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### FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE.

### IN MEMORIAM.

**ANGUS.**—In fondest memory of Henry Leake, beloved son of Alex. and the late Margaret Angus, killed in action in France, on July 14, 1916. "There is a link death cannot sever. Love and remembrance last for ever."—Inserted by his loved ones. 2839

## "The Digger."

FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1920.

### ASIATIC IMMIGRATION.

The resolution passed by the Returned Soldiers' Conference on the immigration of Asiatics may be regarded as an accurate representation of northern opinion. In Southland our climate is not so mild, and these immigrants stay where the climate is more congenial. However, we must refrain from being apathetic upon a question which in its essence means racial decline, even if we are not directly associated with Asiatic activity. The Government must be sufficiently courageous to take the matter in hand and save any set of conditions arising which will cause a breach in our relations with India. The tide of feeling against the immigration laws enforced against them is slowly rising in India. In South Africa the problem has become acute and apparently insoluble, lasting over a number of years. There was not alone the question of restriction, but also of the treatment of British Indians domiciled in the Union; and the demand of the native leaders that British subjects should have the same right throughout the Empire had previously been met by the reply of Mr Winstone Churchill, then Under-Secretary for the Colonies: "It should be understood that His Majesty's

Government has no power to protect British Indians against the operations of a law in force in the colony." It is suggested that special difficulties arise in excluding Hindus because they are British subjects. That is not necessarily so. India has long ago admitted the right of the Dominion to exclude her Nationals more specially in a resolution moved at the Imperial War Conference in 1908, by Lord Sinha, now a member of the British Government, as follows: "It is an inherent function of the Governments of the several communities of the British Commonwealth, including India, that each should enjoy complete control of the composition of its own population, by means of restrictions on immigration from any of the other communities." The only concessions asked by India in return for this recognition of the validity of restrictions on her emigrants, were facilities for temporary residence by visiting Indians, and the admission of the wives and minor children of Indians already domiciled in other British countries. On this basis the Conference of 1918 unanimously concurred in what was practically an Empire agreement, and within its terms there is ample room for the New Zealand Government to exclude these emigrants. In the East and particularly in India, the problem has aroused an interest and intensity of feeling which has never been fully realised. There are many contributing causes to this set of conditions. The spread of western education, and the development of nationalism and political unrest has reacted on one another and helped to awaken the Indian to a pride of race. It must be admitted too, that some agitators used the grievances of the emigrating Indian for their own ends, finding it easier and more politic to direct their propaganda against other parts of the Empire than to court trouble by stirring up strife against the local laws and institutions. But the chief thing we have to consider is the fact that the Indians have become a migratory people. The coming of industrialism has loosened all roots in the East and home ties have not the same strength as a generation ago. The man who leaves his native village to work in a factory a hundred miles away, or to go to some of our colonies where indentured labour is used, has become a member of a mobile proletariat. He has cut himself adrift from a condition of life that was perhaps insufficient, and has entered one where the standards of living are higher, and ultimately acquired the impulse to wander and settle in other countries. This migratory fever is what we have to face. Sometime ago a writer estimated that within a comparatively few years 9,000,000 Chinese had migrated and while we have no actual figures regarding Indian emigration it is evident to all that the problem is one requiring satisfactory adjustment. We are faced with the problem of keeping our civilisation intact and its blood pure while a huge migratory population are knocking at our doors. Our political system is democratic, giving the same rights to every citizen, but we are not justified in making provision for an alien labouring class such as are migrating to our shores. If we allow unrestricted immigration, we will in the end become submerged by this mobile proletariat who have no acquaintance with our political institutions, and have a marked tendency to coagulate in masses that disturb the social balance. And inevitably we would have racial bitterness, and exasperations which destroy the felicity of life wherever the two races live freely side by side. No country can complacently face the prospect of being involved in the same problems which disfigure life of the Southern States of America. The Asiatic is without ties, with a wandering impulse and lives in fugitive hovels. Very often, too, he has lost hold of those traditions which kept his life right in his own country. No question of right of entry can be recognised if we are going to keep our civilisation free from the defiling influences of Asiatic immigration.

