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REQUIRE, AND PAY CASH  
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business in these lines we've mentioned.  
Our carts will call at your home on re-  
ceipt of an order or a ring to 101 on the  
phone.

A TAUHERENIKAU TRAGEDY.

(By 49/672, In Te Kiwi.)

I never shall forget the day we landed  
at that cheerful little spot,  
Where canvas tents predominate and  
comfy huts are not.

We'd had a cup of tea and cake quite  
early in the day,

And at three p.m. the most of us were  
feeling rather gay.

We couldn't spot a biscuit, there was  
no sign of bread;

We wished we were at Trentham and  
we wished that we were dead.

Then suddenly arose a cry, "Here comes  
the bally scran,"

And we wildly charged the rations with  
desperate elan.

The tucker suffered badly, and although  
we had some jam,

We wanted fish and poultry, we wanted  
eggs and ham.

We finished all the scraps, then we wan-  
dered round about,

And we saw some hungry blighters who  
had brought the baggage out.

Their faces were a study, and went as  
white as lard,

When we told them there was nothing  
left to feed the baggage guard.

The position grew quite serious, the  
Quarter's face was grave,

And he hunted through the country far  
and wide;

But not a scrap of tucker to that bag-  
gage guard he gave,

So of hunger want and famine they all  
died.

The sole survivors gathered round that  
awe-inspiring sight,

And pitched their tents upon their  
graves and slept in them that night,

And many a day has passed since then,  
but we can ne'er forget

The noble souls who gave their lives to  
guard Bill Massey's kit.

The Archbishop of Brisbane, address-  
ing a Church Missionary Society meeting  
in London on behalf of the New Guinea  
mission, said conditions in the Pacific  
were changing with lightning rapidity,  
traders, missionaries, and administrators  
co-operating in a solution of one of the  
greatest problems of the world and pro-  
moting the civilisation of races who other-  
wise must perish. The Bishop of New  
Guinea claimed that Papua was the only  
part of the world free from labour  
troubles.

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Fancy Mixed, etc.

For the high quality this asso-  
ciation represents the prices are

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They are smart cut, and perfect  
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They keep their shape, and look

They are reasonable in price.

£7 10/-, £8, £8 10/-

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have to refuse orders, and don't want  
to do that.

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BOYS' NARROW TIES, 9d, 1/-, up to 2/6.

BUY OUR TIES AND YOU WILL HAVE NO TROUBLE WITH TWISTED LININGS.

McGruer, Taylor & Co.

# THE SILENT WIFE!

Remarkable Drama of Married Life.

By MARK ENGLISH.

## THE FIRST PART.

Doris Thobury, the sister of the children's ward, was telling the little ones stories, when the door opened and the matron and Dr Weston came in. Doris's cheeks took a deep tint, for she loved the kindly, grave-faced young doctor deeply.

As the doctor went his rounds, she held each little patient's hand, for the pain never seemed so bad when Sister Doris was near, and when all the patients had been examined her duty for the day was over.

As she was going out of the Cottage Hospital gate, Paul Weston overtook her. "May I accompany you?" he asked, and she smiled and nodded. They spoke of many things, and at last when they had reached a more secluded spot the doctor seized her hand.

"Miss Thobury," he said, "I love you—I love you with all my heart and soul. Will you be my wife?" She looked at him steadfastly as she answered "Yes." It was some time later when they parted, and when they did so Doris was the happiest girl in the world.

The next morning she received a telegram: "Come home immediately," it ran. "You are wanted at once." And a little later she was speeding towards her home.

At the very moment she was answering Paul Weston on the previous night, an interview was going on which was to alter her whole life.

"Those are my terms; take them or leave them. Accept them and I pull you through; refuse and you are ruined!" The speaker, Roger Armer, was a strong hard man; he was Walter Thobury's manager, and the man he faced as he uttered those words was Walter Thobury himself.

Doris's father was a failure; he was weak and lazy, and as he faced his manager he looked frightened. His uncle had died and left him the huge business of Thobury and Co. But he did not trouble himself about the business; he left it all in the hands of Roger Armer. And now he found that he was on the brink of ruin, and only Armer could pull him through, and that he would only do so on one condition, and that was that he should marry Doris. And in his weakness and fear of ruin the crushed man agreed—actually agreed to sacrifice his daughter to save himself.

When he told Doris she was horrified. "Father," she cried, "you are not in earnest. Marry Mr Armer? I couldn't. You can't mean it."

But her father did mean it, and he grovelled on his knees and begged her to save him by the only means she could. At last she cast aside all her hopes for the future and promised. That evening she wrote a short note to Paul Weston telling him she had changed her mind and could never be his wife.

The engagement was announced, and eventually came the fateful wedding day. The service commenced, and at last came the words which she was to repeat: "To love, honour and obey." Could she say them?

"I cannot say those words!" she gasped, and the service came to an abrupt stop as she was led from the altar to the vestry. It was then she realised that the words must be said. They went back to the altar and Doris Thobury became Doris Armer. It was all over and they were driving towards their home before Roger spoke.

"I am your master now," he said as they drove up to the house. "I'll soon teach you obedience, once we are inside those walls."

## CHAPTER VI.

### HER GILDED CAGE.

Almost before the newly-married couple had entered the house, Doris Armer had pulled herself together.

When she passed into the large hall, where a staff of servants received her, she had banished all traces of the bitter weeping. Love was not for her, but pride remained.

Too well did Doris realise that the latter could never take the place of the former softer emotion. But it was all she had left—the only weapon with which to fight the dark future that lay before her.

As she passed through the stately hall on her way to her own rooms, she was conscious that her husband's eyes followed her. They wore an inscrutable expression, one she could not make out.

She fancied she caught a flash of pity, and this hardened her more than a studied insult would have done.

How dare he pity her! She bore his name; she had forced herself to utter vows at the altar against which her whole soul had revolted; even to the making of a scene which—too well she knew—Roger Armer would never forgive.

Oh! If only she had had the courage to remain in the vestry, and not return to the church! She would be free now.

He had declared himself her master. Well, it was up to her to prevent this.

It was now that Doris Armer made the first and greatest mistake of her married life. Had she gone to Roger Armer, told how unhappy she was, asked him to be gentle with her, hold out a helping hand to lift her out of this Slough of Despond, it is very probable that all would, in time, have gone well.

But pride held her back—that, and some force within her to which she could not give a name.

And so, with head up, her beautiful face pale and determined, she followed the housekeeper—a stately dame in a black silk dress and old lace collar—to the magnificent suite of apartments Mr Armer had prepared for his bride.

Certainly they were superb! Even Doris prejudiced as she was, could not but admit that Roger had carried out his promise of giving her everything the heart of woman could desire from the point of view of luxury.

But, in her present frame of mind, she saw in her beautiful rooms nothing but an over-lavish display of the wealth for which her father had sold her.

In the housekeeper she saw a spy—a gaoler. Had not Mrs Spry been in the Armer family all her life—nursed Roger as an infant?

With intense pride Mrs Spry flung open the massive doors, and stood back respectfully to allow her new mistress to pass in before her.

"I hope you like the rooms, ma'am?" She smiled genially into Doris's cold, pale face. "It's Master Roger's own taste. Every bit of the decoration was done under the master's own eye. I hope you are pleased, ma'am."

"I am not fond of blue," Ellen said coldly, as she went up to the grate, where a fire of logs was burning brightly; for the evening was chill, and, as Mrs Spry remarked, "A good fire was always a welcome home."

The young wife shivered as she looked round at the blue-and-silver draperies—the exquisite pale blue brocade that covered the furniture.

This was her cell, the interior of her gilded prison; and even into this gilded cage her master would have the right to come. She was his wedded wife.

An intense feeling of desolation swept over her. She was obliged to bite her lips hard to prevent herself breaking down before—her gaoler; for so, in her own mind, did she regard poor, inoffensive Mrs Spry.

"Oh, ma'am! Mr Roger will be disappointed! He said blue was your colour—that you had on a blue dress the first day he saw you. He said, too, that, as you were fair, with a complexion of milk and roses—and, indeed," the garrulous dame continued, "he was right there—blue would suit you. I'm sorry you don't like your rooms, ma'am."

There was real distress in the old servant's voice, and for a few moments Doris wondered if she was not just a little unjust and suspicious. Mrs Spry's next words were unfortunate.

"Master said he expected you'd spend most of your time in your own apartments, so he wanted them to be bright and cheerful."

"I am much obliged to Mr Armer for his kind forethought," Doris said freezingly, though her heart sank like lead. "It is kind on his part to make my prison comfortable."

She laughed bitterly—a laugh that held a note of hysteria. And, to tell the truth, Doris Armer's nerves had about reached breaking-point.

Of this show of weakness she was desperately afraid. Her only chance of peace—happiness was out of the question

—lay in holding her own with the man who had bought her.

"Oh, ma'am! Indeed, I'm sure Mr Roger never meant you to feel like that! You're a bit tired with your journey. I'll send tea. And here's your maid, Jenkins. She was maid to Miss Armer, but Master Armer asked his sister to let you have Jenkins, and Miss Armer agreed."

A very panic of anger rushed over Doris. Another gaoler! Another spy! Even in her own rooms she would never be alone!

She had heard Roger speak of his sister Marion, an unmarried woman some years older than himself. He had always alluded to her as a thoroughly capable woman.

Already Doris hated Miss Armer. By a strong effort the bride controlled herself.

Jenkins placed a dainty tea-table near the fire. She was a pleasant-faced woman of about five-and-thirty; but, jaundiced as she now was, Doris saw nothing pleasant in the plain face and homely figure of her new maid.

Everything had been done for her without reference to her own particular tastes! Furniture, colour scheme, attendants—all had been selected by the hand of the man who had declared himself her master.

"I hope you have everything you require, madam?" Jenkins inquired. "At what time would you wish me to dress you? Dinner is served at seven o'clock."

"By whose orders?" Doris inquired sharply.

"By the master's."

"Order it for eight. Seven is too early for me."

Jenkins hesitated.

"The master mentioned seven. Cook had orders for that hour."

"I wish it at eight," Doris said firmly. "I shall not be ready before," she said.

"You will probably wish to wear your wedding dress this evening, madam?" Jenkins ventured, hoping that this cold, pale bride would assent, and so give them the pleasure of seeing their master's young wife in her wedding finery.

Then, as Mrs Spry had gone, she made an unfortunate remark.

"Master said you would, just to give us servants a treat." She smiled, all unaware of the storm her chance words had raised in her mistress's breast.

"So I'm not even allowed to dress as I choose!" she thought.

"I shall certainly not wear my wedding dress!" she said. "You are at liberty to look at it—show it to your fellow servants—but not on me!"

"Oh, I'm sorry, madam! It wouldn't be a bit the same! You'd look so lovely in white. I've unpacked a pretty evening dress. Shall I put that out for to-night? Brides usually dress in white just at first."

"Brides!" thought the girl bitterly. "Yes, happy brides dressed in white because they were happy, and to please the man they loved beyond all others. But she was not happy, and—she did not love her bridegroom. She could never, never love Roger Armer."

"I shall not wear white. There is a black lace dress. Put it out, and—I shall not require you to dress me. I wish to be alone."

After this very decided rebuff there was nothing left to Jenkins but to retire.

"I can't understand the new mistress," the maid confided to Mrs Spry. "There's no pleasing her. And—I shouldn't say so to anyone but to another old family servant—but it almost looks as though she disliked her husband. But that can't be. No one could dislike such a fine, handsome man as Master Roger."

Mrs Spry had thought much the same thing, but her loyalty prevented her from agreeing with Jenkins.

"She's over-tired," she said. "These big weddings take it out of a girl. You let 'em be, Jenkins; you'll see they'll be like turtle doves before the evening's over."

Had Doris overheard the old dame's prophecy how bitterly she would have laughed.

It was in anything but a turtle-dove frame of mind that she went down the great black and green marble staircase, to join her husband in the big reception room, which had been brilliantly illuminated for the occasion.

Never, thought Roger Armer, had he seen Doris look so beautiful, so dignified

as she did on the first evening of their wedded life.

He frowned as he saw she was dressed in black, though he was obliged to own nothing could have set off the pearly tints of her marvellous skin to more advantage than this soft, clinging black dress she had elected to wear, instead of the white satin he had wished her to don.

It was just possible, he thought, that the sight of her wedding dress would recall the unpleasant scene in the church.

So he tried to find excuses. And though he thought that, at any rate, she need not have chosen a black dress, he made no remark; but, going forward, held out his hand and smiled.

"Rested, I hope, Doris?"

"Yes, thank you."

She went past him, ignoring the outstretched hand. At that particular moment she felt contact with him to be impossible.

"I am glad to hear that," Roger said quietly, though instinctively he felt humiliated by her coldness, "because an old friend called to see me, and I asked her remain to dinner. But if you like I can easily put Isobel Vane off. She will quite understand that we wish to be alone this evening. Indeed, she is waiting to know if she is to remain."

The colour rushed to Doris's face, but she kept silence.

"It is for you to decide, Doris. Miss Vane is not unknown to you. I understand she was a friend of—yours."

"Miss Vane," said Doris coldly, "is but an acquaintance. But I know her to be a friend of yours, so by all means let her remain to dinner."

"I will go and fetch her. She is waiting in the library."

Roger left the room. As soon as the door closed behind him, Doris began to pace the floor. Isobel Vane here! Come to welcome her! What was it she had heard about Miss Vane?

Ah! she had it now! Rumour had linked her name with Mr Armer's. It was said that Isobel Vane had once been very much in love with Roger. But that was not saying Roger had been attracted by Miss Vane. If he had been, he would have married her, and not Doris Thobury.

Doris could not quite account for the little feeling of annoyance she experienced as the minutes went by and her husband did not reappear with their visitor. Evidently she was that most detestable creature, "A dog in the manger."

"I'm glad Isobel is here," she told herself. Her presence will relieve the situation. How I dreaded that long first dinner with my master!"

In this frame of mind she turned to greet her first visitor.

## CHAPTER VII.

### A SNAKE IN THE GRASS.

The girl—or rather woman—who entered on Roger's arm was certainly a very striking-looking individual. Isobel Vane was not beautiful, like Doris. Her features were too irregular for beauty. But there was such an intense vitality in her face that, in spite of obvious defects, it was generally voted attractive.

She had fine dark eyes, and a wealth of magnificent red hair which was a beauty in itself. Her figure was well developed; her carriage erect if somewhat stiff. As to age, Isobel Vane might have been anything between twenty-five and thirty. Besides her Roger's bride looked little more than a child.

Miss Vane was an adept at concealing her feelings. Therefore she allowed nothing of her surprise to appear in her cordial greeting of her hostess.

"I do call it sweet of you, Mrs Armer, to allow me to see you. I made a mistake in the date of your wedding. I thought it was last week, instead of this one. I feel such an intruder. I'm sure Roger must possibly loathe me, though sending Roger an arch glance—"he's ever so much too polite to say so."

"I assure you, Miss Vane," Doris hastened to say, "I'm absolutely charmed to see you. I know my husband is. Are you not, Roger?"

"Yes, of course, I am. I'm always pleased to see Isobel."

Doris smiled her sweetest. She owed Roger compensation for having humiliated him before the whole congregation that morning. Her chance had come sooner than she had anticipated, and she intended

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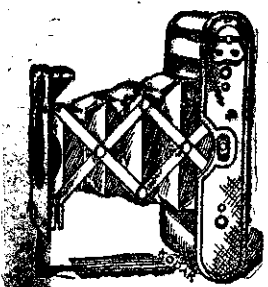
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to make the most of it, and show him how magnanimous she could be. But oddly enough, Roger took everything for granted.

There was a pause when dinner was announced. Two ladies to one man! Ordinary etiquette would, of course, have sent Isobel in on her host's arm. The occasion demanded that a bridegroom should escort his bride.

"Oh, take Doris! May I call you Doris?" said Isobel.

Doris made no answer. She stood away, a little aloof, a mask-like expression on her face. Roger felt decidedly uncomfortable.

"Let me offer you each an arm," he said, seeking this way out of the difficulty. "I object to honours divided," laughed Doris. But her laugh was mirthless, and didn't ring true.

With a certain amount of ceremony, Roger led his young wife to the head of the table where she sat silent; intensely unhappy, grateful that the presence of a third person relieved her in a measure from the awkwardness of a tete-a-tete.

If only Paul Weston had been her bridegroom.

The thought flashed unbidden through her mind, as thoughts have a knack of doing. How different everything would have been then.

And then, swiftly, she thrust the thought from her. It was a sin, now, to think overmuch of her old sweetheart. She was Roger Armer's wife now, and only death could break the bond that bound them one to the other.

Presently she forced herself to join in the animated conversation that Roger and Isobel had started, but there were so many allusions to situations she knew nothing about, so many "Do you remember," that at length she stopped talking, and listened instead.

Presently Miss Vane rose, and approached the bride, who was now sitting near the uncurtained window, gazing out into the soft radiance of an early autumn night.

She was thinking how beautiful were the gardens of her new home; how happy she might have been if her marriage with Roger Armer had been dictated by love and not by duty!

The bargain had not been of her making. Still, she had consented to it; and now she must abide by the consequences. "Good-night, Doris," Isobel said aloud; and then, as Roger went away to order a car to take Miss Vane to her cottage in the village, she caught the girl's hands in hers. "It has been good of you to put up with me—this evening of all evenings—when I know you are longing to be alone with Roger. You lucky, lucky girl! How I envy you! You have—everything!"

Isobel sighed as her dark eyes followed Doris's clear grey ones, and rested on the park-like grounds.

"You need not—envy me!" Doris forced a smile. "One day you will be in my position. No, no." She rose, pale and trembling. "I—I don't mean that. Heaven forbid that any girl should be as—as—"

She broke off and put her hand to her head. Her endurance had almost reached its limit. The events of the day, the conflicting emotions that swept her very soul were having the usual result.

Reaction had set in, bringing with it a sense of utter and complete exhaustion. Oh, how tired she was. What would she not give to be alone.

But henceforth this could never be. Doris Thobury had ceased to exist: Doris Armer had taken her place.

Isobel read her like a book, and a feeling of triumph entered into her.

"She isn't in love with him," she thought. "There's a screw loose somewhere. I wonder what it is? She seems afraid of him, and yet I could swear Roger loves her. I caught the expression in his eyes when he looked at her. And yet he seemed to be as much relieved by my presence to-night as she was. There's something at the back of it all that at present I can't understand. But I'll find out. Now I come to think of it, there was some talk of her marrying Doctor Weston."

Then she started.

"Weston? Surely that's the name of the man whom Doctor Leech is taking into partnership! I must find out if his Christian name is Paul!"

"Good-night," she said again, and bent and kissed the delicate face. "You happy, lucky girl."

She went softly out into the hall, where Roger was impatiently waiting to see her off.

Deep down in Armer's heart was an aching longing to make his young wife love him, to see those beautiful grey eyes melt beneath his glance, to feel the touch of a pair of soft lips upon his own.

He was, therefore in no mood to listen further to Isobel's reminiscences of old times, and when she whispered that this autumn night reminded her of a night

even more perfect, long ago, he bade her a curt good-night; nor did he respond, as she would have liked, to her pressing invitation to "drop in" when he felt lonely.

"You forget," he said curtly, "that I am a married man now. That changes everything."

"It does, indeed!" she sighed; and sent him a sentimental glance.

As the car glided away, she turned and waved her hand to the tall form of the man as he stood bareheaded in the moonlight.

"How handsome he is!" Her eyes grew dim. "And to think that, but for Doris Thobury, I might have been his wife! Roger is a man. He may be hard, even cruel; but he can love as well as hate."

It was with very mixed feelings that Roger Armer re-entered his house. He had got what he wanted, as he did most things that he set his heart on; but the fulfilment of his dearest wish had brought him no happiness.

There was no triumph in his soul as he gazed on that solitary figure in black that sat on still in the great, splendid room. There was something pathetic in the droop of the slender shoulders. But as he advanced, making his presence known by calling her name, the girlish figure stiffened, and into the pale face there came an expression no bridegroom would care to see on his bride's face.

The words Roger had been going to utter died on his lips.

"You are thoroughly tired, Doris," he said quietly. "I'm going to ring for your maid."

He went towards the bell, but before he reached it Doris said:

"I'd rather not have her, if—if you don't mind."

The shrinking, the coldness of her words froze Roger's heart. The tender words his heart dictated to this girl who was his very own turned to ice.

"Please yourself; you are mistress here," he said coldly.

The third chance had passed! It was hardly likely another would come to the unhappy couple chained together by this tragic marriage.

(To be Continued.)

## HERE AND THERE.

Mr F. Loughlin, New South Wales Minister for Lands, introduced a Bill into the Assembly to burst up large estates, permitting the owners to retain £20,000 worth. The Bill was read a first time.

The Commonwealth Government has acquired another timber forest for a total outlay of £48,500, situated in Victoria, for the purpose of making homes for war service men.

Complaints regarding alleged excessive charges for men's boots, drapery, and job printing were received by the Auckland Prices Investigation Committee.

The effect of the go-slow policy is indicated in a recent statement at the Liverpool colliery, although the number of working days are 40% in excess of last year, the output is less by nearly 8000 tons.

It is announced in Berlin by the Ministry of Posts that an agreement has been concluded with the Hearst (American) newspaper combination and with another American group for the promotion of German international cable traffic.

The Emir Feisal, who is reported to be about to come to England and France, is desirous of maintaining an alliance entered into by the Arabs with the Entente Powers, and is convinced that he can satisfy France as to the correctness of his attitude.

A man in Tipperary has been sentenced for being in possession of a note book containing Sinn Fein army instructions. Among the orders was one to prepare plans for attacking army barracks. Another order reads: "All 'Peelers' must be shot, unless a battalion officer is present. All 'Peelers' acting as spies must be shot. Get on active service immediately against vicious 'Peelers' and any others showing fight."

The United States Cabinet is considering proposals to send Mr Keano Shibasawa, who represents the Japanese Government in the United States, to confer with leading Americans regarding the Japanese-American situation. It is announced that Japan proposes to lay the question before the World Sunday School Congress, which meets in Tokio on October 5. The Japan-American Society may send to America a delegation of American business men in the Orient, to make an effort to foster better relations.

