

JAM FRUITS.

The Fruit Season will soon be in full swing, and we would advise you to send in your order at once.

We hold auction sales every morning and country orders will have our special attention.

OUR MART is the Recognised FRUIT MARKET of SOUTH-LAND.

MCKAY BROS.

AUCTIONEERS AND LAND AGENTS.

EXCHANGE MART.

EsK Street.

INVERCARGILL.

Box-17.

Phone-15.

Telephone-562.

THE PRAM AND CYCLE SHOP,

122 DEE STREET.

PRAME, PUSH CARTS, PUSH CHAIRS.

The best selection in Invercargill to choose from.

BICYCLES, TYRES, AND ALL CYCLE SUNDRIES

We have just opened up a fine assortment of SUIT CASES—20in, 22in, 24in, 26in. The price is right. Get one for the holiday season.

REPAIRS.—We don't repair motor cars nor motor cycles, but we can and do repair Prams and Bicycles, AND WE DO IT WELL.

If your Pram or Bike is beyond repair we will sell you a new one. THAT'S FAIR.

Thomas Bird,

122 DEE STREET.

SPEND THAT 550 TO THE BEST ADVANTAGE.

BY spending a pound here and a pound there you cannot buy to the best advantage.

Make out a list and buy from the ONE reliable firm.

VERNON SMITH & CO.

ATHENAEUM BUILDINGS, INVERCARGILL.

Our stocks include Household Ironmongery, Glassware, Cutlery, Tools for all trades—in fact everything in the household line.

30,000 MILES!

YES, many of our FRUIT CAKES have travelled right round the world and have opened up a year later

IN PERFECT CONDITION.

Our experience in making and packing Ornamental Cakes enables us to offer you a

CHRISTMAS CAKE

with full confidence that it will reach you in good order and the quality will please you.

ALL PRICES FROM 5/-

A. C. MILLARS LTD.

P.O. Box 29.

Phone-275.

PROFESSIONAL.

W. Macalister, B.A., LL.B.; S. Morell Macalister, LL.B.; Horace J. Macalister, LL.B.; Alan B. Macalister.

MACALISTER BROS.,

Barristers and Solicitors.

INVERCARGILL.

Money to Lend on approved security at current rates.

F. G. HALL-JONES, B.A., LL.B. (late Rattray, Armstead and Murray, and late James Harvey).

P.O. Box 48. Telephone 36.

RATTRAY & HALL-JONES,

BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS, ESK STREET, INVERCARGILL, N.Z.

MR CHARLES DUERDEN, Pianist, is open for engagement at Private Parties, Dances, Socials, etc.

FULL ORCHESTRA SUPPLIED.

Address—

25 Princess Street, Georgetown, Invercargill.

ERIC M. RUSSELL, SOLICITOR,

Hallenstein's Buildings,

ESK STREET,

INVERCARGILL.

Money to lend on freehold security.

STOUT & LILLICRAP, SOLICITORS,

EsK street.

MONEY TO LEND

On Freehold Security at Current Rates of Interest.

KEDDELL & KIWAT,

BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS,

72 ESK ST. (Opp. Times Office),

INVERCARGILL.

Money to Lend on approved security at current rates. Solicitors under Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act.

FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE.

IN MEMORIAM.

HISHON.—In loving memory of Michael (Mick) Hishon, of Winton, killed in France on December 3, 1917; and of his brother Daniel (Dan), killed in France on May 4, 1918.—Inserted by those who loved them.

BALLANTINE.—In fond and loving memory of Corporal Lockhart Ballantine, who died on December 8, 1917. "For the Empire's Cause."

Not dead to us—we love him still, Not lost but gone before; He lives with us in memory still, And will for evermore.

—Inserted by his loving mother, sisters and brothers, Kaunara.

"The Digger."

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1920.

THE R.S.A.

The recent poll in connection with the proposed war memorial, and the controversy which preceded it, brought out a desire on the part of some of the public for a concerted expression of opinion on the subject from returned soldiers.

We fear that in some respects the objects and aims of our Association are not understood. We are, in brief, an association of returned soldiers interested purely and simply in the immediate affairs of returned soldiers and their dependents. We stand together to see fair play and a square deal for anyone suffering an injustice as a consequence of war service. We endeavour to educate and enlighten our members and their friends on legislation which immediately affects returned men. We aim to organise and supervise on behalf of returned soldiers any social or formal function which interests them as a body.

Matters of national or municipal interest, unless such matters concern us in a direct way because of our war service, we prefer to view in our civilian capacities. In fact we frequently differ among ourselves on such matters, and the very foundation of our Association would be shaken if we allowed outside affairs to

enter into our deliberations. We stand united in a common desire to assist any fellow soldier requiring assistance; divided on questions of purely civilian interest we should be in danger of a fall.

And that there is need for our Association to live on cannot be doubted by those who inquire into our records. The files in our offices recording the labour and results of our efforts in dozens of instances would be a positive revelation to some of our friends. The volume and variety of the work undertaken by the Executive would astound the average citizen. The sacrifice of spare time, and the willing labour of our members when something can be done for some other member or members in trouble, afford lessons that might well be learnt by some of our civilian critics.

