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FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE. IN MEMORIAM.

BRYSON.—In loving memory of Private W. J. Bryson, 24th N.Z. Reinforcements, dearly beloved eldest son of Mary and the late James Bryson, who was killed in action, somewhere in France, August 15, 1917.

To-day as I gaze on your photo,
In likeness so faithful and true;
Do you know that my heart is still
aching
And longing dear Alex for you.
God called you home, it was His will,
But in my heart you liveth still;
Your memory is as dear to-day,
As at the hour you passed away.
There is a link death cannot sever,
Love and remembrance lives for ever.
So loved so mourned.

"The Digger."

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 1920.

HOUSING.

From several spheres of R.S.A. activity we hear of provisions for the putting into practical effect the principles of co-operation. The R.S.A. have spoken in very definite terms upon the necessity of expediting the erection of houses which is a big factor in the repatriation of returned men. The co-operative housing scheme which was originated in Wellington is a promising experiment worthy of State support. In its first simplest form it laid down the principle of a working partnership between employers, employees and the Government to erect 500 houses in the Wellington district within a year. The Government was to find the money, the employers to supply expert supervision, plans and heavy plant, and to secure and assemble the necessary material purchased at the Government's expense, and the unions were to find all labour necessary for rapid construction. For their services the employers were to receive 2½ per cent on cost. It was originally proposed that the workers should receive the

same percentage, in addition to a standardised wage, but the Building Trades Federation preferred to accept instead 10 out of the 500 dwellings, to be held in trust for incapacitated members. The general supervision of the work was to be the responsibility of a board of three members representing the three parties in the scheme, but "the actual policy to be adopted in the purchase of materials, in the method of construction and in the placing of men" was to be the concern of the employers' and workers' representatives alone. An essential part of the scheme was that the buildings which were to be of such permanent materials as brick and concrete—were to have first call on supplies. As first expounded the scheme applied to Wellington only, but Mr James Fletcher, one of its four principal promoters, afterwards gave it a Dominion application. The other three Wellington firms concerned have since denied that this was intended or authorised. However this may be, Mr Fletcher is undoubtedly correct in his contention that such a scheme must have a national basis. The housing position in the other centres is far too acute to permit Wellington any monopoly either of material or of Government assistance. Criticism of the proposals is shaping itself along two lines. The first is voiced by the smaller builders of Wellington that in their present form the proposal may create a monopoly for the four firms advancing them. It is essential that this possibility should be guarded against and that every opportunity should be given to every builder to join a national effort to construct dwellings. The second is expressed by the Dunedin Master Builders' Association in its preference for a system of competitive tendering if the Government will supply materials at a fixed price. The insufficiency and high cost of materials is undoubtedly one of the chief factors in delaying building, but a board organised on the lines suggested by the Wellington firms might do much to improve supplies and cut out middlemen's profits. The plan now submitted to the Government is worthy of very careful consideration, but it must be made national in its scope and wide enough to embrace every employer and worker in the industry. It should prove no less interesting as an industrial experiment than as a housing experiment.

THE DIGGER'S LETTER BOX.

JACQUES, THE GROPER, AND A CRITIC.

(To the Editor).

Sir,—I am afraid your contributor "Groper" has, to use a rather inelegant phrase, fallen in the soup over his remarks about Mr Joseph McCabe, and your correspondent "A" has dealt very effectively with him over same. He now shifts his ground to attack McCabe over the subject of Christianity and slavery, where he is most assuredly in no better plight. He quotes McCabe as saying that "not one single syllable is written in condemnation of slavery throughout the Bible," and condemns this statement as dogmatism. I submit, sir, that this is not dogmatism, but fact. If "Groper" wishes to prove otherwise he must quote a text that condemns it as slavery, not one which merely seems inconsistent with other teachings which are found in the Bible upholding slavery, such as Leviticus 25, verses 45 and 46: "Moreover of the children that do sojourn among you, of them ye buy, and of their families . . . And ye shall take them as an inheritance for your children after you . . . They shall be your bondsmen for ever." No matter how "Groper" and others try to explain it away, the above was looked upon as an inspired message for centuries, and right down through the ages for over a thousand years the Christians bought and kept slaves.

