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£900.—Very superior seven-roomed villa; slab-tile grates, art mantels, picture rails, and wide freizes; commodious bathroom. Full ½-acre freehold in handy position. Terms: £300 down, balance easy.

£650.—Comfortable six-roomed house; h. and c. water; one-eighth acre freehold in city area. A handy home. Terms: £150 cash, balance 6 per cent.

£1275.—Twelve acres freehold land; nearly new five-roomed house, cowbyre, loft, trap shed, etc. Close to factory and school and only ¾ miles from Invercargill Post Office.

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woodwork please call and have your  
wants attended to.

I have the staff and material to do any  
work required—and do it well.

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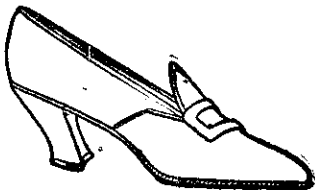
INDIAN, BIG X., DOUGLAS

TRAMP! Tramp! Tramp! Hear their  
ceaseless beat:

Hear the Town Council bleat,  
What on earth is that they have upon  
their feet,

Why! Boots repaired at Hawthorne's  
shop!

Repairs that can't be beat.



J. A. HAWTHORNE.

BOOT REPAIRER,

TAY STREET.

## THE DIGGER.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1920



## SPORTING.

Wild Queen and Wild Duffy will be absentees from the Gore, Invercargill and a few after meetings.

The Auckland Cup will be run next Monday and though several are fancied I pin my faith to Hector Gray and Oratress again.

The Railway Department announces that the express trains from Dunedin on both Monday and Tuesday will stop at Wingatui. That should suit Southlanders.

Percy Price will start Tin Soldier at Wingatui next Monday. He is nicely treated but may race better after he has had a race into him.

Diggers did you ever hear of a horse called Thixendale? Have a good look at him at Gore next Monday, and if Andy Pringle is aboard have a little on the pair.

They say Kilbrony will win a hack race during the Wyndham or Invercargill meetings. She belongs to a firm noted for its good luck on the turf, and the touts may be right.

The holiday racing carnival will commence at Gore next Monday with the trotting meeting, and on the following day the Cattle Flat meeting will be held near Balfour.

President Bill Hazlett won the Wallace-town Stakes on Tuesday, two of his fat bullocks topping the market. Everything comes to those who wait so he may win a race yet.

Roy Berry and Miss O'Neil (the pacer I mean), had a roll on the local track the other morning. The lady had a few scratches on her nose but was not otherwise hurt and will be able to do her best next Monday; but she's rattle-headed anyhow.

George Smart is spending some good printer's ink over his show on New Year's Day, and it won't be for a want of printing and advertising if the Wyndham races of 1921 aren't a record. A grand train service has been arranged.

Digger Eric Russell's yearling got badly staked one night last week, and required Councillor Millar's services next morning. Eric has gone off to see Arrowsmith win the Railway Handicap at Auckland next Monday.

It looks as if Bill Massey and Co. are in earnest with their gaming regulations all right; but it's still dead easy to lose a quid or so if one really wants a bet. They tell me several members of a leading club in Southland are at the game!

Golden Age, Greenstripe and Cold Water, three names that appear together in the list of handicaps for the Oreti Trot at the Invercargill meeting remind one very much of Bluff. Charley should know something of that combination.

If Alex McKenzie has taught Hineamaru to stay out a mile since the Winton meeting with only 6lbs above the minimum she will be hard in the Waihopa handicap at Invercargill on Monday week. This mare can go like a scalded cat and given a start in she looks a very likely winner.

The Gore Trotting meeting on Monday will commence at 12.20 p.m. and an excellent train service will land intending patrons right opposite the course in plenty of time, always provided of course, that Bill Massey's engine doesn't break down as they very frequently do now-a-days.

There is a six furlong race at Wyndham named after the ditch they get some good fly fishing in, and in that race on his Gore and Winton running, a neddly called Wild Night (a name that appeals to a lot of Diggers), must have a royal chance. Swanny Smith's luck hasn't been too good lately, and a win is well due him.

