

THE SOUTHLAND FLORAL, PLANT
AND SEED SUPPLY.

TINY DANIEL

(Late with Lennie and Sons),

Begs to state that he has taken over the Southland Floral Plant and Seed Supply, Albion Buildings, Dee street, Invercargill, and hopes by strict attention to business to merit a fair share of public patronage.

SEED MERCHANT, FOREST TREES,
FRUIT TREES, ORNAMENTAL
AND FLOWERING SHRUBS AND
TREES,
SUPPLIED AT THE SHORTEST
NOTICE.

All kinds of Seeds and Plants in Season.

Note Address—
ALBION BUILDINGS,
Dee street.
P.O. Box 332. Telephone No. 30.

was a struggling barrister. He saw himself and his young wife in their little suburban home, standing by the side of a child's cot. Together they looked down at their son, barely a year old. The child had just awakened, and looked up at them with big, wondering eyes.

The whole scene was re-enacted for the judge's startled gaze. And then it faded, and another scene appeared, but it was still not the crowded court.

Judge Millbank saw himself confronted by a proud and handsome fair-haired boy, as obstinate as himself. He saw the boy's white face with the livid mark of the whip-lash across it. And then he saw the lad fling back his head with just that same defiant gesture.

In a flash these old scenes faded. Judge Millbank awoke and once again he was staring at the prisoner in the dock.

With a cry of mortal anguish he staggered to his feet, for in that moment there flashed across his brain the awful truth.

The man he was about to sentence to death was his own boy Jack—Jack! his only son!

This wonderful story from the pen of a popular author is, without doubt, the most amazing story ever written. Don't miss next week's instalment! It is full of exciting incidents, which will hold you spellbound from start to finish. Order next week's copy of the "Digger," at once, and please tell your friends to read this grand, new serial.

SMALL GERMAN WAR PENSIONS.

ALLIES' VARYING PROVISIONS.

There was issued yesterday as a White Paper (Cmd. 474) a series of tables showing the weekly rates of war pensions and allowances granted by the principal Allied and Associated Powers and Dominion Governments and by Germany to men disabled, and to the dependents of men who died, in consequence of the war.

Taking as a standard the pension paid to a totally disabled man the tables show that the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and South Africa, each pay 40s per week. Canada heads the list with 47s 11d; France pays 37s; Australia, 30s; The United States, 28s 10d; Italy, 19s 4d; but this has been temporarily increased to vary from 23s 6d to 37s 1d; according to incapacity; and Germany, from 13s 10d to 26s 4d (at 20 marks to the £) according to the nature of the disablement. Pensions for partial disablement are given on a percentage basis in all cases. Except in the cases of France and Germany there are additional allowances for a wife, and except in the case of Germany there are additional allowances per child. To meet the increased cost of living the German pension has been increased from Jan.uary 1st last by a bonus of from 50 to 100 per cent., according to the nature of the disablement. Pending the passing of a new law to replace that of 1906, an all-round bonus of 40 per cent has also been granted in Germany as from June 1st this year.

With respect to widows, Canada again heads the list with 58s 4d plus a bonus of 7s 8d. New Zealand allows 30s., and South Africa 25s. The United States is next with 24s., and both United Kingdom and Australia pay 20s. France allows 11s 5d a week, Italy 9s 7d., and Germany 7s 8d. In every case an allowance is made for children, the figures for the first child being:—United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa 10s; Canada 14s 4d, United States 9s 7d; France 4s 7d; Germany 3s 2d; and Italy 1s 6d. Again in the case of Germany pending the passing of the new law an all-round 40 per cent bonus has been granted as from June 1st.

Agriculture.

Pasture Notes.

BY E. BRUCE LEVY,

ASSISTANT BIOLOGIST, WERAROA
STATE FARM.

In conjunction with my lectures read Journal of Agriculture Vol. XVI. p.p. 126, 219 and 258 Vol. XVII p.p. 35 and 140, year 1918.

In no other part of the world is the farmers more dependent (or able to depend) on pasturage than is the farmer in New Zealand, and it can safely be said that no other part of the world of the same area affords such divergence of type; such a complication of problems; such a diversity of successions; such a variation in the varieties of seed used and in the quantity applied per acre, and perhaps in no other part of the world should greater consideration be given to the quality of seed that is sown, for here so much land is of a permanent nature that the seeding once done is done for good, for never again will there be the opportunity for establishment to equal the ashes of the original burn.

