

Lady Bledisloe Farewelled at Christchurch Gathering

400 Women, Representing Many Canterbury Organisations, Hold Reception

(From Our Christchurch Correspondent)

The women's reception to Lady Bledisloe at the Winter Garden, Christchurch, last week was a striking tribute to the popularity of her Excellency. The reception, which had been arranged under the auspices of the Christchurch branch of the National Council of Women, was attended by more than 400 representatives of various women's organisations in Canterbury.

The colours of the National Council, rich purple and gold, provided the main background for the decorations specially arranged in the different rooms for the occasion. Bowls of lovely purple-tinged lilies and vases of gold Iceland poppies were arranged in the reception hall and ballroom, while low bowls of peony roses blended beautifully with the tall palms and maples in the entrance hall. The official table looked charming with beautiful half-opened roses, sweet peas in delicate contrasting colours being used to border three half-circle mirrors placed at intervals and catching the reflection of the lights overhead.

On her arrival her Excellency was met in the lounge by the acting-Mayoress, Mrs. J. K. Archer, Miss Mildred Trent, president of the National Council of Women (Christchurch Branch), and Miss F. L. Cooper, secretary, and when she entered the ballroom Lady Bledisloe was presented

by Mrs. A. I. Fraer, a past-president and life-member of the Council, with a basket of flowers tied with purple and gold satin ribbons.

Her Excellency, who was accompanied by Miss Sheila Hudson and Miss V. Hynes (her hostess whilst in Christchurch), wore a frock of palest turquoise chiffon, the bodice draped softly toward the front and at the back fashioned with a short cape falling from a low shoulder line and showing tiny godets of lace, widening panels of lace being inserted also in the skirt. A sash of apricot-tinted satin swathed at the waist, and a close brimless hat of the same shade as her frock, completed an outstanding toilet. Also as honoured guests of the council were Mrs. E. McCombs, M.P., Miss Jessie Mackay, Mrs. J. Hight and Mrs. J. S. Neville, and the council officers with the guests at the official table were Miss Trent, Miss Cooper, Miss I. M. Jamieson

(vice-president) and Miss E. A. Chaplin (treasurer) and Mrs. Fraer.

Miss Trent officially welcomed Lady Bledisloe and the many other visitors, and prefaced her address by giving a description of the National Council of Women and its activities. Forty-five different countries, she said, were represented in an International Council of Women, its colours, gold and purple—gold as the symbol of its motto, "The golden rule," and purple expressing loyalty to King and country, and to its ideals in womanhood.

"I am deeply touched by the warm-hearted thought that prompted this farewell gathering for me," said Lady Bledisloe. She was delighted to meet so many representatives of women's societies in Canterbury, and much regretted her coming departure from New Zealand. She had grown to love this beautiful land, and felt nothing but affection and admiration for its hospitable inhabitants. "Some of the happiest years of my life have been spent among you all," her Excellency said, "Your courage, patience, and resourcefulness through a time of great difficulty has surely set an ideal to other women of the world. We are passing through unsettled times: let us women throw all our wits into the balance to help, and let there always be a friendly co-operation and co-ordination among women's organisations. And let us not lack vision."

In compliment to Lady Bledisloe's nationality Welsh airs were played during the afternoon. Afternoon tea was served, and later Lady Bledisloe met many of the women personally. The artists who contributed the items were also presented to her Excellency, as also were the presidents of the following organisations:—W.C.T.U., Mrs. C. W. Barrell and Mrs. R. Woodward; Y.W.C.A., Mrs. F. M. Warren; Canterbury Women Teachers' Association, Miss D. Baster; Trained Nurses' Association, Miss R. Muir; Home Economics Association, Miss M. Blackmore; Federation of University Women, Miss M. Reese; Canterbury Women's Club, Mrs. R. T. Tosswill; Women's Branch Manufacturers' Association, Mrs. W. Machin; Women's Division Farmers' Union, Mrs. H. A. Nutt; Methodist Deaconess Committee, Mrs. G. Bowron; Red Cross Society, Lady Wigram; Oxford Terrace Dorcas Society, Mrs. Wilson; Jewish Women's Organisation, Mrs. B. Ballin; League of Nations Union, Mrs. A. I. Fraer; Plunket Society, Mrs. J. Cracroft Wilson; Christchurch Free Kindergarten Association, Mrs. H. T. J. Thacker; St. John Ambulance Brigade Women's Branch, Mrs. F. Bishop; Girl Guides' Association, Miss Bromley Cocks; Post and Telegraph Women's Association, Mrs. Kent Johnson; Salvation Army Women's Branch, Mrs. Major Suter; Overseas Women War Workers, Miss Wilson; Women's Institutes, Mrs. W. Deans; Business and Professional Women's Club, Miss E. Jones; Victoria League, Mrs. John Deans; Navy League, Mrs. H. J. Wyatt; Women Students' Club, Canterbury College, Miss Ruth Collins; Queen's Club, Mrs. J. F. Studholme; Women's Auxiliary of St. John Ambulance Association, Mrs. Williams; Women's Auxiliary of Y.M.C.A., Mrs. S. Wilkinson. The following societies were also represented in the gathering:—Society for the Protection of Women and Children, Canterbury Mothers' Union, Home Service Association, Sunlight League, Good Neighbours Association, Toc H League of Women Helpers, Overseas League, Girls' Employment Committee.



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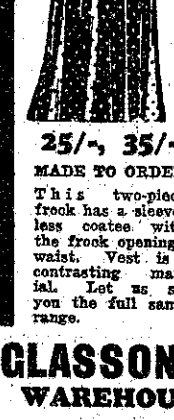
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