

## THE DIGGER'S LETTER BOX.

**FOUR BLUE CHEVRONS.**—Fortunate by your case is one of the few in Invercargill. We have consulted our solicitor who deals with these matters, and feel that we would prefer you to call at "The Digger" office to be acquainted with the position. Reference is made to this case in this column.—Edt.

"Helen," East Invercargill; "Patricia," Ettrick street; "Mavis," Gala street, Mater wishes me to advise you that your stories will appear in the Children's Column next week; also that she will have something good to say about them.—Edt.

**AN OPEN LETTER TO A PROFITEERING LANDLORD AND VENDOR OF A DIRELECT HOUSE.**

A letter appearing under "Four Blue Chevrons" in this column will no doubt make interesting reading for such as you. For you to take advantage of a returned soldier and his family in the manner you appear to have done, is one thing which you should be ashamed of, I need hardly remind you that had not "Four Blue Chevrons," along with others, stood on the fire-step, your direlect house would have been brought to naught; yet while he was on the fields of Flanders, you were at home with your direlect waiting for a victim. The manner in which you camouflaged the building does not serve to camouflage your real activities affecting the sale. Don't you not think it a fair thing that you should refund to the soldier the available amount after rent and out-of-pocket expenses have been deducted.—Edt.

(To the Editor).

Dear Sir.—Could you advise me as to what I should do in the following case? I bought a house last December 4th, 1919, at £525, paying £50 of my gratuity on it as deposit, and the balance at 6½ per cent interest. I also had to pay £2 9s rates up to March. When I took this house over I was told it was free from grub; of course it being newly done up, it was hard to see until about a month ago, and it began to show very bad. Of course I had not started paying the balance off, so I decided not to start, but to quit it. Well I saw the owner and he said he was quite willing to let me out of the house when I got another house, so I was six months in it altogether before shifting. Then I thought the balance for the six months could be taken out of the deposit. So when I had shifted I saw the owner about getting some of the deposit back, but he said that he was out of pocket over the sale and that I could not possibly get any back. I then went to a solicitor who told me that I was entitled to some of my deposit, so I again saw the owner but with no success. I might state that while I was in this house, he had put it on the market again without my consent, and while away at work, the agents brings along a buyer in his way and sells it straightaway. Now, Mr Editor, this agent has no right to do this. If you could inform me through "The Digger," if I am entitled to any of the deposit back I would be very much obliged, as I am a married soldier and out of work at the present time, and so some of the deposit would come in very handy now. Thanking you very much. I am, etc.,

**FOUR BLUE CHEVRONS.**

**AN EPISTLE TO "THE GROPER."**

Dear Groper,—I had not intended to write further with reference to Mr Joseph McCabe, but as you intimate that your column has not drawn as much comment as you expected, I make haste to mitigate, in some degree, your disappointment. Now, my first letter was devoted to combating your estimate of McCabe as a shallow and unsound lecturer and author. You have not attempted to meet me on this ground so I suppose that is one to me. But you now charge the gentleman in question, with being dogmatic, guilty of "too sweeping dogmatism." I think your phrase was. You amaze me! There is hardly a writer who deserves the term. You have only to refer to McCabe's books to see how careful he is to marshal the reasons for the conclusions he puts forward and how ready he is to quote authorities for any statements of an historical or scientific nature. These are not the ways of a dogmatist. As to Christianity and the abolition of slavery, it would take up too much space to discuss that question here, but I offer on this fact to meditate upon. While slavery was roundly condemned by the voices of the second century there was not a single Christian writer during the first eight centuries who had a word to say in favour of its abolition. Regarding your objection (purely personal one, I suppose) to the universally accepted scientific view of the origin of man, you are, of course, perfectly welcome

to consider yourself a fallen angel if you so desire. Quite a harmless little delusion on your part, provided that you do not delete the adjective.—I am, etc.,

"A."

**A CONTRADICTION.**

(To the Editor).

