

SCOTCH! HOTCH! POTCH!

Mayor Stead, presiding at a select meeting called to find ways and means of providing a set of brass band instruments for the Borstal Institution, remarked: "I was called upon some time ago to admonish one of the boys down there for whistling, I wonder what he will think when he learns that the man who objected to whistling is assisting a scheme to provide noise in the shape of a band."

"Read the exquisite songs of Burns" Tennyson exclaimed. "In shape each of them has the perfection of the berry, in light, the radiance of the dewdrop; you forget for its sake those stupid things his serious pieces!" Wordsworth praises him even more vehemently than Tennyson has done—but ended "of course I refer to his serious efforts; those foolish little amatory songs of his, one has to forget."

Just further proof that Burns is the universal poet.

There should soon be a rush for "seats" in the Borstal. Governor Bathgate tells of football and cricket grounds in preparation, of tepid baths, night-school, games, reading room, etc., etc., and now the brass band movement. A far cry this from the days of the clanking fetter in Invercargill. The Borstal, no doubt, represents the most advanced thought in prison reform, but one cannot but remember that the old cry of Norman McLeod's starling "I can't get out" has a very appropriate echo here.

A warm advocate of the brass band proposal for the Borstal was that sweet old lady Mrs Baird. After the laboured angular utterances of prosecutor Macalister, her speech beautifully expressed in soft flowing periods and brimful of wise thoughts and sane kindness, drew forth spontaneous applause. Mr Editor, that lady could convert this old Gropo to anything. This brass band motion is good and if it helps, as Mrs Baird put it—"to bring the boys back into tune with society" it will be worth while. Pass the hat and get this £200.

Quite a lot has been written anent the wisdom of animals in general and man's best friend, the horse, in particular. The latest contribution is vouched for by Mr B. G. Galloway, who was an eye-witness of the whole affair. He tells the story most graphically, but shorn of all padding here it is. Place—Dee street on a warm morning. Time—the hour of the morning spot. A galloping horse, dressed only in its harness, making its way unerringly to the premises of a well-known grocer. Entering, it was accosted by the irate proprietor and owner, and a heated conversation ensued ending in the ejection of the would-be customer. Mr Galloway could not hear all that transpired but from the disjointed utterances carefully collected, much can be gathered: Cart—struck—Go slow—Too hot—Rot Free Beer—No Rava only—Cracked—Sacked. Next please.

Tell us a new riddle dad, said my young hopeful the other day; so I propounded: "It's white, it's brown, it some times jumps up but always goes down." Who can elucidate?

MARKET REPORTS.

Messrs Bray Bros., Ltd., auctioneers and fruit salesmen, Dee street, Invercargill report as follows:—Produce: The demand for seed potatoes is slackening off, and prices show a weakening tendency. Table potatoes show practically no fluctuation, and only "prime" quality are in demand. Onions: Imported onions will be on the market about the end of this week. Oats: 24s 6d to 27s 6d per bag, (s.i.). Chaff: £8 10s per ton and to 6s 6d per sack. Straw Chaff: 4s per sack (s.i.). Baled Straw: 5s 6d per bale. Meggitt's Linseed Meal: Stocks now off the market. Meggitt's Calf Food: 30s bag. Oatdust: 6s bag. Bran 11s 6d bag. Pollard, 13s bag. Farro Food 12s bag. Mollasses 21s cwt, 12s 6d per tin. Fruit: Consignments have been very heavy during the week. Apples: Delicious to 14s per case. Jonathans 10s to 12s 6d case; Stummers, 10s to 12s 6d case—other varieties from 8s 6d to 10s. second grade from 6s 6d to 7s 6d case. Cooking Apples: Prime quality to 8s 6d per case—others from 6s 6d to 7s 6d case. Pears to 4½d per lb. Vegetables: Cabbage in short supply. Swedes, 4s to 4s 6d bag. Carrots, 4s to 4s 6d bag; Horse Carrots 6s 6d cwt. Parsnips 2d lb. General: We have supplies of posts and stakes, and accept orders for Totara, Broadleaf and Kamahi on trucks, country station. Lepp Salt Lick—the best cattle tonic in existence 2s 3d per brick. Cow Covers: 25s to 30s. Horse Covers: £2 15s to £3. Boots to 36s. Honey, 1s per lb. Tea: In half chests—10lb and 5lb packets from 2s 6d to 3s 3d per lb. Furniture: Those requiring furniture should inspect

our stocks at our showrooms in Spey street. We manufacture furniture to your own design and use only the best seasoned timber. Our prices are based on a "whole sale" rate which makes every article bought a "bargain." Land Department: We have branches throughout the North and South Island, and our property register contains both town and country properties. When selling or buying it will be advantageous to you to see Bray Bros., Ltd., Dee street.

SOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the South School Committee was held on Tuesday, 21st.

Present: Messrs A. W. Jones (in the Chair), C. Patton, G. Dyer, J. Gardiner, Mesdames Parkin, McGregor and Garrett. Headmaster's report read and received. Report stated, Mr Hain had resumed duty on August 18. Three teachers had been absent owing to ill-health. Twenty-seven new scholars were enrolled during the month. A great deal of sickness had been prevalent among the children during the month in consequence of which the average attendance was not good.

The boys were working very earnestly at the garden plot, the problem of keeping the plot in good order during the Christmas holidays would soon need to be dealt with. The Chairman reported that a day had been set apart to plant shrubs and trees so kindly donated by the Town Council, and quite a pleasant afternoon had been spent by the teachers, Committee and scholars in planting the trees. The Chairman also reported that the teaching staff were not favourably disposed towards the re-organising of the school band. It was decided to leave the matter over for three months. Chairman also reported that the sale of tickets for the school for Friday, 24th inst., was being enthusiastically pushed by the scholars and a splendid programme had been arranged by the teachers.

The net-ball team under the skilful coaching of Miss Millar had gained first place among the town schools. The Committee expressed their appreciation of Miss Millar's good work.

It was decided to hire the radiators which have been installed in the brick school at a rental of ten shillings a month.

Apology was received for absence from Mr C. Longuet.

Accounts to the amount of £42 18s 4d were passed for payment.

A request that soldiers' widowed mothers should be granted the same privileges as soldiers' widows under the Soldiers' Settlement Act was made recently to the Minister for Lands by the Auckland Returned Soldiers' Mothers' League. The Minister has informed the League that the request will receive careful and sympathetic consideration.

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NEXT NEWS OFFICE, DEE STREET.

LAND FOR SOLDIERS.

