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INVERCARGILL R.S.A.

BI-MONTHLY MEETING.

The bi-monthly meeting of the Invercargill Returned Soldiers' Association was held in the Club Rooms on Friday night, the president, Mr D. Rae, in the chair. There was a large attendance.

The Band Question.

The contentious question of an official band was again discussed. There was a notice of motion before the meeting "that the question of having an official band be again considered, and that the motion appointing the Hibernian Band be rescinded if necessary."

Before asking the mover of the notice of motion to put it to the meeting, the chairman said that there had been further developments in the matter, and asked the secretary to read a letter from the Hibernian Band.

The secretary then read a letter from the band, tendering its resignation as the official band of the Association. The letter stated that the band had no objection to acting in that capacity if it was so desired by the Association, but it did not desire to cause any unpleasantness, nor did it care for the manner in which the band's name had been brought into the discussion at last meeting.

The resignation was accepted without discussion, the chairman and Messrs Glass and Caws expressing their opinion that the work of the Association was too serious and too important to risk dissension being caused by such a petty matter as the appointment of a band. It was resolved that the Hibernian Band be written to and thanked for the valuable services it had rendered the Association in the past.

The band question was then discussed in committee, and the outcome of the discussion was a resolution, later confirmed in open meeting, that there be no official band connected with the Association.

The D.S.S. Act Suspension.

This important question was again keenly discussed, and in connection with it the following resolution was put to the meeting:—

In connection with the land settlement question it was resolved: "That this meeting of returned soldiers having taken into consideration the statements of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Lands regarding the finance of the dominion, and the possible effect of the continuance of the present scheme of advances under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act in further increasing the price of land, still considers that the only equitable and honourable course open for Parliament is, (a) to make the benefits of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act available to all soldiers at present entitled to these benefits, and so to avoid penalising many soldiers who have recently returned to New Zealand, or have lately completed their period of training under the Repatriation Department; and (b) to provide that any loss incurred in so doing shall be borne by the country as a whole."

Mr A. Glass, in speaking to the motion, said that there was a great danger of the present temporary suspension becoming permanent, and he considered that they should not let the matter rest at the passing of a resolution, but they should carry the war right into the enemy's camp, if he could use that expression. In one district in Southland, for instance, there was a Cabinet Minister, and Cabinet Ministers were susceptible. Consequently, if public meetings were held throughout his district, and the proposed resolution carried unanimously, reports would reach him, and would tend to cause him to weaken. Such a campaign was to be conducted all over the Dominion, and Southland would have to fall into line and work. It was imperative that something be done this session, or not at all, because the position was serious. Wounded men, for instance, just coming out of hospital now, could not get a house on any consideration. As Secretary of the Repatriation Department, he could assure them that during last week he had five or six such men up to see him. Naturally, they were getting an embittered outlook as the result of the suspension of the Act. They had been banking on getting the same privileges as the fit men who were able to get in early. The Government had said that there was no more money available, but it was the Government's duty to find more. All the Association asked was Cabinet's assurance that the suspension was only temporary. At the conference in Wellington neither

Mr Massey or the Hon. Mr Guthrie would commit the Government to such an assurance, but had simply quibbled and evaded the question from start to finish.

Mr R. B. Caws said the Association would certainly have to become more aggressive, and convince the public that its requests were reasonable, and that they were going to demand reasonable treatment. He endorsed Mr Glass's remarks, and appealed to all members to support the Association in its pending publicity campaign.

Mr P. Gilledder said that he believed the main stumbling block was that the Government did not want to grant money for men to buy houses at inflated values. He also considered that a young inexperienced man going on a farm was putting a good farmer out, so tending to decrease production. Perhaps the Government looked at the matter from that view-point.

Mr Hall-Jones said that the last point was an interesting one, though he did not agree with it. The Government's policy had been a failure insofar that it had caused inflation of land values, but the position with regard to buildings he believed was different. Increased prices of building materials had caused the cost of building to rise in proportion, and he was convinced that the rise was permanent. He thought that the scheme outlined by headquarters was the remedy. It proposed that the Government should purchase a big block of land, on to which it could put the major portion of the men desiring to be settled. If enough land could not be obtained then the Government should purchase by compulsion certain proportions of large estates and private holdings, till the demand for land by returned soldiers was satisfied. The Government's values could be determined by a Board set up for the purpose, and so inflation could be avoided. If 10,000 men were so settled, there would be few left to be settled under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act. At present few men were being settled by the ballot and many by the purchase system. That was the cause of inflated values, and the Government wanted to reverse its policy.

