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FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE.

IN MEMORIAM.

WAKEFIELD.—In proud and loving memory of Private Archibald McPherson Wakefield, dearly beloved youngest son of the late Wm. Wakefield and Priscilla Keith, who was killed in action at Passchendaele, France, on Friday, October 12, 1917; aged 22 years 4 months.

Sigh not for me,
I've done my duty;
And comrades brave above my head
Press on to victory.
Weep not for me,
It is as I would have it;
Blue skies above, kind dust beneath,
And you to think of me.

—Inserted by his sorrowing and loving mother.

"The Digger."

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1920.

T. B. MEN.

The treatment of T.B. men is one which has necessitated a great deal of thought and careful handling. It is possible that it is one of the most difficult problems to be faced by those who control the repatriation of the soldier from war to peace. In Australia the problem has assumed considerable magnitude and it seems evident that every attempt is being made to attain a high degree of efficiency and give the men the best conditions possible to restore them to health. The medical section of the department of repatriation have given much thought to the question of returned tuberculars and as a result, a system has been evolved which is declared to be the realisation of an ideal for which the profession have been striving for years. The tubercular cases handled by the Department include:

- (1) Sanatoria—early cases.
- (2) Men whose disease has been arrested.
- (3) Incurable cases.

To these the following policy is being applied:—

Class (1) are treated in sanatoria already existing for the purpose, including those either privately or State-owned, but

they are segregated from the civilian cases. During the period of sanatorium treatment, the men are educated as to their future course of life by lectures, demonstrations, and printed matter, and encouraged and shown how to keep their disease in subjection when once it has been arrested and they have been discharged from the institution.

For Class (2) cases, in each State a communal farm, to insure open-air employment under adequate medical supervision, has been established. These will provide married quarters, so as to encourage the man to maintain his family ties, and to prevent the dread of prolonged separation from his family from militating against his submitting himself for treatment. For single men there are dormitories, and for all there is a central clubroom, which furnishes plenty of recreative facilities. Educational arrangements for the children have been made. The stability of a man's condition can thus be judged, and allowances paid or assistance provided commensurate with his state of health. Those who are well on the way to recovery and have regained sufficient strength to become self-reliant can then be assisted on the land under the Soldiers' Settlement Schemes, an outdoor calling more than any other relied on to ward off a recurrence of the disease.

Those men (Class 3) whose disease is past arresting, and who may be classed as incurable tuberculars, are segregated in cheerful homes, established expressly for its purpose in the vicinity of the metropolis, so as to be easily accessible to their relatives and friends, and thus with shade trees, lawns, chalets, and good recreative facilities the last days of these men will be brightened.

Furthermore, and most importantly, the separation of these men from Classes (1) and (2) will not only permit of their declining days being made as bright and happy as possible, but will also exclude from the less advanced cases the depressing effect upon them of haemorrhages and rapid decline which would otherwise tend to retard recovery.

DIGGERS' LETTER BOX.

TO THE EDITOR "SOUTHLAND TIMES," INVERCARGILL.

Sir,—In your leading columns of October 6, there appeared an article headed "Power Board and Council." The following paragraph is excised from the article in question:—"Councillor Blake seems to us to have presumed too much in suggesting that the amending bill was brought into being by the Auditor-General's objection to the chairman's visit to the Old Country on the board's business. A little consideration of the dates upon which this visit was proposed and on which the amending act was prepared, will show the hollowness of Councillor Blake's contention, and as we understand the position, the 'objection of the Auditor-General' does not exist as a barrier to the chairman's visit to Britain."

