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**John Edmond,**

TAY STREET,  
INVERCARGILL.

## — THE — "HARLEY DAVIDSON"

AGAIN WINS

THE WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP LONG DISTANCE RACES  
OF 100, 200, AND 300 MILES.

Held at Dodge City, Kansas, under the control of the Motor and  
Associated Traders' Association.

J. DAVIS, on his Standard type Harley Davidson, won the  
300 mile race in the Record time of 3 hours 40 minutes 4.5  
seconds, against numerous 8 valve motors of other makes. His  
Harley was travelling 81 miles per hour at the finish.

SECOND and THIRD places were also secured by HARLEYS  
in this event, as was also the 100 and 200 mile races.

THE HARLEY DAVIDSON has won the 300 Mile CHAM-  
PIONSHIP consistently since 1915.

ALSO every LONG DISTANCE RACE held in AMERICA for the  
last two years.

**Wilson & Fraser**  
MOTOR CYCLE SPECIALISTS

SOUTHLAND AGENTS.

WHITE SWAN BUILDINGS,

DEE STREET

INVERCARGILL.

## The Nature Column.

(By "Student.")

("Student" will be pleased to receive  
notes on any branch of Natural His-  
tory. Observations on birds, insects,  
plants, etc., will be equally welcome.  
If using a pen-name, will correspondents  
please enclose real name and address.)

Last Wednesday I set out for a little  
jaunt of six or eight miles through the  
bottom part of the Otatara Peninsula.  
I had not visited this part for some 12  
or 13 years, and naturally expected some  
changes to have taken place, but did not  
anticipate the dreary wilderness which  
now prevails. The native bush gave the  
place its charm, and from a week-ender's  
point of view its value in £. s. d. The  
bush has largely gone, and in its place  
is left but gaunt ugly stumps and sand  
swamp and rushes. Most of the sections  
are decorated with a notice to trespassers  
to beware. What reason exists for tres-  
passing upon such ugliness? A little of  
the bush still exists in places. It gives  
pleasure to note the care which some of  
the occupiers of sections have taken to  
adorn the bush without spoiling it.

However, it is regrettable to find that in-  
troduced plants are being planted along  
the road lines. No doubt, they grow very  
quickly in some cases, but why destroy  
the character of the bush, by introducing  
strangers. If a windbreak is wanted,  
what about the manuka. Plants are to  
be procured on the spot and its growth  
habit prevents a draught close to the  
ground. A manuka bush in flower is a  
beautiful sight and its aromatic leaves  
perfume the air. Senecio rotundifolius  
sometimes called mutton bird scrub is a  
handsome shrub and will stand any am-  
ount of wind. Witness the plants grow-  
ing in the Crescent. One of the Olearias  
is also a great wind resisting plant. In  
an exposed position by the Post Office it  
has grown into a shapely little  
tree. I am quite sure that many other  
natives could also be grown in the ex-  
posed sides of the bush. The Kowhai  
(Sophra Tetratera) with its feathery foli-  
age and beautiful yellow flowers like Lab-  
urnum, is a tree one would expect to find  
planted, but the only specimen I saw  
was one growing on Bushy Point. Apart  
from its beauty the wood of this tree is  
now valuable, planting it would prove a  
good investment. Young totaras are  
springing up in thousands and there seems  
no need to plant these. It was sadden-  
ing to see that on the steep faces on the  
south end of Otatara the bush had been  
swept away. The land could not be of  
any value and the bush besides giving  
life to the faces held the sand together.  
It was nothing short of vandalism to cut  
it down. The forest which originally  
clothed the land was of a mixed charac-  
ter and representative of each sort of  
tree are still to be found. I noticed from  
the roadside a plant of one of the Cy-  
athodes. This is the plant fairly common  
at the Bluff and generally covered with  
white berries. It is quite a handsome  
shrub and should be cultivated. Astelias  
there are in quantity. This handsome  
plant with long leaves like flax grows  
easily, and it is surprising that more of  
them are not grown in town gardens.  
Treeferns are still fairly common and it is  
to be hoped will be strictly preserved.  
The Coprosma family is in abundance.  
If Otatara were left to go back to nature  
it is quite probable it would revert to  
forest. Of seedling trees there are enor-  
mous numbers. In a space a couple of  
yards square I counted several dozen  
broadleaves and miro. The broadleaf  
is another ornamental tree, its fine green  
shining foliage making it a plant of value.  
It does well in a garden and does not  
take up too much room. In the swamps  
and on the fringe of the bush the cabbage  
tree (Cordyline Australis) is to be seen in  
most places. This member of the plant  
association is a hardy doer and yet withal  
a graceful, ornamental tree. It should  
be planted on the road lines together with  
toitoti and flax (Phormium) to give shel-  
ter and beautify the neighbourhood.

