

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.

SECTIONS—We can show you some of the best building sites available in Invercargill.

MCKAY BROS.,

EXCHANGE MART.

Box—17. Phone—15.



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?

J.D. Gilmore

CONSULTING & MANUFACTURING OPTICIAN,

DEE ST. (Opp. P.O.), INVERCARGILL.

SPEND

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.

CONSULT—

Gilbertson & Guise,
ESK STREET, INVERCARGILL.

GOOD COMMISSION.

NEWS RUNNERS wanted to establish weekly house to house connection for the

"DIGGER."

Apply—

DIGGER OFFICE,
Early Next Week.

HOME SERVICE LEAGUE OF NEW ZEALAND.

THOSE desirous of forming a branch of the above League in Invercargill are requested to communicate with the undersigned from whom all particulars may be obtained. Those eligible for membership are—

- (1) Home Service Men.
- (2) Men belonging to reinforcement drafts who were discharged through
 - (a) Medical unfitness.
 - (b) Cessation of hostilities.
- (3) Men who served in N.Z. before proceeding overseas.
- (4) Men who served in N.Z. after being discharged from active service.

T. J. TRAILL, Secretary,
9 Thomas street,
South Dunedin.

Or

MR H. W. BROWNE,
6 Hensley street,
Gladstone, Invercargill.

PROFESSIONAL.

W. Macalister, B.A., LL.B.; S. Morell Macalister, LL.B.; Horace J. Macalister, LL.B.; Alan B. Macalister.

MACALISTER BROS.,

Barristers and Solicitors,
INVERCARGILL.

Money to Lend on approved security at current rates.

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

P.O. Box 48. Telephone 36.

RATTRAY & HALL-JONES,

BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS,
ESK STREET, INVERCARGILL, N.Z.
Solicitors under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act for the Otago District.

"The Digger."

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1920.

PENSIONS FOR DISABILITY.

WHAT JUSTICE DEMANDS.

The Christchurch Conference decided to press for a pension of a minimum standard of £3 15s per week for total disability. Exactly what this was intended to mean was not clear but it voices a general discontent among ex-soldiers with the present pension scale. This discontent is shared by the public generally and has been shown also in Parliament. It is clear that the time is ripe for final consideration of the question.

The Act at present in force provides for pension for total disability. Now broadly speaking the disability suffered by the incapacitated man is of two kinds: A.—Physical, viz., suffering and general inconvenience.

B.—Economic, viz., the disability which is due to loss of earning power or inability to follow a chosen career.

Let us now take some typical cases to illustrate the necessity for assessing a soldier's disability on this basis.

1.—A clerk and a professional pianist have each lost two fingers on the left hand. The clerk has suffered pain and some slight inconvenience. The pianist has also suffered these but he has further lost his occupation which probably represented years of labour. Under the present system the economic disability of the musicians is recognised by possible vocational training from the Repatriation Department and a possible extra £1 per week from the Pensions Department.

2.—A surveyor's draughtsman married with two children was before the war in an assured position earning £11 per week. At the war he lost his right arm, was badly smashed up and is slowly dying as a result. The utmost that the State can provide is a pension of £6 per week for the family. This amount is the equivalent of about £4 at the pre-war cost of living. In this case in addition to dying as a result of his injuries the soldier's income has been reduced by 60 per cent., and the State says it cannot do more.

Cases of this kind might be cited indefinitely. The crudity of the present system of pensions arises from the following facts:—

A.—Any given injury is assumed by the law as it stands to have resulted in

identical "Disability." As has been shown the real disability depends very largely on the occupation of the individual.

B.—Each individual pensioner is assumed to have some particular (but unspecified) earning capacity at some average (but unspecified) occupation and his pension is adjusted accordingly.

To some extent vocational training provides alternative employment for incapacitated men but this is effective in most cases to only a very limited extent in restoring pre-war earning power, and in cases of real total disability does not apply to all. It is obvious that the departments of pensions and repatriation are both dealing inadequately and inequitably with the economic disability which is the much more important part of his disability in nearly every case. The true responsibility of the state is thus ostensibly dealt with by two departments but is fully discharged by neither.

The first essential of an efficient scheme of pension administration is that the functions of the two departments, which will deal with physical and economical disability respectfully should be clearly defined.

The Pensions Department should confine itself to the physical disability purely and a schedule of pensions for particular injuries would be largely applicable. Its work would then become much more simple and the assessment would be relatively automatic. The Repatriation Department should have exclusive and exhaustive control of the economic factor in every case. Vocational, functional, and general educational training should be included under its administration.

In some cases therefore a disabled soldier would be drawing a pension in respect to physical disability only, in others possible economic disability only—but in many cases in respect to both.

THE DIGGER'S LETTER BOX.

