

The Nature Column.

(By "Student.")

In response to a request for information as to where fossils were to be found in the Hokonui hills, I have received an interesting letter on the subject. The writer states that brachiopods are to be found in the shingle of the bed of the Moiley stream near Nightcaps. The rock enclosing the fossil shells was a bluish gray colour somewhat similar to Oporo gravel only more angular. He also pointed out that though the Nightcaps hills are a spur of the Takitimos, a ridge extends across to the Hokonuis. The Takitimos are classed as of matal or traissic formation, and the Hokonuis as of jurassic formation though the two are no doubt closely related. There does not appear to be any reason why the Hokonui formation should not join the Takitimos about Nightcaps. The limestones between the Hokonuis and Takitimos are of much later age belonging to the Oamaru formation. The gravel is more angular because it is near the source of supply, and has not been so much rolled. The blue rock faces are a very striking feature all through the Takitimos and it would seem reasonable to suppose that these particular fossils came from that locality, rather than from the Hokonuis. I think however this fossil will be found to be common to both formations.

Our correspondent also makes mention of the heaps of shells and burnt rocks just under the surface near the Waikawa river, and that these heaps are sometimes very close together. About Niagara there no doubt dwell a small tribe or family party. There would be abundant food for them. The lagoons in the neighbourhood would furnish them with eels and the lampreys came up to the so called falls in large numbers.

These lampreys were greatly esteemed by the natives. It is said that Maoris in the North Island would gorge on these till they made themselves sick. They have peculiar sucker-like teeth by means of which they hold on to the rocks. At Waikawa Heads the writer saw a number of large middens which would seem to indicate that the district had a considerable population, and there is no doubt that the middens on the river banks are of considerable age. A number of Maori curios have been found about Niagara and on the sea-shore.

One of the town Engineer's staff has kindly forwarded a specimen of lignite from one of the trenches now being dug for the sewerage works. It seems to have included in it some stems and leaves, possibly of flowering plants, and would therefore appear to be of no great age geologically speaking. These beds of lignite exist under Invercargill at different depths and generally in thin seams. Seams of greater thickness appear also to extend under the whole of Seaward Bush. In some places at the back of Clifton and near Bush Siding, the deposits have been worked. The trenches about the streets of Invercargill all show the gravels, sands, and lignites, lying in a nearly horizontal position, and the deep bore at the water-works showed that similar conditions existed for some hundreds of feet. It would seem therefore that the strata beneath Invercargill was formed under deltaic conditions. From the 130 foot level, sands, sands, and thin lignite seams occur. These would be laid down in quiet waters at the mouth of some large stream perhaps when New Zealand was sinking. The larger gravel of which the tower hill is composed being laid down later by running water. The seams of lignite which are now being found near the surface were in the past probably covered deep by a mass of gravel which has since been removed by the Oreti river. The old river bank can be traced as a ridge from North Invercargill right down close to Awarua Bay. A well-known geologist who has lately been investigating the coal fields of Southland pointed out a peculiar circumstance in connection with our coals. He said they were poor in quality near the sea, but the farther they went inland the better the quality. This would be accounted for no doubt by the fact that the seams farthest away would be covered most deeply.

The appearance of the piece of lignite goes to show that this particular seam was made from drifted sticks, leaves, etc. Other seams would perhaps be composed of peaty deposits similar to what we now find on the Seaward Moss. A layer of silt would cover the ligneous matter during flood times, or owing to the land sinking, and another accumulation would take place. Some geologists hold that most of our coal has been formed from accumulations of driftwood in lagoons, and point to the stones and other foreign bodies included in the coal, as evidence. In coal from the Nightcaps district, casts of the unio, a fresh water mussel, are often found.

DRAUGHTS.

(Conducted by F. Hutchins).

The Draught Club meets on Wednesday and Friday evenings in Athenaeum. Visitors welcome.

Problem 11.

(From the "Draughts World.")

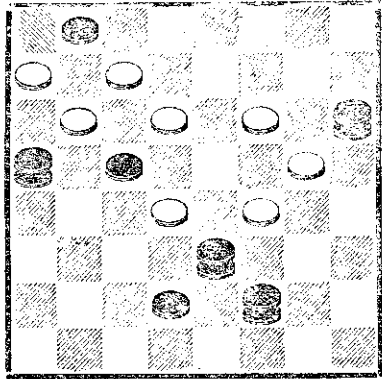
By A. C. Hews, Somerset.

