# Passing Notes.

\*

#### BY JACQUES.

Laugh where we must, be candid where ve can .-- Pope

\*

breast :--

"The chance of gain allures, howe'er remote;

And that's why I continue to invest-And lose-my hard-earned quidlets on the tote.

disease is spreading over Europe. It is nameless, and known merely as "No. 9." We have had something very similar in Invercargill for years. Symptoms: Lingual difficulty, laxity of the lower extremities, impaired or dual vision, erratic locomotion, tendency to weep or sing, etc. Diagnosis: "No. 10."

Ah! if we'd never done the things we shouldn't,

Nor left undone the things we should have done;

Then life had been screner, but we wouldn't

Have got from it the same amount of

The Christchurch City Council favours "the encouragement by all possible means of New Zealand secondary industries." Very good. But what about a little more encouragement for the most important of New Zealand primary industries in the form, say, of a thumping baby bonus?

The "Auckland Weekly News' states that "the driver of a motor lorry near Gisborne ran out of benzine when a few miles away from the town. Unable to procure petrol he filled the tank with whisky, and continued the jurney." There is nothing unusual in a whiskyfilled "tank," however. We often see them in Invercargill, though, when properly full, few are able to "continue their journey" without the aid of a cab, or the kindly belp of a John Hop.

Professor Davies, advocating at the Presbyterian General Assembly, minimum stipend of £300 for parsons, stated that "ministers are not in the ministry for what they can get out of it."

If there's nought in the lure of a soft sinecure:

If it's not the position they care for; Nor yet for the sake of the dollars they make-

Well what in the deuce are they there

That "the law is an ass" is never seriously disputed nowadays. Sometimes, however, it is more asinine than at others. But probably the length of its ears the matter of the cost of living bonus. The necessity of some such means of assisting struggling wage-earners to meet the ever-increasing prices of commodities is, of course, beyond question; that the bonus should be uniform in the case of the single man without dependants and in that of the married man with a large and hungry family is most inequitable, and tends to defeat the very purpose for which the bonus was granted. In the case of the single man the amount allowed by the Court is considerably in excess of the recent increase in the cost of actual necessaries-unless we include whisky among them. If it is not, then the allowance to the father of (say) four children is absurdly iadequate. And the additional burden placed on industry by the unnecessarily bulky bonus to the "bachelor, gay and free," has its inevitable result in a further increase in the cost of living to the poor, old married man, who, in the end, begins to wonder high cost of living. if even cost of living bonuses offer sufficient inducement to stay on this side of Jordan: The only equitable basis on Mrs Jacques had ordered. which such a bonus can rest in the actual, not the hypothetical, family.

Conan Doyle has showed that, after all, his brain is not wholly tenanted by spooks sed the danger of Australia's waste tinued: spaces, and urged a policy of rapid popu-

"Hope springs eternal in the human lation. That a mere handful of people should long hold undisturbed such a vast and fertile country as Australia is unthinkable. The desperately overcrowded countries of Asia have long been looking over our back fence, and the prospect is, no doubt an alluring one to them. The Japanese, in particular, are casting covetous eyes on our heritage, and more than Late reports state that a mysterious once have hinted their determination, soon or late, by hook or crook, to share it with us, or even wrest it from us altogether. Our trades unions would, of course, resent such action, but the Japanese somehow fail to appreciate the importance of trades union resolutions. In their opinion big guns and quick-firers are of greater effect. And since the world is still governed by

> 'The good old rule, the simple plan "That he may take who has the power And he may keep who can,"

they are probably not far wrong. And, judged by the ethical and utilitarian standards of the nations to-day, if the brown man can force an entrance and use the country to better purpose than ourselves (for New Zealand is in the same boat with Australia) they are justified in doing so. ... we would hold our country against aggression we must quickly grow big enough to do so. The White Australian policy is an excellent one, no doubt, but we must have enough White Australians to keep it white. And since the good old way of increasing and replenishing the earth scems largely falling into desuctude in these latitudes, the only apparent alternative is to import the ready made white article as rapidly as possible. With a liberal land settlement policy, small fear but that millions could be established here comfortably in a very few years. Failing some such action-and that very soon—there is a probability, looking unpleasantly like a certainty, that the near future will see White Australia with some very big and ugly brown and yellow patches about it.