Dear Sir,—Your Otahuti correspondent has made several bad blunders in his report of a recent football match played between Otahuti and Calcium. He says that Otahuti was caught with a weak team. He could not have anticipated that the weak team in its next game defeated Waianiwa by six to nil, a team with an unbroken record this season, and a team which had previously defeated Otahuti by eight to three.

The inference that Otahuti was not all out comes ill from a member of the team and leaves him no claim to be considered as an authority on what a sporting education consists of.

With reference to the statement that Calcium has made slow progress in mastering the fine arts of Rugby, does your correspondent know that one of its players is at present in Australia wearing the Red Black uniform. Bulman is specially mentioned for obstruction, which is purely a matter for the referee and easy of detection. No one who saw the match in question could accuse the referee of lack of firmness, and in this respect he compares very favourably with any who have controlled games in this locality.

Your correspondent betrays his disappointment at the result of the match and evidently finds little consolation in the fact this, his club, was enabled to secure at a meeting of delegates, the points which it failed to win on the field.—I am, etc.,

SPECTATOR.

(To the Editor).

Dear Sir.—In your issue of July 30th appeared a report of a football match between Calcium and Otahuti, which calls for comment. Your Otahuti correspondent has failed to maintain his usual high standard of journalism—his expressions, "frantic efforts," and comments on any players "sporting education" being quite uncalled for. In his statement "Otahuti evidently being satisfied to hold the opposing team," he surely casts a slur on the Otahuti men which they did not merit, for the Otahuti team played the game. Your correspondent has also committed a grave error of judgment in reflecting on the capabilities of the referee, and in this respect sets up a new and undesirable standard of reporting.

In conclusion, sir, it may be stated that your Otahuti correspondent has rendered a dis-service to all lovers of the game, and in the interests of clean sport we voice the protest of our club members.

Thanking you for permitting us the use of your valuable columns.—We are, etc.,

Robert McBride, president Calcium Football Club.

R. A. Stewart, secretary.

Speaking with reference to the New Zealand Defence Forces yesterday, General Sir Edward Chaytor said that what was required at present was a small but efficient force. It should be the nucleus of a fighting force, but the smaller the better. "We have now to pay off our war debt," he said, "and the whole of our energies should be devoted to doing this."

"General" Booth has been giving England the benefit of his Australian experiences. He declares that "he found there a growing enthusiasm for work quite distinct from the ambition to be well paid for the work done." This is most satisfactory, and serves, among other things, to show us that we have evidently misunderstood the position over there. In future, when we read of strikes, we will know that they are simply protests against too brief working days; that sabotage is merely a scientific method of creating additional employment, and the "go-slow" policy is neither more nor less than the manifestation of the unsubduable and feverish energy of the horny handed Australian proletariat. It is something to be able, like the "General," to look past the seeming of things, and see them as they really are.

Special reductions and a general clearance for the final week of the Reliability Sale. See these bargains now on show in our Clothing Department: 25 men's felt hats, all shapes and sizes, sale price 14/6; 5 dozen men's felt hats, splendid quality, sale price 21/-; 4 dozen men's negligee, smart patterns, sale price 11/6; 20 dozen men's smart ties, to clear 2/11, 3/11; 40 men's tweed overcoats, latest style, sale price 90/- to 115/-; men's raincoats, sale price 75/- to 110/-; a few only box suits, sale price 95/- to 150/-; men's wool shirley, sale price 1/11 to 3/6; men's heavy shirley braces, special sale price 4/6; boys' braces 1/11 to 2/6; boys' all wool golf hose, sale price 3/11. Many other bargains now on offer. Inspection invited at H. and J. Smith, Ltd., Progressive Stores, Tay street, and Main street, Goro.

**Racing Notes.**

Nightraider might win Sir George Clifford his first Winter Cup next Tuesday.

Coalition did win at the Brackenfield meeting, but he won't find such soft stuff to down at Riccarton next week.

"Put" Hogan's team did not win any races at the Brackenfield meeting, but all things considered, that was not to be wondered at.

