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"The Digger."

FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1920.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END.

The sudden suspension of the Dis-
charged Soldiers' Settlement Act, has
caused consternation in R.S.A. circles,
throughout the Dominion. The Prime
Minister and Mr Guthrie both promised
that ample notice would be given of the
termination of the benefits provided by
the Act. For the Government to state
that it is only a temporary suspension can-
not be borne out by either the Minister's
or Mr Massey's attitude when they were
met by R.S.A. delegates from the Annual
Conference. The Minister would not even
give a definite assurance that early in the
forthcoming Parliament an allocation would
be made which will enable the Act to
operate as before the suspension. This
failure to give a simple assurance, coupled
with the Minister's pet phrase, "special
circumstances," can only cause widespread
dissatisfaction among 100,000 soldiers who
are determined to make a stand and en-
deavour to force the Government to do the
right thing to those men who are search-
ing the country for suitable land. These
men are searching the Dominion for land
which will meet their requirements, and
costs time and money which is no small
thing coupled with the time spent on
active service. A recent census taken by
the R.S.A. shows 5,000 suitable men look-
ing for land. In a recent ballot there
were about five sections to be allotted for
and 1,178 applicants. These men are en-
titled to the same provisions of any exist-
ing legislation as any of the men who suc-
ceeded earlier in being placed upon the
land. "Special circumstances" are to
be considered by the Minister, but "special
circumstances" is as meaningless a
phrase to returned soldiers as it is to the
Minister himself. Those of us through-
out the length and breadth of this Dom-
inion who have become repatriated and
whom the Act cannot benefit, must be a

force behind R.S.A. activity and show the
Government that the demands of 100,000
soldiers is a force to be reckoned with. In
addition to those already in search of
land, there are those who have just been
released from hospital, or have lately
completed their period of training under
the Repatriation Department. These men
are entitled to a chance to go on the land
if they so desire, and the only equitable
course open to Parliament is to make the
benefits of the Act available for all soldiers
and place 5,000 settlers on the land where
they will become producers and increase
the country's wealth.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

The application of scientific research to
our industrial activity is one which has
been sadly neglected in this country. Our
universities have turned out very success-
ful men in the realm of scientific investiga-
tion, but through our failing to appreciate
the value of research work they have had
to leave the country in order to find a
field where their knowledge could be put
into practical use. The logical outcome
of these conditions is to defeat the aims
for which our universities are founded.
The primary object of these institutions
is to educate men and women along lines
that they will be able to render service
to the various spheres of human life and
action. If our present system is fulfilling
its object in imparting the requisite know-
ledge for such "service," and then we lose
that service through our own neglect or
prejudice of research—then it is time
the Government made a careful analysis of
the relationship of science to industry. In
a recent influential deputation to the
Minister for Education, Professor Macmil-
lan Brown said "that the promotion of in-
dustry in New Zealand, required the assist-
ance of men of scientific attainments.
Young scientists from the universities
ought to be working on the many problems
that awaited solution in the Dominion. The
country was bound to be considerable but
the importance of the work would be
enormous."

It is possible that the factor of expense
may have a retarding effect in our utilising
the services of a man of science, but when
we see Education Boards applying for men
and women with University degrees at a
salary of £250 per annum, we have diffi-
culty in bringing about a reconciliation
between these two circumstances. The
money expended in research work is re-
productive and not a loss. The Minis-
ter's suggestion of scholarships or bur-
saries is not extensive enough and would
only assist men to get education to render
service. It does not provide for what Dr.
Thompson pointed out to the Minister.
"That men would not take up research
work unless they saw a career ahead."
What is wanted in this country is a strong
advisory Council of scientific men whose
duty embraces—

(1) Proposals for instituting specific
researches.

(2) Proposals for establishing or develop-
ing special institutions for the scientific
study of problems affecting particular in-
dustries and trades.

(3) The establishment and award of re-
search studentships and fellowships.

Viscount Bryce, in the House of Lords,
on July 3, 1915, made the following signifi-
cant admission:

"Every possible effort should be made
to utilise the services of scientific men.
They all knew to how great an extent the
German Government had turned the ser-
vices of scientific men and establishments
for investigation and research to account
for military purposes." During the war
economic pressure was brought to bear
upon Germany and the assistance of
science was required to assist in the man-
ufacture of munitions. Nitric acid was pri-
ncipally made from naturally occurring ni-
trates but the British Fleet prevented sup-
plies. Germany's response was to manu-
facture nitric acid from the constituents
of the atmosphere.

