

39th REINFORCEMENTS.

SEND-OFF AT GERALDINE.

A farewell social was tendered at the Drill Hall, Geraldine, on Thursday evening to district members of the 39th Reinforcements prior to their entering on their training. The hall was, as usual these functions, very prettily decorated with flowers and patriotic emblems. The South Canterbury Orchestra, under the baton of Mr Dephoff, made its first appearance before a Geraldine audience, and the frequent applause which greeted the selections showed that their music found favour with their audience. It was a perfect orgy of orchestral music, for the company never left the stage, and played almost continuously for the greater part of the programme. Mr Moore gave a xylophone solo to the orchestral accompaniment, and Mr G. Knibb sang several songs, which earned him great applause and frequent encores. The Geraldine Brass Band was in attendance and played selections.

The mayor, Mr W. F.(?) Paterson, presided, in the absence of the chairman of the Patriotic Society (Major Kennedy), and at the conclusion of the musical programme thanked Mr Dephoff and his orchestra for coming out from Timaru and giving them such a delightful concert. _

WELCOMING RETURNED MEN.

The chairman said his next and pleasing duty was to welcome back our returned soldiers, Lance-corporal Tiplady, and Privates Pierce, Stewart and ?...ner. He was pleased and delighted to see them back again.

Three hearty cheers were given for the returned men, on the call of the speaker.

Continuing, the chairman said his next duty was to say good-bye to the boys who were leaving the district to go into camp. There were ten leaving (Messrs A. E. Arbuckle, **H. Just**, C. B. Lynch, R. McNab, F. Tavener, **B. J. Rae**, **G. Robinson**, F. C. Ward, V. A. Ellery, and T. Mulholland), the two last-named not being present. The war was going on, and they had to keep up the supplies of men, so that their ultimate object could be attained. They were going away to do their duty—not one of them wanted to go for the love of it – but for duty alone, and all were going freely and willingly. He was sure no men had gone otherwise from Geraldine yet.

SOLDIERS' COMFORTS PRESENTED.

The Mayoress (Mrs Paterson) then presented each man, on behalf of the Home and Empire League, with a parcel of soldiers' comforts, asking them to regard the gifts as tokens of the interest women took in their welfare, and wishing them a safe return to their homes.

As the men filed off the stage hearty cheers were given, and the Band struck up "Soldiers of the King."

The chairman announced that the secretary of the Committee would be glad if men who wished to be motored to Temuka on Monday , would give in their names to him, so that cars could be provided. The cars would leave the postoffice at 12.30 on Monday,