

46th REINFORCEMENTS.

AT TEMUKA

THE FIRST DRAFT OF MARRIED MEN

The send-off to the Temuka and district members of the 46th Reinforcements took place last evening in the Dominion Theatre, the programme being in the hands of the Rainbows, a company which gave such an excellent entertainment a couple of months ago. Rain was pouring down all the evening, and this prevented many people from attending, especially those who live in the country. For all that there was a good attendance, but had the weather been fine the theatre would have again been crowded. Owing to the rain the usual course of the men marching from Gunnion's corner to the theatre was abandoned, and the Juvenile Brass Band played at the entrance to the theatre.

As the men entered, the audience rose and heartily cheered them. Mr Gunnion, chairman of the Patriotic Committee, made a few introductory remarks. He first thanked the recruits for coming to the send-off. They deserved all the honour that could be done to them. This was the first send-off to married men with one child, and they had hoped to make it the largest they had had. They well deserved it. No doubt the very wet weather had prevented many from attending, but it should not be forgotten that the soldiers had to be in the trenches in all kinds of weather. He then addressed a few words of good cheer to the men, assuring them that all were proud of them. They were going away as men and he knew they would be true to their manhood; he could give them no higher praise. He wished them all success as soldiers, and assured them that on their return they would get a hearty welcome. (Applause.)

The entertainment was similar in form to that given by the company a short time ago, so it is therefore quite unnecessary to specialise every item. They were all well given and encores were frequent. The selections by the Patriotic Orchestra were very popular, as also was the pretty dance by the wee Rainbows, under Miss Acheson. Miss Coombs made her debut as a soloist in the patriotic marching song and chorus "One of the boys," giving it with much force and expression, and receiving a double encore. While the piece was being given the cadets, carrying swords, could be seen passing along the back of the stage, and this added much to the effect. The concerted number "Where do we go from here" was a capital item. The final quartette "We shall get there in time," including the grand march of the Allies, was the star piece of the evening. The Allies were represented by the following: - England, Mr H. Curtis; Japan, Miss N. Acheson; Servia, Miss D. Davies; France, Mrs L. Talbot; Australia, Miss L. Duthie; Belgium, Miss M. Aspinall; America, Miss D. Coombs; Brazil, Miss P. Airay; Italy, Mrs A. R. Guild; New Zealand, Miss K. Wareing; Britannia, Mrs L. Grant. The performers were dressed in khaki, with wide sashes of the colours of the country they represented, and carried their country's flag. They were loudly applauded as they

marched to the front of the stage to appropriate music. After going through some pretty evolutions with the male members of the company they lined up on each side of the stage, and while “Rule Britannia” was being sung, “Britannia,” represented by Mrs L. Grant, appeared. The effect was really beautiful and the curtain had to be raised. The display was arranged by the Misses Coombs and Acheson, and they and the performers are deserving of the highest credit. The soloists were Mrs A. R. Guild, Mrs L. Talbot, Misses M. Aspinall and Coombs, Messrs S. Niles, G. Aspinall, H. Talbot, W. Scrimgeour, and W. Pearse, and all acquitted themselves well. An excellent programme was concluded with the National Anthem. The orchestra was under the able direction of Mrs W. G. Weir. Mr W. Scrimgeour made an efficient stage manager, and the accompaniments were tastefully played by Mrs L. Talbot and M. Aspinall.

During the evening Mrs Aspinall presented the soldiers with their “holdalls” from the Temuka ladies, the audience cheering them, and singing “For they are Jolly Good Fellows.”

Mr Gunnion said on Monday they would be sending away one of the finest bodies of men that had yet left Temuka for the war — the majority of them were married — and he hoped there would be a large attendance of the public to send them away in good heart.

The following are the names of the members of the draft :

W. Berry.

V. Brookland.

H. T. Clinch.

T. Creevy.

C. Griffin.

H. P. Levens.

J. McMeekin.

G. M. Pocock.

G. Philp.

J. R. Washington.

N. G. Ward.

T. Wade.

F. B. Woodhead.