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FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE.

IN MEMORIAM.

CRITCHFIELD.—In loving memory of 80582 Private Henry Cecil Critchfield, who died of pneumonia, at Cannock Chase Military Hospital, on November 19, 1918. He gladly answered his country's call. He gave his life to save us all.

We miss him and mourn him in silence unseen,  
And dwell in the memory of days that have been.

—Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters. 3396

## "The Digger."

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1920.

### THE BOROUGH LOANS.

At the beginning of next month the ratepayers of Invercargill will be called upon to exercise their vote on the loan schedule involving an expenditure of £246,500. The ratepayers would be well advised to give serious consideration to the proposals and after mature consideration, cast their vote accordingly. It has been the experience in the past, that ratepayers pay too little attention to the administration of local government affairs. This difficulty is common throughout the Dominion, with the consequent result that important and progressive measures have been turned down owing to misunderstanding. On the other hand proposals have been carried which should have had a more complete analysis. No sensible business man would be associated with matters of a financial character without carefully analysing how they are going to effect his pocket. The position of the ratepayers is exactly similar, and we hope that there will be a record display of interest reflected at the forthcoming poll. There may be a feeling of insecurity among a section of the people about the financial instability of our times. The Council are only asking for authority to raise the amount involved and have no intention of going recklessly on to the money market. The money may not be raised for some time, but the ratepayers may rest assured that their interests will be conserved in the flotation and expenditure of the loan. In reference to the proposed loan of £25,000 for the gasworks and the electricity loan of £25,000 it must be borne in mind that these are trading concerns and it would be an unwise

policy to decrease their earning power by limitation of capital. No business man would pursue this course. There is no shadow of doubt that there is ample room for the extension of both these trading concerns and the best course to pursue is to give these concerns the requisite amount of capital to effect a saving and provide an extension of activities. These concerns have shown a profit and it is not anticipated that there will be any increase in the rates as the interest will be paid out of revenue. It is anticipated that the installation of the vertical retorts at the gasworks will effect a saving of £4,000 per annum. The requirements of sound business methods demand that in all spheres we must effect economy and we must apply the principle to our gasworks. The cost of coal, material, and wages, have increased enormously during the past four years, and is still increasing. It is therefore imperative that we adopt improved methods of manufacture and install up-to-date machinery. There is no doubt that we are far behind in prosecuting a vigorous and progressive road-making policy. Maintenance is the big factor which penetrates the ratepayers' pockets. In view of the system of transport having changed it is imperative that we keep in line with the ever-increasing demands made upon our roads. The pamphlet issued by the Council sets the matter plainly before the people, and it will be readily seen that it is a penny wise and pound foolish policy to allow our roads to remain in their present condition.

### DIGGER'S LETTER BOX.

"JACQUES" IN RE HAPPENING IN SYDNEY TOWN HALL.

(To the Editor).

Sir,—Truth, "Jacques," "the truly religious instinct in mankind is not moribund," it is anything but a dying state hankering after more fruit from the tree of knowledge. But through the false deductions put forth by the preaching fraternity they have stultified the Bible in the people's eyes, and the people, like drowning men, catch at straws for support. Spiritualism is, like straws, a tangible thing, but we cannot bind up spiritualism into bales or bundles, and thereby be supported. Loose straw in calm water will support, but when the storm arises the support disappears. So it is with spiritualism. "Men want more nourishing spiritual pabulum to-day than that which satisfied their forefathers," so says "Jacques." I say they cannot get any better than their forefathers, both having the Bible. Only our forefathers' knowledge was not so extensive as ours, therefore more is required of us to-day. "For unto whomsoever much is given of him shall much be required." See Luke 12th 42-48. "Jacques" says "the churches do not seem to be able to 'deliver the goods.' They are able but unwilling. It would spoil their trade, and what would become of their divvies? There is a saying, 'Rogues live on fools!' I add, and it is true also, 'And so does the parson.' Not that all parsons are rogues, but a great many parsons are fools, and these help those that are rogues to a good living. You think I am unjust and hard on the parsons. I am not, as see. A certain person visiting my house. I had allowed him to read a portion of the Scripture to me and my family, but I would not allow him to pray, which, after dismissing my family, led up to a long and interesting talk. On taking his leave, while shaking hands, he said he was pleased to have met me as I said he was correct and that he could not contradict me. I thanked him and said 'That is good. You go and repeat what you have acknowledged and you will lose your billet, but Our Father will look after you. Do not do so, and my Father will deal with you.' Sequel: My Father did deal with him, he acted the fool. Another parson in parting (I leaning over my front gate) said: 'I do hope, Mr Brighton, that you do not think I believe all or the half of what I preach.' He got his answer, which would not look well in print. There are some parsons and priests that I think a lot of good faithful men, believing what they preach, but foolish for all that, afraid to trust to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Sir A. C. Doyle, I take to be honest, true and bold, but misled. The late Charles Bradlaugh of Birmingham, and Robert Blatchford of the "Clarion," were men of the right stamp. No hypocrisy with them, fighting to free the people from superstition and error, to rouse the people out of their lassitude, so that they would use their brains. Charles Bradlaugh was a great Hebrew scholar. I parted with him when he, in conjunction with Annie Besant, brought out that book on the fruits of philosophy. They were both of the Church of England, but left it to think for themselves. They both have done so, seeking no aid from Him who overrules all things,

