

Passing Notes.

BY JACQUES.

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

A "News" advertisement offers "Firewood cutting plant, every neccmfwp fy fwyp, and all in god order." It looks an attractive proposition.

Another announces: "Firewood Suites, Sideboards, etc." One would think that, at the present price of firewood, it would be rather costly material for furniture.

The latest Parliamentary return shows our present national indebtedness to stand at £193,913,191—roughly £160 per head of the population, or £800 for a family of five. Many another must, like myself, have felt his chest expand with pride on reading those figures. There is a comforting suggestion of opulence about them. The next best thing to owning money is to owe it; an overdraft at the bank is almost as pleasant as a credit balance. Despite all that our moralists may say to the contrary, the most wretched of mortals is that man who can neither "raise the wind" nor get into debt. Many of us are in that position, and to such there is some slight consolation in the thought that, though our private credit may not be good for a postage stamp, we yet participate in a magnificent overdraft which has been arranged for us by proxy, as it were, and of which each man's individual share is in the neighbourhood of £200. The feeling that our credit is good for that amount is dirt cheap at the price we pay for it.

The Christchurch Anglican Synod has been discussing, with unwonted candour, the social evil, and has propounded the by no means original suggestion that, as a partial remedy at least, a certificate of freedom from communicable disease shall be, in every case, a sine qua non to marriage. This is an excellent plan—as a second step; the first, in the humble opinion of Jacques, should be at the other end of the line. The evil should be attacked first at its source, and until this is done all attempts to cope with it farther on its course must prove meagre of result. That source lies in the secret Paphian. It is impossible under present conditions to stamp out the "oldest profession in the world"; it were better therefore to frankly recognise it, and, at the same time, rigorously regulate it. Close supervision, periodical medical examination, and the system of certificates of health in relation to the traffic will go further to protect the general community than any other means that can be thought of. It has been tried in many large cities, and the results have always been satisfactory, from the point of view of the public health. And, as a corollary, our young men should be freely instructed in the matter of prophylaxis. No doubt the very thought of such a thing will make some shudder, but we are face to face with a very ugly problem, and desperate diseases often require desperate remedies.

At Chertsey (Eng.) parish church two deaf mutes were recently joined in wedlock. Which, for the man who hopes to find in matrimony "the peace which floweth like a river," seems about as near an approximation to the ideal union as is mundanely possible. True, a quarrel is not beyond their reach, and a quarrel between a pair of deaf mutes would be a weird thing. But the man (it is always the man who tires first of the conflict) could always end it—and, forbye, rob his better half of her traditional prerogative of the last word—by merely closing his eyes. And think of the blessedness of being able to terminate a certain lecture by the simple expedient of—blowing out the light. A finger lecture in the dark would be a futile sort of thing. Verily, there are many of us who would gladly change places with that bridegroom.

I have mentioned woman's prerogative of the last word. Sometimes it is well that they should be allowed to get it in, as it saves misunderstanding. In witness whereof take the following story:

It was at the tea-table, and Ethel was telling of a certain experience earlier in the day.

"As I was coming home," she said, "I trod on a banana peel and came down hard on my—"

"Ethel!" shrieked her mother. "What, ma?" said Ethel, "I was merely telling how I fell on my—"

"Oh, Ethel," implored her aunt, "don't say it."

"But, auntie," persisted the narrator, "I can't see much harm in saying that I slipped and bumped down hard on my—"

"Ethel," roared her father, "If you have so little regard for decency you had better leave the table."

Ethel was desperate, and resolved to get it out this time, at whatever cost.

"I don't know what is the matter with you all. I was only trying to tell you how I slipped on a banana skin and fell on my little brother, who was just behind me."

There are lots of things in this world that, as Lord Dundreary would say, "no fellow can understand." One of these is the persistent refusal of the authorities to permit the manufacture of margarine within the Dominion. With the cost of living at its present altitude many a struggling breadwinner and harrassed housewife are losing sleep o' nights trying to think of substitutes for the more costly items in the list of household expenses. As a substitute for butter (which has leaped beyond the reach of many purses) margarine fulfils every requirement of those who are at once thrifty and regardful of their own and their children's health. It is cheap, palatable and nutritious, and so closely resembles the thing it counterfeits as to deceive all but the most expert judges. In fact, many who have used it declare it to be superior to much of the second grade butter that is openly sold. Why, then, place any bar in the way of the manufacture and sale (with proper safeguards) of a commodity which would go far to lighten many a present heavy burden? There may be a reason for this inhibition somewhere in the back of William Massey's massive cranium, but that the reason is at all a sound one, I beg permission to doubt.

