
FAREWELL TO THE RUTHER- GLEN VOLUNTEERS.

AU REVOIR TO THE LOCAL BOYS.

AN ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING.

The auditorium of the Rutherglen Town Hall was taxed to its utmost holding capacity on Wednesday evening, the occasion being to bid au revoir to the Rutherglen and district volunteers. The stage was draped with flags and wattle blossom. Four large Union Jacks composed the background, and on two of them was attached a tri-color flag with the wording "God Save the King" on it. The table was decorated with an Australian flag, and from the centre of the stage was hung a basket of wattle bloom. The side of the stage was decorated with red, white and blue, whilst the curtain was looped with similar colors.

The stage was occupied by the Mayor (Cr Allen), and Crs Jasper, Gollings, Bush and Aitken. The volunteers—Lieut. Denehy, Messrs P. Fullerton, J. Nott, B. Bevan, A. McPherson, A. Cartner, C. Eggleston, G. Newbound, A. Hill, W. Monar, J. Waugh and J. Slow—were also on the stage. Messrs J. Pearce, B. Canning, G. Ball and H. Evans, all of whom had volunteered, were unable to be present.

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The Mayor apologised for Crs Stewart and Ready, who were unavoidably absent.

The Philharmonic Society's orchestra opened proceedings with a selection, finishing up with "Rule Britannia."

The Mayor asked all to be upstanding and sing the National Anthem.

The Mayor (Cr Allen) stated that all knew quite well the reason of the assemblage that night. They all knew that war was raging--a war which will be the most important in the world's history. On the platform were the men who had volunteered for the front to fight for the Empire and uphold the dignity of the British flag. All were residents of the town, and many were natives of the district. He need not hesitate to say that the people were all proud of them, and hoped that they would return crowned with glory and honor. (Applause.) On behalf of the residents of Rutherglen, he wished them luck, and trusted that they would come back to Australia, as he had before stated, crowned with glory and honor. (Applause.)

The Philharmonic Society rendered "Old Mother Hubbard."

Cr Aitken made a very touching speech, in which he wished those who volunteered God speed. When it became known that volunteers were wanted, these men had readily come forward and offered their services. Although they

offered their services. Although they were losing some of the best manhood in Australia, and they could ill-afford to lose them, yet not one would have raised a finger to stay them. War was a terrible thing, but National dishonor was worse. The men were ready to defend the British Empire, but he hoped they would not have to fire a shot. All hoped that the war would be over before they got to the Mother Country. He trusted that they would all return again safe and sound, and once again wished them God speed. (Applause.)

Mr P. J. Blakemore sang "Old England and the New."

Cr Jasper stated that he was glad to be a citizen of this great Empire—the greatest Empire that the world had ever known. The gentlemen on the stage had offered not money, or worldly goods, but maybe their lives. They were going to show what Australians could do. (Applause.) They were a credit to Australia, for when the call came they responded manfully. He was pleased to be present to wish them God speed.

Cr Bush stated that he was proud to be present with those who had volunteered. Rutherglen was giving up some of the flower of its manhood. Few really know why the world is fighting. We know that Great Britain is fighting, and Australia is a part of that Empire, and they are going to assist the Mother

they are going to assist the Mother Country to defend the Empire with their lives. He hoped that all the regiments of the British Empire would be composed of the stamp of manhood that Rutherglen was sending. (Applause.)

Cr Gollings hoped that the Rutherglen lads would have a successful time. He hoped that they would go to the front, as if they did so when they came back they would be able to educate the young. He wished them a good trip, experience and a safe return. (Applause.)

Mr A. Gill stated that on the platform were three members of the Fire Brigade. He was pleased to see them there. They had fought a foe before, but now they were after bigger game. He wished them every success and a safe return. (Applause.)

Mr Boyd, on behalf of the Druids, wished the volunteers from the lodge every success.

Mr Bray (A.N.A.) and Rev. Williams also expressed their desire to wish God speed to the volunteers.

The Philharmonic Society rendered "The Soldiers Chorus."

Lieutenant Denehy was received with applause. He stated that he found it impossible to express his feelings towards those gentlemen who had previously spoken. He assured them that he and the volunteers appreciated their good wishes. Lieut. Denehy then explained

wishes. Lieut. Denehy then explained as to what the men would do, but could not say where their destination would be.

Messrs Fullerton, Nott, Slowe, Monar, Waugh and Bevan also expressed their appreciation.

Miss Allinson sang "Rule Britannia," the audience joining in the chorus.

Mr J. Cahir sang "Soldiers of the King," the audience again joining in the chorus.

The singing of the National Anthem, and three cheers for the King and Volunteers, brought the proceedings to a close.

[We learn that Mr A. Calder presented a number of the volunteers with leather dressing cases.]