

LIFE IN MALAYA.

Mr M. F. Enright, a New Zealander who has for about eight years been living in Malaya, where he is in charge of a gold dredging company some miles inland from the city of Singapore, is at present on a visit to Hawera. In conversation with a *Star* representative, Mr. Enright said that although the climate was in many cases bad for Europeans, he had suffered practically no ill effects during the whole time he had been in the island. He liked the life, and, as was the case with so many Britons who go as pioneers to outlying colonies and dependencies all over the globe, he had come to have a love for the East, and had no wish to leave the country. Drink was the cause of much of the disease suffered by Europeans, and anyone who went out to Eastern countries was well advised to abstain altogether. Mosquitos were the means of spreading of disease. A man therefore who was to be a resident must give them no opportunity to get at him. It is wise never to sleep out of doors, and always to use mosquito nets. The industries in which Europeans are most interested are rubber-growing and gold-mining—reef and dredging. Besides the natives of the country, Chinese and Japanese are mostly employed. The experience of the Europeans is that the former are much more reliable and trustworthy. Some of the better class Chinese went out to the East Indies and made fortunes, and there were a number of Chinese millionaires in Singapore. Speaking of the Singapore riots when Indian soldiers mutinied, Mr Enright said that it was common knowledge there that German influence and German gold were at the bottom of the trouble. Had it not been for marines from our own and from Japanese warships, it is hard to say what would have been the result. It will be remembered that amongst these who were killed there were three New Zealanders. One man, Mr Enright said, was bailed up by the mutineers, and escaped by replying to the question if he were English — "No, I am an Irishman!" and he was allowed to escape. The forests in the interior are full of wild beasts. "Indeed," said Mr Enright, "tigers are almost as common there as rabbits in New Zealand, and no restriction is put on killing them." With elephants it is different. They are rapidly becoming scarce, and it is very difficult to get permission to hunt them. In the forest, too, the vegetation is most gay and luxuriant. Orchids of rare and beautiful kinds may be secured if anyone has the time and the inclination to go in and collect them. "Altogether," Mr Enright said in conclusion, "the life has a fascination about it which grips anyone who has been in the country long enough to become acclimatised. It is a good thing to get away for a spell, but we are all pleased to go back again."

Timaru Herald. 16 November 1916 (page 8) [20 October 2014]

SOLDIERS' FAREWELLS

TEMUKA.

On Monday forenoon a dozen members of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee met in Mr Street's Royal Hotel, Temuka, to bid good-bye to Mr M. Enright, who is leaving for the Old Country in a few days, to take up a position as a motor mechanic in a patrol boat. Mr T. Gunnion who occupied the chair, said Temuka had sent away a number of its boys to fight for the Empire on land, but this was the first one to leave to fight on the sea. Mr Gunnion presented Mr Enright with a wristlet watch and a cased pipe, with the hope that he would live long to wear the watch and smoke the pipe. Speeches were also made by the Rev.

A. H. Norris (secretary of the Committee), Messrs A. Cooper, C. H. Street, A. E. Smith and A. Christie.

Timaru Herald. 30 May 1919 (Timaru Herald) [01 January 2016]

SOLDIERS RETURNED.

ARRIVALS BY TOFUA.

The South Canterbury men from the troopship Tofua reached Timaru by special train last evening. The original time of arrival of the train was 4.20. This was altered to 6.30, but it was 7.40 before the train pulled into the station, the delay having been caused by stoppages to land men at stations that were not on the scheduled list. However, there was a very large and enthusiastic number of people on the station platform to welcome the men, which they did right royally. The train's arrival was greeted with loud cheers, which was followed by the usual rush of overjoyed relatives and friends to unearth their respective soldier heroes. After the first welcomes the men were taken to cars waiting outside the station, and when further cheers had been given for them at the call of the Mayor (Mr W. Raymond) they were motored home, the Mayor having first welcomed them back on behalf of the citizens of Timaru. The Mayor was assisted in his welcoming by members of the Timaru Soldiers' Reception Committee, and ladies of the Patriotic Society, the latter distributing liberal supplies of fruit and cigarettes to the soldiers who were to continue the journey to Christchurch. All ranks were very cheerful, and looked in the pink of condition, and were evidently pleased at their return home.

Those who detrained here were: —

Corporal F. R. Craven, Catherine Street.

Lance-Corporal L. Kempthorne, Beverley Road.

Gunner A. R. Robbins, Trafalgar Street.

Rifleman J. Dineen, Cliff Street.

Private T. Egan, c.o. Police Station.

Private G. T. Keen, Chester Street.

Private W. Connolly, Elizabeth Street.

Private Aitken, Timaru.

Private E. V. P. Sealey, Timaru.

Private Pollock, Timaru.

Rifleman R. W. Sadler, Fairlie.

Private J. Turkington, Fairlie.

Private W. Wade, Fairlie.

Private W. Higgs, Albury.

