

ANGLING NOTES.

By "Creel."

GOD'S FRESH AIR.

golden gorse blooms fair,
is here;
vigorous Nature throbs with life;
blade of grass a message bring,
mankind the sweet birds sing,
fresh air.

time these notes appear in the anglers who have had the chance to fish on the opening day, might have landed some of the beauties," and probably lost two "good uns" as well. Last evening, the Mataura Angling Club held their Annual Meeting, there present some fifty odd members, Mr. Jas. Mitchell Senr. (president) Chair. The annual report and balance sheet (which showed a credit-balance of £12 10s) were adopted. The following officers were appointed for the coming year. President, Mr. P. J. Cameron. Secretaries, Messrs M. Malley and D. Cameron. Treasurer, Mr. D. McFarlane. Auditor, Mr. W. Allison. Messrs J. Adam, W. Leitch, W. Cook, T. Gaudin, C. D. Calder, while Messrs D. G. A. Watson, T. F. Quilter, and others represent the hon. members of the Committee. Mr. Jas. Mitchell Senr. had nomination for a further term as president, and he was made an honorary member for his long and valuable service to the Club. The prizes won during the past season were presented during the evening and were as follows:—First competition (27th October, 1919), E. Adam, (some bag) 78 fish—58lbs 13ozs, second, J. Adam, 9 fish 9lbs 8ozs, second competition: R. Murdoch, 15 fish, 2ozs, first, A. Telfer, 13 fish, 5lb 8oz, second competition (22nd Nov.), E. Duncan, 66 fish, 44lbs, first, Gaudin, 7 fish, 7lbs, second. Boy's competition: E. Thorn, 13 fish, 8lb 4oz, Victoria League Competition (winning to hold medal presented by League for twelve months), Cameron, 24 fish, 16lb, first. Final competition (24th April, 1920), E. Duncan, 4 fish, 32lb 12oz, first. H. Cotterell, 12 fish, 12lbs 3oz, second. Mr. E. Duncan won the President's gold medal for the heaviest baskets. Mr. W. Allison won a trophy donated by a farmer supporter the angler with the largest family. Triangular match between Southland, Invercargill, and Mataura Clubs was held at Mimiha and resulted in a win for the Southland team. After the "weigh in" the Mataura Club entertained the anglers in the Bridge Hotel. The membership for the Club last year was 90 (Invercargill take note) and the prospects are better for the ensuing year. The Secretary reported that Mr. Alex. Anderson had donated a memorial Cup in memory of his late son, Private W. A. Anderson (who was one of the original Vice-presidents of the Club, and a very keen angler), the Cup to be held for one year by the winner. The Committee further reported that a special effort had been made by members to clear some of the river and broom from the river banks for the forthcoming season. Votes of thanks to the retiring President and the members concluded a very successful evening.

The various Angling Clubs are holding their annual meetings, and great enthusiasm is being displayed by members. The Invercargill Club's meeting was held at an early date, and as I was informed that Winton have inaugurated a club in their town, the local Club, it probably have to consider a suggestion of making a boundary for their district, so that anglers residing in that particular district, will be eligible for membership. I want to appeal to all local anglers to attend the meeting, as our Club have been up against circumstances for the past few seasons, and as the triangular Competition is to be held on Oreti this year, they will want the support of all anglers who have the interest of the sport at heart.

The following list of flies suitable for various rivers has been handed in for publication. Mimiha: Purple Grouse, Dk. Red Spinner, March. Brown, Jessie No. 4. Wyndham: Red Spinner, Greenwell's lory, Red Tip Governor, Claret Hackle. Otamita: Otamita, Gauze Wing, Red

Spinner, Red Body Waipahi, March Brown.

Waipahi: Red Body Waipahi, March Brown, Jessie No. 4, Hardy's Favourite. Dunsdale: Red Body Waipahi, Irish March Brown, Greenwell's Glory, Dark Red Spinner.

Otapiri: March Brown, Jessie No. 4, Red Spinner, Red Body Waipahi.

Lora: Hardy's Favourite, March Brown, Red Spinner, Claret Hackle.

