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COUNTRY NOTES.

SOUTH OTAGO NOTES

The following country notes has been
unavoidably held over from last issue ow-
ing to pressure of space.

BALCLUTHA, May 11.

Preparations are well in hand for
the re-union dinner which is being
held under the auspices of the Clutha
District R.S.A. for members of the
N.Z.E.F. and H.M. Overseas' Forces.
The dinner will be held on the evening
of the occasion of the Prince of Wales' visit to Balclutha, as at present arranged
for the 20th inst. The committee anti-
cipate that the seating accommodation of
the hall will be taxed to its utmost capa-
city, and as admission will be by ticket
only members requiring tickets would be
well advised to secure same without delay.

Mr John Mosley, of Stirling, has
just returned from an interesting three
days spent in Invercargill demonstrat-
ing that the presence of the dread dis-
ease cancer can be traced in a major-
ity of cases to the persons affected
living and sleeping in houses under-
neath which flow subterranean streams
of water. Mr Mosley, who was accom-
panied by Mr McSkimming, sen., of
Benhar had the support of the Revs.
Robertson and Gardiner, Mr Taylor (of
McGruer Taylor and Co.), and other
leading Invercargill gentlemen in his
investigations, locating the water by
the aid of his "divining rod" or radio-
indicator, as he prefers to call it. The
results were sufficiently startling. Over
70 cases were investigated and in every
one a connection could be traced
between the cancer and the fact that
the patients had been living in dwell-
ings situated over underground
streams. At Wallacetown similar
cases were found, and Mr Mosley in-
forms us, four deaths in that little
place could be traced to the causes
stated. Mr Mosley has been engaged to
proceed to Canterbury to-day on
the Otago railway line, and locate a
coal seam for a company operating
there.

Mr H. Simpson (Mayor of Balclutha),
left on Monday for Wellington to en-
deavour to arrange for a borough loan
of £1000 with £ for £ subsidy for fur-
ther river bank protective work. Word
was received from Mr Simpson yesterday
to the effect that the loan had been ar-
ranged for with the Government, and
that the grant attached thereto was
satisfactory. The Town Clerk has been
advised by wire from the Mayor that the
loan is to bear interest at 5½ per cent.,
with 1 per cent. sinking fund; and that
the grant has been made by the Public
Works Department on the distinct under-
standing that this is to be the last.

The new waterworks which are be-
ing constructed by the borough are rap-
idly nearing completion. The engineer
in charge, Mr F. M. de Bazin, informed
our representative yesterday that the job
had been delayed through material
not coming to hand, but this difficulty
has now been overcome, and it should not
be very long before the final coupling
is completed and the water "hitched
on." Messrs G. and D. Middlemarch
have practically finished the powerhouse,
a nice brick building which comprises
an engine room 37ft x 22ft, and a gener-
ator room 25ft x 22ft. The air com-
pressor is in position and the foundations
are all ready for the engine and other
portions of the plant, which will have
to be removed from the present power-
house at the traffic bridge. Mr de Bazin
and his men have made a good job of the
concrete reservoir, which has an area of
80ft x 50ft, and is six feet deep, with
sloping sides, giving an impression of
great depth. An ingenious arrangement
for emptying the reservoir for clearing
purposes by means of an ejector pipe to
the river and siphon has been fitted.
Twelve hundred feet of 8in iron pipe were
required to connect the main in Clyde
street and the laying of this was no in-
considerable job. The gas main has also
now been connected. While the engine
and the rest of the plant are being shift-
ed into their new quarters it is proposed
to keep up the town supply of water by
using a portable engine to work the pump
at the old powerhouse.

In common with many other towns
in New Zealand, Balclutha is suffering
from a visitation of influenza in a mild
form at the present time, and quite a
number of people, including several pro-
minent residents, have been compelled to
take to their beds. On Monday and
Tuesday between 60 and 70 pupils
were absent from the local school,
partly because of influenza and partly
owing to an outbreak of mumps. Since

then the number of absentees has less-
ened.

The River Commission's report is to
hand and will be much read by settlers in
and around the flood area. The report
takes up something like sixty typewrit-
ten sheets of foolscap and has several
recommendations, which if carried out
should ensure the place against flood dam-
age for ever more.

The fourth annual show of the Green-
field A. and P. Society, held in the Green-
field Hall on Wednesday was even more
successful than its predecessors. The
entries totalled 696, which was about 150
in excess of last year. The quality of
the exhibits was par excellence, and a
great credit to the district. The show
was officially opened by Mr John Edie
(member for Bruce), and although the
weather was cold the attendance was
large. The sheep-guessing competition
resulted in six guessing the correct
weight (87½lb)—viz., Mrs McLaughlin,
Misses A. Dalgleish and J. Miller, Messrs
Archie Wilson, J. H. Jones, and R. Mc-
Arthur.

NIGHTCAPS.

Reports are to hand of the presence of
diphtheria in the district.

