

A PLEASANT EVENING.

The Albury Public Hall was packed on Thursday evening last when Privates V. O. Sullivan, J. O'Reilly, B. Brosnan, W. Higgs, and J. Blair, all very popular young men of the district were given a public farewell. These men are of the 18th Reinforcements, and were on final leave. Messrs B. Blair and W. McVey, who leave with the next quota, were also present. Some of them have brothers at the Front, while Private J. O'Reilly's brother was killed in the Gallipoli campaign.

Mr A. Lindsay presided, and in his opening remarks pointed out why they all should fight for the freedom they at present possessed, and hoped to maintain. As a schoolmaster he was well acquainted with the departing soldiers, as they had been pupils of his, and he felt sure they would acquit themselves as those who had gone before them, and uphold the honour and name New Zealand boys had made at the Front. He then made a presentation to each of the departing men, and all were heartily cheered.

Messrs J. McCort and D. Augland also spoke, and wished the soldiers God Speed, good luck, and a safe return.

Private V. Sullivan, who responded on behalf of the departing soldiers, thanked the speakers for their complimentary remarks, and their good wishes, as well as for their handsome presents, and said he hoped that they would all get to the firing line, and prove themselves worthy of those who had gone before them.

Mrs Patterson, as on all previous occasions presided at the piano. Vocal items were given, and the evening concluded with three cheers for the departing soldiers, and the singing of Auld Lang Syne.