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NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Tetumutu Station has changed hands at £45 per acre.

The New Zealand Alliance has concluded its 34th annual meeting in Wellington.

The no-confidence amendment of the Labour party was defeated by 39 votes to 16.

Mr Bonar Law stated that the suggestion to establish an Allied Court in Holland to try the ex-Kaiser was impracticable.

The British and American tobacco interests are negotiating for the purchase of French interests, thereby creating a monopoly of the tobacco trade.

A Melbourne message states that the Northern Territory officials who were asked to resign are replying by letters of protest. The Government will shortly appoint new officials.

At a public meeting held in Cromwell recently it was decided to extend to Sir William Fraser some recognition of his long period of service as member for Wakatipu.

A very pleasant evening was spent in the Otautau Town Hall recently. The Junior Bible Class and Senior Sunday School classes of the Presbyterian Church held a social.

A recent paragraph in the Clutha "Leader" states "It is a peculiar thing that in all countries which tried PROPORTIONAL representation, it failed to give complete satisfaction." Then why not call it distortional representation and be done with it?

N. J. Howard, Labour member, said in the House: "We shall alter the Parliamentary oath when the Labour party comes into power. We shall include an oath of loyalty to the people who sent us here."

In the House of Representatives Mr A. Hamilton drew attention to a letter in the "Dominion" from a former resident of Nauru in which it was stated that there was no necessity for shipping the phosphate rock for treatment to New Zealand. It could be treated on the island, where there was up-to-date machinery for that purpose. Mr Massey said he would refer this matter to the new commissioner in order to obtain the facts.

A list of 24 New Zealand soldiers who lost their sight during the war has been compiled by the Commercial Travellers' Association, of Wellington, in connection with the administration of its fund for the assistance of blind soldiers. The association collected £24300 for this purpose, and has still £2770 in hand. The expenditure comprised grants of £500 to St. Dunstan's Hospital for the Blind, London, of £200 to one man, and of £100 each to nine others.

A bullock which was claimed to be of record size was exhibited in Wanganui last week en route to the Hawera Show. It is stated that the animal stood 14 hands, was 14ft in girth, measured 12ft from head to tail, and weighed 3500lb. In the best condition the animal would easily weigh a few hundreds more. The bullock was rising six years, a Hereford-Shorthorn cross in breed, and was bred on the Taieri Plains in Otago. His owners intend to take him to Australia, and thence to Canada and England.

The statement by the Under-Secretary for Lands, Mr T. N. Brodrick, that the block system of settling soldiers on the land had proved very unpopular with returned soldiers, was referred to recently by the secretary to the Auckland Returned Soldiers' Association, Mr E. F. Andrews. In a letter to the Auckland Farmers' Union Mr Brodrick said that two suitable blocks in North Auckland, aggregating about 10,000 acres, were offered for settlement on the block system, but after they had been available for about two years without finding any soldiers willing to work on them as proposed, the scheme had to be abandoned. Mr Andrews states that his association had heard nothing of the two blocks, and had not been asked to find men to work them.

OTAUTAU.

The monthly meeting, held in the Board Room on Monday evening, was attended by Messrs W. J. Wesney (chairman), L. Thomson, C. N. Lawless, W. Porteous, A. N. Holmes, G. Sinclair, J. Kirk and T. A. Mooney.

It was decided that the secretary forward a list to Mr Grant to take subscriptions to erect a sheep drive at the railway sheep yards, and that the secretary also apply to the Stock Agents' Association for a further grant of £5.

The secretary was instructed to write to Winton Competitions Society asking for information re competitions held there; and that the League run competitions, the district to consist of the Wallace County. It was also decided that the competitions be held before the Fete.

It was decided to donate £25 to the school fife and drum band for uniforms.

Owing to the fact that the school children were breaking trees at the recreation ground the Town Board be asked to erect notices that persons damaging public property will be prosecuted.

That Holmes write to Mr Tannock inquiring re suitable trees to plant along the streets.

It was resolved to ask permission from the Town Board to plant trees on the main street from the railway to Chester street.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting, held on Monday evening, was attended by Messrs G. H. Stevens (chairman), A. N. Holmes, E. Harrington, T. J. Walker, G. Sinclair and T. A. Mooney.

The headmaster's report, which read as follows, was adopted.—I have to report that the roll number at present is 225—123 boys and 94 girls. The average attendance for June was only 181.7 out of an average of 221. This very poor average was due to influenza and the after effects of vaccination.

During the month the Board's physical instructor, Mr Reid, spent a day at the school and expressed himself as being very pleased with the manner in which the various squads carried out their exercises and drill. Mr Bligh, the Australasian lecturer of the White Cross League, also visited the school. This visit should be productive of much good. Owing to instructions received from the Education Office, arrangements were made with Dr. Stewart to visit the school for the purpose of vaccinating those pupils whose parents wished them to be done. About 140 children and adults availed themselves of this opportunity. Owing to the height of the school fireplaces being out of proportion to their depth during certain winds, three of them smoke badly. This is very trying to both teachers and scholars. A piece of tin let in under the mantelpiece would, I think, remedy the evil. As the woodshed is about completed we are in a position to store the sawdust, sheep dip, etc., which our caretaker intends using for cleaning purposes.

Accounts amounting to £4 11s 6d were passed for payment.