The Entertainment Society has decided
to hand over its funds to the War Funds
Association. It is proposed to have an-
other function in the near future in aid
of the medal fund.

The Presbyterian Ladies' Guild is hard
at work preparing for its annual sale of
work in the near future. All ladies who
would like to help in whatever way they
think fit are kindly welcomed to the guild
to help make a success of the sale. The
young people are busy with their fancy
work, which in the past has been of high
quality and sells well at the sales.

THE CANDID CANDIDATE.

"What are the issues?" we mildly in-
quired.

The candidate gave us a look of dis-
dain;

"What are the issues?" he paused and
perspired.

"Don't be so stupid! The issues are
plain.

Our party believes in the good of the
Nation,

We're going to go in and untangle
this mess."

He wagged his finger in stern indigna-
tion.

"What are the issues? The issues are
us!"

"What do you stand for?" we waited
his answer.

He thumped on the desk with his
sneaky hand.

"Pray do not be foolish, no woman
or man, sir,

Can have any doubt as to just where
I stand, sir,

No person dare make the insulting sug-
gestion

That I lack convictions for which I
would fight.

Without reservations I'll answer your
question.

"What do I stand for— I stand for
the right!"

"What are your views on the League
reservations?"

He beat with his fist on his opulent
vest.

"Why ask me," he cried, "for renewed
declarations?

My views on that subject I've often
expressed.

The highest convictions of honour shall
guide me,

My views are straightforward and
honest and fair;

No matter what critics may scorn and
deride me,

They'll be in the platform; just look
for them there."

"What about liquor?" He pounded the
table.

"I cannot," he said, "answer ques-
tions all night;

But if I'm elected I know I'll be able
To settle that problem, and settle it
right.

Don't ask for details, I cannot disclose
them;

To tell you about them would hardly
be wise;

But this much certain, that when the
world knows them

They're sure to delight both the wets
and the dries."

—(New York Herald.)

A change of Vatican librarians takes
two years to accomplish, since each of
the forty thousand valuable manuscripts must
be handed over separately after an
identification which is by no means per-
fect.

APRES LA GUERRE TRAGEDY.

Wee Wilhelmine is on the green,
Old Kaspar's by the door;
When Peterkin comes bulging in,
And casts upon the floor
A something, large, and tipped with
brass,
Which he's discovered in the grass.

With grimy hands he proudly stands
The something on its base;
Then, peering up, much like a pnp,
Into the wise old face:
"Is't some poor fellow's skull," asks he
"Who fell in the Great Victory?"

The ancient seer bestows a leer
Upon the simple boy;
While Wilhelmine, with optics keen,
Trips in to view the toy.
"Why, no," says he, "'tis only just
A whizzbang, child, that failed to
bust."

"Now, tell us true about it, do,"
Demands the infant Pete;
And Mina flops upon a box
Hard by her grandsire's feet.
Now tell us all about this shell;
For we have heard the war was h—ll."

"Well, 'twas the Huns who used the
gun.
That flung this scrap-iron round.
Mayhap this chunk of stuff was punk.
And really it seems quite sound.
I really cannot figure just
Why this here whizzbang wouldn't
bust."

"Now, is that so? I'll make it go!"
Is Peterkin's next cry.
And in his grip the youthful rip
Has raised the whizzbang high,
Old Kaspar, verging on a fit,
Makes one wild grab, and seizes it.

"Twixt fear and rage, the senile sage
Gives Pete a mighty clout
(While Wilhelmine, of foresight keen,
Turns noiselessly about;
Regains the door, and slips away
A hundred yards or so, to play).

The greybeard knits his brow and sits
Once more beside the door.
How to destroy the evil toy
Is vexing him full sore.
Till, gazing down the leafy grove,
He says: "We'll shove it in the
store!"

With actions quick, in half a tick,
Nigh leaping from his skin,
Young Peter makes a fire of stakes,
And heaves the whizzbang in.
Then on the rug he's swiftly curled,
And darkness falls upon the world.

A sudden flash, a rendering crash;
A lurid, blinding glare!
And 'Mina's seat, and bits of Pete
Are sailing through the air;
While Kaspar goes out with the door,
At ninety M.P.H., or more.

"That whizzbang must at last have
bust,"
Weeps little Wilhelmine.
"Poor Peter, sure will sport no more
On this ere village green."
And as she digs the relics up
She softly curses Bertha Krupp.

—"Dileas-gu-Brath!" in "The Veteran,"
Canada.

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"The Stepmother," by Annie S. Swan.

"Round the Corner in Gay Street," "The
Indifference of Juliet," "Mrs Red
Pepper," "The Second Violin," by
Grace Richmond.

"Black Rock," by Ralph Connor.

"Red Men and White," "Lady Palm-
more," by Owen Wister.

"Eric Brighteyes," "Cleopatra," "Heart of
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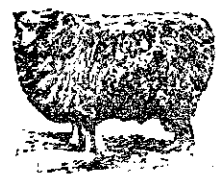
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