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FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE.

IN MEMORIAM.

MARSON.—In loving memory of Pte. Richard Marson, dearly beloved son of George and Alice Marson, of 28 Sydney street, killed in action October 12, 1917, at Passchendaele.

Days of sadness oft come o'er us,
Hidden secret tears still flow,
But memory keeps our loved one near us
Though he died three years ago.
—Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters.

McCALL.—In loving memory of Hugh William McCall, 4th Reinforcements, who was killed in action at Passchendaele, on October 12, 1917.

What need have they for holy sepulture?
Within the hearts of men is hallowed ground—
A sanctuary where they rest secure,
And with Love's immortality are crowned.

"The Digger."

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1920.

T. B. MEN.

In our last week's issue of the "Digger" we made an analysis of the general principles which govern the treatment of tubercular patients in Australia. The problem is undoubtedly of greater magnitude with them than with us. Nevertheless, it is a matter of degree, and we can learn many lessons from Australian methods. As far as we can see the method of treatment is based on a much greater co-ordinated plan than our own. Although we have done a great deal for these men, there is a lack of co-ordination in the general scheme and this must make itself felt on the soldier patients. Great care is taken to see that these men are treated in surroundings favoured with suitable climatic conditions. We have the case of a man in Southland who took up land. He is now under treatment at a certain sanatorium and is not able to give attention to his farm, with the result that pressure for payment is being exercised for money due. It is of course evident that the men themselves must selves of treatment. On the other hand, if we had greater co-ordination in the scheme it is possible the man would not be there. Apart from the medical as-

sistance given in the Australian scheme, it seems that special prominence is given to healthy surroundings with favourable climatic conditions. The conditions of life are made attractive and subject to good healthy employment. The Red Cross seem to play an important part in the treatment of these men, and money which is now in the care of the War Funds Association would be well spent in this direction. The Red Cross have suitable homes for these men. The patient is encouraged to expect recovery. His progress is upward, not downward. He is buoyed up by the hope that he will pass out into the country life again. The importance of the operation of the "Laws of Suggestion" are too frequently overlooked in our curative methods. The tendency is for our men to look on the dark side of things. One of these homes has 90 acres of land attached and here the men get good, healthy, and useful work. For those who are not interested in farm work there are classes in basket-making, wood-carving, fancy-work, and hammock making. Tools and materials are provided and the completed work becomes the property of the patient. Picnics are also an attraction and are a factor in a constant change of surroundings which plays an important part in the mental outlook of the patient. There are five billiard rooms, croquet lawns and bowling greens. The men have formed a T.B. Soldiers' Association and it is designed to pay special attention to their requirements. One of the great factors seems to be the elimination of discontent and a cheery outlook on life. The treatment is graduated, consisting of rest, walking exercises and manual labour. A patient begins by walking one mile a day, and if no ill-effects are observed the distance is increased each week until he walks six miles a day. Then he begins on his first labour grade. Supplied with a basket, he carries stones and dirt, not more than 10lbs in weight, making short trips for two hours a day. If no ill-effects are observed he is advanced grade by grade until he is finally engaged in pick-and-shovel work for six hours a day until his disease is arrested. We have done a great deal for these men but there are many valuable lessons to be learned from Australia's method of dealing with T.B. cases.

AN APPRECIATION.

The R.S.A. are greatly indebted to the splendid relations which exist between themselves and the suppliers of the following dairy factories: Gorge Road, Woodend, Rimu, Grove Bush, Mabel Bush and Tisbury. Each of the factories have donated the sum of £5 5s to the R.S.A. as an appreciation of war services. When we come to consider how they played their part during the war period and their ready expression of appreciation now that the war is over, we must say that their record has been good. These sentiments can also be expressed to Mrs Hide, Mrs Pasley, and the members of the W.C.T.U. Mrs Hide has given untold service to the cause of the soldiers. In order to recognise the supreme sacrifice of our comrades who fell in the historical battle on the 12th October, 1917, a wreath was placed on the Troopers' Memorial in Dee street. The W.C.T.U. have played their part. Their members have given untold service during the war. They have worked long hours to give the soldiers' comforts. It has been the practice to give a social evening to returned soldiers. The evenings have been very much appreciated and worthy of the utmost appreciation by returned men.

Rumours are prevalent that a good deal of illegal shooting of game is going on in the Southland district and it behoves the "sportsmen" responsible to exercise extreme care, as they run a risk of having to pay very dearly for their "bag."

Men's, youths', and boys' clothing made in dependable New Zealand Tweeds. All the year round we give you the best value and best finish at the lowest prices. Men's ready-to-wear suits in Petone, Mosgiel, Roslyn, and Kaipoi tweeds and worsteds, 105s to 170s. Suits to measure, new season's patterns just to hand, fit and style guaranteed, 147 to 215s. Special suits to measure in colonial heavy tweed, 130s. Men's overcoats in tweed, hydrotite, rain and oilskin, 75s to 190s. Boys' suits in best colonial makes, all sizes, from 38s 6d to 65s. Men's odd trousers, 15s 6d to 35s. Denims, 12s 6d, 15s 6d. Denim jackets, 12s 6d, 17s 6d. A splendid selection of men's hats in all the newest shapes and styles, 14s 6d to 55s. Men's caps, 4s 11d to 10s 6d. Novelties in ties, scarves, handkerchiefs, braces, tie pins, studs, etc. At H. and J. Smith, Ltd., Clothing Specialists, Tay street, Invercargill, and Main street, Gore.