Happily, however, the work grows less. Our men are settling down, and one by one wrongs are being righted. Those who have ungrudgingly carried the burden of returned soldiers' troubles can now rest at times on their oars, and look back with immense satisfaction on the result of their labours. But they cannot put their boat away yet—instances constantly crop up and compel them to move again. And as long as there is a demand from one soldier for the assistance of the Association we shall live and work. Then when the work is done, and not one requires assistance or advice, the purpose of the Association will be complete. The war will be over; and we can take off our equipment, frame our discharges, and forget that we have ever been soldiers. But not until then.

THE KING'S COLOUR.

Every digger will be looking forward to 3 p.m. on Sunday next, the 12th instant, when the King's Colour of the 2nd Battalion, Otago Regiment, is to be consecrated by Bishop Richards and left in St. John's Church, Invercargill, for safe keeping until further required.

It is by the courtesy of Lieut.-Colonel Hargest, D.S.O., M.C. (late officer commanding), that this Colour is to find a resting place in Southland; for it was intended originally to place it with the Colours of the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the Regiment in the First Church, Dunedin. The gallant colonel, however, exercised his prerogative and insisted that the Colour of his Battalion should come to his own province. On behalf of returned soldiers and the public of Southland "The Digger" thanks him for his action and congratulates him on the attitude he took up.

In the past the Invercargill R.S.A. has had reason to be proud of its members when a parade has been called for, we hope to see a big muster on Sunday next, as this is a fitting occasion for what will in all probability be our last public appearance as members of the N.Z.E.F. The ceremony will be undenominational, and a very cordial invitation is extended to all. Returned men in uniform if possible, please.

UNFINANCIAL MEMBERS.

Have you paid your subscription for the year ending 31st March next? This is a delicate subject, and it is not proposed to labour it in this column. The subscription is a small one and it is perhaps easily overlooked. At the same time it must be remembered that we pride ourselves on the fact that we conduct and finance our own affairs as returned soldiers. And we can only preserve this pride if every member maintains his membership by keeping up his subscriptions. When returned men want advice, the Association gives it gladly and promptly, it does not wait to see if the applicants are financial or otherwise.

If you want assistance or advice you will very naturally go to the Association for it. And you will get it. All we suggest is that it is up to every man to see that his small subscription towards the working expenses is paid up. We leave it with you there.

"THE DIGGER."

In our last issue we admitted frankly that we were out to interest our readers rather than to instruct them. New features will appear in our columns from time to time with this object in view. Returned soldiers are responsible almost entirely for the matter appearing in these pages, and we feel that there must be many more among us able to send along interesting contributions. We shall be pleased to receive as many articles as you like to send along. Avoid controversial subjects as much as possible—the editor is a fiend to argue! Write on one side of the paper only, and remember that calligraphy gets lots of marks. We cannot guarantee immediate publication of everything that comes along; but our waste-paper basket is a small one, and we promise to read all contributed matter at least

twice before the worst happens. We can't be expected to promise more.

AVIATION.

On Thursday last Invercargill was visited by yet another aeroplane. This time the visitors were from Timaru and were representatives of the newly formed New Zealand Aero Transport Company. The promoters of the company are to be congratulated on the enterprise. The public of South Canterbury have viewed their project with enthusiasm we are told, realising that their ideas are not only progressive, but also practical. No doubt our visitors hope to receive similar enthusiastic encouragement from the public of Southland; and as the territory under their control extends from Timaru to the Bluff, it is up to all of us to give them a lift along if we can.

Returned soldiers will readily realise that aviation has come to stay. The progress made during the past five years is astounding; and yet this progress has of necessity been along "active service" lines. Now that there is leisure to develop along commercial lines it seems probable that the aeroplane will soon become a very common means of transport. There is a further, and perhaps a stronger, reason why aviation enterprises should be encouraged. If war should come again the Air Force would admittedly play a most important part. Every country in the world realises this fact, and consequently every possible means is being adopted to develop aviation. We must not lag behind in New Zealand, as in an isolated Dominion such as this our strongest means of defence will probably come from the air. "The Digger" wishes good luck and good fortune to these enterprising gentlemen.

NOTES FROM CALCIUM.

Agriculture.—More than the usual area is under cultivation this year. The hard windy weather has been all against luxuriant growth, but with the advent of milder weather crops should be well up to the average. There is a feeling that the price of grain will not be very high. As a matter of fact the farmer is up against it. Manures and dressed seeds are very costly, and falling markets for nearly all produce point to a very narrow margin of profit for this season's operations.

Business Change.—The farming community regretfully note the retirement of Mr James Macalister from active business in the implement world. Mr Macalister has placed some of the finest farm machinery in the world at the service of Southland farmers. His ridger marked a new era in the cultivation of the turnip crop, and is likely to remain the premier implement for this purpose for many years to come.