Oreti.—Any of the above flies are good killers, although one has usually to fish in the early part of the season, from Winton up, although one enthusiastic angler (Scotchman) remarked: "Mon, an' I'll get 'em on the fly, ye ken."

A Warning to Poachers.—The ranger informed me that he "landed a good bag" last Sunday, four delinquents being caught netting trout in the Estuary. In a further conversation he waxed enthusiastic as to the good effect the Angling Societies had for the prevention of poaching, and it then occurred to me rather forcibly the only town minus a club was Gore, and as I know several very efficient anglers reside in that town, I would urge them to make a special effort and inaugurate a club. They would be able to hold competitions with Mataura and Wyndham Clubs quite easily, and if they got a fair number of honorary members and distributed fish to them after the weigh-in of the various competitions, they would soon have a really strong club. Now then Dan, Slenth, Parade, J. Gilles, Mac, get a hustle on.

In last week's notes mention was made about a salmon having been caught in the Waiau and, per favour of Mr A. H. Stock, I attach an interesting communication:—

THE LIFE HISTORY OF SALMONOIDS

AS TOLD BY THEIR SCALES.

Such a statement seems incredible, not only to the ordinary individual, but also to the average run of anglers. Yet it is a fact, and I have therefore been asked to bring the matter under the notice of Southland anglers, requesting their co-operation.

What is wanted are samples of scales taken from trout (river and sea) caught by anglers from the various waters of our province. These scales, when examined under the microscope, will disclose the age of the fish from which taken, the length of its stay in salt-water (if it has been a migrant), the number of its spawning periods, and further, its times of well-supplied larder and otherwise.

To anticipate enquiry, I might state that each variety of the salmonoids—salmon (Atlantic), sea trout (Trutta), and brown trout (Fario)—start their young life, as Parr, with certain markings, like semi-circles, engraved on their scales, and as the fish grow so do the scales, and consequently the markings thereon. Patient study under the microscope has enabled students to determine the amount of markings with which each young fish (of the above quoted varieties) starts off with, and the difference between them. It was this knowledge that enabled "The Field's" experts to tell us that the supposed "Grills" forwarded for identification was an adult salmon, etc., as published in the "Southland Times" on 15th January last.

If after perusal of this appeal, anglers are wishful to assist in the accumulation of knowledge useful to all interested in the cause of acclimatisation, then let them, during the coming anglers' season, scrape off with their knife some scales from the shoulder of one of their fish, and wipe them off by drawing the blade against a piece of paper (white for preference); this will cause them to adhere to it, and as there is always a right way of doing things, it is further necessary that the angler should write in this said paper his name and address, name of sex of fish (brown trout, male, or sea trout, female), dimensions, weight, where and when caught. It would perhaps be better to put down the written matter first, then scrape off the scales—they will (if the fish is still damp) adhere, and be kept in position by the folding up of the paper. Then enclose paper in an envelope addressed, Secretary, Southland Acclimatisation Society, Esk street, who will forward on to our New Zealand authority. Wishing you all "tight lines."—Yours fraternally, A. H. Stock.

NEW ZEALAND RETURNED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION.

NUMBER 13.

1.—To ask the Government whether they will this season amend the Act so as to show titles of residence or business sites granted under the Mining Act to be accepted as security under the D.S.S. Act they will this session amend the Act so as to patriation benefits for the purchase or erection of homes or business premises. (Note.—Titles under the Mining Act are leasehold, over which the Crown is usually the owner of the fee-simple, and therefore ought to rank high as security for advances to returned soldiers. The objection to making advances upon titles issued under the Mining Act would appear to be on account of such being liable to forfeiture for non-compliance with residence provisions; but as the Warden's Court, which hears suits for forfeiture, is a Court of Equity and not merely of law—and in practice forfeiture is rarely decreed, a fine being usual—the risk of loss of title is more imaginary than real, especially where the rights of the Crown would be jeopardised).—Mr T. W. Rhodes, M.P.