Mr D. M., Invercargill, complains that as an applicant for employment on the Railways, he interviewed the official who deals with employment. It seems that the applicant was favourably considered from the fact that he was sent to the District Engineer's office to get a note for medical examination. In the meantime the Department discovered that the applicant had previously been employed in the Railway Department and received compensation for having been unfortunate enough to injure his leg. The applicant states he was then refused employment. Our view is d—the regulations that stand in the way of efficiency and justice. Our representative interviewed the chief clerk, in the absence of the District Engineer, who very courteously explained the position and assured us that every preference would be given a returned soldier. The position was that the application would have to go before the manager for approval. Your application is being forwarded to head-quarters, and we anticipate you will get a fair consideration. You should acquaint the Department with your address and await further information. Advise us as to the result.—Editor DIGGER.

ETHNOLOGICAL DISCOVERY.

"The Times" correspondent at Rotterdam tells of the discovery in the Caucasus of descendants of a Scottish landing at Trebizond (on the Black Sea) in the 15th century. They lived in a village in the mountains near Batum. They were blue-eyed and red-haired, wore kilts, sporrans, and played on bagpipes made out of pigs' bladders. They spoke a mixture of Gaelic, Georgian, and Tartar. "The Times" correspondent offers to escort ethnologists to the village.

Suits that please. It is quality, combined with style and workmanship, that has won for our gent's suits a reputation for superiority—and unrivalled popularity amongst all classes—and the esteem of countless progressive buyers in all parts of Southland; the prices are what you require. Colonial all wool tweeds in suits-to-measure, smart patterns to choose from 115s, 126s to 200s. Boys' suits in latest styles and patterns 95s to 155s. Ask to see our large assortment of men's overcoats in tweeds and waterproofs. The styles are the newest and the prices will suit all. 65s, 95s, 115s to 210s. If you require an overcoat to measure let us show you our coatings, prices from 130s. Before trying elsewhere call and inspect our large stocks of boys' and youths' suits sizes 0 to 6, 15s 6d, 25s 6d, 35s to 37s 6d. 7 to 12 38s 6d, 42s 6d, 45s to 52s 6d. 13 to 18 39s 6d, 45s, 55s to 67s 6d. Boys and youths' coats, tweed and hydrotype, 30s, 35s, 39s 6d to 65s. H and J Smith, Ltd., the Progressive Stores, Tay street, Invercargill and Main street, Gore.

RIVERTON.

Although the races were Riverton's Easter attraction, there were many who wended their way hither to enjoy a respite from business at the seaside and the out-of-doors conditions were such that they did not fail to enjoy their brief sojourn at the seaside. There are still a large number of visitors at The Rocks and in the town.

The Seventh Regimental Band (Riverton district) under Sgt. Major Hunter, played at the Riverton races. It was their first appearance in uniform and they looked neat and smart. On Sunday afternoon the band rendered a programme of music from a vantage point at the south end of the bridge to the delight of a large number of listeners.

Football.—A meeting of the delegates from the different Western District Clubs was held in the Globe Hotel, Riverton, on Saturday morning. Tuatapere, Orepuki and Nightcaps delegates stated that they wished to have matches played on Saturday. It was therefore resolved that the Union arrange to have these teams travelling matches played on Saturday and home matches on Wednesday.

Messrs F. C. Mills and D. F. Macdonald were appointed as Western District delegates to the Southland Rugby Football Union.

The season fixtures to be drawn, first games to be started during first week in May.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

We have been successful in making arrangements for the complete history of Southland's part in the war. As indicated in a previous issue, people know something about the New Zealand Division but not about the local regiments.

This article will be complete and extend over a fairly long period. It is evident that the writer must receive assistance and it is desired that officers and other ranks will loyally assist. Any information whether of a historical or humorous character will be welcomed. It will take the writer some time to collect dates and contributors of information would render great assistance if they would forward matter as early as possible. Those who find difficulty in writing can send in the matter, we will adjust all. Our requirements will be met by an intelligent statement of facts. All communications to be addressed.—The Digger's Letter Box, Box 310, Invercargill.

RETURNING TROOPS.

Officer in command, Major C. E. May, England. The other officers are:—Major W. H. Turnbull; Captain J. Boyd, Belfast; Temp. Captain A. Lush, Auckland; Captain J. S. J. Sincox, Dannevirke; Lieutenant E. Schlenders, Nelson. The rank and file are as follows:—

Anderson, J. W., Corporal, Port Chalmers.
Ashley, F. J. Sergeant, Invercargill.
Ayling, G. S. Sergeant, Timaru.
Ball, E. J. South Dunedin.
Campbell, J. Corporal, Alexandra.
Campbell, R., Lawrence.
Cockerill, E. J. Waikiki, Southland.
Cocklin, J. E., Invercargill.
Gilmore, J., Mosgiel.
Harper, T. E., Lance-corporal, Invercargill.

Lepper, J. H., Corporal, Limehills.
McCutcheon, A. J., Lance-corporal, Wendon.