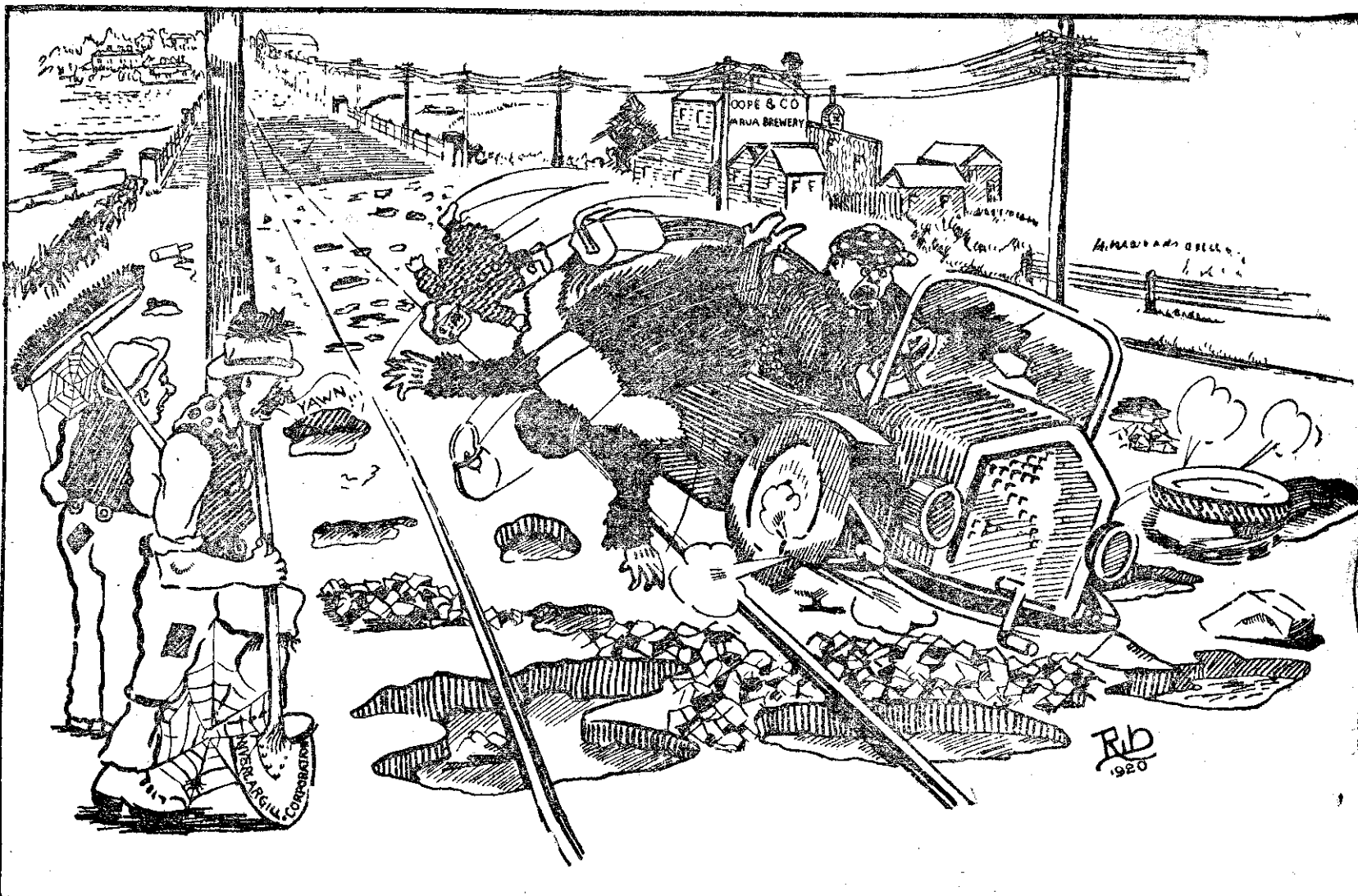
The report upon soldier-settlement for the year ended March 31 last states:—

"During the year just ended an area of approximately 299,435 acres, comprising Crown land and private estates acquired under the Land for Settlements Act, was balloted for by discharged soldiers, and as in the majority of cases competition was very keen, practically every section was taken up. These lands were sub-divided into 577 holdings, and included two pastoral runs in Hawke's Bay, one pastoral run and nine small grazing runs in Canterbury, five pastoral runs, and one small grazing run in Otago. All these runs were readily selected. The lands allotted under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act,

1915, during the year totalled 403,891 acres, cut up into 932 holdings, of which an area of 326,197 acres was selected under the special tenures provided by section 4 of the Act. This area comprised 801 farms.

"At April 1 last sixty-four private estates purchased for settlement, covering an area of 216,186 acres, were being prepared for disposal, and these will be offered in addition to other estates which are being surveyed and roaded preparatory to the essential surveying and other preliminary work can be completed. Furthermore, large areas of virgin Crown land, particularly in the Auckland and North Auckland districts, are being surveyed and roaded preparatory to being placed on the market. A considerable portion of the land to be made available in the Auckland district

comprises pumice areas, for the development of which cheap manures and facilities for the carriage of produce and farming materials are necessary. These areas are being pushed on over large tracts of partially unexplored and in some parts forest-clad country lying between Kaiti and Taumarunui, and drainage operations on the Hauraki Plains and other parts of the district are being expedited to enable these fertile lands to be brought into cultivation as soon as possible. In the Otago district the licenses of several pastoral and grain runs have expired, and these will be available, as well as eight small farms. It need scarcely be repeated that the Department has used, and will continue to use, all means in its power to adaptably provide land for all classes of returned men who are willing to work thereon."



WANTED.—A VIGOROUS AND PROGRESSIVE ROADING POLICY.

In preparing this sketch our artist got across the Waihopai Bridge, which is the territory of the Southland County Council. However, as it is in such close proximity to the brewery his invasion of territory will be pardoned. Nevertheless, what is true in one case is equally true in the other, and possibly the Southland County Council will take the tip also.