

## Comparative Rents

A comparison of the average weekly rent of houses in various parts of the Dominion, contained in the Government monthly abstract of statistics, shows that Wellington is the most expensive city in the Dominion in this respect. For instance, 24s. is demanded there for houses of six rooms, as against 17s. 8d. in Auckland, 17s. 7d. in Dunedin, and 17s. 3d. in Christchurch. For a house of six rooms in Taihape 20s. is asked, and for the average rent of houses of all sizes this town is the most expensive of any outside the four centres. In Gisborne the average for a house of the same size is 18s. 6d., in Hamilton 21s. 1d., Whangarei 14s. 8d., and Rotorua 18s. 8d. The lowest average rent in any town in the table is paid at Waihi, where 10s. is the average for a house of six rooms, and houses from three to seven rooms may be obtained at from 4s. 7d. to 14s. The average rent paid in the Dominion for a six roomed house is 18s. 6d.

## The War is Working Changes

Here is Ian Hay's idea put into the mouth of one of his characters in "Carrying On":—

"Yes, we are all in it now; and those of us who come out of it are going to find this old island of ours a wonderfully changed place to live in."

"How? Why?" inquired Bobby. . . .

"Well," said Wagstaffe, "We are all going to understand one another a great deal better after this war."

"Who? Labour and Capital, and so on?"

"Labour and Capital" is a meaningless and misleading expression, Bobby. For instance, our men regard people like you and me as capitalists; the ordinary brigade major regards us as labourers, and pretty common labourers at that. It is all a question of degree. But what I mean is this. You can't call your employer a tyrant and an extortioner after he has shared his rations with you, and never spared himself over your welfare and comfort through weary months of trench warfare; neither, when you have experienced a working-man's courage and cheerfulness and reliability in the day of battle, can you turn round and call him a loafer and an agitator in time of peace—can you? That is just what the Bandar Log\* overlook when they jabber about the dreadful industrial upheaval that is coming with peace. Most of all have they overlooked the fact that with the coming of peace this country will be invaded by several million of the wisest men that she has ever produced—the New British Army. That army will consist of men who have spent three years in getting rid of mutual misapprehensions and assimilating one another's point of view—men who went out to the war ignorant and intolerant and insular, and are coming back wise to all the things that really matter. They will flood this old country, and they will make short work of the agitator, and the alarmist, and the profiteer, and all the nasty

creatures that merely make a noise instead of doing something, and who crab the work of the Army and Navy—more especially the Navy—because there isn't a circus victory of some kind in the paper every morning. Yes, Bobby, when our boys get back, and begin to ask the Bandar Log what they did in the Great War—well, it's going to be a rotten season for Bandar Log generally!"

## Building Notes.

### AUCKLAND.

A meeting was held last month for the purpose of furthering a proposal to build a new King's College on the site purchased about a year ago at Otahuhu. The chairman Dr. A. W. Averill said that the present lease would expire shortly, and the question to be considered was whether the school should be given up or a new building erected. The amount required would be £50,000, and of that £14,000 was already subscribed.

The new Children's Hospital was opened early this month by Her Excellency the Countess of Liverpool. The new hospital, which was designed by the Hospital Board's architect, Mr. G. W. Allsop, is said to rank as the largest and most up-to-date of its kind in the Dominion. It is a two-storey brick building, with external finishing of grey plaster at the base, and dark red in the upper walls. With smooth green lawn in front, wide balconies built out at either end, it presents a very fine appearance, and commands a splendid view in three directions, over the city, across the harbour, and out over the Domain towards Remuera. Above a handsome front entrance, will later on be erected statues of Nurse Cavell, a soldier and a sailor, these forming part of the scheme of furnishing undertaken by the Auckland Vaudeville Employees' Association.

The interior arrangements are thoroughly up-to-date in every particular, and nothing has been left undone which could add to the comfort of the patients or minimise the work of administration. There are four large wards, two on each floor, and also ten smaller ones for observation and isolation cases. In all, there will be accommodation for 70 children, although the number could readily be increased to 100, as there is ample room for extra cases. The balconies have been fitted with sliding windows, by means of which they can be converted into warm, closed-in playrooms on cold winter days.

There are two kitchens, one to each floor, these being connected by a lift, also bathrooms in each ward, and specially-fitted treatment rooms, where the children will have their dressings, bandages, etc., changed, and other work done which is usually accomplished at much inconvenience in the main ward. The building will be heated throughout by hot-water radiators.

A special feature of the new hospital will be the handsome furnishings and fittings. There are tiled dadoes throughout the building, while the floors of the bathrooms and treatment rooms are of the same material. The floors of the wards are hardwood. The whole building has been designed with the object of attaining the maximum of light and air. Between the smaller rooms, there are glass partitions, so that a view can be obtained of the whole length of the ward.

The furnishings of the hospital was undertaken by the Auckland Vaudeville Employees' Association as a memorial to the doctors, nurses, and men who have fallen in the war, a total sum of £3,154 having been raised. The furniture has all been designed with a view to the special needs of children, and the tiny chairs, tables, settees, etc., not only enhance the general appearance of the wards, but will be a source of much pleasure to the small inmates.

According to original plans, the basement of the building was to have been used for pathological purposes, but it has now been decided to temporarily utilise it as accommodation for the nurses. Cubicles have been fitted, and there are at present a number of nurses in occupation.

Mr. Selwyn Goldsboro' called for tenders for new brick premises for Messrs. R. W. Hellaby at Green Lane last month.

Messrs. Chilwell and Trevithick, A.R.I.B.A., called for tenders for a house in wood at Epsom.

Messrs. May and Morran called for tenders for extensions to Mr. H. Butcher's furnishing warehouse, Karangahape road.

Messrs. Hoggard and Prouse and W. H. Gunner, A.R.I.B.A., called for tenders for a house at Remuera.

\*Some who are readers of Kipling know that Bandar Log are the monkey people in the jungle for ever holding endless discussions and never doing anything.