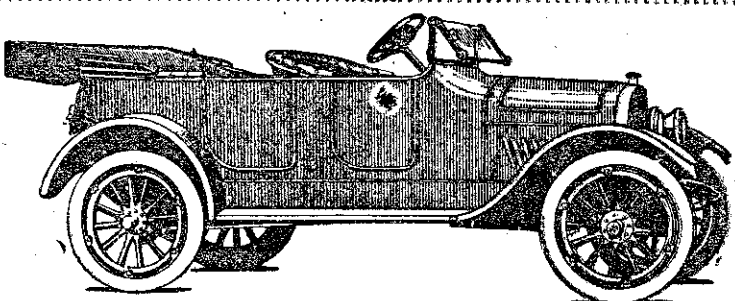
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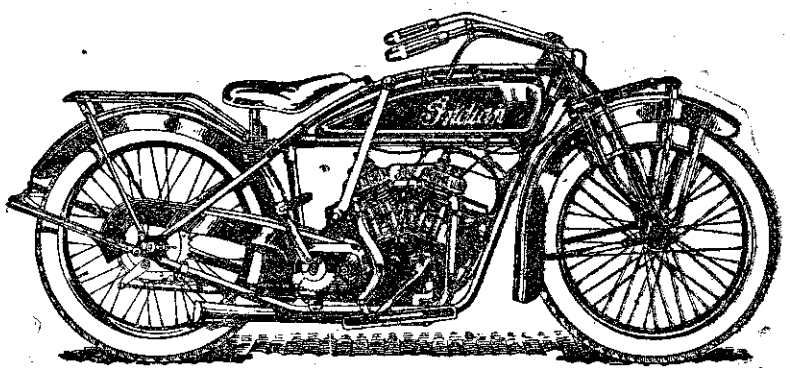
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**Discharged Soldiers' Settlement.**

**LOAN BILL OF £6,000,000.**

**COMPULSION IF NECESSARY.**

WELLINGTON, October 8.

In the House of Representatives this afternoon, Mr Massey moved the second reading of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Loans Bill. He said the Bill could scarcely be called contentious, as he thought most members agreed to the principle of helping soldiers. He wished to make it clear that the money would not be used for any other purpose until the soldiers had been supplied with the land required. The amount of the loan was £6,000,000, and he thought he saw a way of adding to that another £1,000,000. The rate of interest would be 5½ per cent., and though the term of the loan was not yet fixed, he thought it would not be less than ten years and not more than fifteen. Two and a-half millions of this loan would be set apart for payment of death duties and judging by the previous experience he thought this sum would be taken up for this purpose. There were compulsory clauses in the Bill but these differed from the provisions of the previous Bills, and would only amount to a sum equal to one year's land and income tax. This was the last compulsory loan, because nothing but the war justified compulsion, and as no further war was in sight he thought they could afford not to insist on compulsion in future. One clause instituted a new principle enabling the Government to buy back its own debentures if they were being sold on the market at below par. This was regularly done in Britain, and was, he thought, good business. Mr Massey then proceeded to read tabulated details of Government operations in connection with the repatriation and settlement of soldiers. Summing up these operations, he said they showed a great record. No country in the world had done so much for its soldiers, and he was particularly pleased to say that the great majority of the soldiers were doing well. There had been failures, but these were few and far between. The country was undoubtedly solvent, and he did not think the threatened commercial depression would affect us, or at least not for long. The whole of the future rested in our hands. What we had to do was to increase production, to bring new lands into productivity, and to make the cultivated lands produce more. The secondary industries should be encouraged, but the primary industries must come first. New Zealand would not be a manufacturing country for many years, and the most we could hope from the secondary industries was that they would supply local requirements for the next quarter of a century.

Mr T. M. Wilford said no one could doubt the solvency of the country, because while we had increased our indebtedness to £201,000,000 our private wealth alone would balance that. No one would object to assistance being given to soldiers but the question was whether we were doing the best we could with the money we had. He did not think it necessary to put the compulsory clauses into effect, because he believed that all the money required would be readily subscribed so good was the interest and so good was the investment. There was even a possibility of the Government receiving more money than was required, and if so he recommended the Government to adopt the suggestion made by Dr Thacker that the surplus should be handed over to local bodies, whose loan proposals might be imperilled by the more attractive Government proposals. The point he wished to make, however, was the failure of the Government from want of sympathy to take land compulsorily for soldiers. The Premier was fond of telling the House that he had made 20,000 sub-divisions in recent years, but when he was asked how many new settlers had been placed on these subdivisions he could not reply.

Mr Massey: It is quite impossible to say. Continuing, Mr Wilford said the whole of the land purchased for soldiers had been purchased by private treaty, and he quoted figures supplied by the Commissioner of Crown Lands in Canterbury giving the excessive prices being asked by the owners of land offered to the Government.

Mr Massey: These prices were not paid.

Mr Wilford declared that there were two properties in the Wairarapa which

belonged to two men without chick or child, and which soldiers were clamouring to have acquired. These estates ought to be taken and they should be taken through the Public Works Act. The Premier had said that land should be taken compulsorily. He said he would do so, but he had not done it. No individual should be permitted to hold land to block soldiers' settlement. It had been the proclaimed policy of the Government to settle soldiers now ending. He paid a tribute to the generous assistance given by the people in the Wairarapa in placing men on the land. Fifty thousand acres had been bought there much at about half the market value. On this 184 men were settled. Other parts of the Wellington province had also done well, and the province had settled more soldiers on the land than any other province. The Minister also detailed the good work done by the repatriation and after-care branches of the Department in looking after returned men. Applications for financial assistance had lately decreased. Up to September 30, 4375 loans for acquiring or establishing businesses had been approved, involving an expenditure of £932,446. A further 3248 men were granted loans for the purchase of furniture, tools, etc., and 3735 received assistance in other ways, the payments made under all headings on behalf of the men to repay their obligations to the department were very few, only about 5 per cent. of the total assisted.

Mr G. Mitchell congratulated the Government and country on what had been done for the soldiers, but he urged that every effort was needed to get the men settled in the country. The balance of population had drifted to the cities and towns too quickly.

Mr V. H. Potter contended that the Government should not be spending money on the compulsory acquisition of estates to settle returned soldiers upon while so much Native and Crown land was lying idle.

Mr R. McCallum objected to Clause 7 which proposed that the Government should become stock jobbers. The proposed power to purchase depreciated stocks was fraught with danger. He objected to returned men being allowed to become the serfs of mortgagees, which was what would eventuate if the present policy of placing them on such dear land were continued. He protested against the proposed further £6,000,000 loan for soldiers in the districts from which they came, but had this been done? It was a crying shame that land fit for soldiers' settlement was being held just because the owners did not offer it. It ought to be taken compulsorily.

The Hon. D. H. Guthrie said that the Leader of the Opposition seemed to think that the Government was subdividing land merely for sport. The fact was that they had found homes for 15,000 soldiers. One of the Wairarapa properties referred to by Mr Wilford had been offered to the Government at a price at which it was a gift, but had to be turned down because it could not be profitably cut up. He defended the Government from criticisms of the policy pursued in buying land for soldier settlements. When the men first began to return from the war it was felt that they were not in a condition to break in new land, and some small areas were bought to settle them on. That practice the present soldier settlement policy there was a tendency for the prices of land to be unduly inflated by Government expenditure in purchasing estates. It would have been better to have acquired portions of large estates compulsorily at fair prices.

At 12.20 Mr Massey rose to reply, deprecating the policy of taking land by compulsion for settlement purposes because of the cost and delays caused by the Court proceedings. If land was to be provided for soldiers the most expeditious method was to pass the taxation Bill now before the House, and impose the graduated land tax and if land was in existence it would come under settlement, but personally he did not know where the big estates were which some members talked of so glibly.

The second reading was agreed to on the voices, and the House went into committee on the Bill, which was put through in five minutes without amendment. It was then read the third time and passed.

**NIBBLES FROM "COMMERCIAL CIVILISATION."**

(By W. Hinchey).

The government, customs, conditions and trend of modern thought guiding and ordering the public and private life of the nations of the present day, are the product of the evolution of civilisation, spread over several centuries.

This transformation of the people, brought about by the almost miraculous growth of commercialism and scientific progress, has not been met by a corresponding forward movement in the framing of laws governing the rapidly altering conditions to which the people were subjected.

The malevolent effect upon the impressionable mind of youth produced by the doctrine of "go slow" or "do little," together with the encouragement of the idea that every employer is an enemy, is creating a danger of producing an individual who in his mature years may become an outlaw of organised society.

The industrial strike is one of the obsolete parts of our corporate organism. It was born in the infancy of our industrial history; it has grown like a parasite in the hive of manufactures; it is the cancer of industrialism, which has robbed of its life many a promising concern.

Who are they? What are they—this black-coated tribe, sleek-skinned in the fullness of their filched luxury, soft-handed in the practice of nefariousness upon the innocent, oily-tongued in the smoothness of their grinning sycophancy, and damnable in the open-eyed lying which veils their red-handed transactions under the name of "business principles." They are the "middle men," each and every one of them in a lesser or greater degree clogging the channels leading to the consumers; living by parasitical absorption upon the community and filling no position of usefulness in the social organisation.

The commercial traveller in his peregrinations cultivates the mannerisms, artifices and histrionic appurtenances best calculated to bring his clients into that frame of mind when it is safe for him to open his book and attempt to sell to the worried retailer something that he does not want, or that he may not be able to sell for months.

Thousands of pounds are being expended in the support of commercial travellers, and these huge sums of money are put on to the price of goods, and are paid by the consumer. Members of this army "swagger," where there are no other rankers, and where every man is a captain, through the steamboats, railways, coaches, and first-class hotels. Their baggage and hampers of "peeps only" encumber the coaches at concession rates. Their portly forms fill the best seats in the gentlemen's cars, and they puff the biggest clouds of suffocating smoke from the best cigars. They demand the best rooms at the hotels, and as "public benefactors" get them at "cut rates." They are privileged to growl more at porters, waiters and carriers than are ordinary "human atoms," they are connoisseurs in the culinary art, and are loud-voiced in their vulgar condemnation of anything not sufficiently tickling to their greedy palates.

The laws governing the sale of intoxicating liquors in all so-called civilised countries are, in their crude and incomprehensible imperfection, a fair indication of the progressive intelligence displayed by the chosen representatives of the people in law-making. It has become a kind of fetish with a certain class of unbalanced, ultra-religious victims of hysteromania to fix upon "Bung" as an outlet for their erotic delusions, and they shriek about the evils of "drink" from the platforms, the pulpits, and the street corners; the yellow light of fanaticism flashes in their eyes; their gaunt faces twitch themselves into the distortion of neurotic delirium; their mouths open and shut, distend and contract in a succession of horrible, ragged semi-circles and triangles with cinema rapidity, in their struggles to discharge the torrent of vapour calculated to "gas" the publicans and fumigate all intoxicating influences.

"Bung" stands quietly receiving all this sniping like a bull elephant dosing in the

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shade of the palms, flapping his ears in an alternating motion, and switching tail from side to side to drive away flies which are tickling the folds of his covering the amplitude of his sleepy case. But "Bung," like a bull elephant, is not as sleepy as he looks; he is the thesis of his attenuated air-bearing component; in the natural law consequent the comfortable glow of his portly nature it attracts "cool air," and he emits burning gases in attempting to destroy his adversary.

The power of appetite has exalted "Bung" to the eminence of the highest gifts of the state. We find "peers" "beer," lords from the "whisky stills" members of parliament from the "breweries" and the "bonds," deliberating the hall of wisdom, taking a watch wheel on the ship of state, and brushing the cloth of exclusive respectability against the purple of the throne.

Mr W. F. Dunn, New South Wales Minister for Agriculture, has proceeded to Melbourne to endeavour to induce the wheat pool to sell wheat to millers at 10s or 10s 6d a bushel in order to keep the price of bread down to 7d a loaf.

## ANGLING NOTES.

(By "Creel.")

## AWAY TO THE WEST.

an open road, 'neath a beautiful  
 to the west where fishes lie,  
 of silver and amber gold,  
 a gem of wealth untold.

west then, I must hie,  
 the breath of God is ever nigh,  
 Elixir of Life is in the air,  
 hush of the day, an Angel's  
 yer.

ishes of silver, you lure me on,  
 worship God, where grief is gone,  
 in sore and weary, and fain would  
 rest,  
 God's good land, away to the west.

rothers, anglers and secretaries.—In-  
 stant information welcomed.

conditions and rivers continue very  
 factory for Southland anglers, al-  
 though there is nothing to chronicle in the  
 of exceptional fish or bags, still, the  
 age fisherman with fly or minnow has  
 no difficulty in creeling some nice fish.

he following further information has  
 to hand with reference to "deeds  
 on the opening day. Mr J. Hen-  
 son secured 30 good conditioned fish  
 the Otapi, mostly on the Blue Dun  
 of Irish March Brown Fly. On the  
 et at Dipton, Messrs R. Sinclair, 21  
 a (heaviest 4lb); R. McKay, 30 fish;  
 Taylor, 22 fish, J. McBean, 22 fish (25  
 ounds weight), all on the fly, were some  
 the bags recorded. During the last  
 ek three local anglers fishing the tidal  
 eters at Otatara with the minnow  
 eled eight fish, the heaviest being 3½lb,  
 in good condition. A brother angler  
 kes complaint about being put off a  
 ain stretch of water on the Makarawa,  
 as he points out, it is a very mean  
 itude for any farmer to take up, as the  
 rage fisherman does little or no harm  
 fishing a river, as most of the time  
 is on the banks of the stream or in  
 water. Further, many a fisherman  
 ues stock for our farmer friends, doz-  
 of anglers have assisted a sheep that  
 become "cast," and even to the  
 iter's knowledge, rescued sheep from  
 a river itself. One instance of thanks  
 urred to two anglers for services ren-  
 in rescuing a horse that had become  
 ed." The owner gave the fishermen  
 sion to put a camp on his property,  
 also supplied fencing wire, etc., and  
 good piece of ground to cultivate  
 spuds," etc., etc. That one "little  
 uch of Nature that makes the whole  
 "orin kin," etc?

## OPENING DAY.

For the opening day of the season on  
 Friday last the streams were a little high  
 at clear and in splendid condition for  
 fishing. Fair weather prevailed; the  
 morning was rather cold, but, as the day  
 wore on, conditions improved and good  
 catches were recorded. The Wyndham  
 anglers' Society held an all-day handicap  
 competition; and at night eight fisher-  
 men weighed in. Angling is a sport re-  
 quiring a great amount of skill and un-  
 limited patience. The layman often pic-  
 tures the fisherman on the banks of a  
 stream for hours waiting for a rise; so it  
 is rather remarkable to note the number  
 of young anglers participating in this first  
 competition of the season. The weigh-in  
 took place in Gray's sample room, and a  
 table, about 20 feet long, covered with  
 speckled beauties was a sight worth see-  
 ing. Following is the result of the  
 competition:—

Name	No. Fish	Weight	Hdcp.
A. Udy	20	15lb 10oz	scr
C. King	20	15lb 8oz	50 per cent.
J. Strang	25	15lb 3oz	5
J. Bogue	21	14lb	40
J. Crighton	19	11lb	10
J. Caldwell	11	9lb 6oz	20
J. Macpherson	13	8lb 4oz	100
A. Young	5	5lb 4oz	25

On the handicaps C. King was first (be-  
 ing only 2oz behind scratch man); G.  
 Bogue, second; and J. Macpherson 3rd.  
 With the exception of Messrs Crighton

and Young (who whipped the Wyndham),  
 all the competitors fished the Mimihau.

## NEW ZEALAND'S SEA TROUT.

## WHAT ARE THEY? FARIO OR TRUTTA?

I have been requested to contribute  
 another "fish" article, and gladly comply,  
 in the hope that it may create, in the  
 minds of those anglers who read your  
 paper, a greater interest in the subject  
 of, not only our acclimatised fish, but also  
 their culture.

It must not be forgotten that the sport  
 which the present day angler enjoys, was  
 rendered possible solely through the  
 patient and untiring efforts of those pion-  
 eers who formed the first acclimatisation  
 societies of New Zealand.

This work is still carried on by their  
 successors, with the result that there are  
 now few rivers, and streams which do  
 not contain numerous representatives of  
 the salmon family, and one is justified in  
 asserting that there is no country in the  
 world which offers such cheap sport to  
 the angler as New Zealand does. And  
 yet poaching is rampant here. Anglers,  
 wake up!

Before making any attempt to answer  
 the query raised by this article's heading,  
 it will be necessary to first quote some  
 statistics.

In the Southland acclimatisation dis-  
 trict, the Waiau, including its tributaries,  
 is the most westerly river where Brown  
 trout fry (S. Fario) have been liberated—  
 the total output therein from the year  
 1885 to 1920 being 516,200. As far back  
 as 1869 Fario fry were liberated in the  
 Waiau, but I cannot quote exact numbers,  
 as the records from that year up to 1884  
 are imperfect as to locality.

In 1895, the waters running into George  
 Sound and Preservation Inlet, received  
 6,000 and 1,000 young fry respectively.

Of the lakes, Te Anau, 1889-92, 60,000  
 fry; Hauroto, 1892-3, 6,000; and George,  
 1894-9, 65,000; Stewart Island (apparently  
 Lord's River) 1895-1909, 66,000.

This gives us a total of only 720,000  
 brown trout distributed over a fairly wide  
 area, and yet I am informed that all the  
 waters, west of the Waiau, are teeming  
 with trout, which shows that some of  
 them must have been stocked by migra-  
 tory fish.

Now, in the Homeland, brown trout  
 (Fario) are looked on as migratory, to the  
 extent of frequenting brackish waters only,  
 not the sea. That is left to the sea trout  
 (S. Trutta) which have been classed as a  
 separate species from Fario.

The Southland Acclimatisation Society  
 procured their first consignment of brown  
 trout ova, from the Tasmanian Society in  
 1868, and a second lot in 1870. Accom-  
 panying the latter were 154 ova  
 (S. Trutta). These hatched out well, the  
 fry being retained for breeding purposes,  
 yielding in September 1874, 1,100 ova, the  
 fry raised therefrom being subsequently  
 put into the Oreti and Makarewa.

The Otago Society also procured 150  
 sea trout ova from Tasmania in 1870, and  
 the fry raised therefrom were liberated in  
 the Shag River.

These are the only instances of libera-  
 tion of "known" sea trout in New Zea-  
 land, and I mention the fact to show that  
 our N.Z. variety, numerous as they are,  
 could not possibly be their descendants.  
 What then are they?

Seeking for further information, and  
 referring to the most recent authority  
 (The Migrations of Fish, by Meek, director  
 Marine Laboratory, Cullercoats, published  
 1916, available from "Athenaeum"), I found  
 that a section of the authorities held the  
 extreme view that there is only one species  
 of salmonidae, with many varieties. Others  
 admit the distinction of the salmon (Salmo  
 Salar), and combine sea trout (S. Trutta),  
 and brown trout (S. Fario), as forming one  
 species. The author holds that apart from  
 long study of the subject, and differences  
 in the natural home of these fish, a  
 presentment of their distribution lends  
 support to the view that the three are  
 distinct. He further states that "during  
 the Miocene period of the earth's existence  
 the salmon family was divided into two  
 groups, one confined to the North At-  
 lantic, the other to the Northern Medi-  
 terranean—that the latter were changed  
 into trout, and further divided into sea,  
 and brown trout (Fario). Both of these  
 were originally confined to the Caspian  
 region, and spread, after the Glacial  
 Epoch, to the localities they now fre-  
 quent. The absence of the trout from  
 the eastern region of America is

## DISPLAY OF SPRING GOODS.

## MILLINERY.

See our display of Spring READY-TO-WEARS for Ladies and Children; smart and serviceable.

Prices 3/11 to 30/-

The Suvisca BLOUSE for wear in smart striped effects, 22/6.

LADIES' BLOOMERS, in Crepe; good wearing quality; 8/11.

LADIES' COTTON VESTS, from 2/11.

LADIES' HOSE, special quality, 4/11. In fast black. Guaranteed.

## BLOUSES.

Our selection of VOILE BLOUSES is worth seeing. All the latest shapes and colours, at the lowest prices, 2/11 to 19/6.

CHILDREN'S DRESSES, in great variety of styles and materials.

MATINEE COATS, in Silk, 12/6.

LADIES' SPORTS COATS, in Silk. A few only at 50/-

## TULLY'S DRAPERY SUPPLY SALE,

NEXT NEWS OFFICE, DEE STREET.

satisfactorily explained by this hypot-  
 hesis.

In the museum there are specimens of  
 our brown trout (presumably river fish,  
 from their colouration) and an English sea  
 trout. I can see no striking difference be-  
 tween them structurally. H. C. Pennell  
 (Badminton Library) says that the only  
 reliable test between brown and sea trout,  
 lies with the vomerine teeth—brown trout  
 two rows, sea trout one row, but the  
 latter's teeth alternate from side to side.  
 (The vomer is the bone which runs along  
 the central portion of the roof of the  
 mouth).

Let us now sum up the position. We  
 find our rivers, and streams to be stocked  
 with brown trout—the same old variety  
 of "S. Fario" that exists in the Home-  
 land, and from whence Tasmania's supply  
 was obtained. Living in the ocean that  
 bounds our shores are a variety of trout  
 possessing the same habits and qualities as  
 the sea trout of the northern hemisphere.

Having shown that the number of known  
 sea trout turned into our waters were too  
 few to have raised such a numerous family  
 as our sea trout are known to be, then  
 the answer to the question, as head of  
 this article, resolves itself into this:—

Either there has been evolved out of  
 our brown (river) trout, a sea trout, akin  
 to S. Trutta, or the supposed brown  
 trout ova imported to N.Z. was not true  
 to type.

The best method of solving the problem  
 would be to send Home some specimens of  
 "sea" trout, for identification, as was  
 done with the supposed grilse from the  
 Waiau. The verdict would prove of in-  
 terest to all lovers of fish culture.