Towards the latter stages of the war
the British Government recognised the
necessity of calling the assistance of men
of science and valuable contributions were
made towards the successful prosecution of
the war. New Zealand is a country with
a magnificent physical setting; its re-
sources are unlimited and we must see
that its resources are developed along
scientific lines and thereby increase the
Dominion's efficiency. We must organise
scientific education. If we do not institute
an improved system of science education
we will make no headway in industrial
activity.

In 1916, Mr King, in the House of
Commons, stated:—

"Everybody who thinks of it, and who
studies the question must know that Ger-
many's position in the world to-day is
due, not to real genius of her people,
so much as to organisation, combined with
education, and especially scientific educa-
tion. I am very pleased that at this time

there is opportunity for an educational
advance. It was in the year 1809, only
two years after the peace of Tilsit, that
Prussia started the University of Berlin.
Prussia had been robbed of half its terri-
tory by the peace of Tilsit, which also im-
posed upon it an enormous indemnity. It
had to support a huge French army of
occupation.

Yet in that very time Stein and Hum-
boldt founded the University of Berlin
which has become for its equipment and
influence in scientific matters, one of the
greatest Universities in the world. They
also established at the same time, when
the taxes were simply overwhelmingly
crushing, the elementary school system of
Prussia which remains to this day. I say
that a nation that could so appreciate, in
its hour of ruin, the value of education,
is a lesson for us which we ought to take
to heart."

"THE DIGGER."

Sales continue to increase and "The
Digger" now circulates throughout
Southland and South Otago. We have
to acknowledge increase of requirements
from Messrs Matheson, Limited, mer-
chants, Edendale; W. Bulling, storekeeper,
Kennington; and Mr Steans of Wainawai.
We also note William Kiwi's appreciation
of "The Digger," and welcome him again
to these columns.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Mr B. W. Hewat, of Invercargill, sol-
icitor, has been advised that he has attain-
ed the final section of the Bachelor of Laws
degree.

The engagement is announced of Lieut.
C. W. Newton and Miss J. Bastian. Mr
Newton has been in the North Island for
the past six months, and we are pleased
to see his cheery face in Invercargill once
again.

CLIFTON SETTLEMENT.

The following communication has been
received from the Hon. J. G. Coates, who
approached the Minister for Lands regard-
ing the above settlement as a result of our
interview during his recent visit to Inver-
cargill.

Dear Sir.—Referring to representations
made by me on your behalf to the Hon.
Minister of Lands re the Clifton Settle-
ment, I now have to state that the Min-
ister informs me as follows:—A report
was obtained from the supervisor with re-
gard to the proposal to increase the size
of the holdings, but in view of the in-
spection and report by Mr J. Smith, a
capable member of the Otago Land Board,
to the effect that he had come to the con-
clusion that there was sufficient in each
of the sections as at present constituted,
to afford a good living for any man, pro-
vided the right methods of cultivation are
followed, the Board did not see its way
to make a recommendation that the set-
tlers be granted increased areas. Mr
Smith also reported that with the excep-
tion of Mr Gordon (who has done well)
none of the men have cultivated more than
one-fifth of their land, so they cannot say
that the sections are too small.

It is essential that all the old pasture
should be gradually broken up, and after
cropping be laid down in good permanent
pasture, as at present the majority of the
settlers are depending on the old pasture,
and that is why they find the area they
hold insufficient.

Mr Begg, a successful farmer on a simi-
lar class of land in this locality, states that
with a proper system of farming and rota-
tion of fodder crops, the Clifton Settlement
would carry 2½ ewes to the acre, and that
the lambing should be 100 per cent.

It is clear that it is not the land which
is at fault, but the methods of farming
followed by some of the men in occupation.
The price paid for the land was very rea-
sonable.

