

Temuka Leader. 6 March 1917 (Papers Past) [01/09/2025]

This evening a send-off will be given in the Temuka Drill Hall to all soldiers who will be leaving for Trentham during the month of March. The send-off is not only for soldiers leaving to-morrow, but for all soldiers who will go in the March drafts, and it is hoped they will take this intimation as an invitation to attend to-night's gathering. The Euterpean Band (Timaru) have kindly promised to come to Temuka and take part in the programme, which will be quite up to the usual standard and the T.P.E.C. hope to see a large attendance to do honour to our departing soldiers. The names of the men leaving to-morrow are: C. F. Edgeler, G. Rainey, and R. Watson (Temuka), J. T. Connolly, G. Constable, J. Henderson, J. J. Markham, **C. B. Tiplady**, and R. Harold (Geraldine). Those leaving on the 13th are: W. J. Looker, J. W. Looker, W. J. Lynch, and J. Bryson (Temuka), **H. G. Tiplady**, D. I. Sugrue, D. Sugrue, H. Riches, J. B. Pizzey, H. N. O. Jones, and T. H. Davie (Geraldine).

Timaru Herald. 7 March 1917 (Papers Past) [29/12/2015]

GERALDINE

A DOUBLE FUNCTION.

The Drill Hall Geraldine was packed on Monday night, when the local members of the 27th Reinforcements were farewelled and presentations were made to Miss Doris Barker, the Geraldine Queen, and to Miss Aspinall the Princess. The stage had been effectively decorated and the Geraldine Band played selections while the people were assembling.

Major Kennedy presided and a greatly appreciated musical programme was given by Sergeant C. Gimson, Miss Young of Timaru, the Misses Gray, Mrs Torepe and party, and dances by Mr J. Lynch, Miss Lynch, and the Lynch family. The Maoris from Arowhenua contributed largely to the entertainment, their singing being greatly appreciated as indeed was all they did. The Maori girls gave some native dances. The Geraldine Orchestral Society also contributed selections during the evening.

At the invitation of the chairman, Messrs G. and C. **Tiplady**, J. Markham, D. Sugrue, B. Pizzey, H. Riches, R. Harold and C. Walton walked on to the stage.

Mr T. Gunnion of Temuka gave an address, and invited the boys to take tea at Temuka on their way to camp. Kitchener said they wanted men and they had got them; Lloyd George said they wanted numbers, and they had got them; and now he said they wanted food, that the formers must grow wheat — were they going to send these boys to starve? When they sent their boys it was up to them all to work and no one should reap enormous profits. Some were getting great profits and sending none of their boys to the Front. If what happened in Belgium occurred here they would rise to a man and woman. He wished the young fellows well, and when they came back they would be welcomed as men.

The chairman then made presentations to the Geraldine men and added good wishes, and Mrs Hislop, the Mayoress, on behalf of the Home and Empire League, presented each of the men with a parcel of comforts.

Timaru Herald. 8 March 1917 (Papers Past) [29/12/2015]

27TH REINFORCEMENTS

YESTERDAY'S SEND-OFF TO TIMARU MEN.

Yesterday South Canterbury's quota of the 27th Reinforcements left Timaru and were given an enthusiastic farewell. In the past the departing men have been entertained at dinner in Miss Read's tea rooms, but not sufficient men attending those functions lately, this custom has been stopped.

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GERALDINE MEN.

The Geraldine contingent left that town about half past two yesterday, four motor cars having been provided for their conveyance, and there was a fair gathering of their friends to see them off.

TEMUKA'S SEND-OFF.

The Temuka and Geraldine soldiers left for camp yesterday. The men and their relatives were entertained to afternoon tea in the Drill Hall by the ladies of Temuka under the supervision of Mrs Aspinall.

Mr C. Bates in an address said they were quite sure the boys going that day would do their duty nobly. They were going to fight for liberty and for the smaller nations who were not able to fight themselves. They would not find the camp life very hard. In conclusion he wished them God speed and the women of New Zealand would pray that they return home safe and sound. Speeches were also delivered by Rev. M. Tocker, of Geraldine, and Mr T. Gunnion. The Temuka Brass and Pipe Bands headed the procession to the station, where they played appropriate airs.

