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### REPATRIATION.

#### OPERATIONS FOR TWENTY MONTHS

The progress return of the Repatriation Department, covering the period of 20 months ended October 20, states that at that time the number of names on the register was 78,590. The return adds:—

Employment.—Since its inception the Department has placed 20,621 discharged soldiers in suitable employment, and the number on the "employment wanted" register at the date of this report (October 20, 1920), is 128. The majority of these have registered for employment within the past few days, and there are at the present time only four discharged soldiers drawing unemployment sustenance allowance, i.e., men who have been on the books of the Department for more than one week. The total amount paid out to date as unemployment sustenance is only £5223.

Training.—Vocational training (with sustenance or subsidy) has been arranged for 5206 men, and of these 2321 have finished their courses, leaving a balance of 2885 still being trained in special soldier classes and technical schools, or in the workshops and factories of private employers. An additional 1176 students who are attending evening classes at universities or commercial colleges, or who are studying by correspondence with recognised institutions have been assisted with grants towards fees and text books. Officers of the Department keep in touch with all the trainees, and the latest reports show that the latter are making excellent progress. This section of the Department's operations is showing a slight decrease month by month, and during October 117 men commenced training, and 195 trainees completed their courses and secured employment as "skilled" tradesmen. The total expenditure to date on training facilities, sustenance of trainees, etc., is £214,919.

After-care.—The reports of the after-care officers for the past month have been exceedingly satisfactory, and go to show the success that is attending their effort to place numbers of disabled men in occupations which are considered more suitable than those in which they have been engaged. Up to the present after-care officers have dealt with 811 chest cases, 337 amputees, and 435 men suffering from other serious disabilities, and have, in addition, during the past month, inspected and reported upon 260 subsidised trainees throughout the Dominion.

Financial Assistance.—A steady decrease is apparent during the past few months in the number of applications received for financial assistance, and a substantial decrease of expenditure in this direction is confidently anticipated. Up to October 20, 4496 loans for the purpose of acquiring or establishing businesses had been approved by the Ministerial Board, involving an expenditure of £1,018,308. In addition to this 9763 men have been granted loans for the purchase of household furniture, tools, etc., and a further 3855 have received financial assistance in other directions, the amount paid to or on behalf of soldiers under all headings totalling £1,539,431.

Repayments.—The amount collected by the Department up to September 30, 1920, account of loans granted was £305,383. Grantors are in the great majority of cases meeting their obligations with loyalty and promptitude, and less than 5 per cent. of the 14,731 men who have been granted loans are in arrear with their payments. Instalments amounting to £31,380 were collected during the month of September, a rate of about £400,000 per annum.

A summary of assistance rendered is as follows:—

Placed in employment	20,621
Trained or in training	6,382
Financially assisted	18,024

Total 45,027

### WHICH HAS SHOT?

A duel was once fought by two men named Shott and Nott. Nott was shot and Shott was not. In this case it is better to be Shott than Nott. There was a rumour that Nott was not shot and Shott avows that he shot Nott, which proves either that the shot Shott shot at Nott was not shot, or that Nott was shot not withstanding.

It may be made to appear on trial that the shot Shott shot shot Nott, or, as accidents with firearms are frequent, it may be possible that the shot Shott shot, shot Shott himself, when the whole affair would resolve itself into original elements and Shott would be shot and Nott would be not; although I think that the shot Shott shot, shot not Shott but Nott. Anyway it is hard to tell who was shot.

It is stated that Mr Austen Chamberlain will be offered the Vice-Royalty of India.

### OBITUARY.

On Sunday, 30th November, at Invercargill, Vessie McKenzie, late of 8th Coy., 1st Battalion, Otago Infantry Brigade.

The deceased was a son of Mr Wm. McKenzie, of Isla Bank, and was born at Invercargill twenty-four years ago. He was educated at the Limestone Plains school under Messrs Soar and McKinnon. Leaving school he took up country life with an energy that was characteristic of all his activities. He was a promising all-round athlete, winning the first Drummond Sheffield. While still in his teens he played football for the Otago cadets and Calcium Football Club. He was a dashing player, and would have reached high honours in our national game, but the call to arms came and as soon as he was of age he volunteered, sailing from New Zealand with the 9th Reinforcements. He was one of a party of four diggers who achieved much popularity with the men of this draft, the other three being Privates Blanche, Hazlett, and Forbes. All four have made the supreme sacrifice. Early in July 1916, he sustained shell-shock, but this fact did not deter him from returning to the line to take part in the tragic raid of July 15th which cost the 4th Otago men so dearly. In this stunt he was wounded in the arm, and the hardships he experienced before his arrival at Brockenhurst undoubtedly sowed the seeds of the disease which ultimately claimed him as a victim. After varied experiences in the hospitals in Blighty he was invalided home, and was treated for periods both in Invercargill and Hanmer, but without permanent success. During the past two years he spent a considerable amount of time with his parents in this district, but failing health again sent him to hospital, where the end came on Sunday evening.

On Wednesday afternoon at Calcium cemetery, after a short service in the church, the last rites were performed in the presence of his relatives and a large number of his digger comrades. Bugler Humphries sounded the Last Post. The service was conducted by Mr Bickerstaff, of Knox College.

