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258 ACRES—Good agricultural and dairy land; large proportion lined, 24 acres oats, 40 acres turnips, 20 acres oats and grass sown for autumn feed. Almost new six-roomed house, with every modern convenience, including h. and c. water, porcelain bath and basin; washhouse with built-in copper and tubs; six-stalled stable, loose box, barn, implement shed, men's hut. Large cowbyre with milking plant installed.

This property is capable of carrying from 60 to 70 cows, and can be bought for the small price of £18 per acre, including props. There is money in this. Get in early.

Houses, Businesses, etc., to suit all requirements.

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REDUCE YOUR COST OF LIVING, by purchasing a home with a few acres near town. See us about five acres with five-roomed house; outbuildings in good order; five miles from town; few chains from railway, post office and factory. £575. On terms. Traill and Co., Ltd., Esk street.

OPPORTUNITY only knocks at your door once, and if you don't want to continue paying rent all your life, call on us and get particulars of good family home, seven rooms, bathroom, pantry, and other conveniences. Seven minutes from P.O. Terms arranged. £50 deposit, or thereabouts, balance to suit purchaser. Traill and Co., Ltd. Esk street.

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RATTRAY & HALL-JONES,
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS,
ESK STREET, INVERCARGILL, N.Z.
Solicitors under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act for the Otago District.

MR. CHARLES DUERDEN, Pianist, is open for engagement at private parties, dances, socials, etc. Address—25 Princess street, Georgetown, Invercargill.

**SOUTHLAND SCHOOL OF HIGH-
LAND AND CLASSIC DANCING.**
Rooms over Wesley Brothers, Dee street.
ALEX. SUTHERLAND, Principal.
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"The Digger."

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1920.

INCONSISTENCY.

There recently appeared in the daily press, information to the effect that representatives of the Returned Soldiers' Association had visited Sir James Allen in order to bid him good-bye and wish him success in his new sphere of activity as High Commissioner. To this no objection can be raised whatever may be our political differences, but when we have such a display of inconsistent statements as the vice-president inflicted upon the Minister for Defence, it is time to draw attention to it and protest against the claim of representing the R.S.A. throughout the Dominion. The R.S.A. has no political platform, although it can only achieve redress, through political channels, and if any official of the R.S.A. oversteps the mark so as to cause the press to state that returned soldiers are satisfied with Sir James Allen and that the deputations' utterances were the expression of the returned soldiers themselves, then it is time some wings were clipped. Precedence has possibly established that at a time like this it is fitting to say nice things irrespective of what truth they contain. The vice-president stated that Sir James Allen had always been "just." If this is so, the work of the R.S.A. would have been reduced to practically nil; but it needs no demonstrating that the Minister for Defence only yielded and granted the legitimate rights asked for by the R.S.A. under extreme pressure, and the major portion in close proximity to a general election.

If justice has been meted out, then why has the Dominion Executive and the official organ continually complained as indicated in "Quick March," on 10th June, 1919: "It is unquestionable that the Government of the day has been the principal promoter of 'grouse' by the senseless failure to consult the R.S.A. fairly and reasonably on matters in which returned men and dependants are vitally concerned. The authorities' too, have shown a disposition to move very slowly along the path of justice."

Sir James Allen was certainly in the position to see that the authorities did move along the path of justice.

A further lamentation by the same journal states—

"Take for example, the representation

of the R.S.A. on the Pensions Board. It should have been self-evident that such representation should have been granted, in accordance with the elementary principles of justice, as soon as a suitable returned soldier was available; yet many months elapsed before the request of the 1917 Conference of the N.Z.R.S.A. (supported by a deputation to the Minister of Defence) was granted. Take the retro-spection scheme; take the Repatriation Act: is it the same story in each case. The R.S.A. was ignored when the 'gratuity scheme' and the Repatriation Bill were rushed through Parliament in the hurry-scurry session of last year. In the administration of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act there has been the same unintelligible delay in giving proper heed to the just claims of the R.S.A. for representation on Land Boards. A proper recognition of the New Zealand Returned Soldiers' Association—same consultation with the executive—in the administration of laws and regulations affecting returned soldiers will reduce naturally the complaining and the criticism which the old ignoring has necessarily caused."

Dealing with pay and allowances the Dominion Executive expressed itself in no uncertain terms: "The retrospective application of the Act has been declined by the Minister of Defence who regards the fact that any man should enlist without the compulsion of the Conscription Act as conclusive proof that he was able to leave his dependants in comfort. It is this Ministerial view which makes it impossible to treat the aphorism that 'a man was a fool to volunteer too soon,' as a jest any longer."

