

**THE STURDY SEVENTH
MEN OF OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND.
MORE THAN ENOUGH.
DEPARTURE FOR TRENTHAM.
HILLSIDE WORKERS' FINE DISPLAY.**

Only one essential to make the send-off to the Seventh Reinforcements from Otago and Southland a memorable farewell this morning was lacking: there was no sunshine. But this lack was more than counterbalanced by the brightness of spirit of the soldiers and citizens, and by the stirring music of bands and the excellence of a display by the workers of the State railway shops at Hillside, whose procession was one of the finest displays made in Dunedin for some time. And there was more than ordinary reason, for brightness of spirit and pride and gratification. Not only was the Otago military district sending a full quota of sturdy men for the Seventh Reinforcements, but almost 150 volunteers had to remain behind. Naturally, they were keenly disappointed, but their opportunity to go on active service will soon come, and it is to be hoped that their eagerness to serve will stimulate recruiting.

The following are the approximate numbers furnished by the four groups: —

— Mounted Rifles. —

Dunedin 20

Invercargill 25

Oamaru 35

Milton 25

— Infantry. —

Dunedin 74

Invercargill 100

Oamaru 80

Milton 39

Long before the hour of departure thousands of citizens gathered near the main rendezvous, and their enthusiasm was supported by the music and marching of several school bands in smart uniform and by the attractiveness of the Hillside display.

The formalities in the Garrison Hall were on familiar lines, but lacked nothing in genuine spirit and kindly advice from the military officers in charge— Captain Fraser and Sergeant-majors Cummings and Bishop. The men were paraded without fuss, and then given ample time to speak with friends. A little after 11 o'clock the Southland contingent joined the Dunedin quota, and the whole, forming a long column of well-set-up young men, marched briskly through the main streets to the station, cheers greeting them all along the way.

They had almost to force a passage through a dense crowd before the main entrance to the railway station, which, in common with all public buildings and business premises, was gaily beflagged. The people forgot the drizzle of rain in enjoying the spirited enthusiasm of the Hillside workers.

THE HILLSIDE PROCESSION.

The appearance of the Hillside Workshops procession in the streets this morning was as a draught of wine to the City. It warmed the blood. A double-purpose was served by the display: it set the people in an enthusiastic mood for a proper send-off to the Seventh Reinforcements, and it gave the cause of the Government queen (Miss Carson) a big advertisement and a good financial lift. The procession was on a big scale and highly picturesque. Leading features were a lifeboat (borrowed from the Union Company) manned by a party of middies, a vivid presentation of the entrance to the place where naughty boys go to, a tableau depicting in satirical fashion "The Day" that the Kaiser's men have been talking so much about, a crew manning one of the smoking guns from "Big Lizzie," and, as a specialty, there was a man who carried a long pole bearing a collection box that could be hoisted to receive money from second-floor windows. Miners, soldiers, clowns, policemen - all sorts of emblematical and humorous figures walked in the procession. Many of the participants had gone to much trouble in the matter of costume and paint, and the general effect was such as to impress the crowd, many of whom decided that it was the best turn-out of the sort seen in our City for a long while. Several scratch orchestras of the comic sort were energetically making themselves heard, and the workshops' choir, supported by an organ and piano, discoursed real music for the benefit of the less frivolous of the crowd, whilst the St. Kilda Band and the schools' bands added materially to the success. Considering that the affair was started only about 10 days ago, the working up is quite amazing in its detail and scope. The lorries used in the procession were lent by Spencer and Dunkley, Speight and Co., Mr H. Lanham, Thomson and Co., and Jackson and Purdie, and horses were obtained from Mr G. Grant and Mr J. Jeffs. This afternoon the procession was to parade the streets again, and a mock court was arranged for, but it was feared at midday that the wet weather might interfere with the arrangements to some extent.

It should be noted that the work of painting the banners and getting ready the display generally was done by the men in the evening in their own time. A noticeable characteristic of the Hillside procession was the consistent cheerfulness and good manners of the alms-gatherers. They had a nice way of coaxing the people.

AT THE STATION.