The deceased was noted for his cheerful disposition. Despite failing strength and increasing pain, Vessie maintained his genial presence and fund of good humour to the last. In this and in neighbouring districts he earned the high esteem and affection of all with whom he came in contact, and he leaves a blank that cannot be filled in the hearts of those who knew him intimately. His devotion to duty and his uncomplaining fortitude in suffering must be an inspiration to all who were privileged to know him. The charm of his companionship will be a tender life-long memory to those fortunate enough to be numbered amongst his friends. The sympathy of the community goes out to the bereaved family in the great loss they have sustained.

To the long list of New Zealand heroes who suffered so much and gave all in the service of their country, must be added the name of Vessie McKenzie. Of each one it may be truly said, "Greater love hath no man than this."

### INVERCARGILL TRAMWAYS.

#### EXTRACT FROM ENGINEER'S REPORT.

It is unfortunate under present day circumstances that Invercargill adopted a rail section that was not standard, as manufacturers evidently regard this as "special section" and charge accordingly.

In view of the high price I do not feel justified in recommending the committee to accept the tender in full. I have consulted with Mr Glancefield as to the minimum with which he can carry on for a year or two, and as a result I beg to recommend that only 3600 yards of rails, 270 pairs of fishplates from Carrick Wedderspoon, and 900 fishbolts and nuts and 4 tons of dogspikes from Messrs Richardson and McCabe, at a total cost of approximately £5635 be obtained. There is about £11,000 of loan money authorised which will suffice also to lay the track.

We have arrived at the above quantities by reducing the double track and shifting the loops from the outlying sections, and Mr Glancefield will report separately as to the effect on the time-table.

The General Confederation of Labour in Paris, also the Socialist Party, have agreed to a campaign in favour of the Russian revolution.

The Australian labour party has prepared a special constitution and platform to be issued at next Federal Elections.

### ANGLING NOTES.

(By "Creel").

HE WAS A GOOD 'UN.

"He was a good 'un, but I lost him," You'll hear the angler say. The sceptic laughs, and turns, and winks away, "I've heard that tale from another, in fact the other day."

The man I mean, I don't mind telling you, Was chairman of this champion ananias crew, The tales he told of fishes, would make you quite blue, And the beauty of his stories was, he'd say they were "too true."

Well I met him, on a real good fishing day, And he whisked me in his motor, to a stream not far away, And he started in right fishing, in his usual thorough way, When he hooked a fish or something and shouted out "Hooray."

I dashed up with excitement, keen to see the jolly fun, But I got there as he lost him, I heard him say, "good 'un," But he only smiled, and said something about it "being in the game." Restarted fishing with great zeal, his luck to try again.

He wasn't fishing very long, when he caught another trout, And this time he was a good 'un, and he really got him out. And your story of your good 'un, well, yes, I think I'll shout, For I really think you did, yes, hook him, when the good fish were about.

—By "Creel."

Last week-end the bulk of the rivers were high and dirty, consequently the fly and minnow fishers were restricted in their operations. Some fair bags, I understand, were taken on the worm or "snake."

Mr T. Meadows, fishing with the minnow at the mouth of the Waikiki, landed three fish the following weight:—5lb 10ozs., 5lb 9ozs., and 2lb 10ozs respectively.

Messrs Hoffman and Baldwin for their last week-end on the New River secured 19 fish, the heaviest weighing 4½lbs, and on the Makarewa, 3 fish—two 4-pounders, and one two pound. Natural bully and smelt was the bait used.

These two anglers left at our office a very nice Makarewa trout for one of the staff. In a series of tosses for the coveted prize the editor and "Jacques" had the final toss and—"Jacques" lost.

At Lochiel on the New River, Messrs Banjo Patterson, T. Hansen, and W. Pearce (schoolmaster), have been catching some good bags on the fly and minnow. They report there are plenty of fish in the river.

A party of local anglers visited the Waimatuku, but were only moderately successful, although one or two good fish were hooked they were not "bagged."

A local fly fisherman at the iron bridge creelred some twenty nice fish in splendid condition. The heaviest fish weighed two pounds.

Mr John Penny caught four nice ones in the same locality on the worm.

I am pleased to report that the Gore anglers have taken steps to inaugurate a club, and representatives from the Southland clubs were invited to attend a meeting. A full report of the function will appear in next week's "Digger."

Triangular Fly Competition.—This competition, which was arranged for the 10th inst, on account of the Oreti not being in good fly order, has had to be postponed until Wednesday, 24th inst.

### TROUT REARING.

(NATURAL—ARTIFICIAL).

(By A. H. Stock).

It has occurred to me that, possibly, amongst the readers of your Angling Notes there may be a certain section who know a trout only as a "finished" article, but nothing about the transition between its birth and maturity.

I hope, therefore, that perusal of the following will enable them to recognise that it takes time to build up a good head of fish in a river or stream, and therefore any unlawful interference should be resented especially by all anglers.

Let us first look at "natural" rearing. When "spawning" time approaches, trout usually make upstream where they will find gravelly reaches in which to make their nests or "redds" as usually termed. When the female is ready to spawn, she

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### NOTICE

TO MOTORISTS.

I WISH to apologise to the Motor Public for having been compelled to turn work away owing to lack of accommodation in the past, but now that have taken over the premises lately occupied by McNie Bros. (adjoining my present premises) I have now the large Garage accommodation in Southland capable of storing over 200 cars.

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