Reply: The Hon. Mr Guthrie replied that it was not proposed to amend the law in the direction suggested, as it already gave great latitude in the way of making advances to discharged soldiers to enable them to acquire leases of any Crown or other land, and to effect improvements on land so acquired. The question as to whether lands held on business or residence sites, licenses granted by Warden under the Mining Act, afforded sufficient security for the making of advances thereon, and was one for consideration by the Land Boards, as on them rested the responsibility of deciding in each case whether the tenure and terms on which lands were held were such as to warrant them making recommendation for advances thereon.

2.—To ask the Minister in Charge of the D.S.S. Department whether he will favourably consider the question of allowing soldiers to make their payments at the post offices throughout the Dominion. (Note.—Under existing conditions all payments have to be made at Wellington for the Wellington District, and although no exchange is charged, it would be a great convenience to the soldiers to be able to pay at the local post office where they reside).—Mr Nash, M.P.

Reply: The Hon. Mr Guthrie replied that this suggestion would receive consideration, and negotiations would be opened with the Postal Department to ascertain if it could be given effect to.

3.—To ask the Government whether the principal and interest received from soldiers who had been settled on the land is paid into a special fund or into the consolidated fund.—Mr Mitchell, M.P.

Reply: The Hon. Mr Guthrie replied that by referring to section 9 of the D.S.S. Amendment Act, 1915, and to section 2 of the D.S.S. Amendment act, the honourable member would find that advances to discharged soldiers were paid out of the D.S.S. account, and consequently principal and interest received from soldiers were repaid to that special account. Capital repayments were credited to the relative D.S.S. accounts and were available for reinvestment. Interest was credited to the accounts, which, however paid the consolidated fund interest at the rate of 4 per cent. on the capital invested under the different authorising Acts.

4.—To ask the Minister of Internal Affairs—(1) Whether, in connection with the appeal that is being made in connection with the Week of Pity Fund, he can give an assurance that the money subscribed will go to the right quarter; and (2) whether he can advise the House if the money subscribed in New Zealand for the dependents of the sailors who lost their lives in the Battle of Jutland has gone to those dependents, or whether it is still lying in London.—Mr Malcolm, M.P.

Reply: The Hon. Mr Anderson replied: (1) That an assurance could be given that the moneys being raised throughout the Dominion for the starving children in Europe would be transmitted to the Save the Children's Fund, which is an approved fund under the War Charities Act, 1916, England. (2) That the moneys collected for the dependents of the sailors who lost their lives at the Battle of Jut-

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land had been paid over to the Navy League Overseas Relief Fund, London, by whom it was being disbursed. The Department was unable to say what balance was still available for this purpose in London.

5.—To ask the Minister of Defence whether he is aware that the officers of the New Zealand Staff Corps (Defence Headquarters) have not participated in the recent bonuses granted to the Public Service, and whether he will have the matter enquired into with a view to rectifying the oversight.—Mr Wright, M.P.

Reply: The Hon. Sir R. Rhodes replied that the officers of the N.Z. Staff Corps at Defence Headquarters who were eligible to participate in the benefits accruing from the increased pay (not bonus) were receiving such benefits. The limitation throughout the service has been fixed at £500 per annum, under which the benefits referred to could be drawn. Assuming that an officer was in receipt of a salary in excess of £550 per annum, he would not be entitled to the extra pay. It must, however, be understood that any officer in receipt of a salary of £500 was entitled to the increment as set forth.

6.—To ask the Prime Minister whether he can give the House any information as to the result of representations made to him some time back to appoint certain gentlemen from New Zealand now in London as wool-growers' representatives on a committee to watch their interests in Britain.—Mr McLeod, M.P.

Reply: The Right Hon. Mr Massey replied that immediately after the meeting of producers in Wellington, at which a resolution was passed regarding the selection of two New Zealand representatives on the committee referred to in the question, the Government telegraphed to the High Commissioner to make the selection on the lines laid down in the resolution. The High Commissioner had advised the Government as to the names of the gentlemen to be appointed, but supplementary information was also coming which, along with the names referred to, would be given to the House immediately.

SAWMILLERS' FOOTBALL.

