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Remember, it costs money to advertise
now, and its up to the people of South-
land to remember us when there's any
business in these lines we've mentioned.
Our carts will call at your home on re-
ceipt of an order or a ring to 101 on the
'prone.

PAT AT GLENCOE.

(20th October, 1899).

Seven rampageous hours, and still
They clung like bees to the blacken'd
hill.
Singing and stinging the bullets came,
And mist was torn by spirits of flame.
We watch'd them scuttle and duck and
dive
As we utter'd our maxims here and
there;
But back they would swarm to the hive,
alive,
And their sulky guns would croak and
afire.
Citizens?—Oh, we may argue about it;
Soldiers?—We go where we're order'd
to go;
Yes, and, if anyone ventures to doubt it,
Troth, he may take the next at Glencoe.

At last our cannon below the town
Had argued Paul's old ranters down,
Our hearts kick'd out and our tongues
were dumb;
We knew our taste of the luck had come.
"King's Own Rifles and Fusiliers,
You will advance and storm the hill;"
'Twas the fiddles of Heav'n to our
thirsty ears,
And we roar'd our answer, "Faith, we
will!"
Citizens?—Oh, we may argue about it;
Soldiers?—We go where we're order'd
to go;
Yes, and, if anyone ventures to doubt it,
Troth, he may take the next turn at
Glencoe.

'Twas hail on the dropping forest then,
But the hail was death and the leaves
were men.
A jerk of the arms and a face turn'd
white,
And the boy at your side was out of
sight.
'Twas climbing the devil's naked stairs,
'Twas drinking hell from a loving cup!
Then all in a moment 'twas hounds and
hares—
The Boers were down and the Jack was
up.
Citizens?—Oh, we may argue about it;
Soldiers?—We go where we're order'd
to go;
Yes, and, if anyone ventures to doubt it,
Troth, he may take the next turn at
Glencoe.

Frederick Langbridge, "Ballads and
Legends."

One half of the world does not know
how the other half lives—which is, per-
haps, a good thing for the other half.

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"knows"—

AND THE DELIGHT

of her family.

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good Teas.

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big demand for our excellent blends.

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believe they are good.

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really special fitting. They are increasing
in popularity every day, and we find it
hard to keep the supply up to the demand.
Just now we have a new lot in, includ-
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The Capitol, Lever Self-filler, 12/6.

The Conklin, Crescent Self-filler, 20/-

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The Onoto, Self Filler, 20/-

The Waterman, Lever Self Filler, 25/-

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proof.

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COATS is unrivalled anywhere.

McNeil & Clark,

CLOTHIERS AND MERCERS

94 Dee St.

THE CROOKED MAN.

(BY A. M. BURRAGE).

I guessed that he was dying when I received his letter, for it came by the post after another letter, and I saw at once a likely irony of Fate.

Raymond Healy wished to see me urgently—he had something of importance to communicate and could not stir from his bed. Dour, morose man that he was, he was not of the kind to make important communications unless he feared that his life would soon be sealed for ever. He owned no man for friend, but he had shown less aversion for me than for the rest of mankind. If there was little to like in the man, there was at least plenty to interest. Healy's wife was dead, and he had quarrelled with his only son some long while since. Young Healy had gone away, after the way of the old-fashioned prodigal, vowing never to return. And it was from young Healy that I had news by the previous post.

The boy wrote to me from a military convalescent camp. He had been wounded in France, but had now recovered, and wanted to see his father again. He proposed to get leave and visit the old man on the following afternoon, and left it to me to prepare his father for the shock.

So, when I went to see Raymond Healy my visit served a double purpose.

He lived in a small flat near King's Cross, and the old woman who let me in—his only servant—only grunted when I inquired after him, and motioned to me to enter his bedroom. I did so, fully prepared for what I was to see.

He was but the ghost of his own old haggard self—a poor self at the best. And as he struggled to a sitting posture and turned on an elbow to greet me I was shocked by the haggard misery that was written on his face.

"It was good of you to come," he said, in a faint, colourless voice. "I've deserved nothing of you, but I trusted your good nature, and perhaps your curiosity. I suppose you gathered from my letter that I am going to die?"

I was carrying a chair to the head of the bed, and halted at the word.

"Come," I said. "I hope it is not as bad as that."

"It is just as bad as that," he answered, dully. "And I have carried my sickness all my life. It is sickness of mind that has changed by slow degrees to sickness of body. The doctors call my complaint by long names, but it is that, and no more. And the end is somewhere near at hand."

I said nothing. He was not the sort of man that one could rally, and to argue with him would but cause him irritation. More, I did not know at the moment how best to give him the piece of news I had brought.

"I suppose," he went on, "I have little in common with most human beings, except this—a desire to tell my closest secret before I die. I do not look to die at ease, but I want to tell somebody—you—of the thing that has poisoned my life. You have known me for a man eaten up by some subtle poison of the mind. I have sinned, and if my penitence has been incomplete, God knows I have been punished. I have hardly lived one happy moment since that dreadful night, and this is the worst—I shall never see my boy again."

"How do you know that?" I asked, leaning forward.

"I feel it! Besides—how long have I to live?"

It was on the top of my tongue to tell him straight out that he would see his son that very afternoon. But his eyes were gleaming feverishly and I left the words unspoken for the time being, fearful of giving him too sudden a shock.

"Well," said I, "tell me what you wish me to hear. I will listen to every word, and keep a still tongue afterwards."

"You may tell the whole world when I am gone," he answered. "I shall not then be concerned with human laws or the chatter of human tongues. For your sake I will make a long story as short as I can; and if my thanks to you seem surly, believe me they are offered in all sincerity."

He moved down lower into the bed and closed his eyes.

"This is the story," he said, "and it goes back to the days when I was quite a little boy. I was brought up on a small west-country farm, where money was short, and the land hard to conquer and

yielding little profit. My playmates were the children of other small farmers, and among them was Mary Roden, the girl whom I afterwards married. Poor soul! she is at rest now, but she knew—and—suffered.

"Children will always have some bogey, some person living near them whom they laugh at and shun and fear, and of whom they invent amongst themselves the most strange and terrible stories. We had one, and we called him the Crooked Man.

"At the time of which I am speaking he could not have been more than twenty-five, but he seemed quite old—as old as our own fathers and mothers.

"We gave him his nickname because his frame was crooked and he walked with a crutch, but by childish intuition we knew that his nature was crooked too. He was hideous to look at, a local figure of mystery, for nobody knew who he was or whence he came.

"In social status he came somewhere above us and below the gentry. Nobody knew him, and he lived alone with his mother, from whom he had inherited much of his ugliness. We used to call him by his nickname in the street, and he would turn and curse us horribly. I can see him now, shaking his crutch. His infirmity made it impossible for him to pursue us. 'Crooked Man!' I can hear myself shouting it now, 'Crooked Man! Crooked Man!'

"In the good books which I was given to read at those times people with bodily infirmities were almost supernaturally good. They sat on sofas and shamed their healthier brethren by their monumental patience. But the Crooked Man was not like those. I have never seen the devil look through a man's eyes as it looked through his, nor have I ever heard more appalling curses."

He paused and licked his dry lips, shifted himself a little in the bed, and proceeded:—

"By the time I reached manhood the Crooked Man had already stepped across the borders of middle age, but I saw no change in him. He was the same as he had always been, and, strange to say, he had almost the same vague terrors for me as he had had when I was a child. By that time his reputation in the countryside had grown. There were terrible stories told in whispers by old and young. Whenever he went, silence preceded him, and mutterings and head-shakings followed.

"At that time my eyes were newly opened to the beauty of Mary Roden. She was two years younger than I, and lovely as the loveliest Devon maid. We had been friends as children, but adolescence seemed to create a sudden barrier between us, for now we met shyly and almost as strangers.

"One Sunday morning I plucked up courage and waited for her as she came out of church. 'Amry,' I said, 'you and I have been friends a long time, and now you treat me as if I were a London stranger stopping at the inn.'

"She coloured all over her pretty face.

"I do not mean to," said she.

"Then meet me outside the church gate here and come for a walk with me this evening," said I.

"She hesitated a long while, and said at last that she would come. I was but a boy then, for all my twenty-one years, and I did not know that the same love that set my heart clamouring in Mary's presence put a break upon her tongue and made her distant to me and seemingly cold. But I learned it all that night in the lane where all local lovers wandered and troths were plighted."

He closed his eyes and began to speak very softly, in a voice I hardly recognised.

"Very lovely and very fragile she looked that night—the white rose ripe for plucking, so sweet that one wondered if it were not better to let her bloom on untouched in her sweetness. It seems so short a while ago. She was so shy yet so pitiful for me who was heavily laden with my love and feigning the sadness of despair. But at last she made but a half-hearted attempt to evade the arms that sought to grasp her, and, only weakly protesting, yielded her lips to mine. So we pledged ourselves to each other under the magic of the May skies, between the scented hedges. And, while our first kiss lingered, we heard that sound that had so often frightened us as children—the tap of a crutch—and we sprang apart.

"I drew her into the shadow of the hedge, close by an old gate, as, stamping and swinging his misshapen body, the Crooked Man went by. As he approached he laughed in the hard, sneering way he had, and said something to us in a low voice, which we did not catch. But he did not stop, nor alter his pace, and swung on until the darkness swallowed him.

"For a moment I wondered if this eerie, mysterious figure was to overshadow our lives as it had done until then. I could not but see something ominous in his coming upon us just at that moment. I turned to Mary.

"Has that fellow spoken to you lately?"

"She seemed to hesitate, then nodded.

"Yes—once or twice."

"What did he say?"

"Oh, nothing—nothing much."

"I did not like her tone; but waited for her to say more. Presently it came out in a little burst.

"Raymond, I'm afraid of that man, just as I was when we were children. I don't know why. He never says anything horrid to me. In fact—he tries to be nice."

"I laughed at that, thinking I could well afford to. I was young then, and not ill-looking. Mary cared for me. For a thing like the Crooked man to cast eyes at her seemed a matter for mirth. But—by God, it wasn't!"

Raymond Healy paused as if trying to collect his thoughts.

"I will tell you as briefly as I can," he went on, "and to be very brief indeed, it was the old story. Mary's people were poor, the Crooked Man was well off. One night Mary returned from a walk with me to find him sitting in the kitchen, talking to her father and mother.

"I needn't tell you the agonising times that followed before she gave in. Her mother talked to her about grey hairs and the workhouse, and how her heart would break when she donned the grey shawl of the pauper, and how wicked it was to hate a man whose bodily infirmities gave him the right to be loved and pitied. That woman's tongue was like a fretsaw, and home was hell to Mary until she gave in.

"I had to relinquish her. What could I do? God knows I reasoned and prayed until I saw Mary—torn both ways—was like to become desperate. She was obsessed by the difficulties of her parents, which I think they had greatly exaggerated.

"Those days were dreadful to me, for all the village knew, and I was the object of a pity which I could not bear; and some ill-natured derision besides.

"Well, one night I was crossing Dead Man's Ridge when I heard that familiar tap, tap upon the road. And suddenly I seemed to see very clearly. A voice whispered: 'If he died he couldn't marry Mary. She'd marry you then. And if you pushed him, who would know? Look! There's not a soul in sight.'

"I held my breath. I don't know if I really meant to do it then, but I waited. And presently up he came, walking near the edge, and laughed at me. His laugh was just the little impetus that was needed to send me mad with a horrible, cold, calculating madness. I went up to him quite slowly, my fingers hooking to grasp him.

"I'll make your crooked body a bit more twisted," I said, and with that I pushed him and felt his body reel away from me.

"Over he went without a sound or a word, and that to me was the most horrible part of all. If he had only cried out! It wasn't natural for him to go quietly like that. I—well, I crept away like Cain, sick with the horror of what I had done."

His face convulsed a little, as if he were living those horrible moments over again.

"There was an inquest," he went on, in a thin, dry voice, "and they brought in Accidental Death. What more natural than for a cripple to miss the path in the dark and fall over the sheer cliff? And after a time I married Mary?"

"Did she know?" I put in.

"Yes. I never told her, but she knew. She could tell by the change in me, and we both suffered. And when our son was born I knew it would be a child of sorrow. The secret poisoned both our lives, for the vengeance of the Crooked man has always followed us. I heard the tap, tap of his crutch the night Mary died. I swear it was he who came and fetched her away. He will come for me, too. When my last moments come I shall hear the tap, tap of his crutch. Oh, my God! how shall I bear to face him?"

"That's all nonsense!" I said. "He's dead, and he can't hurt you. You—my God! how you must have suffered!"

"Suffered! Aye. When I cast my son away from me—the son I loved in spite of everything—I knew I should never see him again. That was part of the Crooked Man's revenge."

I thought my opportunity had come, and I decided to make the best use of it.

"Really," I said, "there at least you are wrong. I want you to brace yourself up to

hear a piece of news about your son. Listen! I heard from him only yesterday. He is a soldier, and has come back wounded from France. He is coming to see you this afternoon. He wrote to ask me to prepare you for his visit."

There was a gleam of hope in Healy's eyes, but it died out after a moment, and he shook his head.

"It is useless! I shall be dead before it comes. I know!"

"Nonsense! You must brace yourself up. You are not as ill as all that. You have days before you yet. You may even recover."

"I tell you No! Man, do you think the Crooked Man will let me see my boy again? Before he comes there will be another. I shall hear a tap, tap on the stairs, just as I heard it the night Mary—My God! What's that?"

I started violently, and listened involuntarily. Then I turned to him again.

"I heard nothing. You must not imagine—"

But Healy raised himself in the bed, his face distorted, his eyes glaring horribly.

"It's he! He's come!"

I sprang to my feet. Either I had gone mad or I could indeed hear the tap of a crutch on the hard floor outside. Somebody tried the handle of the hall door. It opened, and somebody—something, shuffled in, leaning on a crutch. The croak beat loudly and rhythmically. It was ghastly, unmistakable.

Raymond Healy struggled up to a sitting position and raised his hands above his head.

"My God! My God!" he screamed, and fell forward limp. I knew at once he was dead, but all my mind was fixed upon the door of the room, that slowly opening.

A moment later young Healy, the man's wounded son, came slowly in, was leaning on a crutch!

The End.

NIBBLES FROM NEW BOOKS

"There's eddication, and there's common sense," I see. "Some people have some sense, and some people have no common sense."

"That's wot you want," he says, nodding.—Deep Waters. By W. W. Jacobs.

Lady Pence . . . had distinction and a nose which had been handed down in her family for generations. . . . Agatha was the only child, and it was rumoured that the old father waited to die until he could convince himself that she was carrying on tradition, and when he saw that she was indeed going to be a quinine, he exclaimed, "Thank God, she's got the nose," and died soon after.—Crab House. By Howel Evans.

Captain Shotover: "It's a dangerous thing to be married right up to the hilt like my daughter's husband. The man is at home all day, like a damned soul in hell."

Ellie: "Old-fashioned people think you can have a soul without money. They think the less money you have, the more soul you have. Young people nowadays know better. A soul is a very expensive thing to keep; much more so than a motor-car."

—Heartbreak House. By Bernard Shaw.

"I like the high roads of literature, and the muddy lanes. Look at Stevenson, the dramatist explained. 'When Stevenson wrote a love-scene he used to think of the high road, and when he wrote a scene as bad as his,' sniggered a young man who seemed oblivious of his very reason for election to the club. The old member looked at him severely, not because he had sneered at Stevenson, but because without being spoken to he had uttered a remark in the smoking-room at least five years too soon."

"After all," he argued, "life is all sex. I've lately been enormously ruck by that in the course of my work. Take Joan of Arc, for instance. Do you find any sex obsession in her? None. It is she less psychologically interesting that account? No. Sex is the backbone of modern writers. I suppose not read a novel nowadays. I am old fashioned, but I'd rather be a old-fashioned than asked to appreciate one of these young modern writers. Poor relations. By Compton Mackenzie.

"You have the true gift. . . . It is women's gift par excellence," she answered. But women are not content to accompany these days."

"That means they are not content to inspire. And if ever they give up the God help the world!"—The stormy by Maud Diver.

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Why! Rava Tea is now reduced in price to 3/3. The sales increase of Rava at 3/3. Come now and buy rich Rava Tea at 3/3.

Good news! I say, I say, good news to Rava tea is 3/3. Ye lovers of good tea, the fact remains. Baxter's for famed Rava Tea is down. I say, again, is down 3/3.

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R.S.A. Annual Conference.

INVERCARGILL DELEGATE'S REPORT.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen.—In submitting the report of the Annual Conference, held in Wellington at the end of last month, I wish to stress the importance of unity among returned soldiers when dealing with all subjects of interest and importance, both from a national standpoint and from the standpoint of the returned soldier.

There are many things that the Association set itself out to accomplish in its early days that have been brought to a successful issue, and when reviewing the work of the past year, one cannot help but realise that at the back of it all, there has been that unity and comradeship which has built together, one of the strongest organisations, if not the strongest organisation that has ever existed in this country.

Our organisation is one that has a great future before it, for there are questions of vital importance that require careful consideration, and should in my opinion be taken up by the men who have helped to make and keep our country what it is.

Before actually touching upon the work done by Conference, I wish to refer to a district meeting, which was held in Dunedin, on 26th May. At this meeting a proposal was submitted to dispense with the services of the District Organiser, and to appoint a part-time secretary, at a retainer fee of £250 per annum, to attend to all the secretarial work in connection with the district. This proposal was eminently premature, as it would have been decidedly unwise to have made any alteration to the internal organisation of the district scheme until after the Conference, as then the district would be perfectly safe in re-arranging its internal organisation to fit in with whatever scheme was devised and approved of, by the Conference.

This matter then was left over until a future date, when it is hoped that the whole scheme of district organisation will be thoroughly revised and the best possible methods of organisation adopted.

The Annual Conference opened on the 29th May, 1920, there being present between 60 and 70 delegates from the whole of New Zealand.

In the early stages of the Conference the Dominion Executive was empowered to appoint those of its members, who were best fitted, to deal with each particular subject to form the nucleus of the different committees, and later in the day, open Conference appointed the remaining members to build up committees to deal with pensions, pay and allowances, medical, land, repatriation, organisation, finance and "Quick March," and for the sake of brevity, and so that these different subjects can be dealt with concisely and easily, I intend in my report, to deal with them under their separate headings.

ORGANISATION.

The question of organisation is one that at present conferences has demanded a considerable amount of attention, and although at this conference there was not a demand for district autonomy, yet, it was felt that the districts should be given the amount of control necessary to allow them to organise their districts in the most effective manner.

The Organisation Committee, of which the speaker was a member first submitted an interim report, which if adopted would have done away with district control altogether, and the old scheme of organisation, that is the N.Z.R.S.A., and local associations would have been adopted again. This report was thrown out by Conference, and a new decentralisation scheme was adopted, the lines of which are as follows:—

(1)—That the basis of organisation shall be the N.Z.R.S.A. composed of affiliated and incorporated local associations.

(2)—That the four military districts as defined in the report of the Christchurch, page 3, be established as district for the purpose of organisation.

(3)—That the present district committees be authorised to call forth conferences of delegates from local associations.

(4)—That such conferences determine their own form of district organisation; annual conferences, voting power, executive and the like, provided always that the annual general meeting of the district conference shall be held in the month of May in each year.

(5)—Further districts may be established by the subdivision of existing districts provided that the districts affected buy such subdivided consent thereto, and that such subdivision is approved by the Dominion Executive, provided always that there shall

not at any time be more than six districts in the Dominion.

(6)—The funds of the district organisation shall be provided by means of capitation at the rate of an amount to be decided upon by district council per each financial member levied upon the local association comprising each district headquarters, capitation to be paid direct to headquarters and district capitation direct to district.

(7)—Each district conference shall forthwith establish groups of local associations within its district, provided always that the total membership of the local associations comprising any such group shall not be less than 400 financial members at the time when such group is established; provided further, that there shall not be in any district more than ten groups.

(8)—The objects of the district organisation shall be to promote welfare of returned soldiers within the limits prescribed by the objects, clauses 2 to 15 of the constitution of the N.Z.R.S.A., provided always that each district shall be subject to the control of the Dominion Council of the N.Z.R.S.A., and that a district conference or executive shall not have to determine lines of National Policy.

DOMINION COUNCIL.

(1)—The council shall consist of delegates to be appointed to exercise voting powers as follows:—(a)—As to the number of delegates to the Dominion Council, each group having up to and including 1000 financial members as at 31st March preceding the Annual Conference, one delegate; each group having from 1,000 to 2,500 inclusive such financial members, two delegates; groups having over 2,500 members three delegates.

These delegates shall be elected by the delegates to the district conference and notice of their names and appointment shall be sent forthwith to the general secretary of the Dominion Council.

As to the number of votes for each district at Dominion Conference:—

Each district shall be entitled to one vote for every 400 financial members or part thereof comprised in the total financial membership of such district; financial membership to mean, members who are financial on the 31st March preceding the annual meetings of the Dominion Conference.

As to the distribution of votes among delegates:—

Every delegate shall have one vote and the balance of the votes to which any district is entitled shall be distributed among the delegates as the annual meeting of the district conference shall decide.

2.—The expenses of the delegates to the Dominion Council shall be paid by the N.Z.R.S.A. on the basis of £1 per day per delegate, and all locomotion expenses.

