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political career. Then we reached a small passage-way, where we had a deal of delay and where his shells did not miss us by much. I could see, for miles, the perfect artillery formation of the diggers coming up to go through the first waves when they shortly settled down.

Down we went, through a small brush-land and creek, where everyone was wetted to the knees trying to jump the obstruction; and hereabouts we lost our sergeant—Jim Bain, of Waikato—who was wounded, but is safe, I understand. Good old Jim! A true sport, and with the battery since December 1916. Then we crossed the railway, and saw what a mess Fritz's answering barrage had here made. We had to diverge from the direct line of advance into the next big paddock, and make a wide detour to avoid a crest of which he was making a howling mess. We had just crossed a sunken road when he landed a shell on a spot about thirty yards in front of us. Thinking to get past, went for their lives; but another shell came, exactly over the mark where the previous one landed and where we apparently had just reached. It killed Ewing Riddell of the team, from Te Kuiti (a fine man a great pal), and Ken Larking, late of Victoria College, Wellington, and one of the carriers loaned by the company. Ted Murray (corporal), our team's excellent five-eight, was badly wounded in the leg; and I got mine in the groin. Finish Stokes gun team!

After Jerry's barrage was over—a good one for about a further three-quarters of an hour—they used all the Hun prisoners (four to a stretcher) to carry out our wounded. A great plan, this, Ehoe, as they took the boys out in great style.

They tell me the Dinks suffered heavily again. Poor old Dinks! The Jerry bearers worked well and were kind in their handling.

I believe another gun team, covering Wellington, was snashed up; Les Mason, of Masterton (a Ruahine boy), was killed. He makes another fine three-quarter gone from the Rugby team—and a good soldier. Billy Popgun.

OTAHUTI NOTES.

Last Saturday Waianawa defeated Drummond by 18 points to nil, and Otahuti v. Calcium drew, no score being registered.

The latter game was interesting throughout: Calcium having the best team in the field since their formation as a club, and Otahuti being caught with perhaps their weakest as regards combination, etc., made an even game of it. Otahuti evidently being satisfied in holding the opposing teams, and it was unfortunate that Calcium's frantic efforts to score were not crowned with success.

The latter team has made the slowest progress, as regards mastering the fine points of Rugby, of any team in the competition, and certainly require a very firm referee to control their matches; obstruction was common, Bulman being the worst case—his sporting education has apparently been sadly neglected. T. Darragh Grey, and Clar, were always to the fore, Darragh and O. Lindsay, saving their side on many occasions. J. Lindsay and O. Anderson, played well for Otahuti backs, their line kicking being well placed.

Next Saturday Waianawa journey to Calcium, and Otahuti go to Wright's Bush. Both matches being at 3 p.m.

Under the direction of Mr George Grieve a very successful ploughing match was held here last Wednesday to assist two Diggers (Messrs Dawson and Milne), who have taken up their abode in our midst. Seventeen teams turned up and fifty acres were ploughed up, a creditable performance.

Mr Ben Finlayson, aide-camp to Mr Grieve, had a busy day, having many sharp arguments with manuka and black-pine stumps, that the Maoris had forgotten to make war canoes out of.

The ladies provided a most enjoyable lunch and Mrs G. Grieve and Mrs Baxton, ably assisted by Miss N. McKenzie and Miss O'Connell, are to be congratulated on the excellent afternoon tea provided.

NAVIGATION OF THE WAIAMAU.

RE WAIAMAU RIVER.

As requested by your Board, I beg to report on this river as follows—

I travelled both up and down the river and was much surprised at the large quantity of water in the river at this time of the year. The river seems very free of snags and boulders, but there are about seven places which will require money spent on them. Two of these places will require straightening, the cost of which would probably amount to £500 each, the other five are just an odd boulder or snag which could be removed by blasting. After this work is done, the only trouble the Board would have to contend with

would be the moving shingle in the lower reaches.

The river runs fairly fast, and the most suitable boat I should recommend would be about 85 feet in length, with a beam of about 10 feet. The most needed item will be the power, as there is plenty of water I would recommend oil power, it does not take up so much room as steam and is not so heavy—say one 150 H.P., or two 75 H.P. This would give the boat about 12 inches draught when empty, and about 2 feet 4 inches when loaded.

