

HOTCH! SCOTCH! POTCH!

(Contributed by "The Groper.")

Far be't frae me that I aspire,
To blame your legislation,
Or say ye wisdom want or fire,
To rule this mighty nation!
But, faith! I muckle doubt, my sire,
Ye've trusted ministration
To chaps who in a barn or byre,
Wad better filled their station.

And now ye've gien auld Britain peace
Her broken shins to plaster;
Your sair taxation does her fleece,
Till she has scarce a tester.

As it was in the day of Burns so is it now. Fox, Pitt, and the other great ones got their meed of banter and curses from the subjects of the realm. Lloyd George gets most of his curses from Ireland, where a considerable body of disgruntled stalwarts are perpetually "Agin the Government." The broken shins of Britain (Ireland's too) want rest. We in New Zealand don't want an Irish or any other like question. "Iona" is no fool, but has a penchant for the scrap heap of the past—the lumber room of things, so to speak. From thence he retails a queer history—devoid of edification. We therefore congratulate the "Southland Times" on the matter and manner of its rebuke and correction of "Iona."

Digger Hall-Jones, B.A., L.L.B., and the first local president of the R.S.A., is to be congratulated on the ownership of a real live crooning little digger. "The Groper," offers the father digger the following injunction from the pen of the immortal Robbie—

Ye'll catechise him every quirk
An' shore him weel wi' hell;
An' gar him follow to the kirk—
Ay when ye gang yoursel.

A "two gallon" party—

But ye whom social pleasure charms,
Whose heart the tide of kindness warms
Who hold your being on the terms
"Each aid the other."
Come to my bowl, come to my arms,
My friends! My brothers!

On a noted coxcomb—
Light lay the earth on Willy's breast,
His chicken heart so tender,
But build a castle on his head,
His skull will prop it under.

The cause of Methodism must have received an awful setback in this town. Is it possible that Scott, Brown, and Presbyterianism are to blame? Levitt Street church sold! Leet street, Don street, and the Northend property open for negotiation! The truth is Invercargill churches have been emptied by blatant mediocrity preaching German-made theology which does not seem to "get there." There have been notable exceptions in the gifted C. H. Olds, and one or two others.

Speaking on preaching, "The Groper," not long since heard Burridge discoursing on the episode of David's valiant bringing their chief water from a well, after making "dog beef" of the intervening Philistines. The preacher took full five minutes to tell how David spilled the water on the ground. The mighty Thomas Chalmers preaching from the same text, said: "My friends, had I been David, I'd just a'ten a richt guid willy waucht o't."

Wives only:—

THE HEN-PECKED HUSBAND.
(Burns.)

Cursed be the man, the poorest wretch
in life,
The crouching vassal to the tyrant wife!
Who has no right but by her high permission;
Who has not sixpence, but in her possession;
Who must to her his dear friends' secrets tell;
Who dreads a curtain lecture worse than hell;
Were such the wife had fallen to my part,
I'd break her spirit or I'd break her heart,
I'd charm her with the magic of a switch;
I'd kiss her maids, and kick the perverse LADY.

"Lady" is near enough!

The friendship of Burns:—

For me I swear by sun an' moon,
And every star that winks aboon,
Ye've cost me twenty pair o' shoon,
Just gaun to see you;
And every ither pair that's done,
Mair ta'en I'm wi' you.

ORAWIA RAILWAY.

