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**FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE.**

**IN MEMORIAM.**

**PEARSE.**—In loving memory of our dear sons, Harold Charles Pearse, 25th Reinforcements, who died of wounds at Wimereux, France, on October 19, 1917; and James Henry Pearse, 4th Reinforcements, who died of wounds at Imbros, Gallipoli, on September 4, 1915.

Death divides, but memory clings for ever.

—Inserted by their loving parents, sisters and brothers. 2123

**"The Digger."**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1920.

**HOUSING.**

The operations of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act are now rendered practically ineffective, as far as the opportunity to secure a house is concerned. The Government have now decided that the purchase of houses is to be discontinued but that it will be treated as "special circumstances," which may be favourably considered, should the soldier decide to build. The Government have decided that the purchase of houses shall cease. Although this is a hardship on soldiers who have been wounded and been in hospital for some time, it is nevertheless true that the scheme has been a failure. With the best part of 100,000 men as members of the Expeditionary Force, it was self-evident that a comprehensive scheme of repatriation should have been formulated early in the war period, and that a committee of reconstruction should have been set up. This committee would have had power to advise the Government on all phases of reconstruction and would have meant the formulating of a more definite and co-ordinated plan for the effective repatriation of our soldiers. The Government undoubtedly failed to grasp the magnitude of the various problems which were likely to confront it. The proper housing of these men is one of the most essential phases of repatriation activity. Failure in this respect is to render ineffective other factors of repatriation, and cause discontent which is a big factor in the unsettled industrial conditions. We do not wish to convey the impression

that returned soldiers are responsible for the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing. A large amount of this trouble is fostered by men who never left New Zealand's shores, and never intended to. Further, they were a factor in causing trouble calculated to reduce the efficiency of the Expeditionary Force. Returned soldiers throughout this Dominion will have no associations with such a disintegrating factor. Nevertheless, there is discontent, and every effort should be made to minimise it. When a man has a house that he can call his own or at least look forward to it belonging to him entirely in a few years, it gives him an interest in the country which he did not have before. He has a stake in the country and is not likely to be led by irresponsibles. The very character of the man, his wife and children, are largely moulded in his home life. Further, there is a feeling of security of tenure, and these conditions make for contentment. The Government must realise this and make themselves a propelling force behind a vigorous housing policy which should start where the Government has stopped. The purchase of houses has led to an inflation of values, which has produced its effect on houses which are to be built. The Government should have erected houses themselves and by a co-operative system this could have been effected. The Australian Government has provided legislation for the erection of houses and has wider powers than our own legislation. In the Australian scheme, provision is made for homes for soldiers and their dependants. The Act provides that a house and land may be purchased with or without a deposit. It would be unique in the administration of the D.S.S. Act to find men receiving houses without a deposit. It is admitted that great care has to be taken in purchasing a house, but the Australian Government Building Society makes it easier to comply with the provisions for no deposit. To administer the Act there is a War Service Homes Commissioner, and the aims are to provide each eligible person with a substantial and durable house at the lowest possible cost, which will remain a source of comfort to the occupier for many years to come. The position is acute in this Dominion and must be faced even as a factor in conditions becoming more settled and as a factor in our industrial activity.

**THE DIGGER'S LETTER BOX.**

**REPLY TO REV. MACLEAN.**

**CRITICISMS OF THE CHURCH—ARE THEY JUSTIFIED?**

(To the Editor).

Question asked by Rev. Hector Maclean in St. Andrew Church, Dunedin, and reported in "The Digger," of 15th—I answer yes, because the Bible, both the Old and New Testament, are the embodiment of common sense, which the churches have, by their teachings, caused the people who think to treat it with contempt as nonsense. Robert Burns has handed down to us in his poems his contempt for church teachings. As the Rev. Maclean has taken Matt. 16-18, for his text, I here offer to him the Parson's five pound note (£5) and any one else that will produce a dictionary meaning that Sheol, Hades, or Hell, means a place, the proper meaning of these words are the unseen state. So that our Lord used the word Hades in accordance with common sense. Because that through Death we enter into the unseen state and in that state we (those who believe in Jesus) sleep until the resurrection. Our Lord overcame death, therefore he is the resurrection and the life which all may attain by believing. See John 1. 12, also Galatians 3rd and 26. Rab, in Tam O Shanter says, "Ah, Tam, Ah Tam, you'll get your ferrin." In hell they'll roast you like a herring." To make this more in accordance with church teachings I add a little common sense and say neither like a herring or a trout for when you're there you'll get your ferrin. In hell they'll roast churches restrain and check the forces of evil. As a digger, let us dig down and uproot superstition.