What does Theodore Parker, one of the Christians quoted by "Groper," in his works Vol. 6, page 233, say: "If the whole American church had dropped through the continent and disappeared altogether, the anti-slavery cause would have been further on." He pointed out that no church ever issued a single tract among all its thousands, against property in human flesh and blood; and that 80,000 slaves were owned by Presbyterians, 225,000 by Baptists, and 250,000 by Methodists. So much for Christianity and slavery.

Now for the McCabe—Conan-Doyle debate. Both "Jacques" and "Groper" are of the opinion that McCabe came out of it second best; they are welcome to their opinion, but I would just remind them that it is the point of view one takes, and as showing that all those able to judge do not come to that conclusion, I will quote the New York "Truth's" article which says after congratulating McCabe on the result of the encounter: "It is evident at a glance that he came out of it signally victorious." and again, the "Expository Times," which is not often com-

plimentary of Rationalists, concerning the debate: "It is not quite so futile as public debates usually are . . . McCabe evidently knows the subject a great deal better than the most popular exponent of it."

"Jacques" evidently knows Mr McCabe much better and has less personal bias than has "Groper," and whoever he is, evidently wishes to be fair, in fact, I think, the desire to be fair is the reason for his reference to McCabe as being dogmatic. The one instance that he gives, however, that in his debates his usual method is to "fairly ascribe inexplicable phenomena to telepathy" is, I think, not altogether in accordance with my experience. He may have done so in some earlier debates, but in this one under discussion, I cannot find any passage to that effect, neither can I find one in his latest book: "Is Spiritualism Based on Fraud." To give the instances he does, and quotations (which are very numerous), to prove that the spiritualist movement reeks with fraud and trickery, he must have a very wide knowledge of his subject, and the whole trend of the book is to contend that where there is so much fraud, so much that was inexplicable at one time which has been proved fraud later, it is unwise and foolish to ascribe that part which we cannot understand as due to spirit influence. I see nowhere where he ascribes it to telepathy. I am, etc.

JOHN.

A REPLY.

(To the Editor).

Sir,—I stand rebuked. The laborious logic and pointless sallies of your Otahuti correspondent in his reply to my letter of the 6th., have found me defenceless, and I bow to his superior judgment. With due reverence and respect I wish to compliment him on the great improvement he showed in his more recent effort in reporting the match Otahuti v. Waianiwa, which Otahuti won. Unkind people are saying that the Otahuti scribe is very generous to teams which are defeated by Otahuti, and that Calcium incurred his displeasure by registering a draw. I sincerely hope that there is no ground for this statement, and that your correspondent will disprove it when the time comes to report the final match of the competition.—I am, etc.,

SPECTATOR.

(To the Editor).

Sir,—Mr McDonald can also be accused of having a facile imagination in an extraordinary degree should the occasion give him the opportunity. Seeing he could "remember nothing" concerning the Otahuti—Calcium match, maybe he has also forgotten the wording of Mr Sim's speech, part of which was as follows: "Although feeling may creep in during the game it should not be taken over the touch-lines, and I am sure as far as Otahuti is concerned it will not be," to which Mr McDonald in his reply agreed with entirely. Surely he does not want reminding of the ugly behaviour of several members of his club almost immediately afterwards. Mr McDonald need not worry about the Otahuti club members or players as I am sure he has his work cut out attending to his own club's business.—I am, etc.,

CORRESPONDENT.

PEACE ANNIVERSARY.

The attention of all returned soldiers in Southland is directed to the advertisement appearing in these columns concerning the complimentary ball to all returned soldiers and nurses. We have previously referred to the good relationship existing between the soldiers and the civilians, and it is hoped that everyone will attend and assist in making the ball a success. The citizens have done their part and the question is, will returned men and sisters do theirs? By the way it would be quite a change to see the sisters in their uniforms again, and it is hoped the soldiers themselves will dig into the wardrobe and unearth the uniform. But don't stay away because you have no uniform. The ball will be held in the King's Hall on Friday, August 27th., commencing at 8 p.m. In a previous issue we mentioned the difficulty of sending out personal invitations to all, and returned men and sisters are asked to regard this as the only invitation. The committee would like to be able to form some idea of the number who will be present and a notification to the secretary (Mr H. J. Farrant) will be of assistance. Any notifications left at "The Digger" will be communicated to the secretary. However, before we forget to accept the invitation we may say "The Digger will be there."

