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FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE.

IN MEMORIAM.

KEANE.—23/799 Rifleman Peter Mar-
tin, killed in action at Le Quesnoy,
France, November 4, 1918, aged 37 years.
R.I.P.

There's a little white cross, but it's
not all alone,

There are thousands its vigil to share.
No monument high, and no rich carven
stone,

Mark the graves of our boys over there,
But the bright, cheerful sun through
the dancing leaves peeps

And lovingly touches the sward,
Caressing the spot where our dear
brother sleeps

With the little white cross keeping
guard.

—Inserted by his brothers J.M.K. and
D.P.K.

"The Digger."

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1920.

THE R.S.A.

It is now approximately six years ago
that the Returned Soldier's Association
was brought into being. At that time
men were returning from active service
and it became essential to formulate some
machinery which would look after their
interests. This being accomplished, much
valuable work has been done and thou-
sands of returned men throughout this
Dominion can thank the R.S.A. for the
many benefits they have received. Others
again, for reasons best known to them-
selves, have not assisted the R.S.A. by
becoming members. They have par-
taken of its benefits which have been
achieved by the subscriptions of members
and the tireless energy of those responsible
for its destiny. Retrospective allow-
ances, back pay, matters regarding land,
soldiers' dependents, and a host of other
things, have been accelerated by the
R.S.A. The Government fought hard
against R.S.A. activity and only yielded
under the utmost pressure. Returned
men would not have received one half of
the benefits had the Association not taken
up the cause of the returned man. In
the whole of its activities we can con-
fidently say that it has not lost its pre-
stige with the public, which is indicative

that it has justified its existence and con-
ducted its campaign along legitimate
lines. Nevertheless the R.S.A. has its
difficulties. It has carried on its back,
those to whom personal interest and self-
aggrandisement stand pre-eminent. It
has suffered from a lack of co-ordination
in the working of its machinery. A new
scheme of organisation has recently come
into operation which necessitates the exis-
tence of district councils, composed of re-
presentatives from each association. The
original work of the R.S.A. is nearing
completion, and we find that organisation
has been defective. The district council
merely provides cheap trips for members
and accomplishes nothing but cumbersome
and ineffective machinery. It is an ex-
pensive piece of machinery whose exis-
tence depends on a portion of the sub-
scription paid by members. Mr Graham,
secretary of the Invercargill R.S.A. has
told the Executive that there is a falling
away of membership which must essen-
tially financially reflect on the R.S.A.
Other Associations will have the same
experience, and all Associations must face
this position before long. The money
spent in preserving a channel of red tape
must be used to prolong the life of the
Association. It is these local associations
which do the work and it is to their in-
terest to dispense with useless machinery
which is absorbing money on a diminish-
ing income. The local Association has
done good work. Mr Graham stated, at
the last Executive meeting, that the time
had arrived when a part-time secretary
should be employed. This is no doubt
true, but saving can also be effected in
other directions. There is still a great
sphere of usefulness for the R.S.A. and
what is wanted is the strong support of
every returned soldier in the Dominion,
and when the present work is completed,
they should throw their whole weight
into the political scale. There is ample
room for a new party and the R.S.A. can
be an effective force in bringing it into
being.

THE DIGGER'S LETTER BOX.

J.S., Titiroa.—Question I. Birthplace of
Kitchener?

In the year 1850 Kitchener's father
bought a place called Ballygoghlan, in
the counties of Kerry and Limerick, the
property included a little village de-
populated by the potato famine. While
alterations were being made on the house
a shooting-box, Gunsborough Lodge was
rented, near Listowel, and here Horatio
Herbert Kitchener was born on June 24,
1850.

Question II.—What religion or church?
Kitchener was christened in the church
of Aghavallia on September 22, 1850. His
biographer records that his father had his
own ideas about "bring up" and this
characteristic is reflected in Kitchener as
we knew him. He attended a French
school at Geneva when 14 years of age
and was subsequently transferred to a
Church of England school at Montreux.
He also studied Hebrew to learn parts of
the old Testament in the original.

Question III.—What year did he com-
mence naval operations? So far as we are
aware Kitchener took no part in naval
operations. The question is ambiguous.
He returned from France and Switzerland
in 1866 to prepare for a commission in the
Royal Engineers and was passed into
Woolwich in February, 1868. Owing to ill-
ness he dropped a term at Woolwich and
passed out in December, 1870. This was
the time of the Franco-Prussian war and
he offered his services to France and was
appointed to the "Second Army" of the
Loire, commanded by General Chanzy.
He was now a colonel and it may be the
answer to your inquiry that this was the
start of his military operations. If not
write again.

