

Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs

Y.F.C. Dinner to Members Going Overseas

A SUCCESSFUL dinner was held recently in the Central Tea Rooms, Pahiatua, under the auspices of the Mangatainoka Club. The function was arranged primarily in honour of members of the local clubs who are going overseas with the armed forces. Mr. J. E. Hewitt, patron of the Mangatainoka Club, presided, and referred to the progress that had been made in the Y.F.C. movement and stressed the need for the coming generation of farmers to keep themselves conversant with every new phase of development in farming. He wished the young men going overseas "Godspeed," and expressed the hope that when they returned they would carry on the good work of the Y.F.C. organisation.

The toast list honoured during the evening was as follows:—Mr. J. E. Hewitt, "The Boys Going Overseas," responded to by Mr. G. Cotter; Mr. H. Bairstow, "The R.S.A.," responded to by Mr. M. A. Lawson, president of the Pahiatua R.S.A.; Mr. S. K. Siddells, "Young Farmers' Clubs," re-

sponded to by Mr. Ken Mitchell; Mr. J. Aislabie, "Our Lecturers," responded to by Mr. Carlyon; Mr. Ron Day, "Farmers' Organisations," responded to by Mr. J. H. Bremner, president of the Pahiatua Farmers' Union, and Messrs. F. Anderson and H. Cotter; Mr. Keith Pryde, "Our Patron," responded to by Mr. J. E. Hewitt, and Mr. F. Ward, advisory president of the Mangatainoka Club.

The various toasts and responses provided opportunity for some very interesting and thoughtful material. Mr. G. Cotter, of the Mangatainoka Club, in replying to the toast of "The Boys Going Overseas," stated that those going away would always remember the Y.F.C. Movement for its lectures, field days, and the valuable information so gained. He referred to the increased membership throughout the district in the face of present difficulties. Among other activities he mentioned the support accorded to the many patriotic appeals—appeals to which the clubs had made a ready response.

Mr. M. R. Lawson, replying to the toast of "The R.S.A.," spoke highly of the Y.F.C. Movement as being valuable, not only as a means of imparting practical farming knowledge, but also in a civic capacity. He hoped that the clubs would be able to carry on in order to be of value to the boys when they came back. The R.S.A., he stated, was watching carefully the interests of the young men overseas, and it was necessary that every assistance should be given them when they returned.

Proposing the toast of "Young Farmers' Clubs," Mr. S. K. Siddells mentioned the Ballance Club as being one of the first to be formed in the Dominion, and instanced the very fine work done by Mr. Bremner in this connection. He said that upon the youth of the country would devolve the important tasks after the war, and that every possible training should be carried out. In reply, Mr. Ken Mitchell, of the Woodville Club, referred to the very fine achievement of the Dannevirke Club in raising the sum of over £1,400 for patriotic purposes by means of a stock drive. The Y.F.C. movement was not only valuable from an instructional and educational viewpoint, but also engendered good fellowship among members. He referred to an acquaintance who had remarked that to take an interest in such organisations "cost money"! Mr. Mitchell

agreed with this, but stressed the fact that, with the Y.F.C. movement, good value was definitely obtained for money expended.

In proposing the toast "Our Lecturers," Mr. J. Aislabie, of the Mangatainoka Club, expressed thanks to those who had devoted their time to imparting knowledge and giving members the benefit of their own experience. Mr. Carlyon, in replying, stated that so far as he was concerned, it had been a pleasure to lecture to clubs. The Y.F.C. movement provided young men with the opportunity of gaining knowledge in their early years—knowledge that had often only been acquired in mature years by previous generations.

Mr. Ron Day, of Ballance Club, expressed the movement's thanks to "Farmers' Organisations," which toast was replied to by Mr. J. H. Bremner, who referred to the need for establishing short-term scholarships for farm training at Massey and Lincoln Colleges. Mr. F. Anderson, who also replied, spoke highly of the value of the Y.F.C. movement, and on behalf of the Farmers' Union wished "Godspeed" to those members going overseas. Mr. H. Cotter stated that he had been particularly struck with the speeches made by the young farmers present at the function. In his day the young farmers did not have the opportunity to express themselves as they did today—in fact, they did not have the nerve! The Y.F.C. movement permitted the study of collective knowledge gained. He also referred to the very capable and courteous manner in which Y.F.C. members had carried out duties in connection with A. and P. Show exhibits, etc.

The toast of "Our Patron" was proposed by Mr. Keith Pryde, of Mangatainoka Club, and was replied to by Mr. J. E. Hewitt, patron of the Mangatainoka Club. The name of Mr. F. Ward, advisory president, Mangatainoka Y.F.C., was coupled with the toast. In rising to reply, Mr. Ward was greeted with a hearty round of applause, indicating his popularity among the farming community. He added his praise to that of previous speakers for the Y.F.C. organisation.

The arrangements for the dinner were undertaken and carried out by the Mangatainoka Club, and strong support was given by adjacent clubs to this most successful and interesting function.

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