The geological evidence shows that the  
most part of Otatara consists of ancient  
sand dunes; perhaps originally fixed by  
the native sand-binding sedge; scrub and  
bush having finished the work of consoli-  
dation. The sandy desert of several thou-  
sand acres, known as Sandy Point Do-  
main, was like Otatara in the early days  
of Invercargill. I understand that the  
rabbit was first liberated there. The rab-  
bits burrowed holes in the sand-hills; the  
sand ran out, the turf fell in, and the  
wind-driven sand soon completed the  
work of destruction. Only a small part  
of bush is left, and it is apparently being  
cut by somebody.

Divested of its bush and with the aid of  
rabbits it would be quite possible for Ota-  
tara to become another sandy desert in  
a very short time.

By a printer's error in last week's col-  
umn, I was made to say that the water  
supply most likely comes from the "coast"  
it should have been from the East.

## GENERAL RUSSELL.

VISIT TO MASTERTON.

The annual re-union of the Returned  
Soldiers' Association was held in the  
Municipal Buildings on Friday evening,  
there being a very large and enthusias-  
tic attendance. Colonel J. A. Cowles  
presided, and among the guests were the  
Mayor (Mr W. H. Jackson), Mr G. R.  
Sykes, M.P., Colonel Mitchell, M.P.,  
General Russell, Brigadier-Generals  
Richardson and Hart, and Dr Boxer, Mr  
A. P. Whatman, and Mr Hugh Morrison,  
president of the Wairapa Patriotic As-  
sociation.

General Russell complimented the local  
association on being so fortunate in hav-  
ing such a big hearted man as Mr What-  
man to see to its interests. He hoped  
the association would long continue as a  
co-operative body, for it would be a  
power for great good in the future. If  
the work of repatriation was completed  
within the next two years he was afraid  
the association would find it hard to exist  
unless it found some other work to act  
as an incentive to union. When men  
ceased to work they died. He felt that  
each soldier should take an active in-  
terest in the management of the associa-  
tion. He had taken no leading part in  
association matters himself, because he  
felt that having occupied position of  
supreme officer of New Zealand forces  
there might be a feeling that he was bet-  
ter as a private member. So far not many  
soldiers had taken part in politics. Yet  
he believed they could do much good in  
that direction. For had they not learnt  
the lesson of selfishness and self-  
sacrifice? They had a clearer view of  
what was right and wrong for a world  
that was at present seething with  
trouble. They must enter civilian life  
with feeling that they had "routine or-  
ders." There must be a real desire for  
peace and tolerance, and they must be  
determined to have nothing to do with  
such doctrines as direct action. They  
would have none of direct action; they  
had seen too much blood spilt in France  
and elsewhere. All problems must be  
settled quietly. The future of the Do-  
minion lay entirely in the hands of the  
returned soldiers. At the front success  
was obtained through obedience; so it  
must be in civilian life, where great  
effort and discipline were even more ne-  
cessary than at the front. He advised  
all returned men to wear their medals  
at every public function, for by doing  
so they provided examples of duty which  
others might follow.

In regard to the Defence League with  
which he was connected, General Rus-  
sell said that, to his mind, organised  
defence was necessary now that "The  
League of Nations" had failed to do  
away with the need for armies. The  
spirit that was wanted in this country  
was a conviction that one man was as  
good as another. The poor should have  
equal opportunity with the rich.

### REPATRIATION WORK.

General Richardson upheld the work  
of his department, which was doing all  
possible for returned men by carrying  
out the policy of the Government. There  
had been strenuous times lately in re-  
patriating all the men abroad. He  
hoped that the £70,000 in canteen funds  
would be allocated by Parliament this  
session. He officially denied the report  
the Turks had desecrated graves on the  
Peninsula, and said that the cemeteries  
in France were being concentrated and  
well looked after. He commended the  
resolutions recently passed by returned  
soldiers regarding the Asiatic menace,  
and said they must be prepared to de-  
fend their shores against this peril.

### PENSIONS AND LAND.

Colonel Mitchell dealt at some length  
with the question of adequate pensions  
for permanently disabled men. Did  
they think that a man rendered useless  
in defence of his country was not worth  
more than £3 per week? for that was  
about the total of the pension he re-  
ceived. Only that continued Col.  
Mitchell, he had been instrumental in  
gaining an increased pension for a  
Wellington officer who was suffering  
from cancer, and had only a month or  
two longer to live. The proposals now  
before Parliament provided for an in-  
crease of £1,250,000 in pensions, and he  
had had the greatest difficulty in per-  
suading the Government to take up the  
bill. "I advise the men wanting land  
—there are about six thousand of them  
and I should wish there were ten—to  
save their money for the present as  
there are hard times ahead. I have  
been informed that the next market  
will see wool down to tenpence per lb.  
Let the would-be soldier settlers wait  
until Crown and native lands are open-  
ed up. Anyhow they will get their  
farms more cheaply."

Speeches were also delivered by Bri-  
gadier-General Hart and Major Boxer.

## Winter Bros.,

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