**GAVIN BRIGHTON.**  
Nightcaps, October 16, 1920.

**JACQUES "A." AND A CRITIC  
TELEPATHY: WHAT IS IT AND HOW IS IT WORKED?**

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—Re "A.'s" reply to Jacques in "Digger" of 8th October. Can either Jacques or A. answer the above. I hope A. will not be offended because I have written Jacques' name first, it is applicable to either. But the case was different when the offer was made to Joseph McCabe. He, as user of the telepathic

hypothesis, is first singled out and his name mentioned, then the offer is extended to any one else. Is telepathy capable of being demonstrated under test conditions? I say no. So the party who made J. McCabe the offer is on safe ground. Telepathy, as I understand it, is a means by which two persons can, without visible mean of communication, let the other know that the other is in great stress or trouble although the one may not be able to state in what form the trouble has overtaken the other. The stress so acts on the troubled one, and both being in unison or tuned to the same pitch, acts on the other, therefore they have what is termed telepathy. But both must be living and active and conscious at the time when the one is acting on the tender emotions of the other, else there is no telepathy. Some may confound telepathy with spiritualism. They are two different things, the one is natural while the other is outside of nature, therefore supernatural. Keep away from superstition please—it has no foundation. Spiritualism is demonstrable, therefore so many of our well learned men have had to acknowledge certain facts because they were not acquainted with certain active forces or bodies working out the will of the overruling power, which governs this earth, so some of them have fallen to try and purge and make them clean. Jacques ought to apologise to A. for having misquoted him in re Conan Doyle's spiritualistic incidents by saying, "All came easily within the scope of the telepathic hypothesis." Whereas A. only claims a partial success. I hope when Sir Conan Doyle comes here to lecture he will be able to face the music and show who these Elohim were. See the attached which, under cover of my letter to him of date 28th December, 1919, was sent to him.—I am, etc.,

**GAVIN BRIGHTON.**

Nightcaps.

**WANTED,** Sir A. C. Doyle and his clerical critics to study the Hebrew word Elohim—who they were, what they did in their part to make this earth habitable for man. Elohim is wrongly translated "God" as meaning a triune God.—Gavin Brighton.

**THE AMBULANCE.**

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—I wish to reply to Mr A. Stean's letter, regarding the charge for the use of the ambulance. I am prepared to admit that petrol and oil are very costly. He says the rates per mile are the same as those charged by the taxi drivers, but why did he not say through the paper or in the account that the charge was per mile or per hour. The bill I received for £1 14s, I repeat, was exorbitant. I fought for my country and was wounded and when I came back started in a modest way as a settler and when my wife became ill I was treated in this way. One would think from the charge made that I was made of moey. I consider a slur has been cast on me by the writer of the letter, especially when it is considered that after I had been to the police he told me that the driver wanted to make some money out of it. Mr Stean says the woman was fully dressed and did not seem to be ill, but she certainly was ill and could not get out of bed, or dress herself without a neighbour's assistance. It was not a suitable case to be removed by train to hospital, where she still is under treatment.—I am, etc.,  
**RETURNED SOLDIER.**

**MATAURA ISLAND NOTES.**

During the past fortnight much needed showers of rain fell, which will do the ground no end of good. The fine weather of the last few days has enabled the work in the garden to be attended to.

The Farm.—Work is well advanced. Most of the spring crops have been sown. Potato planting has been the order of the day during the last week, although only small areas are being sown this season. On several farms the cows are being fed on last season's crops. Fields are now looking quite green and stock in general are in good condition.

Sickness.—Colds of a severe nature still prevail over the district and several cases of measles have been notified in the last ten days.

Sport.—The Mataura River has been frequently visited of late by parties in search of white-bait, while others spent their time in trout fishing.

General.—The culvert recently referred to by the writer has now undergone repairs and is thoroughly safe for heavy traffic.

The British miners have ceased work and London assumes its war-time appearance at night time.

