

The Bridge Memorial Clock was unveiled by the Acting Governor on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 1930 (the Acting Governor's name is not recorded).

## **The Acting Governor's Speech**

I feel greatly honoured that it should have fallen to my lot to perform this unveiling ceremony today.

This War Memorial Clock was erected by the efforts of a committee consisting of Mr. John Thorpe, Mr. Charles Jameson and Mr. Edward Constantine, who had some £30 surplus after the placing of the Island Memorial Cenotaph. It was found that additional monies would be forthcoming. The Government voted £30; public subscription produced some £80. The decision was taken to erect a memorial clock whose time, by law, should be the official of the colony. Here then is the result of the Committee's work and they are to be heartily congratulated on that result.

It is a memorial to those who gave their lives for their country; at the same time, by filling a long felt want it will serve a useful purpose. It should also do something else; it should remind us that there must be no more wars, that each one of us has got to try and make this world better than he found it.

As you know it is now the endeavour of almost all nations to abolish war as a means of settling international disputes. There is no possible question that this is a goal at which we all should aim. It remains to us then to sit back and think how each one of us can do his little bit to assist that end.

It is undoubtedly a fact that the present world wide trade depression is partly due to the after effects of the late war. This depression in its worst form reached the island some months ago, resulting in the closing of the flax mills and producing hardships due to unemployment. These hardships have been borne with a stout heart and with an absence of complaint that is entirely praiseworthy. You have the will to hold on; you help each other in difficult times, and St. Helena has had several such times. This aptitude to make the best of things and not to grumble is a quality to be greatly admired and it would be well if it were more generally found on other shores.

Though I have no definite or official information to give there seems to be signs of improvement in the local situation. I can daily hear again the welcomed sound of the mill behind Oaklands. The mill under Francis Plain is again producing a similarly pleasant

noise. This, of course, all means more work. In addition considerable work has been found under the Horticultural Department, under the Public Works Department, on Government House and on the roads.

While mentioning the Horticultural Department I should like to take this public opportunity of bringing to the notice of everyone the allotment scheme that has been started above New Ground House. Here a plot of land on which to grow anything the owner wishes can be had free. I should like to see every plot taken up and cultivated. It is, I hope, the beginning of a more extensive plan to encourage the island to work small holdings and not to be so dependent on flax as the staple industry.

Practical sympathy and encouragement being shown by the Colonial Government Committee to help us here. They have made a grant of some £6,800 to reconstruct the roads, a loan of £1,000 to recondition the telephone system, a sum to provide for the visit of a forestry officer and a geologist who will be able to tell us how to direct our efforts in the most profitable way. This is very satisfactory and we must make the most of it, because money is very scarce at home now and the British taxpayer has as big a burden as he can carry. It would neither be fair to ask for more, nor possible for him to go on producing more and more money.

I feel convinced that so healthy and, generally speaking, so fertile an island as this has a prosperous future before it, to this end we are receiving help. It is now up to us, by our own endeavour to go forward and prosper. It will not just happen by asking, by sitting down hoping and waiting for something to turn up. We must all be up and doing, determined, ready to move with the times, to employ up to date methods, to accept and follow the experts' advice, to not be disheartened by early failures, but to persevere. It seems to be that in this direction lies the opportunity of facing successfully possible future depressions, of making our world a better place. Should another war occur, by looking ahead now we can prepare ourselves for its aftermath, and so tend to minimise the misery and poverty it will bring in its train.

This timepiece, whenever we pass it or read its face, while reminding us, not in a morbid way, of the brave lives that were sacrificed for their country, will urge us, each in his small way, not only to do all we can to prevent the tragedy of another war, but to try and make our little bit of the world a better place to live in.

Here then we have the reminder, and I now unveil this Memorial Clock to the everlasting memory of our Glorious Dead and to the duty that lies before us.