Now does the vice-president reconcile this with the statement that the Minister had dealt justly. It is self-evident that either one is wrong and the vice-president should exercise more discretion in matters which involve the opinions of the R.S.A. generally.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W.G.M., Invercargill.—We have made a complete criticism of your poem, but it has been unavoidably held over through pressure on our space. Our comment will be published in next issue.—Edt.

T.A., Invercargill.—Answers to correspondents' editorship not vacant. Nature does seem to have been unjust if we are to take seriously the following extract from your letter: "My chief affliction is a keen sense of humour and I consider that I am peculiarly fitted to fill the situation because of this infirmity." It would appear that you have been long suffering but what have we done to deserve all this. Surely you have overlooked the fact that we, also, have a sense of humour; but, I suppose it's a case of "Bear ye one another's burdens." Specimen copy not suitable.—Edt.

LIMBLESS MEN.

At the last meeting of the Town Council it was decided that limbless men be allowed to travel free on the trams. The "Digger" is glad to acknowledge their generous action.

MASONIC GRAND LODGE.

Mr Farrant, who has for some time past been making necessary arrangements regarding accommodation for the Grand Lodge visitors, asks us to contradict the report that 400 persons are coming, and that a number will be without accommodation. The facts are, that 232 are coming, and plenty of accommodation is available, in fact there is a surplus of four beds.

SOUTHLAND'S PART IN THE WAR.

The "Digger" would like to receive information from officers and other ranks regarding the above. Extracts from diaries and other items are urgently required for the writer of these articles. It is requested that all matter especially regarding early history be sent to the Editor as soon as possible.

Good news. A real bargain sale of children's combinations in merino, value for 5/6, sale price 1/11. Children's wool combinations, all sizes, long or short sleeves, 6/11 to 12/6; children's wool and cotton vests, all sizes, 1/9 to 5/11; wool knickers, navy and grey, 5/6 to 8/11; woven knickers, 2/6 to 4/11; knickers in flannelette, drill, cambric, 2/11 to 4/6; children's petticoats in flannelette, flannel, calico, etc., 2/11 to 19/6; nightdresses in flannelette and calico, good quality, sizes 18 to 42 inches, 5/11 to 15/6; sleeping suits in white and striped flannelette, 5/9 to 9/6; pliable bodices, 4/6 to 5/11; polka bands, 2/3 to 3/11; liberty bodices, 3/11 to 4/6; boys' tunics in tweed, flannel, velveteen, drill, etc., 4/11 to 19/6; trousers to match. Also a splendid showing of children's dresses, coats millinery, etc., all at our famous low prices. See children's department at H. and J. Smith, Ltd., Progressive Stores, Invercargill, and Main street, Gore.

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM.

They sleep beneath no immemorial yews,
Their resting-place no temple arches hem;
No blazoned shaft or graven tablet woos
Men's praise—and yet 'we shall remember them.

The unforgetting clouds shall drop their tears;
The winds in ceaseless lamentation wail,
For God's white knights are lying on their biers,
Who pledged their service to restore the Grail.

They gave their lives to make the whole world free;
They recked not to what flag they were assigned,
The starry banner, cross, or fleur-de-lis—
Their sacrifice was made for all mankind.

For them the task is done, the strife is stilled;
No more shall care disturb, nor zeal condemn;
And when the larger good has been fulfilled,
In coming years we shall remember them.

How can the world their deeds forget?
In France
White crosses everywhere lift pallid hands,
Like silent sentinels with sword and lance,
To keep their memory safe for other lands.

What need have they for holy sepulture?
Within the hearts of men is hallowed ground—
A sanctuary where they rest secure,
And with Love's immortality are crowned.

And far-off voices of the future sing,
"They shall remain in memory's diadem;"
And winds of promise still are whispering
That same refrain, "We shall remember them."

James Terry White, in "The British Weekly."

AMUSEMENTS.

CHARLES SMYTHE AT THE ABLION.

Charles Smythe, the eminent Australian basso, will appear under special engagement, for the first time in New Zealand, during the week commencing tomorrow, at the Ablion Theatre, in conjunction with the "feature" film "A Heart in Pawn." Mr Smythe is said to have experienced a career of success probably un eclipsed in the annals of the stage. A native of Sydney, he achieved immediate fame on making his debut at the London Palace Theatre, and subsequently appeared with triumphal effect as Mephistopheles in "Faust," with Dame Melba, Madame Calve, and Alice Esty, grand opera companies. Mr Smythe who is now in the zenith of his vocal possibilities is reported to be gifted with a voice of rare quality, power and flexibility, which he uses with infinite artistic grace. His offerings will include the "Prologue," from "I Pagliacci," "Up from Somerset," "The Drum-Major," "The Floral Dance," and "Captain Mac." Mr Smythe will be assisted by his Merry Musical Maids. Miss Bathie Stuart, who will make a welcome reappearance after a tremendously successful tour of the N.Z. Miss Stuart's work is bright and clever and her interpretation of Maori love songs and folk lore has earned for her the title of the pakeha girl with the Maori songs. Miss Stuart's repertoire has been augmented by presentations of rare Maori numbers, the Maoris considering her interpretations as little short of marvellous. Miss Anita Green, lyric soprano, and Miss Miriam Kutner, accompanist who will also give delightful vocal numbers. The box plans are now on view at the Bristol, and intending patrons should book early to avoid being disappointed.

