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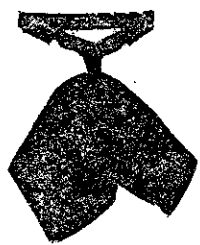
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"The Digger."

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1920.

PENSIONS.

With the increase in the cost of living, and the necessity to increase wages, it is to be expected that a pension designed to provide a reasonable standard of comfort should likewise be increased in order that men who are justly entitled to the pension may enjoy a reasonable standard of comfort; and to be consistent with the ever increasing price of commodities. At the present time, a totally incapacitated man receives £2 per week pension, and £1 per week supplementary. In these days it is evident that the amount is insufficient. The purchasing power of the sovereign is somewhere about 12s 7d, and the inconvenience of being an incapacitated man is one which is only realised by the man himself. He is justly entitled to be able to partake of the pleasures available to other people and the pensions is insufficient to accomplish this, and the result is a low standard of comfort, and an undue measure of seclusion. A partially disabled man, if he is married, receives nothing for his wife and children. The Returned Soldiers' Association do not claim that in all cases a partially disabled man should receive a pension for his wife and children; but in some cases, justice demands that they should—a man who is a labourer, or bushman, who has lost a leg, and various tradesmen who have lost an arm. They not only lose a limb, but lose their life's occupation. When men have advanced in years, it is not easy to direct their energies into new avenues of employment, and in these cases they should receive an allowance for their wives and children, and help them to enjoy a reasonable standard of comfort. A committee of the House should be set up and the Government should embrace an advance of verment should include an advance of the Dominion there has been a general increase of wages, and the principle which is right in the one case is also right in the other.

THE DIGGER'S LETTER BOX.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,
SOUTHLAND ELECTRIC POWER
BOARD.

Sir and Gentlemen,—Owing to considerable public comment and uneasiness regarding matters under the jurisdiction of the Board, you have probably realised

that it is time some statement was made and that in a very short time the public will demand to know what is going on. The agenda paper which provides for the adoption of the minutes and then moves that the Board go into Committee obsolete. If the Invercargill Town Council did things behind the scenes like the Board, there would be widespread disapproval, and you are particularly fortunate that things have been allowed to go on so long. The Board does not invite the reporters to a good brand of cigars, and naturally enough, they have a strong dislike to sit outside and come away with a few notes. This is practically censorship of the Press and the denial of the right of the people to know what is going on. There has been a slight improvement in this respect lately, but there is far too much committee work, and the demand of the people is "Let there be light," and at some future date we hope to announce "And there was light." Now, gentlemen, just a word about the loan. It is very unfortunate state Sir Joseph Ward's loan has not matured thus placing you in the difficulties which now confront the Board. Money has increased, and France is just raising a loan at 8 per cent. The British Government have discussed a loan at 8 per cent., and the "London County Sixs" went out at 6 per cent. four months ago. The Government's action in providing for 5½ per cent. as the maximum interest a local body can pay, certainly creates a difficulty, but one which can be removed. We must say farewell to Sir Joseph's loan, and in view of the fact that contracts have been let, engineering work undertaken, a large supply of material bought, motor cars for transit, office site in Dee street, at a cost of about £11,000, arrangements made for the chairman to go to various part of the world to purchase machinery; it is at least a serious position both for the Board and the people, and we sincerely hope that the Government will assist you. But, how is it that it is left to the Press to dig up information? In the interests of the Board itself, it would have been infinitely better to let the people know. Regarding the action of the Board in sending to Australia for a storeman at £7 per week and a Public Works clerk at £10 per week, and £12 if the applicant makes good; further, the positions advertised in the "Post" which were detailed in our last issue, will you tell the people whether or not the engineers have the say, and the Board has none. Also, whether the agreement between the Board and the engineers is responsible for these conditions. The Board, no doubt, meant well when it passed the resolution that as far as possible Southland men be employed, and to those members who are in sympathy with this, the agreement must be a source of annoyance. Our attitude on the administration of the Board's affairs is not personal, but refers to the whole Board, and on no account do we intend to be discourteous, but we are determined to study the people's interest. Our concluding paragraph last week was in reference to that little note from Wellington, and we trust the fearless member will yet come to light, resign, and state the position plainly and fairly, and re-election will be assured.—Editor "Digger."

