

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

The Minister of Lands (the Hon D. H. Guthrie) said he understood that this question emanated from the Wanganui Returned Soldiers' Association. As he had stated before, all applications up to the end of June had been cleared that had been sent to the head office to forward applications in order of priority. At the time he made that statement he was receiving applications for the month of July, and because of that he knew that all applications for June were cleared. It must be understood, however, that there were always outstanding applications. It was said that there were applications outstanding, which had been coming in since last March. If there were, they were applications for the purchase of houses that would not be entertained. In fact the Government was not encouraging the purchase of houses, for that tended merely to raise the prices to the soldiers and everybody else. What they were doing was to encourage the purchase of land and the erection of houses. There were exceptions to the rule, however. Only that day he had sanctioned the purchase of a house because it was an urgent case—that of a married man whose wife was just coming out of a private hospital, and had nowhere to go. There was no delay so far as he knew that could be avoided. In no case did they allow any delay where the money was available and everything was satisfactory.