

New tablet unveiled at Hawera.

Although rain fell throughout the afternoon at Hawera, it was intermittent enough to permit the usual impressive Anzac Day parade of returned servicemen and others to assemble at the Winter Show Buildings and march to the Opera House for a service. The highlight of Hawera's observance was the dedication and unveiling of a tablet on the war memorial.

The parade was somewhat smaller this year than in the past because of the absence of high school cadets, St. John ambulance cadets and girl guides as a result of the poliomyelitis restrictions. However, there was a good attendance of other units, which assembled and marched under Lieutenant-Colonel H. J. Laurent, V.C., in the following order: Hawera Highland Pipe Band, returned servicemen, home servicemen, Legion of Frontiersmen, Red Cross.

Selections were played in the Opera House by the Hawera Municipal Band under Mr. H. C. A. Fox before the service began. The band also played the accompaniment to hymns.

Visiting Speaker.

Mr. R. H. Billens, Palmerston North, was the speaker at the service, which was led by the mayor, Mr. L. H. Clapham. The lesson was read by the president of the South Taranaki Returned Services Association, Mr. J. Houston. Prayers were led by the Rev. A. G. Irvine, and the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Canon D. B. Malcolm.

Associated with them on the platform were the chairman of the Hawera County Council, Mr. P. J. Clement, and Mrs. Clement, Mrs. Clapham, Mr. W. A. Sheat, M.P., and Mrs. Sheat, the Rev. L. G. Hanna, Lieutenant-Colonel Laurent, Miss I. Haybittle and Mrs. H. M. Priest (Red Cross Society), the chairman of the Hawera Hospital Board, Mr. H. Thrush, and Mrs. Thrush, Mr. W. Shipton and Miss Stebbing (St. John Ambulance Association).

After the service the parade, with the inclusion of engines and men of the Hawera Fire Brigade, reassembled and, led by the highland and municipal bands, moved to the cenotaph. There, a memorial tablet bearing the names of the servicemen who fell in the Second World War was unveiled. The tablet was dedicated by Canon Malcolm, and Mrs. Clapham performed the ceremony. The first verse of "Abide With Me" was played by the band.

Wreaths Placed on Cenotaph.

Following the laying of wreaths by Mr. Clapham and Mr. Clement, representatives of various organisations and pupils of the Hawera Technical High School placed wreaths on the cenotaph. The crowd stood in steady rain while an R.S.A. firing party under Mr. J. Bell fired three volleys. "The Last Post" and "Reveille" were sounded by members of the municipal band. Because of the rain a march past at the cenotaph was cancelled, as were arrangements with the Hawera Aero Club for aeroplanes to fly over the arch and dip in salute.

The memorial arch was recently renovated and cleaned, names previously on the outside of the pillars being removed and placed on plaques within the curve of the arch. The tablet unveiled yesterday is inside one curve of the arch, facing another tablet that bears the names of the fallen in the First World War. The renovation of the arch and the provision of the plaques constitutes the Hawera district's official war memorial.

Members of the Hawera Women's National Reserve and sub-centre of the Red Cross Society entertained former servicemen in the returned services' clubrooms. Reference was made to the presence of Miss J. Buchanan, whose kindness to returned servicemen was stated to be widely known. Musical items arranged by Mrs. A. K. Fyson were presented.