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**"The Digger."**

FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1920.

### SOLDIERS AND THE LAND.

The R.S.A. have always been a propelling force behind an effective and efficient land settlement policy, and have always kept in view the value of placing men on the land as a factor of repatriation which will increase the Dominion's production. Any Government which loses the opportunity of bringing into production our practically waste lands, fails in its duty to the State. The R.S.A. issued an appeal some time ago to ascertain the number of soldiers who were looking for land, and over 5,000 names were received. In a recent ballot in the Otago land district 1178 men made application. These figures undoubtedly under-estimate the number. The present Parliament should do all in its power to have all large estates cut up and made into small holdings. So far 6,000 men have been settled and at least one-fifth of that number have sought out single farms and so provided 1,000 small farmers the means and opportunity of joining the land gamble, which, coupled with the inflated values, is the outcome of the Government's policy. The men should be settled on the land as soon as possible and at a price which will assure them a comfortable living and protect the country from the danger of settlers becoming a financial burden when the price of produce is more stabilised. The present demand for private farms is probably due to the fact that not sufficient large estates are being thrown open. The effect of this is to aggravate the shortage and encourage speculation and inflation of value without in any way increasing settlement. The R.S.A. have continually advocated the cutting up of all estates, commencing with those of £100,000 in value and over, and working down the schedule until the demand is satisfied. It has further urged the necessity of putting in effect the provisions of the Act of 1903, providing for compulsory acquisition instead of leaving it a practically useless piece of machinery upon the statute book. Will the Government be courageous enough to put the machinery into operation, and satisfy this land hunger?

Our reporter had the pleasure of inspecting the display at Abraham Wachner's Sample Rooms, Dee street. The show-rooms present some 2000 blouses marked at a very low figure and are well worth inspection. The colourings and styles were very nice and make an effective display. Mr Wachner has a large stock of boots which are marked at a price to suit all. An advertisement to this effect appears in these columns.

### GENERAL RUSSELL.

#### APPRECIATES "THE DIGGER."

The following is an extract from a letter received from General A. H. Russell:—  
"I should like to congratulate you on your publication 'The Digger,' which is full of good matter, even for such Diggers as have not the good fortune to live in Southland."

One specially good point, to wit, you recognise that while we shall never forget our old comradeship in Palestine and France, we have got back "home" and want local news and doings sandwiched in between war poems and trench anecdotes.

Very glad to see that some of the R.S.A. in Southland, notably Colonel Mitchell, and that fine officer Colonel Hargest, intend to take as active a part in keeping things moving in peace time as they did so successfully in war.

For the history of Southland's part in the war, it is well worth an historian, for the Otago's were ever in the hottest corners and tightest places. I may say they had an inflexible instinct for hard fighting, which no manoeuvring on my part could defeat. But the details and local colouring must be looked for rather from the personal leaders, Col. Smith, Col. Cunningham, Col. Hargest, and others. But should any point come up which seems doubtful, I shall be very glad to give your contributor any assistance I can in clearing it up. Wishing you all success,

Yours sincerely,  
(Sgd) A. H. RUSSELL.

#### THE DIGGER'S LETTER BOX.

"The Groper," hopes to make a courteous reply to "Constant Reader" next week when letter will be published.

Constant Subscriber.—You are quite at liberty to enter these columns under a nom-de-plume, but all manuscript must be signed as a guarantee of good faith.—Edt.

Our first parcel of papers left for Monowai last week and will effectively penetrate this region. Our agents are still at work increasing sales. This week we have to congratulate Mrs Nichol, of Tisbury, and Mr Steans, of Wainawa.

#### CLUTHA R.S.A.

The monthly meeting of the above was held in the Association rooms on Monday, May 11th, and was attended by Messrs S. J. Werron, A. E. Russell, R. S. Jordan, J. Weir, G. Jardine, A. L. Shepard, J. T. Walter, C. Parre, and the secretary, Mr A. C. Laing.

Three active members were admitted to membership, and six inward and three outward transfers were approved of. Accounts amounting to £57 19s 11d were passed for payment.

The secretary reported that to date, an amount of £14 7s 6d had been subscribed for Miss Ettie Rout and there were still lists to come in from several of the sub-associations. It was decided that this amount be remitted forthwith.