It was also decided that at least six weeks' notice of the Annual Conference should be given, and that associations should be given two weeks' notice in which to arrange for the forwarding of remits, and the agenda paper should be circulated to associations at least two weeks before the date of the Conference.

FINANCE.

The finance committee in bringing forward their report for Conference to deal with had to consider an estimated amount of income on the one hand and an estimated expenditure on the other. As far as the expenditure is concerned this could be arrived at fairly easily and accurately, but it can be clearly understood that to arrive at an estimated income is a more difficult matter. However, the report submitted by this committee, which took the form of a statement of income and expenditure, showed the estimated number of new members, badge re-issue, and re-newal subscriptions for the current year. These were under-estimated to a fairly considerable extent, and the amount of capitation to be paid to headquarters was based on these figures.

It was therefore decided by Conference that the amount of capitation for new members shall be 3s, for renewals 2s, and the amount paid to headquarters for re-issues 3s. Provision has also been made for a refund from each of the districts at 2d per financial member, giving with the cash in hand an estimated total income of £3,899 16s 2d, while the expenditure which it must be remembered also provides for the expense of the delegates attending Annual Conference, is estimated to amount to £3,650 15s 11d.

LANDS.

The question of lands is perhaps the one of most vital importance, not only to

the returned soldier, but from a national standpoint, and that being so, one cannot stress too fully the need of definite and decisive action when dealing with this vital question.

As everyone is aware a restriction has been placed on Section 2 of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act, which has caused and will continue to cause great hardships to a great number of our comrades, more especially those men who have been receiving medical treatment, and have not been able to avail themselves of the provisions of the Act.

During the sitting of the Conference a deputation waited upon the Prime Minister and the Minister of Lands in an endeavour to obtain something definite, in connection with the curtailment of Section 2 of this Act, but unfortunately both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Lands adopted a method of evasion, and the deputation was unable to obtain any satisfaction.

The following day, the Minister of Lands asked to be allowed to meet the Executive, which he did, and although every method was used by the Executive to nail him down to a definite statement regarding the special circumstances under which the Act would be administered, no result was obtained as he fell back on the Cabinet every time.

The following remits have been adopted by Conference:—

(a)—That the Government be urged to put into operation forthwith the clauses of the Act in force relating to the compulsory acquisition of land.

(b)—That where practicable the payment of the land so acquired should be made by Government securities (bonds, etc.).

(c)—That more stringent steps be taken to enforce the provisions of the Acts relating to the imposition of the graduated land tax with a view to forcing large land owners to place their properties on the market.

(d)—That the report of the Lands Committee as adopted by the Dominion Executive at its meeting in January last be adopted.

1.—That returned soldiers be exempt from land tax to the full extent of their mortgage to the Government. This remit was withdrawn as such holdings are already exempted.

2.—In the event of property being applied for on more than one occasion, during a period of six months, only the last valuation fee be retained by the Lands Department, the previous fees being refunded to the unsuccessful applicants.

3.—That the election of all members to represent Crown tenants on Land Boards be by secret ballots.

4.—(a) That the Government be called upon to provide money forthwith to enable all returned soldiers who have entered into contracts or taken options for the purchase of properties, to complete their engagements, as promised by the Prime Minister to a deputation from the Executive sub-committee on the 7th day of May, 1920.

(b)—That the Prime Minister be called upon to redeem the promise made by him to the last Conference, that the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act will remain in operation until every returned soldier has been settled on the land.

5.—That the Government be urged to grant discretionary power to Land Boards to grant applications for sale after the expiry of five years.

6.—That the Government be urged in land ballots to give preference to men who have proceeded overseas, as against those who have not.

7.—That the delay on the part of the Government Lands Department in settling the liabilities of soldier settlers to private firms is detrimental to the soldier's interest, and recommends that a more expeditious method in dealing with these accounts shall be adopted.

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(Continued on page 4.)

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R.S.A. ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

(Continued from page 3.)

8.—That the Group Settlement scheme as discussed and approved at last Conference be again put before Parliament, with the addition that preference be given discharged soldiers in New Zealand to emigrants abroad for purchase of that settlement.

9.—That the Government be urged to remit the stamp duty on transfers to soldiers who obtain loans under the D.S.S. Act.

10.—That the N.Z.R.S.A. views with regret that the Government has not given effect to the remit with regard to the supply of fencing wire and building material at cost price to soldier settlers, the same remit to be urged this year.

11.—That the Government be urged to bring down legislation forthwith with a view of obtaining an immediate classification of lands and in the meantime to provide a further special grant for improvement, including buildings for the Waireri Block, and the blocks similarly situated.

12.—That Conference strongly urge that the district secretaries be supplied by the Lands Department with a list of all Government leases falling due within the next three years.

13.—That the maximum sum advanced by the Government for the purpose of felling bush on soldiers' sections should be increased in all cases to cover the actual cost of felling the bush, the maximum advance of £2 10s not being sufficient to cover the cost of felling bush in a good many cases.

14.—That the R.S.A. should be represented on all Land Boards, and that Land Boards should be empowered to appoint local sub-committees to deal with returned soldiers' applications for land.

(b)—That in order to expedite business before the Lands Department, Land Boards should have power to make final decisions without reference to the Minister except in cases of difficulty.

(c)—That the attention of Headquarters Lands Committee be called to the ineffectiveness of the Lands Purchase Boards throughout the country, and that the Minister of Lands be requested to make a clear statement regarding their duties and powers.

T.B. MEN.

The position of T.B. men is one that has never been really understood by the majority of the returned soldiers, and at this Annual Conference we had a report submitted from T.B. men for consideration.

The position of the T.B. man is such that he is placed in entirely different circumstances from any others affected by war service, and it was felt that the treatment of the T.B. patient should be given special consideration.

MEDICAL.

The following resolutions dealing with this subject were therefore adopted by Conference:—

1.—That T.B. men on being discharged from sanatoria be provided by the Defence Department with permanently suitable shelters, properly furnished with bedding, etc.

2.—That where a patient owns a house, having a verandah, the Defence Department defray the cost of having the verandah suitably glassed in, in lieu of a shelter and furnished as a permanent shelter.

3.—That compulsory examination of every T.B. out-patient, and discharged men, be made every six months (not for pension) by a specialist, or by the specialist who treated the man's case, and the Defence Department be responsible for transport to the nearest specialist.

4.—That it be a strong recommendation to the D.G.M. to send a chest expert throughout New Zealand to examine immediately all chest cases from the N.Z. E.F.

5.—That it be a recommendation to the D.G.M.S. that the present system of incurables in sanatoria in separate shelters be substituted by a ward system.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

1.—That steps be immediately taken to have the Pukeora farm at the sanatorium made into a training ground for T.B. men's future occupations.

2.—That vocational training be taken from the Defence Department and placed in the hands of the Repatriation Department.

PENSIONS.

1.—That where a specialist certified a man as incurable he shall be granted a permanently full pension for life.

2.—That all T.B. men on being discharged from sanatoria receive a full and supplementary pension for a period of 12 months, and that they be reviewed for pension annually, and that the specialist's recommendation on re-examination for pension be adhered to, and not that of the Pensions Board.

REPATRIATION.

1.—That immediately on discharge the patient should be able to start on his occupation, and that the Repatriation Department must ensure there is no delay.

2.—That the Government be asked to appoint four T.B. men to the After Care Branch, one to each centre, and that a T.B. man of sanatorium experience be appointed to supervise the work of the After Care Branch from Repatriation headquarters.

3.—That the Repatriation Department be asked to immediately make Tauherikau, if found suitable a competent training ground for T.B. men who intend to follow the occupations taught there.

4.—That men remain in training until certified as competent by their specialist instructors.

5.—That the Repatriation Department should confer with the Lands Department and should find a man an acreage suitable to the applicant and subject to the specialist's approval, and further that a suitable home be erected for him.

6.—That in the event of a recurrence of a man's trouble after having been successfully repatriated, it should be an obligation of the Repatriation Department to provide a suitable substitute from the Repatriation Training Farm for the purpose of carrying on that man's business while detained in a sanatorium.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1.—That T.B. patients retain their overcoats until discharged.

MEDICAL.

The following recommendations made by the Medical Committee were discussed and adopted:—

1.—That it be a recommendation to Conference that where there are soldiers in hospitals in their districts under the H. and C.A. Boards, that the R.S.A. of that district should nominate a man to stand for election on the Board and assist the candidate in his election.

2.—That this Conference considers that wives and widowed mothers of returned soldiers, who have become of unsound mind, and those who are totally or permanently incapacitated as a result of their war service should be eligible for the benefits of the D.S.S. Act.

3.—That all patients travelling to and from hospitals are to be granted first-class accommodation, and that all patients travelling on the Main Trunk Line shall be in future provided with sleeping berths.

4.—That any soldier who has been discharged for refusing inoculation, or refused any benefits under the D.S.S. Act or Repatriation Act, and any such soldier who is receiving any benefits therefrom be deprived of the same.

REPATRIATION.

The convenor of this committee, Mr C. W. Batten, in bringing down his report, referred to the pledge given by Mr Massey to the last Conference, in which Mr Massey stated that every opportunity would be given to returned soldiers to take advantage of the benefits of land settlement and repatriation, before such acts would be rendered inoperative.

In view of the temporary suspension of the D.S.S. Act Conference passed the following resolution:—

That the Association ask the Government for a pledge that land settlement and repatriation benefits generally, shall not be rendered inoperative until such time as every soldier has had ample opportunity to train himself or to otherwise arrange his affairs, in order to allow him to take full advantage of the said benefits.

UNEMPLOYED SUSTENANCE.

Regarding the question of sustenance grants for men out of employment, Conference recommend that the scale be raised as follows:—Man and wife 55s; with one child, 63s; with two children, 70s; three children, 75s; four children, 80s.

APPRENTICES.

The whole matter of the sustenance scheme for married apprentices came under the consideration of Conference, and it was agreed that the sustenance scale for unemployment should apply in this case, instead of the flat rate of £3 5s.

Regarding subsidised workers, Conference approved of the principle that the subsidised workers' wages should be brought up to £3 10s per week for single men and £4 for married men, as they were of opinion that the present allowance is quite inadequate in view of the high cost of living.

Another resolution of vital importance to subsidised men was as follows:—

That in the event of renewal of subsidy for a further period beyond the usual 12 months, the subsidy should be based on the starting wage and not on the wage the trainee is earning at the time of renewal, providing that the wages with subsidy shall not exceed the maximum provided.

The resolution carried at last Conference regarding the purchase and building of urban and suburban properties for soldiers' dwellings be administered by the Repatriation Department was reviewed.

PROTECTION OF BUSINESSES.

The Conference unanimously resolved that the regulations for the protection of soldiers' businesses administered during the war by the Efficiency Board be revived for the protection of businesses established with the assistance of the Repatriation Department, and that the Repatriation Department be charged with the administration of such regulations.

IMMIGRATION.

Many resolutions were tabled in connection with this matter and after a very full debate in which the attention was drawn to the large influx of Hindus and Chinese to this country, it was decided that it be an instruction to all affiliated associations to endeavour to obtain public support for the purpose of preventing further immigrants of this class.

It was also decided to make an appeal to Parliament to have the immigration laws so amended as to prevent these undesirable classes of emigrants entering into this country. It was pointed out during the discussion that many returned soldiers who had commenced business with or without the aid of the Repatriation Department had been forced to close down through unrestricted competition by Hindus and Chinese. It was further resolved that the policy of promoting and encouraging the immigration of ex-imperial soldiers' wives with young children, or any other persons who are likely to become a charge on the taxpayers of the Dominion, or upon the patriotic societies' funds, be strongly objected to.

"QUICK MARCH."

The report of the committee of "Quick March" was submitted by Mr J. D. Harper, convenor, and several proposals were put forward for the purpose of improving the circulation, and altering the organisation of the paper. Owing to the development of the paper, Conference recommended the separation of the literary and business departments, so that the editor would occupy his whole time on the literary work of the paper.

The administration of the advertising and publishing departments and financial matters generally, to be placed in the hands of an experienced manager, directly responsible to the board of management. Conference further authorised the board of management to formulate a scheme by which the subscription to "Quick March," should, if practicable be an integral part of the annual subscription to the N.Z. R.S.A. on the understanding that such subscription should be increased to include the paper. A report of this scheme should be available for the next Annual Conference of the N.Z.R.S.A.

PAY, PENSIONS, AND ALLOWANCES.

The whole matter of pensions underwent a thorough revision, and the Conference recommended that the schedule of pensions for specific injuries of the War Pensions Act, 1917, and the second schedule thereto, be regraded by the addition of plus percentages up to 175 per centum, (that is £3 10s per week), and the total percentage upon minimum pensions for total permanent disablement. Supplementary pensions and attendant's pension to be over and above such rate, and that the dependants' pension be assessed at present rates, and that the third schedule of the War Pensions Act, 1917, be regraded on account of certain anomalies existing therein.

That the War Pensions Appeal Board consist of three members, one to be an S.M., who shall be chairman, and two registered medical practitioners, one of them to be nominated by the N.Z.R.S.A. and that they should sit in the four military centres, such members to hold office for a term of one year.

It was further agreed, that where possible only doctors who had been on service, be examining doctors under the Pensions Act, and that this be put into operation immediately.

A remit from the Hawera Association was carried unanimously after slight amendment and reads as follows:—

Where a discharged soldier dies, as a result of disability incurred while on service, and leaves a widow, such widow shall be entitled to a pension for herself and any children of the marriage, irrespective of whether the soldier was engaged or married to such a person prior to enlistment.

It was agreed that returned soldiers' pensions be free of income tax.

Regarding pay, the Invercargill remit, to make Defence Department bonuses applicable to members on active service abroad, as well as to those remaining in New Zealand, was carried unanimously.

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JACK, who leaves his father's house to fight his own way in the world; and whilst serving with the Australian contingent, under the name of Dick Foster, he meets, and falls in love with

KITTY, the adopted daughter of Sir John. However, Sir John has arranged for her marriage with

LORD HAVERHAM. In a moment of despair, Kitty writes to Dick, asking him to meet her in the Blue Room at Rivercourt Mansions. At the appointed hour, Lord Haverham goes to the Blue Room to write some letters, and, unbeknown to the guests, Sir John meets him there. An altercation arises between the two men, resulting in the accidental death of Lord Haverham. Later, Dick arrives in the Blue Room, is caught and accused of murder, and found guilty. Whilst passing the sentence of death, Sir John recognises the prisoner as his own son Jack! A few days later, Sir John interviews the prisoner at his private residence under escort of the warders, and tells him he will have to serve at least three years' imprisonment. Just as they are leaving, Dick with the assistance of Kitty makes his escape, and that night they decide to drive into Wimmerleigh; but the car breaks down, and they are forced to accept the hospitality of

BEAUMONT CHASE, a millionaire. The following morning, Dick's host informs him that Sir John had called during the night and taken his daughter away. Dick, believing this story, leaves that morning for Wimmerleigh. Kitty goes down to breakfast, and is cross-examined by Mr Chase, and on his promise of assistance tells him the whole story. At a fabulous price Mr Chase engages the services of

MR PELHAM WEBB, a clever but unscrupulous detective, to find Dick Foster, and extracts a promise from Kitty not to attempt to see or write to her lover until a year has elapsed. Pelham Webb discovers Dick, and unbeknown to Beaumont Chase, takes him to the latter's residence where he is installed as gardener. Sir John and Kitty arrive at Beaumont Hall, and Beaumont Chase loses no time in asking Sir John for the hand of his daughter. Sir John consents. That afternoon Kitty receives news that the gardener is seriously injured.

The concluding paragraphs of last week's instalment, reprinted to refresh reader's memories.

The sick man suddenly sat up in bed and seized Kitty firmly by the hand.

"One minute, Miss Millbank," he said in a stern voice, in which there was no suggestion of age or feebleness, "let me understand. Do you say that Beaumont Chase is saving Dick Foster on condition that you promise to be his wife? Is that what you say?"

Kitty bowed her head, but made no answer. She was sobbing.

"Then I say that Beaumont Chase is a scoundrel!" cried the remarkably rejuvenated old man. "You shall not marry him! I forbid it! Do you hear? I, Dick Foster. Now let Mr Beaumont Chase do his worst."

So saying, he flung his wig across the room, and, throwing out both arms, caught his little sweetheart to his breast.

THE MEETING.

Laughing and sobbing Kitty clung to her lover, and for several seconds the two young people were entirely oblivious of their surroundings, and completely forgot that there was anyone in the world but just themselves.

This was fortunate for the plans of Mr Beaumont Chase. It gave him time to recover from his amazement and to control the jealous rage which leaped up like a devouring flame within his breast.

As he saw Daddy Clark's wig go flying across the room, and the youthful face of the escaped convict leap into existence, as it were, in the dim light, he sprang forward with a savage oath upon his lips and something very like murder in his heart.

But he checked himself instantly, and, swinging round, confronted the discomfited Pelham Webb.

Beaumont Chase was what is called a long-headed man. He could be bold even to rashness on occasion, but when a moderate policy seemed more likely to achieve his ends, he was quick to adopt it.

When he addressed the detective he was outwardly quite calm.

"You knew this?"

"Well, sir, I—er—"

"Why did you not tell me?"

With an effort Pelham Webb collected his scattered wits.

"I thought that in the interests of the young man the fewer who knew of his hiding place the better," he said desperately.

"I should have been told," replied the millionaire coldly. "You know very well that I thought Mr Foster was safe in the Argentine, secure from arrest, and doing well."

He raised his voice a little as he uttered the last sentence, and the detective, understanding his object, was quick to follow the lead.

"Yes, sir, I led you to believe that in the interest of all parties. You have done so much for the young man, you have spent such vast sums of money in order to save him from arrest; you have proved such a true friend to him, and have shown yourself so anxious for his welfare, that I had not the heart to tell you that my effort to get him safely out of the country has proved unavailing."

Mr Webb's well-meant eloquence was rather wasted.

Neither Kitty nor Dick heard very much of it. They had no ears or eyes but for one another.

Beaumont Chase turned up the light, and moved to the bedside.

Ignoring Kitty, he addressed Dick.

"Well, my lad," he said, with affected good-humour, "it seems you are on my hands again. What am I to do with you this time?"

Dick sat up in bed and looked at the speaker with a very stern expression on his handsome young face.

"Mr Chase," he said sternly, "I think I know now the kind of man you are. Your disinterested friendship for me was just a pretence. From the first you have been scheming to make Miss Millbank your wife. She doesn't love you. You know that, but you don't care. You mean to force her to marry you if you can. Knowing her love for me, you have used that as a weapon against her. 'Be my wife, or I'll send the man you love back to prison.' That has been your sort of love-making. You blackguard! To torture a girl like that! I'm pretty powerless I know, but thank God I can prevent that."

"How?"

Beaumont Chase, angry and humiliated, could not resist the question.

Dick Foster gave a laugh, and put his arm around his little sweetheart.

"Kitty, my darling," he said, "this is our last meeting, but you must be brave, for I am going to ask you to make a solemn promise. After I have gone out of your life—perhaps a long time after, but some day—you will marry—"

"No, no! I will never marry!" protested Kitty, pitifully, between her sobs.

Dick kissed her tenderly.

"Yes, dear, some day," he said gently.

"You are young, and a long life and many happy days are before you. But when you marry, see that you marry a man you can respect, a man who is honest and true. And, above all, dear, promise you will never marry except for love. Promise me that, my darling. It is the last favour I shall ask of you."

"Oh, my dear, my dear, I promise!" cried Kitty, clinging to him as though she would never let him go.

And the young man looked over her head into the frowning face of the millionaire.

"And now, Mr Chase," he said quietly, "you may do with me whatever you please."

Beaumont Chase, quivering with rage, turned to Pelham Webb.

"Let the police be sent for," he said, in a low, tense tone.

The detective bowed.

"And the ceremony to-morrow?" he whispered.

"Is postponed," replied the millionaire curtly. Then, turning abruptly, he strode out of the room.

On leaving the pavilion he made his way hurriedly to the house, and burst in upon Judge Millbank, who was beginning to be fretful at the long absence of his adopted daughter.

His face lit up when he saw the millionaire.

"Ah," he exclaimed, "so you are back! And all is settled, eh?"

"All what is settled?" inquired Chase irritably.

"The wedding, of course. You are to be married to-morrow, eh?"

"There will be no marriage to-morrow," growled the other, flinging himself into a chair.

Sir John Millbank, in spite of his weakness, rose unsteadily to his feet, his fine old face dark with anger.

"Are you trifling with me, Mr Chase?" he said coldly.

"No; but your precious adopted daughter is trifling with me," retorted the millionaire savagely. "If you doubt me, go to this summer-house pavilion."

"What do you mean, sir?" thundered the judge, taking a threatening step towards the speaker.

"I mean what I say. Go to the pavilion. There you will find Miss Kitty, and you won't find her alone."

"Are you mad?"

"Pretty nearly. Anyway, I am very annoyed. I hate to be beaten, and, by Heaven, I won't be beaten in the end! But for the moment there is a setback, there's no denying that. Look here, Sir John. Kitty had a love-affair before she knew me, didn't she?"

"Oh, just childish nonsense," replied the judge, with a contemptuous wave of the hand. "I did hear something about a young man—a private soldier, I believe—whom she had met while engaged in war-work. It was nothing. The person has disappeared long ago."