The important position that our pasture lands occupy is shown by the following figures:—

Total occupied area in New Zealand 42,745,000 acres, of this area 4,500,000 acres are virgin forest, 2,200,000 acres barren and unproductive (mountain top river bed; littoral sand.)

2,700,000 acres fern and scrub; some of this is being annually brought into first class pasture, but the majority represents succession to this vegetation after initial attempts at utilisation have failed, which leaves at present 33,300,000 acres on which to carry out all agricultural and pastoral pursuit of the country, of this area, 31,350,000 acres consists of grasslands or 94½ per cent of the total occupied area, leaving 1,950,000 acres on which all other cropping of the country is carried on.

In the grasslands given above the natural pastures are included which perhaps is not a fair comparison seeing that all the 1,950,000,000 acres are directly productive through the agency of man.

The pasture lands are made up as follows:—

5,000,000 acres of ploughed land.
10,200,000 acres pastures surface sown.
16,150,000 acres natural pastures (tussock country etc.)

The following figures perhaps then give a better idea of the relative importance of the various crops when only the improved land is taken into consideration:—

15,200,000 acres grass land sown.
1,360,000 acres grass supplementary crop.

530,000 acres for all other crops.

Of the actual improved land of New Zealand therefore we see that 90 out of every 100 acres consists of sown grass land.

Examined also from a stock carrying point of view the same predominate position of grasslands is seen.

In New Zealand there are approximately 42,000,000 stock units. This is arrived at by calculating each sheep as one stock unit and each cattle beast and horse as six stock units.

It is considered that each stock unit will require per day 24lb of grass or grass equivalent, or roughly 4 tons per annum. From this the annual feed requirements works out approximately:—170,000,000 tons, and if we examine the areas and yields devoted to the feeding of live stock we find that the grass lands produce:—145,000,000 tons or 90 per cent, grass supplementary crops 17,000,000 tons or 10 per cent.

Again in considering the carrying power of live stock food.

At the present time as far as sheep is concerned 4s per grass ton or 16s per stock unit is a fair annual earning power, and, while the earning power varies for the same food fed to different classes of stock yet 16s per stock unit may well be taken for comparative purposes.

42,000,000 stock units at 16s each.
£34,000,000 which equals the annual earning power of live-stock per annum.

Of this amount,—

Grass lands earn £30,000,000 or approximately 90 per cent.

Grass supplementary feed £4,000,000.

The above figures should give some idea of the tremendous importance to the country that our grass lands are.

In our pasture formations there are some 30 to 40 species of grasses and 10 species of clovers.

As I mentioned above, no country uses intentionally in the laying down of pastures so many different species as does the New Zealand farmer. His aim is to grass as well as possible every type of ground whether it is suitable or not with the more commonly used European grasses. Pure sowings of any one species are seldom made, mixtures consisting of several species being the rule, in such mixtures the dominant element being the seed for which it has been demonstrated that the conditions are most suitable.

—Factors Determining the duration of Pastures.—

The variations in species used: The relative amounts of each sown and the climatic and soil conditions under which applied and the treatment under varying management, determine the length of the duration of pastures. And while as a basis of classification the duration is poor, yet pastures are really best classified under this head.

On this classification the pastures fall under the following groups:—

- (1) Temporary pastures.
- (2) Short rotation pastures.
- (3) Long rotation grass land.
- (4) Permanent grass land.

All pastures really could well fall under these groups, but there is a class of pastures which are sown to fill special conditions and which really act as supplementary crops.

Such are three in number:—

- (1) Prairie grass for winter feed.
- (2) Rastpulum for summer feed.
- (3) Lucerne for spring and summer feed: Hay production, etc.

These are spoken of as special pastures. Again certain types of pastures can be utilised only in certain seasons of the year and for this reason are spoken of as seasonal pastures.

Such are sand-hill pastures which produce feed only in winter and spring (unless paspalum is used), and swamp pastures, which are often too wet for stocking in winter.