A conference has been held in connection with difficulties at the State coal mines and a settlement effected.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

WEDNESDAY (18) v. SATURDAY (19).

Some difficulty was found in getting a Saturday team, the mid-week half-holiday not favouring the losers, also Cockcroft, St. George, and Fortune not turning out. The first spell was a very ragged affair, and was all in favour of Saturday. The play was taken as a joke by spectators, the lack of tackling by certain men being considered laughable. Stead was very aggressive in this spell. Tall and Potter, of Bluff, showing up well in spoiling and in solid diving. Coakley, the Wednesday centre, did foot-work of an amazing intricacy and fooled non-divers often. This player appears to know exactly how to treat players of his own particular style of defence. Certainly his fooling of some of the other side was ludicrous. The forwards of the Wednesday side moved into the Saturday 25, and from a scrum a penalty was given against the week-enders for being swished around without the ball. Lilley goal. Wednesday 3, and half-time. The score was not earned, and the penalty was an error. The big Wednesday forwards, Sparks, Roche, Whyte, with Miller and Smith, doing loose work were not taking the game seriously. Agnew had a kind of roving commission, and the front row, McKenna, was playing extra all-back. It was a queer spell! The attack of Saturday was all the more commendable as it was against the solidest part of the representative forward pack; but the links in the back chain were uneven, though Gilmour was in the game—the first time since before the Canterbury win.

The second spell opened out with Saturday attack, but though some of the movements were fair, Stead, Cleland and Gilmour appearing well, no score came when the tug in the rope came. Then the Wednesday forwards took charge, Miller popping out from nowhere to score near the old Canterbury post. Wednesday 6, Coakley then did a treble shuffle, going on to pass to Agnew, who hurled himself over. A strong lad this. Wednesday 9, Saturday nil. Whyte brought on a dribble, capture and pass to Agnew, who crossed. Wednesday 12, Saturday nil. Lopedell was playing soundly in defence, tackle, ground work, and kick, being ahead of any other back on the ground. Vial came into the open and passed to Roche who lost the ball, but recovered it to score. Some thought it a shame for a try to be registered after such a break. Well, accidents will happen. Canterbury's first try was not less fortunate. Wednesday 15, Saturday nil. Without delay the forwards came on attack again, and Whyte picked up ten yards from home and crossed. Wednesday 18, Saturday nil. Saturday put up a good performance in the first spell, but in the second the big forwards had most of the play. It was noticeable in the many passing rushes that Stead was first-five in that the play very often stopped at Gilmour, who dislikes parting with the ball except after a cut in. Lopedell out-played the other five, and the game could not have been a trial as Dalgliesh was not playing. Lilley's kicking for lines was excellent.

INTRA-PROVINCIAL.

TEAM AGAINST OTAGO.

Fullback Brown. If this man plays even near his Canterbury-game form, even Moore of Eastern will not put him out. Wing-three: Fortune. Brown (Star) could not put this Service man out on the game the Star man played in the Wednesday-Saturday go-as-you-please. Wade or A. Brown of Western, should be kept in training.

Holmes. Starved as this player was on the long-side passing, yet his physical qualities, his experience, and his determined attack in the south-west corner during the second spell of the Canterbury match, mark him as the right man. It is to be hoped that his centre will connect with him and not go solo so often, and when he does go for a cut in, that he will find his other wing or come out to Holmes.

Centre: Gilmour. There is no more surprised man than Gilmour. He is luck to get a chance to show that he was simply very good in the first representative match. If he cannot wire himself up to tackling, he will learn of the universal detestation of Southlanders for a non-tackler. Gilmour has his points. Let tackling and finding his wing-three be two more of them.

Second five MacGibbon, the Eastern man will be keenly watched. We know he can play a back game; but if his first five runs across him to find the centre, how can he play a second-five game. His tackling is very sound, and he will not hide to escape the drudgery of stemming forward rushes.

First-five: Stead. We like Stead in the team. His Saturday habit of running out to find Gilmour must be limited in the number of its efforts, and his own