Dairying.—The following gem is from a weekly paper: "When the dairy farmer wishes to raise his wages he buys an extra cow or two and works harder, etc., etc." Just so! We don't think. The average cow-farmer can go one better. He buys the extra cows alright, and passes them on to his family to milk at the same old wage while he pockets the increased return. There was further reference to agitators which entirely overlooked the magnificent work of dairymen's delegates on behalf of their fellows in fixing the prices of butter and cheese during the past few seasons. For real hard business the average cow-keeper shows no evidence of having retained his milk teeth.

School.—Inspector Inglis paid the annual visit of inspection to the Limestone Plains school last week. Our school grounds presented a very pleasing appearance in the early spring months, but this month is an off one for flowers.

Post Office.—A magnificent show of rose-blossoms can be seen at our post office. Mrs Stewart is an enthusiast and her garden testifies to her energy and perseverance.

With the population of 20,000,000 inhabitants, the province of Hunan, China, has not an automobile nor a road on which to use one.

A. and P. Show Week, 14th and 15th December. Our big summer show is now on and visitors to town are cordially invited to come along and see for themselves. Big reductions for cash in men's and boys' clothing, all made in the best quality colonial tweeds and worsteds. The material used guaranteed thoroughly shrunken and fast colours. These suits are made by experts. Fit, style and finish guaranteed. Somewhere in our stock we have a suit to fit you. Why delay, our sales clerks are at your service. H. and J. Smith, Ltd., Progressive Stores, Tay street, Invercargill, and Main street, Gore.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

Southlanders will be pleased to learn that Mr H. J. Ryburn, has been chosen as Rhodes Scholar for 1921. Educated at the Invercargill Middle School and later receiving all of his secondary education at Southland Boys' High School, Hubert Ryburn gained fifth place in the Junior University Scholarship list, a distinction which enabled him to proceed to Otago University, where his career has been a distinguished one both as a student and as a sport.

A brilliant hockey player, Mr Ryburn has played for several seasons for the University Hockey Eleven, of which for several years he has been captain. On two occasions he has played in the inter-island hockey matches, always receiving much favourable comment for his brilliant play. At Knox College, where Mr Ryburn has been in residence during his university course, he has been very popular among his fellows who know him as a gentleman and a worker, two unfailing sources of popularity amongst students. Not the least of the qualifications of this brilliant young student who will shortly represent New Zealand at Oxford, is the fact that while still a boy, he took his place in the ranks of the forces that left these shores to fight in the Great War. While in France he served with the New Zealand Machine Gun Corps for a considerable period before the armistice. His "Digger" comrades and Southland friends generally will be pleased to know of his well-merited selection for this post, and his career will be watched with interest.

The subject of Rhodes Scholarship brings to mind Southland's first successful candidate, F. F. Miles, whose brilliant scholarship and fine sporting record placed him "facile princeps" in his year. Fred Miles was in residence at Oxford pursuing his studies when war broke out, and along with thousands of other young men, joined the colours, going eventually to Salonika where he rose to a high position in the B.E.F.

During the war, the famous Colleges Oxford and Cambridge, were utilised largely as "Officers' Training Colleges. Here many of our New Zealand non-commissioned officers, after long and distinguished service in the field, won their well-deserved promotion. While undergoing the necessary instructional course, the New Zealand boys kept up the good name of the New Zealand forces both as sports and as soldiers; and during many sessions when, amongst hundreds of prospective officers from every unit in France, there were but fifteen to twenty New Zealand boys, they organised and trained a redoubtable Rugby team which carried all before it.

The literary event of last week locally was the appearance of a neat little booklet comprising a highly interesting account of Mr W. Quinn's recent trip to the East Indies. Mr Quinn's facile pen has produced a delightful account of a wonderful journey; and it is indeed fortunate that this enterprising and patriotic citizen should have seen fit to incorporate his recently interesting newspaper articles in book form. The "Digger" congratulates Mr Quinn on his new venture and rejoices to see this valuable and gifted citizen appearing in a new role.

Quite a deal of interest has been aroused amongst Invercargill handsmen over the forthcoming Nelson Band Contest, for which fixture two of our bands have entered. The Hibernian and the 8th Regimental Bands will give a good account of themselves in any company, and after months of training of two such conductors as Mr A. R. Wills and Mr Siddall, we can rest assured that Invercargill citizens will be proud of their bandsmen.

The recent open-air concerts given by these two bands have been much appreciated, and have given pleasure to many citizens.

Tennis is becoming a very popular pastime in Invercargill; and as a result of assiduous practice by members of the respective clubs there has been a decided improvement in the standard of play recently. At times in club matches, the once formidable Invercargill Club has had to look to its laurels, on occasions being hard pressed by visiting teams. This is a fine augury and is the best thing that could happen; for it is a bad thing for any contest to have in competition an unassailable contestant. The recently-established Southland Club has been very active throughout the winter and has now succeeded in opening its new courts in Bowmont street. When once well-established this Club will attract to its courts many members who have formerly preferred to adhere to the Invercargill Club on account of its many well-sheltered