I would recommend the Board to send Mr Hay to Wanganui, to have a look at Messrs Hatrick and Co.'s river fleet, before sending away for a boat. This no doubt would give him a good impression of the class of boat that would suit the river Waiamau.

I should be very pleased to hear what decision the Board come to.—Yours faithfully

(Signed) L. ALLEN.

PASSING NOTES.

(By "Jacques.")

The "Auckland Weekly News" says that "the proposal to raise a loan of £70,000 to erect a hall as a war memorial was rejected by the South Invercargill ratepayers." £70,000! It has a ring of opulence about it that must be very gratifying to our little next door neighbour.

The "Otago Daily Times" (July 19), complaining of the extortionate poundage of the Postal Department on money orders to the U.S.A., says that it "had increased its charges to 8d on every 20/- up to the first 20/-." The information is, somehow, incomplete. It does not tell us what the charge is on every 20/- below the first 20/- And we ought to know it.

It looks as though Poland is sorry that she spoke. At any rate she is squealing to the Allies to extricate her from the mess she has got herself into. It is a pity that political and other considerations will not permit us to leave her to the punishment she so richly deserves. The chief, if not the sole, motive for her insolent aggression against her big neighbour (so far as we can gather) was the desire for territorial expansion at Russia's expense. To this end she took action that might easily have involved all Europe in another such conflagration as we have just emerged from. And it looked as though there were certain forces at work in Allied countries to encourage her predatory aims, regardless of consequences. Profits, to many, are a more important consideration than human lives. Had it not been for possible advantages to some in England and elsewhere, Poland would never have been allowed to signalise her re-establishment as a political entity in such a way as to again jeopardise that peace for which the world has already made such terrible sacrifices. Poland deserves a hiding—and so do some of our own people who undoubtedly encouraged her in her filibustering adventure.

One of the many reasons for Harry Holland's unpopularity lies in his obstinate refusal to ignore unpleasant facts, and his embarrassing propensity for speaking the truth—which, however loudly we may sing its praises, is, perhaps, the least palatable thing in this sad old world of ours. His latest imprudence was during the discussion on the denationalisation of aliens, when he incautiously referred to the Teutonic lineage of our ancient Royal visitor. There was a sudden gasp of horror throughout the Chamber, followed by hysterical cries of "Shame" from quite a number of super-loyalists. Some rose, and severely reprobated our political Ishmael's want of decency, and then sat down again, glowing with the consciousness that they had discharged their duty to King and country, and vindicated the loyalty of the Dominion. But, even granting that Holland's remark was tactless and uncalled for, where was the occasion for so much fuss? The fact of the Prince's Teutonic descent is unquestionable, and, in my humble opinion, he is none the worse for that. However, much we may agree to ignore it, we cannot alter it. The Prince's would-be champions were the kind of friends we pray God to save us from, since their very defence suggested something shameful in that Teutonic fluid that meanders through his veins, and on one occasion, at least, gushed from the Royal nose in a school scrimmage—unless the anecdotalist lies. It matters little what a man's blood is, so that he is a decent fellow—and, from all accounts the Prince is all that. The horror of our Parliamentary "loyalists" really evidences the same truckling, grovelsome spirit as that which, some years ago, caused a London magis-

DIGGERS!

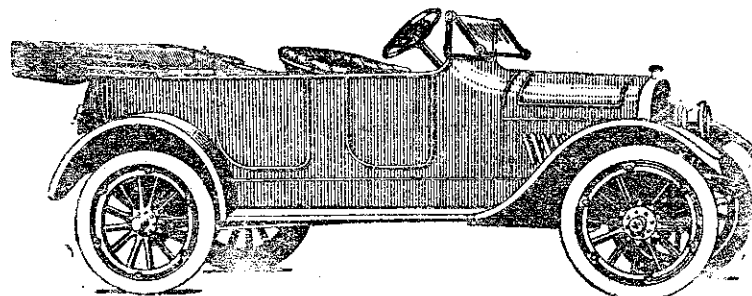
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trate to send a "freeborn British subject" to gaol for six weeks for daring to say that the late King Edward—then prince of Wales—came into this world without a shirt to his back.

MISSING.

23/2108 TURNBULL G. P.

The above-named left New Zealand with "E." Company, 10th Reinforcements, and returned to New Zealand by "Remuera," October 1919.

Any information regarding present whereabouts of the above-named will be gratefully received by his relatives. Reply to: General Secretary, N.Z.R.S.A. Wellington.

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