for the purpose, and the finished work has given an imposing and dignified monument of which the community may feel proud and which will stand as a perpetual reminder of the great sacrifices which the war demanded and which were readily made by the men who went to the front. It is on a base 14ft. by 8ft. and reaches to a total height of 33ft. It is surrounded at the base by a flight of steps the extreme measurements of which cover an area 26ft. by 20ft. On the northern and southern faces there are large Crusaders' crosses, while on either side there is a sculptured laurel wreath and the simple inscription:

1914-1918,

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE.

As senior architect of the town Mr. F. Messenger was entrusted with the work of designing the monument, and the contractors were Messrs. J. G. M. Russell, J. M'Cracken and A. Handley, New Plymouth. The sculptured wreaths were the work of Mr. W. F. Short, of New Plymouth.