Question IV.—Number of years he held
the rank of lord? It was on September
4, 1898, that Kitchener received word that
Her Majesty the Queen was pleased to
express her deep appreciation of the vic-
tory at Khartum by conferring on him a
peerage as a reward for his brilliant
services. Kitchener states that the Queen
offered him a peerage in a nice manner
but Kitchener is too horrible a name to
put a "lord" in front of. If there is any
further information we shall endeavour to
supply it.—Editor "Digger."

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—Allow me to congratulate your
cartoonist in this week's issue. His car-
toon illustrates the truth of the scriptures
which says, "God causeth the tents of the
robbers to prosper." "The Most High
ruleth in the kingdom of men and giveth
it to whomsoever. He will setting up
over it the basest or lowest or vilest of
men." But I would ask them to read
James 5th. Please, Mr Jacques, do not
ascribe that when James 5th comes to pass

that Mr McSweeney's death through hun-
ger-striking has had anything to do with
it. Jacques' note on this, this week,
partakes too much of the wowser to my
liking.—I am, etc.,

GAVIN BRIGHTON,
Nightcaps, November 4, 1920.

P.S.—Perhaps, Mr Editor, you will al-
low me to try and brighten Jacques' box.
He acknowledges that it is a bit dull.
Fear cometh of ignorance; to love any-
thing we must know it and partake of it.
"Perfect love casteth out fear; he that
feareth is not made perfect in love." Jacques
does not seem to know or under-
stand me. I fear not God! I love Him
for what He has done for me. I can
appreciate a joke just as well as I can
combat superstition; of malice I have
none, for which Jacques gave me credit.
Did I attack Jacques? I know that after
reading the correspondence between
Jacques and A, on spiritualism in which
telepathy was mentioned, I asked the
question, "Telepathy, what is it and how
is it worked?" and lest they should think
I was taking advantage of them, I ex-
plained it, which seems to have been
written in a style incomprehensible to him.
If he will read the letter and call the
two persons A and B respectively, even
his "dull brain" may be able to under-
stand. I do not, like the parson and the
priest, debar anyone from utilising their
brains. The joke may be turned back on
Jacques, who, like a pig in clover has
done some rooting which is rare fun for
him.

GAVIN BRIGHTON,
TO THE GROPER.

Sir,—Thank you for your contribution
this week, else I would not have seen
it. Say! are you one of the "we" in
the first paragraph, who I take it as
speaking for the churches. To me that
article from the "Argus" is a howl as
of one in despair. This week's "Otago
Witness," see article on inside cover was
contributed too. Took form as of a cheap
advertisement. It stated Sir Arthur
Conan Doyle's purpose and his reason for
visiting Australia. He is just as much
in earnest in his purpose as the churches.
Why this howling? The churches are
afraid. Why? Because they cannot meet
it. Why? Because of disobedience, there-
fore they grope about at noon-day as if
it were midnight. How? Instead of up-
holding the truth of the Bible they have been
robbing the people by teaching that which
is not in or implied in the Bible. Our
Lord said, "And I, if I be lifted up from
the earth, will draw all unto myself." Has
the church been faithful to this? If so,
then this passage just quoted is a lie.
But it is not a lie, for it is truth, as many
can bear witness to the fact, that those
that trusted in the name of Jesus have
been drawn to Him. Yea, though they did
not understand. Instead of telling the
people the purpose for which He had
come, what have they done? Our Lord
said, "I came that they might have life
and that they might have it more abund-
antly." They, the churches, made the
scriptures unintelligible by their various
shibboleths, that it is, as Paul said it would
"as speaking for the churches), says, "We
be, hard, difficult or trying at times.
This article from the "Argus" (I take it
cannot welcome Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
as an advocate of spiritualism. He re-
presents a force which we believe to be
purely evil." If it is purely evil why
not meet it and prove it in his belief. He
is reported to have said, "spiritualism is
a helpmate to christianity." If church
teachings are correct, this is true, it is a
helpmate to church teachings, but church
teachings are not christianity. And the
churches do not want to share the spoil,
therefore this howl.—I am, etc.,

GAVIN BRIGHTON,
Nightcaps, November 4, 1920.

R.S.A. EXECUTIVE.