M'Kenzie, M., Corporal, Invercargill.
M'Kenzie, R. J., Sergeant, Ashburton.
M'Kinlay, R., Queenstown.
Marks, F. W., Dunedin.
Rarity, W. S. Sergeant, Kaitangata.
Robson, E. W., Corporal, Lovell's Flat.
Scrimshaw, H. W. Staff-sergeant, Temuka.

Smith, T. D., Corporal, Rangitata.
Tepene, J. W., Dunedin.

Thompson, A. J., Sergeant-major, Invercargill.

Tilley, W. W. Acting Sergeant, Ashburton.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST.

Major D. E. Bremner, M.C., Auckland.
Captain T. Julian, Central Otago.

R. M.A. Bell, Remuera.
Corporal C. E. Fowleraker, South Dunedin.

W. D. Pirrett, Auckland.
— Ross, Palmerston North.

NAVAL DETAILS.

Engineer-Lieutenant Holm and wife, Wellington.

Lieutenant W. A. Smith and wife, Wellington.

Lieutenant Parker, Wellington.

W. D. Smith, chief motor mechanic, Wellington.

Mrs M. Merton, Wellington.

Lieutenant Blomfield and wife, Auckland.

Lieutenant Fraser and wife, Lyttelton.
Sub-lieutenant Sharp, Dunedin.

OTAUTAU.

Good progress is being made with the erection of the central sawmill under Mr Geo. Bates. The company has secured an area of almost five acres in Hulme street, adjoining the railway line. The mill will ultimately be connected with Otago railway yards with a private siding.

The Otago Lawn Tennis Club held a very enjoyable dance in the Otago Town Hall on the 5th inst. There was a large attendance, and capital music was supplied by Mrs Cupples, extras being played by Mr Lemon. Mr R. Collett officiated as M.C. A good supper was provided by the ladies.

HOME SERVICE LEAGUE.

Attention is drawn to the advertisement of the above League. We are not fully conversant with the aims and aspirations of the League but understand that it exists for the purpose of securing redress of the wrongs pertaining to men who through no fault of their own were unable to proceed overseas. If our conception is correct then the League has our sympathy, and if those men who are effected lose this opportunity by bringing themselves into something concrete and presenting their case as one united body, they have only themselves to blame. The Government has not directed a very sympathetic ear to these men's case and the public generally are apt to lose sight of the man who enlisted and was turned down. We believe they should have the benefits of the discharged soldier's Settlement Act, not only from the standpoint of justice but from that of a progressive land settlement policy.

GRAND ORANGE LODGE.

The twelfth annual session of the Grand Orange Lodge of New Zealand opened at Wanganui on 4th April, there being 150 delegates present. In the afternoon there was a big procession through the Avenue to His Majesty's Theatre, where a service was held in the presence of a very large assembly.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

The annual meeting of the Dunedin branch of the National Council of Women of New Zealand was held last Tuesday, the president (Miss Mackenzie) presiding. The annual report and balance sheet were adopted.

This report stated (inter alia):—At the beginning of last year we had dared to hope that "special" schools would before now have been established for children who were defective physically, mentally, or morally, or who were unable, through the ordinary channels open to children, to have qualified themselves for citizenship. The whole matter of the treatment of "special" children is one calling for immediate and intelligent attention. The evil effects of our want of system in training these children continues a barrier to the best development of the individual, and a menace to the State. The Women's Citizen's Association has sent a remitting the need for the formation of a body of women police in New Zealand.

The election of officers and committee for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—President, Miss Mackenzie; vice-presidents—Mrs Leech, Dr Siedeberg, and Miss Runciman; secretary, Miss MacLaurin; committee—Misses Gow, Hodgkinson, Valentine, and other representatives from affiliated women's and girls' societies, clubs, and sectional groups.

Have you seen the elaborate display of ladies' millinery at the Progressive Stores? The selection offered here is one of the best. All the newest and becoming styles are here in abundance, and at remarkably low prices. See our large showroom display and if we have not what you want we can make it for you. Exclusive models all shapes and shades value at 25s 6d, 29s 6d, 35s to 45s. Beavers in black and colours from 55s, 65s, 75s. Velours in black and colours splendid values at 27s 6d, 35s, 67s 6d. Matrons black toques 22s 6d, 25s, 47s 6d, semi-trimmed in felt and straw, 14s 6d, 15s 6d, 16s 6d, 19s 6d to 27s 6d. Felt shapes all shades 5s 11d, 8s 11d, 12s 6d to 19s 6d. Straw shapes 5s 11d, 9s 11d, 14s 6d, to 27s 6d. See great display of feathers and mounts at 1s, 1s 11d, 2s 6d. Also special values in exclusive and distinctively smart blouses, costumes, coats, furs and jerseys. All alterations to costumes and coats free of charge. Inspection invited at H. and J. Smith's Ltd., Progressive Stores, Invercargill and Gore.