"Well, he's turned up again. He's in the pavilion."

"What!"

"Oh, don't be alarmed! We have all been there together. I left because they were talking about me. The young man, who, as you say, is an impossible person, seems to have a very poor opinion of me, and I am afraid he has influenced Kitty's mind against me. I really think you had better go and fetch the girl in. You see—"

But Judge Millbank had already disappeared, passing out of the French window into the garden.

When, after much stumbling in the darkness he reached the pavilion, he found the door open.

He entered without ceremony.

The ante-room in which he found himself was lighted by a solitary candle.

Immediately he slipped into the room he was confronted by two figures.

One was Kitty and the other was Pelham Webb.

(Continued on page 6.)

FURNITURE!

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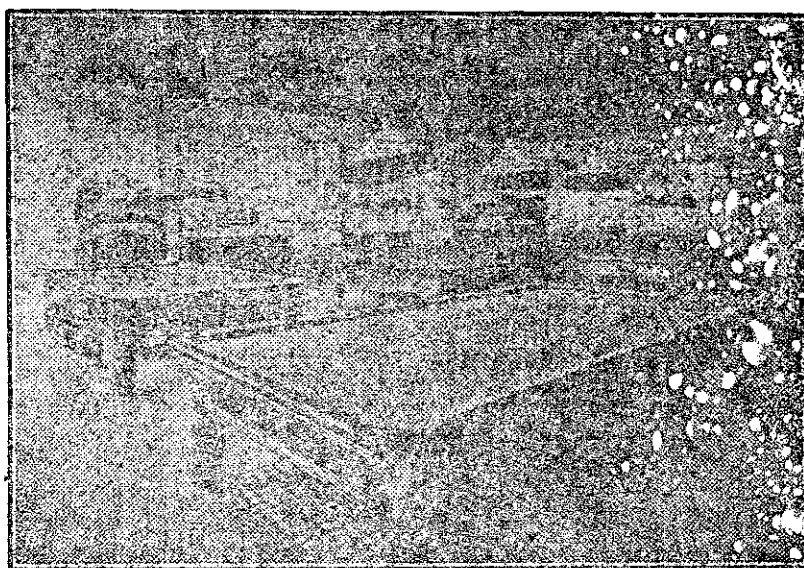
(Next Price and Bulleid.)

CIVIC BILLIARD ROOM.

NEWS OFFICE BUILDINGS, DEE STREET, INVERCARGILL.

(Above "The Digger.")

EVERY ATTENTION AND CIVILITY.



BILLIARD NOTES.

POTTING THE RED TO LEAVE AN IN-OFF FROM THE WHITE.

A STRONG SCREW-BACK STROKE TO OBTAIN POSITION FOR AN IN-OFF FROM AN ANGLED BALL.

Two of the innumerable ways that position can be gained by means of potting the red into one of the baulk pockets. Running side on the cue-ball, will, when the red has to be potted by a fullish stroke, be of great assistance in taking the ball into a favourable position for an in-off from the angled white.

The portion of the upper part of the table—just referred to—which must be avoided by the cue-ball when the object white is located on the lower angle of a centre pocket. The reason that the in-off cannot be played from these enclosed spaces is that, owing to the side cushion being in the way, it is impossible to hit the white on the side facing the pocket, and the nearer the object-ball is to the pocket the larger will the proscribed area become. A ball is on the lower angle of both centre pockets, but more over the pocket in one case than in the other, and, naturally, in the one instance the proscribed area from which no in-off is possible is greater than in the other. The enclosed areas are not intended to be exact, but rather to convey a rough idea of the part of the upper half of the table which must be avoided. The exact area will vary somewhat on different tables, as the cut of the cushions is not always quite the same, and even the size of the balls will have a slight bearing on the matter. It must not be forgotten, however, that even from positions from which the in-off is just possible, the shot would be a difficult one, as the cue-ball would have to miss the side cushion, it would not have to miss it by much more than a hair's-breadth in order to hit the object-ball in such a way as to ensure the in-off being made.

The white ball on the lower angle of a centre pocket, and the cue-ball in an absolutely straight line with the red ball, and the centre of a bottom pocket. The red ball being some distance from the pocket necessitates the pot being made by means of a full ball stroke, and this will render it impossible to bring the cue-ball to the upper-half of the table via the bottom cushion. To players, however, who can screw back a long distance with facility and certainty, the screw will be the stroke to play in the position given, especially as the pot cannot well be missed owing to the cue-ball being situated so near to the red—six or eight inches away. Of course, the best game for a player who could not attempt the long screw-back would be to get a six shot, and then from baulk he would have the choice of a cannon off the red—a very difficult shot to judge—a four shot into the centre pocket, or a pot only, played in such a way to leave the cue-ball in position for an in-off from the red, the last stroke being for ordinary players certainly the best.

A variation of each position. The cue-ball and the red ball are likewise in a dead straight line with the pocket, so that the only stroke of any avail to bring the cue-ball to the upper half of the table is the screw-back. In this position the screw will have to be a powerful one in order that the cue-ball may travel far enough to reach a point higher up the table than the white ball, especially as it will have to strike a cushion first.

At Gisborne Robert Roland Kidson was fined £100 on a second conviction for street betting.

For your Garden Seeds, Plants and Trees, go to

TINY DANIEL

Albion Buildings, Dee Street, Invercargill.

Southland Floral, Plant and Seed Supply,

JUDGMENT.

(Continued from page five.)

"Kitty, what are you doing here? Get back to the house at once," he said sternly.

But the girl flung her arms about his neck, and began to appeal to him in passionate tones.

"Oh, daddy, you must help me! You must—you must! You must save him!"

"Save him? Save whom?"

"Dick!"

"Who the deuce is Dick?"

"Oh, daddy, you remember. I told you how I loved him, how we loved one another."

"But, good gracious, child, you have promised to marry Chase!"

"I—I only did it to save Dick!" Kitty was sobbing. "Mr Chase promised to get him out of the country, but he didn't. He is here, and the police are coming."

"The police! Good heavens, what for?"

Pelham Webb interposed.

"The young man who is now dressing in there, sir, is an escaped convict. It appears the young lady knew him before he committed the crime for which he was convicted."

"Upon my word, Kitty," exclaimed the judge in bewilderment, "you are no better than a baby. You ought to be whipped and put to bed. A criminal! An escaped convict. You want me to protect him? Me?"

"Yes, daddy, please. He is not really a criminal. It was all a mistake. He is good and true and noble. He never did anything wrong in his life. And—and I love him."

"Rubbish! Come along indoors."

"I won't!"

"Kitty!"

"Oh, daddy, don't you understand? The police are coming to take him. They will lock him up. You mustn't let them. You are a great judge, you can do anything. You must help Dick to escape. Please, dear daddy, please."

With an effort Sir John Millbank suppressed a not unnatural irritability, and spoke calmly and quickly.

"My dear Kitty, now listen to me," he said gravely. "I am, as you say, a judge, and that means that it is my duty to hold the scales of justice even, and to see that the wrongdoer is punished for his crime. This man you speak of has committed some offence against the laws of his country, or he would not have been convicted. He must now suffer the penalty of his crime, and, moreover, by attempting to evade his proper sentence he has committed a further offence for which he will receive additional punishment. There is nothing to be said in his favour, nothing whatever, and—"

At that moment the door of the inner room opened, and Dick Foster came out.

"That is the man, my lord," said Webb. "But do not be alarmed, I will protect you until the police arrive. They have been sent for."

Sir John Millbank did not appear to hear the words. He was staring at the newcomer.

They stood motionless, staring into one another's eyes.

Then the judge spoke, uttering a single word, and his voice was tremulous and weak with an odd note of appeal in it.

"Jack! my son."

"No, sir," replied the young man quietly; "my name is Richard Foster, and I am about to surrender myself to the police!"

(To be continued.)

WAR RELIEF.

"The return of all ex-members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force suffering permanent disablement exceeding 20 per cent. has been received from the printer," states the Applications Committee of the Wellington War Relief Association. "It discloses that the Wellington society is responsible for approximately one-third of the total number of disabled soldiers in the Wellington province—namely, 324 out of a total of 1069 men. There are, however, 23,000 men receiving temporary pensions, a considerable number of whom will ultimately become permanent pensioners, and after allowing for some 25 per cent. who probably will not be suffering economic loss, there remains a minimum of not fewer than 450 partially or totally disabled soldiers for whom the committee is responsible; whilst its financial resources are not one-fifth of the total existing funds in the Wellington province. These facts are referred to as evidence of the necessity to carefully conserve the maximum portion of the society's funds for the benefit of our disabled soldiers and their dependents, who will require assistance for many years to come."

Women members of the Rural District Council of Eton (Eng.), it is announced, are to be permitted to smoke, "to keep them in good humour, to expedite business, and as an antidote to a badly-ventilated room."

The Nature Column.

("Student" will be pleased to receive notes on any branch of Natural History. Observations on birds, insects, plants, etc., will be equally welcome. If using a pen-name, will correspondents please enclose real name and address.)

The constant investigations now being made into the behaviour of air currents in connection with aeroplanes is tending to throw more light on some of the problems connected with the flight of birds and insects. A Mr Perry has made some very interesting experiments with wind wheels which have produced some remarkable results. Several forms of vanes were made, the first with a concave surface and convex back; a second flat in front with a convex back; a third with both sides quite flat, and a fourth with the vane twisted at an angle as in an ordinary windmill, but only to the extent of three degrees. A blast from the electric fan provided the air current and the wheels faced this at right angles. As the air force would meet the vanes of the wheel at right angles it would be expected that no movement of the wheel would take place. This was so until the wheels were given a start in either direction, when strange to say they rapidly acquired speeds of over 1000 revolutions per minute. The flat vane had to be very nicely made and balanced and started at a good speed with a piece of string, but when once started ran as well as the others. The wheel with vanes given an angle of weather like those of a windmill started itself and ran as a windmill. When, however, this wheel was started in the reverse direction by hand it continued to revolve in the opposite direction to which it should naturally have taken. Another extraordinary thing discovered was that when the wheels were running the pressure on the surface of the vanes amounted to three times the amount exerted on them when at rest. It has been demonstrated by Eiffel that a horizontal air current meeting an aeroplane wing without weather angle, i.e., edge-ways, the wing being convex above and concave below, a considerable upward thrust is developed. As pointed out above up to three degrees of negative weather angle did not neutralise such thrust.

The upward thrust which is only noticeable at considerable speeds, is apparently caused by waves in the air which are crowded together in a concave surface, and affect such more strongly than a convex one. Professor Langley who really invented the first practicable airplane wrote a treatise on those waves.

It will be seen from the foregoing that rapid horizontal motion through the air of a curved surface similar to a bird's wing would produce a considerable amount of uplift.

For many years the soaring flight of birds has been explained on the assumption that strong upward currents of air exist, and that soaring birds sought these out and were carried upwards, it also being presumed that the wing had a negative angle of weathering. Now it is reasonable to suppose that over hot regions such ascending currents would be found, but this air has to come down and we would expect to find it so doing about the polar regions. Yet these cold regions are the home of the albatross, one of the most notable of soaring birds. I have seen this noble bird close at hand, and it seems to progress without effort. I also understand from those who have seen in the sub-antarctic islands, that it has considerable difficulty in getting up into the air. The flight of the albatross has always been a puzzle to most people, but the latest explanation of the crowding in of air waves on the under-surface of the wings seems to be a reasonable explanation.

It has been held by leading investigators that insects steer themselves in flight by shifting the centre of gravity. Most of us have noticed the quickness with which they perform their evolutions. Who has not noticed the brilliant dragonfly shooting forward and backward without turning or again turning sharply to either side. The wings of insects beat in unison, and it was thought to be unlikely that they were used for steering. It was considered that an insect bent its abdomen or legs to one side, thus giving it a cant in much the same way as a man on a bicycle leans inward in rounding a corner. This view however is now strongly controverted. Long experiments have proved that insects are able to restrict the beating of a wing though the pair still beat in unison. The restriction of the beat causes the opposite wing to exert more power and thus turns the insect round. No doubt the shifting to one side of the centre of gravity is also used to assist in the steering, but this would seem to be subsidiary to pressure steering by the wings and possibly the thorax and other parts.

DRAUGHTS.

(By F. Hutchins.)

Draughts Club meets on Wednesday and Saturday evenings in Athenaeum. Visitors welcome.

Games, problems, and items of general interest to draughts players should be forwarded to Draughts Editor, 28 Biggar street, Invercargill.

PROBLEM 16.

By G. Smith, Bridgeton.

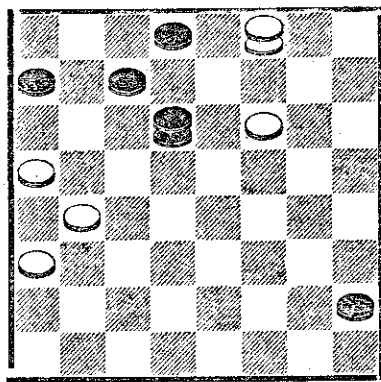
(No. 52 in "Glasgow Observer").

BLACK.

WHITE.

White to play and draw.

Black 2, 5, 6, 28, King 10.



White 11, 13, 17, 21, King 3.

A useful ending.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM 15.

Black 3, 6, 7, 10, 14, 19.

White 13, 17, 21, 26, 28, 31.

7.11a	21.14	11.15	6.2
31.27	6.10	27.24	18.22
14.18b	14.7	10.14	
17.14	3.10	9.6	
10.17	13.9	14.17	

(A) If 23.8 then 31.27, 8.11, 27.23, 11.16, 28.24, 19.28, 26.22, c 16.19, 23.16, 28.32, 16.12, 32.27, 12.8, 27.31, 8.3, d 22.18, 14.23, 17.14, 10.17, 3.1. Drawn.

(B) The winning move.

(C) A pretty sacrifice to gain the piece on 22.

(D) Tit-for-tat.

BRISTOL CROSS.

Played in the recent Timaru tourney between Wm. Carswell (black) and F. Hutchins (white).

11.16	8.11	7.10	5.14	10.17	1.5
23.18	22.17	30.26	29.25	25.22	28.24
16.20	11.16	4.8	3.7	17.26	5.9
24.19	17.10	26.22	22.18	31.22	17.13
10.14	6.22	9.14	14.17	7.10	10.14
26.23	25.18	18.9	21.14	22.17	13.6
					2.9

Drawn.

EARLY TRAPS FOR AMATEURS TO AVOID.

LAIRD AND LADY.

11.15	9.13x	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.

(x) Forms the opening.

(A) 13.17, 28.24, 11.16, 26.23, 16.20, 15.10, 6.15, 19.10 draws.

THE RUINS OF A DRAUGHTS BOARD.

"Why do you keep the ruins of the draughts board that is in this glass case, Jack?" "Oh! that's the board I had thrown at my head at the last north and south match." "Yes, and what's that little faded flower on the top of the heap for?" "That's a flower from the grave of the man that threw the board."—"Pee-wee!" in "Newcastle Courant."

The Surrey loaded 170,000 freight carcases of mutton and lamb. The greater portion of which is for the proprietors of the "Globe" newspaper in New York.

Passing Notes.

BY JACQUES.

Laugh where we must, be candid where we can.—Pope.

Has the war altogether upset the mental balance of the world. It is the reasoned opinion of many thoughtful writers to-day that it has, and numerous evidences are pointed to as indicating a world-wide epidemic of insanity. It is doubtful, however, if any of them affords such solid support for the pessimistic contention as the recent demand of the Brisbane workers for a basic wage of £625 per annum for every man with a wife and two children. Not a maximum, mark you; nor an average; but an absolute bedrock screw. £625 per annum; £12 per week! It sounds good—I would like it myself. But, unfortunately, there are other considerations than our own wishes, and these as Burns said, "winna ding." I have no statistics regarding Queensland at hand, but, even without them, I venture the statement that (assuming that childless workers and those with more than two children are to be paid commensurately with the "two-child" man) the total wealth produced in that sultry State would not yield much, if any, more than half that amount per capita of the wealth producers. In fact, I will go further, and say that there is not a single country on the face of God's fair earth that will yield, under present conditions, to the workers anything like what these Brisbane fanatics are demanding, leaving out of account such trifles as the fair remuneration of capital and directive ability; enormously increased interest bills, the cost of government, etc., etc. Reading such items as the Brisbane one is satisfactory proof that the capitalist is not the only profiteer; and it further excites the suspicion that not all the lunatics in Brisbane are in the asylums.

When the P.P.A. was first formed many of us thought its main purpose was to preserve our national system of education against the disintegrating influences of Romanism. This, though probably unnecessary, was understandable, and won the acquiescence of many good natured Protestants—though a large proportion of these were speedily alienated by tactics that left a nasty taste in the mouth of every decent minded man. But the organisation has dropped some of its earlier useful camouflage, and now stands self-revealed, not as the protector of our present educational system, or anything else worth while, but as the promoter of sectarian bigotry and the sower of social dissension. It is bent on frightening the people into fancying Roman bogeys in every shadowy corner, and it is making itself ridiculous in the process. Its latest brilliant effort in that direction is the ascription of the recent railway strike to the machinations of disloyalists—i.e., Roman Catholics, since, according to the P.P.A., there are no "disloyal" Protestants. The strike, suggests one shining light of the P.P.A., was deliberately and disloyally designed to inconvenience our recent Princely visitor. That this is utterly false is proven by the fact that the railwaymen offered to do everything in their power to facilitate the passage of the Prince throughout the Dominion. But the implication is equally insulting to Catholic and Protestant; on the one hand, that, even assuming that there are some few Catholic disloyalists in the service (of which there is no evidence) they would choose such a petty way of showing their disloyalty; and, on the other hand, that the loyal Protestants in the service were fools enough to be gulled, or cowards enough to be coerced, into any line of action of which their commonsense and conscience did not approve.

I have just had the privilege of reading the report of the debate between Conan Doyle and Joseph McCabe on Spiritualism. On the whole, it is somewhat disappointing—one somehow expected greater things from these giants of the platform. Of the two I must confess, despite my admiration for McCabe as a debater, and my usual scepticism towards spiritualism, that Conan Doyle made the best showing. For the most part McCabe contented himself with a rehash of the better known cases of exposure of fraudulent practices in connection with spiritualist phenomena. These Conan Doyle cheerfully admitted, and incidentally scored a telling point over his opponent by proving that while most of

the exposures had been made by the spiritualists themselves, their astute and relentless detectives had done so. One cannot doubt either the sanity or honesty of Conan Doyle, but the evidences—seemingly well attended to—cited by him are astounding, and leave little room for marvel that the cult is so rapidly winning adherents. In the very nature of things, the subject is a most elusive one—incapable of mathematical proof or disproof; but the cumulative evidence, as Conan Doyle says, is of such weight and character as to be at least entitled to our respect.

"A fool must now and then be right by chance"—and even Mr Massey may sometimes speak the truth. He certainly did so the other day, when he said that the remedy for profiteering rested largely in the hands of the people themselves. Our labour unions, mothers' meetings, and such like, spend a lot of time in clamouring vaguely for the Government to "do something" to reduce the cost of living. I have never yet heard, however, of any of these bodies sending forward any suggestion as to how the Government should do it. There are certain things which would assist towards the great desideratum which lie, no doubt, within the reach of the "Government"; there are others over which they have no control. One of these is the present mad extravagance of the masses. This is beyond the power of anybody but the people themselves to check. If every individual would resolutely set himself to curb unnecessary expending, the profiteer would be beaten to a dead in no time. The formula is very simple—just do without everything that you can do without for a little while. And it is really wonderful how many things we can dispense with without any harm or real inconvenience to ourselves.

THE PARABLE OF THE TWO SINNERS.

Once upon a time it befell that one who was a transgressor was hailed to the Hall of Justice by the officers of the law, which are, in that country, called Jon-nops. And the chief officer spake to the judge, saying: "Lo, we have brought here one who hath fractured the law in many ways, and who hath, moreover, violently resisted us, and tormented us, yer Worship. Therefore, I pray thee to sock it into him, yer very wifely." But when the judge would have done this, there rose a scribe who had much knowledge of the law, and said: "Oh, judge, be not hasty in thy judgment but hearken unto me, who speak for the prisoner. It is true that he hath done the grievous things wherewith the officers have charged him. But no blame befall with him. There be two devils, the name of one whereof is 'Brain-Storm,' and of the other 'Sub-Conscious Lapse,' who seize and rend him so that he doeth these evil things, nor knoweth aught about them." And he said that the prisoner had many shekels and a big Chek-Buk. Which when the judge had heard he was moved with compassion, for he knew how these two devils lie in wait to seize on those who have heavy balances at the bank, and he forgave him as one who had no stain on his kar-akter.

Then came another who was also charged with divers offences, but, having no Chek-Buk, no man spoke for him. Thereupon he opened his own mouth and said: "Oh, judge, what the officers have said is true. I have sinned; but I am a poor man, and there be two devils which are called 'Brain-Storm' and 'Sub-Conscious Lapse,' and which do pounce on me at times. Therefore—" But the judge rose in wrath, and said: "Darest thou mock our wifely wretch? On thy own showing thou hast no spondulix, no, not even a shekel, for a scribe, and yet thou trestlest thyself into us a fairy tale of 'Brain-Storms' and 'Sub-Conscious Lapses.' Knowest thou not that these things have no being except in the vicinity of many shekels?" And he called the officers of the law and commanded them to throw the impecunious sinner into outer darkness for six months "without the option."

