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"The Digger."

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1920.

ANNUAL MEETING.

Another year has passed and the secretary's attention is directed to the preparation of the report for presentation to the Annual Meeting. The report will be somewhat lengthy, but will embrace every sphere of activity that the R.S.A. has entered into during the past year.

The field covered is very wide and will be interesting to returned men who have the welfare of the Association at heart. There are others who frequently ask what the Association is doing. If there is any sincerity in the enquiry of the man who frequently complains about the work of the R.S.A., then by attending the annual meeting it will readily be found that a vast amount of good work is being done as indicated by correspondence published elsewhere in these columns. If there are complaints; then the meeting will provide ample opportunity for ventilating them. Every returned man who is anxious to see justice meted out to soldiers and their dependents, is at least under a moral obligation to attend and help the cause that meets with universal approval from one end of the Dominion to the other. The present executive has done good work and it will rest with the meeting to appoint an executive who will pay strict attention to the work of the R.S.A. and stand firm against the forces which are antagonistic to the welfare of the R.S.A., and which stand in the way of the soldier's widow, or otherwise, receiving straightforward treatment.

The executive have been enterprising in launching this journal, which, as we said in our first issue, will conserve the interests of returned men. Its columns are open to you and should be availed of. If returned men and dependents stand united behind the "Digger" we shall make it a force felt, and will arrest the attention of M.P. who placed so little value upon us, that the questions submitted prior to last election were practically ignored. The management committee who have control of the "Digger" have given untiring effort in connection with this journal, and a report will be submitted to the meeting which will make more ex-

plicit the aims and aspirations of the R.S.A. through its medium. Every one who can possibly attend from town or country is asked to make a special effort to attend a meeting which means so much for the effective working of the Association.

THE DIGGER'S LETTER BOX.

CHATS WITH THE EDITOR.

His Worship the Mayor and Councilors, Invercargill:—Gentlemen, at your last meeting you received a letter from the R.S.A. asking you to make concessions to limbless men on the tramcars. It would, of course, have been effective had you made concessions without your attention being drawn to the matter, but, that you should hold the matter over for consideration and to make enquiries as to what is being done in other places shows a lack of decision which is a very essential element in the make up of a council. Had you decided to make the concessions asked for, your action would have met with universal approval from the ratapayers. In this case, at least, you could have decided the matter without referring it to anyone outside of Invercargill, as it is not a matter calling for any outsiders' opinions as to what we shall do with our tramway system.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—The Annual Meeting of the Invercargill Returned Soldiers' Association is advertised for 8 p.m. on Friday, the 23rd inst., and I hope that all returned men will make a note of this time and date and will endeavour to be present at the meeting. The Returned Soldiers' Association is possibly less "noisy" than it used to be, and the members of the Association will share with the executive some measure of satisfaction in the fact that less "noise" is now necessary. The policy of the Association can be summed up under two simple headings. (1) To protect and help all returned soldiers and soldiers' dependents who are suffering in any form as a result of the war, and who are, for various reasons, unable to look after themselves. (2) To give information and advice to soldiers and to their dependents on legislation which directly affects them. The second of these objects we leave largely to our permanent secretary and to the editor of our official newspaper, "The Digger," but if we are to continue the good work we have been able to do in connection with the first of our objects we must have, not only a strong executive, but also the enthusiastic support of all of our members. The meeting on Friday, the 23rd inst., promises to be a busy one. Many important matters will come up for consideration, and I hope that we shall have a full and enthusiastic attendance.—I am, etc.,

R. B. CAWS,
President,

Invercargill Returned Soldiers' Assn.
April 14, 1920.

WRIT SARCASTIC.

POINTS FOR POINTERS.

"The Penman" contributes these pertinent points for R.S.A. men:—

Points for Returned Soldiers.—When the Annual Meeting is nearly due, or if a General Meeting be called, the following points are worthy of remembrance:—
1.—Don't come to the meetings.
2.—But if you do come—come late.
3.—If the weather doesn't suit you—don't think of coming.
4.—If you do attend a meeting, find fault with the officers and other members.

