

Timaru Herald. 3 November 1915 (Papers Past) [06/11/2013]

FAIRLIE.

SOLDIERS WELCOMED HOME.

On Monday evening Trooper John Harnett arrived in Fairlie, having landed the previous day in Dunedin off the Willochra. When the train drew up to the station the rain was coming down in torrents. There was, nevertheless, a good crowd to meet him, though it was too wet for the Pipe Band to play him home, as was arranged. On stepping from the train Trooper Harnett was cheered vociferously. and Mr C. J. Talbot, M.P., spoke a few words of welcome, and thanked him and his comrades for the fine work they had done for the Empire. An invitation from the reception committee was extended to Trooper Harnett, and all the returned men to attend the public social on Friday evening next in the public hall. The residents of the district will do their best to show them the esteem in which they held them. Trooper Harnett was taken to his home by motor car, Mr .J. Trotter kindly lending his car for that purpose.

Arrangements are well forward for the public reception to returned men to be held in the public hall at Fairlie on Friday evening at eight o'clock. A good musical programme is being arranged, in which the Pipe Band and the orchestra will assist. Games and dances will also be indulged in, and everything possible will be done to enable the soldiers to spend a social time, to renew acquaintances, and to receive congratulations from their friends and admirers. A strong ladies' committee has been appointed to attend to the refreshments, and ladies are requested to bring a basket. In order to defray expenses a silver coin collection will be taken at the door.

FAIRLIE.

WELCOME TO RETURNED SOLDIERS.

The members of the Fairlie Presbyterian Bible Class had organised a social for last Wednesday evening, and when they heard that five Fairlie soldiers were returning for a time on sick leave, they decided to invite them as guests for the evening. So on Wednesday Privates W. Loomes, E. Slow, W. Small, Trooper J. Harnett and Corporal W. McLeod were present and were heartily welcomed by the members of the Bible Class, the members and adherents of the church and friends. The attendance was very large, some being present from a long distance. From the beginning the proceedings were hearty and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves.

The Rev. John Craig occupied the chair and in a few words, on behalf of the church and other friends, welcomed the men back to Fairlie. The greatest honour that could be conferred upon them was to be welcomed by those representing the Christian Church. Had they not been fighting on the side of truth they would not have invited them there that night. They were not only pleased to see them back but proud of what they had done. They would be pleased to know that every Sunday during their absence they had all been remembered in the prayers of the sanctuary.

Mr C. W. Isitt welcomed them on behalf of the session. He was glad that none of the Fairlie boys had disgraced the colours or "funked" in any way. If they returned to the front the members of the church would follow them with interest, and, if the necessity arose, he and many were prepared to join them at the front.

Mr W. A. Robertson said some of those who had returned had worked for him, and had worked well, but now they were working well for him and others too.

Musical items were contributed by the choir, by Mrs J. Craig, Miss M. Binney and Messrs H. Naylor of Timaru, and C. W. Isitt. Games under the supervision of Misses M. Anderson, C. Fraser, and L. Riddle were interspersed with the other items, and refreshments were provided by the ladies.

Private E. Slow thanked the gathering for the splendid reception that they had given them. They appreciated the compliment very highly. He went on to give an account of their experiences on Gallipoli and of his impressions of the campaign, which were listened to with interest.

One of the most enjoyable socials ever held in connection with St. Columba's church was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.