Owing to the diminution of the density of the atmosphere in proportion to the altitude and a corresponding increase in the average velocity of the wind, navigation of the air by aeroplanes or heavier than air machines is considered impossible at heights exceeding 15,000ft.

R.S.A. EXECUTIVE.

A meeting of the above Executive was held recently. Mr R. B. Caws reported on his interview with the War Funds Association. After much discussion it was decided that the Executive Council of the R.S.A. is of the opinion that the action of the W.F.A. in discontinuing tobacco supplies to the sick and wounded returned men in hospital is not in accordance with the intentions of the citizens who made donations to the fund, and we regret that such action was taken before previously consulting the R.S.A. in the matter.

It was resolved that in future the R.S.A. will undertake the supplying of tobacco to all returned soldier patients in hospital or convalescent homes.

The secretary was instructed to forward this resolution to the Southland W.F.A. and to thank them for the donations given in the past.

Request from the Woodlands sub-association for members to attend unveiling of memorial on the 28th.—Decided that as many as possible attend.

Letter from Southland Law Society.—Decided to publish all correspondence on the matter.

It was decided to hold a conference after the annual meeting to discuss rebate to sub-associations.

Mr Stock, who had been acting as hospital visitor, tendered his resignation.—Decided to accept with regret, but Mr Stock to be requested to allocate tobacco on behalf of the R.S.A. wounded soldiers.

A good deal of routine matter was transacted and a number of cases dealt with.

OTAUTAU.

Mr T. A. Buckingham has been elected as the representative of the Wallace County on the Bluff Harbour Board.

Mr M. Gonley, stationer, of Otago, is agent for "The Digger," and has shown a real live interest in it. On several occasions sales have been increased by his energy.

WESTERN DISTRICT SUB-UNION.

The above union met at the Globe Hotel on Saturday. Present: Messrs E. Matheson, L. Brown, J. Breen, M. Mills, J. Cummings and McGie. Mr Matheson was elected to the chair in the absence of the president, Mr F. C. Mills.

The secretary was instructed to secure black and green jerseys for the Western District representative team if possible.

It was agreed that the captain of each senior team hand in the players' names to the Union before the opening of the fixtures.

Juniors will be allowed to play in one senior match during the season. All senior players who played in two matches last season are seniors this season.

It was agreed that it would be illegal for any player to play for more than one club.

The Waiau Rovers were granted black jerseys with white collars as their club colours.

The names of L. Cross and W. Welsh were added to the list of referees, and that of A. Baird was deleted.

The captains of the various teams will be required to collect one shilling from each player to pay referees' expenses.

All representative matches are to be played alternately at Riverton and Otago.

It was agreed that three rounds be played this season.

Seniors.—May 1—Riverton v. Waiau Rovers at Riverton, McGie referee. May 5—Orepuki v. Otago at Orepuki, McIntyre. Nightcaps a bye. May 8—Waiau Rovers v. Orepuki at Tuatapere, Liddell. May 12—Otago v. Nightcaps at Otago, McGie. Riverton a bye. May 15—Nightcaps v. Waiau Rovers at Nightcaps, A. C. Mills. May 19—Orepuki v. Riverton at Orepuki, McIntyre. Otago a bye. May 22—Riverton v. Nightcaps at Riverton, G. Stevens. May 26—Waiau Rovers v. Otago at Tuatapere, McIntyre. Orepuki a bye. June 2—Otago v. Riverton at Otago, McGie. June 2—Nightcaps v. Orepuki at Nightcaps, G. Stevens. Waiau Rovers a bye.

Juniors.—May 5—Waiau Rovers v. Riverton at Tuatapere, L. Cross. May 5—Otago v. Nightcaps at Otago, A. C. Mills. May 12—Riverton v. Otago at Riverton, W. Welsh. May 12—Waiau Rovers v. Nightcaps at Tuatapere, Liddell. May 19—Waiau Rovers v. Otago at Tuatapere, Liddell. May 19—Nightcaps v. Riverton at Nightcaps, McGie.

The president, before closing the meeting, said that the secretary had rendered god services during the war period, and moved that he be voted the sum of £3 3s.—Mr E. Matheson also spoke eulogistically of the good work done by the secretary, and seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.