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(Alex. Leslie)

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THE MAN WHO CAME BACK.

(Continued from page 2.) "No-no," he said quickly, with an unnatural laugh. "I am in that happy position when money is no object to me.

Please take it." The girl did not understand the bitter irony in his tone, nor the covert meaning in his words, and she took the money

"Heaven reward you!" she sobbed. "I believe that this is an omen for good-I believe that you have saved my life."
"I hope so kiddie," he murmured

brightly. "Goodnight-and better luck." Then he passed on his way, whilst the girl turned away from the water and crossed the road.

Twenty yards farther along, Arnold Galloway stopped against the parapet, and looked out over the dark river.

"I'm not afraid to live," he muttered grimly, "but I'm sure that it's better that 1 should not. The misery of my own life I can stand, but I do not wish to awaken in her heart the memory of my shame. I'm only a worthless outcastand nobody cares."

"Arnold!"

His name whispered from somewhere behind him caused him to turn. He saw a motor-car pulling up at the kerb; he saw a girl wrapped in an evening cloak stepping on to the pavement before the car had stopped.

"Hazel!" he gasped, and then drew back.

"Arnold!" murmured the girl, coming forward and holding out her arms to him. "Arnold, won't you come to me-I want you, dear?"

The man stood before her, and drew his ragged sleeve across his eyes.

"You-you should not have come, Hazel." he said brokenly.

"I had to come, Arnold dear," she answered, "because I know how splendid you are and because life can never be anything to me without you."

The man still held back.

"You mustn't-mustn't speak like that." he said hoarsely. "Think-think what I am."

"It is because I do know what you are that I am here to-night," she answered, looking into his wan face. "I know now what my heart has always believed," she added, "that you are the noblest, the truest man in all the world. I know, too, Arnold, that if I devote every hour of my life to you, I can never prove myself worthy of your great love, nor repay you for your terrible sacrifice."

Arnold Galloway tried to speak, but could not.

"I have just left the bedside of my brother, Keith," went on the girl. "He is dead, and he died in saving a man who was not able to save himself. But before he died he told me everything. I know that it was he, and not you, who was guilty of the crime for which you suffered. I know that you took the blame upon your shoulders to save me the pain of knowing his shame. Dad knows too, for he was at the hospital, and he will be waiting for us at home.'

A great sob convulsed the man's frame, as the woman took his wan face between her hands and drew it-towards her.

"Come, Arnold dear," she murmured softly. "Come and give me the chance of showing you my gratitude."

Slowly they moved towards the waiting car, and as they reached it, Hazel Loraine glanced up at the chauffeur.

"Home!" she said. And there was a tone of gladness in her voice which no one had heard for five long, weary years. The End.

CLUTHA VALLEY RAILWAY.

At a meeting of the Clutha Valley Railway League held in the Greenfield Hall on Saturday, April 10th, there was a representative attendance of delegates from the districts interested.

An animated discussion took place on the question of routes, the Hillend and Clydevale delegates being oppesed to the Tuapeka Mouth representatives, who 'stuck out' for the original surveyed route from Balclutha to Tuapeka Mouth.

Ultimately, however, the Tuapeka Mouth 'stalwarts' gave way, and agreed to join forces with Hillend and Clydevale in urging upon the Government that the line should be built by way of Lovell's Flat, Hillend, Tuapeka Mouth, and Pomahaka Downs, thus tapping the country on this side of the river.

At the last meeting in Balclutha the two parties were irreconciable, but they have evidently now realised that there must be unanimity before the Government is likely to take action in building the The Balclutha people have been apathetic in the matter of late years, and have thus apparently missed their opportunity.

At the meeting of the Bruce City Council on Thursday it was decided to endorse the action of the League and support the

The Nature Column.

BY "STUDENT."

"Student" would be glad to hear of any place in the Hokonuis where fossils are common. Whie on the subject I would like to point out that good fossil specimens are always acceptable to the local museum.

If a naturalist wants to spend a pleasant and profitable day without travelling any great distance, he or she, could not do better than take the train for Greenhills and proceed from there to the back

This beach is little known, but as a picnicing ground is superior to my mind, to either Bluff or Ocean Beach. streams of first class water cross the shore and firewood is in abundance. A nice piece of bush, steep sandhills— down which one may toboggan if not too oldand a fair-sized lagoon shallow enough for kiddies to play in, makes up a list of attractions hard to beat. To the naturalist the place is particularly attractive. The marine life is very abundant much more so than at the other places mentioned. This is perhaps accounted for by the fact, that a rocky headland juts far out to sea and protects the bay. In the sandhills one may find moa bones, and pieces of moa eggshell are everywhere. On the seashore are some large Maori middens in which the industrious seeker will nearly always find something worth carrying Considerable numbers of axes, hammers, etc., have been found here, and the stone chips used by the Maoris as knives are always to be picked up. The Maoris sometimes had a quarry for the stone used in making implements. will be found that axes are mostly made from tough hard stone. I think the stone used at Backbeach was taken from some of the numerous basic dykes which are one of the most interesting features about the beach. The geologist will find he is on the aureole of rocks which surround the plutonic mass of the Bluff Hill. The dykes of igneous rock show that the older rocks have been cracked by the upheaval of the rock at the Bluff, and through the cracks the molten rock has welled up. That there has been more than one upheaval is evidenced by the fact that angular blocks from some dykes are included in other outcrops of a different chemical composition, and which outcrops are necessarily younger. The basic dykes -those having less silica in their composition-apparently break up readily, as below the hightide mark will be found square channels running across the rocks which were formerly occupied by basic rock. Augite crystals are fairly common. At the Bluff end of the beach is a large vein, of pegmatite, this being white is easily distinguished from the surrounding reck. Pegmatite is a rock in which the crystals are extra large.

