

MONDAY.

Yesterday two more returned soldiers from the Temuka district, Privates Anderson (Temuka) and Prestige (Clandeboye), and Privates Smith and Ford(?) (Clandeboye) arrived in Temuka and were greeted by a large crowd. The Temuka Juvenile Band played a welcoming air as the train came in. After receiving a cordial reception from their relatives, the Mayor, Mr Gunnion, and other members of the Patriotic Entertainment Committee, the returned soldiers and their relatives were driven to the post office, the Juvenile Brass Band preceding them.

Mr Gunnion said they had met to welcome some more soldiers home. They had with them two local boys and two Invercargill lads who had broken their journey here. They had been fighting to keep the flag flying, and had done their best. On behalf of the committee he heartily welcomed them back, and hoped — and he was sure all hoped — that they would soon settle down again in civilian life and get one of the nice little farms that were being opened up for them. He hoped they would marry and settle down, and enjoy every happiness. (Applause.)

Cheers were then given for the returned soldiers.

Mr Talbot, M.P. said he had great pleasure in welcoming the men on behalf of the whole district. They had 20,000 returned men now and he hoped they soon would be taking part in welcoming their comrades who were still at the front. They knew that the men who had come back had done their duty and that they had worthily upheld the honour of their country. They had made traditions that would never be forgotten. They recognised that they had been, and were sending away the flower of the country's manhood; men who had first to stand the medical test and then the test of the strain of camp and trench life. They all recognised that their soldiers had a hard task. They thanked the soldiers for the cheery letters they sent home. They knew how delighted the soldier boys were to receive letters from home, and those at home were equally delighted to receive letters from their soldier boys. They knew the hardships and dangers they had to pass through, yet not a word of complaint did they put into their letters; they were always cheery. He thought most of the complaints came from the people left at home. They hoped that the returned soldiers would settle down amongst us and make good citizens. It was a thing for pride that 99 per cent. of those who had come back had gone back into civil life. Mr Gunnion had told them that he hoped that they would marry. Well there was rice in the carriage that some of them had travelled in from the railway station, and surely that was a good omen. (Applause). Cheers were given for the boys at the front.

The Mayor, on behalf of the citizens of Temuka, in a few happy remarks welcomed the men, pointing out that it was the men who were so physically perfect that were doing so much for the country.

The men were then driven home, cars being kindly provided by Messrs T. Frisby, W. Hally, and Kyne.