Seven million untiring British girls made good their prayer, "God save the King," by toiling incessantly for the British Tommies across the Channel to bring home the fruits of victory and save the world for democracy. Every time your watch ticks three seconds, every working day, every year, there's a pair of "Shirley Make" braces sold. Have you seen our splendid showing of braces? Men's Star braces, sale price 4s 11d. Hercules famous President make, sale price 4s 11d. Heavy Shirley make, sale price 4s 6d. Police braces, 3s 6d. Boys' braces, 1s 6d to 2s 11d. Men's suspenders, sale price 2s 3d. Just opened, our new season's stock of gents' ties in many colourings and designs, sale price 3s 11d to 6s 6d. Boys' ties, in school colours, 1s to 1s 6d. See windows and all departments at H. and J. Smith, Ltd., Progressive Stores, Invercargill and Gore. Exceptional bargains at great Reliability Sale.

### POULTRY CLUB.

The annual dinner and meeting of the Utility Poultry Club was held on Wednesday evening in the Efford Tea Room. The meeting was of a representative character, there being representatives from Riverton, Bluff, Winton, and a large number of apologies were read extending as far north as Auckland, which showed a wide interest in the Club's activities. The first toast of the evening "The King," which was honoured in the customary manner. Proposing the toast of the "Competitions," Mr J. Stevens said that the Club had been running now for five years. Ten years ago they had a hard struggle to get the competitions going. The Egg Circle was started by a few enthusiasts. The competitions had been the making of the poultry industry in Southland. Had it not been for the competitions, there would not have been one third of the birds in Southland, and the competitions have been an undoubted success. In the earlier stages of the Club's career there was some difficulty in getting the pens filled, but in years to come there would be no difficulty. In responding to the toast Mr Burwell, said that credit was due to Mr Stevens for introducing the competitions in Southland. He recalled the negotiations with the Charitable Aid Board which resulted in a suitable site at Kew being secured. Since then the club had been enabled to erect buildings and buy plant costing £425, and at March 31 the club owed no one anything. —(Applause). This success he attributed to cheap labour and the entry fees to a great extent. It was an interesting tribute to the economy practised by the caretaker that, notwithstanding the rise in the price of feed, £8 less had been spent on it this year. The average price of eggs had shown an increase of 8d per dozen. The net surplus was now £260—an increase of over 200 per cent. As president of the Society for four and a-half years he had come into constant touch with Mr Stevens, and he could assure them that he had done a great deal for the club. The following interesting figures were given by Mr Burwell. The figures, in order are for 1917, 1918, 1919, and 1920:—Cost of feed, £112, £166, £181, £173; total expenses, £195, £327, £309, and £365; eggs obtained (in dozens), 3038, 4025, 3902, 3807; average price obtained, 1s 3.3d, 1s 1.7d, 1s 6.8d, 1s 11.3d; value of eggs, £246, £263, £306, £371; total receipts, £333, £366, £388, £464; gross profits, £138, £39, £79, £99; prizes given, £24, £27, and £11; net surplus, £88, £79, £139, and £260. The plant and buildings, continued Mr Burwell, were valued at £425.

Mr C. Thompson also responded and considered that the competitions had improved the birds in Southland. Taking Mr Burwell's figures into account the club had done well and was in a very satisfactory position, and an acquisition to Southland. Mr Burwell had done a great deal towards the success of the club. The caretaker was a careful and valuable man, and helped to bring the club out on the right side of the ledger. The toast of the "Poultry Industry," was proposed by Mr S. Hill, who stated that the industry had a great future before it. The Government was now more sympathetic towards the industry. There was shortly to be a conference at the Hague, where poultrymen from all parts of the world would meet, and their deliberations would be of great benefit to the industry. In America the poultry industry was second only to that of the steel industry. Mr Millar responded to the toast and considered the poultry industry was going ahead. He was glad to see that the competitions had been a success, and an incentive to the people of Southland. It was a bad practice to overfeed the birds, and a great number of complaints could be traced to overfeeding. In Scotland there are not so many birds penned up as in New Zealand. The custom was to have a house on wheels which was taken into the fields where the grain had been cut. In addition to breeding birds for eggs they should also provide table birds. Mr Woodnorth of Winton, considered that if birds were bred for the table while sellers are at the mercy of the auction rooms, it would not be profitable. Prices are a little better now but eggs are the best for all concerned. Things were looking brighter for the industry, and although the cost of feed has been high they had had the enhanced value of eggs. The toast of the "South Invercargill Borough," was proposed by Mr Strang (president). "The manner in which we were assisted in getting new grounds was one for appreciation and in all our negotiations with the Council we have always found them ready to help us. His Worship the Mayor had shown us every consideration, and in the Town Clerk (Mr Dyson), we also had a good champion." In responding, Mr Holloway (mayor), considered the club a great acquisition, not only to Southland but especially to South Invercargill. Great improvements

