

## Farewell and Presentations.

SOCIAL TO MR AND MISS STORRY.

LONG PUBLIC SERVICES  
RECOGNISED.

A gathering representative of the different parts of the Ellesmere district assembled at the Southbridge Town Hall on Monday night to do honour to Mr James Storry and Miss Storry, who have taken up their residence in Christchurch after residing in Southbridge practically all their lives. The function was presided over by Mr J. Cunningham, chairman of the Ellesmere County Council, and in addition to the guests of the evening, several old residents occupied seats on the stage, which had been nicely arranged for the occasion, and decorated with flowers.

The chairman said that the guests deserved to be honoured by the residents of the whole district, and not by the people of Southbridge alone. The people of the whole county thoroughly appreciated Mr Storry's good work. The Southbridge district had been very fortunate indeed for many years in regard to its public men. It was fortunate in the fact that many of the early settlers were men of initiative and ability, and mainly through their efforts South-

bridge was a very progressive centre in the early days. Men such as the late Mr E. J. Lee had done a good deal for the Southbridge district. No public man in the Ellesmere district had a more worthy, successful or more honourable career than Mr Storry. It was due chiefly to his efforts that the Ellesmere

Musical honours were given and Mr Storry received a very cordial greeting on rising to respond. He said he felt entirely overwhelmed by the honour the residents had done Miss Storry and himself. References had been made to his association with public bodies. It was a long time since he was first elected to a public body, just how long he could not say exactly. When he was first returned to the Road Board he inserted an advertisement in the "Guardian" stating that he had no axe to grind and that he was out to do his best for the district. That had always been his aim. He did not know how far he had been successful, but he thought that there were few public men who had been able to do all that they had wished to accomplish. What the chairman had said about the early settlers being men of high attainment was quite true. Mr Bridge, after whom Southbridge had been named, was a man of high ideals, who looked forward to the township growing in size and becoming very prosperous. The first sections laid upon in Southbridge were part of Mr Bridge's property and the Church of England was one of the first buildings erected. Good work had been done by Messrs E. J. Lee and Edward Jollie, the latter

gentleman being at that time Provincial Secretary. Mr Jollie took a prominent part in getting the first River Board set up. All the old settlers possessed grit and foresight. Times were hard in those days, for there were few formed roads in the district, and no railway service, the settlers having to send their produce to Christchurch by wagon. In the early days Southbridge had some splendid business men who were able to draw trade from all parts of Ellesmere. In later years these men went away, and Leeston began to advance. The district was one of the finest in Canterbury and he was confident it would progress again in years to come. It had been his aim to serve the district to the best of his ability. A public man could not always accede to requests made to him, for the interests of the district as a whole had to be considered. His father was associated with the first River Board formed and naturally he took an interest in that body. He maintained that it was the duty of every resident to take an intelligent interest in local institutions. Mr Storry