The following letter has been addressed to the Minister of Public Works by Mr Adam Hamilton, M.P., for Wallace:—

"There are many public works in my electorate that need urgent attention, but of these I can inform you later. There is one, however, that must be attended to at once, namely, the Tuatapere-Orawia railway. If it would be possible for you to come down this far before the House meets, I should be very pleased to show you this partly constructed line. The distance is about eight miles over almost level country, with no engineering difficulties whatever. I do not know how long it is since the work was begun, but it must be seven or eight years, and the formation is not half completed yet. There must have been a few thousand pounds of money spent which is bringing in no return at all. I have just received a letter from the chairman of a large and representative body, and one sentence reads as follows:—'At present there are only about seven or eight old men on the work, and at this rate of progress it will take fifty years to finish the line.' I do not know what your policy is, but the method that has been adopted for construction railways and, indeed, for a lot of other public works down this way has been a laughing disgrace and has caused much severe criticism to be levelled against the Government. The letter of the same letter also says that one contractor has been reported to have said that he could put the whole thing through in nine months; I also believe that this could be easily done. It always appears to me that when a railway has been started and money spent, then that work should be completed as speedily as possible so that it could earn its own interest. I believe there is no more important portfolio in the Government to-day than that of Minister of Public Works and I should very much like to see a real live progressive policy adopted and that the unfinished work that has been held up on account of the war could be finished within as short a time as possible. I trust that you will see your way clear to visit my electorate and also have this work finished very soon."



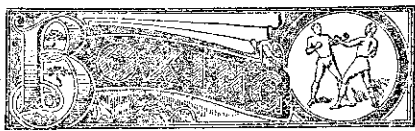
The Old Sport.

A first-class bat, and a bowler keen,
He's seen big days on the cricket green.
The popular Sec. of the Orphans' Club;
Of the sporting circle he's the hub.
He provides for every kind of sport
Golf—hockey—football and tennis court.
For cigar, tobacco or cigarette,
Doig's Sport's Depots the place you bet!

WEDDING BELLS.

A very pretty wedding took place at Tuatapere recently, the contracting parties being Miss Alva Dickson, only daughter of Mr Gavin Dickson of Tuatapere, and Mr Hugh Stewart, son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Stewart, of Invercargill. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Mr Hill, the role of bridesmaid and best man being capably filled by Miss Stewart and Mr Arthur Robertson respectively. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked most youthful and charming in her bridal robes. There was in good attendance of those interested to witness the ceremony.

A unique feature of the wedding breakfast, which was held afterwards was the presence of three Gavin Dicksons, grandfather, father, and son, and the health of the former was proposed by Rev. Mr Hill and enthusiastically honoured. The newly-wedded pair, who were recipients of numerous useful and valuable presents, left per motor car in the afternoon on a short honeymoon trip.



(By X.Y.Z.)

Another boxer at Home trying to "come back" is the former champion, Jim Sullivan, who is after the new middle-weight Lonsdale Belt. Sullivan was out on his own as a scientific boxer, at least he had few equals and no superiors, not even Pat, O'Keefe who twice beat him. His most notable performance was when he beat the Welshman Tom Thomas for the middle-weight championship and Lonsdale Belt. Sullivan won, but his har-hitting opponent broke two of his ribs. Later Billy Papke beat Sullivan, who wasn't at his best, in the 9th round. Later Carpentier beat him rather early in the match. Whether he can "come back" remains to be seen.

Ted Lewis goes on his victorious way, and is ready to meet all from Carpentier to Basham and less lights. He has genuine backing for a match with the Frenchman. Lewis is English born and is declared by some, who know what they are talking about, to be a future world champion. This will make some people smile for Lewis is light. Still he is a fighter all the time, and please don't forget, he is half a stone heavier than Charlie Mitchell (that great fighter) was when he fought John L. Sullivan. Failing a fight with Basham, Lewis claims the middle-weight championship of Britain. H. G. Hales, that good critic of boxing, reckons Lewis could beat Beckett any day. He can hit as hard as any of the heavies at Home, and is three times as clever as most of them. Failing matches at Home Lewis will have to return to the States where he is well known. He and his rival there, Jack Britton, have fought twenty-one times. Makes one think of the fights between the famous blacks, Sam Langford and Sam McVea, and like these two, Lewis and Britton fight like tigers when they meet in the ring.

Frank Moran, the Pittsburg giant, is still after Carpentier, whom he was always anxious to meet. The Frenchman could have had a fight at any old time and the fault is not Moran's that it has never come off.