5.—Never accept an office, as it is easier to criticise than to do things.
6.—Nevertheless, get sore if you are not appointed on a committee; but if you are appointed do not attend committee meetings.

7.—If asked by the chairman to give an opinion regarding some important matter, tell him you have nothing to say. After the meeting tell everyone how things ought to be done.
8.—Do nothing more than is absolutely necessary; but when other members roll up their sleeves and do it all, how about how the business is run by a clique.
9.—Hold back your fees as long as possible; or don't pay at all.
10.—Don't think about getting new members. Let the organiser do it all. He's paid for it—you're not.

ACCOMMODATION is urgently required for visiting Freemasons and their wives during Grand Lodge Communication from 1st till 5th May. Anyone having single or double-bedded rooms available during those dates is requested to notify the Secretary, Box 272, Invercargill, as early as possible. The terms offered are: 10/- per day for full board, or 6/- per day for bed and breakfast only.

COUNTRY NOTES.

NIGHTCAPS.

VALEDICTORY.

Mr J. Shepherd, who has been station-master at Nightcaps for some time, has been transferred to Wyndham and leaves at an early date to take up his new duties. Prior to his departure members and the staff and a few business people met together in Mr Todd's office, on Saturday evening, and presented Mr Shepherd with a token of appreciation in the form of a case of Loewe pipes. Mr T. Todd was in the chair, and several complimentary speeches were made, eulogising the good qualities of the guest of the evening. All testified to the reliability of the departing officer and his ability in training those under his charge. Mr Shepherd suitably replied, thanking the friends for their kind words, and for their token of appreciation. Mr Turnbull, the newly-appointed stationmaster, was present, and he received a hearty welcome to the district.

Mr Hugh Knox, an old identity of this district, died on Saturday at Invercargill at the advanced age of 90 years. His remains will be brought to Nightcaps and interred in the local cemetery.

A post office is to be erected in Nightcaps and a very hopeful sign was the presence of the Public Works Engineer and the chairman and clerk and the Town Board viewing the site to make arrangements for draining the sections.

WAIKAWA.

A very enjoyable evening was spent in Waikawa on the 5th inst., when the bachelors of the district entertained their friends at a ball. As the evening was fine an exceptionally large crowd congregated from far and wide. Forty-six couples took part in the grand march, and the dancing was so well patronised during the evening that several dances were put on twice to allow all the couples to take part in them. Wybrow Bros.' orchestra rendered excellent music.

Mr C. Wybrow proved an excellent M.C. The guests were entertained at intervals during the evening with some very fine songs, etc. Everything good was handed round in a way very creditable to those who had this work in hand.

The only regrettable occurrence to mar the pleasure of the evening was a nasty cut Mr Stanley Dawson received in the hand while opening a lemonade bottle. Fortunately he was able to resume dancing after receiving first aid at the able hands of the local postmistress.

The badge of the R.S.A. was very much in evidence, a large number of returned soldiers being present.

LAKE COUNTY.

DIGGER'S FAIL.

The Returned Soldiers' Association in Queenstown have been holding a fair for the purpose of furnishing the club's rooms also towards the soldiers' memorial fund. That the support forthcoming would be great we had anticipated, but the amount of \$200 was very creditable indeed. What with a good secretary and the loyal support of the Queenstown folk the R.S.A. is assured of a prosperous future.

The Arrowtown Borough Council has accepted the offer of Mr Printz, electrical engineer, of Invercargill, to report and prepare an estimate as to the cost of installing plant to supply the borough with electricity.

It is estimated that about 2,000 people spent the holidays at Queenstown at Easter. The weather throughout was ideal and with the regatta Queenstown was the centre of much activity. It is difficult to imagine anyone going to Queenstown without enjoying the outing. The trip up the lake is delightful and cannot fail to appeal to anyone whether of a scientific turn of mind or not.

OTAUTAU.

The local St. Andrew's Society held a meeting the other evening and it was decided to hold a social and dance on Thursday, April 22. A very attractive programme is being arranged and there is every prospect of a very enjoyable evening. Mr J. L. McG. Watson and party from Invercargill will attend, also all local talent will contribute to the programme. The proceeds will be devoted to the pipe band which was recently formed.