The usual monthly meeting of the R.S.A.
was held recently. The chairman gave a
detailed account of the circumstances of a
returned soldier at Matarua who had been
subject to pressure from certain firms re-
garding supply of goods. The meeting
then went into the finances of the R.S.A.
The secretary presented a balance-sheet
and stated that considerable saving could
be effected by having a part-time sec-
retary. The work of the Association
was growing less and it was reasonable
to expect a decrease in membership each
year. After a good deal of discussion
it was decided to get a statement regard-
ing the finances of "The Digger" and the
Soldiers' Club, and the same to be fully
considered at next meeting. Mr Caws
explained that Col. Hargest was placing
the colours of the 2nd Batt. O.I. Brigade
in the St. John's Church, Invercargill.
It was decided to give Col. Hargest any
assistance possible to ensure a parade.

MANDEVILLE NOTES.

The weather here for the past month has
been exceptionally good, and may it con-
tinue likewise. There has been sufficient
rainfall to stimulate a good growth, but
it was wise enough not to interfere in any
way with the races held at Gore last
week. A fair amount of wind was ex-
perienced, which of course is only
seasonable.

The farmers are well ahead with their
work, having managed to get their crops
in while the ground was in good order.
Shearing is now in progress in the district,
and turnips are about to be put in.

The competitions held at Gore recently
provided us with plenty of entertainment
for a week. They had record entries and
a packed house each night, and con-
sequently were a pronounced success. Man-
deville school carried off the honours in
the Public School Essay Competition,
Master William Collett gaining 98 points
out of 100, thus winning first place in a
field of thirty-nine competitors represent-
ing the leading schools of Southland.
Other local competitors to gain distinction
were:—Miss M. Stephens and Mr M.
Roche, second in impromptu conversation;
Miss L. Crombie, third in violin solo;
Mr John Wayte, third in violin solo; and
Miss I. McLeod, fourth in recitation, girls
under 12 years. With big fields in each
section, some almost professionals, we con-
sider Mandeville more than held its own.

The races came and went, and Monday
(Labour Day) saw a record crowd on the
Gore racecourse, visitors arriving by car
and retain from all parts of Otago and
Southland. Mr W. D. McLeod, of
"Wantwood," Mandeville, placed another
win to his credit by winning the Matarua
Handicap, with War Scot, returning his
supporters a very handsome dividend.

Miss Conneglen, of Opunake, Taranaki,
who has been visiting relatives in the
district returned home on Monday.

Mrs J. P. Murphy and Miss N. Murphy,
of the Grosvenor Hotel, Timaru, spent
last week-end with Miss Roache, of Man-
deville. They were present at Gore on
Monday to see their Timaru representative
Almoner, score in the Gore Cup, he also
returning his supporters a nice dividend.

Very little local interest was taken in
the eclipse of the moon which occurred
last week; but it came on all right, and
it still shines.

As all diggers' privilege leave expires
at the end of November, there is a general
exodus of diggers from all over the dis-
tricts facing the starter in the farewell
handicap; Carnival Week in Christchurch,
which includes trotting, galloping, and
show, will be their first objective. Having
survived the elements of a week's racing,
they will push on to see what they can of
New Zealand gratis. As I am one of the
above-mentioned privileged victims, I in-
tend taking twenty-eight days' iron rations,
three hundred rounds of ammunition, gas
helmet at the least, ride on every train
I see, and go around New Zealand three
times, while my luck is in, and then I will
return home after having a good spin
and I will say to myself: "Well, she was a
good war after all!"

NOTES FROM PAHIA.

Much sympathy is extended to Digger
George Skerrett and his wife in the loss
of their infant daughter, who passed away
last Wednesday at Pahia.

The dairy factory is doing very well
this year, 1000 gallons a day, coming 500
gallons above this time last year. They
will probably have to put in another vat
before the height of the season, and they
are also considering putting in a whey
butter plant, so things are looking very
promising for the Pahia farmers.

The weather of late has been just ideal,
except for the wind now and again, for
farming operations, and the farmers seem
to have taken advantage of it as everything
is well ahead of last year.

SOCIAL NOTES.

Miss Vera Wilkin (Dunedin), is the
guest of Mrs Bews, Dalrymple Road.

Dr. Applegate left for the north on
Wednesday, to take charge of the Child
Sanatorium.

Mrs O'Beirne, Esk street, gave a de-
lightful tea on Monday afternoon.

Mrs B. C. Bastian entertained a few
friends at tea on Monday afternoon, at
Lewis' Tea Rooms. The guest of the
afternoon being Dr. Applegate.

Mrs Honeywood, Gala street, is spending
a few days in Oamaru.

The German Ambassador states that the
German Republic has come to stay.