

McKAY BROS.

AUCTIONEERS AND LAND AGENTS.

FARMS.—If you are considering buying a farm, consult us. We have good farms in all parts of the country and at the right price. If you are selling send us particulars.

HOUSES.—We have some very desirable properties for sale, including some which are eminently suitable for retired farmers.

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OUR STUDY—THE EYE!

WE have made a life-study of the human eye—especially eyes that are affected by weakness and are remediable by Glasses.

How well we are able to advise and help you, you can readily imagine. Why put up with eye troubles when our first-class knowledge and equipment are at your service?

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THAT £50 TO THE BEST ADVANTAGE

By spending a pound here and a pound there you cannot buy to the best advantage.

Make out a list and buy from the ONE reliable firm,

VERNON SMITH & CO.

ATHENAEUM BUILDINGS,
INVERCARGILL.

Our stocks include Household Ironmongery, Glassware, Cutlery, Tools for all trades—in fact everything in the household line.

"DIGGERS."

BUY your land from a practical farmer, who can advise you right. The following is a sample of a farm proposition we can offer that two soldiers in partnership can be financed into with the assistance of the Board.

258 ACRES—Good agricultural and dairy land; large proportion limed, 24 acres oats, 40 acres turnips, 20 acres oats and grass sown for autumn feed. Almost new six-roomed house, with every modern convenience, including h. and c. water, porcelain bath and basin; washhouse with built-in copper and tubs; six-stalled stable, loose box, barn, implement shed, men's hut. Large cowbyre with milking plant installed.

This property is capable of carrying from 60 to 70 cows, and can be bought for the small price of £18 per acre, including crops. There is money in this. Get in early.

Houses, Businesses, etc., to suit all requirements.

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GILBERTSON AND GUISE,

ESK STREET, INVERCARGILL.

PROFESSIONAL.

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MACALISTER BROS.,

Barristers and Solicitors,

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Money to Lend on approved security at current rates.

F. G. HALL-JONES, B.A., LL.B. (late Rattray, Armstead and Murray, and late James Harvey).

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RATTRAY & HALL-JONES,

BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS,
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Solicitors under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act for the Otago District.

FOR SALE.

MODERN HOME of six rooms; ten minutes from P.O.; every up-to-date convenience; concrete verandah, paths, etc. Full 1-acre tastefully laid out in lawn and garden, etc. Owner leaving district. Price £925. Deposit £200.

BRICK BUNGALOW, of six rooms; every convenience; porcelain bath, tile range, etc. All outbuildings, washhouse (built in tubs), etc; with 2-acre land. Handy to car in good locality. Price £1450. Deposit £500.

GLADSTONE.—Choice Home of six rooms; all modern conveniences; tile roof, washhouse, etc.; all under one roof; concrete paths; over 1-acre section. Price £1200. Deposit £400.

125 ACRES, five miles from town; modern five-roomed house, stable, cowbyres, pigsties, two greenhouses, choice garden, etc; part in crop, part in young grass and part in bush. Well fenced and watered by windmill. Price £26 per acre. Deposit £400. Balance easy.

NOTE.—I have buyers waiting for small farms of 50 to 100 acres. Owners please send particulars.

T. D. A. MOFFETT

LAND AND ESTATE AGENT,

Grain, Seed, and Hemp Broker,

Athenaeum Buildings,

INVERCARGILL.

EASTER.

Owing to the fact that the date of publication of this journal falls on Good Friday we will publish on Thursday next.

Contributors are requested to send in matter as early as possible. Advertisers are requested to do likewise. Owing to heavy pressure of our advertising space, those requiring extra space for a special Easter Display are requested to make early application.

"The Digger."

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1920.

SUB-ASSOCIATIONS.

We are all familiar with that trite old aphorism, "better soon than late! better late than never," and this is particularly applicable to the R.S.A., who, at the eleventh hour, are endeavouring to get an expression of opinion from Sub-Associations as to their attitude regarding the refund of 4s per member. Some time ago this was decided by the District Council in Dunedin. Most of the members knew nothing about the conditions in Southland and the decision was arrived at, by seeing through spectacles, which reflected their own local conditions. That the Invercargill delegate fought against this decision is true and that the District Council would not analyse our own local conditions and take them into account, is equally true. In terms of this decision, regulations were framed providing for the refund. The Invercargill delegate at the last meeting of the Council gave notice of motion "that 4s be deleted from the 'Minute' and the sum of 1s 6d be the refund." Had a Conference been held consisting of delegates from sub-associations and our representative could have gone to the District Council meeting with the deliberations of the Conference behind him, it is certain it would have been effective. At least it would lay the base from which future deliberations could be made. This matter is so important that no time should have been lost and there is no doubt that the sub-associations after having the matter thoroughly ventilated, would have readily agreed to a smaller sum. To put this regulation into practical effect will mean the disintegration of the R.S.A. in Southland. This is the plain facts of the case and sub-Associations should consider