The Headquarters' scheme was proposed by the President of the Farmers' Union in Wellington, and it should be pointed out to the Prime Minister that if he was frightened that the continuance of the present policy would tend to increase values, he had his remedy. Mr Glass made reference to a clause in the Act which stated that a vendor should take a certain proportion of purchase money from the Government. In War Bonds, but as that clause was optional it was inoperative. Thus the complete payment in cash enabled the vendor to commence land speculation. The motion was carried unanimously.

A committee, consisting of Messrs A. Glass, F. G. Hall-Jones, R. B. Caws, W. Murphy, P. Gilledder, T. Blake and G. Connor, with power to add, was then appointed, for the purpose of pushing on a campaign for the restoration of clause 2 of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act.

LOVE ON "TIPS."

Snookers true love for Maggie does not run smoothly, and often he is "no speak-in' to her." But finally the rival is vanquished, and the two cement their affections with lozenges and a ham tea. This is possible, because Tam has become "gey guid" at the tipping game. He discusses the art with a railway recruit:—

"How much did ye mak' the day, Bob?" he inquired.

"Three-dee."

"I got twa bob."

"Jingo! ye're lucky. Hoo is it ye get sa much?"

"Giein them the nod."

"The nod?"

"Ay."

"Ye see, it's like this. First of a', ye've got to hae a lauchin' face an' show yersel' willin', wheter ye're willin' or no. Jump about an' keep 'sirr'in' them. They're awfu' fond o' the 'sirr,' specially them that are no toffs."

His success was built solidly upon a knowledge of human nature.

A compilation of the physical measurements of the men in the United States service during the war, shows there was an average gain of 3.35 pounds in weight and .23 inches in height during the period of service.

GARDEN NOTES.

PRUNING SMALL-FRUIT TREES.

Red and white currants fruit upon the old wood as well as the new. Their pruning should be modified. Cut out all thin and surplus growth, leaving only strong shoots and those pointing outward and in the right direction. These should be shortened back to one-half their length, as there is always a danger of these young shoots splitting down at the bud of the shoot when they are in their young stage and green if long pruning be adopted. This may to a certain extent be avoided if, when the young shoots have made growth 12in to 15in in length, they are gone over with a pair of clippers, snipping off the points of each shoot. This checks them, and they get thicker and stouter, but do not grow so long, therefore are not so likely to be injured by the wind, and they are better fitted to produce a good supply of fruit than if left very long. The thinning out should be in a similar manner to the black currants.

Raspberries should be cut hard back to within 12in of the ground the first season—that is, the season of planting. By this much stronger canes are produced than if left the usual length. Four canes will be sufficient to leave the next season, and from then onward six or eight, and even ten canes may be left in each clump where the growth is very strong and vigorous, but this should be the extreme number to leave. At the same time, remove all surplus growth and dead canes from the previous season's growth. In windy places a good plan is to arch them—that is to take the half of each clump and bend them over and tie their heads to the half of the next clump, giving the appearance of rows of arches. They fruit just as well, and look tidy, but are perhaps not quite so convenient to get among as it is a matter of choice whether they be tied upright or in arches except that for windy or exposed situations I prefer the arching. In either case, after each clump has been tied, the tops of the canes should be cut well back to near the string or where they have been tied. Also see that all straggling suckers are dug up—that is, those canes that come up a few inches or feet away from the clump. Then rake up and burn all clippings, so as to get rid of all the borer grub that may be in the old canes. Give the ground a good digging and a dressing with fresh stable manure.

STRAWBERRIES.

Those who are anticipating planting should lose no time in getting them in, but do not go upon the ground if it is very sodden. Never plant anything—flowers or fruit—when the ground is in a sloppy condition. It is not only bad for plants or trees, but for the ground also.

THE GREENHOUSE.

We shall have to be on guard against severe frosts, so those who have cinerarias, pelargoniums, zonales, and such plants will require to watch that they do not get frosted, as small greenhouses cannot resist extremes of frost. Upon all such occasions care should be taken to cover up at night all such plants with sheets of paper—brown paper preferred—and keep them on until the frost is out of the house. If anything happens and they are not covered up, and the frost gets in upon the plants, cover them up at once as soon as you see them in the morning before the sun reaches them, as it is the sun, the sudden change from the frozen state to the warmth and light, that ruptures the tissues of the plants, causing death if the frost be very severe. If the covering is kept on and the plants kept dark until well into the middle of the day, when the appearance of frost has disappeared inside the house, no harm will be done. Care should be taken not to water the plants unless they really need it, neither should water be slopped about among them, but keep the atmosphere of the house as dry, warm, and buoyant as possible during the very cold weather.

