

JUDGMENT.

(Continued from Page 6.)

The detective advanced and bowed his little eyes snapping furtively.

"Well, have you considered my suggestion?" inquired Chase carelessly.

The little man bowed again.

"Yes, sir; and I regret I cannot see my way to accept your generous offer."

"Ah!"

"Unless—"

"Well?"

"You double it!" returned the little man, with an almost impudent grin.

The millionaire laughed.

Then he turned to Kitty:

"Our friend puts a high value on his services, Miss Millbank. Do you advise me to engage him even at his own terms?"

Kitty was standing rigid her face deathly white.

Her slim, graceful form swayed and seemed about to fall, but with a desperate effort she steadied herself and gazed at the man without flinching.

"You will do what you think best, Mr Chase," she said breathlessly.

"No, Miss Millbank," he replied gravely. "I shall be guided entirely by you. It is for you to decide. I will accept his terms if—"

"If I?"

"Yes; if you accept mine."

There was a moment's tense silence and then the girl's lips moved.

Her words were just audible.

"I consent," she said.

And then the whole room seemed to spin round, a blaze of light filled her vision, and then darkness enveloped her and she fell to the ground unconscious.

When she awoke she found herself, wrapped in a voluminous rug, in a great motor car, which was racing swiftly through a peaceful sun-lit country landscape.

(Another thrilling instalment next week.)

SOUTH OTAGO NOTES.

On Wednesday, March 30, the Owaka R.S.A. held their annual union in Ford's Coffee Palace. There was an attendance of about 60, over which the President (Mr C. Cooper) presided and a very enjoyable time was spent. In replying to the toast of the "Army, Navy and Auxiliary Forces" Lieut-Col. D. Colquhoun (District Organiser), expressed the pleasure it gave him to be present and to see such a large muster of returned men—larger than he had seen at any similar function in Otago. He contended that it would be necessary to maintain a small but highly trained force, probably of non-commissioned officers, as a basis on which a larger army could be built, as was done by the British Army during the late war. This Army finished more efficient than at the beginning, even though it had grown to such proportions in so short a time. The speaker gave a very clear exposition of the organisation and the aims of the returned soldiers' associations. All spheres of the work were touched on and the Government Departments with which they worked, and the methods adopted by the executive to assist the soldiers, but it was also necessary for the individual to make an effort. The aims of the Government were to settle the soldiers satisfactorily in civil life. Men were enjoined not to nurse a grievance, but to seek the help of the association, who would assist them to have matters righted if they had a claim. The main details of the speech were on the lines of the one recently reported in full. Lieut-Col. Colquhoun said he was pleased to see that the Owaka branch was active, and advised returned men to pull together. The speech was received and appreciated by all.

Other toasts were: The "R.S.A." proposed by Mr Richardson, and replied to by Mr Forsyth; "The Fallen Comrades" proposed by Mr Farquhar and replied to by Mr T. Maginness, who paid a feeling tribute to those who died that we might live. The toast was honoured in silence. The "Ladies" was proposed by Mr Parker, and Mr T. Barr replied. "The Guests and Hon. Members," proposed by Mr Cooper and replied to by Mr Hayward. "The Press" proposed by Mr Maginness and replied to by Mr Parker; "The Host and Hostess" proposed by Mr Forsyth. Songs and recitations were given by Messrs C. Frith, Rogers, McLochlan, Duff and Kent.

Matters in connection with the Balclutha Association are on the move and the prospects are for a revival of interest in R.S.A. matters. Mr Drummond has been elected President and he has with him a strong, energetic committee. A fine light has been erected at the entrance to

the rooms, and a signpost has also been put in position, to direct visitors to the Club rooms. There is a fine reading room and billiard room in the Association rooms, so that visitors can spend a pleasant hour or two when in Balclutha. The membership is a large one and it is hoped the Association will have a rosier time than it has in the past. Lack of interest has been the bug-bear in the past, but with the new committee and the prospects of an increased district, things should improve.

The Hon. J. C. Parr, Minister of Education visited Balclutha on Thursday, 15th, and opened the new infant department at the school. Enlarged photos of three of the teachers (Major Turner, Lieuts. Wade and Johnston) were also unveiled. The function was an interesting one.

