

RETIRING HEADMASTER HONOURED.

PRESENTATION TO MR. AND MRS.
E. J. FOSS.

LARGE GATHERING OF CITIZENS.

The high standard of service maintained by Mr. R. J. Foss during his period of fourteen years as headmaster to the Levin District High School received fitting recognition yesterday afternoon when, in view of his approaching retirement with the close of the term next week, a large number of citizens assembled in a very representative gathering at the Council Chambers to express their appreciation, and to extend to both him and Mrs. Foss wishes for their every happiness in their years of retirement. These sentiments were suitably conveyed in the presentation to the guests of honour of a handsome chiming clock.

Numerous organisations of the town were represented at the gathering, including, in addition to members of the School staff and the School Committee, representatives of the Home and School Association, Levin Chamber of Commerce and several very old residents. His Worship the Mayor, Mr. P. W. Goldsmith, presided, and also present were Mrs. Goldsmith and Mr. C. L. Hunter, M.P., and Mrs. Hunter. Apologies for absence were received from Dr. L. J. Hunter, Rev. Dr. I. W. Fraser, Mr and Mrs H. Denton, Mrs C. Bartholomew, and Messrs F. Auckram, H. V. Hudson, F. C. Lemmon, W. Jenson and D. S. Mackenzie. Mrs. Foss was presented with a charming bouquet at the commencement of the proceedings at the hands of the Mayoress.

In addressing those present, Mr. Goldsmith remarked that they were assembled on a unique occasion, to mark the completion, in a measure, of Mr. Foss' life's work. Mr. Foss had spent some time in Levin as the culmination of many years of service, and it had been felt that he should not be allowed to finish his course without some slight acknowledgement of his work in this centre. They had gathered to convey to Mr. and Mrs. Foss their appreciation of the work which they had accomplished amongst the people of Levin, and to express the hope that they would enjoy their years of retirement and final interests in the period of life before them.

Speaking as one of the oldest residents of the district, Miss H. E. Bowen expressed her pleasure at being enabled to extend congratulations to Mr. Foss on his retirement from service. Miss Bowen gave an assurance that the years of retirement were indeed the best part of life, and in merry terms painted a rosy picture of the future which lay ahead. In claiming the privilege of presenting Mr. Foss with a button-hole, she expressed the hope that both he and Mrs. Foss would enter into a life of great happiness and content.

ren's interests during his term of office in Levin. He himself, said Mr. Jenkins, had come into contact with a number of past pupils and was thus in a position to know that their education had been very well carried out. He added his best wishes for Mr. and Mrs. Foss' happy retirement to the remarks of the previous speakers.

The chairman of the School Committee, Mr. A. C. Kennerley, in briefly reviewing Mr. Foss' long period of service, pointed out that early in his career he had commenced to specialise in district high school work, and was well experienced in this aspect of education when he arrived in Levin from the Wairarapa district some fourteen years ago. Shortly after commencing his duties in Levin he had introduced the Matriculation course, and with the growth of the School from year to year had been able to lay the foundations for the establishment of increased secondary educational facilities. With the promise of the Minister of Education that a technical high school was to be established in Levin to serve the southern district, he could have the satisfaction of knowing that something was now being done in that direction. Mr. Kennerley spoke of the cordial relationships which had always existed between the children of the School and the teaching staff, and the smooth running of the establishment, he considered, bespoke of the high standard of efficiency set by Mr. Foss during his term of administration. Mr. Kennerley added further good wishes for the future happiness of Mr. and Mrs. Foss, together with a hope that they might continue to be relied upon to assist in the interests of the School.

As a past member of the committee, Mr. J. W. Procter spoke in appreciation of the assistance which he had received at the hands of Mr. Foss during his period of office, and also spoke on behalf of the Natives of the Beach road area, expressing gratitude for what Mr. Foss had done for their children. He added his best wishes.

Mr. C. L. Hunter expressed a desire to associate himself with the previous speakers in congratulating Mr. Foss on his retirement, and spoke of the dynamic energy which the retiring headmaster had displayed in the execution of his duties. The well-kept grounds of the Levin School said Mr. Hunter, were an indication of the outlook of the pupils, and this fact reflected considerable credit upon those in charge. It was interesting to note that the loss of Mr. Foss from the teaching service coincided with the virtual loss of the Levin District High School, following upon the decision for the establishment of the new technical high school, and the retiring head would thus now be able to watch the progress of education in Levin from the "outside." In conclusion, Mr. Hunter added his best wishes for the future happiness of Mr. and Mrs. Foss.

At this stage Mr. Goldsmith asked the acceptance of the guests of honour of a handsome chiming clock, suitably