The secretary was instructed to get a man to cut up the wood.

It was decided to arrange for an entertainment, to be held in November, to raise funds for prizes and improvements to grounds.

Mr Holmes reported that he had visited the school during the month and had found everything satisfactory.

Messrs Sinclair and Mooney were appointed a visiting committee for the month.

It was decided that the chimneys mentioned in the Headmaster's report be left in the hands of the chairman to have them attended to.

COUNTRY FOOTBALL.

WAIANIWA (11), WRIGHT'S BUSH (0).

On Saturday last the Waianiwa football team journeyed to Wright's Bush and in spite of the determined opposition of the latter team were again successful in defeating their opponents. In spite of a wet ground and a difficult ball the play was generally fast and open and many dashes of spectacular play were witnessed by the numerous spectators, a large proportion of whom were ladies.

In the opening stages of the game Wright's Bush were compelled to force down many times in succession owing to the vigorous attack of Waianiwa forwards and also partly to injudicious kicking near the defending line. Half way through the first spell D. Wilson smartly fielded the ball and after a strong clean run scored in good position. The play coursed up and down the field and half-time saw no alteration in the score.

Wright's Bush then attacked strongly from the jump, and Waianiwa spent an anxious fifteen minutes, just managing to

resist the vigorous rushes of their opponents. The play then shifted back to half-way and W. Townsend secured and dashing down the line scored a fine try in the corner. E. Galt narrowly missed the posts with a fine kick. The crisis was now passed and Waianiwa returned to the attack with renewed vigor. From a scrum near half-way J. Lindsay sent the ball out to D. Wilson, who transferred to McCaw. The latter after a strong run was tackled, however, and D. Galt securing dashed over and scored near the posts. J. Ewart goaled with a well-judged kick. Waianiwa 11, Wright's Bush nil. Shortly after time was called with no further alteration in the score.

G. Carter, Ryan and McDougall, in the forwards, and Rogers, Cameron and Slaughter, in the backs, were conspicuous amongst the Wright's Bush players; while Eric Galt, W. Wilson, J. Ewart, D. Wilson, and J. Brown at full-back, were the outstanding members of a doughty combination. Mr A. McLeod controlled the game in a very impartial manner.

After the game both teams adjourned to the hall and did ample justice to the good things provided by the hospitable Wright's Bush ladies, who deserve great credit for the large share they took in the afternoon's entertainment.

WAIKAKA VALLEY NOTES.

The Farm.—Since last writing the atmospheric conditions have continued unusually favourable, and apart from an occasional heavy burst, the rainfall has been considerably less than last season, and ploughing operations are well advanced for this period of the year. As far as can be ascertained at present, there will be an increased area under the plough this season. During the war period the scarcity of labour and other conditions compelled the farmer to lessen the area under the plough, with the consequent result that the depletion of grass on many farms has, with the coming of normal times, caused farmers to plough up and lay down more land in order to renew the pastures and increase production.

Mutual Improvement.—The local Mutual Improvement Society, which has lain dormant since 1915, has been resuscitated this winter, and although the attendances have been somewhat indifferent, some successful meetings have been held. The Society has adopted the policy of procuring, if possible, contributions from returned soldiers, who have willingly acceded to the request of the Society and contributed papers. So far papers have been delivered by Mr Robt. Cumming on "A Trip to the Dardanelles after the Armistice," by Mr A. R. Johnston on "Impressions of Bonnie Scotland," and by Mr H. P. McIntyre on "A Few War Reminiscences from Camp to Egypt," and other contributions have been arranged for from returned soldiers.

Farewell Socials.—Prior to their departure from the district for their new home at Roslyn, Dunedin, Mr and Mrs A. J. Nichol were entertained at a farewell social in the church, Rev. A. Gow presiding. Interspersed throughout the programme were several vocal selections by the choir and others. At a suitable period Mr Gow, on behalf of the assembled gathering, presented the departing guests with a large framed photo as a parting memento, and made eulogistic reference to Mr Nichol's great work in connection with the church. Several others followed, speaking appreciatively of Mr Nichol's faithful work in connection with religious work, Farmers' Union work, education work, and all the district organisations, to which Mr Nichol made a suitable response. Mr Nichol, who has disposed of his well-known property to his sons, left recently for his new home. Another farewell social took place in the Benio Hall on the evening of July 2, when, despite the pouring rain, there was a good gathering assembled to bid farewell to Mr and Mrs Alex. McIntyre and Mr D. R. McIntyre, of Benio, on the eve of their departure to take over their recently-acquired properties in the Wenden Valley district. A short musical programme was submitted, and during the evening presentations of a suitable nature were made to the departing residents, one and all wishing them long life and prosperity in their new sphere of life.

Wedding Bells.—Wedding bells continue to ring locally, the latest to report taking place at Gore Presbyterian Church, when Mr A. M. Johnston, son of Mr and Mrs G. P. Johnston, Maitland, was married to Miss Helen Henderson, of Motherwell, Scotland. Another wedding of local interest was that of Miss M. Donald, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Donald, of Maitland, to Mr A. Henderson, of Waikaka.

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THE HOUSE OF DANGER (Guy Thorne).

GUILE (Headon Hill).

THE LOST MR LINTHWAITE (J. S. Fletcher).

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