CLUTHA R.S.A.

The monthly meeting of the executive held in the R.S.A. rooms on Saturday was attended by Dr J. E. K. Brown (in the chair), and Messrs R. S. Jordan, C. Stokes, J. T. Walter, C. Parr, S. J. Werren, J. Weir, A. L. Shepard, and the secretary (Mr A. C. Laing). Apologies were received from Messrs A. B. Russell and G. Jardine.

—Condolence.—

Motions of condolence were passed with Messrs Russell and Walter.

—Accounts.—

Accounts amounting to £31 10s 3d were passed for payment.

—Membership—

Seven discharged soldiers were proposed for active membership.—Mr J. H. Burn (Romahapa) was elected an honorary member of the Association.

—Land Matters.—

Correspondence was received from the Minister of Lands (Hon. W. Nosworthy) advising that more promptness would be shown in the future in the settlement of accounts of soldier settlers for stock, etc.—Received.

The district secretary wrote asking for particulars in regard to land for sale which would be suitable for soldier settlement in this district.—Received.

A circular was received from Headquarters N.Z. R.S.A., embodying replies given by the Minister of Lands to the remits passed at the annual conference passed at the annual conference.—The secretary stated that the replies were very unsatisfactory, and that at a meeting of the district committee held in Dunedin recently he had voiced his disapproval of same, and as a result an appropriate motion had gone forward to headquarters.

—Concert on Show Night.—

The secretary reported that he had booked the Oddfellows' Hall for a concert on Friday, November 26th (show night), and was arranging for a concert party from Dunedin to furnish an entertainment in aid of the Association's funds.—Action confirmed.

DRAUGHTS.

(Conducted by F. Hutchins).

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

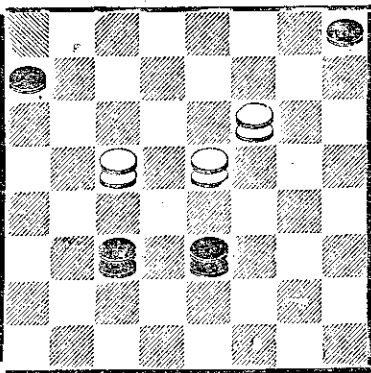
Those who wish to popularise the game of draughts in Southland can do a little by sending along items of interest to players. Address, "Draughts Editor," "Digger," 28 Biggar street.

PROBLEM 35.

By H. F. Shearer, Dundee.

(No. 1534 in "People's Journal").

Black.



White.

Either to play and White to draw.

Black 4, 5, Kings 22, 23.

White Kings 11, 14, 15.

A familiar looking ending.

When Charles Francis Barker was only 15 years old he met the famous Herd Laddie and made the creditable score of 3 wins, 10 losses and 12 draws; when he was 34 he met the Herd Laddie in a match for 100 dollars a side and the championship of the world. The contest lasted two weeks and ended in a draw. Score: Parker, 1 win; Wyllie, 1 win; drawn, 48 games.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM 34.

Mr H. MacKean, Salt Lake City.

Black 6, 17, Kings 5, 24.

White 14, 23, 25, King 32.

Black to play and win.

6.9	25.18	5.7	23.19
14.10	9.14	32.28	7.11
17.22	18.9	24.27	B. wins.

THIRTEENTH SCOTTISH TOURNAMENT GAMES.

SECOND ROUND.

A. Battersby, Glasgow, v. F. Brown, Rutherglen.

GAME 90—CROSS.

Black—Brown.	White—Battersby.
11.15	E, 6.10
23.18	15.6
8.11	1.10
27.23	27.24
4.8	10.15
23.19	26.23
10.14	19.26
19.10	30.23
14.23	r, 7.11
26.19	A, 23.19
7.14	15.18
19.15	22.15
11.18	11.18
22.15	20.16
2.7	18.22
25.22	16.11
12.16	8.15
24.20	19.10
16.19	22.26
31.26	10.6
9.13	26.31
32.27	2.7

And Black ultimately wins.
A.—24.19 should draw here.
B.—29.25 may draw.
C.—Coming 2.7 would not do, but running in for another King appears preferable.
D.—6.10 is better.
E.—Black has nothing better.