At the station short speeches were delivered by the Mayor (Mr A. Frew), Revs. Copeland and Tocker, and hearty cheers for the boys were given.

The following answered the roll-call. — C. F. Edgeler. J. Henderson. R. Harold, G. Rainey. C. B. Tiplady, J. J. Markham and R. W. Watson.

Temuka Leader. 8 March 1917 (Papers Past) [01/09/2025]

THE 28th AND 29th REINFORCEMENTS.

SEND-OFF AT GERALDINE.

On Monday evening the Geraldine Drill Hall was crowded, the occasion being a send-off to the district members of the 28th and 29th Reinforcements, combined with a presentation to Miss Doris Barker and Miss Aspinall in recognition of the services they rendered to the Red Cross Carnival, as Queen and Princess respectively. There were a number of Maoris present from Temuka and Arowhenua, who provided the greater portion of the musical programme. Mr Tom Gunnion, chairman of the Temuka Patriotic Committee, and several of his colleagues were present. The Geraldine Brass and Orchestral Bands were to the fore, and played several well appreciated items.

OPENING REMARKS.

Major J. Kennedy (chairman) in opening the proceedings, said they were gathered together for a double purpose that night. They had their Queen with them, and were going to make her a presentation, in recognition of the great services she had rendered in helping to raise money for the boys. (Applause.) They had a concert programme, as usual, most of the items being provided by the Maoris, who were very keen to do honour to their Queen, as all loyal subjects were. (Applause.)

THE MUSICAL PROGRAMME.

The concert opened with "Shipmates o' Mine," by special request, by Sergeant C. Gimson, who sang that song and an encore number in his well-known style. A poi dance by six Maori maidens, was the next item. It was very well and correctly executed, and called for a burst of applause. Miss Gray, who possesses a sweet contralto voice, sang two songs, and met with a very good reception. This was followed by a sailor's hornpipe by Mr J. Lynch, which proved a popular item. A quartette by a Maori party was encored. Miss Young, of Timaru, sang very nicely, and her song was followed by a poi dance in the canoe by the Maori girls, which was very gracefully performed, and elicited hearty applause. The orchestra gave some well rendered selections, and Miss Young obliged with another song, and added a recall number. A duet by the Misses Gray was delightfully sung, and the girls had to respond to encore after encore.

Another poi dance was performed with great success. An Irish jig, by Miss Lynch, earned for her a recall. A haka by Maori warriors was well performed, and called forth plenty of applause, and a vociferous demand for more, which was generously complied with. Sergeant C Gimson sang several popular songs, his hearers being tireless in their demands for further songs. The Lynch family gave a very graceful dance, the piano and violin accompaniment being played by members of this versatile group. The Maori troupe concluded the entertainment by giving some stirring hakas, which brought forth great applause.

PRESENTATION TO MISS BARKER.

The Chairman said they had now come to the most important item of the evening, that of presenting an album and photograph to good Queen Doris. Continuing, after Queen Doris and Princess Mabel had mounted the platform, Major Kennedy said it gave him great pleasure to present Queen Doris with the illuminated address, album, and photograph, in recognition of the great services she had rendered to the town, country, and Empire. The address was as follows: -

To Queen Doris of Geraldine. —

When the Queen Carnival Committee looked last year for a lady to grace the honour of royalty for Geraldine, it was the wish of all that you should take that onerous part. It was fitting that it should be so, seeing how nobly your family has responded to the call of duty oversea, and seeing how you had grown up here, adding every year memories of pleasant words and kindly deeds to the record of an honoured house. But we, the members of that committee, well knew that acceptance meant a great strain upon one so young, so much engaged in home and social duty, so averse from display, and so unwishful for praise. From the moment, however, that you consented to make the sacrifice we saw that your heart was in the work, and that every patriotic effort put forth was furthered by you with a queenly grace and royal good will. You grudged no time, no trouble, in the common cause. Your Court grew with every gathering where you were seen. The warm and faithful Maori heart was captured as well as the homage of the pakeha. High and low, near and far, all rallied to your standard, and pleased and proud to be the subjects of Queen Doris. That friendly contest is now over, and seeing that the success that crowned it owed so much to you, we cannot disband without asking you to accept a tiny memorial of days we shall never forget. In this little “Queen’s Book” of remembrance as we would wish it to be, your own heart will tell you all that has been left unsaid. May it remind you, too, that as you were the loved young Queen of a war year in Geraldine, so you will remain a queen of memory to us all. In the long sunny years of peace we pray may attend you and yours. In that hope we remain your liege servitors. (Signed by) J. Kennedy, M. McLeod, A. R. Dixon, D. Macgregor.”