On Saturday last rival teams representing Messrs Lindsay and Dixon's mill (Lora Gorge) and Messrs Kilkelly Bros. (Spar Bush) met in a friendly game at the latter's mill. This was the second game between these teams, on the previous occasion, Messrs Kilkelly's team journeyed to Lora Gorge, and after a strenuous game the scores were equal, consequently a great deal of interest was taken in the match last Saturday, visitors from Winton and Invercargill being present in force. The teams were as follows: Lora Gorge—L. Fahey, J. Smith, W. Theyers, J. Lindsay, J. Thomson, D. Knight (captain), F. Gill, S. Gill, S. Carter, D. Shand, T. O'Connell, W. Carter, A. L. Chisholm, W. McKenzie and S. Blank. Kilkelly Bros were represented by G. McDowell, M. Maloney, P. Patterson, W. Ackers, J. Kelleher, C. Sims (captain), D. Anderson, W. Phillips, F. Drain, J. Ogilvie, D. Kelleher, J. Swale, T. Hansen and K. McKenzie. Lora Gorge won the toss and played with the wind in their favour, during the first spell. Despite this fact, Kilkelly's more than held their own, being responsible for a real good exhibition of the back game. Lora seemed to rely more on their forwards, and the first spell ended without a score on either side, although Knight (Lora) narrowly missed a penalty goal. With the wind in their favour, Kilkelly's supporters were sanguine their team would score, but it

was not to be, Lora reversing things in this spell and they undoubtedly secured the honours in this half, the game ending in a draw, no score being registered on either side. The teams are very evenly matched, each side playing a good defensive game, and I understand they intend playing the conqueror at an early date, when, judging by the exhibition last Saturday, a really good game should eventuate. At the conclusion of the match, the visitors and players were entertained by the ladies of the district, and Mr J. Kilkelly thanked them on behalf of his men and the visiting players. Mr A. L. Chisholm returned thanks on behalf of the Lora Gorge footballers, and Mr T. O'Byrne on behalf of the visitors. Mr Bert Hinton (Invercargill) controlled the game splendidly, and both teams have requested him to referee their next match.

MANDEVILLE NOTES.

The weather here of late has been very mild, that is, the last few days. Before that, the days were bitterly cold and unseasonable. As the Irishman said the east wind is cold whichever way it blows, and we had good reason to prove it. However, a few days of sunny weather, and the dim dismal past is forgotten, for the grass is growing and everything in the garden, and the farm is lovely.

The well-known and popular fishing streams, the Otamita and Waimea are abounding in sportive and well-developed trout, patiently waiting for the advent of the disciples of Isaac Walton. We have good reason to believe that they will not be disappointed.

Senior-Inspector Wyllie, of the Southland Education Board paid his annual visit to the school this week.

Mr James Roche, of Timaru, an old Mandeville schoolboy, is spending a fortnight's holiday in his native town.

Mrs James Sheed, Terrace Hill, is spending a week in Dunedin.

The tennis season opens in Mandeville on Wednesday, weather permitting. We trust the Davis Cup, or a similar one, will find its way to the Club, before the season finishes.

The ladies of Mandeville held a ball on Tuesday last. The hall was beautifully decorated with spring flowers, wattle, and greens. For the first part of the evening the ladies held the floor, and, as there was double the number of gentlemen to that of ladies, some of us poor plain-looking diggers had to be thankful for small mercies. One consolation was that if we were not dancing, we were taking away from the bareness of the walls. But, altogether we were treated well. The pace was hot from when Mr and Mrs Boulton opened the proceedings by leading off the Grand March till a rest was called for, for supper. Mrs Knowles made a very excellent mistress of ceremonies. Excellent music was supplied by Miss Carmody (Gore), and Mr T. Green (Mandeville). Extras were played by Mrs Boulton and Miss Tayles. At a suitable interval Mr L. Lee of Riversdale, on behalf of the guests of the evening, thanked the ladies of Mandeville for their hospital and enjoyable entertainment. Being a leap year dance, he hadn't missed a dance, so he further congratulated them on their good taste in choosing partners. The Secretary, Miss Stephens, was then called on to respond on behalf of the Committee, thanking one and all for their patronage and trusting they were all enjoying themselves. The men then assumed their rightful position and Mr S. Horrell took charge of the floor, the dance continuing till 2 a.m.

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