The Loyal Dalton Lodge, M.U.L.O.O.F. have secured a fine roll of honour for members who took part in the war, also a memorial tablet to those who were killed. The former contains 84 names and the latter 21. Of the single members of the Lodge, 75 per cent. went away. The unveiling takes place on May 8th.

The Otago District of the M.U.L.O.O.F., are entertaining our soldier members at a smoke concert in Dunedin on May 19th.

Preparations for the visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales are now being made. The Prince will make a stop of about 15 minutes at Balclutha and it is proposed to present him with an address.

Bentar, a little hamlet adjacent to Balclutha, held an interesting ceremony a week ago, when they unveiled a beautiful monument as a tribute to the men who left the district. The monument, which is of Aberdeen granite, contains the names of 6 who were killed and 10 who returned. Kingsland and Ferguson (Invercargill) were the contractors and the work is a credit to all concerned.

Football promises to be keen in South Otago this season and the competitions should be interesting. There are five first grade and three second grade teams entered, while a schools' competition will also be run this season.

Some time ago, the Balclutha Returned Soldiers' Association called for applications for the position of Secretary (part time position). On Wednesday, April 7th., the Executive held a special meeting to consider the applications now being received. It was decided to appoint Mr A. C. Laing of Dunedin, to the position. The Acting-Secretary, Mr J. F. Walsh, reported on the financial position of the which indicated about 400 on the roll. It was resolved that the Acting-Secretary be asked to prepare a statement of assets, liabilities, etc., up to March 1st., and submit same to a meeting to be held on Monday next.

HOSPITAL MATTERS.

At the meeting of the Clutha County Council on Friday, 9th inst., a report was received from Drs Yungley and Wyllie, who recently visited the district to ascertain the hospital and medical needs of the place. The report recommended that cottage hospitals be erected at Balclutha and Owaka, some to be under the control of the Otago Hospital Board. Members expressed general dissatisfaction and considered the report as "bosh," "biased," "rigmarole," but said it was only what was to be expected seeing the Otago Hospital Board had been the instigators of the enquiry. The opinion of the people of both Bruce and Clutha counties is for a separate district and as the report is against such a step being taken it is only natural it would be only "received." The opinion of the writer is that as long as we get a hospital, no matter who controls it, we should be satisfied. We have gone on long enough under the old regime and any improvement will be welcome.

At the same meeting and also at the meeting of the Borough Council the estimated expenditure of the Otago Hospital Board for the ensuing year was brought forward, which provided for an increase of 50 per cent. on the levies paid by local bodies. Both councils decided to enter a strong protest to the Prime Minister against the increase and it was suggested that delegates from both bodies wait on the Premier to this effect as soon as official notice of the levy is received from the Board.

In Vienna a man's overcoat costs £200, a woman's costume £250 to £1000, and a loaf of white bread 30s.

FURNITURE.

To those in search of Quality and Value, Inspect our Stock and get our Quotations. We carry the Largest Stocks in Invercargill, all of Our Own Manufacture.

W. STRANG & CO.,
THE LOCAL FURNITURE FIRM,
ESK & KELVIN STREETS, INVERCARGILL.

INVERCARGILL R.S.A.

A meeting of the executive was held recently. The secretary reported 24 new members. The Southland War Funds Association wrote stating that the issue of tobacco and cigarettes would be discontinued. The men had through the N.Z.E.F. being rendered non-existent by the Defence Department automatically become civilians. The executive considered that this was not justifiable grounds as the men were still in hospital and the need was the same. It was decided that the President and Secretary wait upon the committee.

A formal not was received from the Town Council stating that the question of allowing concessions to returned soldiers who were limbless was being considered.

Mr McLean reported on the Dominion Conference.

The following letter presented at the meeting is published in full as showing the official attitude towards this matter:

New Zealand Military Forces,
Headquarters, Otago Military District,
Dunedin, 26th March, 1920.

Dear Sir,—Reference your memo. of the 18th February re the issue of clothing, and in continuation of this office memo. 11/3 of the 15th March, as pointed out in the latter, the matter was referred to Headquarters, Wellington, for a ruling.

It was pointed out that the renovated clothing has been taken into stock and forms part of issues to territorials, etc., in the usual way. All clothing before renovation is thoroughly laundered and disinfected, and there should be no objection on the part of any individual to its issue.—Yours Faithfully,

(Sgd.) T. W. McDONALD,

Colonel,
Commanding Otago Military District.