Black 1, 14, 25, Kings 12, 13, 23, 27. White 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 16, 18, 19

One cannot but admire the brilliant positions of the above author. We classify this amongst one of his best efforts.

Solution to Problem 10:

Black 4, 7, 10, 14, 20, Kings 17 and 18.



White 12, 19, 23, 26, 29, Kings 9 and 27.

Black to play.

20-24, 27-20, 18-27, 9-18, 27-24, 20-27, 10-14, 18-9, 4-8, 12-3, 17-13, 3-10, 15-22, and Black wins.

Thirteen entries have been received for the Invercargill Draughts Club tourney: J. Whitaker, A. Thom, C. Le Pitt, J. A. Mills, J. McGregor, W. Halliday, F. Hutchins, J. Neil, W. Menzies, W. Cooper, W. Adcock, B. Brooks and J. G. Steans. The games will be played in the Athenaeum smokeroom, afternoons and evenings.

We have had a visit from a Queensland player in the person of Mr G. J. Lowry, and the following are two interesting games played between him and Mr B. Brooks one of our best local players.

Singles Corner.

Black, Mr Brooks. White, Mr Lowry.

11.15 12.16 23.16 9.14 19.15 30.26
22.13 21.17 6.10 18.9 11.16 18.14
15.22 8.12 32.27 5.14 20.11 26.22
25.13 17.14 16.17 26.23a 7.16 9.5
29.25 16.19 27.24 17.26 15.11a 22.18
4.8 23.16 1.6 31.22 17.22 14.9
25.22 12.19 16.12 14.17 18.14 18.14
10.15 27.23 6.9 23.18 22.26 11.8
24.20 9.13 24.19 17.26 23.18 14.10
15.24 30.23 26.30 5.1
23.19 13.17 14.9 Black won.

(A)-31-27 would be stronger.
(B)-15-10, 17-22, 18-14, 22-26, 23-18, 26-30, 10-6 draws.

OLD FOURTEENTH.

Black, Mr Lowry. White, Mr Brooks.

11.15 5.9a 17.1 2.6 14.13 20.24
23.19 25.22 26.31 29.25 7.10 32.23b
8.11 18.25 13.6 14.18 27.31 24.27
22.17 29.22 2.9 24.19 29.25 28.24
4.8 1.5 24.20 6.10 18.15 27.32
17.13 22.17 31.24 16.20 10.19 32.27
15.18 11.16 20.2 10.14 26.23 and
24.20 20.11 12.16 19.16 19.26 Black won.
11.15 25.22 1.6 20.25 31.29 won
18.23 5.9
28.24 3.7 9.15 16.11 29.25
8.11 22.18 6.10 23.27 9.14
26.23 15.22 22.25 11.7 25.22
9.14 19.15 10.14 30.26a
31.26 10.26 25.29 25.29

(A)-6.9 or 3.3 is generally made here.
(B)-This seems to give black an easier game.

(C)-This is an interesting study for the amateur, white could have won here by 22.26, 14.18, 26.31 forcing the Black man into 23 and thus changing the move.

The following is a well known trap in Laird and Lady game. All young players should make themselves acquainted with it as similar positions occur in other openings.

11.15 9.13 15.18 11.16a 6.15
23.19 17.14 19.15 26.22 25.21
8.11 10.17 4.8 16.23 18.25
22.17 21.14 24.19 15.10 27.4

White wins.

(A)-13.17, 23.24, 11.16, 15.10, 6.15, 19.10 draws.

FURNITURE.

To those in search of Quality and Value, Inspect our Stock and get our Quotations. We carry the Largest Stocks in Invercargill, all of Our Own Manufacture.

W. STRANG & CO.,

THE LOCAL FURNITURE FIRM,

ESK & KELVIN STREETS, INVERCARGILL.



BOXING NOTES FROM HOME.

(By "X.Z.Y.")

Critics, like A. G. Hales and J. H. Clifton, believe that Tommy Burns can do the "come back," and reckon he can lick anything on two legs in the Old Dart. Tommy freely acknowledges that Jack Johnson was a better boxer than himself. Time has altered Burns's bitterness.

Joe Beckett still retains his title as heavy weight champion of Britain. His fight with Dick Smith and Wells ended as expected. Both these boxers took the count. Goddard is his nearest rival. Goddard has the size and strength and showed McGoorty he could also box.

