

HOTCH! SCOTCH! POTCH!

(Contributed by "The Groper.")

"The Groper" is perplexed by reason of the difficulties presented in the Land and Income Tax return forms required by His Majesty's Government in N.Z. Commonwealth. He is unable to write. It is suggested that the dairy farmer and bottle gatherer peruse the following—it will be of assistance in filling up the forms. "The Groper" feels sure that the Commissioner will have no difficulty in assessing the tax.

THE INVENTORY.

(Robert Burns).

In answer to a mandate by the Surveyor of the Taxes.

Sir, as your mandate did request,
I send you here a faithful list,
O' gudes and gear, an' a' my graitu,
To which I'm clear to gie my aith.

Imprimis, then, for carriage cattle,
I have four brutes o' gallant mettle,
As ever drew afore a pettle.

My lan' afore's a gude auld has been,
An' wight an' wilfu' a' his days been,
My lan' ahin's a weel gaun filie,
That aft has borne me hame frae Killie,

An' your auld burro mony a time,
In days when riding was nae crime—
But ance, when in my wooing pride,
I like a blockhead boast to ride

The wilfu' creature sac I pat to,
(L-d pardon a' my sins an' that too!)
I play'd my fillie sic a shavie,
She's a' bedevilled wi' the spavie.

My fur ahin's a wordy beast,
As e'er in tug or tow was trac'd.
The fourth's a Highland Donald Hastie,
A d—n'd red wud Kilburnie blastie!

Forbye a cowt o' cowt's the wale,
As ever ran afore a tail.

If he be spar'd to be a beast,
He'll draw me fifteen pun' at least—
Wheel carriages I ha'e but few,

Three carts, an' twa are feckly new;
Ae auld wheelbarrow, mair nor token,
Ae leg an' baith the trams are broken;

I made a poker o' the spin'le,
'A' my auld nither brunt the trin'le.

Fog men I've three mischievous boys,
Run de'ils for ratin' an' for noise;
A gaudsman ane, a thrasher t'other.

Wee Davock hands the nowt in fother,
I rule them as I ought, discreetly,
An' aften labour them completely;

A n' ay on Sundays duly, nightly,
I on the questions targe them tightly;
Till, faith, wee Davock's turn'd sae gleg

Tho's scarcely langer than your leg,
He'll screech you aff Effectual Calling,
As fast as any in the dwelling.

I've pane in female servan' station,
(Lord keep me ay frae a' temptation!)
I ha'e nae wife—and that my bliss is,

An' ye have laid na tax on misses;
An' then, if kirk folks dinna clutch me,
I ken the devils darena touch me.

Wi' weans I'm mair than weel contented
Heaven's sent me ane mae than I wanted
My sounie smirking dear-bought bess,

She stares the daddy in her face,
Enough of ought ye like but grace,
But her, my bonnie sweet wee racy

I've paid enough for her already,
An' gin ye tax her on her nither,
By the J-d' ye'se get them a' thegither.

And now, remember, Mr Aiken,
Nae kind of licence out I'm takin';
Frae this time forth, I do declare

I se ne'er ride horses any mair;
Thro' dirt and dub for life I'll paidle,
Ere I sae dear pay for a saddle;

My travel a' on foot I'll shank it,
I've sturdy bearers, Gude be thankit.
The kirk and you may tak' you that,

It puts but little in your pat;
Sae dinna put me in your buke,
Nor for my ten white shilling luke.

This list wi' my ain hand I wrote it,
The day and date as under noted;
Then know all ye whom it concerns.

—Robert Burns.

NEW ZEALAND RETURNED
SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION.

OTAGO DISTRICT.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF SUB-
COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the District Sub-Committee was held in the rooms of the Dunedin Association on May 26, 1920. Present:—Messrs R. P. Jones, chairman (Dunedin), T. Miller (Mosgiel), A. C. Laing (Balclutha), and C. M. Smith, hon. secretary (Dunedin).

Apologies.—An apology for absence was received from Mr C. R. McLean.