In handing the gifts to the Queen, Major Kennedy asked Her Majesty to accept them as a small token of her subjects’ appreciation of her good work among them. (Applause.) The speaker concluded by expressing the hope that Miss Barker would treasure the presents in remembrance of the work she had done for the boys. Princess Mabel was then presented with an enlarged photograph of herself. (Both the photographs were the work of Mr J. E. Pigott, Timaru, and reflected great credit on the artist).

Mr Feilden replied on behalf of Her Majesty, whom, he said, had requested him to speak words of thanks for her. Some one had asked him if it was correct to still speak of Miss Barker as Her Majesty, as the Carnival was over. He did not know, but speaking for himself, and those who had worked for her, Miss Barker was still Her Majesty, and he hoped she would always be so. (Applause.) He had a difficult row to hoe. It was all very well for Her Majesty to stand in the sunlight, but it was not the same for him.

Continuing, Mr Feilden said Miss Barker wished to thank all from the bottom of her heart for having asked her to take the position which she had held as Queen of Geraldine County. She had considered it a compliment and an honour paid, not only to herself, but to her family, and

she wished to thank all who had done anything to help her, all members of committees, the chairman and secretary, and all who had helped individually or collectively in making the Carnival such a huge success by raising so magnificent a sum for the cause they were all working for. She wished to especially thank Major Kennedy and Mr McGregor, on whose shoulders the bulk of the work had fallen. Also, on Her Majesty's behalf, he had to thank her Maori friends, for they had done more than their share, and were always there when they were wanted. (Applause.)

The speaker then, on behalf of the staff, thanked Queen Doris for the very kind manner in which she had invariably treated them. No one could have been more queenly. He was not there to say what he thought of her, but if he was he could say a good deal. He was there to thank everybody on the Queen's behalf, the drivers of the motor cars which had taken her about, those who had lent the cars, in fact, all who had done and thought they had done anything for her. Finally, Her Majesty wished to thank them for the magnificent presents given to her, which she would treasure so long as she lived, and keep as a memento of a great occasion. (Applause.) If on some future occasion a queen was wanted again (she felt she had not done all that she might, though he did not agree with her), he felt sure Miss Barker would come forward again. Finally, Queen Doris wished to thank Princess Mabel for the assistance she had given on many occasions. (Applause.)

MAORI GIFTS.

Major Kennedy, in introducing a Maori deputation, said that the Maori says pakeha very good fellow, but he is not to be outdone by them, and the Maoris also had a presentation to make to Queen Doris.

Mr W. Torepe, the Maori Chief, with Mr Pike, then stepped forward, and the latter said that Queen Doris' loyal subjects had not come there with empty hands. He supposed they had read a good deal about Maori hospitality, and they wished to make a presentation to Her Gracious Majesty, who had been present at the opening of the hall in their park, which was a very big function. He believed the people of Geraldine was satisfied with the programme they had given that evening. The speaker then presented Miss Barker with a valuable greenstone mere, dressed flax and a mat, skilfully draping a beautifully worked cape round her shoulders, amidst great applause.

Mr Feilden said that the presentation had come as a surprise to Her Majesty, and to himself. He on behalf of Queen Doris, thanked the Maoris for the magnificent present, which would give her an interest in the Maori people.

Mr M. McLeod, on behalf of Queen Doris' subjects for the Temuka end of the country, spoke of her great popularity down at Temuka. He said Queen Doris had no more loyal subjects at Geraldine, than she had at the other end. He also thanked her for the manner in which she had treated Miss Aspinall.