had been made on the club's property, and it was satisfactory to know that the Government had made a grant of £75. Better results will be obtained from private enterprise than with Government control. Mr Dyson considered the club should have honorary members.

Mr A. Thompson proposed the toast of the "Caretaker," who had given every satisfaction.

Awards and certificates were then presented to the following winners at the last competition. First class light breed class, Mr H. T. Stratton (cup), second prize, Mr Woodnorth, third prize, Mr Paul (Riverton); fourth prize, Mrs Gorinski; first prize winter test, Mrs Gorinski; second prize, Mr Anderson; first prize heavy breeds test, Miss H. King (Riverton) (cup); first prize winter test for heavy breeds (brooch), Miss H. King; greatest weight of eggs, Mr R. H. Dempster (Wright's Bush)—gold medal; first prize autumn test, Mr Woodnorth; second prize, Mr Paul. A number of certificates for teams laying over 1200 eggs were also issued.

The enjoyment of the function was intensified by several of those present contributing musical and elecentary items.

### GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting was next held.

The annual report was adopted, along with the balance-sheet.

The following officers were elected:—President, Mr J. Strang (re-elected); vice-president, Mr T. E. Davis; secretary and treasurer, Mr B. H. Ayling; auditor, Mr J. E. Anderson; hon. veterinary surgeon, Mr J. Miller; trustees, Messrs J. Strang and F. Burwell; committee, Messrs A. G. Thompson, F. Gorinski, J. E. Anderson, Fairclough, C. Thomson, T. E. Stratton, Allison, and Williams.

### FIANCEES ASSISTED PASSAGES.

The date for receiving nominations for assisted passages to N.Z. of the soldiers' wives and soldiers' fiancées has been extended by the Government until December 31st, 1920. (Final date).

Soldiers in the Dominion concerned should therefore communicate with the Under-Secretary, Department of Immigration, Wellington, prior to 31st December, next.

The payment by the soldier for the passage of his fiancée has been fixed as follows:—First class, £57; second class, £39; third class (cabin with two berths), £15; third class (cabin with four berths), £13.

Compared with current rates of passage there is a reduction of at least £26 per passage which is contributed by the N.Z. Government.

Applicants for assisted passages must sign a certificate declaring that the person for whom a passage is claimed is the bona fide fiancée of the applicant, such declaration to be made by both contracting parties. In the case of the fiancée the declaration is to be delivered to the High Commissioner, and in the case of the soldier to the Immigration Office, Customhouse Quay, Wellington.

### PERSONAL ITEMS.

At the annual dinner of the Utility Poultry Club on Wednesday night, opportunity was taken to farewell the secretary, Mr Jno. Stevens, who leaves Invercargill soon for Timaru, where he will go into the printing business. The president (Mr J. Strang), in presenting Mr Stevens with a travelling bag, and also with a silver toast rack for Mrs Stevens, referred to him as the pioneer of the Egg Circle and the Poultry Club in Invercargill. He had, during his years of association with the Club, done such good work that much of the success that the Club enjoyed at present was due to him. Many eulogistic references to his work as secretary of the Club had been made that night, and they were all deserved. They regretted his departure but wished him every success in his new sphere of activities. The health of the recipients was then honoured enthusiastically, after which Mr Stevens responded briefly. He said that his energies in connection with the Club had been a labour of love. He regretted greatly having to sever his connection with it, but opportunity had come his way, and he was bound to make the best of it. He hoped that he would get as much happiness out of his business as he had got through his association with the poultry industry in Invercargill, and assured them all of a right royal welcome to Timaru. Concluding, Mr Stevens referred to the good work done by Mr Burwell in connection with the competitions, and thanked them most sincerely for their gifts and expressions of goodwill to himself and Mrs Stevens. Mr Stevens expects to leave Invercargill about the end of this month.