The plain facts are that we have presumed no more than the chairman of the Board stated. When discussing this point at the Council meeting, reference was made to Section 34 of the Electric Power Board's Act, and it was never suggested that the Auditor-General's letter was a factor in the whole of the provisions of the new Amending Bill. The point is that the Auditor-General does not consider that there is sufficient power in the Act to enable the chairman to go to any part of the world to purchase machinery. The following is an extract from "The Digger" of October 1st, and happened at the last meeting of the Power Board:—

"Under the heading of 'Business held over from last meeting,' the Auditor-General's communication and the question of legal costs were discussed. Regarding the Auditor-General's communication, the Chairman stated that it should be held over. The amendment to the Electric Power Board's Act was not through Parliament yet. As soon as it was through, it would dispense with the Auditor's objection to the expenses of the Chairman being paid by the Board during his trip abroad."

A member: What is our own solicitors' view on the matter?

Chairman: Our solicitors advise that the Act gives ample power, but the amending Bill will dispense with any possible objection from the Auditor.

Mr Fowler: We should deal with the position as it stands to-day. We have had no power to make the arrangements and we should see that we are in accordance with the Act as it is at present.

At this stage members considered that they could do nothing as no action would be taken until the Bill was through.

Mr Fowler: Better policy on our part to acknowledge communication from Auditor.

The Chairman stated that it had been

acknowledged and referred to the solicitors.

Mr Fowler: But we have confirmed the position regarding the Chairman's trip Home. The business was done in committee, and confirmed at a later meeting.

It was eventually decided to hold the matter over until the Bill was through, Mr Fowler voting against it."

In conclusion, sir, to use your own phrase, you will see the "hollowness" of your comment as indicated in the above paragraph.—I am, etc.,

EDITOR "DIGGER."

ELECTRIC POWER BOARD.

(To the Editor).

Sir,—When the electrification idea was in the embryo stage, a member of the Southland League lectured on the commissioner system. His arguments must have carried weight, for we find that the Southland Electrical Power Board has adopted the system without so much as by-your-leave. The Board have given Mr Rodger the powers of a managing director.

Two hundred a year is certainly a meagre payment for such an onerous position, so the Board with all secrecy and haste, get the Act amended to permit of a rise in salary or rather honorarium.

Why all these back-stairs methods? Why not ask outright for the power to elect a commissioner and pay him a recent salary. £3000 is not too much. The rate-payers, however, should decide who is to be the man for the job and not the Board. I am thoroughly in accord with one-man control, provided you get the right man for the purpose, and a sufficient salary must be offered to bring out the right man.—I am, etc.,

ONE-MAN CONTROL,
Invercargill, 7th October, 1920.

A REPLY TO JACQUES.

Dear Jacques,—In your reply to my last, you complain that I sneered at some of your statements. I did. I admit the sneer. I asked you to justify your claim that Joseph McCabe's "usual method" of explaining spiritist phenomena was to ascribe them to telepathy, that "he was, and it," persistent in the use of this method, that he holds that "telepathy provides the whole key to the puzzle" and that he continues to use this argument "for all that is worth." And you reheat answer was to refer me to two books published ten and six years ago, in the latter of which you had to leave out a qualifying word in order to make your case a little stronger. I admit the sneer freely. You advise me to re-read your statement as to the £1000 challenge and to note that it runs "to Joseph McCabe—or anyone else." I am well aware how it ran. Here it is: "So persistent was—and is—Joseph McCabe's dogmatic use (of the telepathic argument) that a writer to the British press was some time ago provoked into offering Joseph McCabe—or anyone else—a considerable sum of money (£1000, I think) for proof of telepathy under test conditions." Not one reader in a hundred would take that to mean other than that the challenge was made directly to McCabe and, of course, it strengthened your case to make it appear that McCabe had been individually picked out. Again I feel that sneering impulse twitching at my labial muscles.