J. R. Kaan, who is to ride Cub in the Grand National Steeplechase on Tuesday next was on him when he won the Wellington Steeplechase, and the double he won at Dunedin last June.

Will Oakland cost his owner £6, and has already won him over £600 in stakes. He carried 10st 11lbs over six furlongs at Amberley in 1min 15 3-5sec. Quite a number of good judges fancy his chance in the Winter Cup on Tuesday.

Cub belongs to Jim Smith, of Greenvale, and his daughter as Country Queen for Otago raised more money for us than any other woman in Otago. May the family have their reward on Tuesday by seeing Cub win the big Riccarton steeplechase! I am going to have my bit on him despite Mataura's new bill.

I knew the "books" would deal it out to Mataura Anderson for interfering with their right to live, but I didn't think they would knock him out so quickly. Poor old Mataura, one wouldn't expect him to get mixed up with the bookies, but by the look of things their reputation for rooking one is going to be well beaten by Bill Massey and Co. Perhaps they want to get rid of the books so that they can have a clean run themselves.

I hear that one of the prominent book-makers who made Dunedin his headquarters has decided that this little Dominion is no place for him, and shifted camp to Australia, where he intends taking out a license on the big tracks. Well he might do all right—that is with a smart clerk, but he won't get it so easy over there as he did in New Zealand.

Don't forget the Council Stakes on Saturday! The Digger is a sure starter. There is plenty of work for another live man on the Council, and a man with a few ideas picked up outside this little old corner will be useful at the table.

The Birchwood Hunt Club, not having the right to a totalisator race meeting this year, is again finding it necessary to appeal to the racing clubs in Southland for some financial assistance. The Southland Racing Club voted them a tenner on Friday night.

By the look of things the local club is going to race on its new track next New Year, at least they have given instructions to proceed with the fencing of this track. Should it be ready, and we all know Tom Marshall will leave no stone unturned to have it O.K., it will greatly add to the interest of northern owners.

A line from another Digger at Riccarton, and a very fair judge too, informs me that Gaylight is doing the right thing to make himself very prominent next Thursday. He won like a good stayer at Dunedin last June, and may be able to do so again.

According to the "Road" in the "Weekly Press," Lochella, though still favourite for the Grand National Steeplechase, is not O.K. The other morning after being carefully warned up by trotting round the inside of the course set out on a round of the steeplechase fences. He galloped scratchily, jumped slovenly, but looked a picture. Well boys, looks don't win over 3½ miles of the Riccarton country. 12st 7lbs is the weight of a good horse, I am not saying Lochella isn't a good one, but I maintain he has yet to prove himself under a god horse's weight.

Reports from South Canterbury go to show that Cub is very well just now, while track watchers at headquarters are quite satisfied with the work done by Waimai, Master Strowan, and Coalition. Personally I think this four will fill the first three places, and I favour Cub the most of the quartette.

The three North Island horses, Waimai, Master Strowan, and Coalition, who have been stranded in the South Island ever since the seamen took a hand in the jockey's strike, have had plenty of schooling at Riccarton this winter, and all three of them are well fancied for the big race next Tuesday. Coalition carries a 4lb penalty for his win at Amberley, last Saturday, making his load in the National 11st 13lbs. He will find it hard to give Cub a stone over 3½ miles.

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3704

**TOWN OF WAIKIWI.**

**SALE OF SECTIONS.**

District Lands and Survey Office, Invercargill, 2nd August, 1920.

NOTICE is hereby given that forty Sections in Waikivi Town will be sold by public auction for cash or on Deferred Payments at this office on TUESDAY, the 14th September, 1920, at 11 a.m.

The sections front the Main North and West Plains Road, etc., and are excellent suburban building sites adjacent to school, post office, and railway station and only a few chains from Waikivi-Invercargill tram terminus.

Sections are about one quarter acre each, and upset prices range from £55 to £110.

Sale Plans and full particulars may be obtained on application to this office.

THOS. BROOK, Commissioner of Crown Lands.

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