

Thirty Years After

By "SUNDOWNER"

IF you want peace on a high level, go to Lees Valley in mid-summer. You will have some anxious moments getting there if you meet others coming out, but once you are through the gorge you will find yourself on the floor of a valley 1200 to 1500 feet above the sea, with walls rising about 3000 feet on one side and 5000 feet on the other. For 12 miles one way and two to three the other there is only enough rise to keep the streams running, and the ground cover on all sides

heroes' children. At one time or another I had met most of them, and one or two had become close friends. In 30 years I had visited the valley three or four times and I knew that if I did not return soon I would be too stiff in the joints to mount their horses and ride over their hills and too late in the day to meet them untouched by time themselves.

But time had moved faster than I knew. Of the eight originals—"the old contemptibles" George Bruce called them—only two now remain, and neither of them has been wholly dependent for survival on cattle or sheep. If I gave serial numbers to the present holdings and started at one end of the valley, the record would run something like this.

Block 1: Taken in 1919 and still in the same hands. One of the safest runs in the valley and one of the ablest managers.

Block 2: The first occupier walked off in 1935 after a heroic struggle for 16 years. Did much fencing and tree planting, and suffered much from ill-health. The second occupier still in possession.

Block 3: Taken up in 1919 and abandoned 15 years later, after considerable expense in fencing and the erection of buildings. Held for 10 years by the second occupier, who also walked off. Cold, high, dangerous country on which a poor man has no chance. Now added to Block 1. Home unoccupied.

Block 4: The original occupier went out five years ago. Received some compensation for buildings and fences, but nothing (I was told) for the thousands of trees he had planted and the attention he had given them for nearly 25 years. Beautiful home abandoned.

Block 5: Occupied in 1917 by two men in partnership. After five years one bought the other's share. After 20 years the whole property was sold to a third man, who lasted only a few years more. Block now shared by three adjoining settlers.

Block 6: Occupied in 1917. Original selector still there and holding considerable enlarged. A good block to begin with, taken up by a man with other resources.

Block 7: Occupied in 1917. Very good block. Original occupier still there, with another big block in addition. Occupier has other sources of income.

Block 8: Occupied in 1917. In 1918 occupier lost over 1000 sheep in snow, with 20 cattle and some horses. In deep trouble for 15 years, but pulled

(continued on next page)



Juliet Peter

"Nothing more satisfying than the scent of matagouri, tussock, and meadowsweet blending with the smell of a saddled horse"

is tussock mixed with Wild Irishman and Spaniards. Every day when I was there I saw dotterel, silver gulls, and terns, as well as grey and paradise duck, and I twice saw Canada geese. If I sat down anywhere on the roadside a ground lark would come within a few yards, and skylarks provided the background music—heard only when we concentrated on it—that cicadas supply in our North Island bush. Every night the valley filled with fog, and every morning the mists dissolved in sun to reform again at ten or twenty thousand feet and hang for hours in modelled masses on the horizon. I know nothing more satisfying than the scent of matagouri, tussock, and meadowsweet blending with the smell of a saddled horse; but even Maori onions have their moments when you throw yourself down in an acre of them and there is no living thing near you but droning flies and a high circling hawk. All these joys I had every day till I wondered what sickness I had contracted in the world outside that I could not stay in the valley till I died. But I had gone there for a special reason, and my time was only partly my own.

I WAS there because a party of soldiers of the first world war had gone in 30 years earlier to build homes fit for heroes to live in and a world fit for

LOOK INSIDE YOUR RADIO

MAKE CERTAIN Before you Buy! THAT THE SET YOU CHOOSE IS EQUIPPED WITH

ROLA

THE WORLD'S FINEST INCORPORATING Anisotropic Alnico LOUD SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER THAT MAKES EVERY RADIO A BETTER RADIO

If your radio is not equipped with a modern Rola Loud Speaker... then it is NOT giving you the utmost from recorded or broadcast programmes. Only the modern Rola incorporates the miraculous new magnet alloy called ANISOTROPIC ALNICO! Before you trade-in your old radio for a new one see that you hear a set equipped with a modern Rola.

R4

FEET HURT?

IT MAY BE WEAK ARCHES



Arthritic or rheumatic-like pain in the feet or legs; tired, aching feet; callouses; sore heels or excessive fatigue after standing or walking, often are traceable to weak or fallen arches. If you have any of these symptoms due to foot arch weakness, Dr. Scholl Arch Supports and exercise will give you quick relief. They are thin, light, flexible and adjustable as the condition improves. Are moulded to the contour of your foot. Worn in any properly fitted shoe. Expertly fitted at all Dr. Scholl dealers.



Dr. Scholl's ARCH SUPPORTS

Scholl Mfg. Co. Ltd., Williston Street, Wallington.

GOT A BOIL?

HERE'S HOW TO GET RELIEF

Apply a ready-to-use ANTIPHLOGISTINE poultice comfortably hot. Almost at once you'll feel the moist heat go right to work helping to relieve the pain and soreness. You'll see how it helps bring the boil to a head. The moist heat of ANTIPHLOGISTINE works for several hours bringing soothing relief. Feels good, does good.

GET A TIN FROM YOUR CHEMIST OR STORE.

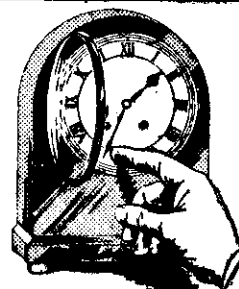


FOR BOILS — Antiphlogistine

The Denver Chemical Mfg. Co., 78 Liverpool St., Sydney, N.S.W.

Sometimes

(oh, not very often) the clock gets slow, and Father has to 'regulate' it



Sometimes

(just occasionally) Jack gets 'slow' with important duties and then mother makes him regular again with

Califf the gentle laxative

11.7s

N.Z. Distributors: Fassett & Johnson Ltd., Levy Building, Manners St., Wellington.