The following is a rough and incomplete classification of our main grasslands:

- A. Grass-land on ploughed ground.
 - (1) Temporary.
 - (a) Italian rye-grass, clovers.
 - (b) Western woads rye-grass, clovers.
 - (c) Clovers.
 - (2) Short Rotation.
 - (a) Perennial rye-grass clovers.
 - (b) Perennial rye-grass, cocksfoot, clovers.
 - (c) Perennial rye-grass, cocksfoot, timothy, crested dogstail; clovers.
 - (3) Long Rotation.
 - (a) Perennial rye-grass, clovers.
 - (b) Perennial rye-grass, cocksfoot, clovers.
 - (c) Cocksfoot, perennial rye-grass, mixed grasses, clovers.
 - (d) Paspalum special pasture.
 - (e) Prairie-grass special pasture.
 - (4) Permanent.
 - (a) Ryegrass.
 - (b) Ryegrass, cocksfoot.
 - (c) Meadow fescue, ryegrass, timothy.
 - (d) Chewings fescue.
 - (e) Paspalum cocksfoot.
 - (f) Swamp pastures leading from Italian ryegrass to permanent pasture.
 - (g) Drained swamp directly sown in permanent pasture.
- B. Grass land on unploughed ground:
 - (1) Bush-burnt, fern-land, and scrub-land.
 - (a) Rye-grass, cocksfoot type.
 - (b) Cocksfoot, rye-grass type.
 - (c) Cocksfoot, chewings fescue or danthonia or florin, etc., type.
 - (d) Derivatives from types 1, 2 and 3, on which succession has occurred.
 - (2) Swamp-Land.
 - (a) True swamp type: Meadow fescue or cocksfoot, timothy-rye-grass type, and the series leading to them.
 - (b) Peat bogs: Yorkshire fog and its successions.
 - (3) Natural grass-Land.
 - (1) Sub-alpine fell-field.
 - (2) Montane tussock and its successions.
 - (3) Lowland tussock and its successions.

(Complete in next issue.)

OUR CHANCE TO FLOURISH.

SOLDIERS' OPPORTUNITIES.

We believe that the progress and prosperity of the whole province are wrapped up in the Southland Hydro-Electric Power Scheme. This scheme will afford Southland a splendid chance to flourish. The question that is being asked everywhere just now is—will the ratepayers vote in favour of the scheme at the great poll to be taken on the 27th inst, or will they allow Southland to lag behind while other parts of New Zealand get cheap electric power? Surely not! Everybody knows the hackneyed lines in which Shakespeare emphasises the fact that a man's success in life depends largely on his capacity to see and seize his opportunity. March 27th, then, is really Southland's opportunity. It depends entirely upon the success of the poll on that date whether the Hydro-Electric Power Scheme for Southland will be proceeded with or dropped. There is every reason to believe that the proposal will receive overwhelming support.

From the soldier's point of view the matter is one of great moment. There can be no question whatever but that in the working of the scheme and in the industries that will arise as a result of the availability of cheap electric power, myriads of opportunities for the employment of returned soldiers will be opened up. Already a large number of the returned men are taking courses of instruction in electrical matters and it is known that at the Technical Colleges and Laboratories in New Zealand and abroad, the electrical course is the most popular with disabled soldiers. Everyone who has the interests of Southland at heart should record his vote in favour of the Hydro-Electric Power Scheme at the poll to be taken on March 27th.

GIRLS ON FARMS.

DISCUSSED BY FARMERS.

A conference arranged between representatives of the North Canterbury Farmers' Union and the Canterbury Sheepowners' Union, and Misses G. Watkin and F. M. Girdler, of the British Overseas Settlement Mission, took place in Christchurch recently.

The chairman said that the conference had been called for the purpose of discussing the question of bringing girls from Great Britain for rural and domestic work. It was recognised to be a matter of great difficulty to get domestic assistance in the country districts, and almost an impossibility in the backblocks. Both Misses Watkin and Girdler had come into touch with girls who desired to emigrate to the colonies.

Miss Watkin said that a large number of the women who had worked under the Imperial authorities during the war had made representations to the authorities to see if there were opportunities of continuing their work in the Dominions. Lord Milner, Secretary of State for the Colonies, had interested himself in the matter, and had sent out three missions to the Dominions. Twenty thousand girls had been trained in land work, and had proved highly successful.

The opinion of those present was that there was no opening in New Zealand for this class of labour.

Miss Watkin said that she had anticipated this decision. There was another class of girl who would milk and assist in the dairy, and would undertake a certain amount of domestic work.