Unless the cable Ear is lying more recklessly than usual, things are looking pretty ominous in the Far East. Apart from the establishment of vast military camps in Formosa-which may fairly be construed as a threat to knock some of the spangles off the American banner-Japan is beginning to speak in a strange and sacrilegious tongue to ourselves. It seems that certain Canadian missionaries have evinced a somewhat pernicketty repugnance to occasional Japanese massacres of Koreans, and have been telling tales to the nations calculated to hurt the little brown fellow's feelings and damage the wee, measly thing that he calls his character. His proper course, under the circumstances, would have been to summons the missionaries for defamation or libel, or some such thing; but, instead of was never more clearly shown than in doing so, he becomes quite disrespectful to England (through Canada) and tells her what he will do to her if the blackcoated brotherhood prod him any more. Any further spiritual or material assistance given by these to the Korean will be speedily followed by "Buddhist" assistance of anti-Pritish elements in India, which would mix things up for us very much. As General Homer Lee contended -and the contention is accepted by most military experts and statesmen-India is the keystone of the British Empire. It was largely in recognititon of this fact that Britain entered into an alliance with Japan, the chief provision of which was that the latter should safeguard the former's interests in the land of Ram Das and Jambuk Singh. His present minatory tone would seem to indicate that the little brown chap is ready, at any minute, and on the slightest provocation to tear the Treaty to tatters, and raise up trouble for us that will be worse even than the

Bill brought over the dozen eggs that

"Jax," he opened, as he sat down on the bucket. "Women's d-d funny things, ain't they ?"

I was struck with the originality of his discovery, but offered no opinion, as I and fairies. He hit a big nail squarely suspected that Mrs Jacques was within on the head the other day when he stres- earshot. After a short pause he con-

"The way they sets about gettin' wot

they wants bangs Bannagher. stalkin's a fool to it. Forinstance, Friday night, when I got 'ome from work there was a scrumptious feed waitin' me; steak an' kidney pie, mashed potatees an' cabbage-my fav'rite tuck. When I'd 'ad a good blow out I went into the sittin' room, where there was a lovely fire an' my slippers all warmed, ready for me. After I'd read the paper, the wife comes an' sits on the arm of my chair, an' presently she puts 'er arm round my neck an' kisses me on the desert patch on top of my 'ead. 'Bill,' she sez, 'yer an ol'dear, an' the best 'usband that any woman ever 'ad. I love yeh more an' more every day, an5 1'll go on lovin' yeh more an' more as long I live. I've always been 'appy with with yeb, Bill, an' I bless the day that y'arst me an' I took yeh. Yeh've never denied me anything, an' I don't bélieve yeh more an' more every day, an' I'll just got up an' went to my box where I keeps my money, an' I said, 'ow much?' 'Ten quid,' she sez, 'I want a dress, an' an 'at an' a lot of other things.' An' I gave it to 'er. Sattiday night I 'ad cold mutton fer tea, 'an 'ad to 'unt out an' warm my own slippers, an' was told that the kitchen was quite good enough fer any reas'nable man to sit in. No kissin'. Yes, Jax, as the poet sez, 'Women's blank myst'ries."

And Bill walked off, evidently sadty impressed with the vagaries of the inscrutable sex.

#### LAND SETTLEMENT.

When there are such a large number of

returned soldiers seeking land, as evinced by the many applicants still appearing at ballots, it is the duty of the Government to open up with all possible speed the areas of suitable unproductive land still to be found in the Dominion. We are not out to criticise the rate of settlement in the years before the war, but undoubtedly rate requ s to be acceletherated now. Leading economists have stated that the need of New Zealand at the present time is increased production, and the Prime Minister has given unqualified endorsement to this view. Increased production can be brought about by several methods; the two which commend themselves to us are further settlement and closer settlement. In view of the need for further settlement attention should be focussed on the undeveloped lands suitable for farming. Un. doubtedly the pioneers of the early days were enabled to select the best of the country and the belief is common that the g, acres must necessarily be poor and rough and not worth subdivision and closer settlement. Perhaps the undeveloped Crown lands still remaining are for the most part unattractvie, but we would like to draw attention to the undeveloped native lands in our midst. The native lands have been a bar to progress whereever they exist. The native is not prepared to develop his land with the result that native lands have been a bar to progress in those parts of the Dominion where native land is to be found in large blocks. Southland is not without these barriers and in the interest of the native owners and the Dominion as a whole it is time these lands at present lying idle were made available for European settlement. One particularly good block of landless native land is that generally known as the Alton Block, situated between the Waiau River and The Hump, and comprising in all some 40,000 acres. It was permanently reserved for landless natives in 1908, but since that date apart from collecting some timber royalty from sawmillers working on the edge of the block the native owners have reaped no benefit, and the whole block is still in its primeval condition. Settlement in the west has reached the limit until this block is developed, either by the native owners themselves or through the land being

