

PEEBLESHIRE ADVERTISER AND COUNTY NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY 1st JANUARY 1919

NEWLANDS WAR MEMORIAL BAZAAR

On Saturday last a bazaar was held at Romanno School on behalf of Newlands War Memorial Fund. As the day was fine the opening ceremony was conducted under the blue sky from the steps at the entrance door.

The Rev. T. D. Miller, of Kirkurd Parish, introduced Mr H. D. Lorimer, formerly of Callands, who was present to open the bazaar, to a large crowd of parishioners, friends and visitors.

Mr Lorimer said that the leaflet which had been issued by the War Memorial Committee began with these words:- "Under a sense of pride and duty, it has been resolved to erect a war memorial in the parish of Newlands," and it was under a sense of pride and duty that he came there that day to declare the bazaar open. It needed no words of his to command to those before him the object for which the bazaar had been promoted. It was, in his opinion, a very natural thing that there should be almost universal desire to erect in every district of the country a war memorial in pious memory of the heroic men who laid down their lives in the struggle through which the country had passed, and as a thanksgiving to God for the victory which has been vouchsafed to the nation's arms. It was surely a fitting thing that they should have before their eyes a perpetual memorial of those men who sacrificed their lives on the altar of their country. The field of France - not for the first time - have been consecrated by the blood of Scots. They had fought on sea and land and in the air that they at home might be protected, and they felt that this sacrifice, which wrought such a momentous event in the history of civilisation, should be worthily commemorated, and that future ages should have always before their eyes their tribute to the imperishable deeds of their men. He was very much tempted to relate some of the deeds of their Scottish regiments, but that was hardly the occasion. Some of those heroic deeds have been recorded by the very able pen of a Peeblesshire man, and were to be found in a booklet with the resounding title of "The Battle Honours of Scotland" written by Colonel Buchan. Unlike some other districts, they were fortunate in having escaped a

controversy as to the form which their war memorial should take. It was inevitable, he supposed, that on such a question opinion should be divided between utilitarianism and sentiment. But in the Newlands war memorial they had both utility and sentiment very happily combined. If the desire to erect a memorial was acknowledged to be a natural one, then surely no more natural place for it could be found than in the Parish Church. The first necessity of such a memorial was, in his opinion, a spiritual atmosphere. And it said much for the tone of the parish that on that occasion that it should have been secured with such unanimity. The most glorious memorial which could be raised would not be too worthy of the deeds they desired to commemorate. And he trusted that the efforts of the committee might be so successful as to enable them to erect such a memorial as would satisfy their sense of pride and duty. It might be that as long as they lived they needed nothing to remind them of the imperishable deeds of the living and the dead. But they could not rest content with that. They desired, and rightly so, to ensure that their glory would never be forgotten. In the words of Sir Walter Scott -

*Deep graved in every British heart,
O never let their names depart.*

To some of those present that day their hearts might be full of sorrowful pride at the loss of some loved one. But there was a silver lining to every cloud. And let him repeat, for those whose hearts were full, a beautiful story he came across some days ago. It was a story by Spurgeon taken from a funeral sermon which he preached, and the story was this:- "A certain nobleman had a spacious garden which he left to the care of a faithful servant whose delight was to trail the creeper along the trellis, to water the seeds in times of drought, to support the stalks of the tender plants and to do every work which would render the garden a paradise of flowers. One morning the servant awoke with joy expecting to tend his beloved flowers and hoping to find his favourites increased in beauty. To his surprise he found one of his choicest beauties torn from the stem. Full of grief and anger he turned to his fellow-servants and demanded who had robbed him of his treasure. They had not done it but he could find no solace from his grief until one of them remarked:- 'My Lord was walking in the garden this morning and I saw him pluck a flower and carry it away.' Then truly the

gardener found he had no cause for his grief. He felt that it was well his master had been pleased to take his own; and he went away smiling at his loss because his Lord had taken delight in his flowers." Mr Lorimer concluded by declaring the bazaar open and he expressed the hope that their efforts would that day place the scheme on a sure foundation. (Loud applause.)

Rev Horace J. Dick, minister of Newlands parish called for a most cordial vote of thanks for Mr Lorimer for his presence and speech, and also to Rev. Mr Miller.

The well stocked stalls were generously patronised. Tea, served in the shade of the trees, and the concerts given by the perriot troupe were much enjoyed.

All the kind givers, buyers, entertainers and workers were cordially thanked. Where every worker and helper did so well it would be invidious to mention any one in particular but it is desired to acknowledge with high regard the particular services of Miss Jean Farron and her perriot troupe; Mrs Henderson, for the use of her piano; Mr Lees, for the use of his motor; Messrs Adams & Linkie, for the occupation of their stores; the School Board, for the use of the school; Mr John Douglas Thomson and Mr Charles Broadly, of West Linton, for music on the violin and piano; Mr and Mrs Mackie, for the conveniences of The Schoolhouse; and Mr William Hamilton of Dalgety Avenue, Edinburgh. The bazaar was a great social and financial success. The sum of £386 was obtained which, together with £60 in hand, brings the memorial fund up to £446. This is a splendid achievement for Newlands and is the fruit of unanimity, good spirit and high purpose. The war memorial committee are to be warmly congratulated.