Moral: The luxury of extenuating details are not for the poor.

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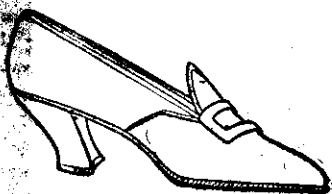
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**TRAMP! Tramp! Tramp! Hear their
baseless beat:**

Hear the Town Council beat,
What on earth is that they have upon
their feet,

Why! Boots repaired at Hawthorne's
shop!

Repairs that can't be beat.



J. A. HAWTHORNE.
BOOT REPAIRER,
TAY STREET.



Racing Notes.

The Winton Trotting Club will race on
Feb. 2nd, next season.

Digger Cecil Hazlett has sold Top Note
to W. Henderson, of Matura.

Secretary Frank Young will attend the
New Zealand Trotting Conference as the
representative of the Gore Trotting Club.

Digger Billy Muir was given a good send-
off from Winton recently. He goes to the
North Island seeking better health. May
he find it quickly.

The Gore Trotting Club has again ap-
plied for Boxing Day for its annual meet-
ing, even though it clashes with the Dun-
edin Jockey Club's meeting on the same
day.

The Forbury Park Trotting Club will
race next season on December 2 and 4,
February 5 and 7 (the same week as the
Dunedin Cup Meeting), and May 5 and 7
(again clashing with the Ashburton
Club's Autumn Meeting.

Lieut.-Col. John Findlay, at one time
well known in Southland as a big farmer
at Bayswater, has been elected a com-
mittee-man steward on the Ashburton
County Racing Club.

Fred Thomas, of the Christchurch "Sun"
has been appointed handicapper to the
Geraldine Racing Club in place of Mr
Gibbs of Gore, who held the position for
several years past.

A recent notification in the Unpaid For-
feit List, should make other Southland
owners careful in future to pay their dues
to racing clubs, particularly when they
have the cash.

R. Reed with 59½ wins to his credit is
the top dog horseman, this season, Ashley
Reed 56½, and George Young 54½, are next.

T. Helencourt, the owner of Black
Mountain, is the name of the purchaser
of Jock.

"Put." Hogan was evidently knocked
out by "Sir Modred" in the last round.
"Sir Modred" can hit hard, and is report-
ed to have several punches up his sleeve
that are calculated to stop the Master of
Rorke's Drift Lodge should he show any
inclination to fight on.

To-night the members of the Wairoa
Jockey Club will do themselves and their
guests well at a smoke concert at the
'Caps. A full report next issue.

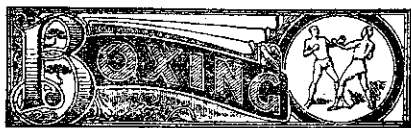
The Gore Trotting Club has given £50
to the local Fallen Soldiers' Memorial.
What about the Southland Racing Club
making a donation? Some of its well known
members made the supreme sacrifice.

Caretaker Tom Marshall has been away
on holiday in the North Island lately,
but owing to floods in the Waikato district
was prevented from seeing Lochella win
the Auckland double.

Tom doesn't think the Auckland steeple-
chase course is a steeplechase course at all.
The fences are very easily negotiated.

For the Grand National double the two
Lochella's are being solidly supported. It
should always be borne in mind that be-
cause top notchers cannot get more than
12st 7lbs in the Grand National it does not
follow that he is going to get the best of
the handicap. Cub and Master Strowan
have good winning credentials recently, and
Lochella with three starts and three wins
this season, after winning the National
last year, must concede both of them a
fair poundage. Lochella may win, but
at the present time it looks as if he will
have to head a very much better class
than he downed at Auckland last month.

Looking through the Unpaid Forfeit List
as published in the "Referee" this week,
it is a great feather in the caps of the se-
cretaries of the Southland clubs, and to the
credit of Southland owners, that the list
contains no entries by Southland clubs
since April 5th, 1916. The whole list
only contains two entries from Southland.



By "X.Y.Z."

Jack Dempsey and Carpentier have at
last been fixed up to meet each other.
This will be "some" fight all right. Demp-
sey's chief big wins were over Gunboat
Smith, Carl Morris, Fred Fulton, Frank
Moran and Jess. Willard.

One of the greatest assets a boxer can
have is the will to win. Probably no
boxer has displayed it so amazingly as
little Jimmy Wilde, and often when it
seemed that the odds were overwhelming,
this frail little Welshman would rise to
the occasion and snatch victory when de-
feat was impending.

Is Wilde a world wonder? Undoubtedly
Jimmy is. His name will go down in
ring history as one of the marvels. Jimmy
Wilde cannot be classed to be out on his
own for "cleverness," but for uncanny
gifts of intuition he stands alone. He
reads his opponent's mind. He appears
to know just the punch his opponent is
afraid of, and he pops that punch in. The
risks he sometimes takes to do this are
amazing, but he gets there, and that is
what counts. That what is right for
Wilde to attempt is absolutely wrong for
ninety-nine men out of a hundred to try.
Let any ordinary boxer try Wilde's
methods on a rival in a fight and it is
almost a thousand to one he will find him-
self on the mat instead of putting his op-
ponent there. Why? Well, Wilde is a
genius, and genius is not governed by
rules or laws but goes its own way at its
own time. Fitzsimmons was such an-
other genius of the highest order known
to the ring. Both Wilde and Fitzsim-
mons dared to do the unorthodox thing in
a fight, but both did it at the right time
and in the right way. Both did things
which no others could do without com-
ing to grief. One of the reasons why
Wilde hits so hard is that he sends his
body with the blow, and his judgment is
so uncanny that he rarely fails to land one
of these big punches either on the spot he
aims at or so close to it that his own
safety is assured. But if Jimmy ever
misses one of these punches and the lad
in front of him has the nerve to meet
him as he comes, then, the result is al-
most sure to spell disaster for Wilde. Up
to date no lad has proved quick enough,
and he has given away enormous pound-
age to real champions as well as mere
fighters, and made lots of them look
novices. Rouse Wilde and you seem to see
compressed lightning in action, but of all
his qualities, his courage is perhaps the
best. There is not an atom in his frail
little body that is not game. He simply
thrills to the lust of battle when it is at
its hottest, for he loves a fight for the
fight's sake. The more the blows hurt
him the fiercer he fights. He is like a
wild cat in a crisis for he rips into the
fight and revels in it. He is the sole
British world champion, a fact which
speaks for itself. May it be many a long
day before he retires. No lad in the lime-
light to-day could meet Wilde pound for
pound, in a championship bout and lower
his colours. There is some talk of Wilde
meeting Charles Ledoux, the French
bantam champion. It is to be hoped that
this match does not materialise unless
Ledoux is compelled to come to a weight
that will make the match a fair one. At
catch weights the Frenchman is too strong
for Wilde. Bring the pair within decent
poundage of each other, and the fight
would be a good thing for Wilde.

Ledoux knocked out Coulon, the former
world champion, in the 6th round, in
Paris, not long back. It took the French-
man eleven rounds to beat Jim Higgins,
the 19 year old Scot. Higgins will come
again and is a future world champion.
He went from novice to champion in a
single jump, an accomplishment without
precedent in the long history of the ring.
First he beat Jack Doyle, and then Harold
Jones for the British bantam champion-
ship. Later he out-fought Vince Black-
burn, the Australian ex-bantam champion.
Higgins combines cleverness with hitting
power, and very few boxers have both
assets, particularly among the little men.

The queenly rose knows no decay,
Though spurred and crushed it lies,
And while it slowly wastes away
Its fragrance never dies.
With other gifts that make life glad,
And in our thoughts endure,
It cheers our hearts when sick and sad
Like Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

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"The Digger."

FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1920.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END.

The sudden suspension of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act, has caused consternation in R.S.A. circles, throughout the Dominion. The Prime Minister and Mr Guthrie both promised that ample notice would be given of the termination of the benefits provided by the Act. For the Government to state that it is only a temporary suspension cannot be borne out by either the Minister's or Mr Massey's attitude when they were met by R.S.A. delegates from the Annual Conference. The Minister would not even give a definite assurance that early in the forthcoming Parliament an allocation would be made which will enable the Act to operate as before the suspension. This failure to give a simple assurance, coupled with the Minister's pet phrase, "special circumstances," can only cause widespread dissatisfaction among 100,000 soldiers who are determined to make a stand and endeavour to force the Government to do the right thing to those men who are searching the country for suitable land. These men are searching the Dominion for land which will meet their requirements, and costs time and money which is no small thing coupled with the time spent on active service. A recent census taken by the R.S.A. shows 5,000 suitable men looking for land. In a recent ballot there were about five sections to be allotted for and 1,178 applicants. These men are entitled to the same provisions of any existing legislation as any of the men who succeeded earlier in being placed upon the land. "Special circumstances" are to be considered by the Minister, but "special circumstances" is as meaningless a phrase to returned soldiers as it is to the Minister himself. Those of us throughout the length and breadth of this Dominion who have become repatriated and whom the Act cannot benefit, must be a

force behind R.S.A. activity and show the Government that the demands of 100,000 soldiers is a force to be reckoned with. In addition to those already in search of land, there are those who have just been released from hospital, or have lately completed their period of training under the Repatriation Department. These men are entitled to a chance to go on the land if they so desire, and the only equitable course open to Parliament is to make the benefits of the Act available for all soldiers and place 5,000 settlers on the land where they will become producers and increase the country's wealth.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

The application of scientific research to our industrial activity is one which has been sadly neglected in this country. Our universities have turned out very successful men in the realm of scientific investigation, but through our failing to appreciate the value of research work they have had to leave the country in order to find a field where their knowledge could be put into practical use. The logical outcome of these conditions is to defeat the aims for which our universities are founded. The primary object of these institutions is to educate men and women along lines that they will be able to render service to the various spheres of human life and action. If our present system is fulfilling its object in imparting the requisite knowledge for such "service," and then we lose that service through our own neglect or prejudice of research—then it is time the Government made a careful analysis of the relationship of science to industry. In a recent influential deputation to the Minister for Education, Professor Macmillan Brown said "that the promotion of industry in New Zealand, required the assistance of men of scientific attainments. Young scientists from the universities ought to be working on the many problems that awaited solution in the Dominion. The cry was bound to be considerable but the importance of the work would be enormous."

It is possible that the factor of expense may have a retarding effect in our utilising the services of a man of science, but when we see Education Boards applying for men and women with University degrees at a salary of £250 per annum, we have difficulty in bringing about a reconciliation between these two circumstances. The money expended in research work is reproductive and not a loss. The Minister's suggestion of scholarships or bursaries is not extensive enough and would only assist men to get education to render service. It does not provide for what Dr. Thompson pointed out to the Minister. "That men would not take up research work unless they saw a career ahead." What is wanted in this country is a strong advisory Council of scientific men whose duty embraces—

(1) Proposals for instituting specific researches.

(2) Proposals for establishing or developing special institutions for the scientific study of problems affecting particular industries and trades.

(3) The establishment and award of research studentships and fellowships.

Viscount Bryce, in the House of Lords, on July 3, 1915, made the following significant admission:

"Every possible effort should be made to utilise the services of scientific men. They all knew to how great an extent the German Government had turned the services of scientific men and establishments for investigation and research to account for military purposes." During the war economic pressure was brought to bear upon Germany and the assistance of science was required to assist in the manufacture of munitions. Nitric acid was principally made from naturally occurring nitrates but the British Fleet prevented supplies. Germany's response was to manufacture nitric acid from the constituents of the atmosphere.

Towards the latter stages of the war the British Government recognised the necessity of calling the assistance of men of science and valuable contributions were made towards the successful prosecution of the war. New Zealand is a country with a magnificent physical setting; its resources are unlimited and we must see that its resources are developed along scientific lines and thereby increase the Dominion's efficiency. We must organise scientific education. If we do not institute an improved system of science education we will make no headway in industrial activity.

In 1916, Mr King, in the House of Commons, stated:—

"Everybody who thinks of it, and who studies the question must know that Germany's position in the world to-day is due, not to real genius of her people, so much as to organisation, combined with education, and especially scientific education. I am very pleased that at this time

there is opportunity for an educational advance. It was in the year 1809, only two years after the peace of Tilsit, that Prussia started the University of Berlin. Prussia had been robbed of half its territory by the peace of Tilsit, which also imposed upon it an enormous indemnity. It had to support a huge French army of occupation.

Yet in that very time Stein and Humboldt founded the University of Berlin which has become for its equipment and influence in scientific matters, one of the greatest Universities in the world. They also established at the same time, when the taxes were simply overwhelmingly crushing, the elementary school system of Prussia which remains to this day. I say that a nation that could so appreciate, in its hour of ruin, the value of education, is a lesson for us which we ought to take to heart."

"THE DIGGER."

Sales continue to increase and "The Digger" now circulates throughout Southland and South Otago. We have to acknowledge increase of requirements from Messrs Matheson, Limited, merchants, Edendale; W. Bulling, storekeeper, Kennington; and Mr Steans of Wainawai. We also note William Kiwi's appreciation of "The Digger," and welcome him again to these columns.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Mr B. W. Hewat, of Invercargill, solicitor, has been advised that he has attained the final section of the Bachelor of Laws degree.

The engagement is announced of Lieut. C. W. Newton and Miss J. Bastian. Mr Newton has been in the North Island for the past six months, and we are pleased to see his cheery face in Invercargill once again.

CLIFTON SETTLEMENT.

The following communication has been received from the Hon. J. G. Coates, who approached the Minister for Lands regarding the above settlement as a result of our interview during his recent visit to Invercargill.

Dear Sir.—Referring to representations made by me on your behalf to the Hon. Minister of Lands re the Clifton Settlement, I now have to state that the Minister informs me as follows:—A report was obtained from the supervisor with regard to the proposal to increase the size of the holdings, but in view of the inspection and report by Mr J. Smith, a capable member of the Otago Land Board, to the effect that he had come to the conclusion that there was sufficient in each of the sections as at present constituted, to afford a good living for any man, provided the right methods of cultivation are followed, the Board did not see its way to make a recommendation that the settlers be granted increased areas. Mr Smith also reported that with the exception of Mr Gordon (who has done well) none of the men have cultivated more than one-fifth of their land, so they cannot say that the sections are too small.

It is essential that all the old pasture should be gradually broken up, and after cropping be laid down in good permanent pasture, as at present the majority of the settlers are depending on the old pasture, and that is why they find the area they hold insufficient.

Mr Begg, a successful farmer on a similar class of land in this locality, states that with a proper system of farming and rotation of fodder crops, the Clifton Settlement would carry 2½ ewes to the acre, and that the lambing should be 100 per cent.

It is clear that it is not the land which is at fault, but the methods of farming followed by some of the men in occupation. The price paid for the land was very reasonable.

The matter of postponement or remission of rent to help those settlers who cannot meet their liabilities is one for consideration by the Land Board, and the settlers, if they need this assistance, should individually make application to the Land Board which will consider and decide each case on its merits.—Yours faithfully,

J. G. COATES.

Mr T. O'Byrne, secretary of the Southland Sawmill Workers' Union, left by Tuesday's express for Wellington to attend the New Zealand timber workers' annual conference.

All local bodies are requested to support the resolution of the Returned Soldiers' Association bringing pressure to bear upon the Government to immediately make the D.S.S. Act operative again.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The ex-Kaiser will escape trial.

The official Labour no-confidence motion was defeated.

Heavy snow has fallen in Canterbury. Two feet fell in some areas.

A Sydney message states that the Minister of Agriculture is trying to arrange the importation of New Zealand potatoes.

The Rev. Hector MacLean, of Knox Church, Invercargill, has accepted the call to the pastorate of St. Andrew's, Dunedin.

Sir Thomas Mackenzie has been honoured by the King receiving the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

Cold, showery weather is reported from Auckland. Southland has had fine weather, but you could not convince the northerner of that.

In the "Otago Farmer's" commercial column appears the following: "Fetters. The market is quiet, in sympathy with Canterbury." Sounds a bit like direct action.

A large number of petitions have been presented by Otago members from residents in the district which will be served by an extension of the Winton-Hedgehope railway, a distance of 25 miles, to Glen opening up 60,000 acres of good land suitable for small holdings and making available a new field of lignite.

The motor thief is again in Invercargill. A local business man left his car outside the R.S.A. while he attended a meeting. The car was taken and found damaged in Biggar street next day. Take the tip of your next door neighbour Bos. Get a chain.

Dr Thomas Scouler Fleming, of Gore, died suddenly yesterday afternoon in a motor car near Kelso. He left Gore this morning apparently in his usual health, and on the way home the other occupants of the car noticed that he appeared ill, and decided to secure the nearest medical attention at Tapanui, but Dr Fleming expired shortly afterwards.

On Monday night the drapery establishment of the Misses Hunter, known as "The Forum," in the Hotel Cecil Buildings, Kelvin street, was broken into, and goods to the value of about £30 taken. The police constable coming off the beat early on Tuesday morning, discovered that the premises had been broken into. Entrance was effected by means of the back door, a chisel apparently having been used to force the lock. A varied assortment of goods was removed, including scarves, furs, jerseys, and hose. The police are investigating.

The new members of the Legislative Council will probably be the Hon. B. Mitchellson, of Auckland, a former member of the House and of the Ministry; Colonel G. J. Smith, who was a member of the Council until 1914, and for some time commandant at Sling Camp during the war; Mr Mark Cohen, lately editor of the Dunedin "Evening Star"; Mr E. Clark, who represented Chalmers from 1908 till 1914 in the House of Representatives; Mr R. Scott, who sat for many years in the House for Otago Central and was defeated at last election for Wakatipu. His own seat having disappeared owing to the alteration of boundaries; and Mr F. J. Kenney, a retired builder and contractor, of Auckland, and a member of the City Council and other local bodies.

A book of wide interest to women, issued by the manufacturers of Columbia Yarns, Philadelphia, is entitled "The Umbria Book of Yarns." This is a comprehensive handbook of knitting and crocheting, invaluable alike to beginners and experienced knitters. Knitting has become a very real necessity. Sweaters, scarves, socks, infants' garments, and many other knitted articles are demanded with ever increasing insistence, and knitting is no longer merely a desirable accomplishment, but a necessary one. The book is conceded to be the most exhaustive and practical treatise on the subject published. It is the ideal teacher, ready, patient, competent. The beginner quickly learns from its clear concise lessons and illustrations. To the experienced knitter it offers something quite new in advanced and improved methods. Every home should have a copy, for the price is 2s 9d, posted 3s 3d, is exceptionally reasonable. Copies may be obtained at Hyndman's, Dee street, Invercargill.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

SHIELD MATCHES.

INVERCARGILL (13) v. STAR (8).

Great interest had been aroused by this match as Blues were so narrowly defeated last game by the Star, supporters opining that their defeated side had experienced the frown of Fortune, while Star's solid backing visualised their team could do even better than in the game before. Well, this feeling of keenness got into some of the players and several incidents unworthy of inter-club games occurred in the above fixture, man-handling being fairly frequent, and punching not being unseen. The game was hard enough in all conscience without introducing the "dirt" into it. Who was to blame? should be a question for the S.R.F.U. executive, who might very easily speed-up in noticing this wretched state of affairs. It was thought that, after "Onlooker," had lashed it in last Saturday's "Times," there might be a betterment. The wind behind Blues did not prevent the Star forwards from getting quickly to work, but sure, if slowish, work by the defending full drove them back. The crowd rubbed its eyes when Star began to pass; but the men were sadly out of practice even in the third round of the Galbraith Shield Competition, and Blues attacked. Wave and return, wave of forward play, with honours easy except when Blues packed, Lilley's kicking not being up to standard against the wind. The Blues were not using the high kick, many of their passing rushes proving merely tiring to themselves, their second five not handling well or not receiving so as to take cleanly. Probably the backs were over-anxious to hand it on when they should have used the wind in kicking for position. Agnew did some good spoiling and heavy bumping, and generally cramped Blues. From a line scrum Star secured, C. Oughton passed to Murray who fed Agnew off-side and I.F.C. found relief. Blue forwards broke through, Webb, Rice, and later Miller being prominent, Whittaker taking a dash afterwards. A lined free saw Blue secure and feed very smartly, little Irving's foot carrying him over wide. I.F.C. 3. Miller's kick had been a good one, but a free for off-side was landed by him a moment later, and I.F.C. 6, was recorded. Persistent back attack of not good quality continued, Blue backs appearing nervous, Star break-aways proving fast and well-spread. A set scrum allowed Davidson to feed Cleland whom winger Agnew charged, the Blue first five dropping a four which just got over, I.F.C. 10, Star nil. C. Oughton then showed up in good defence taking and kicking, the spoiling of his side being the only other outstanding play against strong Blue forward attacks, when from the middle half Oughton sent to Murray and the I.F.C. backs, too astonished to dive, let him junk to the line, when O'Byrne came across with a lovely low tackle, and scrum followed in front of Blue posts, the ball being sent out well down in Blues' corner. Here the forwards cleared easily, the spell ending with the ball out at nearly half-way, and the score I.F.C. 10, Star nil. With the wind behind them Star began to boot high, Agnew getting a few good skiers in for his speedy men to follow, but luck favoured Blues with two forces. The whole Blue team, with the full-back omitted, had a bad attack of nerves and it looked like a Star victory. Blue full tried to find the eastern line, but he wind caught the ball and blew it back, Leggett coming up with others to secure on the south-east corner. Lilley kicked a great goal. Blues 10, Star 5. I.F.C. backs then put in two good passing rushes, Cleland's work being neat, the latter scoring close to the northern posts. An easy hot failed. I.F.C. 13, Star 5. The Blue forwards then began to pack and to do as they liked in the line work, the crossing of the dribbles between Miller and Webb being excellent, and Star not appearing to be able to hold a line. A fine back movement of Blues saw Sutton refuse to pass to an unmarked man, and he was tackled, he try being lost. Several more bounties by the attacking backs showed spectators how backs can come around for the extra pass, the backing-up being really good; but Star pushed every attempt towards the side line where Lilley at last cleared O'Byrne who kicked with judgment back to half-way. Agnew fed Lilley, but both he and Murray were on the stand, so all the Star backs got from the transfers was dumping, Fraser finally ending the silly thing with tackling Barraclough. Lilley up at first five tried to open up the game, but he lacked knowledge, going too far or crowding to the side-line or hesitating. Lines were still easy for Blues and Star back kicking gained little ground. The two teams trying passing made the game more showy, Lilley being unlucky in his attempts to cut in, as the Blue backs were tackling well and hard. Star were strong in mid-field play, their opposing

five-eighth line being poor on ground defence. Irving on the wing stopped two Star dribbles, clearing well what appeared to be dangerous rushes. Oughton came through well and the Blues saw his back as he was two yards from the line, where O'Byrne excelled himself with a long dive which carried the Star half out. Blue forwards easily cleared from the line out; but Star came again into attack from a long line and Aitken broke through in possession. Blue full was well out of the running, but Webb came out of the pack and tackled the other forward around the carried ball, pushing him out half-a-yard from the corner, he himself knocking down the corner flag. The line umpire not being in a position to see, the referee had to rule the ball in-goal. The play swayed across to the eastern line, when from a set scrum C. fed J. Oughton who scored well out. I.F.C. 13, Star 8. From the 25 Star set up an attack, but the Blue forwards, though tiring, managed to clear to about half way, the whistle leaving the score at: Invercargill 13, Star 8. Blues have a match to play with Athletics to finish the third round of the competition, and Star lead by 3 points in the Shield Games. There appears to be some doubt of a fourth round being played.