A FRAGMENT.

Love in her sunny eyes does basking play;
Love walks the pleasant mazes of her hair;
Love does on both her lips for ever stray,
And sows and reaps a thousand kisses there;
In all her outward parts Love's always seen;
But oh! he never went within.

—Abraham Cowley.

London's education bill for the year ending March, 1921, is estimated at over £10,000,000.

MOTORING NOTES.

SUBSTITUTES FOR PETROL.

During the world war the Canadians distilled a petrol substitute from waste straw. The Greeks ran their motors on a liquid distilled from trees. In Sweden motors were operated on fish oil. Turkey moved motor trucks on mustard oil and the Germans used a petrol substitute not known, but which has a sickly, sweetish odour.

SALE OF SLOUGH MOTOR DEPOT.

The British Ministry of Munitions announces that the motor transport repair depot at Crippenham, Slough, has been sold for £3,350,000. The depot has cost the Government £2,500,000 so that the nation realises a profit of £850,000 on the transaction. The purchasers of the depot also acquire the whole of the motor transport and spare parts remaining unsold for a minimum sum of £3,650,000 this amount to be increased proportionately according to the sale price realised by the buyers on the resale of the vehicles. The total amount so far realised, including the above sum of £3,650,000, for the sale of motor transport is £17,650,000, of which £4,500,000 is in respect of vehicles which have been repaired and conditioned at Slough since the work commenced nine months ago.

ROAD CORRUGATIONS.

Dealing with road corrugations, or waves, which are well known drawbacks to modern road travel, Mr Francis Wood, in a recently published book on road construction, briefly reviews the various theories for them. It is thought by some that road waves are due to incorrect rolling when the surface is first laid, but the author contends that this cannot be so since the corrugations appear on asphalt, which is rolled, not only lengthways, but across and in half circles and also in wood pavements, which are not subjected to rolling of any kind. He is of opinion that road corrugations, or waves, are caused by the action of vehicle springs, which are compressed in the instance by small irregularities on the surface, and subsequently go on vibrating with a periodicity more or less similar, so that the weight of the vehicle when the spring compresses has the effect of a blow on the surface. These blows in their turn cause slight depressions, which gradually develop and prevent the springs coming to rest. This theory is accepted by many well known road experts, and it probably represents the correct answer to this puzzle.

THE HUMIDIFIER.

Time and again have experiments been made on the value of injecting water made on the value of injecting water-vapour into the cylinders of internal combustion engines. It is contended that water vapour with the fuel is split up into its constituent elements, oxygen and hydrogen, which assist in the combustion of the fuel, and a new humidifier has been designed for supplying the necessary water vapour. On the dashboard of the vehicle is carried an adjustable valve, by means of which the admission of air to the engine is regulated. This is connected to the humidifier, which consists of a metal water tank containing an arrangement of wicks, which act similarly to the old-time wick carburetors. The air passes over the upper ends of these wicks, extracting water vapour from them, and so becomes saturated with moisture. It then passes along a tube which leads to the inlet manifold of the engine. Several advantages are said to be obtained by the use of this humidifier, among which are a substantial decrease in the fuel consumption, and, by the resulting improved combustion, the abolition of carbon deposit in the cylinders. Improvements in the flexibility and acceleration are also claimed and engine knocking on hills prevented.

FORCED INHERITANCE.

During the battle of Paschendaele a seriously wounded Gordon Highlander was brought into one of the Canadian Dressing stations. The surgeon noticed he was wearing a fine gold wrist watch. "Where did you get that, Scotty?" he asked. Scotty merely smiled at the time, but on being told that the chances were against him, he later confided the story to the doctor. "I took a Heine prisoner who was wearin' yon watch. 'Will ye gie me it?' eskit him. He shookit his head. I eskit him the second time. He shookit his head agin. 'For the third and last time, as a gentleman,' I sez, 'will ye gie me that watch?' Heine shookit his head. "But you got it?" "Well, efter that I simply inherited it."