

## COUNTRY NOTES.

## OTAUTAU.

The many friends of Mr and Mrs B. R. Sword assembled in the Town Hall on Tuesday 23rd inst. to bid good-bye. Mr Sword has occupied the position of stationmaster for the past seven years, and has been promoted to an important position in Invercargill. The Rev. C. Webb acted as chairman, and during the evening songs were rendered by Mrs C. Webb, Miss A. Holmes, and Messrs N. G. Saunders and W. Coulter, and step dances were given by Miss D. Wall. The chairman referred to the guests' connection with St. Andrew's Church, of which he had been a valued member. For about seven years he had officiated as lay preacher, while his better half had occupied the position of superintendent of the Ladies' Guild. On behalf of the church members and the public generally, he had much pleasure in presenting Mr and Mrs Sword with a handsome silver tea and coffee service, at the same time wishing them both every success. Mr Saunders supplemented the remarks with regard to the church. Mr M. O'Brien referred to the fact that as stationmaster Mr Sword had been very obliging, and his place would be hard to fill. Mr John Fisher, on behalf of the citizens, stated that as one who had been in contact with Mr Sword, he had found him at all times obliging in his official capacity. It was very hard for one in his position to do his duty to the department and still be popular with the public. He conveyed to both the goodwill and best wishes of the people in their new sphere, as he had received well-deserved promotion. On rising to reply Mr Sword was greeted with applause and the strains of "For They Are Jolly Good Fellows." He said he had always tried to do his duty to the department and the public, and, as far as church matters were concerned, he thought that anything he had done for it had been greatly magnified by the church people themselves, and that too much had been made of the little he had done there. He thanked them very heartily.

The monthly meeting of the Wallace A. and P. Association was held recently. Mr W. J. McGregor being chairman, in the absence of the president, Mr F. Malcolm. It was decided to support the Marlborough Woolgrowers' Committee in an effort to have the draft on wool removed, and to recommend them to bring the matter under the notice of the Board of Agriculture. A subsidy of £5 was voted to the Progressive League to assist in filling in the section for sheep holding yards at the railway station. Mr John Macdonald, the delegate appointed, with Mr D. Marshall, to attend the conference in Wellington in connection with the meat commandeering, was given a free hand to act in the producers' interests and it was decided that the Association share in the payment of the delegates' expenses. The ram fair was fixed for Thursday, April 22, on the Otatau Show Grounds.

## WAIKAI.

Concert and Dance.—On the 17th inst. (St. Patrick's Day), a concert and dance was held in the Coronation Hall, the proceeds for the convent funds. A good musical programme was given, a dance following the conclusion of the concert.

Stock Sales.—On Tuesday, 23rd inst., a sale of sheep was held at Mr McCrostie's. Mr McCrostie has given up his run, and will reside at the manse for some time. Fair prices were realised.

Farewell Social.—On the 19th inst., a social was tendered Mr Robertson, guard on the Switzers train, who left for the south. During the evening Mr Milne presented Mr Robertson with a suit case and cheque for £20, and Mrs Robertson with a handsome travelling rug. Mr Robertson suitably replied for his wife and self. Supper was provided by the ladies who brought baskets.

## QUEENSTOWN.

Hydro-electricity.—Messrs John London and S. B. Macdonald, members of the Hydro-electric Committee of the Otago Expansion League, visited the district during the week, and addressed meetings at Queenstown and Arrowtown in the interests of the proposed hydro-electric scheme for Otago. At each town they were accorded good receptions, and motions in favour of the proposal were carried unanimously. At Tuesday's meeting of the Lake County Council Messrs London and Macdonald waited on the Council to ask for its assistance and financial support in carrying out the preliminary arrangements in connection with the formation of a Hydro-electric Power Board for Otago. After hearing the delegates, the council voted the sum of £50, and

agreed to give its hearty support to the proposal.

## LAKE COUNTY.

Smoke Concert.—On Monday evening last the members of the Arrowtown branch of the Returned Soldiers' Association tendered a complimentary smoke concert to Dr Stewart (who is leaving the district) and Messrs G. H. Romans and J. Forbes, chairman and secretary respectively of the Soldiers' Reception Committee. Dr Stewart was presented with a case of Loewe pipes, Mr Romans with a Morris chair, and Mr Forbes with an aneroid barometer, all the presents being suitably inscribed. The gifts were accompanied by expressions of goodwill and appreciation, suitable replies being made in each case.

Personal.—Mr F. H. Garth, who succeeds Mr P. G. Nind as postmaster at Arrowtown, arrived on Tuesday, and has taken up his duties. Mr Nind and family left on Wednesday for their new home at Te Kuiti.—Private Robert M'Kinlay, son of Mrs M'Kinlay, Queenstown, who left with the Fortieth Reinforcements, is returning to New Zealand by the Tainui, due in Auckland on April 2.