ATHLETIC (31) v. WAIKIWI (3).

The wind and Whyte kept Athletic defending mostly by force through the greater part of the first spell during which Whyte fell on one for his side, and Mapletoft retaliated with a fine try for Athletic, the wing-forward receiving a pass to run 30 yards and cross at the corner. Although this player ran around well, the kick failed. The first spell ended with Waikiwi-Athletic 3 all.

With the strong wind in the second spell Ryan, the Athletic half made his backs come up for the ball, the feed being plentiful and well timed. Kerr showed a fine turn of foot, 8 tries coming in this spell. The new wing-three, White, gave signs of good football and Roche tried to rival Whyte in smashing efforts. It was a one-sided affair, Waikiwi having only one back of merit—Dawson. When the procession ended the score may have been Athletic 31, Waikiwi 3.

GO-SLOW SETTLEMENT.

MEMBERS AND SOLDIERS.

WELLINGTON, June 30.

Half a million sterling, which the Minister of Lands states is sufficient to carry on soldier settlement until Parliament fully considers the subject, was included in the votes passed by the Imprest Supply Bill. There was criticism from several members about tailing off or complete stoppage of advances to soldiers, Mr Young (Waikato) declaring that applicants were getting a circular promising future consideration when, as a matter of fact, applications were turned down. Colonel Mitchell asked how long this go-slow settlement was likely to last.

Mr Massey: This will carry us on till a Loan Bill providing for soldiers' settlement and many other useful purposes is passed.

Dr Thacker referred to the necessity for paying special attention to the need of tubercular patients who were able to take up light farming on discharge.

Mr McCombs asked Mr Guthrie to use his influence with the Minister of Defence to extend a tubercular man's pension for twelve months while he was settling down on the land.

Mr Guthrie (Minister of Lands) replied that this phase was considerably exercising the minds of his officers. He had set aside special sections of easily cultivated land for tubercular cases, and proposed to have a special block of land allocated for them near Christchurch. Dr Blackmore had been asked to report upon it. Where easier parts of land were set aside none but tubercular patients would get a chance to take up sections.

Dr Thacker: Not too far from specialities.

Mr Guthrie: We are acting under advice of Dr Blackmore.

Some striking values at the great reliability sale. Now is your opportunity to secure your drapery requirements at greatly reduced prices. Nowhere will you find a stock more perfect and complete to select from and marked at prices that mean a direct saving to every purchaser. To appreciate these values you must see the goods for yourself. White flannel: 1s 6d, 1s 11d. Best qualities 36in wide, sale price 2s 3d, 2s 6d. Striped flannel: 1s 3d, 1s 6d, 1s 11d, 2s 6d. White towels 3s 11d, 4s 11d, 7s 11d pair. Unbleached towels, best English makes, 6s 6d, 7s 6d, 8s 6d pair. 30 pieces voile casement 40in wide, plain and with borders from 1s 11d, 2s 3d, 3s 3d yard. 50 pieces white damask 54in to 68in wide, sale price 4s 6d, 5s 6d, 8s 6d yard. Serviettes 7s 6d half dozen. 35 pieces horrockes sheeting for single beds 5s 3d, 5s 6d yard. For double beds 6s 9d, 7s 11d yard. Inspection invited at H. and J. Smith Ltd., Progressive Stores, Tay street, Invercargill and Gore.

WALLACE COUNTY.

TENDERS.

No. 3007.—Gravelling, Hodgett's road, Hekeia.
No. 3008.—Grading and Gravelling, Ford and Kirkwood's road, Waikouro.
No. 3009.—Gravelling, Beck and Taylor's road, Aparima.

WRITTEN TENDERS for the above works will be received at this Office until 12 noon on FRIDAY, the 11th June 1920. They must be addressed to the Chairman and marked on outside "Tender for Contract No. —" (stating number).

Specifications and drawings may be seen as follows: For No. 3007 at Mr Cassel's Office, Riverton; for No. 3008 and 3009 at Post Office, Kaikouro; and for all the works at the Wallace County Office, Otautau.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

N.B.—A deposit must accompany each tender, amounting to 5 per cent. on same.

GEO. KELLY,
County Clerk.

Wallace County Council Office,
Otautau, June 1, 1920. 1174

LAMPS!

A GOOD LIGHT is essential in every home. Our Lamps for quality and prices can't be beaten.

TABLE LAMPS.

WALL LAMPS.

HAND LAMPS.

Also all kinds of Lamp Glasses, Burners and Wicks.

NOBLE'S

Dee street, Invercargill.

Y.W.C.A.

It is perhaps not generally known how far-reaching is the work of the Young Women's Christian Association, as it seeks to meet the needs of the women and girls of the world. Less than eight months ago a group of Association workers arrived in Bucharest and opened the first Young Women's Christian Association in Roumania. House hunting there, is an even more arduous task than it is in New Zealand, for the Roumanians move only twice a year, on St. George's Day, in April, and on St. Dimitrius's Day, in October. As the party did not arrive until November 1st, no one wanted to move, and there were certainly no unoccupied premises. After searching for seven weeks the Association workers were able to lease for 4½ months an upper flat in a very old house. This flat had not only to provide sleeping and living accommodation for the staff, but the office headquarters of the Association work in Roumania, and the club rooms for students, business and professional women, amongst whom work was being begun. (We trust that when St. George's Day came round in April, Miss Anita Hodgkin, the executive secretary for Roumania, was able to move her "family" to better and more commodious premises).

Groups of leading men and women have been formed to study the social conditions and educational problems in Bucharest.

There is one very large factory employing, at times, as many as 1500 women on the making of soldiers' uniforms. The Y.W.C.A. is arranging to obtain rooms within this factory, in which may be carried on recreation work for industrial girls. The Queen of Roumania is most interested in the Y.W.C.A., and believes that the Association is needed by young women of all classes, and that in working amongst all, the Association may help to create a better feeling between the students, the working women, and the society women. Queen Marie's interest is a practical one. Shortly before the opening of the premises she held a meeting at the Palace, in order that the Association programme might be put before the people. On the opening day when both Queen Marie and Princess Elizabeth were present, she presented a picture of herself and the King, for the rooms, promised to let the workers have the use of an automobile, and gave instructions for the installation of a telephone, which latter convenience it is impossible to secure without Government aid.

A STOCK-TAKING OFFERING OF FURS.



1 Only RING TAILED OPOSSUM CAPE. The classy skins are very soft and silky. Quite different to our own Opossum. To go at 15 guineas.

2 Only TORPE RABBIT CAPES. Large style. Beautifully finished. 10 guineas for 7 guineas.

1 Only TORPE RABBIT CAPE; smaller size. Usually £7 19s 6d. To go at £5 19s 6d.

3 Only BROWN OPOSSUM CAPES, lined with silk. £5 19s 6d, for 4 guineas.

2 Only RED FOX TANGO TIES; well-balanced skins. £5 19s 6d, for 4 guineas.

1 Only MOLESKIN SET; straight wide stole and large flat Muff. Excellent skins. 15 guineas for 12 guineas.

1 Only Handsome BLACK WOLF SET; Tango Tie and Animal Muff. A specially good set. 20 guineas for 15 guineas.

H.K.Q.La: 7, 7 w—Wshrdlush

We are right into the cold part of our year, when Furs are a real comfort and practically a necessity, so the savings quoted here should meet with a good reception.

1 Only REAL HUDSON BAY SEAL AND CIVET CAT CAPE. A very handsome garment. £39 10s. To go at £29 10s.

Thomson & Beattie, Ltd.

THE QUALITY HOUSE.

'Phone 13. P.O. Box 45. Tay Street, Invercargill.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.

Shop of three rooms, together with four-roomed house; h. and c. water, verandah, etc. Full ¼-acre section. Good position. £675. As there is a Government mortgage on this place of £500 it is the very thing for a returned soldier.

LOOK AT THIS! Six-roomed house; washhouse, gas; full ¼-acre section, in city area. Price £420. This is the cheapest property on the Invercargill market to-day and has only to be seen to be purchased. The house is in good order.

Here is something good—Five-roomed house; bathroom, washhouse, gas. In good order; situated alongside first section of tram. A cheap home at £550. Terms could be arranged.

If you wish to buy or sell a house or a farm consult me.

F. H. TUCKER,

LAND AGENT.

Books to Read.

LATEST DETECTIVE NOVELS, 5/6.

BERNARD TREVES' BOOTS (Lawrence Clarke).

THE BROKEN FANG (Vel Key).

HON. ALGERNON KNOX (E. Phillip Oppenheim).

THE HOUSE OF DANGER (Guy Thrine).

GUILF (Headon Hill).

THE LOST MR LINTHWAITE (J. S. Fletcher).

THE CAMP OF FEAR (Leslie Howard Gordon).

KATE PLUS TEN (Edgar Wallace).

Gardner & Son,

TAY AND KELVIN STREETS, INVERCARGILL.

A SPECIAL MID-WINTER CLEARING

SALE reduces our Boxed Suit and

Overcoat prices by 7/6 and 10/- each. Our best quality Hats by 2/6 and 5/- each.

Our sale values in fine and heavy Roslyn Men's Underwear are unrivalled anywhere.

McNeil & Clark,

CLOTHIERS AND MERCERS

94 Dee St.

IN STOCK

Chocolate Raspberry, Dates, Almonds, Ginger, Raisins, Caramels, Monteculant. Also Creams, and a large assortment Boiled Confectionery.

Cadbury's, Fry's, Romison's, Court, Aulsebrook's Fancy Boxes.

Ring 1370 and I will have your Sweets ready for you.

F. C. Jarvis,

"EXCELLA," DEE STREET

Next Bank N.S.W.

"SNIPS"

PROCURABLE IN

ALL

DEPARTMENTS

AT

PRICE & BULLEID'S

LTD.

COLOSSAL SALE

NOW ON .

SCOTCH! HETCH! POTCH!

(Contributed by the "Groper.")

Robert Burns was quick to lash with rhyme the scheming hypocrite. Holy Willie's Prayer is a fair sample of the poet's ability in this regard.

HOLY WILLIE'S PRAYER.

O thou, who in the heavens dost dwell,
Wha, as it pleases best thyself,
Sends one to heaven, and ten to hell,
A' for thy glory,
And no for any gude or ill
They've done afore thee!

I bless and praise thy matchless might
When thousands thou hast left in night,
That I am here afore thy sight,
For gifts and grace,
A burnin' and a shinin' light
To a' this place.

What was I, or my generation,
That I should get sic exaltation,
I wha deserve sic just damnation,
For broken laws,
Five thousand years fore my creation,
Thro' Adam's cause.

When frae my mither's womb I fell,
Thou might hae plung'd me in hell,
To gnash my gums, to weep and wail,
In burnin' lake,
Whar damned devils roar and yell,
Chain'd to a stake.

Yet I am here a chosen sample;
To show thy grace is great and ample;
I'm here a pillar in thy temple,
Stroop as a rock,
A guide, a buckler, an example,
To a' thy flock.

But yet, O Lord! Confess I must,
At times I'm fash'd wi' fleshly lust;
And sometimes, too, wi' wardly trust,
Vile self gets in;
But thou remembers we are dust,
Defil'd in sin.

Maybe thou lets this fleshly thorn,
Boset thy servant e'en and morn,
Lest he owre high and proud should turn
Cause he's sae gifted;
If sae, thy han' naun e'en be borne,
Until thou lift it.

Lord, bless thy chosen in this place,
For here thou hast a chosen race:
But God confound their stubborn face,
And blast their name,
Wha bring thy elders to disgrace
And public shame.

Lord, mind Gawn Hamilton's deserts,
Ho drinks, and swears and plays at cards
Yet hae sae mony takin' arts,
Wi' grit and sma,
Frae God's ain priests the people's hearts
He steals awa.

An' whan we chasten'd him therefore,
Thou kens how he bred sic a splore,
As set the world in a roar
O' laughin' at us;—
Curse thou his basket and his store,
Kail and potatoes.

Lord, hear my earnest cry and pray'r,
Against the presbytry of Ayr;
Thy strong right hand, Lord, mak it bare
Upo' their heads,
Lord weight it down, and dinna spare,
For their misdeeds.

O Lord my God, that glib-tongu'd Aiken
My very heart and soul are quakin,
To think how we stood groanin', shakin'
And swat wi' dread,
While Auld wi' hingin lips gaed sneakin,
And hung his head.

Lord, in the day of vengeance try him,
Lord, visit them wha did employ him,
And pass not in thy mercy by 'em,
Nor hear their pray'r;
But for thy people's sake destroy 'em,
And dinna spare.

But, Lord, remember me and mine,
Wi' mercies temp'ral and divine,
That I for gear and grace may shine,
Excell'd by name,
And a' the glory shall be thine,
Amen, Amen!

—Robert Burns.

It is remarkable that the average churchman should, more than any other, resent criticism. Fair criticism has a function to perform in church as well as state. We have a habit of judging by established standards, and the church standard is just about the most clearly defined thing under heaven. "The Groper" reserves the right to have a fair tilt at anything from Methodist and Presbyterian parsons to His Holiness the Pope.

Last week there appeared a letter from "Constant Subscriber" complaining of a reference made to the Methodist Church.

We have no wish to "malign" any agency for good, much less the largest church in Nonconformity. But "C.S." is clearly barking up the wrong tree. He has read more into the par than can, by fair inference, be found there. "Stabbing in the dark," of "belittling a Christian church," of being "unfair," "ignorant," "bigoted." Suppose we plead guilty and confess our wrong. What then? Will "C.S." forgive? Not if we know a man by the stuff he writes! Let us do it then.

There is nothing to withdraw. Much might be added. "C.S." asked for proof. He shall have it—by comparison. We shall avoid personalities.

It appears to us that the Christian church was founded on what one might term "dormancy in excelsis" her Master's, "I am the way." That brainy and courageous atom, St. Paul, overthrew the Athenian philosophy after a two months' bout on Mars Hill and carried the banner of the cross to the court of the Caesars. His was a cyclonic force directed by a mind "fully persuaded." Paul's stock phrase was, "I know." Wesley's motto and revolutionised a decadent England with the clarion note of positivism. This is the finding of the court of profane history. We opine that this perverse generation—the bugbear of parsons—the sorrow of saints—could be arrested by the voice of a "cable logger." It is always a black day for the people when the leaders "don't know" what they think. It's a case of blind men and ditches. That black day is to-day and the cardinal lack of "modernist" preachers is that they "don't know." The pulpit is the last place on earth for "don't knows." This "reverend agnosticism" is the outgrowth of higher criticism made in Germany, and palated in England. So here we are again "C.S." with empty churches and the reason. Methodism suffers no more than the rest. It will be a bad day for the world when the story of the Peerless One loses its appeal. Suppose it were a myth, far better pre- wrong thing strongly than the stuff one so often hears:—

"And the sin I impute to each frustrate ghost,
Is the unlit lamp, the ungirt loin,
Though the end in sight was a vice,
I say."

—Robt. Browning (not Burns).

OTAHUTI NOTES.

On Saturday last the Otahuti football team visited Waianawa and were outclassed, in what was described by various speakers at the luncheon as a mud scramble, by the home team by 8 points to 3. The game was interesting throughout and although Otahuti took the field with one player short they put up a good game against the heavier team.

Waianawa forwards are a good combination and had it not been for a very conspicuous player in a white sweater losing his equilibrium early in the game, would have been a more dangerous side; thanks to a very wide awake referee (Mr McDougall) the severe caution administered to two players had a marked effect on the play, illegal tactics disappearing.

Galt, Wilson, McLeod, and Lloyd and Lindsay were always in the thick of it in the forward division, while W. J. Steans was a prominent back, playing with his old dash.

Some of the Otahuti pack did not play with their usual solidness, being out of their element in the mud, which is an unheard of thing on the ridges. Donald, Grieve, and Dempster are worthy of mention, especially Donald, who had an utter contempt for the opposition forwards. McLeod, O'Connell, Lindsay (2), and W. McKenzie (in a new position) did exceptionally well.

Mr McDougall made a most efficient referee. The ladies of Waianawa supplied refreshments of a very high order, which were greatly appreciated.

There was a large attendance of the public, but the nationality of a small section of "barrackers" has as yet not been ascertained, but their only sentence, "Put in the boot" certainly did not sound British, and has rarely been used since the days of Attila, when it was a very common expression.

The Drummond v. Wright's Bush match ended a drawn game, no score being registered, the referee (Mr F. O'Connell) holding over his decision re a goal speculated from the field, until a ruling upon the matter is obtained.

There is no match next Saturday for Otahuti.

Drummond v. Calcium, at Calcium, and Waianawa v. Wright's Bush at Wright's Bush.

On Wednesday, July 7, there are two matches at Drummond Ploughing Match, Otahuti v. Drummond at 2.30 p.m., and Wright's Bush v. Calcium at 1 p.m.

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.

MAKING A BIG NOISE

YES, WE ARE. THAT'S THE WAY WE LET YOU HEAR OF OUR

Big Sale Bargains

6 Dozen LADIES' UNDERSKIRTS, all shades. Usual price 9/11, 10/6, and 11/6. Sale Price, 8/11.
LADIES' SAMPLE SILK ANKLE HOSE. Usual price 7/11 and 6/11. Sale Price, 3/11 pair.
LADIES' COLOURED CREPE BLOUSES. Usual price 11/6. Sale Price, 7/6.
A few LADIES' SILK BLOUSES left. Usual price 27/6. Sale Price, 15/6.
43 Dozen Pairs LADIES' BLACK CASHMERE FINISH HOSE. Usual price 2/6 pair. Sale Price, 1/6 pair.

ALL LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S MILLINERY TO BE CLEARED BELOW COST.

90 Dozen LADIES' FUTURIST HANDKERCHIEFS. Usual price 1/- each. Sale Price, 6d each, or in dozen lots 5/-
One only LADIES' ROSLYN SPORTS COATS. Usual price 48/6. Sale Price, 17/3.
One Only GIRLS' RAINCOAT; fit girl about 12 years. Usual price 42/6. Sale Price, 25/-
100 Dozen LADIES' LINEN FINISH HANDKERCHIEFS. Usual price 1/2 each. Sale Price, 3 for 2/3.

TULLY'S DRAPERY SUPPLY SALE,

NEXT NEWS OFFICE, DEE STREET.

IN REPLY.

FOR THE DIGGER.

A speaker at the Farmers' Conference recently took a view in regard to the relative working capacities of New Zealanders and the Home product that is seldom voiced: "Give me the new chum, even if I have to teach him," he said. "I would sooner pay him £3 a week while teaching him than give it to a colonial, for I know that he will be a man."—Local paper, 19/6/20.

For years the clouds of battle roiled—
And Wilhelm hurled in vain
His mighty armies in attack;
The Allies stood the strain.
And in that firm, determined band
Were counted men from Maoriland.

They went because the older land
Had sent a sounding call—
Forgetting self when days were dark
They gave up home and all,
And meeting danger fair and square
Far more than well they did their share.