Minutes.—The minutes of the previous

meeting were read, and on the motion of Mr Miller, seconded by Mr Laing, were confirmed.

Accounts.—The following accounts were passed for payment:—Hon. Members Badges (Moller and Son), £5 1s; delegates' expenses (F. C. Blake £3 0s 8d, J. F. Walsh £1 8s 6d), £4 9s 2d; typing (D. M. Sigel), £1 10s; badge black (headquarters), 3s; stationery (Conill-Culling), 17s 6d. Total £12 0s 8d.

Headquarters' Correspondence.—The following circulars from headquarters were received and tabled: Circular Nos. 160, 164, 166, and 167, re visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. Circular No. 161, re Land Bill. Circular No. 165, re appointment of solicitor. Circular No. 168, re transfers. Circular No. 169, re transfers. Circular No. 172, re D.S.S. Act. Circular No. 173, re Financial Assistance Board. Circular No. 175, re Birdwood. Minutes of executive sub-committee, 9, 10, and 11, and minutes of Dominion Executive of May 4, 1920.

Conference.—Circulars number 170 and 171a, and letter of 21st April re the Dominion Conference, were received from Headquarters.

New Constitution.—Circular number 162, re the above from Headquarters, was received and referred to the Council without a recommendation.

Aims of N.Z.R.S.A.—A letter from Headquarters re the above was received. It was moved by Mr Laing, seconded by Mr Miller, and carried "That the secretary make arrangements to forward a copy of this letter to local Associations."

T.B. Patients.—A letter from Headquarters (21/5/20) was received. It was decided that a copy of this letter be forwarded to each local Association. It was moved by Mr Laing, seconded by Mr McCrack and carried "That all further business be referred to the District Council." The meeting then closed.

FURNITURE.

To those in search of Quality and Value, Inspect our Stock and get our Quotations. We carry the Largest Stocks in Invercargill, all of Our Own Manufacture. . .

W. STRANG & CO.,

THE LOCAL FURNITURE FIRM,
ESK & KELVIN STREETS, INVERCARGILL.

MAKING A BIG NOISE

YES, WE ARE. THAT'S THE WAY WE LET YOU HEAR OF OUR

Big Sale Bargains

6 Dozen LADIES' UNDERSKIRTS, all shades. Usual price 9/11, 10/6, and 11/6. Sale Price, 8/11.
LADIES' SAMPLE SILK ANKLE HOSE. Usual price 7/11 and 6/11. Sale Price, 3/11 pair
LADIES' COLOURED CREPE BLOUSES. Usual price 11/6. Sale Price, 7/6.
A few LADIES' SILK BLOUSES left. Usual price 27/6. Sale Price, 15/6.
43 Dozen Pairs LADIES' BLACK CASHMERE FINISH HOSE. Usual price 2/6 pair. Sale Price, 1/6 pair.

ALL LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S MILLINERY TO BE CLEARED BELOW COST.

90 Dozen LADIES' FUTURIST HANDKERCHIEFS. Usual price 1/- each. Sale Price, 6d each, or in dozen lots 5/-.
One only LADIES' ROSLYN SPORTS COATS. Usual price 48/6. Sale Price, 17/6.
One Only GIRLS' RAINCOAT; fit girl about 12 years. Usual price 42/6. Sale Price, 25/-.
100 Dozen LADIES' LINEN FINISH HANDKERCHIEFS. Usual price 1/2 each. Sale Price, 3 for 2/3.

TULLY'S DRAPERY SUPPLY SALE,

NEXT NEWS OFFICE, DEE STREET.



Joey M.P.

Is that him? Shouted the kid aloud!
From his father's shoulder in the crowd.
See, that one there, I'm pointing at,
The one in the shiny big top-hat.
His dad replied, No that's not him,
T's our local Member, staunch and true,
T's not the Prince, oh, no! oh, no!
T's just M.P. is "good old Joe."

SOUTH OTAGO NOTES.

Weather conditions locally are ideal, cold frosty nights, being followed with nice sunny days.

