

makes a furrow in the shingle by rolling about and dislodging the stones with blows from her tail fin. She then deposits a portion of her ripe eggs in this furrow, whereupon the male pours some of his "milt" upon them. The whole operation of spawning is not done at once, but is continued at other chosen sites. Spawning finished, both fish are weak and in poor condition through the drain thereby on their vitality, but gradually recover, especially where food is plentiful.

Fertilisation of Ova.

I need not describe the appearance of the eggs or milt as anglers who catch fish towards the end of the fishing season know both, but these facts must be mentioned. On the surface of each egg is a minute orifice called microphile, which allows the entrance of the spermatozoa (minute organisms contained in the milt), without which it would remain unfertilized and consequently barren. The eggs, when first shed, are soft, but rapidly absorb water which fills up the space between the outer shell and its delicate inner lining, and as soon as this period of absorption has passed by (reckoned at 30 minutes) it is impossible for the eggs to be fertilized.

Spermatozoa (of which the milt is mostly comprised) do not live long when subjected to the action of water, consequently only a small percentage of naturally spawned eggs can be fertilized.

The fertilized eggs hatch out at varying periods, determined by the temperature of the water (75 days for water 41 degrees Fahr.—warmer water sooner).

Now first look at these facts and you will soon see that if the stocking of waters had to be left to natural spawning alone, what a lot would be required to make up for the loss caused by eggs being swept away by the water during spawning period instead of dropping into the redd, and even when there, not all fertilized, being preyed upon whilst there by all their natural enemies; sitting over or being swept away through floods, or death through loss of water altogether.

And to all this wastage may justly be added the toll taken off of adult fish by netting (licensed and unlicensed) and use

of explosives. But for the "artificial" reproduction as practised by acclimatisation societies, the sport of angling would soon be classed as "napoo."

To deal with the subject of artificial reproduction would make this article too long, so with your permission, I will conclude with "to be continued in our next."

CONCRETE ROADS.

A PUTARURU PROPOSAL.

A movement for the permanent improvement of the main roads in the Putaruru district without delay was recently inaugurated by the executive of the Putaruru District Development Board, which then discussed the matter with the two local county councillors—Messrs F. C. Barnett and W. Carr Rollett—and the Matamata County engineer, Mr F. Shannon. The relative merits of metallizing and concreting were discussed, and it was decided that ultimately concrete would prove far cheaper than metal. A rate of 3d in the £ should be sufficient to pay the interest and sinking fund on a loan for concreting about 30 miles of main road in the district, namely, from Putaruru to Waotu, from Putaruru to Puketarua, from Puketarua to the Waotu road, from Putaruru to Milyn's Crossing, Lichfield, and the Overdale Road. It was agreed to make inquiries as to whether the necessary supply of cement could be obtained, and in the meantime to obtain the permission of the County Council for its clerk and its engineer to give their services, when required, for the project. This permission was given at the last meeting of the council.

The recent floods in the Manawatu district caused miles of country to be under water.

The Union Company has announced a new scale of charges for the Picton-Nelson service, which in future is to be maintained by two steamers.

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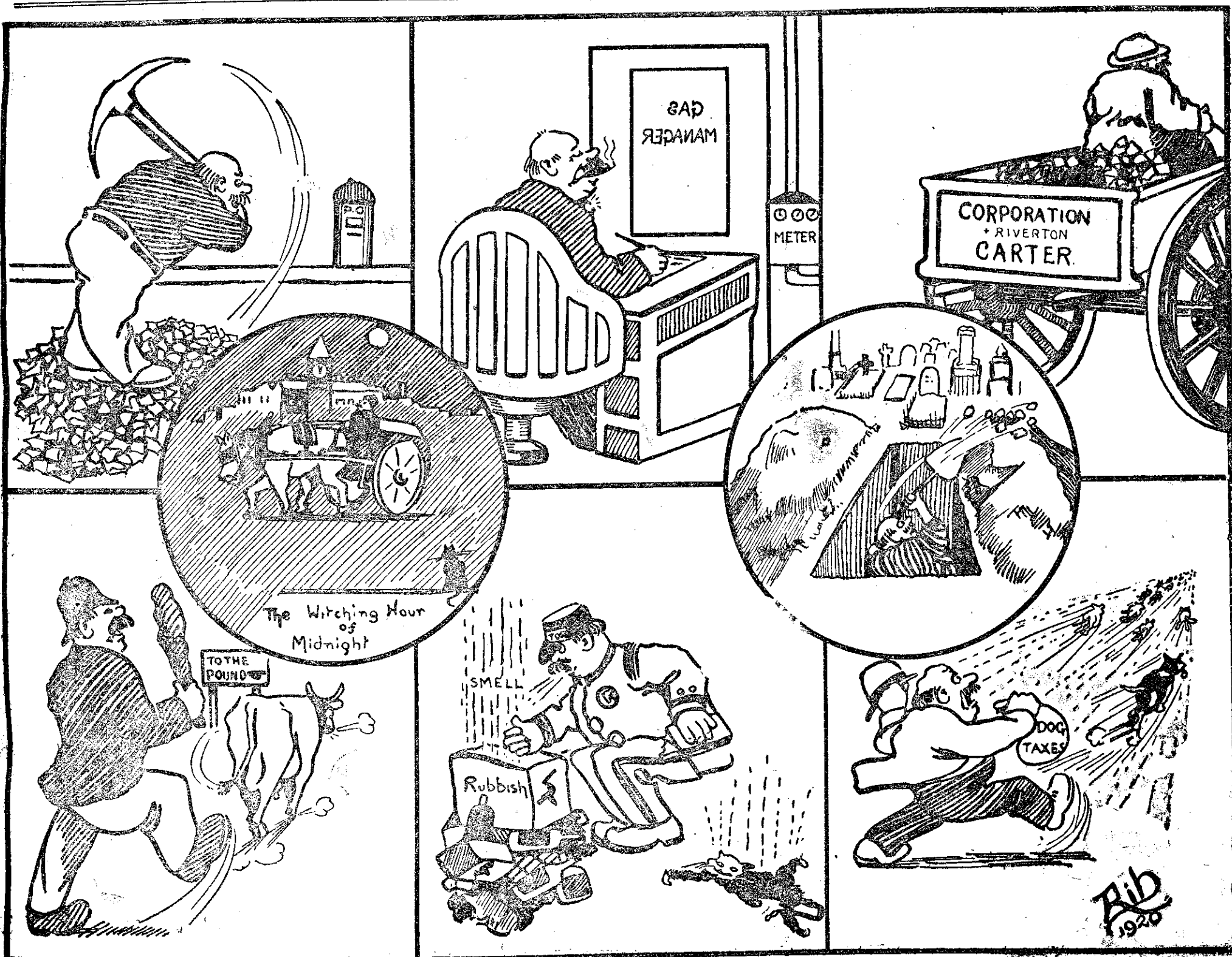
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The Riverton Borough Council recently advertised for a man to take charge of the Borough's affairs. The various duties are surfaceman, gas manager, corporation carter, nightsoil removal, sexton, poundkeeper, inspector of nuisances, and dog tax collector. We're wondering whether its Dewar's Special or Watson's No. 10, the Council drink.