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**N.Z.R.S.A.**

## PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

1.—To ask the Minister of Defence whether he intends taking steps during this Session to secure full payment of gratuity to those members of the N.Z.E.F. who were unfairly deprived of a portion of the gratuity because they were returned to New Zealand for a period on duty furlough.—(Mr S. G. Smith, M.P.).

Reply.—The Hon. Mr Coates replied that it was not proposed to provide for any gratuity to be paid to members of the N.Z.E.F. for any but overseas service, the only exception to the rule being in the case of members evacuated sick or wounded from an actual theatre of war and returned to New Zealand as unfit for further overseas service, the period for which the gratuity payable should not be less than eight calendar months. The term "theatre of war" would be as defined in regulations approved from time to time for the issue of war medals, and in the case of members who died while on active service beyond the seas the period should not be less than two years.

2.—To ask the Postmaster-General:—1.—Why the military censorship of private correspondence is still in operation. 2.—Whether it is a fact that letters so censored have been suppressed without notice to the sender. 3.—On what grounds are letters being censored.—(Mr Howard, M.P.).

Reply.—The Hon. Mr Coates replied:—1.—That the censorship was not under the control of the military authorities. The control was some time ago transferred to the Crown Law Office. 2.—That letters censored had been dealt with as found necessary for the purposes stated in three. 3.—That the censorship was continued for the time being in order to enforce the terms of the Treaty of Peace with regard to enemy monies and properties, and for the prevention of evasion of these terms and also to prevent evasion of the conditions of the law as to trade with countries lately enemies of Great Britain.

3.—To ask the Minister of Defence whether he will give instructions that every returned soldier who dies in the Dominion shall have a befitting funeral, and that the Government pay territorialists for attendance at funerals as firing party, where a sufficient number of territorialists to form a firing party is available.—(Mr T. E. Seddon, M.P.).

Reply.—The Hon. Mr Coates replied that the Government would provide funerals for deceased returned soldiers at the expense of the State provided death from war injuries occurs while under medical treatment or within twelve months of discharge, and at all times in cases of indigence. Military honours were accorded to all veteran soldiers whenever these could be provided from the permanent establishment, R.S.A., territorialists, or cadets. The Government was not prepared to offer payment to territorialists to attend such military funerals as it was considered that the attendance of special paid escorts would be but an empty and unworthy honour.

4.—To ask the Government whether they will this Session amend the Pensions Act to provide pensions for orphans. (Note.—The existing law provides for the payment of a widow's pension being continued to her children after her death, but no pension is payable to orphans in the case of both parents dying at the same time, or of the mother dying before a widow's pension has been granted to her.—(Mr Veitch, M.P.).

Reply.—The Hon. Sir W. Herries replied that the proposal of the Hon. Member would be considered in connection with the amendment of the Pensions Act to be submitted this Session.

5.—To ask the Prime Minister whether seeing the large amount of land speculation carried on in New Zealand during recent years the Government will consider a graduated stamp duty according to length of time held and where speculations proved.—(Mr Powdrell, M.P.).

Reply.—The Right Hon. Mr Massey replied that the Hon. Member's suggestion would be referred to the Finance Committee.

6.—To ask the Minister of Lands whether he will have Section 28, Block 10, Woodlands Survey District, which the Otago Land Board has recommended the Government to make available for settlement, offered for settlement at the earliest possible date so as to allow the occupiers to make use of the coming spring and summer.—(Mr Malcolm, M.P.).

Reply.—The Hon. Mr Guthrie replied that this section was permanently reserved for scenic purposes. The question of making it available for settlement had already been considered and it was proposed to introduce special legislation this Session to remove the reservation to enable the land to be leased.

7.—To ask the Minister in charge of the Repatriation Department whether he will

introduce an amendment of the law to provide for trainees under the Repatriation Act being paid bonuses granted to other workers under Awards of the Arbitration Court.—(Mr Savage, M.P.).

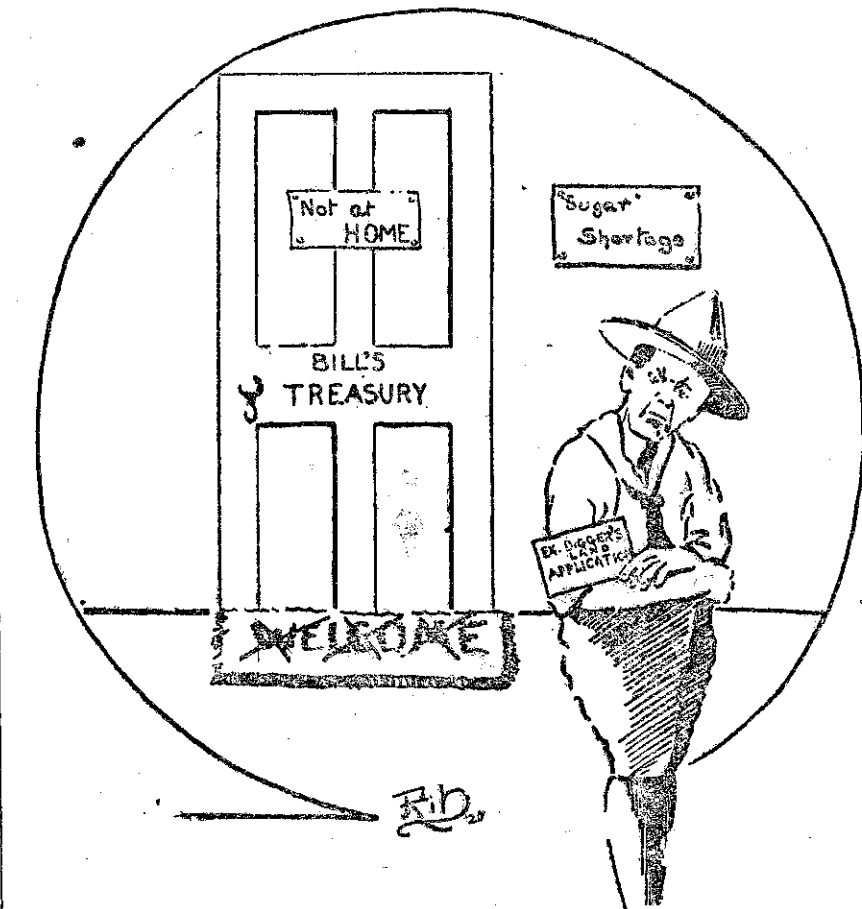
Reply.—The Hon. Mr Guthrie replied that it was not proposed to take any action in the direction suggested. The amount of wages paid to each trainee was reviewed quarterly by a local committee comprising a representative of the trade union concerned, the Repatriation Department and the employer. An increase of 5s per week is usually granted every three months and this did not affect the subsidy paid by the Government, but went to increase the trainee's income, whose interests were thus fully protected.