I have found this to be a wrong thing to do, seeing that the Bible is the Word of God "Holy men of old speaking as they were guided by the Holy Spirit so, seeing it came by the Holy Spirit, it must need the Holy Spirit to interpret it, which the Father gives to us through Our Lord His Son, which is to lead and teach us in all truth. See 1st Epistle John 2nd and 27.—I am, etc.,

GAVIN BRIGHTON.

(To the Editor).

Sir,—"Jacques," in "Passing Notes" this week, seems to imply that official red tape an unmixed evil. While red tape is anything, yet I cannot say it always wins, for in my instance I gained what enabled me to purchase a four-inch objective telescope costing forty pounds; £40 for telescope alone. Also at the same time I gained other seventy-five pounds. In another instance I came out on top with forty times—12s 6d, say twenty-five pounds. While it was annoying I did gain in all one hundred and forty pounds, so I cannot say red tape is an unmixed evil.—I am, etc.,

GAVIN BRIGHTON.

### FLY FISHING.

ANNUAL COMPETITION.

SHIELD WON BY SOUTHLAND.

The annual triangular fly fishing competition was held last Wednesday between the Mataura, Wyndham and Southland Angling Clubs. The following places were drawn:—Wilson's Crossing, E. Duncan, D. McGowan, Mataura Club; A. Udy, Wyndham; and A. E. Tapper, Southland. Lochiel, D. Cameron, Mataura; G. Strang, E. King, Wyndham; G. Braxton, Southland. Thomson's Crossing, Mr Allison, Mataura; E. Creighton, Wyndham; C. Wilson, N. R. Mackay, Southland. Following were the results.

SOUTHLAND:

	No.	lbs.	ozs.
N. R. Mackay	10	5	14
C. W. Wilson	14	8	13
G. Braxton	3	1	4
A. E. Tapper	20	16	11
Total	47	32	10

MATAURA:

	No.	lbs.	ozs.
W. Allison	15	8	6
E. Duncan	16	7	4
D. Cameron	5	3	12
D. McGowan	7	3	12
Total	43	23	2

WYNDHAM:

	No.	lbs.	ozs.
A. Udy	18	9	4
G. Strang	5	2	14
W. Creighton	1	0	10
C. King	3	1	13
Total	27	14	9

At the conclusion of the weighing in, members assembled at the Princess Hotel, where a dinner was held. Apologies were received from Messrs Mitchell (Wyndham), J. S. Smith, vice-president, Southland Club, R. Thompson, Pattelle and Cameron. During the course of the evening the following toasts were honoured. "The King" proposed by the president, Mr G. Braxton; "Winning Team," Mr Duncan, coupled with the names of Messrs Tapper and Mackay. Mr Tapper stated that his fish were caught with the Owaka fly. "Losing Team," Mr Collins, coupled with the names of Mr Udy and Mr Strang. "Mataura Club," president, responded to by Messrs Allison and McGowan. Mr McLean proposed the toast of the Acclimatisation Society. Mr A. H. Stock, president of the Society, stated in response, that fishermen owed their sport to the activities of the Society. The Society was doing a great deal to increase the national assets. A large number of people visited the Dominion to partake of whatever sport the society could provide. This meant that they left money in the country and there was no charge upon the public for administration. The society was doing its best to stop poaching and abolish estuary fishing. It had been contended that estuary fishing provided the people with cheap fish but it had been bought from the fisherman at 6d per lb. and sold from 1s 6d to 2s 6d per lb. There was a great deal of work for the society to do and in the near future he hoped the Waiau would be stocked.