When General Birdwood passed through Balclutha on his way to Invercargill, he was accorded a reception at the railway station. The school children—Standards V., VI., VII.—were drawn up and there were also good crowds of returned soldiers and citizens. The General was accorded hearty cheers, and he gave the youngsters a holiday. He spoke to several Gallipoli men and others, and as the train steamed out, was sent off with such expressions as "Cheer-oh, Birdie," "What's the matter with Birdie?" etc., etc. He was also cordially welcomed at Milton.

A poll was taken last week to determine whether a loan of £1000 should be raised for river protection work. Out of a roll of 444, only 67 exercised the right to vote, and of these 66 voted for the loan, and one against. Only 67 ratepayers interested enough in the protection of their property? Seems to me there is something wrong somewhere. When the mighty Molyneux is running bank high and there are dozens of citizens filling sandbags blocking up leakages in the bank, there is more interest.

"Man came into the world first, woman after, and she has been after him ever since," is an old saying. Following the lead of the men of the town, the ladies have formed a Literary and Debating Society. Good luck to them. The men's club are longing to cross swords with the fair sex in an inter-club debate. It should be interesting, especially if the subject should be something like "Should woman's suffrage be abolished?"

The men's club had a debate on Tuesday, when the subject was "That a fallen soldier's memorial should be monumental and not utilitarian." Good arguments were given for both sides and an interesting evening resulted.

At a special meeting of the Bruce County Council last week, the coal mine owners of the Kaitangata-Wangaloa district met the Council and discussed the question of upkeep of the roads from the mines. After discussion it was decided that a royalty on the coal be paid for the purpose of providing funds for the maintenance and upkeep of the roads.

Balclutha's streets are at present in a bad state. Clyde street especially so. This is no doubt accounted for by the fact that the Council are laying the mains to the new waterworks, and traffic is confined to the centre. When the water is laid on

we hope it will be a vast improvement to the old supply.

The position of the various clubs in Banner Competition now is:—Crescent 10 points, Toko 6, Clutha 4, Owaka 2. Crescent having six matches and won five.

On Saturday last, the Otago team visited Balclutha and played against the local club. The game was very even one, the score at half-time being two all. In the second spell the secured another goal, thus winning 3 to 2. In the evening the visitors were entertained at an enjoyable dance in Oddfellows Hall.

On Saturday night Mr and Mrs T. Morrison, who have been residents of Balclutha for the past 15 years, and who have taken an active part in musical circles of the town, were entertained at a musical evening by the Balclutha Pipe Band. The recipients of a framed photograph of the band, a set of Doulton ware and an oak tray, and a letter of appreciation. Mrs Morrison are taking up their residence in Waimate and leave for there next week.

SOCIAL NOTES

Miss Brass, Ness street, gave a most enjoyable dance on Friday evening last.

Mrs Fosberry Handyside, "Wellington" gave a small "Tea" on Tuesday afternoon.

Mrs and Miss Rutherford, Auckland, were the guests of Mrs Leonard Webb, Balclutha.

Miss Smith, Gala street, gave a delightful dance for young people last week.

The marriage of Miss Field and Neuth, took place on Monday morning last at All Saint's Church, Glasgow. Among the guests I noticed: Dr. and Mrs. McCaw, Mr and Mrs O'Beirne, Mrs Morrah, Mr and Mrs Webb, the Misses Tucker, Mrs and Miss Fraser, Mrs Bush, Mrs and Miss Fraser, and Mrs Bicknell, Miss McCaw, Mr and Mrs Handyside, Mr and Mrs Brock, Miss Morrah, Mr and Mrs Hall-Jones, and Mrs Cuthbertson, Miss N. Thompson, Messrs Cameron, Watson, Bush, Brown, Tait, and many others.

The saints are always nearest sin, This world of wickedness within; And though they claim to be the best, They're just as wicked as the rest. Though Pharisees with every breath, Declare they have no fear of death, When colds are rife they're always To rush for Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.