This brought the ceremony to a close, and ringing cheers for the pakehas and hakas from the Maoris followed the Queen and Princess as they were escorted to their seats in the hall by their equerries, Messrs G. N. Feilden and R. A. Dixon.

MR GUNNION SPEAKS.

The Chairman introduced Mr Tom Gunnion to the audience in warm terms.

In his opening remarks, Mr Gunnion told the Geraldine people that whenever they came down to Temuka to help to farewell men who were going away to the front, they were very welcome to a cup of tea, and need not walk about the streets, saying "for God's sake give us a cup of tea," They were free and easy down there, and when they came down they should all come and have a cup of tea with those who were going away to fight, so that they would win the war. It was a burden on him that they had to send away the best boys, but Kitchener had said they would want them, Lloyd George that they must have munitions, and he had got them. They had got farms here which would grow anything, but they should not send the boys away and not

feed them. Farmers would let this man go, and that man go, they were making such big profits. Men should go on farms and cultivate them at a soldier's pay. What were they giving in return? He knew a man who had £200, which he could have given to the patriotic funds, but he found he could make 12½ per cent by putting it into a woollen mill. The boys who were going away were laying down their lives, some would come back, but others would not come back. He hoped and trusted they would have a good time, for they were giving up their lives and going to fight for their girls, sisters and mothers. They should be all proud of them. They had thousands of temptations to go through. He hoped they would come back as men should, and they might be sure they would find a hand outstretched to welcome them home again. (Applause.)

RECRUITS FAREWELLED.

The Chairman asked the men who were going away to mount the platform. He explained that it was his duty, on behalf of the Entertainment Committee, to hand to Privates C. and G. **Tiplady** wristlet watches, as a token of their esteem. Other men going away from the other districts had received farewells from their own district committees, but they were pleased to welcome them to Geraldine. The Mayoress (Mrs Hislop) would give to them presents of comforts, which would be useful to them in the trenches or elsewhere, wherever they went. Mrs Hislop then handed each man a parcel, accompanied by a few words of farewell. As the men resumed their seats, the Band struck up "Soldiers of the King," and the men were loudly cheered.

The names of the recruits were: - Messrs J. Markham, D. Sugrue, H. Riches, B. Pizzey, C. Walton, R. Harold, **G. Tiplady**, and **C. Tiplady**.

RETURNED SOLDIER WELCOMED.

Major Kennedy then extended a welcome home, to Private Patrick Barker, of Winchester, While they appreciated the action of the men who were going away, he said, they doubly appreciated those who had done their bit, and had come back home again.

[Norman George BARKER, 7/1044.]

THANKS.

The Chairman joined in a comprehensive vote of thanks to the Band and Orchestra, the Maori troupe for their fine exhibition, and the motor car owners who had brought the Temuka contingent to Geraldine free of charge. He was pleased, he said, that the gathering had been a record one, and he thanked those who had supported the Queen Carnival from the start.

Lyttelton Times. 14 March 1917 (Papers Past) [23/09/2025]

DEPARTURE OF TEMUKA AND GERALDINE DRAFT.

A special draft of Temuka and Geraldine men left for camp yesterday. Prior to their departure the soldiers and their relatives were entertained to afternoon tea in the Drill Hall by the ladies of Temuka. Addresses were delivered by Mr T. Gunnion (chairman of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee), Colonel M'Kenzie and Major Kennedy, of Geraldine. Afterwards the men lined up, and a lengthy procession made its way to the railway station, headed by the Temuka Brass Band. On arrival at the station, farewell speeches were delivered by the Mayor (Mr A. A. Frew), Mr Gunnion and Colonel M'Kenzie. As the train steamed out three hearty cheers were given for the soldiers.

The following answered the roll call, and left under the charge of Captain Chapman: — J. Bryson, T. H. Davie, G. W. Looker, W. G. Looker, D. I. Sugrue (Temuka), J. B. Pizzey, H. Riches, H. G. Tiplady, C Walton and John Chapman (Geraldine).