POWER BOARD.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—It is with the greatest satisfaction that I have read your criticism of the actions of the Power Board re the appointments of outsiders to the more lucrative positions in its employ. I think that the "Digger" is to be congratulated on the stand it has taken in this matter and also on the Board's method of conducting its business. I was afraid that the Press of Southland had fallen from grace as far as being an agent to fearlessly criticise the powers that be, and therefore maintain the rights of the community. Having put its hand to the plough, I hope it will continue its effort in still further bringing to light the mysterious ways of the Southland Power Board and set at rest the minds of a very large number of people in this and other districts. If, when the limelight is turned on, the affairs of the Board prove satisfactory the "Digger" will have done the Board an incalculable service and also the community. If on the other hand it should show an unbusiness-like policy on the part of the Board, it will have rendered a great service to the district and ultimately to the Board. Fail not! The people are getting anxious. I am, etc.,

FARMER.

CHRISTIANITY AND SLAVERY.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—Somehow or other my letter in last week's issue was misinterpreted. For instance, you make me say "You roundly assert that the Bible wholly condemns

slavery," but ask "why I did not mention Theodore Parker was a minister, etc." What I did say was "You roundly assert that the Bible wholly condemns slavery, but do not tell us where. This alters the whole sense. Then again, I said "I want you to tell me why the passages therein upholding slavery were regarded as inspired and acted upon for over a thousand years? and why the different Christian sects as well as the Jews dealt in human flesh and blood all that time." The words underlined were all left out, which very materially lessens the force of my argument. Trusting you will insert this correction.—I am, etc.,

JOHN

A REPLY.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—In last week's "Digger," Mr Doe contradicted "Cocker's" criticism of his Irish terriers at the last Wellington Show, and, also denies that he acted in an un-sportsmanlike manner. Well, sir, I have seen a few beaten and disappointed owners, but none of them were ignorant enough to take their dogs away from the show, against the regulations, the day before it finished, and have other fanciers laughing at them, as they laughed at the foolish action of Mr Doe at the Wellington Show. When I attend a dog show, and get beaten, I take it like a sport, and would like everyone else to do so, and not adopt the methods of Mr Doe at Wellington. "Cocker" says that "Paddy's Selection" is much too big, and as I have seen this dog on several occasions, I can testify to his size. "Selection" is more of a Welsh terrier than an Irish, and if Mr Doe knows the former breed, he will now know the size of his dog. In closing this letter, I might say that I have been reading the kennel notes in this paper since they started, and I congratulate "Cocker" on the good he does the fancy, and tend my appreciation of the fairness in which he treats individual kennels.—I am, etc.,

"SCOTCH TERRIER."

AN APPRECIATION.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—I desire to express through your columns, the sincere appreciation of the Returned Soldiers of Southland of the kindness and courtesy of the committee, who managed, and of the citizens who very generously subscribed the funds for the complimentary ball, given recently in commemoration of the signing of peace. The gathering, which for some time past has been the talk of the soldier fraternity, was an opportunity of bringing together men who had not met since the days of war, and the re-union of last week will not soon be forgotten by the many soldiers who took part. The whole arrangements brought back to the men the many thoughtful acts, which, throughout the war and subsequently have demonstrated the real and sturdy patriotism of the Southland people. On behalf of the Returned Soldiers' Association.—I am, etc.
D. M. RAE, Pres.,
Returned Soldiers' Association.

SOCIAL NOTES.

Mrs Tucker is the guest of Mrs Bannerman, Bluff.
Mrs J. G. Macdonald is spending a few weeks in Queenstown.
Miss H. Macdonald is visiting Queenstown.
Dr Cuthbert McCaw is the guest of Mrs Hugh McCaw, Grasmere.
Mrs Gordon Macdonald is visiting Queenstown.
Mrs A. Fleming, Gore, is the guest of Mrs Bruce Ireland, Earn street.
Mr G. M. and Miss Broughton gave a most delightful dance in Ashley's Hall on Friday evening last. Among the guests I noticed Mr and Mrs Gabites; Mr and Mrs Hall-Jones; Mr and Mrs A. Macdonald; Mrs T. M. Macdonald; Mr and Mrs P. D. Macdonald; Misses Bews (2); Henderson; Tucker; Anderson; Morrah (2); Hazlett; H. Macdonald; Haggitt; Guthrie; M. Logan; Wylie; Crofts; Corbett. Messrs Tucker; Farnel; Cameron; Christophers; Douglas; Mahoney; Callender; St. George; Tapley; Prain; Wadworth; Mac; M. Mitchell; Dr Macdonald and many others.

