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FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE.

IN MEMORIAM.

CLARK.—In affectionate remembrance of our dear son and brother, Sergeant George W. Clark (Tiny), No. 9/550, Main Body, N.Z.E.F., who died in No. 2 General Hospital, Chelsea, England, on January 5, 1919, from wounds received in France, on September 16, 1916.—Inserted by his parents and brothers. 124

"The Digger."

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 1921.

1921.

This will be our first appearance in the New Year and it is fitting that we should avail ourselves of the opportunity to wish our readers one and all happiness and prosperity in 1921.

The old year went out under rather depressing circumstances. The fall in the wool market particularly cast a gloom over business during the last two months of the year; and the effect of tighter money conditions is being felt on all sides. Three months ago we were sitting back under the impression that demobilisation was practically complete; and that most Diggers were not only settled but satisfactorily settled. Now it appears that those who have gone on the land at enhanced prices are going to be up against it in 1921. It is not for us to attempt to predict the future, or even the immediate future, of the world's markets. Suffice it to say that Diggers on the land throughout the Dominion are following the trend of affairs with intense interest, and we must see to it that our Returned Soldiers' Associations are kept alive and active to give them all the assistance we can.

To all Diggers particularly we extend our best wishes for 1921. May it be a year of great happiness and prosperity in our Dominion. May our difficulties be easily overcome. May our joys be many, and above all, may we pull together for the common good; sharing our joys, and working hand in hand when difficulties have to be faced. If we do, we need have no fear of the results when we come to the end of this "New Year."

Christmas Eve saw the usual huge holiday crowd off to Stewart Island, and we learn that the voyage was made under the usual "rough" conditions.

It seems a pity that the undoubted attractions of this delightful resort should be isolated from so many by the unpleasantness of the sea voyage across the Straits. There seems to be little, if any, hope of a more suitable boat being put on the trip in the meantime, but it is a matter which must be kept constantly in view until better arrangements are made. Meanwhile the enterprising Aviation Co. from Timaru

contemplate establishing a passenger service from Invercargill to Halfmoon Bay by seaplane. It is thought that the estuary at Invercargill will make an ideal base, and if the trip by air can be made in about thirty or forty minutes it will most certainly attract plenty of passengers. Good luck to them.

On the whole Southland has been favoured with exceptionally fine weather for the holidays, and the various sporting festivities have had a successful issue. We can indeed be proud of our province and of the holiday attractions it affords at this period of the year. Visitors to Southland are provided with sports and amusements which must compare favourably with any other part of the Dominion. Our heartfelt thanks go out to that huge army of officials (mostly honorary officials), who do the work and organise and control these holiday attractions. Their labour is in most cases a labour of love; but their reward will arrive when by these same holiday features we attract more and more of our friends from the north to visit us here in Southland. It is by such means that we shall popularise our district and make for the progress which this fair province deserves.

The Americans are to be congratulated on their easy victory over Australia in the Davis Cup. The popular president of the local R.S.A. was on the spot and readers of "The Digger" can look forward to some interesting comments on the play from his facile pen in an early issue. It was unfortunate that the weather interfered to some extent with the arrangements; but the overwhelming success of the Americans fully entitles them to the premier position in the tennis world. Contemporarily with the loss of the Davis Cup, the Australian cricketers seem to be on the right road to win the "Ashes" from the English XI. in a series of Test Matches. Tremendous interest prevails in the Old Country over these tests and the failure of the Englishmen to date must be most disappointing. Their bowling strength was notoriously open to criticism, but their batting was considered to be strong, and their failure in this department of the game is very surprising. English critics, judging by recent cables, admit that they have probably under-rated the all-round ability of the Australians. Whatever reasons or excuses are put forward, the fact remains that Australia has now won, and won comparatively easily, two tests out of the five; and the Englishmen must win the remaining three matches to avoid defeat. Our money is naturally on Australia.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—In our last issue "Jacques," our "light comedy" writer or ex-journalist, devoted some of his valuable space for a dissertation on the merits and demerits of anglers in general and incidentally "Creel." The humorous vein in which the article was written makes full recompense for any "bite" that may have appeared to the uninitiated, but "Creel" still adheres to his opinion, that with a large percentage of anglers, it is not so much a matter of the size of the "bag" secured, but the pleasure to be derived by spending a few hours on the river that counts. In conclusion, I think that had "Jacques" written the article after partaking of a particularly nice feed of trout that were presented to him, he would have felt inclined to use his "tooth pick" instead of the pen.—I am, etc.,

CREELE.

Special bargains at our Huge Marking Down Sale now in full swing. White Calico, 27ins wide, usual price 1s 6d, Sale price 1s. Horrockses' and Crewdsons' famous Calicoes and Longcloths, usual price 2s 6d, 2s 11d, 3s 6d, Sale price 1s 11d, 2s 3d, 2s 6d. Tarantulle for dainty lingerie, 40ins wide, 2s 6d yard. Six pieces only Teleblanca, 40ins wide, in pink only, value for 3s 6d. Sale price 1 11d yard. Horrockses single bed sheeting in white, Sale price 3s 11d, 4s 11d, 5s 6d. Double-bed sheeting in Horrockses make, usual price 7s 11d, 8s 11d, 9s 11d, 10s 6d, Sale price 5s 11d, 6s 11d, 7s 11d, 8s 11d. Forfar, 27ins wide value for 2s 3d, Sale price 1s 6d. Forfar in best quality, 32 inches to 36ins wide, value for 3s 6d, 3s 11d, Sale price 2s 6d, 2s 11d. Twelve only single bed honeycomb quilts, usual price 15s 9d, Sale price 9s 11d. Towelling in white and coloured, usual price 2s 3d, 2s 11d, 3s 9d, Sale price 1s 6d, 2s 3d, 2s 11d. White flannelette, 36ins wide, usual price 2s 6d, Sale price 1s 6d yard. Horrockses' flannelette in white and stripes, usual price 3s 6d, Sale price 2s 6d. See all departments and windows at H. and J. Smith, Ltd., Progressive Stores, Tay street, Invercargill and Main street, Gore.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK.