thrown open for selection by Europeans. Power is not wanting to enable the Government to deal with these landless native lands in Southland. The Native Land Act Amendment Act, 1919, empowers the Governor to vest landless native lands in the land boards, who it is presumed will hold the land in trust for the native owners and lease to Europeans. The Alton block is a very suitable block for further settlement, situated as it is close to the growing town of Tuatapere and the railway. If Mr Massey is sincere in his desire for settlement, more settlement and still more settlement, he will take immediate steps to have the block vested in the Land Board, roaded and then thrown open for selection and settle 200 discharged soldiers.

The question of native lands in Southland is one that the Southland League could with advantage investigate. We do not mind who is instrumental in moving the Government to action in the matter so long as action results and the Digger in search of land is accommodated.

# DRAUGHTS.

(By F. Hutchins).

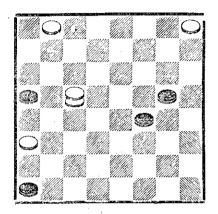
Let science give release To minds o'erwrought by care and thought;

Let the checker board be brought—the battlefield of peace.

Those who wish to maintain interest in the kindly game of draughts are invited to send along games, problems or items of interest to readers of this column. Address, Draughts Editor, "Digger," 28 Biggar street, Invercarg II.

#### PROBLEM 39. 29

(By Horsfall, per favour of the Rev. J. Collie).



Black 4, 14, 17, 20. White 12, 29, 32, King 19. White to play and win.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM 38.

Black 9, 10, 11, 12. White 18, 20, 27, 52. White to play and draw.

32.28 10.15 20.16 12.19 27.24.—Drawn.

The following is a trap in the "Old Fourteenth" that the "Herd Laddie" used with telling effect innumerable times:-

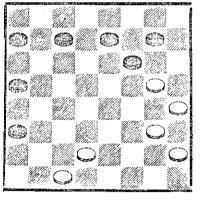
4.8 9.14 A. 6.15 16.23 18.25 17.13 26.23 28.24 20.16 27.4 23.198.11 15.18 10.15 12.16 B. 11.20 White 24.20 19.10 23:19 25.22

LAIRD AND LADY.

(By "X.Y.Z.," in the "Draughts World").

| 11.15      | 28.24    | 26.22    | 3, 26.22 |  |  |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|--|--|
| 23.19      | 4.8      | 3.7      | н. 10.14 |  |  |
| 8.11       | 32.28    | 31.26    | 22.17    |  |  |
| 22.17      | 1, 13.17 | 1.6      | 14.18    |  |  |
| 9.13       | 14.10    | A, 27.23 | 17.14    |  |  |
| 17.14      | 7.14     | 14.18    | 18.22    |  |  |
| 10.17      | 25.22    | 23.14    | 14.10    |  |  |
| 21.14      | 18.25    | 9.25     | 6.15     |  |  |
| c, 15.18   | 29.6     | 30.21    | 19.10    |  |  |
| в, 24.20-р | 2.9      | 2, 7.10  | 12.16    |  |  |
| Е, 6.9     |          | 1,       | Drawn.   |  |  |
|            |          |          |          |  |  |

A .- In the late English tourney, Willie Gardiner varied here with 22.17, 14.21, 27.23, 9.13, 19.16, 12.19, 20.16, now we have position of diagram:-Black.



| White. |         |          |        |  |
|--------|---------|----------|--------|--|
|        | Black : | to play. |        |  |
| 6.9    | 18.23   | 9.14     | 5.9    |  |
| 26.23  | 15.8    | 12.8     | 7.10   |  |
| 11.15  | 7.10    | 23.26    | 9.14   |  |
| 23.19  | 8.3     | 30.23    | 11.16  |  |
| 15.1ძ  | 10.14   | 18.27    | 27.31  |  |
| 16.12  | 3.7     | 8.3      | 10.6   |  |
| 8.11   | 14.18   | 14.17    | 14.18  |  |
| 19.15  | 7.11    | 3.7      | Drawn. |  |

#### N.Z.R.S.A.

General McGavin has just stated that hospital patients desirous of travelling at Christmas time will receive free warrants for steamers, rail and coach, where necessary, and probably arrangements will be made to pay the pensions a little earlier in the month than usual.

An earthquake shock was felt in Bluff at 8.50 last night. The disturbance seemed to be travelling from west to east.

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