From year to year they saw it through,
And in those grim old days
Of strife and sorrow, work and pain,
The cable sang their praise,
Until the time of gloom was past
And joy-bells rang for peace at last.

But hardly had the firing ceased,
And smoke clouds cleared away,
When rose a wild, straw-whiskered man
And had his little say:
"The fellows that I cannot stand
Are bred and born in Maoriland!

"Their ways are useless, mark my words
They ain't the proper stuff—
They want a bed for sleeping in,
Cow-byres ain't good enough!
They also wants a living pay,
Yet won't work twenty hours a day!

"The time has come to turn 'em down.
We'll get a new chum lot,
And while they're green and innocent
We'll work them pretty hot—
They'll have scant time to eat and sleep,
We'll drove the beggars just like sheep."

The wild, straw-whiskered man sat down
With sundry angry snorts.
The other men sat silent there,
Maybe because their thoughts
To distant graves had crossed the sea—
To Flanders and Gallipoli.

We grant that England played her part
While War his thunder rolled,
And England's soldiers fought and fell
As Englishmen of old.
And all the wide world understood
The same old bulldog breed held good.

But those New Zealanders who lie
On foreign fields away,
Were mates and brothers of the men
Who labour here to-day.
One question rises: In the test
Were they less manly than the rest?

We should not worry at the roars
Of this indignant man;
Perhaps his brain is fashioned thus—
If so the kindest plan
Is just to let him howl away
And have his windy, futile "say."

—WILLIAM KIWI,
Southland, N.Z.

MARKET NOTES.

Invercargill, June 30th, 1920.

Messrs Bray Bros., Ltd., Auctioneers and Fruit Salesmen, Dee street, Invercargill report as follows:—

Potatoes.—Supplies are heavy and market weakened. The present price is 27 per ton. Onions.—Prime quality are selling at 12s cwt. Oats.—For fowl feed, 5s 4d to 5s 9d per bushel. Chaff.—Prime quality to 28 10s; discoloured, 26s. Oaten Straw.—25 10s per ton; damaged, 2s 6d per bale. Meggitt's Linseed Meal.—25s per bag. Oatdust.—6s per bag. Bran.—10s per bag. Pollard.—12s per bag. Fruit.—Supplies have been plentiful. Apples (dessert) 3d to 5d per lb, according to variety and grade. Cooking Apples, 2½d to 2½d per lb, Pears (dessert), 2½d to 4d per lb. Pears (cooking), 2d to 3d per lb.

General.—Lepp Salt Lick, 2s 3d per brick; wha'sale, 2s. Horse Covers (best American Duck), £2 15s to £3. Boots, 35s a pair. Honey in 10lb tins, 10s. Tea, in 5lb packets, 12s. Jam in glass pots containing about 2½lbs, 2s 6d per pot. Mutton Birds, 1s per bird by the kit. Furniture.—We make oak and rimu furniture to order. We use only the best of wood, and guarantee the workmanship. We have stocks of linoleum in the latest patterns, and a large supply of Seagrass Crairs and Settees. We also stock bedding and kapok.

Land Department.—Houses and Farms for sale in town and country. Let us know your requirements, and we will look after your interests.

General.—We have for sale one five-seater 4-cylinder Buick Motor Car, in tip-top condition and running order. Any trial will be given. Price £250.

Special.—We have received a quantity of furs which we have instructions to auction. The furs are all in good order and condition, and the reserve price is very low. We shall sell the furs in our auction mart, Saturday afternoon next, 3rd July. For further particulars see our auction advertisement in the Invercargill daily papers, Friday night and Saturday morning.

LAND FOR SOLDIERS.

WITHDRAWAL OF ADVANCE.

CHRISTCHURCH, June 2.

At a meeting of the Christchurch branch of the New Zealand Returned Soldiers' Association the following motion was carried: "That this meeting of returned soldiers and their dependents expresses its strong disapproval of the Reform Government in withdrawing without due notice the advances made under Part II. of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act. It considers that the only equitable and honourable course open to Parliament is to make the benefits of the Act available to all soldiers at present entitled to them, and so avoid penalizing these soldiers who have had no opportunity of taking advantage of its provisions. It desires to point out that many soldiers have deferred making application, relying on the definite promise of the Prime Minister that 12 months' notice would be given if there were any curtailment of the Act. It further calls upon the Government to bear any loss incurred by those who entered into contracts and signed options prior to the announcement of the stoppage by the Hon. D. H. Guthrie, Minister of Lands."

The following motion was also carried: "That the Government again be urged to give serious consideration to the land settlement scheme submitted by the Returned Soldiers' Association, and so give evidence of their sincerity to settle all returned soldiers in the shortest possible time."

DUNEDIN, June 22.

At a general meeting of the Returned Soldiers' Association to-night, the following resolution was carried unanimously: "That this meeting of returned soldiers, having taken into consideration the statements of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Lands regarding the finance of the Dominion and the possible effect of the continuance of the present scheme of advances under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act in further increasing the price of land, still considers that the only equitable and honourable course open to Parliament is: (1) To make the benefits of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act available to all soldiers at present entitled to those benefits, and so to avoid penalizing many soldiers who have but recently returned to New Zealand, or have lately completed their period of training under the Repatriation Department; and (2) to provide that any loss incurred in so doing shall be borne by the country as a whole."

Owing to the suspension of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act the Returned Soldiers' Associations of the Dominion are passing resolutions asking that the Act be put into operation again.

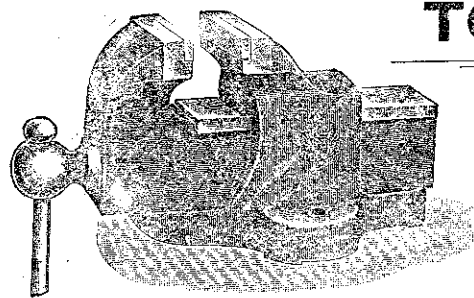
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Are Manufactured in Southland, and
are made by a Company all British
owned.

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Is a guarantee of quality and nation-
ality.

It can always be depended upon.



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MECHANICS,
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Call and inspect
our range of Tools

Shipments just arrived. Satisfaction warranted. Prices to suit
everyone.

John Edmond,

TAY STREET,
INVERCARGILL.

HARLEY DAVIDSON MOTOR CYCLES.

THE MOTOR CYCLE OF NO REGRETS.

The HARLEY DAVIDSON Motor Cycle is intended for the
rider who desires the fullest possible enjoyment, and the least per-
sonal discomfort. Who wants his Motor Cycle every day and re-
gards Motor Cycling as a pleasure rather than a feat of physical
endurance. Therefore WISDOM is required before purchasing
your Motor Cycle.

A little quiet talk with the Proud Agent of these World Fam-
ous Harley Davidsons, will put you wise as to the merits of these
Beautiful Machines.

WILSON & FRASER,

SOLE SOUTHLAND AGENTS,

DEE STREET INVERCARGILL.

For Furniture.

That is strikingly handsome
and conscientiously made in
every detail.

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The Reliable Furniture House,
KELVIN STREET.

Phone—760.

D. R. DOUBLE,

FRUITERER, TAY STREET.

Phone—270.

ALL THE SEASON'S CHOICEST

FRUIT

And

CONFECTIONERY

IN STOCK.

IRISH WIT AND HUMOUR.

Mike: "I saw a man fall from a roof on
a waggon load of soda water yesterday."
Pat: "Killed, I suppose?"
Mike: "No; he landed on soft stuff."

A young Irishman led a blushing female
into the presence of the genial Father Car-
penter:

"We want to get married," he said;
"are you Father Carpenter?"
"Yes," replied the genial minister,
"Carpenter and joiner."

An Irishman, upon being asked "What
is an Irish bull, anyway?" replied:
"Well, it's like this: Supposing there
were thirteen cows lying down in a field
and one of them was standing up, that
would be a bull."

The Parson: "I intend to pray that you
may forgive Casey for having thrown
that brick at you."

O'Grady: "Mebbe yer Riv'rence 'nd be
saving toime if ye'd just wait till oi get
well, an' then pray fer Casey."

"Faith, Mrs O'Hara, how d'ye tell them
twins apart?"

"Aw, 'tis aisy. I sticks me finger in
Dinnis' mouth, an' if ee bites I know its
Moike."

For Sale: Eleven elephants, male and
female, priced low to effect speedy sale.
Full particulars from Pat Doyle, 11 Brook-
ing street, Rangoon. Note—Four of the
above have been sold.

Minister writing a certificate at a christ-
ening, and trying to recall the date: "Let
me see, this is the thirtieth?"

Indignant Mother: "Indate, an' it's only
the elivinth."

Mike: "The trouble with Casey is he has
no backbone."

Pat: "Faith, he has backboné enough
if he'd only bring it to the front."

An Irishman was brought to task by
his employer for being absent from his
work one day and his excuse was "that
he went to a funeral." His employer
asked him who was dead and he replied,
"Devil a know I knew who it was. I just
wint for a ride."

"Pat," said one Catholic friend to an-
other, "How would you like to be buried
in a Protestant graveyard?" "Faith an'
I'd die first!"

Tommy Atkins: "Aw! go 'n, Mike, yer
a lobster!"

Mike: "Ye flatter me. Sure, a lobster's
a wise animal, for green is the colour
for him as long as he lives, an' he'll die
before he puts on a red coat."

"Dennis, I'm told ye was the best man
at Mike's marriage."

"The same is a lie," answered Dennis.
"but I was as good as any man was
there."

"Did you have any trouble with black
ants in Ireland, Bridget?"

"No, ma'am, but I had some trouble
one't with a white uncle."

Pat: "Do yer belave in ghosts, Moike?"

Mike: "Oi do. Oi don't think thur's
a ghost of a chance av me iver becomin'
Prisint av Ameriky."

"I presume, Mrs Murphy, you carry a
memento of some sort in that locket of
yours?"

"Indeed I do, sir; it's a lock of my
Dan's hair."

"But your husband is still alive."

"Yes, sir, but his hair is all gone."

Teacher: "Who was the best friend Ire-
land ever had?"

Irish Scholar: "Oi don't jist now remem-
ber, but he discovered Ameriky."

"Who lives in that big house on the
corner, Dennis?"

"The widdy O'Malley, sor, who is
dead."

"Indeed! When did she die?"

"If she had lived till next Sunday she
would have been dead a year."

Jim: "Why do you wear your stockings
wrong side outward?"

Pat: "Because there's a hole on the
the side."

"Yes, sir, that man can tell, by feeling
the bumps on your head, what kind of a
man you are."

"Can he? Begorra, I should think it
would give him more of an idea phwat
kind of a woman me woife is!"

"Your money or your life!" growled the
footpad.

"Take me life," responded the Irishman,
"I'm savin' me money for me old age."

DIGGER YARNS.

ABOUT GENERAL BIRDWOOD.

(Sydney "Mail.")

Early in 1916 General Birdwood was a
guest of some Imperial officers at a dinner
at the Trocadero Club, London. Dur-
ing the evening Birdie was asked by an
English Guards officer to recall some of
his experiences of Australians at Gallipoli.
Bridie readily consented, and told the
gathering the following happening, "One
day, at Gallipoli," said Birdie, "I was
making my daily visit to the front
line trench, and at one portion of the line
I had to pass a very low parapet, where
many a good Digger had been 'sniped' by
the wily Turk. Whilst passing this dan-
gerous spot I heard a husky Digger voice
shout: 'Duck your — head, Birdie!'"

There was silence for a moment, and the
shocked Guards officer, adjusting a mon-
ocle, remarked: "By gad, Birdwood!
What did you do?"

"What did I do?" replied the "Soul of
Anzac." "Why, I ducked my — head."

'Twas a glorious summer's night, with a
full moon overhead, and the Boche some-
where in front, when Birdie lobbed into
the gas-alert area per automobile.

"This way, sir," whispered the guide.
Without response Birdie followed.

"Mind the shell-ole there on yer right,
sir," hoarsely whispered the guide.

"Right!" whispered Birdie.

"Broken duckboard 'ere, sir," again cau-
tioned the guide.

"Right," whispered Birdie.

"Barb' wire 'ere, sir keep to yer left."

Not by word of reply did Birdie acknow-
ledge the advice. However, presently he
inquired in a less loud tone of voice than
even the guide had troubled to use, "How
far off is Fritz?"

"Oh, about three ki-lom-et-ers," whisper-
ingly replied the guide.

"Well, what the dickens are you whisp-
ering for, man?" thundered Birdie.

"I bin gassed, sir," whispered the guide.

It was just after Zonnebeke in 1917.

Birdie was inspecting a certain battalion.
Speaking to one Digger, the "hard nut"
of the battalion, the General inquired how
he was getting on.

"Oh, I'm tres bon, Birdie; how's your-
self?" replied the Digger.

Whereupon the Diggers' C.O. chipped
in: "That's all right, General. Excuse him
calling you Birdie, but he doesn't know
your Christian name."

Scene: Anzac Beach, September, 1915.
Birdie, having bathed in the Aegean Sea,
is dressing on the beach. Beachy Bill is
bombarding the Anzac shores from Achi
Baba's forts. A naval pinnace, in charge
of one man, cruises in close to shore.

Naval man seizes a coil of rope, and, ad-
dressing the famous General, shouts: "Hi
there, mate, catch this blanky rope!"

Heaves rope, which falls short; hauls in
rope; pinnace is manoeuvred closer into
shore.

Second attempt. "Hi, there, you deaf
blankety-blank! Will you catch this —
rope?" No attempt is made to catch rope.

Third attempt, getting still closer to
shore. The naval rating jumps over the
side up to his neck in water, and wades
ashore. Marches straight up to the
General. He paints the atmosphere a
lurid colour. Shaking the rope at the
General, he roars: "How the — a deaf
— like you passed the doctors to get
here blanky well beats me!"

As in all such incidents, no sequel but
the Birdwood smile.

A Digger was lying in camp dead broke,
so irreverently decided to write to God
for a tenner. He addressed the letter "per
General Birdwood, Headquarters." When
the General got it he was much amused.

He took it into the officers' mess, and all
the officers entered into the humour of the
joke. The General said, "We will collect
amongst us and raise the tenner for this
fellow," but all he could raise was —; so
he sent it to the Digger. Next day
the receipt came to hand as follows:—

"Dear God,—Thanks for sending me the
tenner; but the next lot you send don't
send it through Headquarters, as Birdie
and his mob pinched three quid of it."

The recruit on sentry-go how to salute cap-
tains, majors, and colonels. The recruit
carried out his instructions to the letter
when any of these ranks passed. Then
General Birdwood passed. The recruit
looked at his shoulder-strap, became puz-
zled, scratched his head, and asked,
"What are you?" General Birdwood said,
"I am a General," Recruit replied, "Oh!
let me see. Lieutenants and captains I
bring my hand across to the small of the
butt, majors and Colonels I present arms.
Well, the sergeant didn't say anything
about you; so how will a bit of bayonet
exercise do?"

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Of Interest to Women.

UNTIDINESS: A COMPLAINT.

Ours is an untidy civilisation. For the matter of that, mankind is an untidy race. The first cave man probably left the bones of his dinner lying round the door of the cave. Perhaps his wife gathered them upon the day when, according to Kipling, she put a mat at the door and said: "Now wipe your feet dear, before you come in."

Nature is untidy too, but in a different way, a way that dispenses with the need of kindness. The fallen leaves of autumn rot into the soil, and the spring verdure covers them and feeds upon them. The fallen trunk of some forest patriarch, broken under the weight of years, is clothed upon with soft mosses and ferns, and out of death come life and beauty. The method resembles perhaps that of the savage who puts on a fresh coat of oil for a festival, or the old English housewife who puts a fresh layer of rushes on the floor when the last lot had decayed. But its results are different, for with all her profusion Nature is the most careful of economists, she wastes nothing; and with all her untidiness she is the great beautifier whose methods we are always trying to copy.

Man, however, would be hopelessly untidy if it weren't for woman. Through all the ages she has had to toil after him tidying up the bones and litter of his wars and his huntings, and his buildings and un-buildings. Is there, for instance, a more untidy creature in this world than a carpenter? Yes, there is the bricklayer, and the man who puts down the concrete paths. After they have done their worst the prospective householder sends his wife or "gets a woman in" to scrub the floors, and tidy up.

"All fares the land to hastening ills a prey" then, where the women are untidy as well as the men.

I don't mean, by the way, that all men are untidy. No general statement is without exception; and there are some few "bright, particular stars" in whom a tidy nature shines through despite the bad training most boys receive in this particular; for the women seem in the past rather to have gloried in the task of tidying-up than to have made any attempt to correct the bad habits of man. But these tidy men are the exception, emphatically; the last incarnation. How do you think they would like the idea?

Now, to come to the point we really have at heart, have you ever taken a tour round Invercargill for the purpose of observing the homes of the people? Have you ever gone over to Otatara, not merely to boil the billy, but to look at the landscape? Have you ever used your eyes while in the country generally? And if so, can you conscientiously say, "Yes," to the question, "Are we a tidy people?" And by the way, have you ever walked through Dee street on Sunday morning, or cast a glance at the floor of a theatre (picture or otherwise), after the people had left. We throw bits of paper, lolly bags and boxes, parings of fruit, and all manner of such unsightly rubbish on the streets for some one else to sweep up; and if we go for a picnic up the Waihopai, we leave the lunch papers and apple cores behind us on the grass. Now, Nature, given time, can do something with the apple-cores; but the paper being a man-made article bothers her a good deal. The most she can do is to get the wind to gather it into a corner in the hope that in time the rain will wash it away; and a modern newspaper is too tough for that, even when the sou'-wester does its best.

The peculiar stage at present being passed through in the development of the country no doubt accounts largely for the dismal aspect of a country-side where gaunt dead trees and prostrate logs and chopped-off stumps disfigure the sky-line on all sides. But why are the fences so often tumbling over, and the gates off their hinges, or hitched up with a bit of barbed wire? And do all Southland farmers leave their ploughs, etc., standing in the fields? And why do country people rarely or never have a decent garden? They have manure at hand, they could have kept enough of the bush to give shelter, they could make time to work it—when there's a will there's a way—but you generally see their houses planted out in a bare wind swept paddock with no vegetation near-by, except a few cabbages struggling with the thistles. Here again, of course there are honourable exceptions—I speak of the general rule.

As for the men and youths who go rabbiting in the country, their untidiness is shocking to every well-ordered mind. They leave the entrails and bodies of rabbits all over the place. I suppose they say jauntily, "Oh, the hawks will get them."

There is hardly a straw to draw between town and country either. Tumble-down fences, dilapidated gates, long, rank,

ragged grass, unkempt hedges, and weedy yards (if an empty tin or can be added so much the better), indicate the degree of interest taken by many so-called "working men" in the immediate surroundings of their homes, and sometimes crooked blinds, and dingy screens held up by tapes with a dolorous droop in the middle, testify to the perverted nature of the housewife indoors.

And the Borough leads the way or shows the example, by the way in which it keeps the streets. Perhaps it can't get its employees to realise what tidiness really means.

The first step in "town-planning" or town beautifying here will need to be training in orderliness, and legislation to deal with the man who won't keep his garden decent.

Children's Column.

MATER'S LETTER BOX.

E.M., Tisbury.—We are pleased to receive your story which is very interesting. Mater has travelled a good deal in Africa, in the Gulf of Guinea, also the French province of Senegal and the Moonday river about 150 miles north of the Equator. Durban on the east coast is a delightful place for boys and girls. The sun seems to shine all the time and with the beautiful beach you can bathe all the year round in the waters of the Indian Ocean. I think you would like to be able to do that at Tisbury. You also have a black boy to carry your bathing outfit. Have you ever read of the rickshaw boys, Ethel? They dress themselves up quite different to boys in New Zealand and have a nice little cart, and a ride in one is very nice. It would not take long to go to Tisbury either, because they go fairly fast. However, Ethel, let us hear from you again, and be careful to put capital letters in their proper places, and always set out your letter heading correctly. You are doing very well.—Mater.

MARY AND THE ANTELOPE.

Little Mary's home was on the edge of the forest in South Africa. There the big game roamed among the deep untrodden forests and beside the great rivers. One cool evening, when it was growing dusk, Mary was sitting on a little three-legged stool just inside the door of her father's study, taking her supper. Her mother was cooking a meal over the fire for her father, who was a worker in the gold mines. Suddenly the watch dogs began to prick up their ears and growl, and strange cries could be heard in the distance. It was the hunting cry of the wild dog, and there seemed to be great numbers of them barking in different directions. Then from among the distant trees came rushing out a beautiful antelope springing and jumping over the bushes and hillocks, its eyes full of terror, and sobbing and panting for breath as it ran. After it came ten or twelve wild dogs whose cries now filled the air. Mary sprang up excitedly. "Oh, Mother, they will kill it." But her mother was so busy that she did not hear her. "Oh, Spring-buck! Springbuck!" Mary cried, using the name that her father had taught her for the animal, "Come in here to me. Quick, quick, I will take care of you." The poor little thing flew straight towards Mary, almost knocking her down in its haste, as it rushed into the doorway and fell in a heap at her feet. There it lay panting for breath and trembling in every limb. The wild dogs were close after it, but they were afraid of the great fire that blazed on the hearth and shone so brightly in the doorway. Then the fierce watch dogs flew out and chased them away. "Oh, you poor little thing," cried Mary, fondling and stroking the antelope's gentle face, and patting its pretty reddish-brown and white coat. "Don't tremble so, they will not touch you. You are quite safe here. How came you to be chased like this. Tell me," and she sat on the ground and laid the little creature's head upon her lap. Now Mary never expected the antelope to answer her, so she was greatly surprised when it stopped sobbing and spoke: "I got lost, kind girl," it said. "My mother and I are feeding with the herd in the woods, when I thought I would like to run off by myself for a little. And then—" the springbuck stopped for breath.