OBITUARY

It is with regret that we record the death of Mrs Garfield Crawford, an ardent war worker, who gave untiring energy to War Service. Dr Crawford has a brilliant war record, and an ex-president of the Returned Soldiers' Association. All soldiers will extend their sincere sympathy to him in his sad bereavement.

INTERPROVINCIAL FOOTBALL.

SOUTHLAND (28) v. WANGANUI (28).
(Maroon) (Blue and Black).

The teams were: Southland—Backs: L. Brown, Holmes, O'Kane, Fortune; Stead, L. Loppell, J. Dalgleish. Forwards: Smith, McKenzie, Langbein, Whyte, Miller, Cockroft, Sparkes and Baird.

Wanganui: Backs: Grogan, Paranki, Collier, Scott, Svenson, McAuliffe, Sanderson. Forwards: Bellis, Campion, G.

The fifth game between the provinces resulted as above, giving Southland one win to the good at the end of an exciting match, spoilt by the drizzling rain. According to the official programme issued the Wanganui forwards averaged 12 stone 7 1-8 pounds, the Southland forwards 12 stone 5½ pounds; so that on a forward day, with Roche out, the home pack won the game for Southland. The home backs were nearly five pounds heavier all round. Wanganui kicked off, lining out well, the curly place dropping just as their man got to it, the effort landing them in the home 25. The first line saw a great passing effort from their half Sanderson, wing three' Paranki coming right down the middle of the field and punting over the bar, his fast scrumman G. Ross and Campion reaching the ball in dead-line within a minute of the opening kick. It was hard luck for the visitors. Baird kicked the 25 badly and Wanganui centred at once, coming to the home stretch and bustling Brown and Loppell failing to reach the ball, when Sanderson snapped a mark, and Bellis dropped a goal. Another minute had gone. Wanganui 3. The Maroons lined up right across the field and Cockroft kicked to where his men could not reach, four of them having too far to run. However, the position had its possibilities if the kick hadn't. Wanganui returned the half-way kicked ball to Southland's 30 and at once came through our lines to five yards from the corner, the forwards looked flurried and the backs vainly diving at the slippery ball. Followed a very long line and a scrum, Wed receiving and kicking, but the visitors returned to the attack, a defence pass and a free for an off-side relieving the home team, a free charge bettering to exactly the 25, from which line Loppell kicked across well. A mark came to Maroons on the rush, and Fortune came into the play. The scrum fed Dalgleish, who was blocked for passing, wisely kicking, the return, however, being muffed and Wanganui came through, and, receiving a free kicked to the press-table. On they moved rolling themselves through our lines, Brown taking a very clever mark, the kick returning play to the table, Southland getting a slight gain from the line. The visiting half showed up with a burst through, Holmes speculating and Brown saving for Holmes to get the ball and kick weakly, Wanganui entering the 25 and bringing play to the home corner. Dalgleish ran to the blind side and kicked a smart relief. The Colours put in some good passing and the Maroon forwards cleared, Holmes receiving and kicking poorly. A free to Southland brought play to mid-field where a line gave a knock back and a kick to Colours, Miller failing to take, but a dribble with Holmes in attendance sent a high one which the Colour centre disdained to mark, Cockroft taking a catch the kick from which put Wanganui into a passing rush cleared by Brown to the 35 from home. The Colours then got into our 25, where a great pass showing several changes of direction made Southland look poor. The opposing forwards beat all the backs to O'Kane, and getting a mark kicked high to Brown who cleared, his kicking being only a little better than that of Holmes. From a line Dalgleish and Stead did some work, the latter handling twice, but Holmes missed the ball and Wanganui came into two attacks in which Brown saved his kicking being sure but not long. He was very greasy. Here the visitors did some tackling though they offended less in this respect than any other of the visiting teams. The visitors did several scrums, perambulations and received a free that looked like Southland's, O'Kane returning to be rooted back to Brown who managed a very short punt, play coming to middle. The backs near the scrum didn't appear to be in the game for a time, the forwards moving into Colour ground, and overkicking to allow Wanganui a high punt and an offside rush on Brown. The kick went into the last stretch and Baird broke away, a knock-on checking, the scrum feeding to Stead who checked, the scrum receiving and running well to beat Paranki and he collared by Heads who went right into his knees O'Kane picking up and scoring for Whyte to land a good goal. Southland 5. Wanganui 3. Colours kicked very long and