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carried into the operating theatre. They took his arm off the shoulder.

It was Madge's father who noticed the paragraph in the newspaper whilst travelling to the city by his morning train. When he got to the office, he rang up the hospital, but he was told that Gray was in no condition to receive visitors.

One afternoon about a week later the sister of the ward came to Randall Gray and told him that a visitor had called.

Madge entered the ward quietly. When she saw the pale, weak man, who before had been so robust and strong her eyes filled with tears.

Gray smiled when he saw her. "It's good of you to come," he said.

They were only allowed a few words. The sister came very soon and led Madge away.

But Madge came regularly after that. Many weeks passed before Gray was well enough to leave the hospital. At last the doctor pronounced that he might go away to a convalescent home at the seaside.

As his health gradually returned, Randall Gray thought out his position as regards Madge carefully.

He knew that she had softened considerably towards him, but the thought that it was pity that had altered her attitude hurt him.

"I believe she would marry me even now," was the trend of his thoughts, "out of sheer pity. Well, thank Heaven, I've more pride in me to be a party to that!"

So he finally made up his mind. He would see Madge but once more, and then—then he would go right away for good.

When he returned to London he went straight to the Elton's home. He found Madge alone.

"Why," she said, her eyes lighting with pleasure as she rose to greet him, "how well and strong you look!"

Her glance rested only for an instant upon his empty coat-sleeve, but he noticed it, and smiled grimly to himself.

"I'm glad you are alone," he said, "because—well, because I've come to say good-bye!"

"Good-bye!" Madge echoed the words in astonishment.

"I'm going away."

Madge stared blankly, the colour ebbing from her cheeks.

"I've decided to go out of business. I can sell my interest. Anyway, I've managed to save a little money, so I'm just going to clear right out of the country."

She stared at his grave, serious face without replying.

"You see," he continued slowly, "to anyone of my temperament this—this"—he tapped the empty sleeve of his jacket—"makes a difference. It's not that I care twopence about the loss of the wretched arm itself. . . it's becoming an object of pity that grates so. It hurts—it hurts one's pride."

Madge's eyes flashed.

"Randall Gray," she said, "you're insufferable! You, and your wretched, paltry pride! You make me tired. When it's not one thing, it's something else. Five years ago I thought—well, I thought you. . . like me. Yet you deliberately went away—because you were poor and proud or some such nonsense. As if that made any difference! And now—now—"

"And now I care for you, Madge, just as much as I did then," said Gray quietly.

Madge hesitated a second. Then she turned away from him.

Randall Gray saw his Fate written in the heavens. It was now or never. He saw how his pride had cost him five years of lost happiness. He saw now how it threatened to cost him his entire life's happiness. A wave of resolution overcame him. He caught this thing called Pride and slew it for good and all.

"Madge," he said steadily, "I love you. Will you marry me?"

She did.

The End.

**RETURNED SOLDIERS.****FUNDS FOR SETTLEMENT.**

One of the items provided for in the Imprest Supply Bill is half a million for returned soldiers' settlement. A host of questions were asked in the House on this matter. Members wanted to know whether this amount would be anything like sufficient, and the assurance was given them that it was only temporary provision, until such time as the loan Bill could be put through, and the assurance was given also that in the Loan Bill adequate finance would be provided. Mr Mitchell was one of the most active pleaders on behalf of the soldiers. His inquiry was as to whether this sum of money would provide for resumption of normal activities, or only for a continuance of slow advances such as had been the recent practice since the curtailment had been made necessary.

The Minister of Lands repeated his assurances that there had been no stoppage

of grants, but only an enforced slowing up on account of the moneys nearing exhaustion. The policy of the Department had to be to conserve existing funds for applications already granted, and for the use of soldiers already settled, and for improvements and stock, and other such purposes. He said that the half million would be immediately available on the passage of the Bill, and that this sum, with the considerable amount in hand, would be amply sufficient for requirements until the House could have an opportunity of saying in the Loan Bill how much the country ought to provide for future finance for this purpose.

The Minister mentioned that some land boards had misinterpreted the instructions of the Government as to tapering off the repatriation scheme. They had ceased to recommend grants. This had not been intended by the Government, and the boards had been directed to consider each application on its merits. This arrangement continued, but applications had to be handled in the order in which they were received, and preference had to be given to men who had entered into obligations. The £500,000 now being voted would enable the Department to carry on until Parliament dealt with the whole question. The scheme would proceed in the future according to what Parliament thought that the country could afford for the settlement of returned soldiers.

**SOLDIERS CONCERNED.****STOPPAGE OF ADVANCES.****PROTEST AGAINST ASIATIC INFLUX**

A meeting of the Wairarapa branch of the Returned Soldiers' Association was held on June 29th to discuss the stoppage of advances under the soldiers' settlement scheme and Asiatic immigration.