8.—To ask the Minister of Finance whether in preparing his budget he will endeavour to repeal the provisions which compel the farmer to pay income tax on the revenue derived from land in addition to land tax on the same land. (Note.—In addition to the double taxation the income tax on land is a grievous one to small farmers as apart from the tax it necessitates his keeping books and furnishing returns, which give much trouble).—(Mr Malcolm, M.P.).

Reply.—The Right Hon. Mr Massey replied that under the present provisions of the Act the revenue derived from land unless it was in excess of five per cent. of the unimproved value of the land was not chargeable with ordinary income tax. The whole question would be considered when the Financial Legislation of the Session was being dealt with.

9.—To ask the Minister of Lands whether he will state why the 150,000 acres of Crown Lands in the east Taupo district, east of Ongarue and Waimihia, are not placed for selection by returned soldiers and others who are willing to take up these lands, which are very suitable for settlement.—(Mr Jennings, M.P.).

Reply.—The Hon. Mr Guthrie replied that presumably the block referred to was the Ongarue Loan Block, which, however, contained approximately 15,000 acres, not 150,000 acres. This block had now been advertised as open for application by discharged soldiers, on Monday, 23rd August, 1920, and the plans were being printed and would be available in a few days. The block had been subdivided into 25 lots, the total area being 15,000 acres, and the sections ranging from 496 acres to 1097 acres.



Temporary Suspension of the D.S.S. Act.  
A SIGN OF THE TIMES.

**SOLDIERS MEMORIAL.**

At a public meeting in Lawrence recently it was unanimously decided that the local fallen soldiers' memorial should take the form of public swimming baths, as an adjunct to the Peace Garden, with a suitable tablet bearing the names of Lawrence district men who had fallen in the war. The Deputy-Mayor (Mr Winn), who presided, considered the baths would be a handsome and lasting memorial—one that would not only be a benefit to the community from a health point of view, but also would also afford our children an opportunity of learning to swim. Mr H. Blair, a returned soldier, said that at a recent meeting of their Association the suggestion that the memorial should take the form of baths was put before them and unanimously agreed to. He was sure the returned soldiers would be satisfied with the erection of a swimming bath, and

the erection of a tablet showing the names of those who had fallen would be a lasting tribute to the heroism of those who had made the supreme sacrifice.

**R.S.A. STOCK DEPARTMENT.**

At a general meeting of the Northern Wairoa Soldiers' Association at Dargaville, a strong committee was formed to make arrangements to start a stock department on the association's account. The secretary was instructed to write to other associations in the north of Auckland recommending a similar procedure.

An ocean steamer of the first class, going at full speed, cannot be brought to a halt in less than three minutes. In the meantime she will have traversed a distance of about half a mile.

**CLUTHA R.S.A.**

The usual monthly committee meeting of the R.S.A. was held recently in the Association Rooms, Clyde street, Balclutha. Present: Messrs Russell (Chairman), Parr, Jordan, Little, Walter, and Weir. Apologies were received from Messrs Jardine and Stokes.

Accounts amounting to £33 7s 3d were passed for payment.

Mr W. Smaill was elected an honorary member of the Association, and four members were admitted to active membership.

The social committee submitted a report of their activities to date, and made several proposals for increasing interest in the social welfare of the members of the Association. An endeavour is being made to secure a piano for the rooms, which if successful will prove a great asset. The monthly assemblies are increasing in popularity, and promise to be a source of great enjoyment during the remainder of the winter months.

The secretary reported having journeyed to Milton in connection with the finance of the branch of the Association there. It was eventually decided that the Milton sub-association be allowed a rebate of 1s on all renewals paid, and 2s on all new members secured.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the war gratuity is taken account of as income in connection with old age pensions, and the following motion was adopted:—"That this Association considers that war gratuity should not be included as income when assessing income to determine eligibility for old age pensions."

The secretary reported that as a result of a deputation waiting upon the Farmers' Union, that body was making an inspection of the Clifton Settlement, and would, if the result of the inspection justified it, take concerted action with the Association in connection with matters on the settlement.

Correspondence in connection with the D.S.S. Act was received. It was decided that future meetings of the committee be held on the first Saturday in each month.

The secretary was instructed to call a general meeting of members for Saturday 14th inst.

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