The local tennis club held a very successful dance in the Town Hall. Mr R. Collett acted as M.C. Mrs Cupples provided the music. The ladies provided an attractive display of good things and a

very enjoyable evening was spent.

The recreation ground has been in a bad state of repair for some time and with the object of improving it the football club have arranged a series of dances throughout the winter. Mr Jellyman will supply the music and Mr R. Collett will act as M.C. Mr A. Sutherland, of Invercargill, will teach the latest dances.

WAIKAIKAI.

On Good Friday the Invercargill and Waikaiti cricket teams played a match on the recreation grounds. The result was a win for Waikaiti. The local ladies generously entertained the visitors and players and a very happy time was spent.

On Easter Monday the Caledonian sports were held and were favoured with good weather, and were very successful. A large number of visitors availed themselves of the outing and the surrounding districts were well represented.

ANZAC DAY.

Arrangements are now well in hand for the memorial service to our fallen comrades in the Municipal Theatre on Sunday, April 25th.

Returned soldiers will parade at the Drill Hall at 2 p.m. sharp, and fall in on their markers in order of precedence of units.

The parade will march to the theatre at a dead slow pace preceded by the firing party, and will take up seats specially reserved for them in the body of the theatre. The ceremony as arranged will be a most impressive one, and will be conducted throughout by returned men.

Returned men are specially requested, if at all possible to parade in uniform, but failing that in mufti wearing the Badge of the Association.

The dress circle, gallery and part of the stalls will be reserved for the general public. At the conclusion of the service the parade will fall in on their markers outside the theatre entrance and march to the South African Troopers' Memorial where a short service will be carried out in commemoration of our comrades who fell in the South African campaign.

In connection with the memorial services on Anzac Day, wreaths from units etc., may be deposited at the Soldiers' Club not later than 4 p.m. on Saturday, 24th April.

WEDDING BELLS.

Southland weather has been very generous of late and was particularly so last Wednesday, when Mr R. Tapper was married to Miss Dorothy Trotter, daughter of Mrs Trotter of Christchurch. Mr Tapper was well-known amongst returned soldiers, having left with the Main Body (Otago Mounted, 7th Southland Squadron.) He saw service at Gallipoli and was in charge of the last party at the evacuation. He went to France and later gained his commission in the field. He was then transferred to the Otago Infantry and was gassed at Passchendaele, being invalided home in May, 1918. The ceremony, which was very impressive and accompanied by delightful music, was conducted by the Rev. Gilbert in St. Paul's Church, Dee street. The bride, who was given away by Mr J. R. Brown, wore a delightful dress—chameuse, satin, with overdress of nimon trimmed with pearls. The veil was worn mop-top fashion, was very pretty. The chief bridesmaid was Miss Florence (Popsy) Trotter of Riverton, and Miss Nancy Irving and Miss Isobel Trotter, both of Woodlands. They wore beautiful dresses of Salmon pink crepe-de-chene and back velvet hats.

After the ceremony the happy couple, bridesmaids and guests, motored to Mr Brown's residence, Mill Road, to partake of the wedding breakfast. A happy time was spent and the following toasts were honoured: "The King," Rev. Gilbert; "The Bride," Rev. Gilbert, replied to by Mr Tapper; "The Bridesmaids," proposed by Mr Tapper, responded to by Mr C. J. Tapper; "The Bride's Parents," proposed by Mr C. J. Tapper, responded to by Mr J. D. Trotter; "The Bridegroom," proposed by Mr Couser, replied to by Mr R. Tapper; "Mr and Mrs J. R. Brown," proposed by the bridegroom, responded to by Mr J. R. Brown. The bride's travelling costume was of fawn with a pretty blue hat, and cape furs and muff, which was the present of the bridegroom. The bride's present to the bridegroom was a gold signet ring. The bridegroom's present to each of the bridesmaids was a beautiful gold bracelet.

After a very pleasant time the happy couple left for their honeymoon, which will be spent travelling in the north and finally to their future home "Tapu" St.