

MEMORIAL EXERCISES

A Large Crowd Attended the Exercises on Decoration Day.

We think never were there so many Royal Oak people in attendance at Decoration Day exercises as this year. And the occasion was particularly impressive. The fact that this nation is now at war, that some of our boys have gone to do battle for us and that others will be called, and that some of their graves may be made for us to honor with our flowers before another year passes away, put most of those present in a mood of solemn contemplation. There was a new interpretation of the patriotic songs sung by the school children and the hundreds of flags that were displayed were more deeply significant than ordinarily on like occasions.

No doubt the thought entered the mind of many a young man present that if loving friends and appreciative citizens would thus yearly do his memory an honor in recognition of his heroic sacrifice to the cause of liberty and justice and all the old flag stands for, it would not be so hard after all to die for his country.

Children from the public schools in the village, and from the Catholic parochial school, and from the Ferndale school were all represented in the parade. The little Catholic girls were dressed in white with the Red Cross insignia in red on their sleeves and looked especially pretty. The procession was accompanied by the Masonic band.

After the program at the cemetery the crowd returned to the high school building where a program was given about as announced in last week's issue. A special feature of the exercises at the high school were a song and drill by the pupils of the Ferndale school. The drill was especially good. Attorney R. A. Parker, a veteran of the Civil war, was master of the ceremonies, and W. H. Addis was marshal of the day.