The botanist will find much to give interest. The native sandbinding sedge and the marram grass are growing strongly, but even so the sand is now running over the top of the hill toward the railway. The Rata with its venerable looking, grarled branches, gives a bright touch of colour to the scene, when in bloom. The bush is mixed, and the walk through it on a good, track is very enjoyable.

The pools on the beach are full of life, and many named specimens collected therefrom are in our museum. The pana or pawa or mutton fish is some times abundant, and the irridescent shells gleaming on the middens tell of many an ancient tribal feast. These middens by the way usually occur at a lower level than the place where the feasting took place. The natives after a meal getting rid of the debris by the simple process of throwing it down the hill.

The pana is not always plentiful on the rocks, for it seems to migrate. Whether this is due to seasonal changes in the temperature of the water, or whether it is owing to the search for food I am unable to say. If any of our seaside naturalists can help us out with an explanation it would be welcome. Seaweeds and those curious weedlike animals, such as the sea lillies, are in quantities. is a fine study for someone to take up. The seaweeds have never been fully dealt with, and there are large numbers to be found and named yet. A reef runs out on the Bluff end of the beach forming a breakwater. Large starfishes, up to 24 inches across are found here, and at certain times hosts of sea urchins. A local resident informed me that he had seen the rocks at this point simply alive with sea urchins, or sea eggs as some people call them.

Space at present does not permit me to give a list of all the interesting things which may be seen on the scaward side of Greenhills, but I may deal with the matter when the holidays come round again.

WORK OF THE R.S.A.

MORE PLAIN FACTS.

Difficulties about pensions are frequently being adjusted by the secretary, and all who are in doubt should consult him.

PENSIONS.

*26th January, 1920.

Commissioner of Pensions,

Wellington.

Dear Sir,-The above-named man has called upon me in connection with his pensions, the circumstances of the case being as follows. A.B. returned to New Zealand suffering from pleurisy and heart trouble. He has been granted a pension of £6 10s per month for a period of six months from January of this year.

Since his return to New Zealand, he has been regularly attending the Southland Höspital and has been ordered by the medical superintendent not to undertake work of any kind. A.B. has applied for a full pension for himself and supplementary pension for his wife and child.

I would be glad if you would give this matter your attention .-- Yours faithfully, (Sgd.) L. S. GRAHAM,

Secretary R.S.A.

Pensions Department,

17th February, 1920. Dear Sir,-Further to my acknowledge ment of your letter of the 26th ultimo, I have to inform you that where, as in this case you state that a man has been ordered not to do work of any kind, it is necessary for a medical certificate to this effect to be submitted before the War Pensions' Board can take any action regarding the matter of increasing a pension, and I should be glad if you would arrange to have this done in all similar cases in future.

In this particular case, however, I telegraphed the Southland Hospital, and upon receiving confirmation of the information supplied by you, the War Pensions Board has now been able to increase A.B.'s pension to 40s a week, plus 20s weekly supplementary pension from the instalment due on the 1st inst., and he was notified accordingly on the 13th inst.

His wife has now been granted 20s weekly for herself and 10s weekly for her child concurrent with her husband's grant .- Yours faithfully, (Sgd.) G. FACHE,

Commissioner of Pensions.

GRATUITIES.

6th February, 1920. Dear Sir,-The above-named man has called upon me in connection with his gratuity having received payment for the actual time of his service. The position is that X- was discharged after returning to New Zealand in June, 1918, having contracted gastritis while on service. This man served on the Hospital ship "Maheno," and therefore I consider is entitled to the minimum of 18 months, as stated in the conditions of payment of the Overseas War Service Gratuity, which states the case of men evacuated sick or wounded from an actual theatre of war and returned to New Zealand, as unfit for further overseas service, the period for which the gratuity will be payable shall not be less than 18 calendar months.

The term "theatre of war" shall be as defined in regulations approved from time to time for the issue of war medals. I take it then that a hospital ship could be looked upon as being an actual theatre of war. If this is so then it is clear that X— is entitled to not less than 18 months gratuity.- Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) L. S. GRAHAM, Secretary R.S.A.

(Reply.)

War Expenses Office, New Zealand Military Forces, Wellington,

23rd February, 1920. Dear Sir,-In reply to your letter of the 6th inst. I have to inform you that the balance of the above-named soldier's overseas war service gratuity will be forward-

ed him at an early date.-Yours freh-(Sgd.) B. DAWSON, For Officer in Charge War Expenses.

Rays of heat can now be detected by means of a delicate electrical instrument known as a thermopile. Cold is only a comparative thing. A piece of ice feels cold because it is at a lower temperature than the hand that touches it, and the thernopile will record a drop in temperature just as it will a rise. Thus, a new instrument has been invented, making use of a thermopile, which will enable the approach of an iccberg to be announced

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LAND HO!

WHEN the sailor on the look-out makes VV the welcome cry from the crow's nest, he has just caught sight of the top of a mountain, but he has discerned the land and it is welcome news, no matter if it be a bleak and barren mountain.

But let us get down to the plains. Here we find the real land that will yield up its hidden treasure to the man who seeks it

To the sailor, whether mountain or plain, it is merely land, quality not concerning him. But the practical landsman want quality, and he will recognise the following as the right stuff.

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