## SAWMILLER'S FOOTBALL.

Last Saturday at Browns, employees of  
 Messrs Kilkelly Bros. (Spar Bush) and  
 Messrs Lindsay and Dixon (Lora Gorge),  
 met in their final match of the season.  
 There was a large gathering of spectators  
 and they were treated to a real good  
 game of the popular Rugby. For the  
 first quarter of an hour the teams were  
 very evenly matched, when Blee (Lora),  
 potted a very pretty goal. This encouraged  
 Lora players and as the outcome of a  
 good forward rush D. Night scored, the  
 spell ending 7—nil in Lora's favour. The  
 reverse in the first spell had the effect  
 of sharpening up Kilkelly's players and  
 they made strenuous efforts to score but  
 the defence was very sound. Eventually  
 C. Sims (Kilkelly's) kicked a splendid pen-  
 alty goal, making the score 7—3. With this  
 success Kilkelly's were encouraged to  
 further efforts, but though they made  
 strenuous attempts to cross their oppon-  
 ents' line, the defence was too sound. Ten  
 minutes before time Blee (Lora) kicked a  
 penalty goal, putting the issue beyond  
 doubt, although Kilkelly's continued to  
 attack strongly. The game was played  
 in a very good spirit and after the match  
 the referee (Mr Bert Hinton) was made  
 a presentation of a case of pipes from the  
 players. Mr J. Kilkelly thanked the  
 Lora Gorge players, and Mr Kerr for the  
 loan of his paddock, stating that he hoped  
 the inter-mill games would become a  
 fixture every winter.

Messrs D. Knight and A. L. Chisholm  
 returned thanks on behalf of the Lora  
 Gorge players, and called for three cheers  
 for Kilkelly's footballers.

## FURNITURE!

FURNITURE IS EXPENSIVE THESE DAYS, ISN'T IT?

Yet we still can quote FURNITURE at very reasonable prices  
 to-day.

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF AND GET OUR QUOTE.

A big stock to choose from, and we are always pleased to see  
 you, whether you buy or not.

## GEO. MOIR &amp; SON,

FURNITURE DEALERS AND MANUFACTURERS,

72 and 74 TAY STREET.

(Next Price and Bulleid.)



COUNCILLOR "MAC" FROM THE BLUFF.

For your Garden Seeds,  
 Plants and Trees, go to

# TINY DANIEL

Albion Buildings, Dee Street, Invercargill.

Southland Floral, Plant,  
 and Seed Supply,



# Passing Notes.

BY JACQUES.

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

Two local wool magnates have awaiting them, as their shares of surplus wool profits, cheques for twopence and threepence respectively. Greasing the fat pig's tail again!

Mr Wilford has discovered that petrol, even in small quantities, can be landed here at 23/- per case. Perhaps the Prices Investigation Committee will find out something about it later on.

A few days ago the "Times" reported that the local clink had put up a Dominion record in that it had been absolutely untenanted for a whole fourteen days—and nights. This fact—if fact it is—demands investigation. Of course there are some who will be ready with their glib explanations, but the phenomenon admits of other interpretations than theirs. Can it be, for instance, that the accommodation afforded by our most prominent institution has fallen so far behind the requirements of this progressive age that even the convivial and paralytic—who are by no means pernicketty, as a rule—turn up their noses at it? If so, no time should be lost in removing this reproach and restoring our fine old public hostelry to its former proud position in the public favour by furnishing it with all the comforts of a home, and otherwise making it as attractive as possible. Such a course would, moreover, free the John Hops from the danger of drifting into the ranks of the unemployed.

Consider the rates, how they grow. Within the last five or six years they have advanced nearly cent. for cent., and it is now nearly as costly to own your own home as it was to pay rent before the war. This would not be so bad, perhaps, if we received anything like fair value for our money, but one has only to look at our waterhole footpaths and grass grown, stone quarry streets to realise what a very small quid he is getting for his hard earned gold. Is it not about time that we began to consider the matter of replacing our present cumbrous and effete methods of municipal administration by something on the lines of the American system of government by commission? This system, which places the administration of the various departments absolutely in the hands of responsible experts—has been in force for years in the United States. No town, large or small, that has once tried it, has ever gone back on it, and every year it is being adopted by others who have closely watched its operation elsewhere. Among its results are more efficient service, more economical administration, the elimination of corruption, etc. Losses have been changed to gains, bankrupt municipalities have been restored to solvency, rates and taxes have been reduced, and in many other ways the system has justified itself. The experiment is worth a trial, I think.

Mr Massey is still tinkering with the matter of the reform of the Legislative Council. When he has finished we will probably still be somewhere in the vicinity of where we were before. It is a pity that, instead of all this patching and re-making, the whole abomination were not scrapped at once. There is no logical reason for the survival of this representative and symbol of medieval privilege at the present day. At one time the bi-cameral Parliament may have been necessary, or, at least, understandable, but it is difficult to find a sound reason for its being in this democratic age and country. Where it endorses the will of the people, as expressed in their more representative chamber, it is superfluous, and where it thwarts that expressed will it is undemocratic and mischievous. Even its supposed chief function of checking hasty legislation could be performed equally well, and at considerably less expense, by a revisory committee elected by, and from, the "lower" House. But perhaps this suggestion is seditious.

"Jax," said Bill savagely, "Those patent medicine ads. are about called in."

I looked an inquiry, and he explained.

"Y'avent seen the missis lately, an' I'll

tell yeh why. 'Bout a month ago some swine threw over the front fence a bundle of those little books that ask yeh if yeh 'ave any specks beforfe the eyes, an' pains in the back, an' other things, an' if yeh 'ave yeh want to take Purple Pellets at once unless yeh want to die. Well, the old woman got 'old of these an' started readin' 'em. Next mornin' she 'ad 'eart disease; said she could reckonise the symptoms from the book. I 'ad to get me own breakfast, while she sent one of the kiddies for half a dozen large size boxes (three times the quantity of the smaller ones) of the pellets, together with some of the tonic that makes 'em work better, an' some of the ointment for local application, an' other things to complete the outfit, and cure yeh in no time. Me and the kids 'ad to get our own meals an' do all the 'ousework while the missis took the pellets an' read some more of those blanky books. After a week or so, she found out that it wasn't 'eart disease at all, but Bright's disease an' consumption. So she dropped the pellets and the other things, an' started on a new tack, this time Pulmonoleo an' Uricocide Backache Pills for the liver, kidneys, stomach an' other parts of yer flamin' anatomy. Also the tonic an' ointment an' plasters an' other things that went with these, too. She consumed quite a lot of these before she found, through readin' more of the symptoms in another book, that she was on the wrong track, an' that it was really appendicitis, with complications, that was the trouble with 'er. So off she sends for some of the Magic Mixture (an' more tonic an' pills an' other stuff) that was the only thing that could save 'er after the doctors gave her up an' all other things 'ad failed. At present she's on a course of Salvation Syrup (with more pills an' 'etceteress) for chronic dyspepsy—which is what is the matter with 'er accordin' to the symptoms in the Syrup book. Asked the doctor the other day what he thought about it, and 'e said there was nothin' wrong with 'er at all, only that she 'ad been scared by those advertisin' books. When I told 'er this she said the doctor was a fool, an' that if I wasn't an unsympathisin' brute. I could see for myself that she was at death's door. The 'ouse is chock full of medicine bottles an' misery; it's just awful. I think the Government should stop these medicine blokes scaring people out of their lives, an' making others wish to 'ell that they were dead."

## KINGS AND PRINCES I HAVE MET.

### KING SLANDAN FERGUSON.

I must confess that my interview with the King of Necropolis, though interesting and instructive, was not exactly exhilarating. True, his welcome was very cordial and his manner most affable, but I thought I detected a note of insincerity in his expressed hope that I was quite well. Also it seemed to me that a shadow of disappointment momentarily clouded his classic features when I assured him that I had just been medically passed as a first-class risk for insurance. Then he remarked hopefully that the editor of the "Digger" had not been looking too well lately, and perhaps —. But again I shattered his optimistic anticipations by informing him that I brought absolutely no prospect of immediate business, that I had been sent merely to make enquiry into the present condition and future prospects of his—er—profession. Obviously disappointed, but still courteous, his Majesty invited me to be seated, and himself settled in an easy chair to answer my queries.

Yes, he admitted, there had certainly been a most serious falling off, amounting in fact to a slump, in business lately, nor, at present, did future prospects appear very rosy. Quite a number of factors contributed to this melancholy state of affairs, but easily foremost among them stood the two following: First he would place the present H.C.D.—which, he explained, meant the High Cost of Dying. Though the High Cost of Living had made most men long to chuck the sev—er—pass over to that blissful bourne where everything is free, yet expiring had now also become such an expensive matter that

hundreds, who under other, happier circumstances would long ago have snuff—er—decantly defuncted were deferring the process in the hope of a possible fall in prices. At present, however, he could offer no comfort to these; there seemed every prospect of dying remaining a luxury for the well-to-do only for a long time yet.

Another cause, he proceeded, for the present unsatisfactory state of business was to be found in the regret—er—remarkable wave of rude health which seems to have swept like a curse—er—blessing over the community. Our late East winds, smallpox, and other things had given reason for hope, but, alas! folks seemed somehow to have acquired a most damnab—er—wonderful power of resistance to these influences. Possibly another epidemic might strike us, when things would brighten up again; in the meantime, however, the position was most discouraging. In fact, if it were not for the doctors, motor hogs, and those fellows who "didn't know it was loaded," the whole trade would be threatened with disaster. To the doctors, particularly, he felt that he owed no small measure of gratitude and esteem. Were it not for their kindly favours—well, he did not know how he would manage to get a crust. The motor hog also, as providing an impetus to trade, was not to be despised; while the man who "didn't know 'twas loaded" was easily deserving of a national testimonial.

Yes, he reflected—in answer to a further question—there were certainly some embarrassing features about his profession. For instance, for one in the line to inquire about the condition of a friend's health was sure to excite a fierce suspicion as to motives, and he knew of more than one lifelong friendship that had been ruptured by this simple cause. Again, to congratulate a convalescent on his recovery was to find oneself at once bracketed with Arnanias and Tom Pepper and other illustrious liars. Then there was the difficulty about advertising effectively. One could not, for instance, follow the lead of the drapers and others, and "invite inspection of our fine display of coffins," or announce that "caskets would be sent on appro," that "for quality, style, and finish they were unequalled," or "money back if not satisfied after one week's trial," or that one "will be pleased to see old customers and welcome new ones," or that one's coffins "once tried are always used," and so on. Yes, the industry had its disadvantages. Perhaps the greatest of all was the necessary suppression of all display of natural feeling. When other business potentates struck a bonanza they could throw up their hats and dance a can-can in the public streets. But in his profession, the more occasion there was for glee the more sad and solemn one had to look, and it was not even safe to rub one's hands together in satisfaction until one had reached the dark privacy of the coal cellar.

Still, he added, brightening somewhat, it had its compensations. Chief among these was the wide scope that it afforded for the free exercise of the artistic faculty. Everything was designed with a view not to utility only, but to beauty and fitness. To illustrate this he led me into the "Casket Room," where, among many others, was a delightful creation in rose-wood, gilt handles, and pink silk. Now this, he explained, would require very slight alterations to bring it into tasteful harmony with my complexion, besides being, as he could tell at a glance, as good a fit as if it had been made to my order. Proceeding then to the Hall of Statuary, he directed my attention to a beautiful piece of sculpture, representing a pined angel about to take its flight from the pinnacle of a lofty marble pedestal. This, he suggested, would be eminently suitable for me, since it symbolised the purity of my life and hinted at my future pleasant destination. With my name and my many sterling qualities inscribed thereon, it was a thing that I might well be proud to lie under up at the East Road Ossuary. He could do the two—the casket and monument—at a reduction, and throw in the inscription by way of a bonus, besides storing them for me until required. I thanked him fervently, and regretted that, besides being reluctant to trespass too far on good nature, other engagements then due prevented my remaining to discuss at greater length such a fascinating subject. So bidding him a hasty adieu I hurried away, and it took three tidy spots out of the editor's private supply to restore my disturbed equanimity.

Lumsden motor garage proprietors and hotelkeepers anticipate a record season for the Lumsden-Ta Anau-Milford trip in the coming season. The Milford track will be opened on November 1st, a month earlier than usual.

## DRAUGHTS.

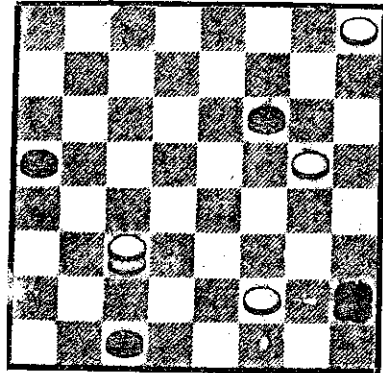
(Conducted by F. Hutchins).

All communications of interest to readers of this column to be addressed to "Draughts Editor," 28 Biggar street.

Players can help to maintain interest in the game of draughts by sending along solutions, criticism, games or items of interest to readers of this column. Address all such communications to "Draughts Editor," 28 Biggar street.

### PROBLEM 31.

By Mr W. O'Malley (Queenstown).



Black 3, 20, 22, King 5.

White 6, 17, 29, King 11.

Black to play and win. Very neat.

### SOLUTION OF PROBLEM 30.

Black 1, 11, King 2.

White 7, 14, 19.

White to play and draw.

17.9a\* 9.6b 7.3 3.7  
1.5 2.9 9.14 Drawn.

A. 7.3, 1.6, 3.8c, 11.16, 19.12, 6.10, 14.7, 2.4.—B. wins.

B. 7.3, 5.14, 3.8, 11.16, 19.12, 2.7.—B. wins.

C. 14.9, 6.13, 3.8, 11.16, 19.12, 2.7.—B. wins.

Played between Mr G. Coaff, Norwich, and a friend:—

### AYRSHIRE LASSIE.

Black—COAN. White—FRIEND.

11.15 10.15a 23.14 16.19

24.20 19.10 9.18 23.16

8.11 6.15 31.26 12.19

28.24 32.28b 5.9 27.23

4.8 7.11 21.17 18.27

23.19 30.26c 3.7 22.18

15.18 12.16 17.14 15.22

22.15 26.23 9.5 24.8

11.18 8.12 26.23 9.18

26.22 B. wins.

A. 7.11 is more popular.

B. 21.17 is best at this point.

C. Cutting 24.19 is quite good, and draws.

The subjoined game was contested between Mr W. Thomson, Drumblende, the Argyleshire champion, and a Friend:—

### KELSO.

Black—FRIEND. White—THOMSON.

10.15 23.16 4.11 14.18

23.18 12.19 22.17 26.22

6.10 18.15b 6.10 5.9c

26.23 11.18 27.24 17.13

1.6 22.15 11.15 3.8

30.26 9.14 32.27 13.6

15.19 25.22 7.11 2.9

24.15 8.11 29.25 24.20†

10.19 15.8

†See diagram:—

### BLACK.

10.15 23.16 4.11 14.18

23.18 12.19 22.17 26.22

6.10 18.15b 6.10 5.9c

26.23 11.18 27.24 17.13

1.6 22.15 11.15 3.8

30.26 9.14 32.27 13.6

15.19 25.22 7.11 2.9

24.15 8.11 29.25 24.20†

10.19 15.8

†See diagram:—

### WHITE.

Black to play.

9.13 23.26 30.26 11.16

21.17 22.18 14.7 20.11

8.12 13.22 26.23 27.20

27.24 21.17 7.3 11.7

18.23a 26.30 23.27 15.18b

25.21 18.14 3.8 Drawn.

A. 12.16, 17.14, would draw for White.

B. 21.17, 9.14, etc.—Drawn.

C. 11.16 appears good.

D. An interesting game.

Draughts is both entertaining and instructive, giving both mental exercise and mental recreation, which is as important a factor as physical exercise and recreation in the development of the whole man.

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## NOTES FROM CALCIUM.

(Own Correspondent).

Bachelors' Ball.—The Press was not invited to this function but frequent people through the window revealed a particularly gay assemblage of interesting looking ladies and interested-looking gents. In case someone else is giving you the facts of the affair I leave it at that.

Explanatory.—The 'etceteras' will appear in a future issue of this journal as your correspondent strained his principal writing foot trying to get a good view through the window to see who was having the most dances with his best girl.

N.B.—Brevity is brevity.

P.S.—How can people expect a fellow to report a ball that he has to watch through the window!

## BACHELORS OF CALCIUM.

(Special Correspondent).

Delightful music, excellent floor, winsome women, stalwart men, delicious edibles, squally weather—such in brief were conditions prevailing at Calcium on Friday evening last when a large number of young people from far and near gathered at the hall in response to the invitation of the Calcium bachelors. Digger T. MacKenzie and Miss R. Bisset (Lorne), led off the grand march in which some fifty couples participated. From start to finish the function was carried out with a swing that reflects much credit on all responsible.

A feature of the night's enjoyment was the splendid music supplied by the orchestra—Miss Nuttall (piano), and Messrs Crooks (violin), and Hunter (cornet). Their harmony and choice of music delighted dancers and non-dancers alike. During the supper interval Mr Hunter played a cornet solo, "Bubbles," which will be long remembered by those privileged to hear it. Miss K. McNeil kindly played several extras.

The office of M.C. was capably filled by Mr Wm. Mollison, and to him, as convenor of the floor committee, must also be given a great measure of the credit for the excellent dancing surface provided. Mr A. McWilliam, ably assisted by a committee of youthful bachelors, was responsible for the supper arrangements, and it is due to his organising ability that the large gathering was catered for with thoroughness and despatch.

Prominent amongst the articles of male decoration shone out the badge of the R.S.A. Fully sixty per cent. of the men present had seen active service. Yaw Digger is a very adaptable person—poking the wind up Fritz, hewing a home out of the wilderness, or circling to the strains of an orchestra—he performs each or all of these services as naturally as a hen lays eggs.

No account of this ball (or any other either) would be complete without mention of the ladies' raiment. It can be described adequately in two words—gorgeous and sufficient. To say more would betray the ignorance of your "special" in matters of feminine and textile. To say less would betray his entire lack of appreciation of what is artistic and decorous. A bolder spirit would inform your readers that the dresses were varied and various, but what I really want to make clear is that they were more "more so" than "less so." One thing is certain, if the male heart is as susceptible to feminine charm to-day as it was some years ago, matured bachelors in and about Calcium are going to be a very scarce commodity. There are a few cases—hardened, old—but we must get back to our dance.

We have mentioned the Grand March. There were others—new and old. The fox-trot, new to these parts, the Min Pins, know to our ancestors (not a la Darwin), the Voluptuous Waltz, Destiny with its haunting melody, La Rinka that makes you wish you had rollers on your shoes, the King's Own with its suggestion of regal pomp and military splendour, and so on through a long and varied programme. It was two o'clock before the thought of next day's duties, or other matters of more or less importance, drew the more timid spirits homewards. Half an hour later the last dance was announced, and thus concluded what is unanimously voted the most enjoyable dance of the year. (What do the ladies say?) The bachelors have asked your "Special" to thank all those who contributed to the success of the function, especially the "Digger" management for its prompt and efficient printing services.

A honey-bee weighs rather less than three-hundredths of an ounce. These bees are actually sold by weight, and they average about 5000 to the pound. The queen, of course, are heavier, the weight given referring to workers.

## GORDON BROWN.

HOSE in search of houses and farm lands cannot do better than consult I shall at all times do my best to suit properties that are fair value and give your finance at lowest current of interest.

100.—Very superior seven-roomed; slab-tile grates, art mantels, picture and wide freizes; commodious room. Full 1-acre freehold in handy on. Terms: £300 down, balance

10.—Comfortable six-roomed house; d.c. water; one-eighth acre freehold by area. A handy home. Terms: cash, balance 6 per cent.

175.—Twelve acres freehold land; new five-roomed house, cowbyre, trap shed, etc. Close to factory and road and only 3½ miles from Invercargill Post Office.

1800.—Special new five-roomed Bungalow, with porcelain bath and panelled hall; half-acre freehold land with ample room for another house. Real good buying. See it.

GORDON BROWN.

UNION BANK CHAMBERS,  
TAY STREET, INVERCARGILL.

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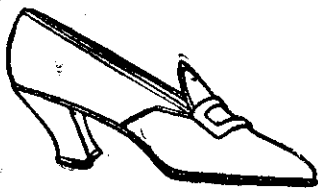
TRAMP! Tramp! Tramp! Hear their  
ceaseless beat:

Hear the Town Council bleat,

What on earth is that they have upon  
their feet,

Why! Boots repaired at Hawthorne's  
shop!

Repairs that can't be beat.



## J. A. HAWTHORNE.

BOOT REPAIRER,

TAY STREET.



## SPORTING.

Trix Pointer is the ruling favourite for  
the N.Z. Trotting Cup.

The principal race on the second day  
of the Winton Jockey Club's programme  
has been re-named: Soldier Members'  
Memorial Handicap.

Bill James has asked the Wyndham  
Racing Club to increase the totalisator  
accommodation, and in the meantime the  
request is held over.

Gibb McLean has Carbine looking well,  
but sprinting him along the North Road  
is cheaper than trying to win races with  
him. And Gibb knows it too!

Jockey Rowlands has made a good re-  
covery from the injury he received by a  
kick some weeks ago, and is riding work  
again.

The Winton programme contains an  
open steeplechase each day. £200 for  
three miles the first day, and £175 for  
2½ miles on the concluding afternoon.

Mr. W. A. H. Oliver, secretary to the  
Southland Racing Club, has been laid up  
with a sprained ankle for a month, but  
expects to be about again in a fortnight  
or so.

Bill Cowie, a steward of the Winton  
Jockey and Trotting Clubs, is going down  
to Riverton to spell after several years'  
strenuous work in the hotel trade. The  
clubs mentioned will miss his services on  
the several sub-committees who make the  
final arrangements for race meetings.

The Winton Jockey Club has now ap-  
pointed four time-keepers to clock the  
horses running at their meeting. A very  
good move, for not nearly enough atten-  
tion is paid to this important part of the  
sport.

The Winton programme has been issued,  
and £300 is to be given in stakes. The  
Winton Cup, £400, and a cup is the best  
endowed, and the Final Handicap with  
£130 prize money is the cheapest race.  
A very evenly balanced programme which  
does the committee credit.

Swanny Smith is getting a big team  
of untried pacers round him now. A geld-  
ing by Harold Rotchild and a Four  
Chimes filly are the late additions to this  
stable. If either of them can go as  
fast as Papeete or Last Vue, Swanny is  
in for a good season.