the position from every standpoint, ever keeping in mind, the welfare of the R.S.A. in general. The Invercargill Association is the only one vitally affected by the refund. It has a large country membership and a comparatively small town one. The Dunedin Association has a large town membership. Oamaru, Gore, Balclutha and Taieri have practically no sub-Associations. Out of the 10s per annum subscription, 2s is paid to Headquarters and 2s to the District Organisation Account. If 4s be refunded to the sub-Association 2s is left for administrative purposes. The real value of a sub-association, is its capacity for keeping members together and the local knowledge which it possesses to bring to light of day the difficulties of a soldier's widow, or as the case may be. On the other hand, the parent association has to do all the administrative work, provide office, staff and accessories essential to the successful prosecution of its work. In face of these facts, the parent Association receives 2s and the subsidiary body 4s. If we are to maintain the efficiency of the R.S.A. in Southland, we must have one "head" and the sub-Association must receive sufficient to meet necessary expenses and there is no doubt that country members will agree that 1s 6d per member will meet their needs and leave the parent body sufficient to do its work effectively. An early decision should be arrived at and by mutual understanding the R.S.A. work will be facilitated and enabled to put into effect that principle of "self-determination," which it has so loyally propagated in inaugurating sub-associations.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC ENERGY.

Possibly no country in the world has such a magnificent physical setting as New Zealand. We have immense possibilities in manufacturing and a large number of undeveloped natural resources. At Para-Para in the Nelson District there are huge deposits of iron ore yielding from 50 to 60 per cent Fe. 2.04. In Southland possibly no one can give any reliable information as to what natural resources are hidden from our view, but this is a matter for the expert to deal with. A large part of our district has not been explored but it can safely be said that its geological features certainly merit attention. These natural resources can only be successfully developed by the application of electrical energy. New Zealand is a very long way from the world's seat of commercial activity, but, is it not reasonable to suppose that if we can manufacture cheaply it will have its compensating value for this inconvenience? Southlanders have continually complained about the Bluff Harbour. In fact, as matters stand at present, we have to take a back seat. If Southland's Hydro-Electric Scheme is brought into the realm of practical reality it will enable the Harbour Board to place Bluff Harbour in a position to demand attention and secure the shipping essential for our requirements. As an agricultural district, Southland will progress, irrespective of any unprogressive element, but in these days when the bid for commercial supremacy, not only applies to nations but in a modified degree has its Provincial significance. Then we must seize every form of mechanical device, every form of power that is going to make us a successful competitor in the struggle. The returned soldiers in the area defined by the "Power Board" can only have one answer to the Board's proposal and that is, to put it into practical effect as soon as possible. After having seen the widened spheres of the activity of civil and electrical engineering practice overseas. It would be difficult to imagine any opposition to the scheme. Electricity applied to the Panama Canal gave America an important highway for shipping. New Zealanders could not help being impressed by the possibility of the application of electricity to our own requirements and it is certain that the returned soldier element can be a decided factor in New Zealand's developments. They are fully aware that the future of New Zealand's industrial and commercial activity will be largely influenced by the application of electrical energy. Life on the farm has always been more or less a drudgery but there is no longer any necessity to tolerate these conditions. With electricity applied to the milking plant, saw-bench and other devices requiring power will be a big factor in the labour problem. Then there is the home; lighting, cooking, etc. All farmers who are progressive cannot fail to see the immense benefit. In short, Southland's Hydro-Electric Scheme will mean greater production and a decided increase in the standard of comfort.

More than 7000lb of pure gold are required every year to supply wedding rings for British brides.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE DIGGER'S LETTER BOX.

All communications to be written in ink and on one side of the paper only.

Addressed Box 310, Invercargill.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. McK., Riverton, writes asking us to explain the Welsh words at the bottom of our paragraph dealing with the Mount Wendon Run in last issue. The words in question were not Welsh, but the nearest expression our reporter could give to the language of the disappointed applicants when they received the communication from the Commissioner of Crown Lands stating that their applications had been turned down. When using Watson's No. 10, it is advisable to dilute it with water. However, we are glad to note that you have read the "Digger" and trust you will find it interesting.—Editor.

THE ELECTRIC SCHEME.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—There has been much discussion and letter writing in contemporary papers about the electric scheme but I trust you will permit me to express the opinion of a "dinkum digger."

I have been labouring in mind as to how I should vote and if I have had many misgivings, they have been completely dispelled since reading the interview of a "Southland Times" reporter with Mr S. B. Macdonald, who was so well-known and prominent in recruiting matters prior to the calling up of the Second Division. Yours etc.,

"Four Blue Chevrons,"

Invercargill, 23rd March, 1920.

MANDEVILLE.

SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL.

The committee appointed met last week and accepted the tender of Mr Fraser, of Invercargill, of £220 for a Fallen Soldiers' Monument to be erected in the main street a few chains from the railway crossing.

A surprise party visited the home of Miss McLeod who is leaving the district. A very enjoyable evening was spent. Miss McLeod was the recipient of a number of handsome presents.

WILD BUSH.