Jimmy Wilde is in demand everywhere in America, and boxing critics there are bestowing tremendous praise on the little Welshman. He deserves most of it.

Another champion in Jim Higgins, a Scotch lad, has appeared. He beat Harold Jones, bantam champion, for the title. There has been a lot of controversy amongst the critics about Higgins' ability. Anyway he is reckoned as one of the best bantams-produced in Britain. A real champion!

Wilde's two hardest fights were with Scots-Tancy Lee and Billy Padden. The first beat Jimmy in 17 rounds and the Welshman won the other fight in the 19th round.

In Australia there's a saying: "He's as straight as Peter Jackson." What man would like a better testimonial than that. A. G. Hales says of Peter: "His left hand flew straight from the shoulder with the accuracy of a piston rod in motion, and his sense of 'timing' was so nearly perfect that he had a style of his own. He 'stepped' in when dealing one of his lightning left hand blows. He used to glide his left foot along the ring floor like a perfect dancer, and the glide carried the full weight of his big body with it. He dearly loved to fight big men of the rushing, smashing kind and the way he would meet their rushes and drive them back was a caution to see. When he wanted a rest he seldom side-stepped; he would draw back like a panther, never taking his eyes from the eyes of his enemy. He carried his head very high and stood up to the full of his splendid height, and he seldom 'ducked' from a swinging blow. He trusted those eagle eyes of his, and the manner in which he would just shift his head a bit on one side and let a whizzing punch go whizzing past his ear, was a revelation. Then as his enemy missed and was being carried forward off his balance, by the impetus of his own blow, Peter would meet him with a crashing left, and those smashes of his would test the strength of the bravest and the strongest. It was his left hand that won all his battles, everyone of them, and this is a lesson the youth of Britain should take to heart today. We have lost every championship, bar that held by Jimmy Wilde, because the cult of the great left hand and the quick shift of the head an inch or two to one side has gone out of vogue, and the right hand sling punch, and the miserable 'bummy bag' have come in. We will have champions enough when we go back to the fine, fearless old method, but not until then."

Peter was only twice beaten during his brilliant career in the ring. First by Billy Farnham, the then champion in Australia, I think, when Peter had just started to make a name for himself. Later by Jim Jeffries when he, Peter, was a broken wreck of a man at the end of his ring career. "Peter the Great's" reputation was as white as his skin was black. Long will his memory be cherished.

OTAGO DISTRICT R.S.A.

DISTRICT FINANCE.

A meeting of the Sub-committee appointed to enquire into the matter of finance of the district for the ensuing year was held in the Dunedin Returned Soldiers' Association's Rooms, Dowling street, on May 14, 1920.

Present: Messrs R. P. Jones (chairman), Watt (Gore), Russell (Clutha), and Forbes (Oamaru).

The whole matter of District Finance was thoroughly discussed and it was thought that Associations in view of the organisation already existing could, with the amount saved in capitation, more cheaply carry on the existing organisation themselves in their own district and employ an organiser for the whole district. It was thought that in view of the reduction of work at General Headquarters that the capitation for that body could be fixed at 6d per member, which, with 60,000 numbers, would allow £1500. The membership for the district was estimated at 7,500 and with a levy of 1s 6d per head a revenue of £562 10s.

This, it was considered in view of their having no organisation expenses, would amply provide for the clerical work necessary for the district.

The expenses for the district were estimated as follows:-Secretary's salary, £250; stationery, £150; delegates expenses, £100. (£500.)

In view of the foregoing the sub-committee moved the following:- (1) That the organisation system as at present be abolished. (2) That the capitation be on the basis of 2/- per member-6d to go to General Headquarters' Funds, and 1/6 to Otago District funds. (3) That a secretary be appointed for the District Association at a retaining fee not exceeding £250 per annum, such secretary to supply his own typist and office.

ANNUAL MEETING.

An annual meeting of the District Association will be held in the Association Rooms, Dunedin, on Wednesday, May 26, at 8 p.m.

MARKET NOTES.

Messrs Bray Bros., Ltd., Auctioneers, Dee street, Invercargill, report as follows: We have handled large supplies of Potatoes during the week. There is no shipping and sales are restricted to local buyers. Prices average about £8 per ton ex store. Onions 13s cwt. Wheat.-We have a small supply. Oats (for fowl feed) 5s 6d to 5s 9d per bushel. Chaff to £8 10s per ton. Oaten Straw to £5 10s per ton. Mergill's Linseed Meal, 25s per bag. Oatdust 5s per bag. Bran 10s 6d per bag. Wheat Pollard 12s 6d per 100lb bag. Barley Pollard, 22s 6d per 200lb bag.

