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### FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE.

### IN MEMORIAM.

BUTLER.—In loving remembrance of Private Francis Joseph, of Round Hill, who was killed in action, somewhere in France, on July 18, 1918. R.I.P.

With aching hearts we shook his hand,  
Tears glistening in our eyes;  
We wished him luck, but never thought  
it was our last good-bye.  
The war is really over, to some these  
words sound nice  
But, oh, the sad hearts of those whose  
loved ones paid the price.  
Could we have stood beside his grave  
and seen him laid to rest,  
The blow would not have been so hard,  
For those who loved him best.  
—Inserted by his mother and sisters.

GIBBS.—In loving memory of Lance-Corporal J. Gibbs, killed in France, on July 22, 1917, beloved eldest son of Mr and Mrs H. Gibbs, Centre Bush.

Far away from those who loved him,  
Comrades laid him down to rest.  
In a hero's grave he's sleeping,  
One of God's bravest and best.  
We who love you sadly miss you,  
As it dawns another year;  
In the lonely hours of thinking  
Thoughts of you are ever dear.  
We are thinking of you often,  
In that grave not far away;  
How we wish that you were with us,  
For we miss you day by day.  
—Inserted by his loving father, mother,  
brothers, and sisters. 3175

## "The Digger."

FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1920.

### T.B. MEN.

The treatment meted out to T.B. men does not seem to be all that is desired, despite ministerial assurances. Our minds are still fresh with the circumstances of the travelling Medical Board which toured the country, and discharged men who required treatment for some time to come. Their wings were to some extent clipped by the widespread disapproval of returned soldiers, backed by public opinion. It would seem, from the position of men who have received treatment at the Cashmere Hills Sanatorium, that men are still discharged who should be under treatment. The assurance of Mr Guthrie that everything possible was being done for these men does not satisfactorily explain the unsatisfactory set of conditions existing. The statement that men in sanatoria were being treated by the medical staff under the Defence Department is all very well, but where we complain is that the department seem too anxious to get these men off their hands. The "after care" officers, that the Minister assures us are distributed throughout the length and

breadth of the country, have certainly become more prominent since the R.S.A. Conference entered its emphatic disapproval of the treatment of T.B. men. Prior to that, it is very questionable if the majority of men knew of these officers. Mr Guthrie's explanation of the special areas of land set aside for these men is beside the question, and the question is purely one of treatment of soldiers whilst in sanatoria, and also the question of pension when they are discharged. No doubt some of the uninitiated will charge the R.S.A. of grousing, and here is a sample of what we are grousing about:—

A man returned to New Zealand certified T.B., admitted Cambridge Sanatorium. Discharged, pension 100 per cent. for six months. Re-examined by Pensions Board doctor; pension reduced to £1 10s per week, and told to go to work. Patient states could hardly walk at time. Takes to bed within two months. Admitted to Cashmere Military Sanatorium as an incurable. Later, died at Cashmere on the 28th June, 1920.

Returned to N.Z. in June 1919. Discharged fit A. Undertook farming under Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act. After six months was medically examined (Dr. Woodward), diagnosed T.B. Doctor opined lack of thoroughness in examination by army medical officer.

Returned to N.Z. in February, 1919. Out-patient for three months. Admitted Cashmere Civilian Sanatorium. Five months' treatment; pension 87½ per cent. for six months. Undertook farm work; relapse; pension 100 per cent. six months from May, 1920. Admitted Cashmere Sanatorium in June 1920.

Returned to N.Z. certified T.B. positive. Admitted to Cashmere Sanatorium, then transferred to Cambridge Sanatorium; discharged, marked improvement. Two months after pension expires. Re-examined by Pensions Board doctor and reduced to £1 per week pension. Tries farm work and breaks down. Tries gardening with same result. Gets position as sculleryman in boarding house; is discovered ill by medical officer in charge Cashmere Military Sanatorium, who happens to be boarding there. Admitted Cashmere Military Sanatorium, and has been in the institution ten months to date.

These are the wrongs the R.S.A. are continually striving to adjust and yet we find returned soldiers who do not seem to have their comrades interest sufficiently at heart to link up with the Association and assist in bringing pressure to bear upon the authorities to provide a remedy for them. In not one sphere of R.S.A. activity has the Government moved until the utmost pressure was brought to bear upon it. This haphazard method of dealing with T.B. men can only involve the country in needless expense as the cost will be infinitely greater than had they received adequate treatment in the beginning.

### COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The first annual ball of the Commercial Travellers and Warehousemen's Association was held in the Victoria Hall, on Friday July 16. The function, which was undoubtedly the success of the season, reflects great credit on those who promoted and organised it.

