

Timaru Herald. 8 July 1919 (Papers Past) [30/05/2014]

SOUTHBURN.

WELCOME TO LOCAL SOLDIERS.

In spite of bad weather, a goodly company gathered in the Southburn school on Friday evening, to welcome home Captain P. Elworthy, Trooper W. Davison, and Privates R. S. McMillan and H. Aitken.

Mr J. Ward, chairman of the local Patriotic Society, expressed the pleasure of the residents to see them back safe and well. He assured his hearers that while welcoming home those who had come through the war, those of our boys who had made the supreme sacrifice were especially held in affectionate remembrance by all, and he wished to extend the deepest sympathy of the district to the relatives of these.

He then called on Mr Anstey, M.P. for Waitaki, to present medals to the returned men. In complying, Mr Anstey expressed his pleasure at being present to welcome home any of the New Zealand boys, sons of pioneers, who with duty done as theirs had been were worthy of all honour, and of the high commendation given them by Sir Douglas Haig. They had helped to bring about the worlds' peace. The power of Germany, whose arrogant standard was "might is right," was curtailed on both land and sea. There may have been criticisms of the peace terms, but he thought they were nearly right, for Germany was not changed at heart and must be kept strictly to the agreements.

Mr Anstey went on to speak of the sacrifices made by the men who went to the war, and said that everything must be done to recompense them. He then called on Miss Cumming, as secretary of the Ladies' Patriotic Guild, to fasten the medals on the breasts of the returned soldiers, who suitably replied, Captain Elworthy holding his audience with some interesting and thrilling accounts of his experiences with Germans, for whose ways both in warfare and in their treatment of prisoners he entertains a feeling of well-deserved loathing. He gave a high meed of praise to England's share in the war, in supplying 75 per cent. of the fighting forces. England had nothing but praise for New Zealanders and for New Zealand's war efforts. For his own part, Captain Elworthy was very well pleased to be home again after about five years' absence.

After the singing of "Soldiers of the King" and "They are Jolly Good Fellows," and hearty cheers for the guests of the evening, the National Anthem closed this part of the evening's proceedings.

The usual bountiful supper was supplied by the ladies of the district, after which dancing was continued to music supplied by Messrs W. and G. Brassell and others. Mr H. Caird acted as M.C. During the evening, Mr Young, of Timaru, with recitations, Miss Ruth Chamberlain and Mr F. Evans with songs, acceptably entertained the company. and Miss Reta Fibbes contributed a hornpipe and an Irish Jig.