ELECTRIC POWER BOARD.

MEETINGS CONFIDENTIAL.

DEFEAT OF AUDITOR-GENERAL.

FRICION OVER ACCOUNTS.

THE POWER BEHIND THE THRONE

BOARD'S ACTIVITIES CONFIDENTIAL.

Our readers will remember that we wrote to the Electric Power Board requesting that we be enabled to see the minutes of the Board. It will also be remembered that the chairman of the Board stated that we could not see the minutes as editor of "The Digger." As explained, our attitude was one of courtesy, which is more than the Board extended to the Borough Council during its discussion on the deliberations of the Gas, Water, Trams, and Electricity Committee. However, the secret diplomacy of the Board was in itself sufficient justification for our attitude in trying to conserve the interests of the ratepayers and demand that those who have to shoulder the financial burden shall receive a sufficient supply of information regarding the Board's activities and subject to no autocratic reservation. The Board ultimately decided that the minutes should be available and the following intimation was received from the chairman:—

2nd October, 1920.

Mr F. G. Blake,
Managing Editor "The Digger,"
Box 310, Invercargill.

Dear Sir,—Your application of the 21st ult., came before the Board on Tuesday last when it was resolved that I should get into touch with you and arrange that you should have an opportunity of inspecting the minutes of the Board under certain conditions. I should be glad if you will call or communicate with me as to when it will be convenient for you to peruse the minutes as you desire.—Yours faithfully,

A. W. RODGER,
Chairman.

In reply to this communication from the Board we wrote asking for a definition of the phrase "special conditions," and the following communication was received:—

5th October, 1920.

Mr F. G. Blake,
P.O. Box 310, Invercargill.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of yesterday, and in reply thereto beg to state that the only condition that the Board required me to impose on you when inspecting the Minutes is that you should observe the records of the work done in committee as being of a confidential character.—Yours faithfully,

A. W. RODGER,
Chairman.

Our readers will perceive that the major portion of the Board's activities are of a confidential character, and we would draw the attention of the chairman to his statement that the Town Council had done most of its work in committee and in effect tried to justify the Board's attitude for so much committee work. The various reports which embrace the committee's deliberations are available to the press and are frequently published prior to the Council meeting. Some of the members of the Board have protested against this procedure and we here place on record the attitude of Messrs Fowler and Young for entering their protest by way of a resolution. When we went to see the minutes of the Board Mr Campbell stated that he had been instructed to show us the minutes but the taking of notes was prohibited.

Now why all these protective measures? Have the people no say in this matter and "as lambs before their shears are dum, openeth not their mouth?" We are quite agreed that there are some things which cannot be made public. Take the question of finance, the flimsy fabric upon which it rests may be prejudiced by publicity and we have refrained from comment. In most cases, after the minutes were read the Board went into committee and in some meetings the Board went into committee several times and the bulk of the business done in open Board was the outward correspondence. Whenever the engineer's agreement, legal expenses, chairman's visit abroad, and other matters were considered by the Board, it was done in committee.

The "Southland Times," in an hysterical outburst actually stated that the conduct of the Board's meeting was open to criticism and such things as the Engineer's agreement could be profitably discussed. It is too late for the "Times" to give a lead to the people on this matter. "The Digger" can safely claim to be the first journal to attack the Board's administration and make itself a force felt in the Board's activities. Nevertheless, it is this is the view of the "Times" then why not criticise it? It is also a fact that the chairman was to supply the press with a report. It is evident that the Board's methods have censored the press and robbed the people of the information they are entitled to.

DEFEAT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL.

This is a question which we have referred to in these columns and the red A lot of unjust criticism has been referred to in these columns before. levelled at the Town Council and we refer to the Council's objection to Section 7: "Provided that no monies shall be payable under this Section in respect of travelling expenses incurred out of New Zealand save with the approval of the Minister of Public Works."

We have first of all to consider the fact that the Board decided to send the chairman abroad as indicated at the meeting held on July 6, 1920, when it was decided that the chairman go to England or any other country as required. In the meantime the local representative of the Audit Department had been making himself acquainted with the Board's books and realising that it was doubtful whether the Board had power to pay the expenses of the chairman, he wrote to his chief, the Auditor-General, who advised that no statutory power existed to engage the services of the chairman to go abroad as required by the Board, also that it involved the principle of profit. This position naturally caused the Board some concern, and it was decided to ask the Board's solicitor for a legal opinion. In due course this was received and we understand that the legal opinion held was that there was a conflict between the Auditor-General and the Board which brought to a standstill the impending departure of the chairman. It is thus evident that in order to give a wider interpretation to the provision of existing legislation an amendment to the Act was necessary and this wider interpretation was provided for in the last amendments which the Borough Council criticised. We are not influenced