The hall was tastefully decorated with native ferns and greenery and the stairway with its arch was a work of art.

At 8.15 p.m. fully 200 couples took the floor to music supplied by Messrs Aldridge's full orchestra.

Everything went along with a swing and the writer could not suggest any improvement in the arrangements. The catering was left in the capable hands of Mr T. Dyer, while Mr W. J. Boyce had charge of the liquid refreshments.

The programme catered alike for old and young and it was delightful to see so many of the old timers coming back to the ballroom. The gaily decorated hall and the pretty dresses added a wealth of charm to the evening's amusements.

Among those whom I noticed present were Mesdames Wood, Macauley, Nicholson, Foster, Freeby, Sherriffs, Boyce, Penman, McGill, Mitchell, Barry, Fleming, Patton, Aitken, Rice, Vickery, Owen, Blackie, Gamble, Raines, O'Neil, Tattersfield, Brokenshire, Leck, Nisbet, Misses Brown, Thompson, Raeside, Strang, Thomson, McChesney H., McChesney M., Miller, Ashley A., Penman, Washer, Fleming, McKay, Godward, Brooks, Gerard, Dykes (2), Oughton, Spiers, Rein, Whitaker, Lenihan, Wade, Metzger, Brown, England; Messrs Baird, Barnsdale, Brokenshire, Connor, Dennison, Domigan, Edwards, Geddes, Grace, Hall, Hobbs, Ives, Macauley, McGill, Nisbet, Porteous, Pay, O'Neil, Rice, Royds, Sheehan, Sherriffs, Springford, Tattersfield, Treby, Torrance, Washer, Wood, Woodward, Boyce, Gilmour, Hadfield, Miller (2) Ashley, Raines, Owen, Vickery, Rice, Blackie, and many others.

### THE DIGGER'S LETTER BOX.

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### AN EPISTLE TO THE "GROPER."

Dear Groper,—There is a wise old saying anent the advisability of cobblers "sticking to their lasts." I am moved to recall it to your mind on reading your paragraph on Joseph McCabe. That you should differ from me in your estimate of that gentleman's abilities matters nothing, but that you should indulge in disparaging remarks without offering any reasons or evidence for your statements matters a good deal. You refer to McCabe as a "bubble," the type of all that is evanescent and unstable. It will probably therefore, be news to you to learn that the gentleman has been doing more lecturing and literary work during the past year than ever before. He has recently concluded a series of addresses on evolution at the People's Palace, London, the audiences at which averaged 1200. And this after nearly twenty years' platform activity! Verily, your simile of "bubble" seems ill-chosen. Again, you hint that his "Bible in Europe" has been discredited by a reply from Arthur H. Tabrum. If you mean the Rev. A. H. Tabrum your statement is simply grotesque. Tabrum has been the stock joke among rationalistic circles for many years and periodically comes to light with some weird and wonderful statement or other, only to be promptly snuffed out by the exact knowledge and wide culture of his opponent. The "Bible in Europe" was among the earliest of McCabe's forty or fifty volumes. I don't know how many editions it has gone through, but it is still selling well. Hardly a "bubble" reputation!

No, no, "Groper," stick to Burns. You're at home on "Holy Wullie," and I am prepared to trust you implicitly on the pedigree of Tam o' Shanter's mare, but on certain other subjects you're a "fish out of water," a groper, so to speak, out of his element.—I am, etc., "A."

Secretary, R.S.A., Balclutha.—In reference to your enquiry as to what led up to our interview with the Hon. J. G. Coates, during his recent visit to Invercargill, it may be briefly stated that it was due to the capacity and initiative of our staff. A soldier's "cause" is our "cause," wherever he may be, and we will always take his case up and endeavour to secure him justice through the medium of "The Digger." We are not affected by a parochial atmosphere but exist to propagate the "universal cause of the soldier," his widow and dependents. It was this attitude which enabled us to take up the cause of the soldiers on the Clifden settlement, the result of which we published for general information. The Hon. J. G. Coates, was Minister of Public Works, and it shows a good spirit for him to interest himself in matters which do not fall directly under his department. Regarding other particulars we have none except what has been published, and a private report on the situation which did not come from the settlers themselves.—Editor, "The Digger."

### THE LAST TRIBUTE.

A very sad death occurred in Dipton, on the 30th June, when Private John Ross, late 27th Reinforcements, died after a very long illness from after effects of active service. He being a member of the Dipton R.S.A. was accorded a military funeral on Saturday, July 3rd, which was taken part in by all the members of the local branch.

The firing party consisted of Corporals Gerrard, Evans, Privates W. Nevin, T. Nevin, H. Sparks, F. Hogarth and R. Morton, under the supervision of Staff-Sgt. Major Kynaston.