Members generally were of opinion that although it had to be worn in the war zone there was no need for it now, and strong disapproval was evident that returned men in hospitals and under treatment was to be issued second-hand clothing. It was decided to present the official attitude to the Red Cross, asking their co-operation in the matter.

The following letter from the Town Council is published for the information of all concerned:—

Town Hall, Invercargill, N.Z.,
26th March, 1920.

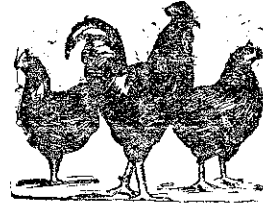
RE FREE BURIAL OF SOLDIERS.

Dear Sir,—I am desired to forward you a copy of a letter which was addressed to the Minister of Internal Affairs dated 7th July, 1917:—

"In reply to yours dated 18th June, 1917, I have pleasure to inform you that the question of cemetery allotment and interment expenses to members of the Expeditionary Forces who died prior to their discharge from such forces, has been considered by my Council. The Council will be very pleased to comply with your wishes, viz., 'that burial plots for such soldiers should be supplied free of cost,' and will later on, as you desire, permit the erection by the Government of suitable headstones. I might mention that the Council is considering a suggestion forwarded by His Worship the Mayor to grant the relatives of those who have been buried on the battlefield, the right to erect a memorial stone, if they so desire it, down one of the principal roads in the cemetery, thus forming a Soldiers' Avenue. His Worship considers that if this idea was given effect to, it would, without doubt, be largely availed of, and would thus be a lasting memorial to those brave lads who laid down their lives for King and Empire."

I might add that the Soldiers' Avenue has been since authorised, and that it is hoped your Association may find the foregoing information useful.—Yours Faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. BURWELL,
Town Clerk.



POULTRY NOTES.

The following table gives the weights of the leading pens in last year's competition. Mr Dempster's pen wins the prize for the heaviest weight of eggs:—

	Total Eggs.	Total Weight.
	ozs.	drs.
R. H. Dempster ...	1324	2913 0.744
J. E. Anderson ...	1323	2788 3.560
Mrs Gorinski ...	1338	2779 5.522
G. Preston ...	1329	2777 9.760
H. Stratton ...	1364	2775 3.656
C. Thomson ...	1443	2749 1.760
P. W. Shacklock ...	1306	2704 3.392
H. S. Woodnorth ...	1356	2607 8.104

The Southland competition commences its fifth year at Kew to-morrow (Saturday), and there are some very fine teams and single birds entered. A few of the pens contain birds a bit on the backward side, this no doubt is due to the bad weather of early summer and to the poor quality of feed that has been on the market. The Teams Competition only brought forward 32 pens as against 40 last year. As usual the White Leghorns is strongly represented, being entered in 27 pens, Brown eghorns two pens, Buff Leghorns one pen, Barred Plymouth Rocks 1 pen, and Rhode Island Reds one pen. The 40 Single Pens are made up of 36 White Leghorns, one Brown Leghorn, one Buff Leghorn, 1 Silver Wyandotte and one Barred Plymouth Rock. The Duck Competition brought forth 8 entries, all Indian Runners.

The alterations to the old pens have made a wonderful improvement and this year the birds should be much more comfortable and in better trim for the 48 weeks before them.

The Single Pens are without doubt the finest in the Dominion and world's records have every chance of being put up at the local test.

The ducks are particularly well cared for being housed in the pens that were originally intended for the fowls, but as the entries were eight short the committee decided to use the empty pens for the ducks.

The following the the entries and pen numbers:—

SIX BIRD PENS.

HEAVY BREEDS.

—Barred Plymouth Rocks.—
1—Enterprise Poultry Farm (J. Casey), Gore.

—Rhode Island Reds.—
3—J. Stevens and Hunter, Invercargill.

LIGHT BREEDS.

—White Leghorns.—

Pen No. Owner.

6—T. E. Davis, Invercargill.

7—J. Stevens and Hunter, Invercargill.

9—A. Provan, Riverton.

10—D. F. McDougall, Riverton.

12—Oxford Poultry Farm, Sth. Dunedin.

13—R. H. Dempster, Wright's Bush.

15—T. J. Horan, Invercargill.

16—P. Nelson, Bluff.