Frank fought Jack Johnston to a standstill once in Paris. Carpentier refereed that fight, and, in some people's opinion, should have given Moran the verdict in the 11th round, for Johnson was in sad trouble and broke the rules of the game to save himself. Moran is in great condition, and is certainly in the running for the world's heavy-weight championship. He is one of those real good sportsmen we all like to meet, game as can be, and white right through.

Jim Higgins, the nineteen year old Scot, to whom I referred in last week's notes, beat Vince Blackburn, the Australian, on points in a 20 round contest. The "Aussie" was leading half-way through when Higgins made a grand recovery and out-boxed his opponent who was game throughout. Both Higgins and Charles Ledoux, the French champion, have been invited to visit Australia, so "Aussie" bantams, look out!

Digger Evans, the Australian, who got the decision after a hard fought battle, over Macario, the Philippine boxer, holds a certificate presented to him after a close fight with Wilde.

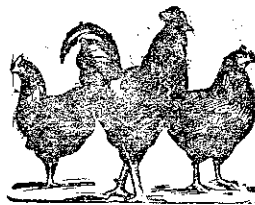
Wilde has added another K.O. to his long list, having beaten Dyson, an American, in the 1st round.

Edwards, the Australian champion, lost his fight in America with Ritchie Mitchell. Edwards, once he gets accustomed to the American style of fighting, should win matches.

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POULTRY NOTES.

A BALANCED RATION.

WHAT IS IT AND HOW TO MAKE IT.

Poultry may be and often are fed on a great variety of foods, both as chickens and as adult birds, but the main requirements of the practical poultry farmer is such simplicity and economy in feeding as will secure maximum results in the matter of eggs and of physical development.

Poultry keepers are often advised to use all sorts of food for their stock, but unfortunately most of such advice disregards commercial considerations; moreover, the published chemical analyses of many of these articles of food, and the glib way in which poultry men are encouraged to believe they can balance rations for themselves, only lead to confusion.

A DESIRABLE RATION.

It is generally accepted that a desirable ration for laying hens and for growing stock is composed of 1 part protein to 4½ or 5 parts of non-protein matter. A ration made up only of wheat, maize, pollard, bran and lucerne in the usual proportions would approximate a ration of 1.5, or 1.6, according to the quality of the feeds used, so that some food of a more nitrogenous nature, such as meat, meat meal or like must be added.

Thus, if in conjunction with wheat or maize as the grain feed, we are using a mash mixed at the rate of, say, 60lb. pollard and 32lb bran, it will be necessary, in order to balance the ration properly, to add 8lb of a meat meal or blood meal that is known to contain 40 per cent. protein. If the meat meal is known to contain more protein than we have mentioned, then the addition to the pollard and bran must be less than 8lb. With a meat meal of, say 60 per cent. protein, only about 5lb, will require to be added to the pollard and bran. To balance the ration with, say, linseed meal would require 15 to 20lb, an amount that is regarded as too high for constant use.

According to analyses made by the Chemist's Branch of the Department and recently compiled, the protein content of an average sample of wheat is from 8 to 10 per cent., and maize from 10 to 11 per cent., while the protein content of average quality pollard and bran is about 17 per cent., and good dry lucerne chaff or dust from 16 to 19 per cent. Linseed meal may vary from 20 to 24 per cent., while meat and blood meals, including rabbit meal, generally range from 40 to 60 per cent. The meaning, then, of the term "balancing a ration" is to regulate the proportion of proteins to the carbohydrates and fats so as to conform to a standard that has been proved to be efficient.

A stop-work meeting was held in Wellington by the Seamen's Union. A resolution was passed calling on the Government "to raise their policy of vindictiveness" by immediately releasing all conscientious objectors and other military offenders, and that the defaulter's list and law, under which it was made, including the War Regulations be at once repealed.

Salt miners can wear summer clothes in the coldest weather without fear of catching cold, for colds are unknown among these workers.

'Phone—45.

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