

TROOPERS FROM TYCHO

ENTHUSIASTIC SEND-OFF.

The people of Tycho showed their admiration for the young men who are leaving the district by the enthusiastic way in which they entertained the four latest to offer—James and Joseph O'Boyle, J. Daley and S. Mathews—who left for Trentham yesterday. The farewell gathering was held in the Tycho school on Friday night, when the building was filled to overflowing, and the departing soldiers were made to feel that their friends were very proud of their action in going forward to fight for their country and those they were leaving behind. Among those present were Mrs Mathews and Miss Mathews, mother and sister respectively of Mr S. Mathews, and the parents of Mr J. Daley were also in attendance. Mr J. Armstrong presided. The first part of the evening was spent in dancing and card playing, after which the chairman stated the object of the gathering and called on Mr R. J. McKeown to say a few words.

Mr McKeown, in a humorous speech which elicited frequent applause, related some reminiscences of his acquaintance as a boy with some of the departing soldiers, and then went on to praise all four of them for their readiness to serve their country as soon as they saw that all the help this country could give was needed. He, like everybody else in the district, was proud of them, and they could rest assured of a hearty welcome on their return. (Hear, hear.) He had known the O'Boyle boys from childhood, and could say that the Empire, in getting them at the Front, was getting two really good men. They had done their duty at home and no one had any doubt but that they would do it abroad. Mr Daley he had known for seven years and had never heard anyone say anything but good of him. He had done his duty to his parents faithfully and well, and had likewise done his duty by assisting every good movement in the district. Like the O'Boyle boys, he too would make a good soldier. With regard to Mr Mathews, he could not say anything too good for him. He had been in his employment for some two years, and a better or more loyal worker no man could wish to have. He was liked by everyone in the place and all were sorry to part with him. He hoped to see him soon return. He would find his old position at "Kn-nou" open to him at the highest wages it was possible to give. In conclusion Mr McKeown wished the departing soldiers a pleasant trip to the Front, and expressed the hope that they would have the pleasure of taking part in the capture of Berlin. (Applause.)

Each man was presented with a wristlet watch, suitably inscribed. Mr Morrison in making the presentations did so in an appropriate speech. He said the present was a time for action rather than words and the departing soldiers recognised this. Britain had called for men and money and it was good to know how well New Zealand was responding to the call. Our men who had already gone had proved themselves heroes and had made a name for themselves, and for the Dominion, which would live for ever. (Hear, hear.) The men who were leaving Tycho were men of whom they were all proud, they had always done their duty by the district and those they were leaving behind hoped soon to see them back. (Hear, hear.) In going away they were actuated by a sense of duty; they were not going in a mere spirit of adventure, and their friends admired them for their pack. They would be remembered by the present and future generations, as men who knew their duty and had the courage to do it. (Applause.)

Messrs J. McLeod, D. O'Sullivan, and P. Hunter also spoke in very appreciative terms of the departing men and wished them the best of success.

Songs were given during the evening by Miss Volvin (Christchurch), Mrs Ellis, Messrs P. Hunter, C. Harcastle and Master Jack Kelly. Splendid music was supplied for the dancing by Mrs Ellis and Miss Marshall, and the Scotch dances were done to the accompaniment of Highland music stirringly played by Mr Oliver Bain. Mr J. Naughton made a very efficient M.C.