18—Andrew Love, Green Island.

21—J. H. Uren, Waitahuna.

22—P. W. Shacklock, Dunedin.

25—Wilson Bros., Winton.

26—Mrs M. A. King, Riverton.

27—W. Allison, North Invercargill.

28—A. Walker, Riverton.

29—F. A. Williams, South Invercargill.

30—Waitoitoi Stud Farm, Palmerston N.

31—H. S. Woodnorth, Winton.

32—Mrs C. Thomson, Invercargill.

33—E. Williamson, Riverton.

34—R. Preston, Bluff.

35—Mrs Kelly, Riverton.

36—Miss H. King, Riverton.

37—H. T. Stratton, Invercargill.

38—J. E. Anderson, Invercargill.
39—Mrs F. Gorinski, Invercargill.
40—Chas. Thomson, Invercargill.

—Buff Leghorns.—

4—W. Rogers, South Invercargill.

—Brown Leghorns.—

19—R. J. A. Clarke, Kennington.

24—F. G. Munnings, Hedgehope.

DUCKS.

—Indian Runner Ducks.—

2—Mr R. J. Clarke, Kennington.

5—T. A. Swale, Kennington.

8—Master H. McDougall, Riverton.

11—J. Stevens and Hunter, Invercargill.

14—C. H. McDougall, Riverton.

17—W. T. Green, Christchurch.

23—A. Pearce, Invercargill.

—White Indian Runner Ducks.—

20—J. C. Wilson, Nightcaps.

SINGLE BIRDS.

—White Leghorns.—

Pen No. Owner.

1—Mrs Jno. Stevens, Invercargill.

2—H. T. Stratton, Invercargill.

4—C. Thomson, Invercargill.

5—Wilson Bros., Winton.

6—J. H. Uren, Waitahuna.

7—J. E. Anderson, Invercargill.

8—Mrs C. Thomson, Invercargill.

9—J. Stevens and Hunter, Invercargill.

10—W. Allison, Invercargill.

12—R. Preston, Bluff.

13—W. K. Hamilton, Gore.

14—P. W. Shacklock, Dunedin.

15—S. L. Beer, Riverton.

16—P. Nelson, Bluff.

17—E. Williamson, Riverton.

18—H. S. Woodnorth, Winton.

21—Waitoitoi Stud Farm, Palmerston N.

22—D. F. McDougall, Riverton.

23—Andrew Love, Green Island.

24—R. H. Dempster, Wright's Bush.

25—Smart Bros., Mosgiel.

26—T. E. Davis, Invercargill.

27—Mrs Kelly, Riverton.

28—G. Preston, Bluff.

29—A. Provan, Riverton.

30—Mrs King, Riverton.

31—A. E. Morris, Invercargill.

32—A. Walker, Riverton.

33—R. J. A. Clarke, Kennington.

34—Mrs F. Gorinski, Invercargill.

35—J. Stevens and Hunter, Invercargill.

36—S. A. Faircloth, Invercargill.

37—Mrs S. A. Faircloth, Invercargill.

38—Mrs A. Provan, Riverton.

40—Master Faircloth, Invercargill.

—Black Minorca.—

59—Oxford Poultry Farm, Dunedin.

—Wyandotte.—

3—Miss H. King, Riverton.

—Brown Leghorn.—

19—E. G. Munnings, Hedgehope.

—Buff Leghorn.—

20—W. E. Rogers, Invercargill.

—Barred Plymouth Rock.—

11—Enterprise Poultry Farm (J. Casey), Gore.

IT IS TO LAUGH.

Sir Oliver Lodge tells us that in 10 years or so no one will use coal, as we will get our heat from atoms.

We will keep our combustible atoms in the safe instead of the coal bin. A few spoonful of atoms will keep you warm a whole winter.

Coal strikes will be a thing of the past, but instead we may have to deal with the Pea-Atom Union.

The coal chute and the coal scuttle will go the way of the dodo. Light, heat and power will be served a la carte.

It is the age of extravagant claims; and nothing startles us any longer. In fact, personally, we are only interested in those who will keep us laughing at humanity.

Airplanes and atoms and milleniums are all right; but Laughter is the only helmsman that will keep this crazy ship of a world from going plump to the bottom.

Rather fifty years of Momo than a cycle of old Doc. Lodge.