Dick McDonald, who trained Killowen  
for the late Dave Morton, has purchased  
the son of Kilbroney, and he will race  
in the blue and black bands at Wingatui  
this week. And he might win too.

It is reported that one of our local  
trainers has come in for a wad of notes  
through a rich aunt or uncle or cousin  
going west. Good luck to you, old boy,  
you have experience enough now to pro-  
vide for a wet day!

It is said that Tommy Taylor is going  
to make a hurdle racer out of Rorke's  
Drift's son. Mettle Drift looks like the  
makings of a hurdler, and it is a pity the  
Southland clubs are not catering for this  
class of horse now.

The Wairio, Otautau and Tapanui  
Clubs' one day meetings in January next  
are going to make a nice circuit for local  
stables and between the three meetings  
the heavy end of three thousand quid will  
be hung up in stakes.

W. Stone has purchased Clean Sweep,  
an aged black gelding by Advance. He has  
been run over short distances in the  
past, and should prove himself a useful  
horse in Southland. According to a  
Christchurch correspondent his present  
owner-trainer J. Pearson, will look after  
him until after the N.Z. Cup meeting.

The following condition on the Winton  
programme will interest owners and train-  
ers of trotting horses:—Trotting horses  
nominated at this meeting, and being  
placed at this or any other meeting, will  
be eligible to nominate for either of the  
class trots. Such nominations to be made  
not later than six p.m. on November 3,  
for the Hokonui Trot, and by seven p.m.  
on the night of the first day's racing for  
the Oreti Trot.

Bill Stone sold Checkmate to go to  
Australia, and if the Johnny at the corner  
is to be trusted "Rough but Homely"  
made quite a nice little stake out of the  
profit on Sir George's cast off.

Gore handicaps were published smartly  
up to time, and as usual Mr Gibbs has  
been accused of throwing some of the  
noddies in, and crueling others. The  
Dig. is always ready to bet that more  
outsiders will pay dividends than first  
favourites. The running at Wingatui  
to-day and to-morrow will throw some  
light on the form, and Southland trained  
horses that run well at the Metropolitan  
meeting always show up well at the Gore  
Spring Meeting. The strong opposition  
from the Canterbury stables is missing at  
the later fixture!

Secretary Young is a busy man just now  
with a big racing meeting coming off, two  
or three dairy factories to run and the  
Electric Power Board duties. Frank  
Young is a master of method, otherwise  
he could not get through the work he has  
on hand.

The Winton Jockey Club is going to  
make one change only onto their course  
next November. Surely this is an old-  
fashioned idea, but no doubt the com-  
mittee has thought the matter well out,  
and it will be interesting to see how the  
gate returns compare with last year's re-  
turns from that source.

The "Winton Record" ran amuck some  
in fixing the dates of the handicaps and  
acceptances for the first day of the Winton  
Jockey's Club's meeting in printing off  
the sheet programme. It says, "Handi-  
caps for first day's races will be declared  
on Monday, November 4." The Mondays  
in Nov. 1920, are 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and  
29th. I wonder which date it really does  
mean? Then again it says, "Acceptances  
for first day's races close Thursday,  
November 11, at 8 p.m., The Thursdays  
in the same month are 4th, 11th, 18th and  
25th. Another argument against six  
o'clock closing.

## BRAY BROS. REPORT.

Messrs Bray Bros., Auctioneers and  
Fruit Salesmen, Dee street, Invercargill,  
report as follows:—

PRODUCE.—Potatoes (table): The  
market is over-stocked, prices for prime  
quality, 5s 6d cwt; other quality from 4s  
to 5s 6d bag. Potatoes (seed): There  
is a fair demand for hand-picked guar-  
anteed. Onions (Victorian), to 35s cwt.  
Oats 16s to 22s 6d. Chaff, 5s 6d to 6s  
6d per bag. Straw Shaff, 3s 6d to 4s per  
bag. Baled Straw, arriving. Meggitt's  
Calf Food, 27s 6d per bag. Oatdust,  
6s bag. Bran, 11s 6d bag. Pollard,  
13s bag. Farro Food, 12s bag. Molasses  
21s cwt, 12s 6d per tin. Mutton Birds,  
1s 1d per bird.

FRUIT—Large quantities received.  
Apples (dessert), choice quality 10s to 12s  
6d per case; other quality from 7s 6d to  
9s per case according to variety. Cooking  
apples, prime quality from 7s 6d to 9s  
per case; other quality from 6s to 7s  
case. Pears (dessert), to 16s 6d per case;  
cooking to 3½d per lb.

VEGETABLES.—Swedes, 4s 6d per  
bag; carrots, 4s per bag; parsnips, to 2d  
per lb; asparagus, to 1s bundle; cucum-  
bers, to 1s 6d each.

GENERAL.—Lepp Salt Lick 2s 3d per  
brick. Cow Covers 22s 6d to 30s each.  
Horse Covers £2 15s to £3. Honey 11s  
for 10lb. Boots to 35s pair. No. 8  
black wire 38s cwt. One set Booth  
Macdonald's 8ft discs, £20. Posts and  
stakes.—We have supplies.

FURNITURE.—We are now showing  
some magnificent lines of high-grade fur-  
niture including a nine piece full sprung  
suite in pre-war saddle bag, a fumed oak  
sideboard with double pedestal and  
bevel mirror and a 4ft roll top oak desk,  
with nine drawers. We also have a few  
Axminster, Wilton Pile, and Brussels,  
pre-war carpets in assorted sizes. Inspec-  
tion invited.

LAND DEPARTMENT.—We have in-  
structions to sell a six-roomed house situ-  
ated in Liddel street. The house and ¼  
acre leasehold section will be sold by  
auction at our rooms Dee street, Satur-  
day at 7.30 p.m. Bray Bros., Ltd.,  
Auctioneers, Dee street.

## LAND!

240 ACRES; new six-roomed Bungalow and splendid range of new outbuild-  
ings, with milking machines installed; subdivided into eleven paddocks with  
good fences. All heavy flat land carrying at present 30 cows, 200 sheep, and  
young cattle, but capable of great improvement. Price £19 per acre, with  
easy terms, or would exchange for small farm handy to town.

260 ACRES, close to rail, school, and factory; four-roomed cottage, cowbyre,  
stable etc., ring fenced; all felled bush, burnt and sown in grass. Price £5  
per acre. £200 deposit.

If the above Farms do not appeal to you we have about 500 other propo-  
sitions on our books, and would be pleased to submit them for inspection.

## CARSWELL &amp; CO., LTD.,

LAND AGENTS, WOOD ST., INVERCARGILL.

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ESTD 1862 LIMITED

SOUTHLAND'S SHOPPING CENTRE.

DEE &amp; ESK STREETS.

INVERCARGILL.

BRANCHES

GORE and WYNDHAM.

Tea Rooms — Top Floor by Elevator.

Quality - Value- Variety - Service.

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**WHISKY.**

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PLANT

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SEEDS

VEGETABLE AND FLOWER.

Toma and Vegetable Marrow Plants.

ANNUALS.—Stock (ten week), Brompton, and East Lothian.

ASTER Plants now ready.

SEED POTATOES.—Early Puritan; Spark's Victoria, and King Edward.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.—Every-thing in Season Fresh.

WREATHS.—Artificial and Floral.

BRIDAL BOUQUETS, etc. made at shortest notice.

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DEE STREET, INVERCARGILL.

## EXTRA SPECIAL!

Just arrived! Samples for 26 only  
gent's suits-to-measure for delivery  
before 24th December or earlier  
The material is of the finest woven  
New Zealand worsteds in Browns,  
College Greys, Dark Grey and Fox's  
Navy. Shades are guaranteed fast.  
The quality of these rare, high-grade  
suitings is beyond question. Prices  
are very reasonable—£7 10/-, £8 10/-  
£9 9s/-.

MCNEIL AND CLARK

94 DEE STREET

## CALF SKINS!

## CALF SKINS!

SEND YOUR CONSIGNMENTS TO US.

HIGHEST PRICES GIVEN,

WE ALSO BUY:—

WOOL

HIDES

RABBIT SKINS

SHEEPSKINS

HORSEHAIR

TALLOW.

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INVERCARGILL.

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We have a Large Stock of First Grade Furniture in our SHOWROOMS and our prices are the Lowest in Town.

GET QUOTATIONS FROM US TO-DAY.

Everything Necessary for Setting up House, and at Cut Prices.

The Leading Insurance Firm, Offices: Briscoe's Buildings,

## MCKAY BROS.

AUCTIONEERS AND LAND AGENTS.  
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INVERCARGILL.  
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Telephone-862.

THE PRAM AND CYCLE SHOP,  
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PRAME, PUSH CARTS, PUSH CHAIRS.

The best selection in Invercargill to choose from.

BICYCLES, TYRES, AND ALL CYCLE SUNDRIES.

We have just opened up a fine assortment of SUIT CASES—20in, 22in, 24in, 26in. The price is right. Get one for the holiday season.

REPAIRS.—We don't repair motor cars nor motor cycles, but we can and do repair Frams and Bicycles, AND WE DO IT WELL.

If your Pram or Bike is beyond repair we will sell you a new one. THAT'S FAIR.

## Thomas Bird,

122 DEE STREET.

SPEND THAT £50 TO THE  
BEST ADVANTAGE.

BY spending a pound here and a pound there you cannot buy to the best advantage.

Make out a list and buy from the ONE reliable firm,

## VERNON SMITH & CO.

ATHENAEUM BUILDINGS,  
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Our stocks include Household Ironmongery, Glassware, Cutlery, Tools for all trades—in fact everything in the household line.

ABOUT THAT . . .

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may require for the

WEDDING,  
BIRTHDAY,  
CHRISTENING,

Or any other Special Occasion.

We can meet your requirements and ensure your satisfaction.

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INVERCARGILL.

Money to Lend on approved security at current rates. Solicitors under Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act.

### FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE.

### IN MEMORIAM.

MARSON.—In loving memory of Pte. Richard Marson, dearly beloved son of George and Alice Marson, of 28 Sydney street, killed in action October 12, 1917, at Passchendaele.

Days of sadness oft come o'er us,  
Hidden secret tears still flow,  
But memory keeps our loved one near us  
Though he died three years ago.  
—Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters.

McCALL.—In loving memory of Hugh William McCall, 4th Reinforcements, who was killed in action at Passchendaele, on October 12, 1917.

What need have they for holy sepulture?  
Within the hearts of men is hallowed ground—  
A sanctuary where they rest secure,  
And with Love's immortality are crowned.

## "The Digger."

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1920.

### T. B. MEN.

In our last week's issue of the "Digger" we made an analysis of the general principles which govern the treatment of tubercular patients in Australia. The problem is undoubtedly of greater magnitude with them than with us. Nevertheless, it is a matter of degree, and we can learn many lessons from Australian methods. As far as we can see the method of treatment is based on a much greater co-ordinated plan than our own. Although we have done a great deal for these men, there is a lack of co-ordination in the general scheme and this must make itself felt on the soldier patients. Great care is taken to see that these men are treated in surroundings favoured with suitable climatic conditions. We have the case of a man in Southland who took up land. He is now under treatment at a certain sanatorium and is not able to give attention to his farm, with the result that pressure for payment is being exercised for money due. It is of course evident that the men themselves must selves of treatment. On the other hand, if we had greater co-ordination in the scheme it is possible the man would not be there. Apart from the medical as-

sistance given in the Australian scheme, it seems that special prominence is given to healthy surroundings with favourable climatic conditions. The conditions of life are made attractive and subject to good healthy employment. The Red Cross seem to play an important part in the treatment of these men, and money which is now in the care of the War Funds Association would be well spent in this direction. The Red Cross have suitable homes for these men. The patient is encouraged to expect recovery. His progress is upward, not downward. He is buoyed up by the hope that he will pass out into the country life again. The importance of the operation of the "Laws of Suggestion" are too frequently overlooked in our curative methods. The tendency is for our men to look on the dark side of things. One of these homes has 90 acres of land attached and here the men get good, healthy, and useful work. For those who are not interested in farm work there are classes in basket-making, wood-carving, fancy-work, and hammock making. Tools and materials are provided and the completed work becomes the property of the patient. Picnics are also an attraction and are a factor in a constant change of surroundings which plays an important part in the mental outlook of the patient. There are five billiard rooms, croquet lawns and bowling greens. The men have formed a T.B. Soldiers' Association and it is designed to pay special attention to their requirements. One of the great factors seems to be the elimination of discontent and a cheery outlook on life. The treatment is graduated, consisting of rest, walking exercises and manual labour. A patient begins by walking one mile a day, and if no ill-effects are observed the distance is increased each week until he walks six miles a day. Then he begins on his first labour grade. Supplied with a basket, he carries stones and dirt, not more than 10lbs in weight, making short trips for two hours a day. If no ill-effects are observed he is advanced grade by grade until he is finally engaged in pick-and-shovel work for six hours a day until his disease is arrested. We have done a great deal for these men but there are many valuable lessons to be learned from Australia's method of dealing with T.B. cases.

### AN APPRECIATION.

The R.S.A. are greatly indebted to the splendid relations which exist between themselves and the suppliers of the following dairy factories: Gorge Road, Woodend, Rimu, Grove Bush, Mabel Bush and Tisbury. Each of the factories have donated the sum of £5 5s to the R.S.A. as an appreciation of war services. When we come to consider how they played their part during the war period and their ready expression of appreciation now that the war is over, we must say that their record has been good. These sentiments can also be expressed to Mrs Hide, Mrs Pasley, and the members of the W.C.T.U. Mrs Hide has given untold service to the cause of the soldiers. In order to recognise the supreme sacrifice of our comrades who fell in the historical battle on the 12th October, 1917, a wreath was placed on the Troopers' Memorial in Dee street. The W.C.T.U. have played their part. Their members have given untold service during the war. They have worked long hours to give the soldiers' comforts. It has been the practice to give a social evening to returned soldiers. The evenings have been very much appreciated and worthy of the utmost appreciation by returned men.

Rumours are prevalent that a good deal of illegal shooting of game is going on in the Southland district and it behoves the "sportsmen" responsible to exercise extreme care, as they run a risk of having to pay very dearly for their "bag."

Men's, youths', and boys' clothing made in dependable New Zealand Tweeds. All the year round we give you the best value and best finish at the lowest prices. Men's ready-to-wear suits in Petone, Mosgiel, Roslyn, and Kaipoi tweeds and worsteds, 105s to 170s. Suits to measure, new season's patterns just to hand, fit and style guaranteed, 147 to 215s. Special suits to measure in colonial heavy tweed, 130s. Men's overcoats in tweed, hydrotite, rain and oilskin, 75s to 190s. Boys' suits in best colonial makes, all sizes, from 38s 6d to 65s. Men's odd trousers, 15s 6d to 35s. Denims, 12s 6d, 15s 6d. Denim jackets, 12s 6d, 17s 6d. A splendid selection of men's hats in all the newest shapes and styles, 14s 6d to 55s. Men's caps, 4s 11d to 10s 6d. Novelties in ties, scarves, handkerchiefs, braces, tie pins, studs, etc. At H. and J. Smith, Ltd., Clothing Specialists, Tay street, Invercargill, and Main street, Gore.

# ELECTRIC POWER BOARD.

## MEETINGS CONFIDENTIAL.

# DEFEAT OF AUDITOR-GENERAL.

## FRICION OVER ACCOUNTS.

# THE POWER BEHIND THE THRONE

### BOARD'S ACTIVITIES CONFIDENTIAL.

Our readers will remember that we wrote to the Electric Power Board requesting that we be enabled to see the minutes of the Board. It will also be remembered that the chairman of the Board stated that we could not see the minutes as editor of "The Digger." As explained, our attitude was one of courtesy, which is more than the Board extended to the Borough Council during its discussion on the deliberations of the Gas, Water, Trams, and Electricity Committee. However, the secret diplomacy of the Board was in itself sufficient justification for our attitude in trying to conserve the interests of the ratepayers and demand that those who have to shoulder the financial burden shall receive a sufficient supply of information regarding the Board's activities and subject to no autocratic reservation. The Board ultimately decided that the minutes should be available and the following intimation was received from the chairman:—

2nd October, 1920.

Mr F. G. Blake,  
Managing Editor "The Digger,"  
Box 310, Invercargill.

Dear Sir,—Your application of the 21st ult., came before the Board on Tuesday last when it was resolved that I should get into touch with you and arrange that you should have an opportunity of inspecting the minutes of the Board under certain conditions. I should be glad if you will call or communicate with me as to when it will be convenient for you to peruse the minutes as you desire.—Yours faithfully,

A. W. RODGER,  
Chairman.

In reply to this communication from the Board we wrote asking for a definition of the phrase "special conditions," and the following communication was received:—

5th October, 1920.

Mr F. G. Blake,  
P.O. Box 310, Invercargill.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of yesterday, and in reply thereto beg to state that the only condition that the Board required me to impose on you when inspecting the Minutes is that you should observe the records of the work done in committee as being of a confidential character.—Yours faithfully,

A. W. RODGER,  
Chairman.

Our readers will perceive that the major portion of the Board's activities are of a confidential character, and we would draw the attention of the chairman to his statement that the Town Council had done most of its work in committee and in effect tried to justify the Board's attitude for so much committee work. The various reports which embrace the committee's deliberations are available to the press and are frequently published prior to the Council meeting. Some of the members of the Board have protested against this procedure and we here place on record the attitude of Messrs Fowler and Young for entering their protest by way of a resolution. When we went to see the minutes of the Board Mr Campbell stated that he had been instructed to show us the minutes but the taking of notes was prohibited.

Now why all these protective measures? Have the people no say in this matter and "as lambs before their shears are dum, openeth not their mouth?" We are quite agreed that there are some things which cannot be made public. Take the question of finance, the flimsy fabric upon which it rests may be prejudiced by publicity and we have refrained from comment. In most cases, after the minutes were read the Board went into committee and in some meetings the Board went into committee several times and the bulk of the business done in open Board was the outward correspondence. Whenever the engineer's agreement, legal expenses, chairman's visit abroad, and other matters were considered by the Board, it was done in committee.

The "Southland Times," in an hysterical outburst actually stated that the conduct of the Board's meeting was open to criticism and such things as the Engineer's agreement could be profitably discussed. It is too late for the "Times" to give a lead to the people on this matter. "The Digger" can safely claim to be the first journal to attack the Board's administration and make itself a force felt in the Board's activities. Nevertheless, it is this is the view of the "Times" then why not criticise it? It is also a fact that the chairman was to supply the press with a report. It is evident that the Board's methods have censored the press and robbed the people of the information they are entitled to.

### DEFEAT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL.

This is a question which we have referred to in these columns and the red A lot of unjust criticism has been referred to in these columns before. levelled at the Town Council and we refer to the Council's objection to Section 7: "Provided that no monies shall be payable under this Section in respect of travelling expenses incurred out of New Zealand save with the approval of the Minister of Public Works."

We have first of all to consider the fact that the Board decided to send the chairman abroad as indicated at the meeting held on July 6, 1920, when it was decided that the chairman go to England or any other country as required. In the meantime the local representative of the Audit Department had been making himself acquainted with the Board's books and realising that it was doubtful whether the Board had power to pay the expenses of the chairman, he wrote to his chief, the Auditor-General, who advised that no statutory power existed to engage the services of the chairman to go abroad as required by the Board, also that it involved the principle of profit. This position naturally caused the Board some concern, and it was decided to ask the Board's solicitor for a legal opinion. In due course this was received and we understand that the legal opinion held was that there was a conflict between the Auditor-General and the Board which brought to a standstill the impending departure of the chairman. It is thus evident that in order to give a wider interpretation to the provision of existing legislation an amendment to the Act was necessary and this wider interpretation was provided for in the last amendments which the Borough Council criticised. We are not influenced



any statement that the pro-  
from some other Board. The  
Board was the one inconveni-  
Now that the amendment is  
the Board are legally entitled to  
chairman abroad, and the Audi-  
general is defeated. The provision in  
amendment which seeks the approval  
Minister for Public Works is cap-  
of political influence.

Section 20 (original Act), as amend-  
Section 6, Amendment Act:—In-  
Borough Council considers chair-  
ofarium should not exceed £500  
and object to amendment as  
as important principle affect-  
Local Bodies is involved.

ing the above amendment it was  
by the Board that in the event  
Section 1, of Section 20, of the  
being amended as drafted by the

It is recommended that the  
of Public Works provide that  
man's salary be £1000 per  
Now, why is all this to be  
the category of confidential?

Board may explain things as they  
see. They may treat the Town Council  
contempt. The "Southland Times"  
say, "hands off the Board," and

Or Lillcrap. But are the Coun-  
not correct when they say that an  
principle affecting Local Bodies

and? The explanation was given  
at meeting that all these provi-  
nated at the conference of Power  
and under this explanation the  
nollors suggestions were regarded as

"outcome of ignorance." To put the  
plainly they originated with the  
and were referred to a Conference

was a suggestion from the local  
This was some time after and  
conference was the outcome of the  
later for Public Works stating that he

to preserve intact as much of the  
local Act as possible.

At the first meeting in July the Board  
ived a copy of the draft Bill from the  
rd's solicitor. So it is evident the  
was authorised long before this

The Bill was comprehensive as in-  
ted by the following analysis:—

Short title.  
Definition, ratepayer, transmission  
constituent local authority.

First meeting of the Board.  
Chairman's remuneration.  
Roll for poll purposes and methods  
making poll.

Rate, alternative, method of collec-  
and 8. Machinery for collecting rate,  
Annual meeting.

Profit and loss account.  
Information for Order in Council.  
Addition to power boards, tunnels,  
distribution line.

By-laws.  
Penalties.  
After due consideration it was ap-  
oved by the Board. At a subsequent

eting of the Board it was explained  
at the Minister had been asked to ex-  
dite the Bill and at this meeting the  
ference was suggested.

CHAIRMAN'S TRIP ABROAD.  
In a previous paragraph we have re-  
turned to the Board's decision on this  
atter. The conditions are that the  
ard pay the whole of the travelling

ences, first-class steamer fare, railway,  
Other transport fares as required, and  
reasonable incidental expenses. The  
Act was not wide enough in its pro-  
for payment of "reasonable ex-

And we are justified in asking  
the limited phrase should be associa-  
the terms of the Board's decision  
its chairman abroad?