P.W.M.U.—On Tuesday evening, 16th inst., a meeting of the P.W.M.U. was held in the Presbyterian Sunday School. Miss Orchiston, who presided, introduced Sister Christobel, who is visiting the various branches. The latter delivered a very interesting lecture dealing with the mission fields in India, China, and the New Hebrides. On Wednesday, 17th inst., a meeting of the above was held at Mrs Milne's home, Miss Orchiston presiding. Each member of the society pledged themselves to give an additional 11s 6d this year in order to cope with increased expenditure of the missionaries owing to the high prices prevailing. If extra funds were not provided by the branches, the Church would have to withdraw some missionaries.

WEDDING BELLS.

A wedding of more than local interest took place in the Riverton Presbyterian Church yesterday, the contracting parties being Miss Humphries, eldest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs George Humphries, and Mr Kelly, son of Mr O. Kelly, an old and very highly respected resident of the district, the officiating minister being Rev. C. A. Gray.

At St. John's Church, Invercargill, recently Miss Louisa Dimmock, of Otago, was married to Mr George Woods, of Christchurch, the officiating clergyman being Rev. Fynes, Clinton. The bridesmaid was Miss Prissie Dimmock, and Mr James Dimmock acted as best man. The wedding breakfast was held at the residence of Mrs Baker. The bride was presented with a gold pendant and chain from the bridegroom and a beautiful gold brooch was presented to the bridesmaid.

After a very successful function the happy couple left for the north on their honeymoon.

The journey from London to Paris by air takes 2½ hours compared with seven hours by land and sea.

PERFECTION IN CLOTHING IN OUR MADE-TO-MEASURE SUITS.

YOU get the full worth of your money in good material, smart cutting, perfect workmanship, and a suit that will give you good service and complete satisfaction. Our prices range from 115s to 210s. A wide range of patterns to select from.

Have you seen our Ready-to-Wear Suits? Neat patterns, smart style, reliable finish. From 95s to 135s.

Tweed Overcoats, 85s to 135s. Rain Coats, 90s to 210s.

Men's Odd Tweed Trousers, 17s 6d to 45s. Men's Odd Vests 7s 6d to 13s 6d.

A special showing of Men's Felt Hats, 19s 6d to 35s.

Inspection invited at—

H. AND J. SMITH, LTD.,

Progressive Stores,
INVERCARGILL AND GORE.

OTAUTAU.

FOOTBALL.

The annual meeting of the football club was held in Mr Collett's shop recently to elect officers for the ensuing year. The following were elected: President, Mr Ewen Matheson; captain, Mr G. Grieve; vice-captain, Mr R. B. Collett; manager, Mr L. T. Brown; secretary and treasurer, Mr A. Fisher; committee, A. Lindsay, C. N. Lawless, I. Brown and W. Coulter; selection committee—president, manager and captain; delegates to sub-union: president, manager, vice-captain and secretary. The annual subscription was fixed at 6s for senior members and 3s for juniors.

It was decided to hold dances during winter, the first to be held on 9th April. Mr Alex. Sutherland, of Invercargill, will give instruction in new dances. An effort is to be made to have the headquarters of the sub-union shifted to Otago and it is desired that other clubs co-operate.

R.S.A. AT FORTROSE.

A very enthusiastic meeting of Returned Soldiers was held at Fortrose recently for the purpose of forming a sub-association.

Members came from all parts of the district and the success of the Association is very promising.

Captain Millard was elected to the chair and explained the aspects of the meeting. If the country members were to be kept together it was advisable to form a sub-association which would be of undoubted benefit to those who were not closely associated with the Invercargill Association.

Mr R. B. Caws, president, R.S.A., said the more one mixes with returned soldiers' affairs, the more one recognises the great number who can only be helped by the R.S.A. There were dozens of injustices which came before the Association and if the case had merits, every assistance was given in having the matter put right. This was the only channel open to them. The returned men had by his own subscriptions to protect their own interests.

The Invercargill executive found it difficult to keep in touch with country members and sub-associations would have first hand information regarding cases in their own neighbourhood, and after deciding their merits, send them on to the parent association.

Mr Glass said there were no two opinions regarding the necessity of forming a branch. There seemed to be evidence that members from the district were not fully aware of the provisions of the Repatriation Scheme. £37,000 had been expended on repatriation and they should make themselves fully acquainted with the scheme.

Mr G. Connor said there was great need of the work being extended into the Country and other sub-associations had been a great success, and trusted they would likewise be successful.

Mr Graham explained the financial relationship of their association to the parent body. Efforts had been made to have the "Soldier's Financial Assistance Act" placed under the jurisdiction of the Repatriation Board, and also representation on the Land Boards.

The following officers were elected: chairman, Captain Millard; secretary, W. Brown; a committee was elected consisting of Messrs Bennett (Slope Point) Beattie (Pine Bush), Greig (Tokanui), Chisholm (Fortrose), and Lamb (Waikawa).

Of the 34,000 blind people in Great Britain, only 2500 are employed.