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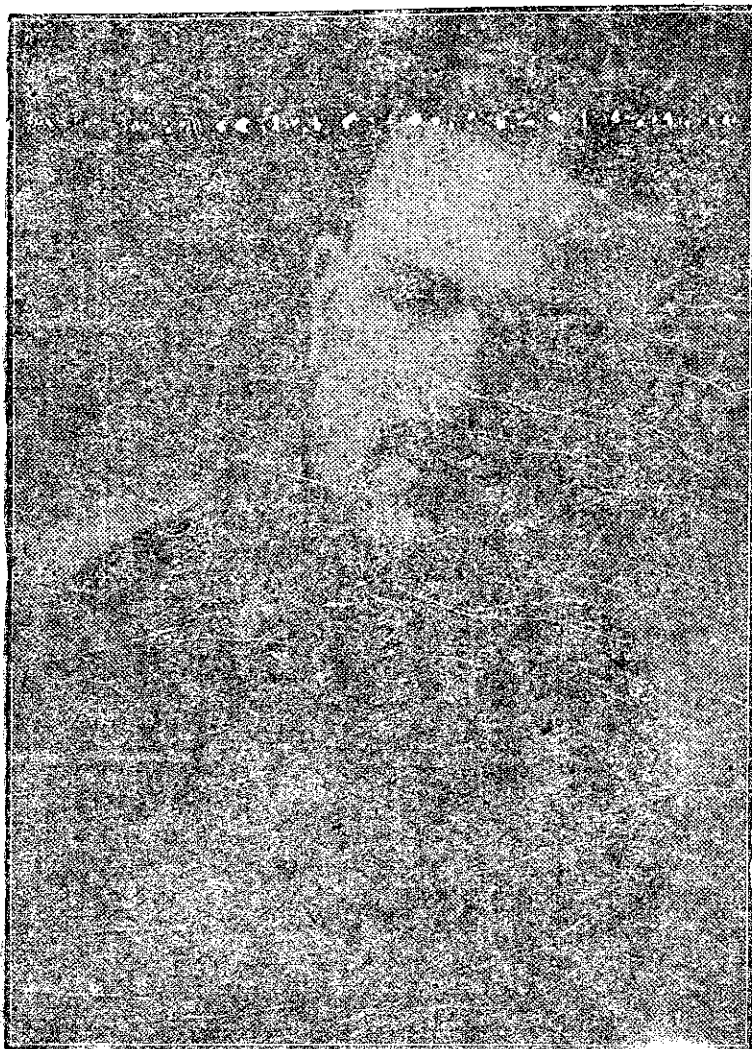
FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1920.

THE LAND BOARD ELECTION.

The candidature of Lieut-Colonel
James Hargest, D.S.O., M.C., will un-
doubtedly meet with a great deal of sup-
port from Crown settlers, who are anxi-
ous to fill the present vacancy with a man
of experience and sound judgment charac-
terised by that essential qualification of
justice required to adequately fill the
position. The candidate is well known
throughout Southland and all indications
point to his successful candidature. He
has what has so far been unusual in
Land Board elections, namely, the unani-
mous backing of the Invercargill and Gore
Returned Soldiers' Associations, combined
with the loyal support of all sub-Associations
throughout Southland, and it is very
essential that the R.S.A. make itself a
force felt in this contest. The Colonel is
a Crown settler himself and also a mem-
ber of the Land Purchase Board. It is
very necessary that he should possess
these qualifications in addition to his other
outstanding qualities. The question of
experience is one that must not be over-
looked as it enables him to understand the
requirements of the settlers.

It is admitted that the great bulk of
the work which comes before the Land
Board deals with applications under the
"Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act,"
and naturally enough the returned soldiers
should be represented on the Board. The
question of land settlement is of vital im-
portance to this Dominion and every effort
should be made to administer the law
equitably. The Act states that money
shall be no bar to a man going on the
land and yet it would be somewhat unique
if we heard of a man going upon the land
under the terms of this provision. A
short time ago the Mt. Wendon run was
balloted for. A number of applications
were from men of practical experience and
sound backing, and yet they were not in-
cluded in the ballot. It will take some
demonstrating to convince the Crown
settlers that this is the correct thing, and
they in turn will cast their vote in favour
of a man who, with no axe to grind, will
do his utmost to secure equitable adminis-
tration of the Act.