MANAGING DIRECTOR.  
Our readers will remember that we  
ception to the chairman letting a  
which the Board had decided to  
again. The chairman justified his  
stating to us that he was in the  
of a managing director.

Thas correct and it follows that the  
ard has delegated its power, which  
never intended in the spirit of  
The attention of the Board was  
to the fact that the whole thing  
commercial undertaking and must  
be to a commercial company

has a managing director. At a  
meeting the joint position of  
man and managing director was  
it. At a meeting in the month of

it was decided that the chairman  
£200 per annum (which is the maxi-  
amount payable under the Act, but  
hing to do with the appointment of  
naging director).

ENGINEER'S AGREEMENT.  
We have frequently stated through  
columns that the Board exists as  
piece of machinery to satisfy legislative  
requirements. In the first place it is con-  
aded that the chairman has power to

let a contract even if the Board decides  
that it be advertised again.

Second: That the engineers have full  
power over the construction department.  
There is nothing else but construction.  
The Engineers control the books and Mr  
Campbell is the Board's executive officer  
and is responsible to the Audit Depart-  
ment. We have said before that there  
was real trouble between the two depart-  
ments and things came to a head at the  
last meeting. Mr Bowmar is to be con-  
gratulated on the way he stuck to his  
enquiry and declined to deviate from the  
point. Mr Young is to go through the  
books and we hope that when this matter  
comes before the Board it will be con-  
ducted in open meeting. We have been  
asked not to publish this piece of mud-  
dling, but why should things go on in this  
way. As things are the executive officer's  
position is untenable. All this is through  
the powers delegated to the engineers by  
the agreement and no wonder Mr  
Fowler was emphatic that the Board re-  
consider the agreement. With the same  
emphasis as he demanded this, we state  
that the engineers' agreement should be  
placed on the table for the press.

FINANCE.  
As previously stated we will not dis-  
close the financial arrangements but there  
can be no harm in giving the position  
regarding Sir Joseph Ward's loan. When  
Sir Joseph Ward arrived home he found a  
new set of conditions existing and the  
position at that time is as follows:—  
First loan £1,500,000, second 6½ per cent.,  
third floated at £93, fourth term 20 years  
with annual drawings with right to repay  
in ten years, fifth to be underwritten at  
3 per cent., making cost £160,000. Total  
amount receivable £1,340,000.

THE PRESS.  
At the last meeting of the Board ar-  
rangements were made for the Board to  
visit the works and to be accompanied by  
the press. The chairman gave a lead  
to the Board to invite the Invercargill  
dailies and the Maitland Ensign, but the  
Board promptly added "The Digger" to  
the list. Now we feel inclined to go a  
step further and say that the Board  
should have invited the editors of the  
other papers and not confined it to the  
four principal papers.

At the last meeting the chairman stated  
that he was going to bring down a state-  
ment for the annual meeting and the  
people would be told as much as possible  
about the financial position. The statement  
is to be handed to the Press, and we hope  
it will be a complete analysis, and we  
suggest that the engineer's agreement ac-  
company it. When we are asked not to  
publish legal expenses and matters per-  
taining to muddling we are decidedly un-  
easy. The legal expenses of £1000 (in  
round figures), which were published  
against the wishes of the Board have  
caused a great deal of hostility, but we  
have a duty to perform to the public  
which stands pre-eminent, and when all  
trace of secrecy, and autocratic control  
is eliminated, we shall be the first to as-  
sist the Board to bring the scheme to a  
successful termination.—Editor, "Digger."

THE DIGGER'S LETTER BOX.  
Gavin Brighton.—Owing to pressure on  
our space owing to Power Board matters  
your communication was held over until  
next week.

Messrs H. and B.—Your notes for our  
Angling Column are welcome, and will be  
incorporated in our next column.—Edt.

"Dick" and "Hal," Round Hill, via  
Colac Bay.—Glad to have your stories.  
They are very nice and will be published  
in next week's issue.—Mater.

THE AMBULANCE.  
(To the Editor).  
Sir,—Will you allow me to take up  
some of your valuable space in voicing a  
complaint? I have a small property at  
Awarua nine miles from Invercargill, and  
recently had occasion to ring up for the  
ambulance my wife being ill. I sent the  
message between 1.45 and 2 p.m., and  
the ambulance arrived at 2.30, and  
reached the hospital at 3 o'clock, for  
which service I was charged £1 14s, the  
distance being nine miles each way. I  
consider this an exorbitant charge and a  
case of profiteering. It is a nice way  
to treat a man in my position, one who  
fought for his country and when he re-  
turned acquired a small place in which  
to settle down. I have been told that  
at the time of the influenza epidemic the  
ambulance went out to Rimu and brought  
to town a patient, the distance there and  
back being twenty-two miles, and that  
the charge did not exceed 15s.—I am,  
etc.,  
RETURNED SOLDIER.

## SOUTHLAND COUNTY.

## THE COUNTIES ACT, 1908.

LOCAL ELECTIONS AND POLLS ACT,  
1908.ELECTION OF NINE COUNCILLORS  
FOR THE VARIOUS RIDINGS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an  
Election for the return of a Council-  
lor for each of the undermentioned Rid-  
ings will be held on WEDNESDAY, the  
10th November, 1920.

Candidates for the Offices must be  
nominated in the manner prescribed in  
"The Local Elections and Polls Act,  
1908." Nomination papers must be de-  
livered to the Returning Officer or ad-  
dressed to him, and delivered at the  
Southland County Council Office, Clyde  
street, Invercargill, not later than noon  
on MONDAY, 1st November, 1920.

WAIHOPAI RIDING.  
AWARUA RIDING.  
WALLACETOWN RIDING.  
WINTON RIDING.  
ORETI RIDING.  
HOKONUI RIDING.  
WAIKAI RIDING.  
MATAURA RIDING.  
TOETOES RIDING.

The Poll, if required, will be taken on  
the day appointed for the Election, name-  
ly, 10th November, 1920.

A. J. SERVICE,  
Returning Officer.  
Southland County Council Office,  
Invercargill, October 8, 1920. 1687

## SOUTHLAND COUNTY.

"HOSPITALS AND CHARITABLE  
INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1909."ELECTION OF SIX REPRESENTA-  
TIVES ON SOUTHLAND HOSPITAL  
AND CHARITABLE AID BOARD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an  
Election for the return of six Repre-  
sentatives to the Southland Hospital and  
Charitable Aid Board will be held on  
WEDNESDAY, November 10, 1920.

Candidates for the office must be  
nominated in the manner prescribed in  
"The Local Elections and Polls Act,  
1908."

Nomination papers must be delivered  
to the Returning Officer or addressed to  
him, and delivered at the Southland  
County Council Office, Clyde street, In-  
vercargill, not later than noon on MON-  
DAY, November 1, 1920.

Nominations must be accompanied by a  
deposit of three pounds sterling.

The Poll, if required, will be taken on  
the day appointed for the Election,  
namely, November 10, 1920.

A. J. SERVICE,  
Returning Officer.  
Southland County Council Office,  
Invercargill, October 8, 1920. 1688

District Lands and Survey Office,  
Invercargill, October 11, 1920.

NOTICE is hereby given that leases of  
the undermentioned lands for a term  
of fourteen years will be submitted for  
sale by public auction at this office on  
TUESDAY, 23rd November, 1920, at 11  
o'clock a.m.

Sections 69, 70, 75, 76, Block III., Sea-  
ward Bush, 17 acres. Upset Rental  
£10.

Sections 11, 51 to 55 and 57, Block V.,  
Lindhurst Hundred, 751 acres. Upset  
rental £60. (Improvements £215 for  
fencing).

Sections 7, 7a, 7b, Block XIV., Jacobs  
River Hundred, 88 acres. Upset  
rental £20. About 1½ miles from  
Fairfax.

Full particulars, including sale plans,  
may be obtained on application to this  
office.

THOS. BROOK,  
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

## DIGGERS!

We have  
Chains  
for your  
Badge.

W. A. BROWN,

JEWELLER,

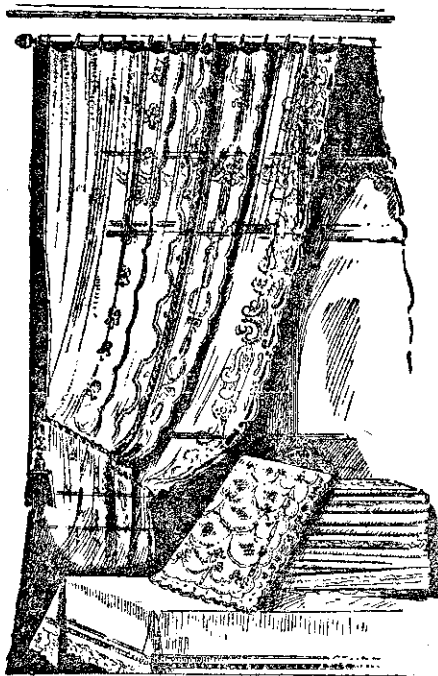
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In'gill.

SPECIAL SPRING DISPLAY  
OF FURNISHINGS

—AT—

## "THE EXHIBITION."



We are making a special  
Window Display of Furnish-  
ings this week, and would es-  
teem a visit of inspection.

In Madras Curtaining we  
have a specially wide and  
choice range and these will be  
the principal feature of this  
display.

## MADRAS MUSLINS.

In Plain Cream, with Plain  
and Scalloped Borders, from  
3/9 to 5/11 yard.

In Cream, with Coloured  
Borders, from 3/6 to 10/6 yard.

Also a large variety of Dark  
and Coloured Madras at 7/9 to  
14/6 yard.

## HEARTHUGS.

A very good selection in  
AXMINSTER from 32/6 to  
60s.

SOFA SQUARES in VEL-  
VET PILE, at 89/6.  
SOFA SQUARES in TAPES-  
TRY, at 57/6.

## Thomson &amp; Beattie, Ltd.

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'Phone 13. P.O. Box 46. Tay Street, Invercargill.

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DUNEDIN.

TUAPEKA ALE AND SPEIGHT'S ALWAYS ON TAP.

P. V. STEVENS, Prop.,  
19 Carrol street,  
Dunedin.



Good morning Miss Smith: I see  
you have a new cycle. Yes I bought  
it at CAMPBELL'S. Did you? It's a  
sister to mine then, I have dealt at  
Campbell's ever since they have start-  
ed business.

Everything stocked for the Cyclist  
and Motorist.

Inspection Invited Our Motto—Satisfaction.

J. D. Campbell,

CITY RUBBER DEPOT.

Opposite Post Office.  
Phone 1091. Box 297.

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WILLYW' KNIGHT CAR—35-h.p.

R. A. BAIRD.

Ring 'Phone—744.

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HIGH-CLASS CONFECTIONERY.  
HIGH-CLASS CONFECTIONERY.

High-Class Confectionery.

—at—

RICE'S

Leading Confectioners,  
DEE STREET.

# ADVANCE INVERCARGILL.

## BOROUGH LOANS.

### FIRST COST THE CHEAPEST.

A special meeting of the Town Council was held last night to consider putting a number of large loan proposals to the ratepayers. There were six proposals before the meeting, and the amount of only one was reduced.

There were present: The Mayor (Mr John Stead), and Councillors A. H. Mackrell, J. F. Lillierap, F. C. Blake, J. Stevenson, E. Sheehan, J. Miller, F. W. Preddy, S. McDonald, J. Matheson, J. T. Carswell, J. Martin and J. Doig.

#### THE WAR MEMORIAL.

It was stated by the Mayor that it had been suggested that £15,000 should be raised by loan and that there should also be an opportunity given for contributions. This was a former suggestion, he thought.

Cr. Martin: It was never hinted at.

Cr. Carswell, in moving that the memorial poll be taken along with the other loan proposals, said that he did not see that the taking of them together would militate against any. The ratepayers would have sufficient discretion to decide which loans they should support.

In answer to a question, the Mayor stated that the Council had previously decided to raise a loan of £15,000.

Cr. Carswell said that £15,000 should be raised even if it was not all needed. The Finance Committee had concluded this after careful consideration.

Cr. Mackrell spoke of the advisability of soliciting subscriptions and, if one money was available, spending £20,000 on the memorial. The cause was worth the expenditure, and the country people should be given a chance to contribute towards what would be a provincial memorial.

The opinion expressed by Cr. Mackrell opened up a big question, said Cr. Stevenson, and there should be something definite about the proposal.

The date of the poll was fixed for Wednesday, December 1.

#### GASWORKS IMPROVEMENTS.

In moving that £25,000 be raised for improvements at the gasworks, Cr. Lillierap declared that the money was necessary, and, as the gasworks manager had pointed out in his reports, vertical retorts would mean an annual saving of £5000. Even if anything approaching that was saved the Council would be doing a very wise thing.

The proposals, said Cr. Mackrell, meant that a mechanical system in the manufacture of gas would be substituted for the present laborious system of stoking. Cr. Mackrell spoke of the advisability of popularising the use of gas. Gas and electricity ran together in the home, and in the north the former was being freely advertised.

Cr. Miller stated that if the gas manager could produce gas of a high heating value (as he said he could) with the present system, it would meet the requirements for some time to come. Therefore, he thought the Council would be acting judiciously if it turned down the proposal.

Cr. Mackrell: Don't you want to save £5000 a year?

Doubt that gas and electricity ran together was expressed by Cr. Stevenson. He had been assured that it was only a matter of time before a perfect electric cooking stove would be turned out. When the power from Monowai was available cheap cooking, heating and lighting was promised. Still, if the chairman of the committee had gone into this question with the manager, and he thought that the Council was justified in making the improvements, he would support the proposal.

Support of the proposal was lent by Cr. S. McDonald, who quoted figures showing the universal growth of gas consumption.

Cr. Carswell also supported the proposal. In doing so he said that it would be a few years yet before electricity was available in quantity sufficient to necessitate the scrapping of the gasworks, if that was ever necessary.

Cr. Lillierap: A few centuries.

Cr. Blake said that from personal inquiry he knew that the engineers in England were mostly all confident that gas would have its place always.

Cr. Miller voted against the motion, which was carried.

#### TRAMWAYS.

It had to be admitted that £25,000 for the tramways was a fairly large sum, said Cr. Lillierap in moving that a loan pro-

posal for that amount should be adopted, but when future requirements and the position that had been forced on them by the Public Works Department were taken into account, the amount did not seem extortionate. The committee did not bring forward the proposal with feelings of joy, but the money was essential to bring the service up to the full requirements of the Public Works Department (including four extra cars besides the six already on order), the money previously raised was thought sufficient at the time, but prices had soared to such an extent that it was impossible to complete works on hand without more cash. With the few extra cars they would be able to give a much more satisfactory service, and the revenue would increase.

Cr. McDonald: Have you any estimates of increased revenue?

Cr. Lillierap replied that it was very difficult to go into detailed figures as had been done previously.

Cr. Martin seconded the motion.

Cr. Mackrell declared that labour had to be eliminated from the service as much as possible. The cost was steadily increasing, and it would probably not be long before the tramway men would be asking for more money. The "one-man" car would mean a great saving.

Cr. Carswell moved an amendment. "That the amount allocated for the four extra cars be eliminated and that the loan be for £12,500 to meet the Council's commitments." In doing so he said that cables had indicated a fall in American motor cars, and there was a possibility that this would extend to other articles. The Council, like every other public body, was meeting with difficulty in raising money, and present requirements should be reduced to a minimum.

The amendment was seconded by Cr. Sheehan.

Cr. Miller said that the committee would have done better if it had gone after revenue by tapping some of the outlying areas with a motor bus. He asked what was to be done with the present cars which, it had been said, were ruining the lines. Were they to be sold?

Cr. Mackrell: A good proposition for later on.

Cr. McDonald said that although the cars had not paid, the committee was proposing to double the capital expenditure, including the previous loan. This would mean an interest bill of £10,000 as against £5000 at present. The committee should have produced a return showing the anticipated extra revenue as against the extra costs.

In the course of his reply Cr. Lillierap declared that the four extra cars would be necessary to operate the improved system advocated some time ago.

The motion was carried by six to five. Cr. Carswell called for a division on the amendment, and the voting was as follows:—For: Crs. Carswell, Sheehan, Miller, McDonald and Preddy; against: Crs. Mackrell, Lillierap, Blake, Stevenson, Doig, Matheson and Martin.

#### ELECTRICITY.

In moving that £50,000 be asked for to reticulate the Borough with electricity, Cr. Lillierap declared that the committee recommended the loan with every confidence. Every unit that they sent out meant a substantial revenue to the department, and when the Electric Power Board came along with its power it was said that there would be an outery if the Borough did not have its area reticulated.

A councillor: When will they come along?

Cr. Lillierap: I am not going to make any rash statements. (Laughter).

Continuing, Cr. Lillierap said that £12,893 was necessary to complete works already authorised, but not covered by loan money, and £32,000 was required to carry on the department for the next two years. Practically all the latter sum would be revenue producing. He believed that if the rest of the area was reticulated at once most of the people would take the power.

The motion found a seconder in Cr. Mackrell, who said that the department should be developed—it might lead to an easement of the rates.

An amendment "that the amount proposed be reduced by £25,000" was moved by Cr. McDonald. He believed that money to finish the work in hand should be obtained, but they were under no obligation to go in for extensive reticulation during the next two years. Looking ahead, they did not know what changes would take

place in the money market, and there might be a considerable drop in prices within two years. Including the loan sanctioned some months ago, the department would have an expenditure on interest and sinking fund of £7546 as against the £2054 that it had taken to carry on the department in 1919.

The amendment was seconded by Cr. Carswell. He thought that the expenditure would be justifiable, but there were loans proposed for sewerage and roads that were absolutely essential to the ratepayers, and anything that could be done without should go by the board. Most of the money would be spent in reticulating outside the borough, and this was one of the strongest points against the scheme.

# FURNITURE.

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Cr. Lillierap said that other bodies were all asking for large sums of money and Invercargill had as much chance of getting cash as other places. He was surprised that there were any councillors against a revenue-earning proposal.

The amendment was lost by a large majority.

#### SEWERAGE.

It was proposed to raise £50,000 for sewerage extension, and Cr. Stevenson proposed the motion. The councillor stated that there had been such heavy increases attached to the work that more money was an absolute essential. The work had to be carried out. The committee might have been blamed for not pushing on the work during the war, but it had thought that conditions would improve instead of getting worse. He explained that, provided the conditions had been normal, the engineer's estimates would have been well within the limits of cost.

"When will the work be done?" asked Cr. Mackrell, amidst laughter.

Cr. Stevenson answered that the committee had to "go easy" owing to the state of the labour market.

Cr. Blake: A sewerage scheme is designed to give a certain effect after a great deal of mathematical enquiry and an incomplete scheme cannot accomplish this effect. The septic tanks are mathematically designed and we cannot expect proper septic treatment. In stead of 10 or 12 men we should have ten times that number on the work.

#### ROADS.

When the proposal to raise £80,000 for road improvement was considered, Cr. Stevenson, moving the necessary motion of support, declared that the work was absolutely necessary, and he was sure that and the memorial proposal would be received more favourably by the ratepayers. The amount was comparatively a small one, but the engineer had shown that he could do a lot of good to the main roads with it.

Cr. Carswell seconded the motion. In his opinion the loss in revenue would not be so great as the cost of maintenance would be greatly reduced. The motor car owner, especially, would not grudge an extra tax if he got decent roads, and the Council should not wait for the Government's tyre tax. They should bring in by-laws and tax all destructive vehicles.

Cr. Mackrell was in support of the motion.

Cr. Miller declared that road making was in the melting pot, and the present was not an opportune time for embarking on an ambitious scheme.

Cr. Blake: The effective treatment of our roads is one which we shall have to face and we should give the ratepayers the opportunity of saying whether they desire a vigorous roading policy brought into operation. The time has arrived when the Government should take over the whole of the main roads in this country, and this council should initiate a movement which would have the effect of bringing pressure to bear upon the Government to give effect to this proposal. Then there is the tyre tax. The man who uses the road is the man who should pay for it, and the council should be a propelling power behind a movement to bring pressure to bear upon the Government to place legislation upon the Statute Book empowering this tax to be levied. The problem of dustless roads and tar macadam is 5a-

yond the experimental stage and we should direct the whole of our energies in conducting a roading policy which will utilise the whole of the tar from our gas works. In Britain the tar macadam road is still being laid down and a number of rural highways have been effectively treated with tar spraying. In New Zealand Taranaki leads the "good road" movement. It is the only province where outside the city and borough limits, any extent of tarred road other than an experimental stretch is to be seen. Every county council in Taranaki, but one, has adopted the policy of tarred roads.

Waimate West.—A small county of 72 square miles, with a capital value of about 1½ millions. Nearest connection to a railway is eight miles, and there are nine or ten heavy motor lorries over it every day; also a lot of through traffic from an adjoining county. Owing to the heavy traffic it was found impossible to maintain the road out of rates. Went in for a loan of £60,000 and have now 57 miles of this road. One sector of road, £1000 per mile on repairs before tar treatment and the road was worn out in two years, on coating, top-dressing since, cost about £420 per mile. Engineer estimates 15ft wide at 13s per chain per annum. There are two ridings, and the rate is 1½d and 1-3d in the other. There is no special rate and no toll gates.

Patea County.—Efforts concentrated on main road improvements. County has a capital value of three millions and has a 3d rate and has laid nine miles out of its 26 of main roads.

Kairanga City Council has also a great deal.

Wanganui borough has ten miles of tar macadam road generally laid on old pit gravel formation. (Same size as Invercargill).

Hawera borough.—Population 3600. Four miles tar macadam road, 1½ miles tar painted road, 20 miles single path tar macadam with concrete kerbs and channels.

Palmerston North.—Tar macadam and tar painted roads.

Levin Township.—Population 1800. Streets: Main street is the main north road and traffic is heavy. It was tarred pre-war with gas-works tar, three coats at a cost of 5½d per square yard and has been costing in maintenance 2d per square yard annually. Concrete roads would cost about 8s or 10s per square yard. At 8s this would be £2350 per mile for 10ft roadway, and £4220 for an 18ft road. Annual cost of maintenance about £40 per mile. Taking interest and sinking fund at 8 per cent. is £337 plus £40 maintenance—£377. Many of our metalled roads are costing at least £150 to maintain and then there is no road.