The following is an interesting clipping from the "Draughts World":—Some years ago we gave a graphic description of the "big draughts-board" in the Greenock Park in the "Draughts World," and it has been of great interest to visitors since. Lately Mr Alfred Smith, the general president of the Sheffield Club, was on holiday in Scotland and visited the Wellington Park, and had a game on the "big board" which was laid out about fifty years ago. Mr Smith succeeded in defeating his opponent, a veteran of seventy-four, who thereupon remarked he was "sorry that neither Ferris nor Stewart was present!" It is warm work playing on a hot summer's day, as the pieces weigh about 14lb each, and the board is about eight feet square, necessitating a considerable amount of hopping about, especially when there is a big "shot" on.

AN OPEN LETTER.

TO THE PEOPLE OF NEW ZEALAND.

The £6,000,000 5½ per cent. Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Loan, as its name implies, is intended to supply the remaining funds required for repatriation and soldier settlement purposes, and will, it is confidently expected, suffice to meet our obligations in connection with the late war to the men who so nobly responded to the call of duty in the unprecedented crisis that then arose, and who on the field of action upheld the honour and dignity of New Zealand while defending the threatened liberties and free citizenship of the State against an unscrupulous foe pledged to its undoing.

It is not necessary for me to stress the point that subscriptions to this loan (the last of the war series) should be made as freely and spontaneously as possible even if in the subscription sacrifices are entailed. The men for whose benefit it is being raised did not hesitate when the call for sacrifices came to them, and it is to their ready response and action in the time of national peril that we owe the preservation of our homes and liberties today. They took their lives in their hands. Many of them returned crippled and otherwise disabled from the war, while more than 16,000 made the supreme sacrifice, and are numbered with our "glorious dead whose name liveth for ever" and whose example silently appeal to us that while we should cherish their memories and care for their dependents we should not overlook the claims of their fellows, who, having in the order of Providence, survived the fiery ordeal of battle, have returned to us, and have to be resettled in civilian life. The loan itself is of the reproductive order, and eventually every penny of the many subscribed will be returned to the State. It is offered on liberal terms, the security is good, the whole credit of the State is at its back, and the duty of finding the money is incumbent upon us. The men in whose interests it is being raised are worthy of all the assistance we can give them, and while subscription has been made compulsory, I feel sure it will not be necessary to enforce the penalising clauses of the Act which authorises its flotation.

We want a quick response in the shortest possible time. I, therefore, earnestly commend the appeal which is now being made to you, and trust that every citizen in New Zealand whose circumstances permit will not fail to respond to the call of duty in the matter.

(Signed) W. F. MASSEY.

MATAURA ISLAND NOTES.

We have now passed an ideal spring. Summer has not opened too promising. Heavy rain set in on Wednesday last and continued without intermission throughout the night. Several showers of hail and sleet has been experienced during the week. The ground being in much need of moisture, is now thoroughly saturated, and given some favourable weather a good harvest can be expected. Grass has come away well and is easy a month ahead of that in the western district. Potatoes that were cut down by the frost have now recovered, and it is hoped no more late frosts will be experienced.

Dairying.—The Island dairy factory paid out its second monthly cheque on Friday last. At present they are only paying out at the rate of one and sixpence per pound for butter fat, but a bonus of sixpence is to be paid out at the beginning of New Year. A record intake is this season being experienced. The daily average is at present 3,600 gallons and is increasing daily. An extra vat has been installed during the last week and probably another one will be required for the flush of the season.

Public School.—The attendance at the district school for the past month has been considerably low, there being a large majority of the children effected with measles and other complaints. The head mistress (Miss Gray), has also been seized with an illness and is likely to be off duty for some months. Mr Grant, a returned soldier, has been appointed temporary head master.

Senior Inspector Wyllie, of the Education Board, paid his usual visit to the local school last week. Although his report was not yet been received, a good one is expected by all concerned.

A plant of which a Brazilian State produces 100,000 tons a year has been found to yield a cellulose suitable for the manufacture of "linen" paper and fibres from which imitation cotton can be made.

Nat. Greaves,

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(Opposite P.O.).

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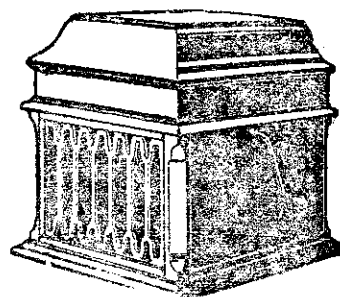
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