The returned soldiers throughout South-
land should do their utmost to secure the
official candidate's success. This can be
accomplished by everyone taking an active
part in the campaign. By loyal co-
operation the issue cannot remain in
doubt and Colonel Hargest will be elected.



LIEUT.-COL. JAMES HARGEST, D.S.O., M.C.

Member of the Land Purchase Board and now contesting the
vacancy on the Southland Land Board as the official nominee of
every Returned Soldiers' and Sub-Association throughout Southland.

Land Board Election.

CANDIDATES:

GARDNER, JAMES GARDNER, CLIFDEN.

HARGEST, JAMES, JUNR., MANDEVILLE.

HEFFMAN, BENJAMIN JAMES, BENJAMIN, NIGHTCAPS.

WIND, JAMES, THATADERE.

THE VOTING PAPER AS IT WILL APPEAR AFTER HAVING VOTED
FOR JAMES HARGEST.

HOME SERVICE LEAGUE.

The central executive committee of the
Home Service League of New Zealand
held a meeting this week, when the
articles of incorporation were perused
and formally adopted. The league has
primarily been formed and registered
under The Incorporated Societies Act,
1908, with a view to obtaining Govern-
ment recognition for those men of the
New Zealand military forces who served
in the Dominion during any period of the
late war, and the principal aims of the
organisation are briefly: (a) To obtain
the payment of a war gratuity to mem-
bers; (b) to enable members to partici-
pate in the privileges and benefits under
the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act,
1915, and the Repatriation Act, 1918, and
amendments; (c) to obtain payment of the
increased separation allowance to mem-
bers; and (d) to obtain payment of the
multi allowance. It is the further in-
tention of the league to take up and
investigate all alleged cases of loss or
hardship arising out of the military ser-
vice of members. In the course of the
meeting, it was explained that the present
Dominion membership approximates 3000,
with every prospect of doubling that num-
ber in the near future. Excepting one or
two technicalities connected with registra-
tion, there now only remains the signing
of the petition to Parliament, on comple-
tion of which the league will be prepared
to proceed with its claims. It is antici-
pated that everything will be in readi-
ness for the introduction of a deputation
during the coming session, and from the
fact that promises of support have been
given by more than half the members of
Parliament the league is particularly san-
guine of success.

We are glad to acknowledge an increase
of sales from Messrs Matheson, Ltd., of
Edendale. We will always acknowledge
increases of sales through these columns
and are anxiously awaiting further com-
munications from some of our agents.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

The new Minister, the Hon. G. J. An-
derson, Member for Maitua, has been in
the House of Representatives since 1908,
in which year he defeated the sitting mem-
ber, the late Dr. M'Nab, then Minister of
Lands. It was the year after Mr M'Nab,
as he then was, had introduced his Land
Bill, which was considered to be a some-
what serious infraction of the freehold
tenure of land in New Zealand. Mr An-
derson chose to fight the election on this
issue, and he did so, winning against a
very strong candidate by a majority of
some 700 votes. Since then he has held
the seat quite safely, and he has held also
to his very firm freehold views. Mr
Anderson was as a young man a com-
positor, and later, when he acquired an
interest in the "Maitua Ensign," a
paper in Gore, he took a part in the edi-
torial and business control of the news-
paper. As a worker in the printing
trade he was at one time a prominent
trades unionist. He was persuaded to
enter politics quite against his personal
wishes. He had no thought of doing so,
but there were many influential people in
his district who were anxious that Mr
M'Nab should be opposed, and they pre-
vailed on Mr Anderson to contest the
seat. Once in the contest he fought it
with the utmost vigour and won.

Another Digger has made a start in
Invercargill. Mr C. E. Gibbs has bought
the business of fruiterer, confectioner, etc.,
situated at the corner of Yarrow and
Dee street. The place has been thorough-
ly renovated and neatly arranged. There
is ample accommodation upstairs for the
tea rooms which, in addition to its attrac-
tive surroundings, has a splendid view.
There is no doubt that Mr Gibbs will
receive a fair share of public support
and his premises being the home of refuge
for those desirous of having a dainty
afternoon tea. An advertisement to this
effect appears in our columns.