When sizing up the amount of your next bet on Red Admiral, don't take any notice of his Winton form. On that occasion his rider was too busy getting round the last bend to have his mind on winning, and if he starts at Wyndham or on the first day of the Invercargill meeting he won't be carrying the same pilot.

According to some critics the new portion of the Southland Racing Club's course will prove false going at New Year time. I have had several looks at it, and all I can say if anybody could have done more in the time and with the money allowed him than Tom Marshall has I would like to see the man. A great many horses will have galloped on worse.

Post Haste passed out on the local course on Tuesday morning after breaking a blood vessel. Ever since coming to Southland he has been a liability instead of an asset to his owner. Young Gibbs who was riding him at the time received a broken collar-bone when he fell, and so will be a looker-on at the holiday meetings.

My sporting friend on the evening contemporary last Saturday set out a comparison of Messrs Dunne, Gibbs and Henrys' handicaps, so it is no good repeating the figures. I do not know that his comparisons pointed to any winners in the four races he chose, but they certainly did point to what we used to call "cribbing" when I was at the night school.

Bill Stone appears to have a "grouch" against all handicappers, and the latter certainly do look after Silver Peak. By keeping the minimum up to seven stone in the local Flying Handicap, Mr Dunne, has made her carry 7lbs more than she would have done with 6st 7lbs minimum. Perhaps in copying the Federal Handicap weights he did not notice that the minimum in the local six furlongs sprint was 6st 7lbs. A little learning is a dangerous thing!

Both Messrs Gibbs and Dunne have a very exalted idea about Willie Swale's Breton. I can understand Mr Dunne's handicapping of him, but how the Wyndham adjuster makes him give Lady Pallas and Wartone weight, well only a Gore handicapper could explain it. Keep your eye and a few lob on Wartone, she's some good, and promises to be one of Warstep's best progeny. Gee what a stunner Warstep was!

Though his cobbles on the Winton Jockey Club did their best for him old Jimmy Duffy has had to go for six months after all. I never for one moment thought the Trotting Association would stand for the Winton decision, but Jimmy's luck was in in only getting six months. Had he done the same thing up north the rest cure would not have been for six years, but for all time. We must keep our sport clean.

Mr Henrys handicapped Corn Rigs to give Mantua 2lbs in the Burnside Handicap at Wingatui next Monday. In the Mimihau Handicap at Wyndham also over six furlongs Mr Gibbs makes the difference between the pair 10lbs. That was a judicious bit of advertising Bill, the prompt scratching of your horses, including this filly, at Wingatui, and the Wyndham race should suit the Winton Stakes winner.

On Monday the Dunedin Summer Meeting will commence, and Southland punters will be well advised to keep most of their money in their pockets and their eyes wide open. Remember there are three days racing in Southland to follow, and a line to form should be worth money one of those days. Fancy trying to pick forty winners in the five days, and there will be plenty who try to. One good thing in the five days will do me, either if it wins or loses.

This column has now been going for just over nine months, and I have to thank my readers for their patience, and my friends for the paragraphs they have supplied me with, quite often I know without any idea at the time of them ever seeing them in these columns. I have always tried to be fair in my criticism, at times a little personal, but always without any spite. If any of my thrusts have hurt, all I can ask of those hurt is to remember the fun the other chap has had. This is a season of peace and good will to all men, and trust that my punting friends will have a good time at the holiday meetings, and that all will enjoy

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

## LAND!

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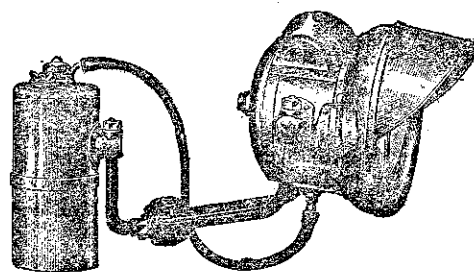
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