"And then—?" said Mary, who was deeply interested.

"I wandered a little way, and suddenly heard wild dogs bark. I was so frightened that I ran the wrong way. Another dog then barked on the other side of me. I ran in another direction, and they began to chase me this way and that, and I could not tell which way to go. If I had not run in here they would have killed me."

"Tell me now little antelope, what are those little lumps on your head."

"Those are my antlers coming," said the little antelope.

"Tell me," said Mary, "What happens when you break your antlers against the trees."

"They grow again," said the antelope, "They grow fresh every year."

"Whom are you talking to, child," called out Mary's mother, who was still busy over the fire.

"He is telling me about his antlers," said Mary, laying the antelope's head gently down and running to see what her mother wanted.

"What do you mean, child," said her mother in astonishment.

"Why the antelope," Mary said.

"What antelope?" asked the mother.

But when Mary turned round to show her mother the antelope, it was gone. "Oh, mother, it must have gone home," cried Mary. "It was a lovely little spring-buck," and she ran to and fro looking for the little visitor.

"You've been dreaming child," said her mother, "That's what it is. There never was an antelope or any other lope. Whatever will the child be talking about next."

But Mary knew that she had saved the antelope from the wild dogs and it made her happy.

THE POOR WOODCUTTER.

(By Ralph, Coldstream, aged 10.)

John Evans was a poor, honest, hard-working man, whom his wife was continually scolding, for, although, he could support his own family, he was often lending money to some needy friend. His trade was that of a woodcutter, and although he had to work for half the day, he was never too tired to tell his children a story before bedtime. He used up nearly all his earnings in keeping them at school, in clothing and in food, and was always very thin. Despite his poverty he was always shaved and neat, and on this account, he earned more than most woodcutters.

One day as he was beginning work he heard a cry for help. Hastening to the spot he saw a boy trying to ward off the heavy blows which a burly tramp was giving him. Grasping his axe he told the man to stop or he would—

The instant the man stopped the boy ran into the surrounding forest.

"What did you do that for?" asked the tramp, angrily.

"Why were you beating that boy?"

"That's my business!"

"Is it," slightly lifting the axe.

"Well, if you must know, he's been stealing some of my er—belongings," was the answer.

"I will let you off this time, but mind you, if we meet again, it will be the worse for you." So saying, he went back to his work. After a few minutes he heard the boy's voice thanking him for his help. Looking up, he saw the boy coming towards him.

"Follow me and I will reward you," he cried, and led the way to an open space, where, telling John to dig, he disappeared. When he had dug down a few inches with the axe, he unearthed a box containing jewels, diamonds, sapphires, pearls, opals, and many other precious stones. John carried it home and sold them. He now had enough money to live in comfort to the end of his days, and he did.

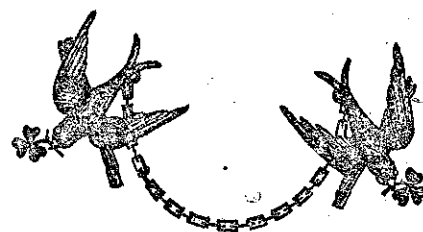
The Home.

TO CONVERT OIL INTO SOAP.

1.—If oily matters be mixed with water, they will rise to the surface; but if the water contains an alkali the oily matter will go into the solution, forming an emulsion. When this solution is boiled for some hours it becomes clear, being a solution of soap. By adding common salt a curdling is produced. The curds rise to the surface, which, when collected and pressed from soap, glycerine remaining in the clear liquid. Soda is the alkali used in hard soaps, and potash in soft soaps. 2.—A cheap soap may be made from 10lb. of oil (linseed or rape, or mixtures), 17lb. of caustic potash, and 4lb. of caustic soda, with eight or nine gallons of water. It is usual to commence the saponification with a lye of about 1.07 specific gravity, and finish with a lye of 1.15 specific gravity. By using soda in partial replacement of potash, much more water may be left in the finished soap, but this replacement is limited in amount, because too much soda causes a cloudiness, or hard white patches. 3.—The principal difference between hard and soft soaps is that three-parts of it afford, in general, fully five parts hard soda soap; but three parts of oil will afford six or seven parts of potash soap of a moderate consistency. From its cheapness, strength, and superior solubility, potash soap is preferred for many purposes, particularly for the scouring of woollens. The lyes prepared for making soft soaps should be made very strong, and of two densities, as the process of making potash or soft soap differs

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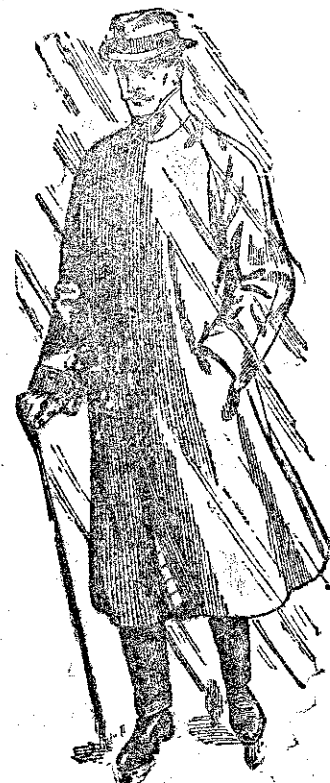
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materially from that of making soda or hard soap. A portion of the oil being placed in the boiling-pan, and heated to near the boiling point of water, a certain portion of the weaker lye is introduced, and the fire kept up so as to bring the mixture to the boiling point; then some more oil and lye are introduced gently, strong lye being added until saponification is complete. The pan should then be removed, and some good soap, previously made, added while cooling down, to prevent any change by evaporation. One pound of oil requires about one-third of a pound of the best potash, and will make 12lb. to 2lb. of well-boiled soap, containing about 40 per cent. of water. Sixty pounds of lard will make 100lb of first-class soft soap by using one and a half cans of concentrated lye, which is made from salt, and is really soda lye.

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THE FARM.

WHY CREAM TESTS VARY.

Patrons register kicks occasionally at the creameries that the test of their cream is not holding up. Some people, and very good people, think that they should receive exactly the same test each time they deliver. Variations are bound to occur. Often a change in a test is looked upon as dishonesty on the part of the buyer.

There are several factors that cause variation in the richness of hand-separator cream—variations over which the buyer has no direct control and for which he is sometimes put at fault. The chief factors are:—

- (1) Speed of turning.
- (2) Levelness of the machine.
- (3) Position of the cream screw.
- (4) Rate of inflow.
- (5) Temperature of the milk.
- (6) Cleanliness of the machine.

Different persons may do the turning. One individual often speeds along a little faster than the one who did it the previous skimming. It is a fact that the faster the machine is turned, the less the cream and the thicker it will be. Even the same individual will vary in his turning. The chance for "human error" certainly applies in turning a separator and the test of richness of the cream will vary accordingly.

A machine that is not properly leveled cannot do the consistent work of one that is set level and solidly. The bowl will not turn evenly; in some bad cases it will wobble, a thing that will vary not only the richness of the cream, but wear out the machine and cause it to skim inefficiently.

Naturally, if the position of the cream screw is changed, the richness of the cream will vary. The other day a patron informed the writer that his son had tightened up the screw while playing about the milk-house. Scarcely any cream would come out, and what did appear was very rich. Ordinary running has been known to loosen up the screw. These little things that the patron does not take into consideration oftentimes when he sees his test go down a per cent. or two.

Regulation of the inflow is a factor that causes variation in the test. If the milk is not turned on full, the test will vary because the same pressure is not placed upon the bowl and the same volume is not passing through. This factor is not a very important one, as most machines are provided with a float that is virtually self-regulating.

Some investigators have shown that cold milk is not skimmed as efficiently as warm milk. Most dairymen are agreed that the temperature of the milk should be between 70 and 90 deg. Fahr. to insure best skimming.

A clean separator will always do a better and more consistent job of skimming than one that is dirty and begrimed. At this time of the season no machine ought to be left unwashed over night and cleaned up but once daily. Parts will become gummy. This causes the fat to vary in the cream, and some may escape into the buttermilk. Economy of the simplest sort teaches that feeding fat valued at 1s 6d per pound to calves and pigs is not a paying proposition. It, therefore, behoves a man to get all of the fat out of the milk. To do this requires a clean separator on the start.

From the foregoing it can be seen that several factors should be taken into consideration in the determination of causes of variation in cream tests. The laws of each State make the buyers give an honest test. Many times if the patrons would study their separators, run them according to the manufacturer's directions, and, above all, keep them clean, the little variations could be accounted for and in most instances overlooked.

SOME POTASH FERTILISERS.

The supply of artificial potash fertilisers is so limited, and natural sources of this indispensable plant food so abundant, that one is surprised that farmers and gardeners do not more extensively make use of the latter. At this season there is always a quantity of vegetable material, such as hedge-brusings, potato, bean and pea haulms, weeds, bramble, and scrub from rocky knolls or otherwise waste areas, ditch cleanings, and other rubbish heaped up in a spare corner (literally thrown away), or it is burned with the sole object of getting rid of it. Now it has often been pointed out that such material, if converted into ash by fire, becomes a most valuable potash fertiliser. The argument that a farmer has no time for such work will not do these days. That plea may be justified in a few instances, but in so far as my observation goes it is the man who "makes" time for such details who is the most successful cultivator.



HORTICULTURE.

Towards the end of winter we quite naturally begin to think of the coming spring and seed sowing, which must inevitably lead to the question, "What seeds do we require?" Those who have glass houses, and especially those with some artificial heat, always look forward to some early sowings and must soon begin their preparations, as the weeks pass very swiftly by. Sweet peas are one of the first things to be thought of, as the seeds germinate rather slowly. Those who have autumn sown plants and those who rely wholly on outside sowing have plenty of time yet, but others can sow in pots at any time from now on if they desire good spring plants. For those who do not require great numbers two or three seeds may be sown in three or four inch pots in which they may remain until a fair size, but when large numbers are required the small pots, which can be got from the nurserymen, are more suitable as they take less space and give very little labour. Use soil made rich with well rotted manure, but avoid fresh artificial manures as they frequently rot the seeds and disappointment follows. With a little artificial warmth some early tomatoes may also be sown, as they are as important as flowers, but with them it must be remembered that there is a very great difference in early and late varieties, so don't forget to ask your seedsman for early sorts.

Generally speaking early sowing is for early blooming, but it is also desirable for some autumn-flowering annuals which are naturally late flowering in this district and can be hurried on with advantage, such as cosmoses, which sometimes are just getting to their best when frost comes. It will be found that such be accelerated by early sowing. Experience only however, will teach us what and when to sow as some things sown too early bloom prematurely.

Anemones may be sown early, and if transplanted and attended to will start to bloom in the autumn giving some blooms all through the winter if fairly treated, and blooming profusely in early spring.

Freesias which here must be grown under glass, give excellent results from seed. The writer's practice has been to sow the seed at the end of July or beginning of August in boxes, about four inches deep, two feet long, and 15 inches wide, kept in an unheated glass-house, and from each of such boxes has been able to cut up to about 150 stems, commencing in May and continuing up to September, as the seeds germinate irregularly. The hardy yellow coreopsis grandiflora, which is so useful for cuttings, may also be started soon unless you have self-sown plants as we are always ready for it as soon as we can get it. Also gallardias which with their large crimson and yellow flowers are equally prized. And a little lobelia if you can keep it from the frost, as we all like it early.

HUMOUR ON THE CLYDE.

The old joke which avers that a surgical operation is required to get a joke into the head of a Scotsman is less true to-day than ever it was. Humour exhales from Captain R. W. Campbell as spontaneously and almost as regularly as breathing. His latest book, "Snooker Tam of the Cathcart Railway" may be read by both English and Scots for the dialect is not at all overdone. The creator of Private Spud Tamson has a happy knack of hitting off richly the lighter side of life on the Clyde. Snooker Tam worked as under-porter on the Glasgow circular railway, which "was specially built for high held yuns in insurance offices, public-houses, and drapers' shops." Everyone knows what "fitba" means to the Scots worker. Tam and a pal are discussing the game after dinner:—

"Ye're jealous."
"I'm no."
"Ye are so."
"I'm no so."
"Ye canna blaw aboot yer fitba, onyway. Ye've never had yer name in the Times or News."
"That wis to keep ye frae greetin."
"It's a hit in the lug ye want."
"Cheese it! I'm nane o' yer 'Kamerad' kind."
"You'll no pit it on to me, even if I am a wee follah."
"Who's pittin' it on ye?"
"You!"
"Me?"
"Ay, you."
And so on to fistieffs.

STORIES FOR ALL MOODS.

TALES OF KINGS AND COURTS.

THE KAISER'S ESCAPE FROM
DROWNING.

How the history of the world might have been changed by an incident which occurred at Potsdam in 1880 is told vividly in a book just published by Hodder and Stoughton, called "The Vanished Poms of Yesterday: Being Some Reminiscences of a British Diplomat." William of Hohenzollern, then Prince William, in spite of his withered arm, desired to learn to scull, so he asked Lady Amptill, wife of the Ambassador at the Prussian Court, to instruct him, for Lady Amptill was expert in the use of a boat.

WILLIAM'S UNEXPECTED DIP.

One morning a light skiff was brought to the landing-stage of the Potsdam lake and William stood ready for his lesson. Lady Amptill "explained" to Prince William that this was not a heavy boat, such as he had been accustomed to, that he must exercise extreme care, and in getting in must tread exactly in the centre of the boat. William of Hohenzollern, who had never taken advice from anyone in his life, and was always convinced that he himself knew best, responded by jumping into the boat from the landing-stage, capsizing it immediately, and throwing himself and Lady Amptill into sixteen feet of water. Prince William, owing to his malformation, was unable to swim one stroke but Lady Amptill, a very strong swimmer managed, in spite of the weight of her clothing to support him in the water for five minutes until help came and they were both rescued.

WAGNER AND THE WAITRESS.

A sidelight on another and greater German is also given us. Twice a week Wagner, the master-musician, used to play at the house of Baroness von Schleinitz, wife of the Minister of the Royal Household. "Two grand pianos were placed side by side, a point Wagner insisted upon, and here the master played us his gigantic works. . . . His playing finished, a small very plainly-appointed supper-table was placed in the middle of the Fest-Saal, at which Wagner seated himself alone in state." Then all the great ladies of Berlin would bustle about, waiting upon the musician. Plates of sauerkraut, liver sausage, black puddings, herring salad, cheeses of various kinds, raw ham, and raw smoked goose-breast would be piled upon the table amid much fussing amongst the fair amateur waitresses. They would jostle and reprove one another for ignorance of the Master's gastronomic tastes. "Meanwhile Wagner, dressed in a frock-coat and trousers of shiny black cloth, his head covered with an invariable black velvet skull-cap, would munch steadily away, taking no notice whatever of those around him."

BILL BISMARCK'S BEER.

Bismarck, we are told, was fond of enlarging on his favourite theory of the male and female of European nations. Germans, Scandinavians, Dutch, English, Scotch, and Turks, "he declared to be essentially male races. The Russians, the Poles, the Bohemians, and indeed every Slavonic people, and all Celts, he maintained, just as emphatically, to be female races. A female race he ungallantly defined as one given to immense verbosity, to fickleness, and to lack of tenacity." But he conceded that these "female nations" had great powers of attraction and charm. Bismarck's two sons, Herbert and William, did not, says, "A British Diplomat," inherit one spark of their father's genius. Herbert was arrogant and unpopular; "William, universally known as 'Bill,' was a genial, fair-headed giant of a man. . . . Bill Bismarck drank so much beer that his hands were always wet and clammy. He told me himself that he always had three bottles of beer placed by his bedside lest he should be thirsty in the night. He did not live long."

ROUGH JUSTICE.

The railway was at one time seriously troubled by a number of window-straps going a-missing. The motive was thought to be cheap razor-strops for the depredators. So a careful preparation of paste was spread upon every strap of a selected train. Next morning Tam saw
Pimples to right of 'im,
Pimples to left of 'im,
Pimples in front of 'im,
Pimples and pimples
All round about 'im.
No more straps were missed.

ABRAHAM WACHNER

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FURS!**

END OF SEASON.

MUST BE SOLD.

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SHOES!**

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INVERCARGILL R.S.A.

BI-MONTHLY MEETING.

The bi-monthly meeting of the Invercargill Returned Soldiers' Association was held in the Club Rooms on Friday night, the president, Mr D. Rae, in the chair. There was a large attendance.

The Band Question.

The contentious question of an official band was again discussed. There was a notice of motion before the meeting "that the question of having an official band be again considered, and that the motion appointing the Hibernian Band be rescinded if necessary."

Before asking the mover of the notice of motion to put it to the meeting, the chairman said that there had been further developments in the matter, and asked the secretary to read a letter from the Hibernian Band.

The secretary then read a letter from the band, tendering its resignation as the official band of the Association. The letter stated that the band had no objection to acting in that capacity if it was so desired by the Association, but it did not desire to cause any unpleasantness, nor did it care for the manner in which the band's name had been brought into the discussion at last meeting.

The resignation was accepted without discussion, the chairman and Messrs Glass and Caws expressing their opinion that the work of the Association was too serious and too important to risk dissension being caused by such a petty matter as the appointment of a band. It was resolved that the Hibernian Band be written to and thanked for the valuable services it had rendered the Association in the past.

The band question was then discussed in committee, and the outcome of the discussion was a resolution, later confirmed in open meeting, that there be no official band connected with the Association.

The D.S.S. Act Suspension.

This important question was again keenly discussed, and in connection with it the following resolution was put to the meeting:

In connection with the land settlement question it was resolved: "That this meeting of returned soldiers having taken into consideration the statements of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Lands regarding the finance of the dominion, and the possible effect of the continuance of the present scheme of advances under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act in further increasing the price of land, still considers that the only equitable and honourable course open for Parliament is, (a) to make the benefits of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act available to all soldiers at present entitled to these benefits, and so to avoid penalising many soldiers who have recently returned to New Zealand, or have lately completed their period of training under the Repatriation Department; and (b) to provide that any loss incurred in so doing shall be borne by the country as a whole."

Mr A. Glass, in speaking to the motion, said that there was a great danger of the present temporary suspension becoming permanent, and he considered that they should not let the matter rest at the passing of a resolution, but they should carry the war right into the enemy's camp, if he could use that expression. In one district in Southland, for instance, there was a Cabinet Minister, and Cabinet Ministers were susceptible. Consequently, if public meetings were held throughout his district, and the proposed resolution carried unanimously, reports would reach him, and would tend to cause him to weaken. Such a campaign was to be conducted all over the Dominion, and Southland would have to fall into line and work. It was imperative that something be done this session, or not at all, because the position was serious. Wounded men, for instance, just coming out of hospital now, could not get a house on any consideration. As Secretary of the Repatriation Department, he could assure them that during last week he had five or six such men up to see him. Naturally, they were getting an embittered outlook as the result of the suspension of the Act. They had been banking on getting the same privileges as the fit men who were able to get in early. The Government had said that there was no more money available, but it was the Government's duty to find more. All the Association asked was Cabinet's assurance that the suspension was only temporary. At the conference in Wellington neither

Mr Massey or the Hon. Mr Guthrie would commit the Government to such an assurance, but had simply quibbled and evaded the question from start to finish.

Mr R. B. Caws said the Association would certainly have to become more aggressive, and convince the public that its requests were reasonable, and that they were going to demand reasonable treatment. He endorsed Mr Glass's remarks, and appealed to all members to support the Association in its pending publicity campaign.

Mr P. Gilledder said that he believed the main stumbling block was that the Government did not want to grant money for men to buy houses at inflated values. He also considered that a young inexperienced man going on a farm was putting a good farmer out, so tending to decrease production. Perhaps the Government looked at the matter from that view-point.

Mr Hall-Jones said that the last point was an interesting one, though he did not agree with it. The Government's policy had been a failure insofar that it had caused inflation of land values, but the position with regard to buildings he believed was different. Increased prices of building materials had caused the cost of building to rise in proportion, and he was convinced that the rise was permanent. He thought that the scheme outlined by headquarters was the remedy. It proposed that the Government should purchase a big block of land, on to which it could put the major portion of the men desiring to be settled. If enough land could not be obtained then the Government should purchase by compulsion certain proportions of large estates and private holdings, till the demand for land by returned soldiers was satisfied. The Government's values could be determined by a Board set up for the purpose, and so inflation could be avoided. If 10,000 men were so settled, there would be few left to be settled under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act. At present few men were being settled by the ballot and many by the purchase system. That was the cause of inflated values, and the Government wanted to reverse its policy.