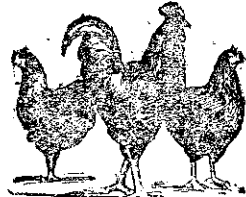
Fruit.-We have received large supplies of Apples and pears. Apples (dessert), 2 1/2d to 3d per lb. (Cooking), 2d to 2 1/2d per lb. Pears, 2d to 3d per lb., according to variety and grade. Quinces, 3d per lb. Walnuts to 1s 6d per lb.

Vegetables.-Cabbages, 4s per dozen. Cauliflowers, 5s per dozen. Marrows, 10s cwt. Pumpkins, 10s per cwt. Carrots, 4s per bag. Parsnips, 5s per bag.

General.-Lepp Silt Lick, 2s 3d per brick. Cow Covers (lined), 21s 6d; (unlined), 10s. Horse covers, £2 15s to £3. Mutton Birds in kits containing 24 to 40 birds, 1s per bird. Honey, 10s per tin of 10lbs. Mens' Working Boots 55s per pair.

Furniture.-Our furniture showrooms in Spey street, report brisk business in all furnishing lines. We make a specialty of Oak and Rima House Furniture made to order to any design. We invite inspection and enquiries.

Land Department.-We have a Fruit-Confectionery Business for sale in Invercargill. The rent of shop and dwelling is 15s per week. There is a two year lease to run, and the occupier wants £250 for stock and fittings. This is a good business proposition for a man with small capital.



POULTRY NOTES.

BREEDING FOR CONSTITUTION.

The all-important question then resolves itself into how far we can go in the direction of increasing fecundity without absolute disaster. Breeding for stamina in the matter which will now have to be considered far more closely than in the past. The fact that some of competition pens have run through a three-years' test without the replacement of a bird, and others have had three, four, and five deaths in the first year, ought to set breeders thinking. And there is no doubt that, now the facts are stated in such unmistakable terms, the enterprise and close attention to the salient points of breeding which have characterised the poultry raisers up to the present will result in a solution of even this most difficult and elusive problem.

THE SIZE OF EGGS.

(Extracts from report of Hawkesbury Egg Laying Competition.)

In the early days of the competition there were great complaints in the market regarding the large proportion of undersized eggs. The commercial standard demanded an egg of a minimum weight of 2 oz. Even though eggs were sold by number and not by weight, the idea of many that an egg was an egg no matter what its weight, was fallacious. Buyers discriminate in the price they give, and good-sized eggs, evenly graded, always have realised commensurate prices, and always will. The man who had a strain yielding undersized eggs was losing all the time. The theory that you cannot get number and size combined has been exploded; provided, of course, you do not go to extremes. Many of the best records have been put up by pens laying eggs going 26 to 27 oz. to the dozen, and a competition has never been won at Hawkesbury College by a pen producing eggs under the commercial standard. The layers of undersized eggs are a drain on the poultry-farmer, and the committee soon realised that this was a question that had to be faced in the interests of the industry. The layers of small eggs had to be discouraged, and as far as possible eliminated. Ample notice was given that intending competitors must breed pullets, the eggs of which would conform to the commercial standard, and that no pen would be eligible for prize-money if the eggs did not reach the standard before the expiration of the first four months of the competition. Breeders were asked that to achieve this it was essential to discard the layers of small eggs, and to only select for hatching those which averaged 2 oz. Prospective competitors and poultry-farmers in general were quick to take the situation and its portents, and to act. Here was a matter which very materially affected the producers' success in the market, but it might easily have been ignored, as far as the competitions were concerned, as it has been in connection with some competitions elsewhere. But no, the committee had to keep the educational side of the work ever in the forefront. The object was not to get laying records regardless of commercial considerations. This was in itself a simple move, but the influence it exercised effected a widespread reform. In the competitions the effect was seen in the fact that in the third annual test 22 per cent of the pens laid eggs under the standard. Next year there was a drop to 15 per cent, the next to 12 per cent, the next to 3 per cent, and in the seventh competition not one pen failed to qualify. There have been occasional lapses since, but only in the case of new-comers and mostly with birds which had not been long in the hands of the competitor. The tendency, however, has been to bring the average down to within a safe margin of the minimum commercial requirement.