The matter of postponement or remission
of rent to help those settlers who cannot
meet their liabilities is one for considera-
tion by the Land Board, and the settlers,
if they need this assistance, should in-
dividually make application to the Land
Board which will consider and decide each
case on its merits.—Yours faithfully,

J. G. COATES.

Mr T. O'Byrne, secretary of the South-
land Sawmill Workers' Union, left by
Tuesday's express for Wellington to at-
tend the New Zealand timber workers'
annual conference.

All local bodies are requested to sup-
port the resolution of the Returned
Soldiers' Association bringing pressure to
bear upon the Government to immediately
make the D.S.S. Act operative again.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The ex-Kaiser will escape trial.

The official Labour no-confidence mo-
tion was defeated.

Heavy snow has fallen in Canterbury.
Two feet fell in some areas.

A Sydney message states that the Minis-
ter of Agriculture is trying to arrange the
importation of New Zealand potatoes.

The Rev. Hector MacLean, of Knox
Church, Invercargill, has accepted the call
to the pastorate of St. Andrew's, Dunedin.

Sir Thomas Mackenzie has been
honoured by the King receiving the Grand
Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St.
George.

Cold, showery weather is reported from
Auckland. Southland has had fine weath-
er, but you could not convince the
northerner of that.

In the "Otago Farmer's" commercial
column appears the following: "Pohokoro.
The market is quiet, in sympathy with
Canterbury." Sounds a bit like direct
action.

A large number of petitions have been
presented by Otago members from set-
tlers in the district which will be served
by an extension of the Winton-Hedgehope
railway, a distance of 25 miles, to Glen-
opening up 60,000 acres of good land suit-
able for small holdings and making avail-
able a new field of lignite.

The motor thief is again in Invercargill.
A local business man left his car outside
the R.S.A. while he attended a meeting.
The car was taken and found damaged in
Biggar street next day. Take the tip of
your next door neighbour Bos. Get a
chain.

Dr Thomas Scouler Fleming, of Glen-
die suddenly yesterday afternoon in a
motor car near Kelso. He left Glen-
die morning apparently in his usual health,
and on the way home the other occupants
of the car noticed that he appeared ill,
and decided to secure the nearest medical
attention at Tapanui, but Dr Fleming ex-
pired shortly afterwards.

On Monday night the drapery establish-
ment of the Misses Hunter, known as "The
Forum," in the Hotel Cecil Buildings,
Kelvin street, was broken into, and goods
to the value of about £30 taken. The
police constable coming off the beat early
on Tuesday morning, discovered that the
premises had been broken into. En-
trance was effected by means of the back
door, a chisel apparently having been
used to force the lock. A varied assort-
ment of goods was removed, including
scarves, furs, jerseys, and hose. The
police are investigating.

The new members of the Legislative
Council will probably be the Hon. B.
Mitchelson, of Auckland, a former mem-
ber of the House and of the Ministry;
Colonel G. J. Smith, who was a member of
the Council until 1914, and for some time
commandant at Sling Camp during the
war; Mr Mark Cohen, lately editor of the
Dunedin "Evening Star"; Mr E. Clark,
who represented Chalmers from 1908 till
1914 in the House of Representatives; Mr
R. Scott, who sat for many years in the
House for Otago Central and was defeated
at last election for Wakatipu. His own seat
having disappeared owing to the alteration
of boundaries; and Mr F. J. Kenworthy,
a retired builder and contractor, of Auck-
land, and a member of the City Coun-
cil and other local bodies.

A book of wide interest to women,
issued by the manufacturers of Columbia
Yarns, Philadelphia, is entitled "The Col-
umbia Book of Yarns." This is a con-
prehensive handbook of knitting and croch-
eting, invaluable alike to beginners and
experienced knitters. Knitting has be-
come a very real necessity. Sweaters,
scarfs, socks, infants' garments, and many
other knitted articles are demanded with
ever increasing insistence, and knitting is
no longer merely a desirable accomplishment,
ment to while away an idle hour. The
Columbia book is conceded to be the most
exhaustive and practical treatise on the
subject published. It is the ideal teacher,
ready, patient, competent. The beginner
quickly learns from its clear concise les-
sons and illustrations. To the experienced
knitter it offers something quite new in
advanced and improved methods. Every
house should have a copy, for the price
2s 9d, posted 3s 3d, is exceptionally reason-
able. Copies may be obtained at Hynd-
man's, Dee street, Invercargill.