Vincent County have made concrete roads.

In Auckland two miles in concrete. Oldest, Little Queen street. Also refer to cresote blocks.

Wellington.—About a mile in heavy streets, carpeted over tar pitch and asphalt carpet. Varies from 9s per square yard. One street top dressed tar on hand, 7s 4½d per square yard.

Napier.—About quarter mile.

Wanganui borough has two concrete roads. The first, Victoria Avenue, and Taupo Quay. Work done 1914, cost, concrete, 6s 10d per square yard, carpet 2s 5d, total 9s 3d per square yard.

Kairanga County.—A trial length rural concrete road, bare concrete, 10ft wide, which was laid down by a councillor, guaranteed £29 per chain. (No sign of wear).

Cr. McDonald remarked that the passing of loans that night reminded him of "frenzied finance." These loans, if carried, would bring the Borough debt up to £900,000, and a great part of the money raised at one per cent. higher than the money they had carried all those years. The tendency was to reduce the money rate, and they did not know but what in a year or two they would be able to get money at four or five per cent. again. He believed that the amount of £80,000 should be reduced to say £25,000 to be spent on improving one of the main streets

bearing the bulk of the traffic. If one moved, he would support, an amendment reducing the amount to £50,000.

There was a supporter of Cr. McDonald in Cr. Preddy, who attributed the reason of the money market to the competition for cash.

Cr. Martin spoke in favour of the motion. In his reply, Cr. Stevenson said that the engineer, after a careful investigation, had given a good and moderate report. It was so modest that there were 51 streets the scheme could not be carried. He was sorry that the amount was £100,000, and if the Council was willing he would move that it be so increased.

Cr. McDonald: Make it £200,000.

The motion was carried, being opposed by Crs. Miller, Preddy and McDonald.

#### RECLAMATION.

Just before the meeting closed Mayor reminded the Council that it was necessary to carry on the reclamation work along the eastern wall.

It was decided to add a special loan of £1500 to the proposals for this purpose.

#### MARKET REPORTS.

##### SOUTHLAND MARKET NOTES.

When cheese was commandeered 10½d f.o.b. by Government it cost 2d for making and all expenses to 1d, leaving net return 8½d, which enabled factories to pay at least 2s 4d lb butter fat. Now that factories are selling 14½d to 14¾d f.o.b. a simple calculation will show a net return for butter fat at least 34½d, an increased return of 1s per lb butter-fat. In a good average season a good herd of cows earns for owner £1 for each penny paid for butter fat, hence this year the income from herds should increase £10 per cow.

The oat market is quiet, except for a considerable demand for seed oats, which although the time for sowing should be over, still continues remarkably strong. Merchants have practically depleted the stocks of such varieties as Sparrow and Duns, while on all hands considerable business in seed oats is being done than was anticipated, and this is materially reducing the stocks in merchant hands. The quality offering from the north on their basis of quotations has a time been of much reduced amount. But have been reported at 4s 4½d, f.o.b. but as far as can be learned none of the business has been for our quarter. Local merchants refuse to think of anything under cost price.

Despite the feeling induced by northern prices for oats our market is still firm for prime quality chaff at 27 10s, with keen demand, but stocks in store are low ebb.

The ryegrass market is firm, and orders have been so considerable that more than one instance merchants' holdings have been entirely depleted.

The hemp market is in much the same condition as in last report, continuing steady at £34 on trucks for high fall and £36 for good fair.

Fat Cattle.—Extra prime steers, £22 to £24; prime, £16 to £18 10s; unfinished down to £13; extra prime heifers, £16 to £18; prime, £13 10s to £14 10s; unfinished, down to £10; extra prime cows, £14 to £16; prime, £12 to £13 10s; unfinished, down to £9.

Fat Sheep.—Extra prime wethers, 48 to 50s 6d; prime, 42s to 44s; unfinished down to 39s; extra prime ewes, 38s to 40s; prime, 34s to 37s; unfinished, down to 30s.

Store Cattle.—Forward three and four-year-old steers, £12 to £13 10s; ordinary, £11 10s to £12 10s; inferior, down to £10 10s; two and 2½-year-old steers, £7 10s to £8 15s; 18-months, £5 15s to £6 10s; yearlings and good calves, 50s to 75s; dairy cows are practically the same as last week.

Nottingham, which has earned the reputation of being a well-lighted city, has decided to abolish street lighting for three months in order to save two pence in the pound on the rates.



## "HIGHLANDER" MILK PRODUCTS

Are Manufactured in Southland, and  
are made by a Company all British  
owned.

### HIGHLANDER BRAND

Is a guarantee of quality and nation-  
ality.

It can always be depended upon.

## TOOLS.

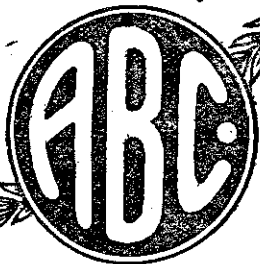
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500 C. C. One Hour Record broken by I. Emerson on a  
400 C. C. A.B.C. MOTOR CYCLE,  
Covering 67 miles, 1636 yards in one hour.  
Also Senior T. T. One Hour Race 500 C. C.  
A.B.C. FIRST. WON BY 19 MILES.

All other Competitors were of greater cylinder capacity.

A.B.C. Competition Results have already demonstrated its su-  
periority. But it is far more than a Competition Motor Bicycle. It  
is a Genuine Car on two wheels. Balanced twin engine, Unit construc-  
tion, Clutch front speed gear, Long lived Transmission, Single lever  
carburettor, Car type brakes for and aft and perfectly sprung frame,  
are some of its features.

Made by—  
THE SOPWITH AVIATION CO.,  
The World's Largest Aeroplane Manufacturers.

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SOUTHLAND AGENTS,  
WHITE SWAN BUILDINGS,  
DEE STREET INVERCARGILL.

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IRON RAILINGS,  
CONCRETE KERBS,  
HEADSTONES,  
BOOKS, TABLETS,  
and all  
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310 North Road.

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Advertisements—One insertion, 4/-  
each; 3/- per inch for each sub-  
sequent insertion (prepaid).  
Wedding and Marriage Notices—3/6 one  
insertion; 5/6 two insertions.  
Funeral Notices—3/6 one insertion, 5/6 for  
two, and 7/6 for three insertions.  
General Notices—For notice only, 3/6;  
with verses, 3/6, plus 6d per  
line for each verse.  
Lost and Found—1/- for one  
line of sixteen words.

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Your Furniture.

## W. S. Robinson & Co.,

The Reliable Furniture House,  
KELVIN STREET.

Phone—760.

## The Nature Column.

(By "Student.")

("Student" will be pleased to receive  
notes on any branch of Natural His-  
tory. Observations on birds, insects,  
plants, etc., will be equally welcome.  
If using a pen-name, will correspondents  
please enclose real name and address.)

The late J. R. Cuthbertson in the  
eighties read a paper before the Institute  
in Invercargill on our subterranean water  
supply. He stated there that the water  
bearing strata could be traced to the  
Dunsdale at a uniform depth. We have  
the same statement made to-day, i.e.,  
"The continuous long line of auriferous  
gravels through which the water per-  
colates must exist without a break at an  
"average uniform depth underground  
"throughout the whole distance and on-  
"ward in a north-easterly direction to the  
"region of its origin." This implies that  
the auriferous gravels were laid down by  
a river coming from the north-east. It  
also implies that the slope of the country  
was much the same as it is now. The only  
present day river which could have taken  
such a course is the Mataura. It might  
possibly have come through the site of  
Invercargill. But the head-waters of the  
Mataura in the not very far distant past  
were, according to Professor Marshall, the  
the head-waters of the Oreti River which  
flowed down the air gap at Eyre Creek  
through which the railway to Kingston  
now runs. Its present course is a new  
one almost from start to finish. Further  
none of the rivers of Southland, the Mat-  
aura included, take their rise in moun-  
tains containing quartz in sufficient quan-  
tity to account for the enormous deposits  
on the Southland Plains, including the  
water bearing strata under notice.

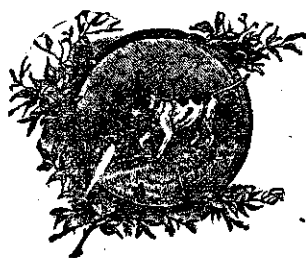
Where then did all this gravel come  
from? A first-class geologist has said that  
the gravel from the town bores shows  
certain characteristics. The quartz was in  
a massive form, and in schist country. In  
Stewart Island we find the schist and  
also quartz. The sea is comparatively  
shallow down to the subantarctic islands  
and seems to indicate the existence of a  
continent now submerged. It is quite  
within the bounds of possibility that the  
river which deposited the gravel came  
from the south or south-west. The source  
of the river through the warping of the  
land, has been submerged beneath the  
sea, and the lower reaches raised. So  
much for where the gravel came from.

Now the position in regard to the bores  
is somewhat peculiar. Years ago an  
artesian pipe was driven in the No. 2  
gardens and from this water flowed with-  
out pumping. Coming nearer to the tower,  
at Roope's brewery in Mary street a bore  
was put down to a considerable depth  
but proved useless. Another bore was  
put down on the Eastern Reserve but  
this also was a "dud." The next step was  
to put down a bore in front of the  
present well, and this was a great success.  
A deep bore was then put down to over  
700 feet and proved that no water existed  
below the gravels we are now drawing  
from. It did, however, prove that Inver-  
cargill is over an ancient deep valley  
filled with silts and thin lignite seams,  
indicating an estuarine deposit. A water  
diviner was then called in and indicated  
a spot midway up the park where he said  
a large stream of water existed. This  
bore was an absolute failure. A concrete  
foundation for a pump still marks the  
site of this abortive attempt and stands as  
a monument to the fallibility of the water  
diviner. Two years ago a bore was put  
down some chains to the north of the  
tower and a volume of water was found.  
A large bore has now been sunk and the  
next few days will show us what results  
to expect. Going still farther north we  
find that in Gladstone water can be got  
easily at twenty feet. At Roope's brew-  
ery the water rises in a well to the sur-  
face a number of feet above the low tide  
level of the Waipohai. In the old  
gravel pit near the North Road the water-  
bearing gravel can be seen out-cropping  
several feet above the road, and has been  
proved down below the bed of the Wai-  
hohai.

At Kew no water was to be had, yet at  
Heidelberg almost directly behind, water  
is said to be abundant. At Underwood  
a bore again proved a failure, the strata  
apparently rising towards the surface.  
This is not altogether surprising as rock  
outcrops at the junction of the Oreti and  
Makareia about a mile below and to the  
west of Underwood. It should also be  
mentioned that bores at the Power House  
and on the reclamation have been suc-  
cessful. So far as my information goes  
the bores on the reclamation are consid-  
erably shallower and indicate a rising of  
the strata.

The evidence of the bores is not com-  
plete, but it seems to show that the water  
exists in channels in very much the same  
way as we find the water running on the

surface in the beds of wide rivers like  
the Rakai. In this river, at normal  
times, a number of small channels with  
more or less impervious banks carry the  
water. Only in floods does the river  
rise bank to bank. Channels are often  
filled and altered. In our ancient river  
similar conditions may have occurred, I  
will deal further with the remaining  
points next week.



## Kennel Notes.

The list of judges for the Canterbury  
Kennel Club Show is as follows:—

Terriers (excepting Airedales and toys),  
R. Francis, Esq.  
Airedales, A. J. McEntree, Esq.  
Bulldogs and toy dogs, S. H. Rastall,  
Esq.  
Harriers, G. B. Starky, Esq.  
Working gun dogs, J. Fuller, Esq., and  
R. D. Harman, Esq.  
Working sheep dogs, W. Anderson, Esq.  
All other breeds, Major Stafford.

The Canterbury Kennel Club is to be  
congratulated on the number of fine  
specials it offers for competition.

Kennel clubs usually allow their specials  
to be won only by members of their club.  
This order of things will be changed at  
Christchurch this year when all comers  
will have the same opportunity as mem-  
bers. Exhibitors who show at the dif-  
ferent shows will greatly appreciate the  
new arrangement.

Dunedin clubs are sure to follow the  
example set.

One of the best specials to be competed  
for will be the Patron's Trophy, a very  
fine cup presented by L. G. D. Acland,  
Esq., for the best spaniel in the show.  
The cup has to be won twice, the present  
holder being Mr Alex. Kidd, of Inver-  
cargill. Others holding a claim are:  
T. W. Richmond, 1914; C. W. Good-  
win, 1915; C. E. Spedding, 1916; H. A.  
Taylor, 1917; not competed for in 1918.  
If any of the above fanciers can annex  
it this year it becomes their for keeps.

We believe that Mr Taylor, of Auck-  
land, is likely to be absent from the com-  
ing show, so we will be denied the plea-  
sure of seeing "Edenvale Billy" having it  
out with the best spaniel in the South  
Island.

Mr Eric Hay, of Waiuku, is showing  
and will take a lot of beating.

The owners of "Northland Naomi" have  
decided to show her next month though  
she will not be at her best at that time.

Distemper has been around again and  
Mr Doe has had the misfortune to lose a  
young dog which he thought a great deal  
of. It is much easier to lose a good one  
than to breed one.

"Babymere Perfection" is not at her  
best at present, her parental duties having  
robbed her of her show appearance. It  
will be hardly possible in the short time  
left to get her fit enough to beat "Biff-  
cliff" and Co.

The club is providing two ladies' brace-  
lets this year and have made a very wise  
classification: No. 1, for sporting dogs;  
No. 2, for non-sporting dogs. Previous  
bracelet winners barred.

Mr Hutton, of Dunedin, has secured  
a full brother to the late champion  
"Lady Halsey." The dog is supposed to  
be a fine type of bulldog, plenty of bone,  
natural wide front, good head, calm and  
expression. The name selected for Mr  
Hutton's new discovery is "Admiral Hal-  
sey." We wish him good luck at Christ-  
church and leave the rest of the business  
in his hands as we are inclined to the  
belief that he has a knack of showing a  
bulldog off to the best advantage.

The Dunedin Fancier's Club is forging  
ahead with the enterprise of bringing the  
noted all-round English judge, Mr Sam.  
Crabtree, to New Zealand. The move is  
one of the best yet instituted and if  
brought to a successful issue the fancy  
will be greatly benefited. Some of the  
standards at present in N.Z. are inter-  
preted in a queer manner.

We would advise exhibitors to keep in  
mind the date of closing entries for Christ-  
church, Saturday, October 23rd, 1920.

## Winter Bros.,

GENERAL CARRIERS,

SPEY STREET,

WISH to announce that they have a  
first-class Motor Lorry for Hire.

All kinds of Carrying undertaken, and  
Furniture removed.

The Lorry has comfortable seating ac-  
commodation for twenty passengers and  
will take parties out day or night at rea-  
sonable prices.

GIVE THE DIGGER CARRIERS A  
SHARE OF YOUR PATRONAGE.

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420 ACRES.

SUBDIVIDED INTO 8 PADDOCKS.

40 ACRES in Grass

80 ACRES Stubble, and Turnip  
ground.

BALANCE Surface Sown.

CARRIES 350 EWES AND 800  
DRY SHEEP.

GOOD HOMESTEAD AND ALL  
NECESSARY OUTBUILDINGS.

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PRICE—£8 PER ACRE.

£500 CASH.

BALANCE CAN BE ARRANGED.

NATIONAL MORTGAGE AND  
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W. E. TAYLOR, Manager.



## Children's Column.

## MATER'S LETTER BOX.

Mater invites children to send in stories for this column, or correspondence which will be replied to through these columns. All matter to be clearly written in ink, and on one side of the paper only. Name, age, and address, must be always given, and correspondence directed to "Mater," care of Editor, "The Digger," Box 310, Invercargill.

## THE GIPSY GIRL.

(Continued).

(By Alice Rhodes).

"I am just going for a walk with Helen before it is time for the evening performance," Dorothy said quietly.

"You are going to do nothing of the kind," said Mrs. Crewe. "You are going to come home with me, and I will find something better for you to do."

"Won't you excuse Dorothy this once, Mrs. Crewe?" pleaded Helen. "Could she not come and have tea with auntie and me? I should love her to come."

"No, I will not allow her to go to anybody's house to tea," Mrs. Crewe said, then turning to Dorothy she added, "Come along and help me with the work in the caravan."

So Dorothy had to leave her friend and return to her home with her stepmother.

Mrs. Crewe set her to work at once to wash the floor of the caravan. Unfortunately Dorothy upset the bucket of water all over the floor, and was made to mop it up while her stepmother stood over with a stick in her hand. When five o'clock came round Dorothy felt very tired for her stepmother had made her work hard all the afternoon. She could not appeal to her father, for he was afraid of his wife, and Dorothy felt very lonely and sad.

When everybody was asleep that night Dorothy dressed herself quietly. She wrote a little note to her father telling him how sad she was at leaving him, but that she could bear this life no longer. She then undid the latch of the door and crept softly down the steps of the caravan. Once outside she slipped on her shoes and ran as fast as she could go. She stopped at an old elm tree, and dropped a note in for Helen. This tree was a secret hiding place between Dorothy and Helen, and they often put letters there for each other.

The next day when Dorothy's disappearance was discovered a search party was sent out, but they could not find her.

When at last Helen found the note Dorothy had left she wept over it, for she had learned to love Dorothy dearly.

Many years later when Helen was about twenty years of age a lady called to see her, who would not give her name. She was shown into the drawing-room, where she waited for Helen to come.

"Don't you know me, dear?" said Dorothy, as Helen entered the room. She had called to see her friend, for she had not forgotten her, although it was such a long time since she went away.

"Is it really you, Dorothy? I thought I should never see you again," exclaimed Helen. "I was very sad when you had gone." Oh, it is good to see you, and now tell me what you have been doing all this time, I am so eager to know."

Dorothy told her that she had become a professional singer. After she had left the old elm tree she had wandered on and on until at last she had fainted with fatigue and hunger. A kindly old man who happened to be passing saw her and carried her to his home, where his wife took care of her, and finally adopted her.

One day she was playing over the music of one of her favourite songs on the piano, when she began to sing. Her foster father was delighted with her beautiful deep voice, and said she must certainly have it trained.

Dorothy worked hard, and became an enthusiastic student. She passed many examinations, and at last was allowed to sing in public. When the people heard her, her success was established, and she soon became a great public favourite.

O Fate! let me glide on a sun-lit tide,  
To the land where no grief may get!  
Bear me, I crave! on an opal wave,  
To the kingdom of Let-Us-Forget!  
Where the cascades flow 'neath a  
tropical glow,

In an equable temperature;  
And glad hearts know the blessings they  
owe

To Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

## The Home.

## TO PICKLE HAMS.

This recipe for the curing of hams with a flavour of garlic has been given before, but as it has been asked for again here it is: And if the taste of garlic is approved, the writer thinks no hams can be better than those cured with it. Chop less than a quarter of a pound of garlic fine, take two ounces of salt-petre, half an ounce of sal-prunella, and one pound of coarse brown sugar or treacle. Mix with as much salt as you deem sufficient, a pound or rather more. Rub the pickle well into the hams every day, then turn them in the pickle for a month, pouring it over them. It is sufficient for two hams weighing about twelve or fourteen pounds each. One bulb of garlic will probably be sufficient for a ham. When removed from the pickle send the hams to be smoked; or smoke essence may be brushed over them, about a tablespoonful is sufficient to give a slight smoky flavour. Garlic may be disliked, in that case it would be omitted and the pickle used without it.

—Another Way.—

Another good pickle for a ham weighing about sixteen pounds consists of one pound common salt, one pound treacle, or coarse sugar, one ounce of bag salt, half a pound of sal-prunella, and an ounce of black pepper. Rub this well into the ham for six weeks. Hard rubbing is most essential, or the salt will not penetrate as it should, and in very frosty weather neither will the meat take salt.

## SAVING GAS MANTLES.

We know that gas mantles are very brittle articles to deal with, only with care can they be made to last a reasonable time. Soak them in vinegar before use. Put a long hat-pin through the little loop at the top and dip the mantle in a jar of vinegar till well soaked. Lift out gently and place across another jar to drip and dry thoroughly. When absolutely dry, fix it in its place, and burn off the stiffening in the usual way. By this device the mantle lasts twice as long, gives a clearer light, and will stand a good breeze from an open door. This method has been found most successful in lengthening the service of gas mantles. Indeed, it took a prize for the best hint offered in a domestic magazine.

## TO TAKE BRUISES OUT OF FURNITURE.

Wet the part with warm water; double a piece of brown paper five or six times, soak it, and lay it on the place; apply on that a hot flat iron till the moisture is evaporated. If the bruise be not gone, repeat the process. Generally, after two or three applications, the dent or bruise is raised level with the surface. If the bruise be very small, merely soak it with warm water, and apply a red hot poker near the surface; keep it constantly wet, and in a few minutes the bruises will disappear.

## SCOTCH FLOUR SCONES.

Melt an ounce of butter, or substitute, in a pint of hot milk, pour it over a pound and a half of flour, stirring it quickly till it becomes a stiff dough; knead it well, and roll out very thin. Cut into small round cakes or scones and bake quickly on a girdle for three or four minutes. These scones eaten with cold bacon give a relish to it; spread with a good butter substitute they are very good, honey or marmalade likewise, but as these desirable additions are not always to be had as they were before the war, the cakes are very good eating without either. They take only a short time to make and to bake; a fact that those who have to prepare breakfast will not be slow to appreciate.

## TO USE UP DRY CHEESE.

Peel and boil until soft a pound and a half of artichokes and put them in a pie-dish; mix one and a half tablespoonfuls of flour in half a pint of milk, to which add half a breakfast cupful of grated dry cheese, a small piece of margarine, salt and cayenne to taste. Boil milk, etc., until quite smooth (about five minutes), pour it over the artichokes, scatter brown bread crumbs on top, and bake in the oven for a short time.

The New South Wales State Loan, of three millions, will bear interest at the rate of 5½ per cent., and will be payable in four instalments, the first of which is due on December 1.