Further, you quote me as saying that many of the incidents brought forward by Conan Doyle "all came easily within the scope of the telepathic hypothesis." Really, your genius for misquotation is masterly! What I said was "all these could have been explained away, more or less successfully, by the telepathic hypothesis." Out of fifteen words you manage to get eleven wrong! Not that I would trouble about absolute accuracy as long as the sense is there, but your misquotations have all been in the same direction; they either help to strengthen your own case or to damage your opponent's. It is not fair fighting. To conclude I must point out that you reduce your own position to an absurdity. In one breath you declare that McCabe holds telepathy to be "the whole key to the puzzle" and in the next you say that there are a great many puzzles which he does not try to unlock with this key. You're getting mixed.—I am, etc.,

A.

That enterprise is by no means dead in Southland has been shown on more than one occasion. The local vendors of wholesome foodstuffs, Messrs A. C. Millars, Ltd., whose bakery is generally recognised as a model throughout the Dominion, have again demonstrated a spirit of progressiveness in overcoming oppressive restrictions in the matter of supplies—a complaint that is all too common at this end of the Dominion—and are now in a position to be able to meet the demand for their attractive products.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Auckland has been without gas for the first time in fifty-five years.

The Broken Hill mine will re-open. Provision is made for a 39 hour week.

Latest returns show that 13,000 hands are required to fully man New Zealand factories.

There were over 100 applicants for the lease of a four-roomed cottage in Wellington.

Many business firms in Britain are urging the early resumption of trade with Russia.

The Poles captured practically the whole of the headquarters staff of the Fourth Red Army.

An outbreak of riots and strikes is reported in Petrograd owing to the shortage of food and war weariness.

Unprecedented rains have fallen in the Kiwitea country and caused considerable damage to roads and bridges.

Lord Haig speaking at Tredegar, made a further appeal to Welshmen to redeem the nation's debt to the ex-service men.

A message from Melbourne states that the postal and telegraphic rates have been gazetted.

Sinn Feiners ambushed a party of police. The inspector of police was killed and two constables wounded.

It is estimated that the audit of the American financial "wizard's" accounts by the Federal auditor will show a deficit of about £600,000.

Captain Fryatt's ship, the Brussels, was sold to Mr T. B. Stott, a Liverpool ship-owner, at the Baltic Exchange for £3,100.

The death is announced of Sir Norman Lockyer, a great astronomer, who made striking discoveries in solar physics and astro-chemistry.

An aeroplane carrying six passengers and mails from Croydon to Paris crashed into some back gardens near the aerodrome. The passengers were unhurt.

Active campaigning for and against prohibition in Glasgow is now going on in preparation for the local option polls on November 2.

The Auckland Electric Tramways Company's balance sheet shows a profit of £47,735. A dividend of 1s 3d a share has been declared, and £9610 carried forward.

An oil barge burst into flames near Woolwich and, drifting about the river, set fire to several barges, a ferry boat, a pontoon, and some fire engines. The skipper of the oil barge is missing.

Ten informations have been laid against four well known warehouses for alleged profiteering in the sale of tweeds. The Crown Solicitor stated that the public would be staggered when they knew all the facts.

The Prime Minister states that 7,937 German heavy guns, 35,950 field guns and howitzers, and 2,729,804 small arms had been surrendered or destroyed up to August 5. Air craft surrendered or destroyed number 943.

Sinn Fein recruiting has experienced a partial set-back recently, and the leaders have therefore initiated a sort of conscription, warning young farmers that if they fail to enlist they will be barred from sending cattle to the fairs.

The Tennessee Senate has voted for the amendment of the Constitution providing for woman suffrage, and the Lower House of the State is expected to vote for the amendment next week. Tennessee will have been the 36th State to declare in favour of woman suffrage, and accordingly woman suffrage will become the law of all the States.

Many returned soldiers, particularly troopers of the Mounted Rifles, will remember Mr W. G. Bradley, whose home in Cairo was thrown open to men of all units quartered in Egypt. Mr Bradley is visiting Wellington for the purpose of giving a number of talks on vital matters of the day. On account of the magnificent services rendered by him to the troops during the Egyptian campaign, he has been described by many returned men as the "soldiers' friend." He is an attractive speaker with a magnetic personality.