The pall-bearers were Privates W. Anderson, J. Crawford, E. Devery and W. Cassin; artillery drivers were Sgt. O'Callaghan and Private McCurdy, the gun-carriage being attended by two N.C.O.'s from Invercargill. The burial service was conducted both at the house and the graveside by the Rev. F. J. Lylee.

The late Private J. Ross was well known in sporting circles, and always took a keen interest in athletics of all kinds. He was a very much esteemed member of the local branch of the R.S.A., and it is with regret that we report his untimely death.

Linked in peril, pride and pain,  
Australians staunch and bold;  
What we've done we'd do again,  
And what we've won we'll hold.  
In the heart of grateful France  
The memory shall endure,  
Of Anzac rifle, sword, and lance,  
And Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

### NAVIGATION OF THE WAIAU

### REPORTS ON THE PROPOSAL.

The following is an extract from the report of Messrs Hay and Vickerman, consulting engineers, to the Southland Electric Power Board:—

### BOAT UP WAIAU RIVER.

In order to test this method a trip was made up the Waiau in February in a launch of the ordinary type. The progress was very slow. This was attributed by Captain Allen (of Messrs Hatrick and Co., Wanganui River Station) to the unsuitability of the launch, his statement being that with one of the launch type and good power the trip could be made in eight hours, and down in two hours. To gain experience of what is done on the Wanganui river, a trip was made from Wanganui to Taumarunui on 20th, 21st and 22nd May. Mr Hinchey of the Power Board being present. The river was in slight flood, the quantity of water being comparable with the ordinary flow of the Waiau. The grade is only half as steep, but owing to the rise being virtually by steps at the rapids, some of these are practically the same as those on the Waiau, the difference being that the Waiau had a constant succession of which would be called, had rapids on the Wanganui.

The stages up the river were done as follows: (1).—Wanganui—Pipiriki, 55 miles per s.s. Waione, 250 H.P., dep. 7 a.m., arrived 4 p.m. on 20th May. (2).—Pipiriki houseboat, 59 miles, per oil launch Otumui, 75 H.P., dep. 5 a.m., arrived 7.45 p.m. 21st May; (3).—Houseboat Taumarunui per oil launch Ongarue, 50 H.P., dep. 6 a.m., arrived 3.30 p.m. on 22nd May.

It was quite evident that the boat of the "tunnel" type can be successfully handled and could be used on the Waiau, but they must have ample power, being proportioned to the speed of the river and to the load to be carried, the crest of transport thus rising with the grade.

The Waione, the vessel offered by Hatrick and Co., is steam driven, 150 ft. long, 14 ft. wide, and draws 12 in light and 20 in loaded. She was rated at 250 H.P. per hour 18 years ago, but now probably does not more than 11 miles per hour. By taking the deck-house off she could carry 30 tons. She is too big for the Waiau river, and for her condition much too dear at £7,500, this being probably several times her original cost. She is employed between Pipiriki and Wanganui, owing to the insufficiency of water above and during her trip carried a captain, two deckhands, two firemen, an engineer and a fitter; this being, it was said, a five-man and fitter more than usual.

The size of boat suggested by Captain Allen, viz., 85 ft. long, 10 ft. wide, to carry 20 tons and engine with two Thompsoncroft kerosene engines, each 75 H.P., is the most suitable. The engines are quoted at £1284 each f.o.b., London. The hull should be of steel plate to stand wear on the shingle, the experience on the Wanganui river being that timber is too easily damaged, and too liable to leak. A boat would thus cost from £2300 to £4000. Engines are said to be obtainable without much delay, but the hull could not be supplied at once from England and would have to be made in New Zealand or Australia.

### WAIUAU RIVER NAVIGATION.

(Report by Mr W. Hinchey.)

In compliance with the wishes of the Board I accompanied Mr H. Vickerman on a visit to the Wanganui river on May 20th, 21st, and 22nd, for the purpose of comparing it with the Waiau river with the view to the possibilities of navigating the latter.

For the first twenty miles the Wanganui flows slowly and the influence of the tide is felt for that distance, consequently navigation is easy.

Light draft steam boats of the "tunnel" type are used up to Pipiriki—a distance of sixty miles. The "Waione" (250 H.P.) the boat we travelled by—carries about forty tons, and averaged seven miles per hour, including stops. A rapid called "Matahiwi," below Pipiriki, with a fall of nine feet in fifteen chains, was taken by this boat without a rope.

At Pipiriki we transferred to a motor boat 75 ft. long, 7 ft. beam, and 75 H.P. using kerosene. On this reach of the river rapids are more frequent and the current generally is much faster. This boat averages five miles per hour with the engine in good condition. Many of the rapids on this reach appeared to me equally as