**MARKET NOTES.**

**SOUTHLAND MARKET REPORT.**

No outside business of any description has been done during the week. Although merchants consider the northern quotation of 4s 2d f.o.b.s.i. much below value, they are unwilling to buy at this figure and equally unprepared to sell at even a shilling more. I find merchants firmly of the opinion that oats must go very considerably higher before the advent of the new crop. Even though somewhat late in the season, the demand for seed oats still continues exceptionally strong, and generally merchants are compelled to work double shifts to keep pace with the demand.

As evidence of the opinion held locally of the value of oats, it may be mentioned that chaff is strong in demand at 7 10s per ton for prime quality.

There is nothing to report in the way of wholesale business in ryegrass, but the demand for farmers' requirements for sowing down is decidedly good, and in more than one instance I hear of merchants' earlier purchases having been entirely depleted purely by the local demand. Small lines have been offered by growers during the past fortnight and accepted by merchants who are short of stocks.

There has been some enquiry from England for hemp, but very little available for that business, while high and good fair locally command better prices than London equivalents. Prices may be stated at £32 for low fair, £34 for high fair, and £36 for good fair on trucks.

During the past week the stock market has been fairly quiet, with very little inquiry for all classes of store sheep, except ewes and lambs, there being a few inquiries for ewes with lambs at foot. Prices in this section remain firm, but dry sheep are practically unsaleable, with very few offerings. The store cattle market has fluctuated; some weeks it commands good prices, other weeks it is very slack. The prospects for lamb are going to be very good this year. Fat sheep are practically the same as last week, there being very little inquiry and no perceptible improvement, though there has been some demand for wethers, several lines of which have changed hands for 50s. The fat cattle market is slightly better, and at Wai-lacetown on Tuesday as high as £28 was realised for prime bullocks. The following are approximate values:—

Store sheep:—Extra good mixed sex hoggets 24s to 26s; average 21s to 22s 6d; inferior, down to 17s; two and four-tooth wethers, fairly forward, 32s to 34s; average, 31s; four and six-tooth wethers, plenty condition, 36s to 38s; average, 34s; sound-mouthed ewes with lambs (all counted), 18s to 20s; four and six-tooth ewes with lambs at foot, 21s to 22s 6d; full and failing-mouthed ewes (all counted) 12s to 15s.

Fat cattle:—Extra prime steers £24 to £28; prime, £20 to £22 10s; unfinished, down to £16; extra prime cows, £16 to £18; prime, £12 to £13 10s; unfinished, £10; extra prime heifers, £17 to £19; prime, £13 to £14 10s; unfinished down to £10 10s.

Fat sheep:—Prime wethers, 45s to 48s; extra prime, 50s; average 40s to 42s; unfinished, down to 37s; extra prime ewes, 38s to 40s; prime 35s to 36s 6d; unfinished, down to 30s.

Store cattle:—Forward three and four-year-old bullocks £12 10s to £13 10s; ordinary steers, £11 to £11 10s; two-year-old steers, £6 10s to £8 10s; yearlings, £2 10s to £3 15s; dairy cows, first-class £18 to £20; ordinary, £12 to £14; unfinished, down to £8.

**BRAY BROS. REPORT.**

Messrs Bray Bros. Ltd., Auctioneers and Fruit Salesmen, Dee street, Invercargill, report as follows for week ending to-day:—

PRODUCE.—Potatoes: The enquiry for table potatoes is slow and prices are nominal; prime, to 5s 6d; other quality, from 4s to 6s 6d per bag. Seed potatoes: The demand is slow and only guaranteed quality are wanted. Onions to 3s 6d per bag. Oats 15s to 24s per bag. Chaff 5s 6d to 6d 6d per bag. Straw chaff 3s to 4s per bag. Meggitt's Calf Food 27s 6d per bag. Bran 11s 6d per bag. Pollard 15s per bag. Farro Food 12s per bag. Mutton 12s 6d per tin. Mutton Birds 1d per bird.

FRUIT.—Fair supplies have been coming forward. Apples: Rokewood to 11s per case. Sturmers 9s to 12s 6d per case for choice quality. Scarlots to 10s. Other varieties from 8s 6d to 10s, according to grade and variety. Cooking apples: Prime quality to 8s per case; other quality from 6s 6d to 7s 6d per case. Pears: In short supply and prices rule high.

VEGETABLES, Etc.—Cabbage to 10s sack. Swedes 4s 6d bag. Carrots 4s bag. Parsnips 2 1/2 lb. Rhubarb 2 1/2 lb. Asparagus 2 1/2 lb.