Private J. Agnew, Pleasant Point.

Private G. W. Squire, Fairview.

Cars for the conveyance of the men were lent by the following: — Mrs A. Grant, Miss Howell, Messrs R. J. McKeown, A. Robbins, Adams Ltd., C. J. Mahon, T. J. Lamb, E. F. Squire, W. Connolly, R. C. Robinson, C. H. Tripp, C. E. Shallcrass, H. Rollinson, A. Huston and A. K. Agnew.

AT TEMUKA.

Despite the lateness of the hour and the repeated disappointments, there was a huge crowd at the Temuka station when the train reached there, and the soldiers were again heartily cheered. The Temuka Juvenile Band was in attendance, and ladies of the Patriotic Committee distributed fruit among the men.

The Mayor (Mr T. Gunnion), Mr C. J. Talbot, M.P., and Councillor Sheen, speaking from a platform erected on the station, welcomed the men home, and expressed the great pleasure they had in doing so. On the call of the Mayor three resounding cheers were given for the soldiers. Lance-Corporal Talbot thanked the speakers and all for the very hearty way they had received them. The following are the names of the Temuka men: —

Lance-Corporal C. J. Talbot,

Mechanic D.[sic] Enwright.

Private G. Annals.

Private A. H. Cartwright.

Private W. Scott. Winchester.

Temuka Leader. 31 May 1919 (Timaru Herald) [13 August 2021]

WELCOME HOME.

TO RETURNED SOLDIERS AT TEMUKA.

On Thursday evening the residents of Temuka had the pleasure of welcoming another draft of their boys home from the war. They had arrived at Port Chalmers in the Tofua and were expected here at a quarter to five o'clock, at which time a large crowd and the Temuka Juvenile Brass Band, under Mr Burtenshaw, were at the station. But a disappointment was in store. Shortly after 5 o'clock it was announced, that the train would not reach Temuka until 6.40, which meant a very unpleasant wait, especially for those who had come in from the country districts. However, the best was made of things. The stationmaster, Mr Hislop, had a good fire going in the ladies waiting room and here the country visitors made themselves as comfortable as possible, while the town dwellers dispersed to their homes. At 6.40, however, ad... at the station again, but a cold and tedious wait was in store for them, for it was after 8 o'clock before the troop train steamed into the station, amidst the cheers of the large crowd of people and the strains of the Band. The Band had helped to while away the time by playing a few selections, receiving well-merited applause, which they well deserved, as playing on such a cold night must have been unpleasant. It was pleasing to notice that the Band's welcome was appreciated by the soldiers who were going further, for many of them gathered around the players and listened until the train was about to move on. The train having departed, the local men were publicly welcomed by His Worship the Mayor, Mr Thos. Gunnion, and others, the ceremony taking place at the railway station, consequent on the lateness of the hour and the long wait the relatives, friends, and public had been put to. The boys who arrived were: —

Lance-Corporal C. M. Talbot

Private G. Annals

Private A. H. Cartwright

Private S. J. Parke

Private Elkis

Private W. Scott (Winchester)

Chief Motor Mechanic D. Enright (motor patrol).

Lieutenant E. G. Scrimshaw, D.S.M. and several others who were expected stayed in Dunedin.

Cheers having been given for the returned soldiers [sic]

The Mayor said he was very pleased to welcome the boys back. They had been away and fought for their country, and deserved all the honours that could be paid them. They had

expected seven or eight men back, and he was not sure that all had come, but he hoped that after the reception all would make their way to the cars that were waiting to take them home. In conclusion the Mayor again thanked the men for their services, and assured them that their friends were very proud of them.

Mr Chas. Talbot, M.P., said he had much pleasure in adding his quota to the welcome to the returned soldiers. It was rather unfortunate for the men that just after having passed through a severe winter they should return home to face another winter but it could not be helped and he hoped that the warmth of the welcome would make up for the coldness of the weather. The winter would soon be over. He congratulated the men on their safe return with victory. General Sir William Russell had confirmed what others had said, that our men were amongst the finest soldiers at the front. They did not let him down, nor did they let the nation down. Other soldiers had said that they would rather fight with New Zealand soldiers, or work with them, than with any other soldiers at the front, and that was very great praise. He thanked the men for what they had done. The Allies' peace terms may seem stern; they were told that the Germans were stunned when they heard them. But the terms were not as "stunning" as the German peace terms would have been [if] the Germans had won. (Hear, hear). He would like to take the opportunity of congratulating Mr Gunnion on his return as Mayor. If he had had to go to the poll, and his election had depended on returned soldiers he would have been returned at the head of it. He had been talking to some returned soldiers in the train on patriotic matters, and they had said that returned soldiers always received the best reception at Temuka. (Applause). He wished the returned men the best of good luck. They were going into civilian life again, and if they were as honourable and as manly as they were in their soldiers' life they will get happiness and prosperity, and [our] little country will laugh and sing from one end of it to the other. (Applause).

