

# Their Excellencies Farewelled



THE Town Hall had been beautifully decorated for the occasion. Rows of flags were suspended from the roof, great medallions dressed with flags hung on the supporting columns, a great array of flowers, foliage, plants and shrubs were on the platform, and the table at which the Mayor (Mr. G. A. Troup) presided was covered with a large silk Union Jack. The hall was crowded to the doors. A guard of honour of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides was formed along the centre aisle, and as Their Excellencies and suite entered amidst enthusiastic applause, all present stood while the first few bars of the National Anthem pealed out on the grand organ.

Their Excellencies proceeded to the platform, above which was suspended a large banner bearing the words: "Wellington bids Farewell and God-speed to Their Excellencies." Heavy applause broke out once more, but finally this died down and the speech-making, interspersed with musical items, commenced.

## Most Able Representatives.

THE HON. G. W. FORBES (Acting Prime Minister) expressed regret that Sir Joseph Ward was not able to be present, but said they would be glad to hear that he was well on the way to complete recovery. He continued to speak of the remarkable way that Their Excellencies had won the hearts of the people, and of the ungrudging manner in which they had taken part

ON February 6th one of the most impressive broadcasts that has yet been arranged in New Zealand was consummated on the occasion of the farewell to Their Excellencies the Governor-General (Sir Charles Fergusson) and Lady Alice Fergusson. The scene of the ceremony was the Town Hall, Wellington, and the enthusiasm displayed by the huge gathering present was a splendid indication of the popularity and high esteem in which Their Excellencies are held by the people of New Zealand. The foresight of the Broadcasting Company in arranging for the whole proceedings to be broadcast was commendable.

in both the joys and the sorrows of the country. Their memories would always be cherished in the Dominion, and in tendering farewell on behalf of the Government he wished them good health and prosperity in the future.

## Master of His Subject.

THE Chief Justice (the Hon. Sir Michael Myers) recalled the time when Sir Charles Fergusson first took office in succession to Lord Jellicoe, and said the Dominion was fortunate in having two such able men to fulfil the high office of Governor-General.

The popularity of Their Excellencies was not to be wondered at, particularly among the children, which was a natural response of the children to the kindness and sympathy shown to them.

They also appreciated the tactful manner in which he had spoken on matters of importance. They hoped it would not be the last time that they would visit New Zealand, and that in any case they would have very happy memories of the Dominion. If ever they did return they would be welcomed with open arms. (Applause.)

## The Work of Her Excellency.

ADDRESSING Their Excellencies, the Mayor said the gathering was representative of the high esteem and affection in which they were held by the people of Wellington and surrounding districts. The people had feelings of thankfulness that they had had Sir Charles Fergusson as Governor-General during the past five years, and in Lady Alice Fergusson they had an example of all that was noble and good in woman. Whatever their circumstances, no section of the community had been neglected.

Mr. Troup said he could not pass without referring to the organisation of the League of Mothers in New Zealand founded by Lady Alice Fergusson, which would always be a monument to Her Excellency and her interest in the women and children of New Zealand.

The Mayor then presented the bound address and album enclosed in casket from citizens of Wellington and surrounding district and members of the Wellington Harbour Board, details of which have already been published.

This was followed by ringing applause from every corner of the hall.

## The Address.

The address read as follows:—

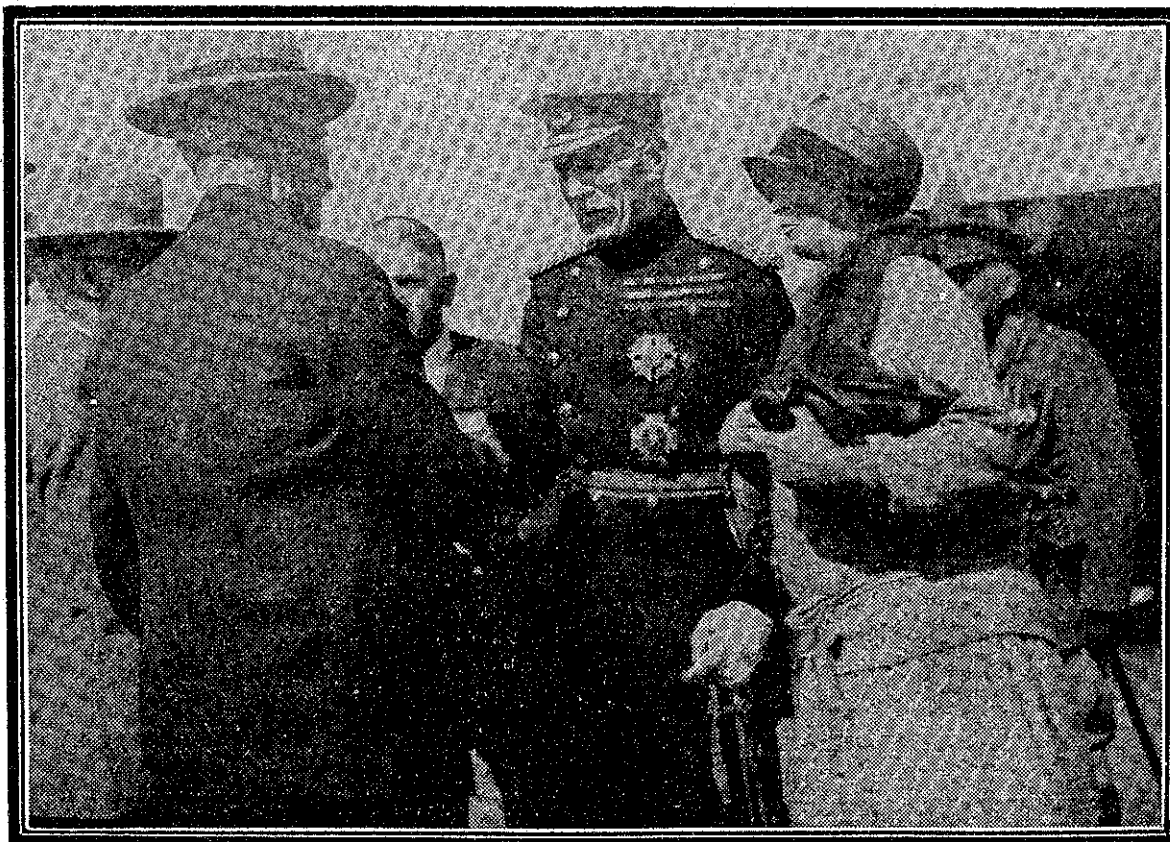
To His Excellency, General Sir Charles Fergusson, Baronet, L.L.D., G.C.M.G., K.C.B., D.S.O., M.V.O., Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Dominion of New Zealand and its Dependencies.

May it please Your Excellency—

We, the Mayors, chairmen, councillors and people of Wellington and surrounding districts and the members of the Wellington Harbour Board, loyal and dutiful subjects of His Most Gracious Majesty King George the Fifth, on the eve of your departure from this Dominion desire to present to you in no perfunctory manner but in response to a genuine impulse of the heart some record of the debt of gratitude which we as New Zealanders owe to Your Excellencies for the great work which you have accomplished during your term of office, and of the personal loss which each of us will feel on your departure.

## Family Tradition.

WE recall first of all that your father, Sir James Fergusson, served this Dominion as Governor, and also that the Earl of Glasgow, the father of Lady Alice Fergusson, served in the same capacity, and we feel that Your Excellencies have further strengthened the bonds of affection between the



Their Excellencies bidding farewell to the war veterans.

Photo, S. C. Smith.