Mr Neil proposed the toast of the president (Mr Braxton), who in responding took the opportunity of thanking Mr McLean for the valuable services he had rendered on behalf of the local Angling Club. The president of the Wyndham Club (Mr Udy) presented the shield to the president of the Southland Club. The presentation medal for the heaviest bag was presented to Mr Tapper.

## Racing Notes.

Forbury Trots next Thursday and Saturday.

The profit on the recent Winton meeting is reported to be round about £2000.

There is some talk of "Put" Hogan making Washdyke his headquarters in the near future.

The annual meeting of members of the Clifden Hack Racing Club will be held next Monday night.

Jimmy Duffy was to the fore at the Winton Show on Wednesday with a very handsome yearling trotter by Logan Pointer from Regina Belle.

W. F. Dunne, who has been appointed handicapper by the local Club for its Summer Meeting, will again frame the handicaps, for the second day of the Dunedin Jockey Club's Christmas meeting.

There were plenty of jumpers out at the Winton Show on Wednesday, and amongst them some likely candidates for the first club who put on a hack steeplechase.

My Gore correspondent informs me that J. J. McMath, of Riversdale, who had a number of maidens in work on the Gore track has had to ease them on account of colds.

McMath and Stevenson, of Riversdale, have sent Queen's Drive, Lady Rothson, Myrtle Bell and a Harold Rothchild mare up to Christchurch on a visit to Great Andoton.

Those who backed Barley Rigs in the last race the first day at Winton are still loud in their argument that the Wingatui horse won. He may have done so, but the judge has the final say, so what is the good of crying over spilt milk?

It is reported that W. Norman has resigned all his appointments as starter of galloping events. He had given the game a good trial, and apparently has decided that there is nothing in it. During the several years he has officiated he has done his best and at least satisfied both owners and the public that he is honest.

### AUCKLAND RACING CLUB.

The following handicaps have been declared:

Auckland Cup, £3000 (two miles)—Oratress 9.2, Uncle Ned 9.0, Volo 8.13, Vagabond 8.12, Kilrush 8.11, Gazique 8.9, Snub 8.6, First Salute 8.4, Tenterfield 8.3, Red Ribbon 8.2, Trespass 8.1, Molyneux 8.0, Glen Lanny 7.13, Lovematch 7.12, Gashag and Bonnie Maid 7.11, Prince Willonyx 7.10, Tigritiya and Royal Abbey 7.7, Demagogue, Gold Kip, Humbug and Hetana 7.4, Woody Glen, Dusky Eve and Johnny Walker 7.2, Right and Left 7.1, Delight 7.0, Rockfield, Sunart and Landslide 6.13, Starland 6.11, Rose Wreath 6.10, Nightraider 6.9, Sir Ralph, Alteration, Kilgour, Marble Slab, Sycorax, Walton, Blue Cross, Athens, Insurrection, Antler, Arch Salute, Strategy, Lord Kenilworth, The Gleaner, Prince Rufus, Tout Bon, Rebuff, Rose Queen, Windorah, Bitholia and Woori 6.7.

Railway Handicap, £1400 (six furlongs)—Arrowsmith 10.7, Silver Link 9.3, Rosini 8.12, Gazique 8.11, Inah 8.10, Spanner, Affection and Humbug 8.7, Parisian Diamond and Tigritiya 8.3, Hymestra 8.1, Statuette and Chrysostom 7.13, King Abbey 7.12, Prince Willonyx 7.11, Right and Left 7.10, Maioha 7.9, Missgold 7.7, Listowel, Landslide and Hetana 7.6, Crowhurst 7.4, and Heather Sprig, Luculan, Golden Bubble, Bon Spec and Tamaaroa 7.2, Arran 6.12, Matatane and Wake 6.10, Miss Mimic, Ruatara and Murihiku 6.9, Early Dawn 6.8, Archie, Sylvan Illumination, Maid of the Lake, Guerre a Mort, Oak Abbey, Dead Sweet, Comedy Prince, Askari, Miss Ellice, Petunia, Caricature, Vasilkov, Rieuse, Cantabile, Going Up, Truthful, Emerald Hill, Miss Girons, Prince Jewel, No Mistake, Tiek, Weldone, Tinokaha, Wolomai, Clommel, Forty Winks, Income, Tressor, Jolly Princess, Poanui, Dovelet, Santorini, Listening Post, Regent and Strategy 6.7.

A whale can jump out of the water to a height of 25ft, with the greatest ease. This is about twice as high as the tiger, who can manage about 12ft to 13ft. A dog has been known to clear 10ft., and a horse follows next with 7ft. 8½inches. Man's record high jump was made in 1914 by a Californian, who reached 6ft. 7 5/16inches.