The secretary reported progress in connection with the Clifton Soldiers' Settlement. He stated that the Minister of Lands had advised that he was obtaining a comprehensive report in regard to the whole settlement. It was decided that the individual settlers be advised to make application for the remission of rent.

The Otago Witness Company wrote intimating that they would supply a copy of the "Witness" free to the Association, for a period of six months. It was decided that the proprietors be thanked for their offer.

Messrs Wright, Stephenson and Co., Ltd., wrote intimating that they were prepared to supply returned soldiers, through the Repatriation Department, with separators at a discount of 20 per cent. off the usual retail prices.—Received.

The secretary of the Otago District wrote stating that representation is being made by the Association to the Government, asking that men on being discharged from the sanatorium, be provided with shelters properly furnished with bedding, etc., the cost to be ultimately recovered from the Defence Department, and asking for information with regard to the issue of shelters to T.B. men in this district.—Resolved that sub-associations be asked to supply any information in their possession.

A statement of the aims of the N.Z. R.S.A. was received from headquarters of the Association, with a recommendation that the Association arrange a conference with the M.S.P. of the district, with a view to placing same before them.—It was decided that in view of the sympathetic attitude of the local representatives towards returned soldiers, no such action was necessary in this district.

### SOUTH OTAGO NOTES.

BALCLUTHA, June 14.

There has been very little of importance passing locally. The Dunedin Winter Show and races drew large crowds to the city, and things were very quiet. However, now that we are back to normal we can look forward to the usual busy time with meetings, etc.

The weather during the past week has been all that could be desired. There have been heavy fogs at night, with a touch of frost and the days following have been lovely and warm, with several hours of sunshine.

The young men of the town have formed a Men's Literary, Debating, and Social Club, and the opening on Tuesday last was very successful and augurs well for the future of the Society. There was an attendance of over twenty young men, and after the rules and regulations had been discussed impromptu speeches were indulged in. The time passed all too quickly and the various speakers acquitted themselves well, some very humorous remarks being made on some of the subjects drawn. Rev. S. J. Verren is president. The evening terminated with a cup of tea and light refreshments and it is intended to have the same every night at the conclusion of the business. Altogether the Club will be of great benefit to the young men of the town, both socially and from an educative standpoint, as the syllabus adopted contains several debates on subjects of present day interest. I understand that a movement is on foot to form a ladies' society also. Should this eventuate some interesting inter-club debates will, no doubt, follow. There are also similar societies at Parepa, Te Houka, Benhar, and Lovell's Flat.

The local Poultry Club has been reformed and it is intended to hold a show on Friday, July 16. The Club has had great success in its canvass for special prizes and members and a large number have been secured. There are a lot of fanciers in our district and the Show should be a great success. The Kaitangata Club held their show on July 7, Mr C. H. Cunningham, of Invercargill, being the judge. Mr John Taylor, of Milton, will judge at the Balclutha show.

The subscriptions for the Balclutha soldiers' memorial are still coming in slowly. There is still a wide margin between the amount collected and the amount required (£500). Mr J. D. Landels offered £50 if three others could be got to donate a like amount. So far I have not heard of any others coming forward. One lady has donated £10, with the proviso that ten others do likewise, and this, too, has not elicited any response. If the response does not become more generous than at present I am afraid that the suggestion made at a public meeting to the effect that the money be handed back to the donors will have to be carried out. It is to be sincerely hoped that this will not be necessary, as it will be a standing disgrace to the town if a memorial is not erected to perpetuate the memory of those of our boys who made the supreme sacrifice. When one thinks that all the small hamlets around our town can and have erected memorials, it seems out of place that we ourselves cannot do similar honour to the fallen. There is a divided opinion as to whether the memorial should be purely monumental or utilitarian and some in favour of a baths scheme are not contributing to the object on the grounds that a monument would be a waste of money.

Mr W. E. Allen, who has been manager of the Bank of New Zealand here for some years has removed to Carterton to assume the managership there. His successor here is Mr Campbell, late of Queenstown.

The football matches on Saturday resulted:—

First grade.—Toko 6, Crescent 15; Clutha 11, Owaka 9. Second grade: Toko 6, Clutha 15; Owaka 5, Crescent 15. Schools competition.—Milton 25, Kaitangata 0.