His Worship the Mayor (Mr J. J. Clark) lost no time in opening the civic function at the Railway Station, where thousands of citizens took a very active part in farewelling the men who filled a roped-off square in front of the main

entrance. Cheers were called and spontaneously given at the outset, followed by the lusty singing of the National Anthem, led by the St Kilda Band.

His Worship, addressing the men, said that the citizens once again had gathered to say God-speed to another contingent of the brave boys of Otago and Southland who were making the greatest sacrifice that was possible for any young men to make for their Empire. It was for the people who were left at home to show their utmost appreciation of the worthy men who were going to fight for their country. Here he called for three hearty cheers for the boys; these were given with a will. "I can assure you, men of Otago and Southland," continued His Worship, "how deeply we appreciate your self-sacrifice, in volunteering for active service. Our feelings are too deep for words to express, but there is not one of us who does not feel the greatest admiration, respect, and esteem for you. You are going to fight against a foe that is the most brutal, tyrannical, and hellish foe in the world - a foe who seeks to crush the whole world with his armed fist, and so destroy righteousness and all that we value. Your comrades have already gone forth to battle, and their valor has filled the whole world with admiration. . . . We are confident that you will eagerly follow their example, and worthily uphold their traditions. We send you forth in full confidence that you men will do your duty nobly and come back crowned with honor. It is a time of self-sacrifice, and you have made your sacrifice. We will do everything in our power in helping those you leave behind, and nothing for their comfort will be left undone. In the name of the people of the City, I wish you God-speed and good luck and a safe return."

The band played 'Soldiers of the King.'

The Rev. R. S. Gray, in the course of a brief but pithy address, said he wanted the men to believe in themselves and in their mission. For men who had confidence in their strength and were sure of their duty would fight with the vigor that would prevail. The citizens wanted them to believe and remember that the New Zealand soldiers were in the long line of great naval and military heroes who had made the Empire what it is. They also wanted them to believe in God and in the fact that they were going to fight God's battle. We send you forth in His name, for we believe that victory shall rest upon our banners, and will be a victory for the Kingdom of God."

After the crowd had sung 'Onward, Christian Soldiers,' the Rev. Mr Gray offered prayer for the welfare of the men who were going to battle and for the men who had gone.

Rousing cheers were given for the troops departing and for the lads who are moving steadily forward in the Dardanelles.

The men marched swiftly to the platform to the sound of music and cordial farewells. They entrained upon a special without delay, and are due at Trentham to-morrow morning.

MEN WHO HAVE GONE.

The following is a list of the men of all ranks who entrained:

MOUNTED RIFLES.

— Territorials. —

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— Non-Territorials. —

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— Veterinary Section. —

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INFANTRY.

— Territorials. —

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Theodore Foster.

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— Non-Territorials. —

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SOLDIERS' LETTERS.

WRITTEN FROM EGYPT.

Private Theo. Foster, of the 10th Reinforcements, a nephew of Trooper Evans, writes to his mother to say that he is still in Egypt, where the climate and everything else is agreeing with him. The writer, continuing, says: - "The bit of a scrap we had on May 31 was specially agreeable. It puts new life into a fellow after hanging about the different camps so long. You have no idea how one looks forward to a bit of excitement like that. I was with the Mounted rifles the first time they were in action . . . You will have heard about the aeroplane that came over here the morning after the engagement I have just referred to. It was at about half-past six in the morning, and I'll bet no Timaru fireman ever got out of bed in a bigger hurry than I did that morning when somebody called out 'enemy aeroplane.' Some of the boys rushed out with only their pants on, and one or two in their shirts only. . . It's a decent horse that I've got, and it's great how fond one gets of his horse, and the horse of his ruler. Ken McIntosh is looking really well. I also met Joe Stewart, and a chap, Bob xxay who used to be head shepherd for Mr J. M. Grant, of Gray's Hills."

Mr T. Evans, of Wellington Street, Timaru, has received a letter from his son, Farrier-Trooper Owen Evans, who is "Somewhere in France", stating that he and the boys were in the trenches at last and face to face with the Hun. They were having a fairly quiet though a good time on the whole. The weather at time of writing was fine, and trench fire under these conditions was not so hard. He and three(?) others were in the dugout and were with And could walk ... when off duty. He considered the war a great ".....?," and after twelve(?) months' ..taining realised the ... dangersted with it but would not miss it for the world.