Death.—Mr Philip John Green, who conducted a carrying business in Queenstown for a couple of years up till a few months ago when he was compelled owing to ill-health, to relinquish work, died in Dunedin on the 16th inst. Much sympathy is felt in the district for the widow and family in their bereavement. Prior to settling in Queenstown, Mr Green was engaged in horse-breeding in South Westland.

Football.—The Clutha Club opened the season on Saturday with a practice game between picked sides. There was a good attendance of both players and onlookers, and a good practice resulted.

Prospects are good for the South Otago fixtures this season. There are so far five teams entered in the first grade, and three in the second grade competitions.

The Union at its meeting on Saturday night did a wise thing in donating a trophy for competition amongst the schools. Good competition should be witnessed, and it is hoped that the boys will appreciate the action of the Union and give all the support they can.

## LAKE COUNTY JOCKEY CLUB.

A meeting of a committee was held at Queenstown on Tuesday, when a statement was submitted showing the receipts and expenditure in connection with the recent race meeting. This showed that the receipts amounted to £938 and the expenditure to £1187. The principal items of receipts were:—Nominations and acceptances, £217; totalisator, £517; privileges, £44; gates, £77. The expenditure included stakes £865, Government taxes £246, printing and advertising £38. It was stated that after collecting outstanding subscriptions and nominations there would be a deficiency of about £70. It was decided to apply for December 15 and 16 as the racing dates for next season.

## BLUFF.

When the latest additions to the cool stores at Bluff were erected it was predicted that after the war they would never be used. If they had not been erected, it is hard to say what would have been the plight for the lack of storage for cheese. Those who said they would be no use have little faith in the expansion of trade at the Bluff. Even this season, although cheese has been got away fairly freely, a portion of the recent addition had to be occupied. Of nearly 38,000 crates in the stores recently the Mahia has taken 14,250, so there should be ample storage for the remainder of the season.

Many dairy factories are experiencing some difficulty in obtaining supplies of crate timber just now. The break at holiday time is a cause of short supply, and cheese has to be held in the factories instead of getting to the cool stores. Besides, the sawmills are busier just now than they have been for a very long time.

## W. E. A.

The Workers' Educational Association are now forming classes in Literature, Economics, Psychology. A class in History will also be started if sufficient students enroll. All intending students are advised to send in their names to the secretary at once. Classes commence immediately after Easter. Fees for session of 24 lessons is 5s. A. L. Whelham, hon secretary, care Maclean and Thomson, Esk street.

At Alleghany City, Pennsylvania, there was recently rolled a steel spring, six inches wide, one-quarter of an inch thick, and 310 feet long. It is the largest coiled spring ever rolled.

ANZAC DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE.  
APRIL 25.

RETURNED MEN who are willing to be included in the firing part relative to the above and Buglers who are prepared to give their services on this occasion should forward their names to the Convenor, Anzac Day Committee, Box 10, Invercargill, before March 31.

MEMBERS of the Invercargill Returned Soldiers' Association are hereby reminded that the

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FEE of 10/- is due on April 1st, 1920.

L. S. GRAHAM,  
Secretary.



## WOODLANDS R.S.A.

A DANCE will be held in the WOODLANDS HALL,

On FRIDAY, APRIL 9,

At 8 p.m.

Gents 3/- Ladies Basket.

THE WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION are now forming classes in Literature, Economics, Psychology. A class in History will also be started if sufficient students enrol.

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## DUG-OUTS

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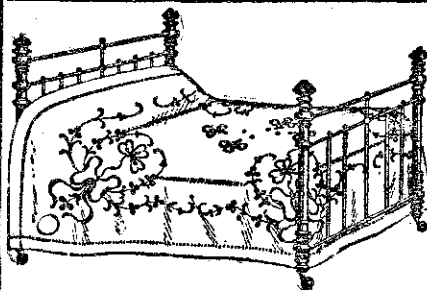
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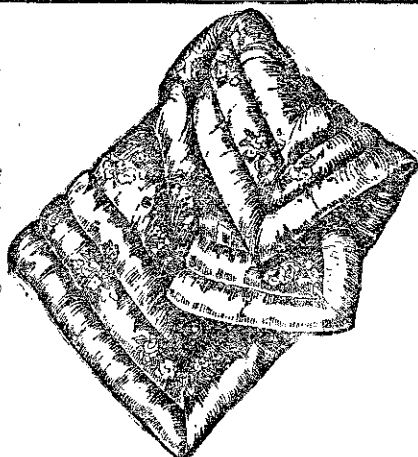
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