Councillor T. Sheen said he esteemed it a great honour to be allowed to welcome home the boys on behalf of the citizens and to congratulate them on their safe return. They had been through strenuous times, and had left many of their comrades behind them on the battlefield, and those who had fallen would never be forgotten. His father was a sailor, and when he (the speaker) was a boy he used to tell him about the Germans of 60 years ago, and they were much the same as now. They had a representative of the British Navy among the men whom they were welcoming — (cheers) - and he and the others had come back conquering heroes, for they had finished the work. As regards the peace terms there was no cause to worry, for the men who had carried the war through were well able to settle the peace terms. (Applause). Further cheers were given for the men after which Lance-Corporal Talbot expressed the thanks of himself and his fellow diggers for the very hearty welcome they had received. It had been said on the train that they would get a good reception, and they had not been disappointed. He again thanked, them for their good wishes and congratulations.

Chief Motor Mechanic Enright also expressed the men's thanks. He would not say more, but would follow the traditions of the "Silent Navy" and keep quiet.

Cheers were then given for the Winchester boys (Private Watty Scott being one of the returned soldiers), after which the Mayor thanked the public, the Band, and the motor-car owners, who had waited so long and patiently to do their duty.

The following gentlemen kindly supplied cars Messrs J. Feely (Geraldine), Prestidge and Kyne (Clandeboye), Cartwright, W. Lyon, T. Hally, W. Kellahan, Hammond, and others.

Private Henderson, of Kakahu, who arrived by the Rimutaka, reached Temuka yesterday. He was warmly welcomed by the Mayor, after which he was driven home in one of Mr Hally's cars.

GERALDINE'S WELCOME.

TO RETURNED SOLDIERS.

The Drill Hall, Geraldine, was well filled on Thursday evening, when a welcome social was tendered to the soldiers who had returned within the past three months, that is from the date of the last entertainment. The night was a cold one, but there was a very good turn out. The Timaru Musical Party was late in arriving, but the Geraldine Band, under Band master Simmons, enlivened the opening part of the evening with some well-played selections. The hall had been tastefully decorated by the committee.

THE MUSICAL PROGRAMME.

The Band opened with "God Save the King," and this was followed by a male quartet by the Timaru Concert Party, which called for an encore, which was responded to by the singers with a very clever rendering of "My Old Kentucky Home," with band accompaniment. Mr O'Connor next gave a humorous recitation, which was encored. Mr Donohue was billed for a novelty item, clog dancing by a marionette, which he very cleverly manipulated. Mr Crerar then sang "Songs of Araby," in very good style, and had to respond to a recall. A clarionetteo solo, "The Lost Chord," by Mr O'Connor, was greatly appreciated. The next item was a selection by the Band, and this was followed by a song by Mr Naylor, "He dropped it," which called forth great applause, and he responded with "What a [fool] a man is to be ... her," which was also well received. The Male Quartette, Messrs Naylor, Crerar, O'Connor, and Donohue, then gave "The tack sat down upon its head," an old favorite, which caused much merriment. Mr Naylor was next heard in a trombone solo, which did not materialise, and which developed, with the assistance of Mr O'Connor, into a series of comical stories. This brought the musical programme to a conclusion.

Major Kennedy then extended a very hearty welcome to the men on their return, and said that owing to the late hour of their arrival it had been impossible to welcome some who had arrived that evening, at the Post Office steps. He urged the men to get back again into civilian life as soon as possible.

The Mayor (Mr B. R. Macdonald) said that in the first place he wished to congratulate Captain Mackenzie upon his attaining his promotion. He was sure all were proud that he had obtained this promotion which he had earned. He understood he had been gazetted when at Cologne, but his mate modestly had only allowed them to become aware of the fact just recently. The speaker objected to calling the returned soldiers "boys." It did not "fit" somehow. They went to fight for them as men, and belter men they could not get. — (Applause.)

Continuing, Mr Macdonald said that in extending a welcome to the soldiers that evening, he was attaining his majority, for this was the 21st occasion on which he had welcomed men home from the front, and hbe was proud and pleased to do so. If the men had not been what they were they would not all have been in that hall that night. If the Huns had come out on top they could not have held these pleasant re-unions. One or two men had managed to dodge his welcomes, among them being Captain Mackenzie. Private Dass was another, Mr Macdonald, in conclusion, urged the men to get back to their civilian occupation as soon as possible. By doing so, he said, they would be doing almost as much for their country as they had done at the front.

Three hearty cheers were then given for the men.

Major Kennedy then thanked the Timaru Concert Party, which he said, had given them an excellent entertainment, the Geraldine Band, and the ladies who had so willingly assisted the committee right through, and without whom they could not have carried on.

Mr Naylor, on behalf of the performers, suitably responded. Supper was then served to soldiers and their friends, and the room cleared for dancing.