It was decided that there would be an opening for this class of labour.

Mr A. L. Rutherford suggested that if the girls could do a certain amount of work in the garden there would be a big demand for them.

Miss Girdler said that when the girls came out to the country, a system of barracks where they could be distributed was considered undesirable. It was suggested that groups of ten or twelve girls should be sent to country towns to a reception house. A lady superintendent, who would know the class of homes in the district, would know whether a girl was suited to different classes of work in the home. As to wages, although they were high in England, they were much below those ruling here. In New Zealand she thought wages were abnormally high. She thought that a domestic should receive a minimum wage of 20s a week, and a cook not less than 25s a week.

The following resolution, moved by the chairman was passed:—"That the North Canterbury District of the Farmers' Union and Canterbury Sheepowners' Union affirms the great need of assisting the scheme, and urges all concerned to do all they can to settle the girls and take an interest in their future welfare. The district recommends that a sub-committee from the two unions should be set up to co-operate with any other organisation that is

ECONOMIC EGG CRATES.

LINDSAY AND CO., Tay street, Invercargill, have been appointed Southland Agents for this well known Crata.

The Economic Egg Carrier has now been on the market for twelve years, and Crates made as far back as 1908 are still giving good service.

Supplied in the following sizes—

No. 1—Holds 20 Dozen.

No. 2—Holds 25 Dozen.

No. 3—Holds 10 Dozen.

Also Separate Trays to fit petrol cases—4½ dozen.

Price on application

STANDARD FISH SUPPLY,

Tay street.

FRESH Supplies of Fish and Oysters Daily. Cleanliness and attention assured. Give us a trial. Phone 907.

GEO. M. FLETCHER,
Proprietor.

willing to assist in the scheme."

Mr Jones added that the British Government was prepared to pay the passages of the girls from England, by way of a war gratuity.

Regarding the question of when the girls would be available. Miss Girdler said that the transport of soldiers had ceased, and about 3000 New Zealanders were waiting for passages back to the Dominion. She thought that, in two or three months, it would be possible to begin sending girls out.

It was stated that the unions represented would be able practically to guarantee to place 50 girls for at least a year.

Miss Watkin said that the Government would pay free passages for three years.

Shooting.

Deer stalkers are busy preparing for the coming fray. This class of sport is becoming very popular down south, due in some respect no doubt, to the Government issuing licenses for the "Wild West" region beyond Waiau.

Deer are reported as being fairly plentiful this year and have been seen in the Fe Wae district.

Licenses are now issued for Stewart Island, but up to the present the writer has not heard of a head having been secured.

Snipe shooting this season has been poor to the average shooter. The birds are plentiful enough but the weather conditions have not been too favourable—the average shooter likes a "big" wind for this class of shooting.

"Mr Bunny" is going to have a hot time again this winter, what with shooting, trapping, ferreting and snaring, the country should be well rid of the pest at the end of the season.

Fishing.

Anglers on the whole this season have not had a very good time, particularly this last two months, owing to the rivers being too low, there have not been many catches recorded.

On Friday last, fishing in the Oreti below Lochiel, Mr A. W. Clark of Ryal Bush secured a beautiful bag of fine fish weighing 56 pounds or an average of 11lbs a piece which is exceptionally high.

The fish were in good condition, two of them in particular having the appearance of having just come up from the sea. The individual weights were 18lbs., 14lbs., 13lbs., 6lbs. and 5lbs.

This is the best individual bag for one days fishing the writer has heard of since the time of the great rush to what was known as Sises' Pool in 1913-14.

If some of the "Home" anglers were to see the bags taken from our rivers at times, it would do them good, for I am given to understand by some of the returned boys who have indulged in the gentle art in England and Scotland, that a bag of 10 or 12 fish each about 10 inches long is considered a fine catch.

Since the result of the investigation of the supposed Atlantic salmon caught in the Waiau last season, has been published, and the best authorities at Home have pronounced it as Atlantic Salmon, anglers, who at any time land a fish that seems to be out of the ordinary, are requested to forward same to the Acclimatisation Society, (Invercargill, for investigation.

"The 'Digger' will excite the interest of all New Zealanders who participated in the 'Great War of 1914-1919.'"

Brigadier General G. S. Richardson,
C.B., C.M.G., C.B.E., etc.