## WEDDING BELLS.

## HEATCOTE—CUTHBERTSON.

On Wednesday, 23rd September, a great company of residents of Wairoa, Woodlaw, and surrounding districts assembled at the home of Mrs and Mrs Alex. Cuthbertson, "Robin Hood," Woodlaw, to celebrate the marriage of their eldest daughter, Mary Elizabeth, to Mr Robert Heathcote, of Wairoa (late No. 36864, N.Z.R.B.), and son of the late Mr A. Heathcote, for many years head teacher of several Southland schools.

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a beautiful white silk dress, with an overdress of white silk lace and the usual veil and wreath, with shower bouquet. The bride was attended to by her sister Miss Cis Cuthbertson, who wore a cream gorgette dress and navy blue hat with roses. Mrs Cuthbertson, mother of the bride, wore navy blue crepe-de-chine. The bridegroom had for his chief supporter his brother, Mr Jas. Heathcote of Invercargill. The bridegroom's present to the bride was an exquisite pendant and chain, and to the bridesmaid a gold brooch with beetle in amethysts and pearls, the bride presented the bridegroom with a gold mounted ribbon watch guard.

After the ceremony which was performed the Rev. A. McDonald, of Otautau (who had married the bride's parents), the guests retired to a large marquee where a bounteous repast was set out. After the good things had been done full justice to and the cake tasted, a most interesting speech was given by the Rev. A. McDonald, in which he gave a resume of his work in the early days before the country was divided into farms, he having had charge of a large district up till a few years ago.

In the evening a large ball was held in Mr Geo. Bain's hall, Wairoa, at which over fifty couples took part in the grand march, led off by the newly married couple, the bride wearing her wedding gown. Songs were sung during the evening by Miss M. Forde, Mr Strudwicke, Mr A. Keen, and Mr Faulkner, and all went well until the early hours of the morning. Excellent music was supplied by Egan and Stroud's orchestra while Mr C. Spillane carried out the duties of M.C. in his usual capable manner.

The presents to the newly married couple were both handsome and useful and made a handsome show, together with a large number of substantial cheques received by them.

The happy couple left by next morning's express for Christchurch where the honeymoon is to be spent, the bride wearing a navy blue costume, white silk blouse, black crepe-de-chine hat with gloria rose.

## THE ANCIENT BROTHERHOOD OF LEAD SWINGERS.

(By W. A. Platt, in "Forethoughts.")

Our years of war have passed, and now the executive committee of our brotherhood has decided to make public for the first time the doings of a society which, from small beginnings, has grown to an incredible degree. We realise that we incur some risk in making this disclosure; but pride in our great achievement has banished caution. This article will serve its purpose if it convinces those who have not yet joined the brotherhood how powerful is the organisation with which they have to deal, and how futile are their efforts to check its progress. Early in the war, when enthusiasm for battle was high, and men preferred the gory bayonet to the feathered bed, the faithful band who began the movement almost despaired of success. But now we number among our members countless high officials and officers in high command in England and at the base camps. Wise men—they have long realised the expediency and profit of membership in the brotherhood, and nothing would shake their resolution to remain true to its principles. We have worked long and cunningly to sow the seeds of our faith among even the most war-enthusiastic of the army officers. Our work has been crowned with quite inspiring success. We can boast with confidence that we have the almost undivided support of the rank and file. Almost every man is a most loyal and energetic lead swinger. Their opportunities are not so great; but their enthusiasm for the cause fills the hearts of the executive with pride.

The greatest menace to our progress is the medical officer. For some reason, though often willing to belong to the brotherhood himself, he will suffer no other to enjoy its privileges. Ordinary devices fail completely in his presence, his power is great, and he has caused the executive no little thought and anxiety. "The Psy-

## BARLOW'S Jubilee Store.

NEVER SAY DIE, BUT ALWAYS TRY

BARLOW'S JUBILEE TEA.

Owing to the rise in Butter you will find it cheaper to use Pure Jama. I have a full range in glass and tins in 1, 2, 4, and 7. TRY IT.

Is the place to buy your GROCERIES—where you get the best value for cash. Established nearly a quarter of a century; still going strong. Send your orders by post or 'phone, and you will receive them promptly for cash on delivery. Pay cash and save booking charges.

DEE STREET, INVERCARGILL.

## ADVERTISERS!

We guarantee the "Digger" to penetrate the whole of Southland, Lake District, South Otago, and to a lesser degree, a few places beyond this sphere, including as far north as Auckland. The destiny of the "Digger" as an effective and efficient advertising medium is assured.

We can tell you of a number who can testify to our claim and we are always ready to discuss advertising with firms who are desirous of reaching the purchasing public.

Remember ONE advertisement in the "Digger" covers the whole field.

We guarantee to have the largest circulation of any weekly, south of Dunedin, and the largest circulation outside of the leading morning and evening papers.

Failure to change your advertisement is failure to get effective service, and no fault of the "Digger."

## INVERCARGILL MILK SUPPLY

Phone 556. 53 Yarrow street.  
MILK MILK MILK  
and and and  
CREAM! CREAM! CREAM!  
From the finest pastures in Southland.

Clean, pure, sweet, wholesome, and scientifically pasturised.

## A BOON FOR BABIES.

Our Motto: "Purity."

MILK MILK MILK  
and and and  
CREAM! CREAM! CREAM!

## Invercargill Milk Supply,

53 YARROW STREET.

chology of the M.O." a pamphlet written by a high authority who has recently been classed "C" at base, and is shortly to return to New Zealand, will be found most illuminating. Several other publications have been issued, mostly in pamphlet form. We recommend "Gas, its Symptoms and How to Produce Them," as a most valuable booklet. Experience has shown gas to be our most powerful friend, and any man desiring an early return to New Zealand, is advised to study it carefully and to practice the exercises, particularly those dealing with the control of the voice. A correspondence course has been compiled on the art of swinging the lead. It includes information given in our pamphlets, and in addition a series of test papers, each a severe cross-examination by an M.O., of a man suffering from one of the common complaints. This should prove of great assistance to nervous brethren, the only stipulation made by the executive is that green envelopes only shall be used by correspondents. Our most important publication, "The Compleat Wangler," is still in the press. An appendix on "Permanent Positions in Base Camps, How to Obtain Them, and the Qualities and Attainments Necessary," should be of much value.

Our headquarters are naturally in France where the need of our services is greatest; but from time to time encouraging reports come to us of the doings of members in England—at the hospitals and camps there. It has recently been decided to confer the "Grand Order of the Dodge" upon fifteen stalwarts at Hornchurch.

## SMART WHITE VOILE BLOUSES

10/6, 11/6, 16/6, to 19/6.

WHITE SILK BLOUSES, 13/6 and 23/6.  
CREPE DE CHENE, in all colours, from 38/6 to 65/-

MISS BREY,  
THE PARAMOUNT,  
ESK STREET.

## TO HOUSEWIVES!

HAVE you a Sewing Machine? If so the greatest care should be bestowed on its upkeep; especially does this apply to the method of oiling, and the class of oil used. A Sewing Machine may be ruined in a very short time with poor oil, whereas the machine should last a lifetime if properly maintained.

## WEKA BRAND

## SEWING MACHINE OIL,

is a pure mineral oil of the finest possible quality, with only a faint taste and smell. It can even be swallowed without any ill effects. It has more body than any other Spindle or Machine Oil on the market. Also the WEKA OIL.

## WILL NOT MARK OR STAIN

the finest fabric, which is a distinct advantage, as often valuable garments are practically ruined by oil stains. We have no hesitation in recommending the WEKA OIL. It is used throughout the largest Woolen Mills in the Dominion, and is pronounced by experts to be better than anything they have previously used.

Also on sale—

DUSTOL,  
STONE OIL,  
RAZOR STROP OIL,  
LARISSA LEMON CREAM,  
Etc., etc.

Each of these preparations carries the hall-mark of Perfection.

DUSTOL is a preparation for using on dusters for furniture, etc.  
RAZOR STROP OIL has been produced with a special view to keeping a razor-strop in perfect order, thus ensuring a reliable and keen-edged razor.

STONE OIL.—The action of this Oil on a stone is to remove the residue of steel from the edge of the tool being sharpened. It has been tested and pronounced perfect.

LARISSA LEMON CREAM.—This Cream is a protection for the skin under all conditions of exposure to wind or sun; it is also a valuable hand emollient, and is specially recommended for softening the beard and ensuring an easy shaving used after shaving it is very soothing to tender skins.

Ask your Storekeeper for these preparations. Or write direct to  
J. E. COOMER, Agent,  
Ythan street, South Invercargill.  
Telephone—1471.

## GARDEN NOTES.

## THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

To get successful crops of anything in a dry, hot spring it is necessary to thoroughly soak the land before sowing. If seeds are sown in hot, dry soil, without some precaution being taken, they will not grow till rain comes, and not do so well even then, unless it comes quickly. In dry weather it is a good plan to mulch early peas with manure, and give a good soaking of water after.

Crops that are through the ground, especially young cabbage and cauliflower, should not be allowed to suffer for want of water, as club root is very much more liable to attack them when in a dry condition than if kept well watered.

## THE FLOWER GARDEN.

There is a very praiseworthy tendency nowadays to substitute hardy plants for the usual bedding stuff, and those who have adopted that plan find it a pleasant change, but for a good blaze of colour it is hard to beat a combined bed of pelargoniums, zonals, geraniums, calceolarias, and lobelia as an edging.

Tender annuals, such as asters, stocks, marigolds, phlox Drummondii, etc., should be in such a forward condition now as to require pricking out in boxes. Use good rich loam, sand, and old manure put through a sieve, placing a good layer of rough siftings at the bottom of the boxes for drainage, filling up with the fine material, pressing down fairly firm, and pricking out in or 2 in apart. Give a good gentle soaking, and keep rather close and shaded for a few days.

Geraniums and such plants in pots or boxes for bedding purposes should be placed in a cool, sheltered position outside to harden prior to planting in their beds. I do not recommend that they be planted out before the first week of November. This, I think, is the best time, and the safest for bedding out either annuals or such plants as geraniums, as there is always a chance of getting them partially spoiled during October.

## THE LAWN.

A garden without a grass plot or lawn is scarcely worthy the name of a garden at all. Small or large, it should contain a grass plot. At this season it is quite possible to give such help to the autumn-sown grasses as will last through the whole year, and the satisfaction derived from the lawn will be proportionately greater. If there are any bare patches, scratch them over with a fine iron-toothed rake and sow fresh seed rather thickly; scratch it over again; then sift on a light dressing of clean loam. Though this may be a little unsightly, it will soon pass away, as the growth will be stronger, greener, and brighter as a result. For lawns that show signs of weakening or turning pale green there is nothing better as a stimulant than nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia, used at a rate not stronger than 1oz per square yard.

For young lawn grasses the first season at least care should be taken not to cut the grass too low. The proper length may be got by raising the knives. As to lawns that are to be made in the spring, no time should be lost in getting the seed in, as if sown late in the spring or summer the young grasses are almost sure to get injured by scorching. A friable condition of the soil is necessary to procure a fine surface, and frequent raking and rolling and treading are necessary to get the surface in a fit condition to receive the grass. Repeated rakings assist in clearing the ground of stones and such objectionable things. A rolling should take place after every raking to ensure a firm and smooth surface. Grasses, particularly the finer kinds or varieties, are too fragile to force their way through clods, and many seeds will be lost altogether if they are buried to a greater depth than a quarter of an inch.

Sow the seed at the rate of 80lb per acre; rake carefully in, and give a light rolling to settle the seeds, or many of them will be lost by exposure, leaving them an easy prey to the birds.

## THE GREENHOUSE.

When I say "greenhouse" I mean the unheated greenhouse. This will require a considerable amount of attention just now by way of watering and shading. Watering the plants in the morning and damping the floors and plants overhead in the evening will be very necessary during a dry spell. If the plants are allowed to become dry and the atmosphere in the same condition for long they are sure to become a prey to numerous enemies, such as thrips and green fly. When either of these makes its appearance fumigate at once with some kind of fumigant, such as nicotine. When doing this always pick a quiet, dull, and wet night for the job, as it is much more deadly to insect life at such times than on dry, windy nights.

## THE CRUCIFIX.

(By Lieutenant C. Ment, in "Forethoughts.")

You are under orders to move up into the front line, and your route lies by way of Dead Mule Gully and the Crucifix—let me describe your path: A winding track made of odd duck-walks scattered about the shell-holes leads off from the plank-road lined with wrecked waggons, and, crossing a spur, gives you a glimpse of the "gully." About half a mile long and two hundred yards wide, it is but little different from the many valleys which slope gently to the Flanders plain, except that its sides are steeper and it runs parallel to the fronts of the two armies, affording on account of these two characteristics protection from ground observation to the force in occupation. Before the war it was a pretty and peaceful glade, green fields lined with tall trees and trimmed hedges and with a few cottages, brightly coloured with red tile roofs and whitened walls, cosily nestling in a group of orchards on the sunnier slope. A winding road wandered down the valley bottom, lined by straggling yews and elms, and climbed the southern spur on its way to the city near by.

After the German advance in 1914, their line was pushed forward two or three miles beyond the valley, and its position and contours strongly appened as a position for his artillery. For three years his guns flashed out death and destruction from the vale, for the same period our retaliation searched the valley in quest of revenge, and now the place is ours. But what a change! A reeking wilderness of shell-craters, brimful with the winter rains—trees felled, splintered and buried—cottages to be located only by odd bricks churned to the surface by the never-ceasing shells, and placed oddly on the low ground, several German "pill-boxes," massively built in steel concrete, but shattered and wrecked by fire. After the capture of the gully, a plank road was built leading up to its head, but, beyond giving the place its suggestive name the track merely provided a new morsel, in the shape of log planks, for mastication by the explosives hurled over. The track to the line crosses the gully, and a feeling of depression occasioned by the appearance of the ground gives place to sickened horror as the traveller flounders along the track. The valley has seen some of the bitterest and bloodiest battles of the war, not so much on account of its own powers of resistance, but because, on the ridge forming its head, there lies a wood which is world-famed as a battle-ground and for the ownership of which the two armies struggled for months. For the army not in possession of the ridge the gully was a death-trap, and a number of units which have discovered this is evidenced in ghastly fashion by the shells, with their sickening alternation of disinterment and reinterment. The fragments of German artillery equipment, mangled and partly buried round the concrete slabs, prove his former activities here, and as for our part, no one has attempted the suicidal project of establishing guns in that region of death, but along the whispy trail of splintered logs which marks where the plank road was built, there lies a sinister trail of carcasses, which named Dead Mule Gully. No one lingers in this region, for day and night the shells come shrieking over the ridge and plough the foul, stinking ooze, while the infantry reliefs scramble and flounder in haste to pass the hateful area. Casualties in Dead Mule Gully are a nightmare to those in command, for the carrying out of dead and wounded is a colossal undertaking, and delay in these regions means greater loss to a party, whilst from the point of view of the sufferer, a wound ordinarily slight becomes in these surroundings a matter of great concern, for the soil is reeking foulness itself—teeming with the life which comes of death.

Passing through the gully and ascending the other ridge we see the Crucifix, and though the surroundings are not such as would encourage reflection, there are few who pass the cross without giving a thought to its weird persistency. The area surrounding it is, perhaps, the most heavily shelled in the sector; hardly an hour passes by night or by day but the drifting cloud of a shell-burst hangs around it; the ground for miles around is torn and threshed, yet the few square yards of ground which contain the crucifix are untouched. It is riddled through and through with bullets, shrapnel, and splinters; it has had poisonous gas fumes around it a thousand times, shells have been shaking the country for years, but the black timbered cross is erect and square and is looking down on the gully this day. To the incoming relief it appears as a solemn and warning guide; to the carry party on the tracks adjoining, it stands as a symbol of death and eternity, and to the outward-bound troops it

it seems sadly to bid them good-bye. There are no New Zealand traditions up in that sector, the names in that locality have not been immortalised as those villages and places which have seen the Maorilander in attack, but in spite of this there are no scenes more indelibly printed on his memory—no names more fixed in his brain than the crucifix and Dead Mule Gully.

## MOTORING NOTES.

## TO REMOVE WHEELS.

Here is an easy way to remove a wheel from the axle. Get a stout rope and tie it across the wheel, leaving enough room to insert a jack between the rope and the end of the spindle. Place the foot of the jack against the rope and the head against the end of the axle and work the jack slowly so that a pulling force is exerted on the wheel through the rope.

## LUBRICATING SPRINGS.

It is a custom in one of the largest repair shops in the world to lubricate and preserve the chassis springs of motor-cars whenever they are disassembled for an overhauling by painting them with a mixture of graphite and cylinder oil. This mixture prevents the accumulation of rust between the leaves, and improves the riding qualities of the springs. The mixture is prepared by simply mixing powdered or flaked graphite with cylinder oil to a pasty consistency; and it is applied with any suitable paint brush. Another method is to glaze the working surfaces of the spring blades with beeswax shavings, which is a cleaner job and lasts a long time.

## DISMANTLING THE ENGINE.

In order to look over the parts of an engine and to restore the worn or defective components it is necessary to take the engine entirely apart as it is only when the power plant is thoroughly dismantled that the parts can be inspected or measured to determine defects or wear. If one is not familiar with the engine to be inspected it will be found of value to take certain precautions when dismantling the engine in order to insure that all parts will be replaced in the same position they occupied before removal. There are a number of ways of identifying the parts, one of the simplest and surest being to mark them with steel numbers or letters or with a series of centre punch marks in order to retain the proper relation when reassembling. This is of special importance in connection with dismantling multiple cylinder engines as it is vital that pistons, piston rings, connection rods, valves, and other cylinder parts be always replaced in the same cylinder from which they were removed, because it is uncommon to find equal depreciation in all cylinders. All parts should be thoroughly cleaned with petrol or in the potash kettle as removed, and wiped clean and dry. This is necessary to show wear which will be evidenced in cases where the machine has been used for a time, but in others, the deterioration can only be detected by delicate measuring instruments.

## KEEPING THE CAR NEW.

The present day owner, using modern methods, may keep his car looking new all the time, nor will he have to spend more than a few minutes a day to accomplish this end. For instance, there are now on the market a number of liquid and wax polishes, which will give admirable results, if they are used as directed. In the use of wax polishes the first step is thoroughly to clean the body of the car. The polish is applied to the surface with a piece of cheesecloth and then another clean cloth is used to distribute the wax evenly all over the surface. The polish will last for from four days to a week and after it has been applied at the beginning of the week, a little rubbing with a clean cloth will bring out the lustre again. The wax polish may be used for body, fenders, hood, and other lustrous surfaces and it will also be found that if the under side of the fenders are cleaned and given a good coating of wax, less mud will be deposited and what there is may be easily removed. The present day owner must not assume that these really useful aids to beautifying the motor car have superseded plain water. The contrary is true. The car must be washed just as formerly, after which the polishes do bring out the lustre of the original finish.

The Government accepted the Lords' amendment to the Ministry of Mines Bill, substituting for the proposed Ministry a Department under the Board of Trade.

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## THE AMUSING ADVENTURES OF BEN BLAKE.

## TOO CLEVER BY HALF.

"There is no such thing as luck!" muttered Ben Blake despondently. "Here am I, reduced to my last threepence, and after that—well, there's nothing for it but work. Ugh! Looking for work is bad enough, but fancy finding it!"

This thought sent a shiver down the unhappy man's backbone, and he was forced to make his way into the "Boiled Beef and Cabbage" to spend his last threepence on restoratives.

Ben's attire, however, in no way tallied with his reduced circumstances. His clothes were far from shabby, and his soft felt hat, stuck jauntily on his well-brushed hair, gave him quite a debonaire appearance.

To a man who is a professional sharper, confidence trickster and successful crowd-and-anchor manipulator, a fairly smart appearance is essential, and Ben's last coup had enabled him to rig himself out properly.

But since then his luck had been right out.

"Ah, well, never say die!" mused Ben, as he removed the contents of a glass with a practised gulp. "I guess I'll wander down to the quay and watch the American boat arrive. I might come up on some benevolent soul who would like me to mind his luggage."

He wandered from the inn, and came at last to the landing-stage.

The "Marmic" was being moored to the stage when he arrived, and the excited passengers crowded round the side of the boat were waving frantically to one or all of the people on the quay.

As Ben stood there, he caught sight of a remarkably pretty girl who was leaning over the rail of the boat, and apparently calling her father's attention to him.

"Gee whizz!" chuckled Ben inwardly. "She has evidently mistaken me for someone else. I'll keep it up; may lead to wealth without work or worry."

And, without ado, he smiled fatuously, showing his three gold teeth, and waved at the girl and her father.

"I'll be all right if they're as near-sighted when we meet," mused Ben. "It's worth risking, anyway. Who knows, I may be able to touch the old boy for a little change in the excitement of the moment?"

At length the boat was moored, and the passengers began to file down the gangway.

The pretty girl was among the first to come ashore, and she left the gangway and hastened along the quay to where Ben was standing.

Then came disaster. For even as she came within hailing distance, one of the porters, removing the luggage knocked against her, and she toppled into the water.

So startled was the young man at this sudden catastrophe that he leaned over and peered down. Then, overcome by the excitement of the moment, he too, overbalanced and fell in after the girl.

The onlookers did not see the incident properly, and at once jumped to conclusions.

"Brave man! What pluck! What presence of mind!" cried one old buffer. "Why, he jumped in after the girl almost before she reached the water!"

And as this and similarly enthusiastic remarks were being wafted about in the breeze, Ben was having a very uncomfortable few minutes.

In the height of his success as a swimmer he had never been able to swim more than a width of the local baths, and then it was at the shallow end, with the occasional assistance of one foot on the bottom.

"Great snakes!" he gurgled, as he drank down about a quart and a half of Mersey mud. "Whatever will happen to us now? For I can't even see a straw to clutch at in this mud. It looks like a wet feed-end for me!"

He looked towards the girl. He was elated to find that she was keeping up well, and was on the point of striking out for the quayside.

"Good egg! I'll make for her. Perhaps she'll be able to save me!"

He floundered towards her and grasped her firmly. Immediately a cheer went up from the crowd, and at the same instant he received a nasty buff on the nose with a life belt.

A few minutes later they were being hauled ashore, and it was a fortunate thing for Ben that the girl, at that moment, swooned in his arms.