Southland has again been blessed with fine weather for the Christmas and New Year holidays and the attendances at the various sports gatherings during the holiday period have constituted records. The Riverton people are generally fortunate in the matter of weather for their regatta on Boxing Day, and this year they had their usual good luck and a great crowd of visitors. The people don't go to Riverton so much to witness rowing events as to picnic, and have a day out, and the same may be said of Bluff on the first of January and Tuatapere on the same date. Tuatapere gets a fresh crowd every year; the people who have heard of Tuatapere, take the opportunity that a sports gathering offers to satisfy their curiosity. Those that journeyed out on New Year's Day were no doubt well satisfied with their day's outing. Tuatapere is the youngest of Southland's towns and already bids fair to oust some of the oldest in industry and population, and as for attractiveness it is hard to better. It was aptly described a year or so ago as a hole in the bush. A very few years before that it was all bush. The first settler on the west bank of the Waiau was Mr Hugh Erskine, who crossed the river at the mouth and pitched his camp at Papatotara twenty-eight years ago. It was some years after that before any settlers took up and on the east bank higher up the river. Mr Harry Ward selected the site of Tuatapere in 1894. With the advent of the road to the river at the spot where Bob Drummond used to boat across occasional travellers for Papatotara and Clifden, settlement proceeded, and Tuatapere began to take shape. Mr James Templeton's store (known to the backblocksmen who used to purchase stores there as "The Crate"), was the first erection, but Tuatapere didn't move very fast until the railway arrived and the sawmillers started work on both sides of the river. Now twenty-six years after the first settler put his axe into the standing bush, Tuatapere holds the biggest axemen's carnival in the South Island, if not in N.Z. The sports ground is a natural clearing on the banks of the Waiau which three weeks ago was separated from the main road by half a mile of solid bush. The Sports Committee busied themselves on New Year's Day motor car owners parked their cars on the Sports Ground. Whether the bush breeds big men or big men are attracted by the bush is a point that perhaps a Government commission might decide, but at a Tuatapere sports gathering where chopping events are the principal feature a display of brawn and human strength, is to be seen which could hardly be surpassed in any part of New Zealand.

has sounded Britain on the subject. Brian's answer, we are told, has been "Yes," and Japan has signified her willingness to accept. With Germany out of the field in the present day naval matters, it should be an easy matter for Britain, America and Japan to come to an agreement. What the exact American proposals are we are not yet told, but from the unofficial pour parlers if a conference eventuates, and an agreement is arrived at, big navies may soon be a thing of the past and a surer foundation laid for a permanent and lasting peace in agreement and concord.

After a couple of years in the United States De Valera is reported to have arrived in Ireland. Prior to his arrival in America De Valera was serving a sentence of imprisonment from which he made a remarkable and daring escape. It would be a comparatively easy matter for De Valera to return to Ireland but a much more difficult thing for him to escape out of Ireland again, so his presence there may mean much. De Valera may have been won over to the cause of restoration of peace and order and the fact that it is reported from America that he has lost all influence over the inner circle of Sinn Fein extremist lends colour to this view. It appears that the extremists are splitting and if De Valera has been allowed to return in order to win the bulk of the people from the extremists his presence in Ireland may result in a restoration of peace and order and a satisfactory settlement of the Irish difficulties.

Amongst the recipients of the New Year's Honours in Dr E. A. Boxer, C.M.G., of Hastings, Hawke's Bay, president of the New Zealand Returned Soldiers' Association. Dr Boxer served on Gallipoli and has been president of the Association almost from its inception. When the Prince of Wales was in New Zealand he (the Prince) became a member of the Association and no doubt, with his instinct for merit he could appreciate the efforts of Dr Boxer in his endeavours to help the fighting men of this country. Dr Boxer has set a high ideal before the returned men and has worked unremittingly in their interests. Members of Conference who were privileged to hear Dr Boxer's speech on the occasion when he was last re-elected president will long remember it. He is indeed worthy of the honour bestowed and returned soldiers congratulate him on having been singled out for well deserved honour.

OUR FATHER.

The man we get our money from
At breakfast time
Eating his bacon
To catch the eight
One time he used to say "Good-bye,"
And kiss my mummy too—
Suppose the train goes earlier now
Than what it used to do.

The man we get our money from
Comes back when I'm in bed;
I sometimes hear his latchkey click
And listen to what's said.
"That you?" calls mummy down the stairs,
And he says "Yes, it's me."
And Mummy says, "Here's Wilkinson's
Account for eighteen-three."

And almost every Saturday
He comes back much too soon;
We send him out to mow the lawn
Most of the afternoon.
And since he's here on Sunday too,
When it is wrong to mow,
He takes the papers after lunch
And sleeps an hour or so.

The man we get our money from
Gives presents when it's right,
When Christmas or my birthday comes,
But not with much delight.
I know he sometimes has to be
Reminded of the day,
And mummy chooses what I'd like—
He only has to pay.

He does not care for play and fun—
We do, but he does not;
Just work and writing cheques are all
The interests he's got.
Our screams of laughter only make
Him look depressed and grim;
He can't care very much for us,
And we don't care for him.

The man we get our money from
Is growing old and white,
And makes himself a nuisance with
The way he coughs at night;
And, well, I can't help thinking that
'Twould be a better plan
If we just had the money, and
Could do without the man.

A fire at Rio de Janeiro docks caused damage estimated at £1,500,000.