The Headquarters' scheme was proposed by the President of the Farmers' Union in Wellington, and it should be pointed out to the Prime Minister that if he was frightened that the continuance of the present policy would tend to increase values, he had his remedy. Mr Glass made reference to a clause in the Act which stated that a vendor should take a certain proportion of purchase money from the Government. In War Bonds, but as that clause was optional it was inoperative. Thus the complete payment in cash enabled the vendor to commence land speculation. The motion was carried unanimously.

A committee, consisting of Messrs A. Glass, F. G. Hall-Jones, R. B. Caws, W. Murphy, P. Gilledder, T. Blake and G. Connor, with power to add, was then appointed, for the purpose of pushing on a campaign for the restoration of clause 2 of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act.

LOVE ON "TIPS."

Snookers true love for Maggie does not run smoothly, and often he is "no speak-in' to her." But finally the rival is vanquished, and the two cement their affections with lozenges and a ham tea. This is possible, because Tam has become "gey guid" at the tipping game. He discusses the art with a railway recruit:—

"How much did ye mak' the day, Bob?" he inquired.

"Three-dee."

"I got twa bob."

"Jingo! ye're lucky. Hoo is it ye get sa much?"

"Glein them the nod."

"The nod?"

"Ay."

"Ye see, it's like this. First of a', ye've got to hae a lauchin' face an' show yersel' willin', wheter ye're willin' or no. Jump about an' keep 'sirr'in' them. They're awfu' fond o' the 'sirr', specially them that are no toffs."

His success was built solidly upon a knowledge of human nature.

A compilation of the physical measurements of the men in the United States service during the war, shows there was an average gain of 3.35 pounds in weight and .23 inches in height during the period of service.

GARDEN NOTES.

PRUNING SMALL-FRUIT TREES.

Red and white currants fruit upon the old wood as well as the new. Their pruning should be modified. Cut out all thin and surplus growth, leaving only strong shoots and those pointing outward and in the right direction. These should be shortened back to one-half their length, as there is always a danger of these young shoots splitting down at the bud of the shoot when they are in their young stage and green if long pruning be adopted. This may to a certain extent be avoided if, when the young shoots have made growth 12in to 15in in length, they are gone over with a pair of clippers, snipping off the points of each shoot. This checks them, and they get thicker and stouter, but do not grow so long, therefore are not so likely to be injured by the wind, and they are better fitted to produce a good supply of fruit than if left very long. The thinning out should be in a similar manner to the black currants.

Raspberries should be cut hard back to within 12in of the ground the first season—that is, the season of planting. By this much stronger canes are produced than if left the usual length. Four canes will be sufficient to leave the next season, and from then onward six or eight, and even ten canes may be left in each clump where the growth is very strong and vigorous, but this should be the extreme number to leave. At the same time, remove all surplus growth and dead canes from the previous season's growth. In windy places a good plan is to arch them—that is to take the half of each clump and bend them over and tie their heads to the half of the next clump, giving the appearance of rows of arches. They fruit just as well, and look tidy, but are perhaps not quite so convenient to get among so it is a matter of choice whether they be tied upright or in arches except that for windy or exposed situations I prefer the arching. In either case, after each clump has been tied, the tops of the canes should be cut well back to near the string or where they have been tied. Also see that all straggling suckers are dug up—that is, those canes that come up a few inches or feet away from the clump. Then rake up and burn all clippings, so as to get rid of all the borer grub that may be in the old canes. Give the ground a good digging and a dressing with fresh stable manure.

STRAWBERRIES.

Those who are anticipating planting should lose no time in getting them in, but do not go upon the ground if it is very sodden. Never plant anything—flowers or fruit—when the ground is in a sloppy condition. It is not only bad for plants or trees, but for the ground also.

THE GREENHOUSE.

We shall have to be on guard against severe frosts, so those who have cinerarias, pelargoniums, zonales, and such plants will require to watch that they do not get frosted, as small greenhouses cannot resist extremes of frost. Upon all such occasions care should be taken to cover up at night all such plants with sheets of paper—brown paper preferred—and keep them on until the frost is out of the house. If anything happens and they are not covered up, and the frost gets in upon the plants, cover them up at once as soon as you see them in the morning before the sun reaches them, as it is the sun, the sudden change from the frozen state to the warmth and light, that ruptures the tissues of the plants, causing death if the frost be very severe. If the covering is kept on and the plants kept dark until well into the middle of the day, when the appearance of frost has disappeared inside the house, no harm will be done. Care should be taken not to water the plants unless they really need it, neither should water be slopped about among them, but keep the atmosphere of the house as dry, warm, and buoyant as possible during the very cold weather.

A FRAGMENT.

Love in her sunny eyes does basking play;
Love walks the pleasant mazes of her hair;
Love does on both her lips for ever stray,
And sows and reaps a thousand kisses there;
In all her outward parts Love's always seen;
But oh! he never went within.

—Abraham Cowley.

London's education bill for the year ending March, 1921, is estimated at over £10,000,000.

MOTORING NOTES.

SUBSTITUTES FOR PETROL.

During the world war the Canadians distilled a petrol substitute from waste straw. The Greeks ran their motors on a liquid distilled from trees. In Sweden motors were operated on fish oil. Turkey moved motor trucks on mustard oil and the Germans used a petrol substitute not known, but which has a sickly, sweetish odour.

SALE OF SLOUGH MOTOR DEPOT.

The British Ministry of Munitions announces that the motor transport repair depot at Cippenham, Slough, has been sold for £3,350,000. The depot has cost the Government £2,500,000 so that the nation realises a profit of £850,000 on the transaction. The purchasers of the depot also acquire the whole of the motor transport and spare parts remaining unsold for a minimum sum of £3,650,000 this amount to be increased proportionately according to the sale price realised by the buyers on the resale of the vehicles. The total amount so far realised, including the above sum of £3,650,000, for the sale of motor transport is £17,650,000, of which £4,500,000 is in respect of vehicles which have been repaired and conditioned at Slough since the work commenced nine months ago.

ROAD CORRUGATIONS.

Dealing with road corrugations, or waves, which are well known drawbacks to modern road travel, Mr Francis Wood, in a recently published book on road construction, briefly reviews the various theories for them. It is thought by some that road waves are due to incorrect rolling when the surface is first laid, but the author contends that this cannot be so since the corrugations appear on asphalt, which is rolled, not only lengthways, but across and in half circles and also in wood pavements, which are not subjected to rolling of any kind. He is of opinion that road corrugations, or waves, are caused by the action of vehicle springs, which are compressed in the first instance by small irregularities on the surface, and subsequently go on vibrating with a periodicity more or less similar so that the weight of the vehicle when the spring compresses has the effect of a blow on the surface. These blows in their turn cause slight depressions, which gradually develop and prevent the springs coming to rest. This theory is accepted by many well known road experts, and it probably represents the correct answer to the puzzle.

THE HUMIDIFIER.

Time and again have experiments been made on the value of injecting water made on the value of injecting water-vapour into the cylinders of internal combustion engines. It is contended that water vapour with the fuel is split up into its constituent elements, oxygen and hydrogen, which assist in the combustion of the fuel, and a new humidifier has been designed for supplying the necessary water vapour. On the dashboard of the vehicle is carried an adjustable valve, by means of which the admission of air to the engine is regulated. This is connected to the humidifier, which consists of a metal water tank containing an arrangement of wicks, which act similarly to the old-time wick carburetors. The air passes over the upper ends of these wicks, extracting water vapour from them, and so becomes saturated with moisture. It then passes along a tube which leads to the inlet manifold of the engine. Several advantages are said to be obtained by the use of this humidifier, among which are a substantial decrease in the fuel consumption, and, by the resulting improved combustion, the abolition of carbon deposit in the cylinders. Improvements in the flexibility and acceleration are also claimed and engine knocking on hills prevented.

FORCED INHERITANCE.

During the battle of Paschendaele a seriously wounded Gordon Highlander was brought into one of the Canadian Dressing stations. The surgeon noticed he was wearing a fine gold wrist watch. "Where did you get that, Scotty?" he asked. Scotty merely smiled at the time, but on being told that the chances were against him, he later confided the story to the doctor. "I took a Heine prisoner who was wearin' yon watch. 'Will ye gie me it?' I eskit him. He shookit his head. I eskit him the second time. He shookit his head agin. 'For the third and last time, as a gentleman,' I sez, 'will ye gie me that watch?' Heine shookit his head." "But you got it?" "Well, efter that I simply inherited it."

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Aims of the R.S.A.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY SOUTHLAND M.'SP.

PAY AND ALLOWANCES.

(a)—That the benefits of the Financial Assistance Act which came into force in January, 1917, should be extended to apply over the whole war period, and that the administration of the Act, should be transferred to the Repatriation Department.

(b)—That the increased scale of officers' pay which came into force in April, 1918, should be made uniform over the whole war period.

MEDICAL TREATMENT.

Treatment for war disability will be an important matter to the disabled soldier for the next fifty years. As time passes new cases of illness directly attributable to war service will continually arise. Perhaps also the need will arise for the provision in directions not anticipated. The R.S.A. therefore desires that the Government should at once recognise and define its full responsibility and make the necessary provisions. The following requests of the R.S.A. are among the most urgent, those affecting medical administration:—

(a)—That legislation be introduced at the earliest possible opportunity to make all cases (soldier or civilian) of venereal disease compulsorily notifiable.

(b)—That every soldier suffering from tuberculosis should receive not less than six months' treatment in a sanatorium, and that he should not be discharged even at his own request, until his health has reached a satisfactory condition.

PENSIONS.

(a)—The schedule of pensions, for specific injuries of the War Pensions Act, 1917, and the 2nd schedule thereto be regraded by the addition of plus percentage up to 150 per cent. (that is £3 per week), and the total percentage shall be minimum pension for total permanent disablement, supplementary pensions and attendants' pensions to be over and above such rate, and the dependants' pensions to be at present rate.

(b)—That in the case of a death of an ex-soldier through war disablement, his widow or dependants be eligible in every case for a pension.

CIVIL RE-ESTABLISHMENT.

The following are the main features of the claims of the R.S.A. under this heading (the guiding principles being that of "pre-war standard of living" as defined in the above.)

(a)—That a definite assurance be given by Parliament that the benefit of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act and the Repatriation Act will be available so long as they are required by the soldier, and that at least 12 months' notice be given of any intention to terminate them.

(b)—Soldiers' Homes: That the responsibility for buying homes for soldiers be transferred from the Lands Department to the Repatriation Department.

(c)—Immigration: That the satisfactory adjustment of the problem of repatriation shall be a determining factor in deciding an immigration policy, and that the general policy of a White New Zealand be adopted.

LAND.

1.—The breaking up of large estates which are not being utilised to their full productive capacity.

2.—The settlement of bush lands under satisfactory conditions of living and communication.

3.—The prevention of aggregation of land.

The R.S.A. has therefore defined the following general policy:

(a)—That all large estates be at once scheduled and valued with a view to giving owners fair notice of the intention of the Government to resume them for purposes of settlement.

(b)—That beginning with the largest estates of say value of £100,000 and over, and proceeding in order of magnitude until the demand is satisfied, such properties should be taken compulsorily by the Government and subdivided for the purposes of returned soldier settlement, owners having the right to retain land of reasonable value.

(c)—That estates be acquired at a valuation determined on a productivity basis and without recourse to arbitration by a Board constituted as follows:—

One representative of the Government.
Two representatives of the N.Z. R.S.A.
Three representatives of the farming community.

The following resolutions among a large number of desired reforms are deemed of immediate urgency.

(a)—That the loan to settlers on rural lands for building a home (now £250) be increased as under:—

Single man, £250; Man and wife, £400; for each child, £50 extra.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE RECENT SPECIAL DOMINION CONFERENCE.

1.—That this Conference urge upon the Government the necessity for expediting the work in connection with Government Loans under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act.

2.—That no Stamp Duties be charged to soldiers on the first purchase of property or business, these provisions to be made retrospective.

3.—That where soldier farmers who have been assisted in procuring their farms, and who apply for further assistance for the purchasing of stock, implements, etc., the advance be not made a charge on the land as a second mortgage, but be taken over the stock only.

4.—That the lack of capital should not be a bar to soldiers of sufficient experience desirous of taking up land, and that the Minister of Lands be requested to give instructions to Lands Boards, that lack of capital should not prevent any such man taking up land, and that in such cases the provision providing for payment of the half year's rent shall not apply.

5.—That where the lease of grazing leases or pastoral runs expire no renewals be granted provided returned soldiers are prepared to take them up.

6.—That in the cases of outlying blocks, one or more telephones be installed as best for convenience of settlers. The cost of the instalments of such telephones should be put down to public expense, and the cost of same loaded on the settlement.

7.—That in all cases where a settler is placed on land after its productive period of the year, the half year's rent be remitted.

8.—That six weeks' option on the purchase of land and houses be the maximum period of option by the Lands Department.

PENSIONS.

1.—That War Pensions Appeal Board consisting of three members, one to be an S.M., who shall be chairman, and two registered medical practitioners, one to be nominated by the N.Z. R.S.A. Such members to hold office for the term of three years, be constituted. Such Appeal Board to hear and determine any appeals from the decision of the present Pension Board, which shall in every case carry into effect the decision of the Appeal Board.

2.—That pensions granted to children of deceased soldiers should in all cases be paid until such children attain the age of eighteen years.

3.—That the allowance of 5s per diem as paid by the Defence Department to limbless men whilst attending the limbless repair factory is inadequate, and that this allowance at least be double.

4.—That the wife and children of partially disabled men shall receive the same percentage of pension as the husband.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1.—That April 25 (Anzac Day), be a statutory holiday as a day of commemoration.

2.—Stringent anti-profiteering legislation be brought forward and passed by Parliament.

3.—That the period soldiers are in hospital in New Zealand should be included for gratuity purposes in their period of active service.

4.—That the Royal Commission to inquire into the administration and disposal of the war funds of the Dominion which the Association has previously pressed for, be set up without delay.

1914—1915 STAR.

Defence headquarters has notified N.Z. R.S.A. headquarters that many men entitled to the 1914—15 star have not replied as to whether they want this medal posted or presented at a public parade. A large number of these medals are lying at Defence headquarters on this account, therefore men entitled to them are asked to fill in the certificate and send it to Defence headquarters.

It may not be true that all men are liars, but—well look at the number of Birdwood stories.

R. S. A.

OTAGO DISTRICT.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Otago District Council was held in the rooms of the Dunedin Association, Dowling street, Dunedin, on 26th May, 1920.

Present.—Dr. T. Harrison (chairman), Messrs J. McCrae and R. P. Jones (Dunedin), L. S. Graham and A. Glass (Invercargill), A. C. Laing (Balclutha), W. J. Gawne (Oamaru), T. Miller (Mosgiel), and G. M. Smith, hon. secretary (Dunedin).

Apology.—An apology for absence was received from Mr C. R. McLean.

Minutes.—The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed on the motion of Mr Miller, seconded by Mr Laing.

Clutha R.S.A.—Mr A. C. Laing, in moving the following motion, notice of which had been given at the previous meeting, desired to withdraw the first part dealing with the name. It was moved by Mr Laing, seconded by Mr Miller, and carried: "That the Clutha Association be allowed to embrace the area as suggested, with the consent of the sub-associations concerned."

Finance.—The following report of the sub-committee was adopted, on the motion of Mr Jones, seconded by Mr Gawne:—"That the organisation system as at present be abolished." "That the capitation be on the basis of 2s per member, 6d to go to general headquarters funds, and 1s 6d to Otago District Funds." "That a secretary be appointed for the District Association at a retaining fee not exceeding £250 per annum, such secretary to supply his own typiste and office." It was moved by Mr Miller, seconded by Mr Graham, and carried:—"That the whole matter be held in abeyance until the special meeting to be held immediately after the annual conference."

Honorary Members' Badge.—The matter of registration of the Honorary Members' Badge was held over in the meantime, the secretary to enquire the cost.

New Constitution.—The matter of the new constitution was held over until the special meeting after the Dominion conference.

Clifton Estate.—Report of the Organiser and letter from the Clutha Association were received. It was moved by Mr Graham, seconded by Mr Jones and carried:—"That the letter be endorsed, and forwarded to the Minister of Lands. It was also resolved that a copy be forwarded to the local Lands Board."

Pensions Examiner.—A reply from the Minister of Defence was received. It was moved by Mr Graham, seconded by Mr Gawne, and carried:—"That the Minister of Defence be again written to pointing out that his letter is not satisfactory, and requesting that a returned medical officer be appointed forthwith."

Headquarters' Levy.—A reply from headquarters was received.

Meetings.—It was moved by Mr Graham, seconded by Mr Laing and carried:—"That all future meetings of the Council be held of an evening."

Balance-Sheet.—The balance-sheet for year ended May 26th, was on the motion of Mr McCrae, seconded by Mr Laing, adopted, subject to audit. It was resolved that the president and secretary approach headquarters and inquire the position re the district finance. It was moved by Mr Glass, seconded by Mr Laing and carried:—"That secretaries of local associations be requested to forward details of remittances forwarded to headquarters since April, 1920."

Conference.—It was moved by Mr Graham, seconded by Mr Gawne, and carried:—"That the Organiser be instructed to proceed to the Dominion Conference." It was moved by Mr McCrae, seconded by Mr Gawne, and carried:—"That the Organiser be allowed 25s per day expenses whilst attending the Dominion Conference in Wellington."

Land.—It was moved by Mr Gawne, seconded by Mr Miller:—"That this Council protest to the Minister of Lands against the non-representation of the North Otago District on the Otago Lands Purchase Board." It was moved by Mr McCrae, seconded by Miller:—"That the Minister be asked to appoint a Lands Purchase Board for the North Otago District." The motion was then withdrawn in favour of the amendment, and the amendment was carried. Mr Gawne, then moved his withdrawn motion as an amendment. The amendment was lost.

Presentation.—The secretary was directed to circulate Associations requesting that they appoint delegates on the same basis as for conference, and that the special meeting be called by the first meeting of this Council.

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Weller: "What makes that hen in your backyard cackle so loud?"

Seller: "Oh, they've just laid a corner-stone across the street, and she's trying to make the neighbours think she did it."

INDIRECTLY—BUT NEVERTHELESS TRUE.

She: "What book has had the most lasting effect upon you?"

He: "Er-well, the cookery book that my wife reads."

NOTHING LIKE THE TRUTH.

Weary Tramp: "Can't yer help an old soldier, mum?"

Benevolent Lady: "Poor fellow! Here's a shilling for you. Were you wounded?"

Weary Tramp (pocketing money): "No, mum; but I wuz among the missin' twice."

Benevolent Lady: "How terrible! When was it?"

Weary Tramp: "Just afore the battles of the Somme and Vimy Ridge, mum."

NO TIME TO GROW.

The young man, who evidently thought a great deal of himself, hailed an omnibus passing along the Strand, and called out to the conductor:

"Ah, condutah, which—aw—route do you take?"

"We don't take no root," was the answer. "We never stops long enough anywheres for that."

The bus drove on, leaving the youth rooted to the spot.

TOO LATE.

After trying in vain for months to get a house, Brown set out one day with a find-a-house-or-die look on his face. He wandered about all day without being successful, till at last his steps led him to the river.

"Ah!" he said in utter despair. "How tempting it looks," he was almost inclined to plunge in and end it all.

All of a sudden he heard a splash, and looking round he saw his friend Green struggling in the water. Without attempting to save him he rushed off to the local "house agent."

"Quick," he gasped. "Green has fallen in the river. Can I have his house?"

"Sorry," said the house agent; "I've already let it to the man who pushed him in."

A SURE SIGN.

"Getting on nicely," said the doctor; "very nicely. I think he might have a little solid food directly he begins to be convalescent."

"But what are the signs of convalescence?" asked the wife.

"Oh, it's always a good sign when the patient displays irritability and a disposition to argue and a certain peevishness."

On his visit next day the doctor found the little wife very cheerful.

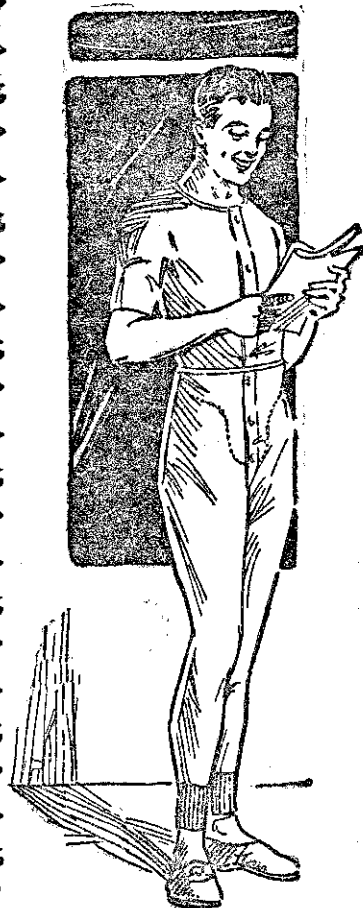
"And how is the patient?" he asked.

"Oh, much better, I think, doctor. I gave him a fried steak and onions yesterday."

"Fried steak and onions!" gasped the medico. "But why on earth—"

"Well, I followed your instructions, doctor. You said that if he was at all peevish or disposed to argue it was a sign that he could stand some solid food. He asked me last night if he could have a fried steak and onions, and I said I didn't think he ought to, so he got up and went into the kitchen, smashed fourteen soup plates, a tea service, and two milk jugs. So, in view of what you said, I let him have it."

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