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At the official opening of the iron gates at the Park Road entrance to the park on Saturday 14 May 1921 the Governor Sir Matthew Nathan was reported thus:

“as a soldier, possibly he felt even more strongly than did some of those who expressed their feelings through the Press that the services of the men who went to the Great War were on a different footing to the services of those who assisted in the prosecution of the war by raising money, securing comforts for the men, or taking part in the commemoration of the services of those men: He had read that there had been, or it was thought there had been, a mixing together in the shire of the services of the men who gave or risked life, health, and vigour with those who gave labour, ability, and money. Though these last were undoubtedly ungrudgingly and usefully given, their services were not comparable to those of the men who fought. If an impression had been conveyed, rightly or wrongly, in that shire that they were thought comparable, he hoped that it might be possible to remove that impression. He did not think it necessary to be more specific in his remarks, and devoutly trusted they would be taken in good part, and acted upon.”