In due course the picture of Ben clasping the fainting girl in his arms made a most effective item of interest for the local newspaper.

"My—my dear child!" cried the girl's father, pushing through the crowd and pressing all the starch out of his shirt-front with his daughter's wet form. "Thank goodness, you are safe, and but for your brave rescuer you would have been lost to me for ever!"

"Yes, dad!" agreed the girl, opening her eyes. "And fancy, he is the son of your old friend!"

The old man turned to Ben.

"Bless my soul, of course!" he cried, seizing the young man by the hand and shaking it furiously. "How are you, Dick Paine? We recognised you directly we saw you, my boy. You're exactly like your father, one of my oldest friends. Besides, a face like his couldn't happen in any other family. I hoped you would be here to meet us, but I hardly expected you to prove a first-class hero on sight!"

Although uncomfortable and wet, Ben's immersion hadn't damped his ardour for making something for nothing, and in a moment he had all his wits about him to keep up the deception.

"Of course!" he cried, a false light of recognition in his eyes. "Then you are—er—you must be—er—"

"Pomeroy Perkins!" cried the old chap heartily. "And sure glad I am to see you."

Ben decided that this was an excellent opportunity for borrowing five bob, but he managed to overcome the inclination. His well-trained brain reminded him that in a few minutes the acquaintance would ripen to the extent of ten shillings.

At this point Pomeroy Perkins gave him a hearty slap in the middle of his back which successfully shattered his thoughts.

"It won't do for you to hang around in those wet clothes, my boy!" he cried. "You'll catch your death of cold. We'll hustle along to the hotel for lunch, and I can lend you a suit while your own are being dried."

Black accepted the invitation before the old man had a chance to think better of it. He didn't intend to miss a good feed, if he could help it.

The trio were whirled away in a taxi, and at length reached the hotel, where Ben was shown into a room to change his clothes for a suit of his host's.

After careful examination, he found a piece of chewing-gum and sevenpence in coppers had been left in one of the pockets, and this cheered him considerably.

"By jingo!" chuckled Ben, as he took possession of these unconsidered articles. "This is evidently my day for jam! I must work the old boy for all he's worth. And the girl I so bravely—er—rescued, she is deucedly good-looking, and has got a few pence in the savings' bank, too, I'll wager!"

Having rigged himself up in his clothes, which seemed to fit him very late everywhere, Ben made his way to the dining-room.

Here he did himself more than proud. He went right through the menu once, and then, to make certain that he had missed nothing, he returned through it backwards, commencing with ices and finishing up with olives.

Both Pomeroy Perkins and his daughter found the young man's company interesting and amusing.

"My dear boy," cried the old man, after awhile, "you simply must pay us a visit at our new place in Yorkshire! We are off there to-morrow, and although we have only known you a short time, you are already like one of the family!"

As a matter of fact, Perkins had already decided that the young man would be a very valuable asset to the family!

For Dick Paine, the only son of Benjamin Paine, the biggest pill-maker in the British Isles, was a very desirable match for his daughter.

"If you'd care to join us at once, I'll write to your dad, tell him you're with us, and ask him to come to us, too," he suggested.

"Oh—er," stammered Ben awkwardly. "I'm afraid that wouldn't be possible! You see, the dear old pop is a vegetarian—"

no, no, I mean, he doesn't visit now. Getting too old, you know; that is to say, he's too busy at present inventing a new corn cure, and it absorbs all his time."

So it was that, the following day, Mamie, her father and Ben Blake, the sharper, journeyed to Toorich Castle, in the Midlands.

The townsfolk, who had been informed of Ben's great rescuing act on the day before, headed by the mayor and corporation as guard of honour, came to welcome the party at the station.

At length, after a most enthusiastic reception, the trio arrived at Toorich Castle and Ben at once settled himself down as one of the family until Mamie got more than a little tired of him.

"Pop dear," she said to her father, about a week later, "Dick Paine isn't half as nice as I thought he would be! He is more like an out-of-work munition worker than a gentleman!"

"My dear—my dear!" remonstrated her father. "You mustn't say such things! Remember, Dick saved your life. Besides, it is my dearest wish that you should marry our guest!"

"Father!" cried Mamie. "But—oh, think of his face!"

"Don't be absurd! I know he's no oil painting, but he has a useful and serviceable sort of face, and moreover he is the possessor of about ten thousand pounds per annum—perhaps—not to mention the profits on the new corn cure."

From that moment Ben pressed his suit with renewed energy.

Not that he had any serious intention of becoming the sharer of Mamie's joys, sorrows, or petty cash. Not a bit of it. Old Ben knew something.

"That the stuff to give 'em," he chuckled, when he had formally popped the question and had been accepted. "This is the softest snap I've ever touched upon. Why—by the time the business is completed, I shall be able to retire on my means!"

The days sped on, with golfing, hunting, salmon snaring, and other vigorous pastimes, and altogether Ben had a merry time of it.

To add to the joys of his happy life, he always contrived to fleece his future father-in-law of a substantial sum every smiling morn, so it was small wonder that he did not care if the roof fell in!

It was two days before the wedding, and Ben took a stroll round the house, surveying the ever-swelling collection of salad bowls, soup ladles, toast-racks, and other knick-knacks that represented the gifts of the thoughtful friends of the bride.

"Splendid!" he smirked. "The happy day draws nigh, and now the business will commence in earnest."

He paused a moment and looked again at the collection.

"I don't think I shall be able to manage the job single-handed though," he went on. "If Bert Beamer has behaved himself, he should be on the outside of Wormwood Scrubbs by now, and he will only be too glad to get a finger in the pie. There's enough silver here to keep me in Woodbines and 'soft drinks' for the rest of my life. I'll wait till the last moment to give the late comers a chance of expressing their good wishes in a toast-fork or an egg cosy. Then, with the able assistance of my old friend 'Erb, I will vamoose with the whole 'tag of tricks."

The following day after breakfast the old man asked Ben if he would care for a shot with the guns.

Ben accepted, but it was evident that his good fairy had wavered in her allegiance, for that moment commenced his downfall.

He hadn't handled a gun since he had gone in for clay-pipe and bottle smashing at Battersea in his youth, and he knew as much about shooting as he did about work.

However, he took the gun and examined it with the air of one who knew nothing about it.

Then, raising it above his shoulder, he let fly.

Bang. He missed a large bird; but managed to hit a gas-bag attached to an observation balloon, which was hovering in the distance.

There was a ripping sound, and the balloon came flopping to the ground at about a hundred miles per square minute.

The balloon and its occupants reached the ground just where the shootists were standing, and for some moments after landing the balloonists were too full for words.

At length a gentleman, with the appearance of a policeman out of work, came forward hurriedly, followed closely by a younger man.

"You couple of near-sighted bottle smashers!" he screamed, but broke off suddenly at the sight of Ben. "By jove—what a bit of luck!"

"You seem to know my friend," inter-

posed Pomeroy Perkins, turning to the new arrival.

"Know him!" echoed the man again. "I should think I do! He's Ben Blake—the confidence trickster—and I've been after him for some time!"

Ben protested vehemently, but the newcomer gripped him fiercely by the arm, and then turned to Pomeroy Perkins.

"I am Inspector Dooley," he began. "I heard on good authority that Blake was here impersonating Mr Paine, junior, so I took the liberty of coming to see if the information was correct. From all accounts we seem to have arrived in time."

There was silence for a few moments after this dramatic announcement, then Inspector Dooley turned to the man who had accompanied him.

"By the way, I think you will be glad to make this gentleman's acquaintance," he said.

Both Ben and Pomeroy Perkins stared at the young man, who stepped forward.

"Mr Richard Paine," announced the inspector, with a broad grin.

When Pomeroy Perkins learned the true identity of his late guest, and the scheme of becoming engaged to Mamie so that he could bolt with the wedding presents, it so upset the old boy that he wanted to get Ben fifty years on the spot.

At length, however, having been assured by the inspector that he would make it as warm as possible for the trickster, Ben was led away to take a long rest in a secluded country spot, where he will have time to think things over.

Ah, us; It's a funny old world!

The End.

## "THE DIGGER."

By "Spectator."

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In it's pages, too, he fetches Many interesting sketches— Well known characters about the street, And upon the city byeway, And along the northern highway He shows the city workmen, with cobwebs on their feet.

Pens of able local sages Contribute towards its pages Columns pregnant with much studied lore And from country places, diggers Send along such facts and figures As interest the digger folk galore.

No matter where they're situated People get infatuated And eager scan the paper when it comes And to state the true position It's become an acquisition To the occupants of town and country homes.

The Socialist Party conference at Milan decided to adhere to the Moscow third internationale and also voted for the expulsion of moderates, including Turati Treves and Pampolini.

Two visitors from Wellington, apparently supporters of Bolshevism, attended the Hawera Workers' Educational Association class recently. The general impression of the class is that the visitors were trying to off-set or destroy the teachings of the lecturer in economics. One speaker stated that a quantity of literature from Russia had arrived in Wellington, but probably had not reached Hawera. The lecturer, the Rev. Mr Castle, of Eltham, replied to the visitors' remarks effectively. There is also in the district a Labour extremist endeavouring to organise the cheese-makers into a union, but he is meeting with much opposition.

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POCKET GAMES  
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POCKET DINNER AND TEA SETS.

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**Thomson's  
Purity  
Soda**

## "LEST WE FORGET."

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BLIND  
DIGGER.

(By "X Rays").

He was an Australian bushman full of life and grit and energy. The longest day was never long for him nor the hardest work too hard. His earnings with the axe often reached £12 per week, and sometimes more. After a hard week's work he would ride to the nearest town and enjoy himself, and on Monday morning he would be as "fit as a fiddle," and the woods again resounded to the strokes of his axe.

Sometimes he would lay aside his axe and listen to the sweet notes of the bell-bird or some other bush warbler. One day amidst these pleasant surroundings he heard another call—one clear, distinct and plaintive. It was the call of the Motherland for help.

He laid aside his axe and told his mates he was going to the great war for freedom, home, and country. Anyone could have his tools, he might come back, and—he might not. He was soon in khaki, and soon on the transport that bore him away from the fast disappearing shore of his native land, and they vanished from his sight—for ever.

Hard training of the desert sands of Egypt, and then he found himself at the "landing" at the Dardanelles. After some dire and dangerous work there he was struck on the thigh, which was nearly shattered.

He next found himself in hospital in good, kind hands. Before he had fully recovered he was sent back to Gallipoli again because men were badly needed, and he fought on till the Evacuation.

He had done enough to entitle him to be invalided home, but no, thousands of slackers enjoying life in Australia turned a deaf ear to the call, and he was sent to France.

After months of severe and dangerous service he fell again at Posieres. A shell burst near him, smashed his jaw, liquid fire burned his eyeballs out, and, in addition, he received 30 shrapnel wounds in the body.

This former bright Australian lush boy was sent back to the hospital an unrecognisable wreck. After many months' pain and suffering he was able to return to his native land. He could not see its shores or blue skies, or the faces of his dear ones—he was blind. After many welcomes and such pleasures as friends could give him he settled down to a life of eternal night. To him the days are mostly the same, and this is a fair sample:

He is sitting up in his bed smoking a cigarette. The call of the birds remind him that day is breaking—he sees no difference—night and day are the same to him; all is darkness. He hears the rattle of the milkmen's carts, and this reminds him of the passing of artillery guns. He smokes on. He knows the people of the house are asleep and he does not wake them. Shortly the sun's golden rays peep through the window; he does not see them. Presently there is a stir about the house, the inmates are rising to begin the day's work. He wishes he had work to go to, even with the axe. He sits down to breakfast, and the daintiest morsels at hand do not tempt him; he cannot see them.

Breakfast is over, and he sits on the verandah smoking cigarettes. The daily newspaper rests idly by. He hears the chatter of the children going to school; he would like to be one of them again, and sometimes he thinks of his schooldays and the number of times he "played the wag" and robbed birds' nests and orchards.

If he is fortunate he may get a friend to take him down town for a walk. He grips the arm of his friend, and if a tram bell clangs or a motor horn hoots close by he grips harder and halts. His nerves are shattered, and he who faced the guns and bayonets at Posieres feels a danger in these ordinary street noises. He hears the conversation of the people as they pass by on their way to work, and he wonders why people with their limbs and sight can grumble at anything.

Occasionally he meets an old mate from his battalion, and he smiles as they talk of the hard days at the front and some of the good days in France and Blighty. For the moment he forgets his affliction.

When walking through the streets the blind digger ought to have the "right of way," he doesn't always get it. Sometimes a flapper will carelessly bump him, or a profiteer who did not go to the war will brush him aside in his hurry to go and profiteer some more.

The afternoon, perhaps is spent at home. If the housework is finished (it

seldom is) someone may read to him while he smokes. Strange to say, he enjoys descriptive articles on the various battles, and in his mind's eye he can see the whole of the movements of the army, and then he will call a halt while he relates some of his own experiences and tell you of the horrible sights he has seen.

The children are going home from school; they play and chatter and he listens with evident pleasure and would like to join in their games. Shortly the sun sinks in the west unknown to him. The tea bells rings; he sits down to the meal and heartily enjoys it. He is sorry when the company retires to bed.

He is the last to go, for going to bed does not mean going to sleep as far as he is concerned. He retires, lights a cigarette and, perhaps will doze off into an intermittent sleep. He dreams. He fights battles over again, and sometimes wakes himself calling out to his mates in the trenches. He lights another cigarette and listens and feels the stillness and loneliness of the night. He dozes off again, and wakes to find himself where he was when the birds warbled to him the previous dawn.

This is only one day in the life of this blind digger.

## CRITICISMS OF THE CHURCH.

ARE THEY JUSTIFIED?

ADDRESS BY THE REV. HECTOR  
MACLEAN.

The Church at the present time is being subjected to a very large amount of criticism, both from within and without, and this fact gave rise to a thoughtful and striking address delivered by the Rev. Hector Maclean in St. Andrew's Church, Dunedin, last Sunday morning. Mr Maclean's sermon was an inquiry into the origin and nature of the Church, and he took as his text the first New Testament reference to the Church found in Matt. xvi, 18: "And I also say unto thee that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." They must all have been struck, he said, with the amount of criticism which is being levelled in these days against the Church. Men did not hesitate to say what the Church should be. Sometimes they were right and sometimes they were wrong. How were we to determine whether they were right or wrong? We must have some criterion to judge by. Those who loved the Church most were the readiest to admit its defects and shortcomings, but there was a great deal of talk about the failure of the Church that was uncalled for and untrue. He was firmly convinced that the statement made at the meeting of the Council of Churches the previous Monday evening was correct. The Church was a great restraining power keeping in check the forces of evil; it was a great sustaining power, keeping up the high and noble ideals of the people, and it was a great impelling force to self-sacrifice. The man who said it was not did not understand current history, and did not know anything of the inside work of the Church, of its Sunday school, and its mission workers, of its devotional life and its self-sacrifice. Still over against the real church there stood the ideal church, and it was the difference between the real and ideal that those within the Church deplored. What was the ideal in comparison with which they measured and admitted their shortcomings? For the answer they must go to its Founder, Christ, for He did found the Church. The preacher described the incident leading up to the words of that text, and discussed the question "Upon what is the Church founded according to these words of Jesus?" According to the Roman Catholic view Jesus spoke the promise to Peter, the individual apart altogether from the confession he had just made. But we might be quite certain that Jesus did not subject His Church to any such personal domination. Peter took his place in the Church along with the rest of the disciples, for whom he acted as spokesman. Many Protestants fell into the other error when they said that the rock upon which Christ's Church was founded was the confession apart from the man. They must combine the man and his confession to get the nucleus out of which the Church could grow. The rock to which Jesus referred when He founded His Church was Peter confessing and with him all the disciples confessing. This Church possessed a definite authority over its members, but this authority did not originate from the common mind and will of the members, but from Jesus Christ, who founded the Church. The Church exercised an authority delegated to it by Christ. In other words it was not a democracy, but a theocracy, not a com-

munity in which the will of its members was supreme, but a community in which the will of God was supreme. In Matt. xviii, 15 to 20, they would find an actual case of the authority of the Church being exercised. Here the authority of the Church was emphasised in almost the same words as those addressed to Peter. But it was not to any individual that the authority was delegated, but to the Church as a whole. But the power given to the Church was conditional, depending upon the loyalty of its members to the will and the Spirit of Christ.

The Church, he had shown, consisted of a visible community of men and women who made confession of their faith in Jesus and who, in loyalty to Him, exercised the authority that He had handed over to them as His representative upon earth. The implications of this position were numerous, and important. It gave a standard by which they could judge themselves as a portion of Christ's Church and by which they could judge a good deal of the criticism levelled against them by outsiders. They were members of the Church of Christ by their faith in Him, and their confession must include trust in Him, obedience to His will, readiness to accept and be ruled by His Spirit. It meant giving their lives to Him. Let them measure themselves by that standard. The most common criticism was that Church members were no different from those without, but showed the same worldliness, selfishness, and devotion to pleasure. Was that true? They must answer the charge. Let them make no mistake. They did stand for a higher standard of living than the world's standards. They stood for the Christian life and the Christian morality. And there was the matter of their authority. Did they speak with authority upon the questions that rose in their midst or had they lost it? They were told that the outsider ignored them, which meant that he recognised no authority when they spoke. They had spoken on some matters—the drink question, for instance—and men did heed them. But their resolutions and findings at conferences and assemblies, for what did they count? And if they counted for nothing, why was it? Was it because they allowed among themselves the things they were condemning? Was it because they had given up the right to discipline their own members, and to exercise the authority over themselves which Christ put into their hand? These were unpleasant questions, but they would have to be faced and answered. The Church would have to compare its profession and its life in the light of what its Founder had declared to be its origin and its nature. When the Christ Spirit was weak the Church would be weak; and the Church was weak as its individual members were weak.

During the course of his address Mr Maclean indicated that he intends to pursue the subject further in a series of discourses.

## THE ORDERLY'S END.

My race is run, and free from vice,  
I've scrubbed my way to Paradise,  
On knees that ache no more.  
I've signed abroad a heavenly ship  
To take me on my final trip.  
Bound for the golden shore.

No rising at the stroke of five,  
As I was forced to do when alive,  
No "bloods" to do me down,  
No ports to burnish when they're green.

The only brightwork that I clean  
Is on my golden crown.

Pray, gentle shipmate, do not weep,  
Or sprinkle blossoms on the heap  
That covers such a knave;  
But place, when darkness hides the land,  
A stone, a brush, or a little sand  
Upon my silent grave.

—J.G.

An aerial company of Sydney is inaugurating a service between Sydney and Melbourne, with an air yacht fitted with a cabin capable of carrying ten passengers on a five hundred miles non-stop flight.

The Chinese Government has informed the American Minister that it has no present intention of cancelling Russian rights.

The Postal authorities state that the inland postage on registered magazines is to be: Each copy not exceeding eight ounces, twopence; every additional eight ounces, or fraction thereof, one penny.

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"This Marrying" (Margaret Calkin  
Banning).

"Desborough of the North-West Fron-  
tier" (Joan Sutherland).

"No. 7, Saville Square" (Mr Le Queux).

"Pink Gods and Blue Demons" (Cynthia  
Stockley).

"Penelope" (Elizabeth Kirkby).

"Days of Probation" (Louise Gerard,  
A nursery Novel).

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**SHORT STORIES.****THE BIRD.**

"So, y'see," explained the bookie, "if the 'orse starts at twenty to one, you get twenty quid and your own back. Now d'y' understand?"

"Oh, yes," piped Clarence, "I quite see that; but supposing the horse starts at a quarter to one, what do I get—ten?"

**BROKE.**

She: "It's funny you should be so tall. Your artist brother is short, isn't he?"  
He (absently): "Yes, generally."

**THE HIGHEST FORM.**

Jill: "He's an awfully clever man."  
Jack: "Not a bit of it! He only makes people think so."  
Jill: "Well don't you call that clever?"

**AMBIGUOUS.**

On a humble tombstone in Austin, Texas, is the following inscription:—  
Here lies the remains of my beloved husband, who was kicked to death by a mule.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

**TOO GREAT A RISK.**

Little Willie stood peering down at his new baby sister, whom the nurse was singing to sleep.

"Nurse," he whispered finally, she's nearly unconscious, isn't she?"

The nurse nodded in the affirmative and sang on.

"Then, don't sing any more, or you'll kill her."

**VERY TART.**

The editor of the woman's page was on his vacation, and the sporting editor had stepped into the breach.

"Well, what do you think of this?" he snorted, and held up a perfumed note. Here's a silly woman wants to know how to make a lemon tart. As though a lemon wasn't tart enough already!"

**THE BEST WAY.**

"How will you have your eggs cooked?" asked the waiter.

"Make any difference in the cost of 'em?" inquired the cautious customer with a brimless hat and ragged beard.

"No."

"Then cook them on the top of a slice of ham," said the customer greatly relieved.

**TOO MUCH FOR HIM.**

The following amazing incident occurred at a hairdressers in a small town in Lancashire.

Customer: Well, Shears, what did you think of the bishop's sermon on Sunday? I saw you in church."

Barber: Yes, sir, I was there; but, to tell the truth, there was a man sat in front of me whose hair wanted cutting so badly that I couldn't hear a word."

**ONE GOOD TURN.**

"I declare," complained Mrs. Poddles, "I shall certainly have to punish the children."

"What have they been up to now?" inquired her husband.

"They have upset my sewing room. Nothing is where it should be. Needles, reels of thread, scissors, darning wools, everything has been poked away into the most unexpected corners. It is perfectly exasperating."

Mr. Poddles surveyed his wife with a benignant air. "That wasn't the children, dear," he said. "I did that."

"Whatever for?"

"Oh, merely in return for your help. After you straightened up the papers and books on my desk so beautifully, I thought it was no more than right that I should return the compliment by putting your sewing room in order. So I did."

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It is apt in its application to "H.B." Sacs Suits, for every one is good, as good as skilled workmanship and suitings can make it. The new season's Sac and Sports Suits are being opened up now—smart styles, fashionable suitings, perfectly fitting garments. When you are passing "H.B.'s" just drop in and ask to see the new Sac and Sports' Suits—it will give us great pleasure to show them—they're so excellent in every way.

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