RETURNED SOLDIERS.

VARIOUS MATTERS CONSIDERED.

DELEGATES TO ANNUAL CON- FERENCE.

The adjourned annual general meeting
of the Wellington Returned Soldiers' As-
sociation was held last evening, Mr W.
Perry presiding over a very fair attend-
ance.

The first business of the meeting was
the election of delegates to the annual
conference. The chairman explained
that under the constitution of the
N.Z.R.S.A. a curious anomaly existed.
Only three delegates from each local as-
sociation could actually sit at the con-
ference, but the Wellington association,
by reason of its large membership of
6800, was entitled to 17 votes. The meet-
ing, therefore, would have to elect seven-
teen delegates, fourteen of whom would
hand their proxies to the three gentle-
men who would represent the associa-
tion personally at the conference. Mr
Perry said that the constitution had
been amended at the October conference
in order to meet the position he had
mentioned, but owing to several difficul-
ties it had not been possible to bring
the alterations into effect.

The meeting then proceeded to elect
the three delegates to represent the as-
sociation personally at the conference,
and the following were appointed—
Messrs W. Perry, A. B. Sievwright, and
J. D. Harper. The remaining delegates
whose proxies are to be handed to the
three gentlemen mentioned were also
elected by the meeting.

Considerable discussion took place re-
garding the personal files of returned sol-
diers. It was asserted that the police
had access to the military files of sol-
diers, which practice, it was held, should
not be allowed.

Mr M. Badger urged that soldiers who
were defending returned soldiers' pri-
vacy should have the right to peruse
the medical files of their clients in or-
der that full information should be ob-
tainable for the preparation of the de-
fence.

Mr A. B. Sievwright contended that
all files should be kept inviolate behind
the doors of Base Records. Informa-
tion regarding soldiers' military records
could be obtained by solicitors from their
clients, or from the latter's friends.

Mr W. Bell moved: "That this associa-
tion views with great apprehension rum-
ours that the private files of ex-soldiers
are open to the police, and requests the
Government to publicly reaffirm the ab-
solute inviolability of the secrecy of such
files."

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr A. B. Sievwright proposed the fol-
lowing remit to the annual conference:
"That in all appointments to the New
Zealand Staff Corps, commissioned offi-
cers of the N.Z.R.F. shall have equal
opportunities, and members of the pre-
war permanent staff shall not be pre-
judiced."

The remit was adopted, Mr Sievwright
having pointed out that instances were
on record where pre-war permanent
n.c.o.'s who had gained commissions in
the field had, on return to New Zealand,
been compelled to revert to their pre-
war commissioned rank, and thus been
prejudiced in securing appointment to the
Staff Corps.

Looking out of my window this morn-
ing I noticed Mr Crosby Smith intensely
interested in the "fernery" outside the
News Office. Crosby was arrayed in the
splendour of a "banjo" and was very busy
digging and making preparations for the
ferns, etc. His smile was one consistent
with congenial surroundings. We feel sure
that the Council will be pleased at the re-
cent acquisition to the staff.

A placard upon the trams just now pro-
claims "Startling News for the Prime,"
and then follows something about creep-
de-chine, etc. The transparency of creep-
de-chine would be rather startling for His
Royal Highness, especially in Southland's
climate. We are wondering what you
mean, Abraham!

A harmonious gathering of children's
dresses, coats, etc., for winter wear.
Come in and let us demonstrate our
ability to serve you. Hundreds of
children's dresses to choose from in an-
viseable materials and smart styles.
Children's dresses in colonial tweeds; sizes
16in to 24in, 9/6 to 27/6; sizes 27in to
33in, 21/6 to 42/6; sizes 36in to 45in, 26/6
to 59/6. Dresses in velvet, sizes, 9/11 to 29/6. Dresses in flannel,
from 25/6 to 45/6. Boys' tunics in flannel,
velvet, and drills, 6/11 to 25/6. Trouser
suits to match. Also a splendid showing of
infants' dresses in radiance, cashmere, silk
and tussore, 6/11 to 19/6; children's over-
alls in endless variety, 26/6 to 69/6.
Specials made to order at 11. and J.
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cargill, and Gore.