

FOR THE FRONT.

THE THIRTY-FIFTHS.

An enthusiastic crowd, including many ladies, assembled at the New Plymouth railway station yesterday morning to farewell the district quota for the 35th Reinforcements. As in the past, the men were served with tea and light refreshments at the Women's Patriotic Depot, and each received a useful and welcome send off gift from the Women's Patriotic Society in the shape of a well-filled holdall and cigarettes. The men were briefly addressed by Mr. W. A. Collis, who said that the men were going away to uphold the glorious traditions set up and held up by those before them, and the least that citizens could do was to roll up to bid them farewell and wish them a safe return. It gave no pleasure to see the men go, but it would give him the greatest pleasure to welcome one and all back, if that were possible. It was over three years since the first drafts left New Plymouth, but there was no question that, terrible as the war was, the country must go on sending men till the goal was reached. The war would have been far more terrible if the British Empire had not sent her men to fight. Moreover, if enemy peace terms had been accepted, in place of the thousands dying to-day, tens of thousands would have had to die in the years to come. On behalf of the people of New Plymouth he wished the men God speed and a safe return to New Zealand.

Mr. D. J. Hughes said he wished to pay a tribute to the men. The young fellows were given an opportunity that was so far denied to older men, but if the war went on they, too, would go and enjoy it. The men would bring back knowledge from the older lands that would further the work and life of New Zealand in coming years. He doubted if the older men would be called on to go, for the writing on the wall showed that the war was nearly over. The Germans were being beaten, and they knew it. The Empire's men were upholding the cause of democracy against autocracy, and democracy must win. New Zealand boys were ready and willing to fight for the home country, because their parents or grandparents had come from it across the sea 40 or 50 years ago. He wished the men a safe and pleasant journey and a speedy return.

The Mayor added a few words of good wishes, and in the few minutes interval before their departure the men exchanged farewells with their friends and relatives who crowded round the carriages. The Citizens' Band played appropriate airs, and at 7.30, to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne," and three hearty cheers one more contingent of New Plymouth men steamed out.

The following men entrained at New Plymouth [and at stations down the line]:

NEW PLYMOUTH.

F. S. Avery, C. A. Allan,, R. Marshall,