Mr J. A. Cowles, who presided, said the Government was averse to advancing more money for the purchase of land because they contended that the nineteen millions already spent had had the effect of bumping up land values. The men who had refrained from buying land from prudential reasons—who were saving their gratuities and taking advantage of the high wages now offering with a view to buying land when values went down—would be hard hit if the scheme were discontinued.

On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr J. McKenzie, it was resolved: "That this meeting of returned soldiers, having taken into consideration the statements of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Lands regarding the finances of the Dominion and the possible effect of the continuance of the present scheme of advances under the D.S.S. Act in further increasing the price of land, still considers that the only equitable and honourable course open to Parliament is (a) to make the benefits of the D.S.S. Act available to all soldiers at present entitled to these benefits and so to avoid penalising the many soldiers who have but recently returned to New Zealand, or have lately been released from hospital, or have lately completed their period of training under the Repatriation Department and (b) to provide that any loss incurred in so doing shall be borne by the country as a whole."

The question of Asiatic immigration was referred to by Mr J. Hobenton, who pointed out that the Chinese immigrants were seriously affecting returned soldiers. It was certainly high time that the Government took action. The Premier usually avoided the problem by saying that it would cause international complications, but the question was so serious that Mr Massey simply must take it in hand. They saw a lot of Hindus about Masterton who were engaged by certain farmers as scrub-outters. Some people contended that because Indians had fought beside us in the war they were entitled to the freedom of this country, but it was an undeniable fact that no white country could successfully support a black race without detriment to the existing population. The habits and customs of Asiatics enabled them to live more cheaply than white men, and their influence here could only lower the general standard of living and keep the white man out of work.

The chairman said that he agreed with the previous speaker, and was in complete accord with any movement that might be made. He was, however, afraid that only a strong right arm in the form of the Navy would stem a movement that was world wide. Even if the poll-tax were raised to £1000 it would not deter Chinese from coming here.

Other speakers referred to the case of an Auckland soldier whose tender had been turned down by the King George Hospital authorities in favour of one by a Chinaman. The opinion was expressed that the root of the trouble lay in the disposition of employers to employ

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the cheapest labour. The following resolution was carried, on the motion of Mr Heberton: "That this meeting draws the attention of the Government to the increasing number of Hindus arriving in New Zealand, and requests that the Immigration Restriction Act be amended to stop without further delay the immigration of Hindus and Chinese, and affirm the principle of a white New Zealand."

**THE MINISTER OF LANDS.****SOLDIER SETTLEMENT.**

The Hon. D. H. Guthrie (Minister of Lands) replied to the Leader of the Opposition. He said that he saw nothing "tragic" in the note of caution that had been sounded by the Government in the Governor-General's speech. New Zealand had need of caution, but it had no need of fear. It could look over the events of the last five years with gratitude, and could congratulate itself on the position of to-day, thanks chiefly to the excellent financial results of the Imperial contracts. Mr Guthrie pointed to the financial strength that had been displayed by the Dominion during the war. The addition of £105,000,000 to the public debt on account of the war was serious, but New Zealand could bear the burden, and lamentations were unnecessary, as well as useless. The essential fact was that production was being maintained.

Mr Guthrie referred to the responsibilities arising from the war, including obligations to the returned soldiers. He thought it timely to remark that while everything reasonable should be done for the returned soldiers, other sections of the community must also receive consideration. He had seen cases of real hardship caused by the reservation of all available land for returned soldiers, to the exclusion even of experienced men with large families. The Minister described the measures taken by the Government to secure the successful settlement of land by soldiers, and said that the available evidence showed that the percentage of failures was going to be very much smaller than he had expected. The Government had at present in hand an area of 691,141 acres, available for settlement by soldiers. This land would be settled month by month, and every district of New Zealand was represented in the total. The total expenditure on account of the repatriation of soldiers so far had been close upon £20,000,000, this including the purchase of land, advances for buildings, stock, and houses, assistance in business, and vocational training. The record of the Government in this respect was a good one. Special attention had been given to maimed men and "T.B." men, but the number requiring assistance so far had not been large. Every care had been taken, and would be taken, to give these men a fair chance. Turning to the financial aspect of the soldier settlement scheme, Mr Guthrie said that the provision made by Parliament last year had amounted to £14,000,000. The expenditure had exceeded expectations, and it was because the money was running short that the Government had decided to "taper off" pending the voting of more money by Parliament. The scheme had never been stopped before it again when the Loan Bill came down, and he thought the House would be satisfied with the provision proposed to be made.

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