Exceptional bargains in men's and boy's clothing, shirts, and underwear. Our big reliability sale opens to-day. Piles of bargains in all departments. Here are a few of our many specials. Men's overcoats in tweed, hydroite, waterproof, etc. Sale price 75/- to 115/-. Men's ready-to-wear suits; sale price 110/- to 160/-. Suits to measure; sale price 115/- to 200/-. A real bargain in men's hats, in fur, felt, and velour, in plain and welted edges; sale price 14/6 to 27/6. Over 100 dozen shirts, in our famous makes, sale price 7/6 to 22/6. Boy's shirts, sale price 3/6 to 9/6. Big value in wool pants and singlets, socks, scarves, gloves, ties, handkerchiefs, etc., and all our boy's wearing apparel at quick sale prices. Inspection invited at H. and J. Smith, Ltd., Progressive Stores, Invercargill and Gore.

### AN APPRECIATION.

The R.S.A. wish to thank His Worship the Mayor, Councillors, Town Clerk, and all others who assisted in making General Birdwood's function such a success. It might be interesting to some of our respondents to know that both His Worship the Mayor and Town Clerk took a personal interest in the preparations, and that the Council done the decorations of the hall and many other essential items. Both on Anzac Day and on the occasion of the visit of General Birdwood the R.S.A. had the loyal co-operation of the Council.

### FOR LADIES ONLY.

BUT EXTREMELY INTERESTING TO THE MEN FOLK.

#### "MY LADY'S DRESS."

When "My Lady's Dress," Edward Knoblock's splendid play, was staged with such tremendous success at the Royal Theatre, London, and created a furore in the theatre world, more than one critic remarked how peculiarly well the plot would lend itself to the vast possibilities of the screen. Samuelson's, the great English producers, have recognised this, and given us a magnificent screen version of the famous play, with two such finished artists as Gladys Cooper (the famous beauty actress), and Malcolm Cherry, to provide perfect acting, amidst settings remarkable alike for their beauty and their correct representation of several countries and periods. Indeed, the scenery, mammoth costumes and dresses may be summed up in one word, "perfect," as it is unfolded before us, whether in the luxurious modes of English homes, in the splendid West End atelier, the old Dutch village of three hundred years ago, or in the various other countries, which each contribute their share to the making of a society woman's gown.

The story is a deeply fascinating one, and the screen version gives us many delightful scenes and incidents which were not possible in the stage play. Its lesson is most striking, bidding us pause in the rush and scurry of everyday life to give some consideration to all the time and thought and skill which go to the making of the fashions in which we so thoughtlessly array ourselves; it bids us spare a thought for the human beings whose very lives are interwoven with the manufactures by which they gain their daily bread, and makes us want to know more of the factors which go to the building up of what we have hitherto regarded as common adjuncts of existence, without a care as to how they came into being. Surely those who follow this story of the making of "My Lady's Dress," through the comedy and tragedy of human lives, will never again be able thoughtlessly to look upon a beautiful gown, or any other of the splendid products of our day, without indulging in a little sentimental retrospect as their thoughts wander towards the possible hopes and fears, the joys, passions and tragedies in the lives of those who have wrought them, and above all in the lesson that love triumphs over everything, consigning to a very secondary place the tyranny of fashion, the desire for admiration, for place and power.

The closing scenes are very charming as we see the beautiful young wife shake off the last, and tragic episode of her dream in which she has imagined her husband and herself to play such varied parts, and awakens to the happy consciousness of his enfolding love.

The scenes and settings are of rare beauty, and local picture-goers will be pleased to learn that the picture (which has been causing keen competition among exhibitors), has been secured at enormous expense by the manager of the "Popular Picture Palace," and will be screened at ordinary prices, for three nights and one matinee, commencing to-morrow afternoon. The theatre is now fully installed with a first-class heating system, and is so the warmest and most comfortable theatre in town. In conjunction with "My Lady's Dress," which is in eight reels, and has been shown once only each evening, is the episode of the "Railroad Raiders," N. 9, and a beautiful scenic, "Fruit of the Land," will also be screened. Packed houses are sure to be the rule, and we strongly urge every Digger, his wife and friends, to get in early and secure a good comfortable seat. The performance will commence at 7.15 sharp each evening.

A correspondent in a recent issue of the "Evening News" used the nom-de-plume of "Fighting Digger." Apparently he was too wondering whether or not it's Roope's that has the fighting characteristics. Anyhow, Digger, remember there are 17,000 "Fighting Diggers" lying on foreign soil. Think it over!