

TWO DIGGERS

Peace-time Hardship

APPEAL FOR BLANKETS

Supporting the appeal by the Distressed Diggers' Gymkhana and Rodeo Committee, Dr. Idris Morgan writes—

"Prior to last Anzac Day I was able to collect £10 and a considerable quantity of clothing for unemployed returned men and their dependents through the help and courtesy of the 'Newcastle Morning Herald.' Since that time many other cases have come under my notice. This week I came in contact with two returned men, one an ex-regimental sergeant-major, D.C.M. and M.C., the other an ex-Light Horse sergeant. They sleep on the bare boards of an empty house, covered by two cornsacks apiece. The regimental sergeant-major was so sketchily clad that his appearance in public would have soon become impossible. These men have taken a lad of 20—also unemployed—under their protection. I have been to see them in their camp in the empty house, and am quite convinced that they are thoroughly genuine. The police refused to issue blankets because they were single men. As one man remarked bitterly, 'Blankets were issued to single men readily enough in 1914.' Not being incapacitated they were not in receipt of any pension money. They are unemployed and destitute, like many others, through no fault of their own.

"All people who find themselves in similar circumstances deserve the consideration of the community. This is especially so in the case of the returned soldier, who voluntarily offered all he had to give in the service of this country, and who now remembers the fervid promises made to him by his fellow-countrymen in 1914-1918. I regard it as a privilege to have been asked to say something on behalf of this appeal.

"I would like to conclude by asking anybody who has any clothing, boots or spare blankets, and who feels inclined to give them to returned men, who will appreciate them, to leave them at my rooms (Commercial Bank Chambers, Hunter-street, Newcastle)."

Additional contributions to the Distressed Diggers' Fund—

	£	s	d
Mr. and Mrs. V. A. G. Desgrand	1	1	0
Davies and Cannington Ltd. employees	1	3	6
M. Light and Sons	1	1	0
John's Silk Store	0	10	6
A friend of the Diggers	1	0	0
Australian Agricultural Co. . . .	1	1	0
A. W. Paton	1	1	0

Australian Agricultural Co. . . .	1	1	0
A. W. Paton	1	1	0
Sympathy	0	5	0
H.F.	1	1	0
<hr/> Progressive total	£100	7	9